

# The Grant-Humphreys Mansion:



## History:

Located at 770 Grant St Denver Colorado 80202-3553

Mary Goodell Grant purchase the property (30 lots) in 1886 and built the home at 770 Pearl St

Built around 1903-1903 (the permit shows 1903) for a cost of \$35,000 - \$75,000 depending on the records. Architects Theodore Davis Boal & F.I. Harnois designed the mansion with James Grant.



**View of original pool room**

In 1903 there was the addition of a brick garage to the property.

The new mansion included some amazing features; A Bowling Alley, a Theatre/Dance Hall, and intercom and bell system to communicate with the servant's quarters and the kitchen.

Mr. James B. Grant (1848-1911 bn: Alabama) Studies mining in Germany at the Friburg institute.

He started the Omaha & Grant Smelting Company in Leadville in 1877

Mr. Grant Married Mary Matteson Goodell in 1881

In 1881 The family moved to Denver from Leadville

1883 – 1885 Mr. Grant was Colorado's third Governor

The Grant's son Lester Eams Grant lived in the home from 1902 – 1908

Their son James Benton Grant Jr. lived in the home from 1902 – 1914



**Mansion in 1904**

Mr. Grant died in Excelsior Springs Missouri. He was seeking a “health remedy” at a world famous spa.

Mary sold the Mansion to Alpert E. Humphries and his wife Alice Boyd Humphreys (September 8, 1917)

The Humphrey’s son Albert Edmund Humphreys lived in the home from 1918 – 1919

Their son Ira Boyd Humphreys lived in the home from 1917 – 1976. His wife Lucille Pattison Humphreys lived in the home from 1917 – 1961.

Ira’s son Albert Putnam Humphreys lived in the home from 1917 – 1933

Ira’s daughter Alice Lucille Humphreys lived in the home from 1917 – 1938

Ira’s second wife Lu-Gray Brown Humphreys lived in the home from 1962 – 1972

Several modifications have been made to the building; The south patio was converted into an atrium dining area, Central heat and air conditioning was added, a mechanical lift and elevator have also been added. The Bowling alley was converted into an indoor shooting range.

Mr. Humphreys was a well know man who was connected to banking and the railroads as well as the oil business. He was once called the “King of the Wildcatters” because of his success.



**Bowling alley in basement**

Mr. Humphreys was involved in a major scandal of the times. He had sold 333,333,333 barrels of oil to Continental Oil of Canada (a fake company set up by Mr. Humphreys, Harry M. Blackmer, Harry Ford and Robert W. Stewart to launder the sales of oil) The Continental Oil Company purchased (from themselves) 333,333,333 barrels of oil at \$1.50 per barrel and then turned around and sold it for \$1.75 per barrel. Not only was this operation illegal, some of the profits were used to help elect the 1920 president Warren G. Harding. When this was discovered it started the “Teapot Dome Scandal” (1926) Mr. Humphreys was summoned to testify before a Congressional Hearing against Albert Fall (former Secretary of the Interior). The initial date of the hearing had to be rescheduled due to Mr. Humphreys being ill.

On May 8, 1927 Mr. Humphreys mad what was reported as an “accident” by the local papers. Most of the people that knew him thought that he had taken his own life due to the summons to testify against his friends and associates. Mr. Humphreys was a practiced hunter and it was hard to understand how the shooting could have been an “accident”

A.A. King stated during the Congressional Investigation “I know that he took his life brooding over this affair to shield some men of affairs”



**Second floor bedroom**

The local papers:

Den Col – A.E. Humphrey multimillionaire financier, accidentally killed himself by a gunshot wound. “left his house in order”, it was learned that ere, despite countless speculative projects in which he was interested and the diversified properties he held in all parts of the country, Colonel Humphrey’s business associates said they anticipated no difficulty in administering of his estate.”



**Second floor bedroom**

There are two different versions of the “accident” that Mr. Humphreys had after being summoned to testify:

As Mr. Humphreys was preparing to leave for his testimony he held a dinner for some of his friends. He excused himself from the Dinner table to “clean his gun”. The group heard a loud shot come from the room where he had gone. They found Mr. Humphreys alive however he had shot himself in the head with his hunting rifle and blown off his lower jaw. Medical help was called and he was taken to the hospital, where he died the following day. There is a rumor that there was a note found near him after the shooting that said “Please Dr., Let me cash it in”



**Library**

Another account claims that Mr. Humphreys was packing to visit his mountain lodge and when he was finishing the incident took place.

The location of the shooting is in question. There are two possible locations:

The Library which is located just to the south of the Dining room

The bathroom located on the third floor in the middle of the north side of the building

Mrs. Grant dies on April 12, 1941

Mr. Humphrey's widow and two sons lived in the home after the “accident. Albert Jr. died in 1968, and when his brother died in 1976 the home was left to the Colorado State Historical Society and the park to the City of Denver

The building was placed on the list of National Historic Places in 1970

The City of Denver designated the building as a Historic Landmark in 1976

The remaining building is a 2 ½ story, 30 room mansion. It includes 7 full bathrooms, 2 – ½ baths, 10 bedrooms and a basement theatre.

The property is used primarily as a rental property for weddings and business meetings.



**Door to library**

### Reported Activity:

- Albert E. Humphreys has been said to appear throughout the mansion telling people of his innocence.
- The ghost of Albert has been seen wandering throughout the Mansion. He is missing part of his head.
- In the room that is now used as the Bridal dressing room there have been reports of the shape of a man being seen on the balcony to the north of the room. There have also been reports of reflections of people that were not in the room.



**Library**

- Employees and guests have reported that they hear footsteps and the sound of talking coming from unoccupied areas of the Mansion
- There are reports of people who worked for Mr. Humphreys haunting the location for his treatment of them during their employment



- Employees have reported seeing “shadows” wandering around the Mansion
- Rumors of an “accident” near the location of the old shooting range have stories of another shooting victim haunting the location
- One ghost hunting team that investigated the Mansion claims to have recorded EVPs in the bowling alley that is a little girl speaking French (people who speak French can’t identify the words)



**Bridal bedroom**

**Investigation:**

11/28/2009

We were contacted by Management of the Mansion to help with a fundraiser/ghost-hunt. We agreed to assist with the event



**Basement Stage**

We arrived at 5:00 and started setting up equipment. As we were setting up the guests started showing up and helping with the setup.

The areas that we decided to monitor were the Bowling alley, the Theatre, the Bridal dressing room. These locations were chosen because of recent reports.

We completed setup around 6:30 and started taking baseline EMF and Temperature readings



**Dining room**

**Equipment:**

- Bowling Alley:
- Video camera at the end of the room facing north
- Video camera located at the mid entrance to the room facing north
- Natural EMF meter located on the floor in view of the cameras
  
- Theatre:
- Microphone located at the entrance to the Theatre



**Basement stage**

- Video camera at the base of the stairs facing south
- Video camera at the back of the Theatre facing the stage



**The suicide bathroom**

- Bridal Dressing Room:
- Video camera located at the main door facing n/w towards the bed

- Video camera on the edge of the bed monitoring two (foam blocks) and a natural EMF meter



**Main stairs**

- Video camera located at the n/e corner of the room facing s/w towards the entrance to the bathroom and the mirror
- Video camera located at the bathroom door racing north towards the bed and the balcony window
- Microphone in the middle of the room
- Natural EMF meter in the middle of the bed



**Library**

**Guests:**

The guests we had stayed at the location until around 10:00 when they “got tired” and left us alone with the representative of the Mansion

**Temperatures:**

Temperature was monitored throughout the night. The only change of temperature that was noted was a drop of two degrees that could be accounted for by the normal temperature drop outside.

**EMF:**

We conducted baseline readings with the Natural and A/C meters. Continuous readings were taken in the bedroom and the bed as well as the Bowling alley. Hourly reading was taken at all location and logged There were no noticeable changes in EMF or notable baseline readings. The average reading was 0 – 1.5 milligauss



**Down the main stairs**

**Audio:**

We did notice that the acoustics of the location are amazing, and you can hear people talking and walking from several floors away. This is accentuated by the additions of the HVAC system. No notable sounds were noted.



**Theatre entrance**

**Seismic:**

We monitored throughout the location to see if there was any low frequencies or vibrations. There were no unusual readings

**Photographic:**

We documented the location with still photography and no unusual photographs were taken

We concluded the investigation at 4:00 am



**The Imperfect corner**



**Conclusion:**

This is an amazing historic location with many personal experiences, however we were unable to document anything unusual.

