

The Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum (Formerly the Weston Hospital) Weston, Lewis County, West Virginia (September 19-20, 2009)

by Mark Stewart

PSI, the Paranormal Scientific Investigators was represented by co-founder and director of research & development, Mark Stewart, at a paranormal investigation at the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum (formerly known as Weston Hospital) in Weston, West Virginia.



This nationally recognized landmark was constructed between 1858 and 1881 and is the largest hand-cut stone masonry building in North America, and is the second largest in the world, next to the Kremlin. The structural integrity of the building is good (though I noticed many windows were broken) and some areas have three floors, while others have four floors. The facility has 900 doors, 906 rooms and 921 windows! The Asylum is 1,290 yards long, is approximately 500,000 square feet in size, and has 9 acres of floor space. The original hospital was designed to house 250 souls and was open to patients in 1864 and reached its peak in the 1950's with 2400 patients in overcrowded and generally poor conditions. Changes in the treatment of mental illness and the physical deterioration of the facility forced its closure in 1994.

The Asylum has been purported by guests and staff to have apparition sightings, unexplainable voices and sounds, and other paranormal activity. Thousands have been committed to the asylum over the years, and hundreds unfortunately died there.

Weather conditions at the time of the investigation were decent. The temperature was 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The winds were calm from the north-north west at 2 miles per hour. The relative humidity was at 94% however! This could be an important factor and should be noted in future investigations. The barometric pressure was steady at 30.23; solar rays were normal, the geomagnetic field was quiet, the current moon was waning

crescent at 1% full, visibility was at 10 miles, dew point was at 53 degrees Fahrenheit, dust and dander index was low and the pollen index was moderate.

There were one hundred investigators on this event divided into groups of ten, with an employee or volunteer assigned to each area of investigation and allotted one and a half hours for each area. As huge as the facility was, we really only ran into other investigators in an area that was near the center. Each group began investigating at 9:00 pm with the employee or volunteer elaborating on the general area, some of its history, and what has been alleged to have been seen or heard by the employees, volunteers or guests/investigators.



It will be difficult to explain the various rooms I investigated in, but in the first room, I immediately took readings with the instruments I had. At 9:00 pm I measured the ambient temperature and the relative humidity with a thermohygrometer and did an electromagnetic field sweep of the room using my cell-sensor. Five pictures were taken with a digital camera and orbs were noted immediately. Each area of investigation was videotaped continuously with a 8mm Sony IR video camera. At 9:13 pm I entered the next room and heard investigators whispering and noted in my logs some talking and some coughing. I followed the same procedure mentioned above in this second room and as I did the rest of the night. Sirens were heard in the background and again heard some investigators talking. Upon entering a side room at 9:34 pm whispering by investigators was heard once again. As soon as I entered the next room at 9:45 pm I sneezed and it was loud! The place really had an echo! Several of the female investigators in our group were

startled and shaken by my sneeze. Sorry about that!



At 10:15 pm we entered an area that had a fourth floor and began investigating there following the same procedures. At 11:08 I entered the area in the hall that had a fan where paranormal activity was said to occur. And at midnight we entered the Civil War area part of the building and a brief electronic voice phenomena session was administered in the last room. I heard an investigator whispering at 12:50

am.



We entered the next section of the building (the left side front of the building) at 1:30 am. I immediately took readings, did an emf sweep of the area and took pictures. The kitchen area was the next area of investigation that began at 2:10 am, again following our established procedures. From 2:30 am to 3:15 am we investigated on the second floor on the left side facing the front of the building. This included an old bathroom area as well. We had an evp session with an employee/volunteer on the second floor from 3:15 am to 4:00 am. And took readings during the

process.



Because this place is so enormous, I believe further investigation is merited at some possible future date. I had a ton of video evidence to go through; a lot of audio evidence to go through, and many pictures were taken. After reviewing all of the evidence, the only possible paranormal evidence I could find was a number of pictures that had orbs in them, but based on my previous experience in places like this, I attribute these orbs to dust. I had no personal experiences to report. It was a great experience and learned the best way to get there from where I reside and it is not through State Route 33 in West Virginia!