



GSPR

WWW.GSPARANORMAL.COM

MARK BYLANCIK
- FOUNDER & LEAD
INVESTIGATOR

JOHN BYLANCIK
- LEAD INVESTIGATOR &
TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR

GARDEN STATE PARANORMAL RESEARCH

1 WINDEMERE ROAD
VERONA, NJ 07044
201-417-9403

November 22, 2007

Report of Findings
Eastern State Penitentiary Training Investigation
November 10-11, 2007
Submission copy for NJGHS
Supplemental to GSPR Investigation Report.

Submitted to NJGHS by Mark Bylancik

Historical Background:

Opened in 1829 as part of a controversial movement to change the behavior of inmates through "confinement in solitude with labor," Eastern State Penitentiary quickly became one of the most expensive and most copied buildings in the young United States. It is estimated that more than 300 prisons worldwide are based on the Penitentiary's wagon-wheel, or "radial" floor plan.

Some of America's most notorious criminals were held in the Penitentiary's vaulted, skylit cells, including bank robber Willie Sutton and Al Capone. After 142 years of consecutive use, Eastern State Penitentiary was completely abandoned in 1971, and now stands, a lost world of crumbling cell blocks and empty guard towers.

<http://easternstate.org/history/>

Ghosts of Eastern State Penitentiary

Over the years, volunteers and visitors alike have had some pretty strange experiences in the prison. In Cell Block 12, several independent witnesses have reported the hollow and distant sound of laughter echoing in certain cells. No source can ever be discovered for the noises. Others have reported the presence of shadowy apparitions in the cells and the hallways, as though prisoners from the past can find no escape from this inhuman place. Several volunteers believe that they have seen these ghostly figures in the "six block", while others have seen them darting across corridors and vanishing into rooms. Eastern State's Death Row has also been the scene of strange encounters and chilling visitations by the same shadowy figures encountered by others.

One of the most commonly reported specters in the prison is encountered by staff members and visitors alike among the older cellblocks. The phantom is always described

as being a dark, human-like figure who stands very still and quiet. The figure usually goes unnoticed until the visitor gets too close to him and he darts away. The sightings never last for long but each person who has encountered the apparition state that it gives off a feeling of anger and malevolence. Could this be a prisoner who has remained behind in protest of the inhumane treatment that he and so many others received in this cruel and brutal place? Perhaps -- and it's likely that this single spirit does not walk here alone.

Another of the penitentiary's most frequently seen spirits is a ghost that stands high above the prison walls in a guard tower. It has been assumed for many years that this is the spirit of a former guard who is still standing his post after all of these years. One has to wonder why a guard, who was free to leave this place at the end of the day, would choose to remain behind at the prison. But perhaps he has no choice -- we can only speculate as to what dark deeds this lonesome man may have been witness to, or perhaps had taken part in, during his years at the prison. Maybe he is now compelled to spend eternity watching over the walls that held so many prisoner in days gone by.

Troy Taylor – Prairie Ghosts

<http://www.prairieghosts.com/eastern.html>