



Investigation Summary Report

Lutz Residence Westlake, LA



HISTORY

The Lutz-Doran home in Westlake has quite a colorful history. It was originally built in the late 1860s, when the landowner returned from the Civil War. Mr. Lutz lost his arm at the Battle of Gettysburg; he built the house in spite of his handicap. He and his wife reared their 9 children in this home. As was customary, funerals for family members were held in the parlor of the home. As the family dwindled in size, one of the children, Fred, was eventually the last remaining member. As a child, he contracted Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (lyme disease), and, as a result, became mentally incapacitated. In his later years, Fred became an institution of sorts in the Westlake community, frequently seen walking along the streets, chatting with whomever he may encounter. As he advanced in years, friends and neighbors helped him with his day to day affairs.

The home was largely neglected from the time of Mr. Lutz death until 1999 when local resident Ray Doran purchased the property and vowed to restore it. At the time of the investigation, all major construction was complete.

At our preliminary meeting, Mr. Doran told us some stories about strange occurrences taking place during the renovation. He stated that every night, workers would return all tools and equipment to one centralized location for inventory. One morning, a staple gun was missing. Thinking it strange that it had disappeared (why would someone steal a staple gun with all of the other—more expensive—equipment around?), the construction crew combed the house and property. The staple gun was not recovered...until it mysteriously showed up weeks later in the inventory site. Another interesting anecdote comes from the workers themselves. A friend who was helping out with the reconstruction heard voice. She knew she was the only one in the house. After checking for other people, she left the house, and will not return unless she has a partner. Yet another painter heard lots of movement on the second floor while he was on the first floor. Upon climbing the stairs to investigate, the noise stopped. He will not enter the house without his Bible. During the renovation of the upstairs, Doran also found writing on the wall, supposedly done by one of the Lutz children.

Carla, Aaron, and two members of the staff of the Lake Charles American Press conducted a preliminary investigation on Saturday, July 26. There were two occurrences that warranted further investigation. At one point, Aaron experienced a ball of light coming from a bathroom which was formerly Fred Lutz's bedroom. Aaron and Carla tried several scenarios to recreate this anomaly, but all were unsuccessful. After the reporter and photographer left, Carla and Aaron sat in the attic listening for any instance of movement or whispering. Although we did not hear any voices, Carla heard what sounded like something metallic being moved around. We could not find the source of the noise. Because there is a report by neighbors of seeing a child (reportedly a little girl) in an upstairs window, investigating the attic area was a top priority. The aforementioned writing may have been done by this child, though there is no record of such. We did not experience anything unusual other than the unexplainable noise. We also experienced some K-II and trifold spikes, but all were traceable to the wiring/fixtures of the home.

We investigated again one month later, with Carla, Aaron, and Jennifer in attendance. A member of the Lutz family who remembers playing in the home as a child also joined us. She was able to tell us several stories about growing up in the area. We had hoped that, by virtue of being a family member, someone might engage us in activity. While we did hear some wonderful stories, and scared some local high school football players, we recorded no paranormal phenomena.