

McClelland School



History:

The McClelland Orphanage was opened on April 25, 1906. The building is located at the corner of Lake Avenue and Abriendo. This three-story building was designed to house as many as 65 children.

Plans for a new building to replace the original structure started in 1932. In order to proceed with these plans in the years of the Great Depression, it became necessary to liquidate most of the holdings of the home. This together with a generous donation of \$25,000 from the Pueblo Rotary Club provided the funds. Construction started in July 1934 and was completed the following year.



Front of the School

There were very few changes to the orphanage until the late 1960's, when as the child welfare programs were established and the need for orphanages decreased the trustees began to redirect the focus towards the diagnosis and evaluation of the learning process in children

In 1973, The McClelland Center for Child Study was created. The building was redecorated inside and out. The first full year of the program was in 1975, when the Center received a special grant to operate a preschool program for four-year olds to determine if by early detection potential learning disabilities could be identified. The grant lasted until 1977

By 1979, a core group of 20 children was enrolled from Kindergarten through the third grade and plans were made to expand the grade level through the fifth grade

For the next fifteen years, the school settled into its preschool/elementary structure and as enrollment increased a gymnasium and a six classroom additions were added to the building

To represent its independent school mission, a change in name from the McClelland Center for Child Study to the McClelland School was made in 1994



Back of the School

In 1995 the Middle School opened

A capital fund campaign to raise the money necessary to renovate the old orphanage carriage house and create a separate facility for middle school students began. Reconstructive work took place during the 1996-97 terms and the entire middle school (grades 5-8) no occupied the building as their primary classroom area.



Building before renovations

Reported activity:

- Students have reported seeing children playing on the grounds when class was in session and no children were supposed to be out playing
- Teachers have reported that they have heard entire classrooms full on children entering the building, but when they checked there was nobody to be found
- Several teachers have reported odd knocking sounds coming from the ceiling in the Music room
- Once a local resident noticed the lights on at the school late at night, he looked in to make sure that everything was ok and claims that he saw a man in a rocking chair by the fireplace in the lower level of the building.
- A teacher reported seeing a pair of legs (nothing else) “sitting” on the third story stairs
- Sound of children playing when no children are present is reported throughout the grounds

- A music box has been heard playing on the third floor. There is no music box there.
- On the third floor there is an area claimed to be very active, this is Ms. Grant's room. She told stories of hearing children running around when none were present, smelling cigarette smoke and hearing a screen door closing (there is no door)
- The caretaker told of hearing children crying after hours and hearing latches on the doors tattling after hours when he was the only one present in the building.

Medicine was what it is today, and there were a great number of deaths associated with this building when it was an orphanage. Tragically enough, they were all children. Two deaths from appendicitis, a six-month old found cold and dead in the morning with no cause discovered. A three-year-old died in the night after "thymus gland trouble." A teenage girl died of influenza. Multiple deaths from Tuberculosis. When researching this we discovered a lock of hair belonging to "Tony" in the records from over 100 years ago.



Inside school in 1979

Known Deaths at the School:

Arlui Boling

Born 1/5/1895 Died 11/30/1907

Mildred McClelland

Found 5/15/1908 Died 7/3/1908

Amie Marie Anderson

Born 7/29/1908 Died 1/3/1909

Edward Smith

Born 9/30/1924 Died 1/26/1925 from "intestinal flu"

Mariah Johnson
Born 7/12/1913 Died 6/20/1925 from appendicitis

Morris Jackson
Born 5/15/1925 Died 9/20/1925

Milfred Sharp
Born 5/29/1931 Died 12/25/1931 from “thymus gland trouble” was discovered dead in the morning

Ruby Santrelli
Born 7/3/1922 Died 9/3/1932



Playroom in basement

Paul Floyd
Born 1/29/1928 Died 8/8/1941

These are just the deaths that we could verify. Many more exist

The Investigation:

The base location was set up on the second floor stairwell

Equipment:

Wireless Camera in the second floor hallway

Wireless Camera in the Second floor classroom

Two cameras in the basement area

One microphone in the basement area

Baseline EMF and Temperature readings were taken and repeated hourly throughout the evening

There was some excitement around 11pm. when an extremely high EMF reading was discovered on the third floor stairs at the landing. It was discovered that this was caused by a light on the opposite side of the wall that had been turned on by a staff member during the night.



Basement playroom

At around 10:30 p.m. Mary and Bryan both reported hearing what sounded like a little girl singing or humming. There was nothing on the audio recording.

At 12:49, there was a very loud bang. Nobody could identify where the sound had come from, so we broke into teams and started looking around the building. We discovered a book on the

floor that had been on a bookshelf when the night had started. Not only was the book off the shelf but several books were in different places on the shelf then they were previously

At 1:05, everyone heard a loud bang but the source could not be identified.



Stairs

At 1:07, two observers both saw a woman walking into a third floor room on one of the monitors. When they announced this we immediately split them up and questioned the individually about what they had seen. They both described a woman dressed all in white with shoulder length light colored hair. We ran the recording back to see what it was that they had witnessed and there was nothing on the recording

At 2:45, the sound of running on the third floor, we sent teams to investigate but nothing was found

At 3:21, a door is heard creaking via the headsets, we sent out teams to find the source but nothing was found

Conclusions:

EMF readings throughout the night were abnormally high; however, this was explainable by old wiring and an extensive computer network

While these results are interesting, we would like the opportunity to follow up on them to see if we can determine possible causes of the events.



Teacher with us during investigation