

The Victorian Spirits of Keystone College

Written by Steve Skierski

Keystone is still home to four Victorian homes that have been converted into office space and a veterans' resource centre. These old houses have some lore behind them, but their location across campus from Harris Hill seems to limit the activity.

Sickler Hall:

When my girlfriend “Gwen” would visit me at work, she hated Sickler (pictured to the left). She is the definition of an ‘armchair skeptic,’ but something about the building always freaked her out and she would actually refuse to enter it after a few visits. She eventually told me she felt something looking back at her from the top floor hallways when she went to use the restroom there one night.

I’ve spent lots of time in Sickler as a campus safety officer and as an adjunct professor at the College, but I’ve never felt anything weird there.





Alumni Hall:

My coworker DJ hated this building passionately. He'd go in with me for lockdown, but would only check the exterior when he was working alone. He once explained to me that while he was working alone during his first summer (2016), he would walk past the building every night and watch the door handle move on its own. He explained it as "an invitation" as if whatever was rattling the door only did enough to make him curious enough to enter, but just too much for it to be the wind or a normal cause.

One night while I was in the building with my coworker "Jared," we heard LOUD banging all throughout the building. We were sitting a few metres from the radiators, but this was way louder than any normal heating system noises. It went on for quite a while until I finally got freaked out enough and we left.

Sabiston Hall:

This was the campus safety office for the first year of my time in the job. While I never had any ghost experiences there, one night Jared and I decided to poke around the building and see if we could get on the roof. The first floor was the campus safety office, the second floor had some faculty offices, the cleanest bathroom on campus, and then a locked door right off to the side of the stairs. We fumbled through the keys until we found the right one and entered.

The door led to a little hallway of various junk and discarded paperwork, and then to another staircase leading up to the third floor. It used to be a dorm, and there was all sorts of shit scattered around like broken fixtures, leaves, trash, dead flies, etc. The place was very creepy because there were weird drawings of Mickey Mouse and cartoon characters from back in the day alongside funky poems scrawled on the walls. It felt like a movie portrayal of an insane asylum up there and I was very happy to go back downstairs.



Sisson Hall:

“Darren” had a frightening experience in this building in the years before he was promoted to first shift and was still working overnights. While he was unlocking the campus early one morning, he went to Sisson, where the copy machine turned on a few metres in front of him and started churning out papers. This freaked him out badly and he ran out of the building. Other campus officials said the home once belonged to an abusive husband and his family, but I cannot verify this story.

