

What Lurks in Ward Hall?



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Popular Lore:

Before it was student central and the home of the finance offices, Ward was an all-girls' dormitory building. One of the enduring Keystone legends is that the third floor once played host to a witches' coven that performed a conjuration and summoned a demon. Lots of people work on the third floor every day and don't experience anything, but the rumour persists. I'm going to add to it in a few paragraphs.

Another famous legend is that the soul of a janitor killed in a boiler accident still dwells in the basement. The basement of Ward was a photo developing studio before they cancelled the program, and the dark room is very creepy without any ghosts involved. It's said the generally-friendly presence of the male janitor is still felt in the basement during the late-night dark room sessions that will never happen there again. When KPS investigated here on our 2nd Keystone College Ghost Hunt we got activity in these very dark rooms.

Lastly, the Pennsylvania Paranormal Society investigation of Keystone in 2009 Set up cameras in Ward to capture any activity. The group's psychic medium, "Virginia," refused to enter the third floor and warned that nobody else should go there. The PPA equipment allegedly captured footage of a dark mass moving through the basement hallway, but I've searched high and low online and haven't viewed the film.

Firsthand Experience:

A few weeks into my campus safety career, Jeremy made a big deal about leaving lights on in the buildings. He said third shift was complaining to him that we were getting careless and his belief that "It's Jorge man! He's trying to trip us up!" With that in mind, I was still brand new to the job and scared to get written up or fired. SO when I saw a light on in the second floor of Ward that September night, I didn't think anything of it other than going in to shut it off.

It was between 11:00-11:45 that night. Jeremy's shift ended at 11, so he was gone, and I went back to HQ to talk to third shift about 15 minutes before their shift started. I went in and turned off the light. Not surprisingly, the door was wide open and unlocked, so I locked and closed it. As I turned to leave, I heard heavy footsteps moving across the third floor above my head. They started at the fall end of the hall at the alleged séance room and were coming toward me. I panicked.

I ran out of there and jumped in the golf cart and went straight to HQ. The building was totally locked and there hadn't been a car in the parking lot for six hours. Further, the lights were all off in there except the office I went to lock. Looking back, it feels like a trap set for me by the entity in Ward. At any rate, I just left lights on after this experience.

Investigation Encounters:

When the KPS investigated Keystone College on our 2nd investigation of the campus on May 15th, 2024, something interacted with us in the dark rooms in the basement of Ward Hall. Members were hesitant to travel upstairs due to its history, and Steve had advised against it. Many members unfamiliar with the school opted to head to the basement and found the unique sliding doors into the dark rooms. They scouted it out and felt it would be a good place to set up our Spirit Box to see if we could get anything to contact us. So, the entire group of 16 investigators headed down to the basement with our equipment to see if Ward Hall really was haunted- many had their doubts.

The semester had been over for about a week at this point, and the room has been out of service for much longer than that. We put a chair in the middle of the room and set up our EMF device and Spirit Box, turned the equipment on, and sat around in the dark quietly waiting to see if something would respond as we asked an occasional question. We sat there in total for 15 minutes, it wasn't until about 7 minutes into the session our EMF went off, and shortly after the stationary spirit box began to shake, until getting pushed off the chair. Steve was LIVE on instagram when this took place, and it's evident no one was moving or interfering with the device to make it topple. The campus security guard who was accompanying us believed it to just be gravity, but it's strange to think it sat there for so long with no movement and suddenly just fell over without anything going on around it. Here's the link to the footage so you can determine for yourself what happened.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGkeacQi8uE&t=59s>