

Investigator's Report

Investigator: Richard Barker

Also present: NA

Date and Time of Investigation: Jan. 27, 2009, 8 pm to 2 am; Jan. 30, 10 pm for 24 hours

Contact Name: Mr. C

Address:

Phone:

Place of Investigation: residential single family home

Interviews: On 1/21/2009, I received the following email through the website: In June 2008, I moved to Dubuque, IA. from Chicago, IL. I did not pay attention to some noises in the house. After some strong bed shakes I realized something was wrong. On December 11th at about 2:30 a.m. there was an old woman next to my bed - making strong noises with a cane, and she told me leave my home, leave my home, leave my home. Then she walk making noises around the house. It is impossible for me to sleep in the house. I would like to be in contact and try to solve my problem if you can.

On 1/22/2009, I called Mr. C (the client). He reported seeing an apparition of an old woman with a cane, standing by his bed and telling him to get out of the house. In addition, he reported a red orb floating through the bedroom around the bed. The son of the previous owner informed the client that the master bedroom was previously his mother's bedroom, and that she had died in there some months before. The son confirmed that the description of the apparition matched that of his mother, whom the client had never met. The client complained of noises throughout the house, which he attributed to the old woman banging her cane. The client reported that the noises occurred only when he was alone in the house, and not when he was there with anyone else. The client was so unnerved by these experiences, that he slept in his car in the garage while he was staying in Dubuque, and went to Chicago to spend the weekends.

History of the house: The house was built on the intersection of a main artery and a residential street as part of a development in 1967. It had three bedrooms and one bath upstairs, and a walkout basement with a recreation room, utility room, added bathroom, and one car garage in the basement. There had been a major remodeling effort in 2003. There had been only one family living in the house since its origin: the father died in a local hospital, and the mother died in the master bedroom in bed. The client was the second owner. The house had very little furniture at the time of the investigation: one couch in the living room, no TV, one bed in the second back bedroom, one bed in the rec room, one bed in the utility room, and three patio chairs in the dining room. The client left one or more radios on while he was not there, and had two lamps upstairs on timers. Heat was provided by baseboard radiators, with the furnace in the basement. There were four zones controlled by solenoid valves.

Method: The client worked second shift, Tuesday through Thursday. I was able to pick up the key and begin an investigation at 8 pm on Tuesday (1/30/09) following the initial contact, and run until just before he arrived home. I set up digital audio recorders along with EMF meters in the livingroom, kitchen, and third bedroom. A video camera was set up in the master bedroom where the apparition was reported to be seen. I carried a video camera and a digital audio recorder with me as I roamed through the house. I conducted a complete EMF sweep of the house, and took photographs with a digital camera. On Friday evening (1/30/09) when the client had returned to Chicago for the weekend, I set up four digital audio recorders, each with its own EMF meter, and left them running until the following night. One was located on a TV tray in the master bedroom, one on the counter in the kitchen, one on a tray in the livingroom, and one in the rec room in the basement. Recorders in the livingroom and master bedroom ran for 24 hours, the other two for 8 hours.

Results: The investigation produced 86 hours of digital audio recording, 3.5 hours of video, and 61 photos. With the hardwood floors and the sparse furniture, the whole house is like an echo chamber. Some of the noises, pops, and cracks are caused by the heater solenoids popping when they open and close, by the furnace turning on and off, by the furnace electric motor turning on and off, by the baseboard radiator expanding and contracting, by expansion

and contraction of hardwood floors (the traffic outside creates periodic vibrations that probably make the wood release its friction more violently), by light timers popping when they switch off to on and on to off (each one does this four times a night), and by the relay that turns the refrigerator compressor on and off, which is unusually loud, and is located in the front of the unit. These popping sounds travel very easily through an empty house with hardwood floors and water filled copper pipes. Video and photos showed no anomalies.

Strong EMFs were found in the following areas: the wall of the kitchen to the left of the sliding glass door (probably associated with the electrical connection box located on the outside wall at that point), all along the livingroom floor (probably associated with wiring in the basement ceiling), and at the end of the hallway between the back bedrooms, located directly over the furnace area of the utility room in the basement. An unusual, intermittent EMF was recorded about five feet inside the master bedroom (which was eight feet from the back end of the hall). This EMF was irregular in its appearance, but not enough to be considered of paranormal origin. It developed suddenly, maintained for a few minutes, and then dissipated suddenly. The interval and duration of this EMF increased during the daytime, and decreased at night. There were no visible power lines nearby, but this neighborhood has underground wiring along the main street. This particular EMF was not recorded in any other area of the house.

One of the windows in the master bedroom was positioned so that headlights and taillights from the frequently passing vehicles on the busy street outside the house were visible in the bedroom. Also visible was a side street, so that the brake lights of any west bound vehicle making a left turn onto the side street would shine directly into the bedroom at an angle toward the ceiling in the back of the room.

Conclusions and recommendations: Nothing observed would indicate any consistent paranormal activity. There were no patterns of sound consistent with footsteps or with the use of a cane. I cannot say that there are no ghosts in the house, but I did not find evidence of any. The sounds observed can all be explained by mechanical means. I, personally, did not feel any presence in the house. My wife, also an investigator, who came with me to pick up the recorders on Saturday, felt very comfortable in the house. We made the following suggestions for the client to consider:

1. The house is now just an empty building. It needs to feel lived in, like a home. Fill it with your furniture, and take it over psychologically. If there is a hostile spirit there, this could drive it away.
2. Get one or more room mates to help give the place a sense of home and family. This person could help not only with psychological support, but also with expenses.
3. Get a dog, or other pet, that will be comfortable with the small backyard or staying inside all the time.
4. Get rid of the collection of beer cans in the attic, the couch, and any other furniture or possessions that belonged to the previous owner.

Attached: NA

Submitted by Richard A. Barker Date: 2/15/09