



Investigation Summary Report

Oakley Plantation St. Francisville, LA



HISTORY

Oakley Plantation House is located in the Audubon Memorial State Park in St. Francisville, LA. Construction on the house began in 1799, when Ruffin Gray moved here on land purchased from the Spanish authorities. Gray died before the house was completed, and his widow Lucretia (Lucy) Alston later married James Pierre of Scotland. Eliza, the daughter of James Pierre and Lucy, was born in 1805, and it was tutored for 4 months by James Audubon. Oakley's interior has been restored to the Federal period style (1790-1830), reflecting its appearance when Audubon stayed here. Oakley Plantation House contains 17 rooms, with front and side entrances leading to the landscaped grounds, which are shaded by oak and ancient crape myrtle trees. (some information taken from www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/louisiana/okl.html)

Paranormal History

Some of the reports of paranormal activity are footsteps, seeing a little girl waving in an upstairs window, someone hugging one of the guides, and various noises. Also reports of people taking pictures and seeing a woman with three children sitting in a rocking chair. One of the guides

reported seeing a small boy standing near a bed. There have been reports of a door opening by itself and several apparitions being seen in various areas of the house.

Investigation

We arrived around 7:30 and took a tour of the house by Carrie and Daniel, two guides who work in the park and give daily tours of the house and grounds. The house was three stories high and we set up 8 IR cameras and two DVR systems focusing mainly on the 2nd and 3rd stories where most of the reports of activity was. After everything was set up we split into 3 groups. The first group with Matt, Sean and Eddie went outside with Carrie, one of our guides, to investigate the two slave cabins and barn that are still on the property. The second group with Aaron and Martin and the third group with Elissa and Charles made a sweep of the house with Daniel and Karen who is another guide that gives several tours a day of the house and knows many of its stories and both have had many experiences. After the thermal sweep, Aaron and Martin headed to the 2nd floor and Elissa and Charles headed to the 3rd floor. Everyone conducted EVP sessions wherever they were. After about 45 minutes everyone switched places (outside, 2nd floor and 3rd floor). At about 1 in the morning everyone came together and sat on the 2nd floor where people had had a lot of personal experiences. We heard noises and felt cold spots. A couple of us even felt like we got touched.

All in all, the investigation was great. As you will see below, we obtained some very interesting audio clips. Two of the more intriguing ones are the one of the single guitar strum and the clip of the male voice saying "crazy." We appreciate all staff from the Oakley House and Audubon Park for their help. It was great to have them along and hope to return in the future..