



Investigation Summary Report

Rose Cottage (Central Mental Hospital) Alexandria, LA



HISTORY

Rose Cottage was designed in 1917 by Joseph H. Carlin of Rayne, a patient at the hospital from Sept. 13, 1909, to Aug. 1, 1912. Little is known about him after 1912 except that he served as architect of Rose Cottage as well as "builder" of the hospital's dairy barn in 1923.

The Rose Cottage building housed the hospital laboratory and morgue. It served as the hub of the institution's diagnostic procedures as well as a center of learning and teaching as post-mortem examinations were required for research and teaching.

Autopsies were performed in the pathology building's first floor, while the lab upstairs was where "histological and microscopic preparations" were done. In later years, the building was used for occupational therapy. Employees suggested naming the building "Rose Cottage" because they didn't like the idea of working in a former morgue!

INVESTIGATION

Despite the photo, Rose Cottage is actually quite small, causing us to bring in only four investigators and no DVR setup. We began our investigation in the standard fashion, conducting base temperature and EMF readings. The night was fairly quiet until about 9:00pm when Jennifer and Kirk were sitting downstairs in the room where the actual electroshock therapy was administered. All of a sudden, they heard an extremely loud crash, almost as if a piece of pottery had fallen from the shelf. As they got up to find the source of the noise, they noticed that an actual portion of the floor tile had literally shattered into several pieces! The loose pieces of tile that splintered off were scattered around, almost as if the tile had exploded! After numerous attempts to find an explanation for this, we were unable to come up with any logical explanations.

Review of audio showed no other significant pieces of evidence. We would like to thank the staff of Central State Mental Hospital for allowing us access into the building, as we look forward to investigating other buildings on the massive grounds. Special thanks to Kirk for lining up the investigation!



