

The McClelland School, Pueblo

The McClelland School



A former orphanage, now a private school, the McClelland School in Pueblo, CO is a beautiful, atmospheric building which exudes character and charm. I had investigated the school before, when working for another research group in Colorado, and experienced some intriguing phenomena...for example, a book somehow fell to the floor in a closed room on an empty floor, "falling" several feet outwards from the shelf and several feet to the side as well! Needless to say, I jumped at the opportunity to go back.

We were fortunate enough to be joined on this investigation by our friends and colleagues from Colorado Paranormal Research, a professional and motivated investigative team which covers Northern Colorado. The school is sufficiently large to cope with big research teams, and even with a crew of sixteen people we weren't able to cover all of the property.

On arrival at dusk, we were met by the delightful Mrs. Gail Purcell, the office manager, and the principal, Mr. Ed Mercer. A number of other McClelland staff and family members joined our team for the overnight investigation, and we were given a friendly and courteous reception throughout. A guided tour was conducted for those members who were new to the school, before we unloaded our equipment and began to set everything up for the night.

Everything was calm and tranquil for the majority of the night, up until midnight, at least. As the evening wore on, unusual events did begin to take place.

Throughout the night, batteries in various devices were draining at an astonishing rate. Voice recorders, cameras, and flashlights were losing power in a fraction of the usual time - and all batteries were factory-new when placed at the start of the evening. It is a well-documented observation that paranormal phenomena is often accompanied by accelerated battery drainage. One theory suggests that the phenomena is using the stored electrical capacitance to manifest itself - a theory which has yet to be satisfactorily proven or disproven.

One standard operating procedure we use is to "go dark" at regular intervals. This means that we position observers at strategic locations throughout the building and then bring down the lighting and maintain absolute silence for a given period of time. We exercised this technique several times at McClelland, focusing our attention on each floor and also on the master staircase. Two observers on different teams heard footsteps ascending the stairs, followed by a "swishing" noise that both observers independently described as sounding like that of a dress. One of the observers also witnessed a shadow, which she states was "human shaped and sized", on the master staircase, at the top floor level. This was accompanied by the swishing noise.

EMF, thermal, and radiation levels were unremarkable throughout the night. I had much the same experience last time I investigated the school...momentary EMF spikes turned out, on further investigation, to be attributable to fluorescent lighting on the floor below, or other mundane explanations.

Footsteps were heard throughout the building at various times during the night. However, it proved impossible for us to localize them to one specific place. An unusual camera malfunction occurred downstairs in the basement, when a digital camera (which has previously performed flawlessly) began to flip backwards through the recently-taken photographs while nobody was operating the controls. Nothing unusual showed up on our photographic media that night, either still, digital, or motion cameras. My colleague Jessica Martin, who specializes in the recording of EVP, did record an interesting EVP at one point, which you can find elsewhere on this page. Rest assured that the voice which can be heard answering her was not heard by anybody present at the time...

We packed up our equipment and headed home just before daybreak. I found out later that a staff member reported hearing what she thought were childrens' footsteps, following the team out as we exited the building. Once again, the McClelland school (and its fantastic staff) did not disappoint.

- **Richard Estep**, Director



UPDATED 7/30/07

We received the following update from Mrs Purcell, two months after our investigation took place...
 "Nothing reported since the remodel. But right before school let out we had a sub for our music class and she had just finished showing the children a movie. She left the room in-between classes to get something out of her car and when she returned and began another class the TV and VCR would not work. She looked in back of the equipment and found that it had been unplugged. No one had been in the room. We even double checked with the janitor. On that same day I kept feeling like someone was behind me for most of the morning and part of the afternoon. I would look over my shoulder and nothing would be there. The water valve the janitor was working on that day kept turning itself off. Very active on this level on that day. Mrs. _____, our music teacher said that kind of thing happens to her all the time and that she still hears the knocking in the ceiling when no one is upstairs."

Sounds like McClelland is still active!

- **Richard Estep**, Director

You can download the final reports for this case [here](#).

Colorado Paranormal Research Supplemental Investigation Log

Date:	5-2-09	Time:	190 0-0 200	Inv esti gat or:	James Scott
Weather :	Rain/ fog	Moon Phase:		Loc atio n:	McClell and/ Pueblo

					CO
Other Investigators Present:					
Equipment Used:	<input type="checkbox"/> Film Camera <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Camera <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Video Camera <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EMF <input type="checkbox"/> Tape Recorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Recorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thermometer				
Film Camera:	Film Speed:	Brand of Film:	Exposures:	Rolls Used:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> B&W <input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> Infrared <input type="checkbox"/> APS				
Audio Recorder:	<input type="checkbox"/> Micro Cassette <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Cassette		Audio Tapes Used:		
Length:	<input type="checkbox"/> 30min <input type="checkbox"/> 60min <input type="checkbox"/> 90min <input type="checkbox"/> 120min				
Video Tape:	<input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> VHS-C <input type="checkbox"/> 8mm <input type="checkbox"/> Digital <input type="checkbox"/> Mini DV		Tapes Used:		
Length:	<input type="checkbox"/> 30min <input type="checkbox"/> 60min <input type="checkbox"/> 90min <input type="checkbox"/> 120min				
Thermometer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic <input type="checkbox"/> Infrared				
Readings:	X Ambient <input type="checkbox"/> Surface				
Photos:	Number of photos taken:				
Phenomena Captured?	None, video recorder malfunctioned				
Ovilus Results	N/A				

Phenomena witnessed

Time:	2210 Basement	Phenomena:	Shadow seen moving in window reflection above my head on wall above old refrigerator in kitchen.
Time:	2230 Basement	Phenomena:	Video camera batteries dead. Batteries originally installed at 2100hrs
Time:	2312 Gym	Phenomena:	Team lead camera refused to function, and then batteries died. Guest investigator flashlight repeatedly flickering between on, off and dim.
Time:	2313 Gym	Phenomena:	Flashlight returns to normal operation.
Time:	2324 Gym	Phenomena:	"Hello" heard on separate floors. (I was unable to hear).
Time:	2331 Gym	Phenomena:	Flashlight flicker begins again, responding to voice commands.

Time:	2338 Gym	Phenomena:	Overwhelming feeling of the giggles (I don't giggle).
Time:	2347 Gym	Phenomena:	2 separate cameras batteries die. Team lead digital recorder batteries die. Flashlight flickering and responding to commands. Ends 2348
Time:	2350 Gym	Phenomena:	Flashlight flickering. Responding to commands in investigators hand and on floor. Team lead asks if "it" wants us to leave the gym, flashlight responds with a yes, team leaves gym as requested.
Time:	2358 Kindergarten	Phenomena:	The southernmost classroom. B side of room, increased pressure in investigators ears "feelings of intoxication". Two investigators report headaches. Symptoms subside when outside the classroom.
Time:	0100 2 nd floor	Phenomena:	Moving into position, a feeling of uneasiness emanating from B side classroom.
Time:	0120 2 nd floor	Phenomena:	Enter B side classroom. No abnormal feelings
Time:	0135 2 nd floor	Phenomena:	Guest investigator hears sound of swishing, likened to woman's dress.
Time:	0140 2 nd floor	Phenomena:	Searching floor for swishing sound. Sudden feeling of terror, fight or flee reaction from B classroom
Time:	0147 2 nd floor	Phenomena:	Unable to approach B classroom, forced back into stairwell due to overwhelming terror extending into hallway.
Time:	0150 2 nd floor	Phenomena:	Exited building due to emotional state.
Time:	0200	Phenomena:	Remained outside till teammate came to check on my well being. Feeling of terror extended to buildings back doors, unable to enter building without emotional support, retrieved equipment, concluded investigation.

Summary :	McClelland has a special place in my heart, and I was really looking forward to the investigation this year, and it defiantly lived up to my expectations. I was thrilled and overwhelmed to see the number of guest investigators that joined us this year, both professional and amateur. Everyone was well behaved and understanding that this is not a roller coaster ride full of thrills and
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chills.

The majority of unusual happenings involving the team I was assigned to were equipment related. The first odd occurrence involved the kitchen at approximately 2210hrs. I was standing with my back to the old refrigerator staring straight ahead at my reflection in the window directly thru the doorway next to the two tiered child's castle. While asking questions and hoping for a response from an unseen spirit I noticed a shadow move behind and above my head. It appeared to be oblong and approximately one foot tall and four to six inches wide at its widest point. I immediately determined that it was not related to any vehicles and proceeded to search for any persons outside, I was unable to locate anyone.

I set up a "shell game" in the basement classroom with 3 cups and a ball hidden under one of the cups and their locations were circled on a piece of paper. At approximately 2230hrs I checked on the status of the cups and the video camera and found the cameras batteries were dead. I installed the batteries at 2100hrs. Sometime during those two hours something drained the batteries. I noted that none of the cups were moved.

At approximately 2312hrs Stephens's camera malfunctioned, I would not have thought much of it but the timing was wrong. He had taken several photos and requested whoever was with us to take one more shot. Apparently whatever was with us had different ideas. After the camera malfunctioned Stephen examined the camera and found no problems.

This occurrence was also unusual due to the fact that a guest investigators flashlight was repeatedly dimming and brightening with no apparent pattern at the same time. Approximately one minute later both the camera and the flashlight returned to normal. End basement investigation.

At approximately 2324 a hello was heard on multiple levels. I was unable to hear said Hello.

We were located to the gym and set up some trigger objects, a bowling ball and bowling pin and a softball. We started an evp session and at approximately 2331 the guest investigators flashlight mentioned above began to flicker once again. There was no discernable pattern noted. It continued for approximately 60 seconds before returning to normal operation.

At approximately 2338hrs I was overwhelmed with the feeling of the giggles. I suddenly started giggling. I don't giggle but I couldn't help myself and after ten or twenty seconds I was able to regain my composure.

At approximately 2347hrs the camera Stephen and a guest investigator were using suddenly malfunctioned, again while asking to take a picture of whoever was with us. At approximately the same time the batteries in a digital recorder suddenly dies at the same time the flashlight began flickering again. Note the guest investigator was holding both the recorder and flashlight when this occurred. The flickering continued after Stephen instructed the guest investigator to place the flashlight on the floor. After approximately three minutes of random flickering the flickering began to respond to our questions. We asked if whoever was with us was a boy and it flashed once for yes. After a series of responses to our questioning we asked if the spirit was getting tired of us and wanted us to leave, its answer was a definite yes. The spirit was asked to make the flashlight stay on so we could see to leave and in my opinion the light was unusually brighter than normal till the guest investigator

picked up the flashlight.

At approximately 2358hrs in the kindergarten classrooms the classroom located directly behind central command multiple persons felt what could only be described as a sense of drunkenness. Located on the B side of the classroom a large area near the door leading outside one guest investigator suddenly felt a severe headache set in. Stephen asked what the woman was feeling and she said "I feel this pressure, I'm getting a headache." Stephen asked the woman to step outside with him and moments later she felt fine. A second investigator and I entered the unusual area and we both felt off balance, almost as if we had too much to drink. We then proceeded outside the classroom and we could feel the effects wane. I did not have an emf meter with me at the time. For personal safety we did not allow anyone to re-enter the area. Upon completing our investigation of the kindergarten classroom I found my digital recorder was not recording. I never turn off or stop my recorder for any reason. I examined my recorder and found it to be fully functional but on a new folder, this can only happen if it is switched off or I pompously stop the recorder and manually change folders.

At approximately 0100hrs we were assigned to the second floor. Upon reaching the top of the stairs I felt a sense of uneasiness from Thumpers room. I made no mention to the other team members of my odd feeling. I asked the team to start the investigation in the D classroom. Secretly I thought my odd feeling would subside if I had a moment to compose myself. While taking base readings in the D classroom my digital recorder chirped indicating it was full. This was unusual because I should have another four hours of recording time left. I decided not to retrieve a second recorder for fear of disturbing another team. A guest investigator mentioned that she felt funny about the room down the hall, indicating Thumpers room. I mentioned that I too was feeling something down the hall. Stephen requested that we move to Thumpers room. I asked that myself and a guest do an evp session in the classroom where "I'm happy" was recorded. We spent approximately ten minutes in said room before moving into Thumpers room. I had my hesitation but proceeded. Upon entering the room at 0120hrs I felt nothing out of the ordinary. We performed an evp session. During the session a guest investigator stated that she kept hearing what to her sounded like swishing from a dress in the hall. Examining Thumper and looking for any other reason I finally moved into the hall. Upon entering the hall I felt what could only be described as a wall of negativity behind me. I thought maybe I was tired and continued searching the remaining classrooms for the sound of the swishing. I was unable to locate the sound. Intending on returning to Thumpers room I found my path blocked by this wall of dread. The closer I came the more frightened I became. Not wanting to frighten the team I re-examined the other classrooms in an attempt to calm down. After searching the "snake" room I met two other investigators in the hall and suddenly found the wall of dread was now blocking the restrooms and the "I'm happy" room. The only direction I felt I could travel safely was into the stairwell. I took up a position at the top of the stairs and remained there till Richard came to check on us. With his arrival I felt that I needed to leave the area and now! I did my best to walk away and not frighten anyone but I didn't bother to look back. I immediately left the building to compose myself. I remained outside for longer than I expected because the wall of dread was now blocking the backdoors of the school. I couldn't see anything and I had no rational

	<p>explanation for what I was feeling but I couldn't go back in the school. So I stayed outside waiting for someone to open the back door. My mind kept telling me "if someone opens the door the dread will go away, sounds rational, but it didn't work. Terry came out to check on me and after talking to her I was able to re-enter the building but the sense of dread was still there. Terry and Brad helped me recover my equipment and I concluded my investigation. In the parking lot I could still feel the dread hanging over the building but I was out of its grasp and I felt fine. I have suffered no ill effects either mental or physical after the investigation. After reviewing all audio I found nothing of interest.</p>

McClelland School Investigation Report

Saturday 2nd May 2009, 20:00 – 05:00 approx

Conducted by Boulder County Paranormal Research Society, in conjunction with Colorado Paranormal Research and AAPI.

Report from Miranda Armstrong, Leader, Group #4

Group 4:

The first location we investigated was the third floor. We had really no activity there. We did notice that there was a lot of noise coming from outside which made it difficult to hear anything inside for certain.

After the first floor, my team moved into the basement. Other teams had reported draining batteries in the basement so we were all keeping an eye on our cameras, cell phones and batteries. Once we arrived at McClelland, I had set my phone alerts to "silent" so nothing would be heard on recorders or interfere with the investigation. My team split into two smaller groups, my group was sitting around the carpet. After about 20 minutes into the basement investigation, I felt my phone buzz in my back pocket. My phone is a BlackBerry Storm that has a touch screen. When I put it into my pocket, it was on "silent" alert and "locked". There is a physical button on top of the phone that locks/unlocks the screen and physical buttons. In order for it to change from "silent" to "vibrate", the physical button would have to be pressed, along with a small (about 1/4 inch square) area of the screen and then another option on the touch screen. The phone was still locked when I brought it out of my pocket so the lock button would have to be pressed again. I don't believe I could have "butt dialed" the combination of entries that were required to change the alert level. Firstly, the Storm is a touch screen and is not just pressure sensitive but is "skin" sensitive, meaning that the phone requires touch from skin for the screen to function. I've tried to make the screen come on by touching it with my finger through a t-shirt, I have never been able to get that to work. The phone was in the back pocket of a pair of jeans so I don't believe I could have changed the alert level just from sitting on it. We also tried later to unlock the screen by pressing and holding any of the 4 physical buttons on the phone

but were unable to do that also. I carry my phone in my back pocket all the time and since December, this is the only time this has ever happened. I don't have an explanation for how or why this occurred. The rest of our time in the basement was uneventful.

We next investigated the first floor, mostly the kindergarten room and the gymnasium. We did not experience any unusual readings in either of the two rooms. We tried leaving a flashlight in the gymnasium but did not get any results with that experiment.

Our next stop was the second floor. We all sat together in the coat room with the red floor. A few of my team felt uncomfortable in this room. While conducting an EVP session, most of us in the room heard what sounded like an exhale from one corner of the room. I did catch this on the digital recorder. After about 20 minutes, we split into two groups. My group was me, Clay, and Seth. The other group went into the large room and conducted an EVP session. My group was outside the small bathroom when we thought we heard the other group talking in the room with the snakes. When we went into that room, there was no one there. We decided to sit in the small bathroom. We went in and closed the door, Seth was sitting on the tub which was covered by a board and some couch cushions. After a few minutes, he said he felt uncomfortable and did not want to sit there anymore. At that point, I sat where he was sitting. We continued with our EVP session. A few minutes passed and I began to feel uncomfortable also. I got the feeling that there was a presence behind me. I continued with the EVP session, and eventually asked that if it was desired that we leave the room to give us a sign. At this point, I believe the room got darker. The only light was coming from under the door and was illuminating the room. The light from under the door did not change but the area next to see turned inky black and it spread toward the ceiling. I asked Clay & Seth if the room got darker and they both thought that it did, they also believed the darkness to be our sign that we should leave. We left the room and went to the room with the rabbit. Clay & Seth both reported afterward that they felt we were not alone in that room and that there was a presence behind me while I was sitting on the tub. I don't have an explanation for what occurred in that room. I'll only say that I was very, very tired and may have been open to the power of suggestion after hearing what other teams had experienced. My eyes were also very fatigued and I cannot say for certain that that didn't have an effect on my seeing the room get darker. However, both Clay & Seth agreed with the things I experienced but we did not attempt to separate ourselves to try to independently validate our experiences. We asked a few of the other people in our group to sit in the same room and they did not experience the things that we did. The rest of our stay on the 2nd floor was uneventful.

There always seems to be something at McClelland that occurs that I can't completely explain. It is my favorite place to investigate.

Report from Jeff Seader, Investigator, Group #4

Here is a brief account of what I personally observed at the McClelland school, team 4, that could not be explained. Even though there were many things that were talked about in the group and a few that were interesting in nature, I only have 2 K2 sessions that were not in my opinion something that I could explain.

The first was in the basement side "A-B" corner near the kitchen area we experienced spikes to the orange 3-4th light on the K2 meter which appeared that they were in direct response to approximately 3-4 questions relating to the man with the black suit. There were spikes that were once for yes and two for no responses as I instructed. Base meter reading were not present before or after and meter was positioned flat on the floor in the middle of the group of 4 of us. At the last of the session I asked that the green pencil on the kitchen be moved on the countertop and when verified after the session it did appear that the eraser end moved 1/4" outside the control line. There were pictures taken but with the movement so slight I have doubt that it was paranormal.

The second was a K2 session on the second floor in the classroom that was near the "C-D" corner where we had 2 observers present and a spike of the K2 meter in direct response to 4-5 questions that lasted for 2-3 minutes. These spikes were full meter spikes to red and were once for yes and two for no in relation to questions surrounding the presence of the small girl that Sue the housekeeper called "Bridget". There were follow up questions asked to confirm meter responses which did appear to be directly related to these questions. The meter was on the floor and we confirmed there was no lighting fixtures on directly under the meter and the base before and after in that room was minimal. The session slowed when other observers entered the room and soon after the session ended. This was going on at the same time the other half of the group had the experience of the presence in the adult restroom where they stated it went dark.

SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

Boulder County Paranormal Research
Location: McClelland School, Pueblo, CO
Date: May 2 - May 3, 2009

Investigator: Seth Woodmansee, Team 4

2nd floor

We started sweeping the floor. When I entered the red floor room (coat room/"I'm happy" room) I felt an odd downward and inward pressure on my head and shoulders that I had not felt in the rabbit or reptile rooms on the same floor. Five of us (Me, Miranda, Clay, and the two female guests on our team) stayed in the room with the door closed and voice recorder running. While asking for signs to show someone was there most everyone in the room except Clay reported hearing what sounded like a sigh or short, forced exhale. The pressure I was feeling faded after a couple of minutes asking questions. There were a few slight hits on the Gauss meter, but nothing over a 2. We heard this in the form of ticks from the meter, but there were no definite answers or repeatable patterns.

I felt a similar sensation accompanied by some vertigo in the 2nd floor adult bathroom. Miranda, Clay and I entered the room, entered the room and asked if there was anyone there. Miranda and I thought we heard a "Uh-huh" response from the area. We checked the computer room around the

corner but there was no one there. I do not know if Miranda had the voice recorder turned on at the time. Back in the bathroom I sat on the covered over bathtub (center of the tub) and a tingling gradually grew in my body over the course of a minute. This faded after I stood up. Miranda sat down where I had sat and we closed the door and started asking questions. There were a few ticks on the Gauss meter in response to questions, but again nothing repeatable or steady. A few minutes in my flashlight, which I had turned off, flickered on briefly. The flashlight turns on by screwing tighter the head, and if not screwed off enough it can flicker as it did. After leaving the room I tried recreating it and I could, but only with giving the light a good whacking. While in the bathroom I was simply holding the flashlight and applying no pressure to the head. This happened after one of the questions of showing that there was someone in the room with us.

Miranda asked if there was someone behind her and I felt a looming and imposing, but not necessarily threatening presence behind her. Clay had a simultaneous and similar sensation, with some imagery that I did not have. Miranda asked if whoever was there would give us a sign if it wanted us to leave. At that time the quality of light in the room (provided by the crack at the bottom of the door) changed and darkened. We all took that to be an affirmative answer and left the bathroom. I later asked another member of my team if anyone else could have walked in front of the door at the time and caused the light change. She (Katherine I believe) replied that everyone else was in the writing room on the D side of the building the entire time we were in the bathroom.

Investigator: Kira Woodmansee, Group # 2

Ground Floor

My team, led by Terry of Colorado Paranormal Research, included Lisa from the American Association of Paranormal Investigators and several guests from the McClelland School's fundraiser. We started out in the Spanish room on the B side of the building, where Terry placed a control object (a stuffed toy) on the desk. She had noted earlier a very strong odor, as of human feces, in one particular spot, but the scent had gone when we arrived less than an hour later. Sweeps turned up no unusual EMF or temperature readings, and all in all the room seemed quiet. We did a 15-minute EVP session which produced no response on the K2 meters.

Scott, one of the guests and a parent of a McClelland student, told us that he was "sensitive" and he had a very strong urge to go to one particular room, the kindergarten room. Upon finding it locked, we asked Ed the principal to give us access, and he agreed. When we got into the room, Scott made a beeline for the opposite side, where a platform had been erected about 4-5 feet off the ground, creating a partially-enclosed play area underneath and a sort of playpen surrounded by a railing and filled with soft toys above. Scott headed for the right side of the platform and said he was getting a very strong feeling about the place. I was a few paces behind Scott, and when he moved away, I stepped into the area he'd been occupying. I felt a tingling/prickling sensation all over, as if I'd walked through an electricity field. I crouched down and sat under the platform, looking at a toy stove. I got the impression this was a special place, a favorite place, and told Terry. Whereas the Spanish room was a classroom with no particular resonance, this space felt like a refuge. I may have been

projecting, because I have always liked small spaces and like to feel safe and enclosed, but when Scott crawled under the platform a little while later, he also told Terry he got a feeling that it was "special" and "a favorite place".

After we initially explored the platform, Scott felt that whatever it was that had drawn him there had moved or been scared off. He started checking out a corner on the A side of the building and felt it had moved over there. I came over and felt the tingling/prickling sensation again. We got no unusual EMF readings or temperature readings at that time, though a large electrical conduit was later found outside near that wall, and that may have been responsible for our reactions.

While we were checking out the corner, one of the three PCs near the door woke up (all three had been on sleep mode). Terry had been standing near the table and thought that it had come on by itself, but it is possible that she jostled something. We couldn't be sure. I inspected all the computers and found no software running that might have started a process and woken up the PC. The first computer had just a web browser open to an eBay page, the second had Word documents, file folders, and Microsoft Outlook open, and the third had only folders open. One of the computers was beeping every 5 minutes or so, making a noise which several people identified as the AOL Instant Messenger "incoming message" alert. However, when I checked the machines, I found no messaging software installed on any of them. The computer that had Microsoft Outlook running had not had any new messages come in since 10:12 am that day. Any sound can be recorded and set to play when certain events occur, like an error message or program activity, but the Task Manager on each computer revealed nothing but the usual system processes and the visible applications. I was not able to determine which computer was making the noise. It might have been an application called WeatherBug, which was running in the background on one of the computers, but since I don't know this program, I can't tell if it can be set up to play specific sounds when it receives incoming data. I reset the screen savers on all the computers to 1 minute, and they were not disturbed for the rest of the time we were in the room.

We went to the gymnasium next, and again found no abnormal readings. I was only there for about 5 minutes before I chose to accompany a fellow investigator back to the main room. We had no more activity on the ground floor.

Second Floor

We headed up the stairs to the second floor and explored the reptile room, which was interesting from the point of view of someone like me who likes snakes, if smelly. We noticed nothing remarkable about that room although later we heard the crickets chirping, which might account for some unusual noises. We got no strange EMF readings or temperature readings on the second floor.

We did EVP sessions in 3 rooms on the second floor - the cloak room (also referred to as the "red room" or the "I'm happy" room), the rabbit room on the B side of the building, and the writing room on the D side of the building. The only interesting thing happened in the writing room. We were doing an EVP session when we heard a moaning sound, faint but definite and sounding rather like a

1930's-era Frankenstein monster. We heard it again a few minutes later. At the briefing, some other investigators speculated that it could be dogs down the street, but I do not believe it was a canine noise. I volunteered at an animal shelter for 10 years and never heard a dog make that kind of noise at such a volume that it can be heard at a distance. Sometimes dog grunts or sighs sound similar, but these are soft noises and you have to be in the proximity of the dog to hear them. It was not a howl or yelp or bark.

We also heard a man's voice come over the radio and say "Hello?" It did not respond to any questions from us. Although it was verified that none of the people in the building had said anything, I do not believe this was a paranormal incident. The McClelland school is quite close to the highway and truckers use CB radios to communicate all the time. We switched frequencies after this event and it did not happen again.

Third Floor

This floor was by far the most eventful. We headed upstairs and into the art room, the room used as a tuberculosis ward when the school was an orphanage. Scott and I both felt uncomfortable there. He wanted to leave; I merely felt an unpleasant slight pressure. As before, we turned up no unusual readings, and I explored the closets and alcoves scattered around the room. A couple of times, my hand brushed cobwebs and I got the sensation of being lightly touched by something invisible, but that was only deep in the corners. We all tramped into a little side room with a potter's wheel, and Scott was getting a bad feeling about a closet, which Terry and I stepped into. While we were in the closet, Scott decided to step out into the main art room again, and Ryan and Lisa went with him. While they were out there, Lisa invited any presences there to make themselves known by touching, tapping, or pinching any of the investigators. A moment later, Ryan jumped up yelling and said that his arm hurt. Terry and I rushed out as Scott and Lisa were pulling up Ryan's sleeve to examine his arm. He said it burned, and there was a faint red mark on his forearm, as if he had been pinched. I took photos, which are attached, but I think the flash may have destroyed the subtle quality of light required to show the phenomenon.

We left that room shortly thereafter and went down the hall to the music room, which felt completely different. It had a friendly, comfortable quality and the best way I can describe it is that it just had a completely different atmosphere from the art room. We did our preliminary scans and found nothing extraordinary, did about 15 minutes of EVP and decided nothing was going to happen there. I laid down on the floor and felt just fine in the music room.

Basement

Our team hit the basement last and found it pretty quiet. A control object set up by another team appeared to have shifted, but only slightly (photo attached) and it is possible that someone could have knocked the table and moved the pencil. Again, no weird readings, and no response on the K2 to any of our EVP questions. We sat in the main room and noticed a regular beeping coming from the D side of the building. I spent about 10 minutes trying to determine the source without much luck,

but it was later discovered to be a gas meter. Feeling there was no activity in the basement, we headed upstairs.

Other teams had reported quite a few remarkable experiences, so those of us who stayed decided to revisit the spots which had seen unusual activity. I chose the second floor bathroom and the cloak room and took two guests, Crystal and Amanda, with me. Whatever had disturbed our teammates, however, appeared to be quiet. We got no unusual readings, no response to our EVP sessions, and I did not feel the same sense of presence and looming pressure that Seth and Miranda's team had experienced on the previous shift.

Conclusions

Although I didn't really have much in the way of significant personal experience, many others did on this investigation and I can't think of a rational explanation for the things they saw, heard, and felt. Lisa confirmed that nothing had been near Ryan, nor had he been holding his arms in a way that he could have hurt himself when his arm got pinched, and I can't think of any medical reason why he would suddenly manifest a red mark on his upper arm. He was troubled by the experience and headed home afterwards.

I have a number of feelings (as we say in Boulder) about the McClelland in general as a result of this investigation. I definitely believe there is something there, and there are both positive and negative aspects to it. Based on previous investigations, multiple presences seem likely. I also felt that it moved around a lot, and small groups of people prompted more contact than large ones. I think next year we should try an investigation with small teams (2-3 people max) spread more evenly throughout the building. Lastly, though I'm eager for any kind of paranormal contact, I never once felt something I would describe as a presence in the same room as me. I can't always sense these things, but I got the impression that because I don't like children and can't empathize with them, whatever is in the school is unlikely to make contact with me. It won't stop me from coming back, though!

Terri Townsend, Investigator, Group #1

Team 1:

Our first investigation was in the basement, and I personally did not have any experiences there.

Our second investigation was the ground floor. I was holding a flashlight and the digital recorder for our investigations. We first went into the classroom on the B side of the building. In this room, I was holding the flashlight towards the ground, and a couple of times the flashlight dimmed and then brightened. We then went into the gymnasium. We set up a bowling pin and two balls in the center of the gym, trying to get some movement of the balls. During this time, I was holding the flashlight on my leg aiming at the bowling pin so that if there was any movement we could see it. At one point the flashlight started dimming and brightening back and forth for awhile (roughly a minute). Stephen and

Rene on the team both had their digital camera batteries die. After awhile, the flashlight began the dimming routine again, for approximately the same length of time. Around this time I noticed the record light was off on the digital recorder, so I said that the battery had died in it as well. Another person on our team suggested that I set the flashlight on the floor so that we could be sure that I hadn't moved it slightly to make the light change. So I set it on the floor. Nothing happened at first then James asked if they could make the light change. Again the light started dimming and brightening for a short period of time. Stephen then said that if they wanted us to leave to make the light go dim, and it immediately did. He then said that we would need light to find our way out so to make the light bright again, and it also immediately did. He then said we would leave as was asked but needed to pick up the toys. After we went into the hall, I noticed the screen was working on the digital recorder. It showed the battery still had a bar left and the timer showed 44 minutes. I showed it to Stephen and he said he would check it when we went back. We then went into the kindergarten. I walked around the right side to the back then went to the left to return. When I was in the back on the A side, I suddenly felt a slight headache and just a strange feeling in my chest. I told Stephen and he had me walk out into the hall and I told him that the feeling was gone. He had me walk back in and let him know if the feeling returned. I felt it as soon as I went back to the same area. James and Rene were also there by then and they both said that they felt it. Rene described it as pressure and James more of a tipsy feeling. Stephen had us walk around the kindergarten and the adjacent room and that back spot was the only place that we felt that way. Later, Stephen said the digital recorder was shot and we used a different one for the rest of our investigations.

The third investigation was on the second floor, and I personally did not have any experiences there.,either.

Our fourth investigation was on the third floor, and the only thing that I experienced there was that I heard a rustling noise.

When we did the last investigation, I went back to the third floor, and did not have any experiences there.

Chronological Timeline of Events and Log – Richard Estep, Event Coordinator

20:15 Meet and greet. Tour of the building given by principal Ed Mercer. Heard from the cleaner (Susan) about Hx of female in white period dress seen on top floor, young girl heard speaking Susan's name while cleaning ground floor corridors, young boy (she does not know why she believes it to be a boy) tugs at her shirt in ground floor corridors (new wing), her keys frequently disappear and then reappear on the cleaning cart.

21:00 Show-and-tell of equipment, outline code of conduct for the investigation. Divide up into teams.

Team 1

- Terri

- Rene
- J.T.
- Stephen (AAPI, Team leader)
- Erik (BCP)
- James (CPR)

Team 2

- Crystal
- Scott
- Amanda
- Ryan
- Lisa (AAPI)
- Terry (CPR, Team leader)
- Kira (BCP)

Team 3

- Susan
- Aubree
- Hayley
- Mark
- Loyd (AAPI)
- Brad (CPR, Team Leader)

Team 4

- Roger
- Nancy
- Clay
- Katherine
- Seth (BCP)
- Miranda (BCP, Team Leader)
- Jeff (CPR)

21:15 Equipment checks and distribution of kit. Erik's cell phone, which was fully charged when leaving home, is now drained – abnormal for this piece of equipment. Everybody else checks their cell phones, all others at normal levels of charge. Ask Erik to monitor behavior of phone battery over the coming week. AAA batteries in BCP radio #2 drained, were freshly put in before leaving house. Replaced batteries, will monitor carefully.

21:30 Initial deployment. Terms and definitions: front side of school facing Aviando designated "A", right side designated "B", rear side w/car park designated "C", left side designated "D". Basement designated "basement", ground floor designated "ground floor" (street level), floor above ground designated "second floor", top floor designated "third floor".

Team #1 deployed to basement, team #2 deployed to ground floor, team #3 deployed to second floor, team #4 deployed to third floor. Radio checks conducted, all good with the exception of Team 1's radio, which receives but does not transmit successfully – changed unit, communications effective between all teams.

22:00 Richard visits all teams to check status. Team #1 (basement) notice power drain in their radio (the second radio) despite the fresh batteries they placed in there before heading downstairs. Video camera batteries also dead in basement. Team #3 (second floor) Brad and Susan report unusual sensations to the B side of the doorway like tinnitus in the L ear. Team 3 heard tapping on glass of bathroom window (girls bathroom, 2nd floor) – traced to group of pigeons on outside window ledge. Cold spot reported in the coat room – next team asked to check temp in there regularly. Team#2 reports “unusual activity in kindergarten classroom”, will keep secret until close of investigation to ensure continuity of evidence.

22:30 All teams called back in for debrief, break, redeployment. New arrivals x4.....Tyler sent to Team 1, Lauren to Team 2, Jacob to Team 3, and Ben to Team 4. Team 1 deployed to ground floor, Team 2 deployed to second floor (warned of “unusual activity” and asked to stay alert, but not told where or what type of activity), Team 3 deployed to third floor, Team 4 deployed to Basement.

23:20 Loud noise from outside building, described by one team as a howling noise and another team as a moan (Team 4 in basement and Team 1 on ground floor both heard it, Ed Mercer heard it from his office, Richard did NOT hear it from the break room). Theories range from the dogs that are in a pen out back to somebody trying to spook us. Ed went out to investigate, nobody found outside the building.

23:30 Status check, all teams. Other than the aforementioned noise, all normal.

00:00 All teams back to central for debrief.

Team 1 – batts dead in TWO cameras AND digital voice recorder (all belonging to Stephen – batteries from same batch). Flashlight dimming and brightening in the gym, answering questions and dimming AND brightening on request. Two investigators report feeling severe headache in a specific section of the kindergarten classroom. James discovers that his voice recorder has been switched off in the kindergarten room and has recorded nothing – had to be physically switched off.

Team 2 – footsteps in hallway, male clearing throat in hallway. Noticeably colder in B side classroom w/rabbit, but no variation on thermometer. Five team members say it was colder in there.

Team 3 – 3rd floor. Aubree may have been touched on lower back near closet area. Sue believes something may have brushed against her in the art room. Brad and Sue both felt something touched their pinky finger in the area near the kilns.

Team 4 – Basement team. Miranda's phone goes from lock to unlock then switched to vibrate from

silent (would have to be pushed in sequence by a warm finger, won't work with gloves on or a pen etc). K2 readings on B side reach 3rd light, seemed to respond to identity questions ("are you the man in the black suit? Yes").

Team 2 heard "something straight out of a 30s horror movie", like a stage moan. Thought it might be kids outside. Heard it at least twice. They also heard the dogs. Team one – Erik, heard dogs. James from CPR heard one noise that was dogs yipping and another that sounded like something else.

00:30 Stephen is given batteries from different investigators to rule out possibility of a bad batch.

01:00 Redeploy. The teenage guests have left. Team 1 sent to second, Team 2 sent to 3rd, Team 3 sent to basement, Team 4 sent to ground.

Timeline to be determined later. Up on 3rd floor with team 2, Scott accompanies teenager Ryan in the kiln room. The group is attempting to initiate a response and Lisa suggests that it is OK to pull hair or pinch them. Ryan is pinched on the L tricep and jumps out of his chair. Witnesses on-scene describe two scratch marks and reddening. Lisa escorts Ryan downstairs, he is assessed by Richard acting as EMT, no significant reddening or marking found on the arm. Kira stated that Ryan had (during the EVP session) asked the question "Are you the one that is making my arm tingly"? He was sufficiently shaken that he left the building to go home with his father.

On the second floor, James Scott has been fighting a sense of overwhelming dread. He documented in his own journal that he feels afraid of something but cannot say what. When I went to check on the team, everybody but James felt fine and relaxed – James said that he couldn't take it any longer, and had to get out of there. He left the second floor and went outside to recover, then after a short rest period and some support from team mates, decided he did not want to remain, and subsequently left the site.

02:45 Debrief. Results as described above. Refreshments.

03:00 Redeploy teams to final positions... Team 1 to 3rd floor, Team 2 to basement, Team 3 to ground floor, Team 4 to 2nd floor. Ed and Lisa deploy outside to bench on C side of building watching windows.

03:50 Debrief.

Team 1 – music room very quiet, all feel "peaceful" in there. Attempts made to rap and get returns – on two occasions, faint rapping heard in response. All other teams deny responsibility. However, other team members only heard one set of taps. Stephen reports a feeling of "fear and unease" in the kiln room. J.T. felt that he was being looked at or stared at through the doorway of the arm room. Stephen witnesses a shadow moving down the corridor on 3rd floor towards the D side. Three team members report a shuffling noise in the hallway, at a speed between walking and running.

Team 2 – Basement. Began in kitchen – no control objects moved significantly. Subsequently moved into main room (D side). 5 team members hear a noise "like a hamster wheel squeaking" – traced it to gas line expanding and contracting as it enters the building.

Team 3 – Swept kindergarten classroom and computer lab, located very hi EMF zone (100+mGauss). Relocate to gymnasium. Investigator Aubree reports seeing “shadow” in C/D corner – could not be reproduced. Shortly after, Loyd and Brad standing in gym hallway – Loyd witnesses “something block out a wheelchair against the back wall – SOLID mass, FOUR FEET high, blocked out three or four chairs, moving at very fast walk”. Loyd is adamant this was not a shadow, absolutely solid. Loyd ran in and went straight to the corner with K2 hitting 2 lights. Catherine spoke up and said she witnessed a black figure or shadow blocking out the climbing wall briefly, approximately 2:30 a.m.

Team 4 – 4 team members heard an exhalation from coat room (red room, where the “I’m happy” EVP was recorded). Restroom with pillows in it – Seth feels uncomfortable sitting in there. Miranda feels somebody standing behind her and as if somebody was going to grab her shoulders. Clay states “I KNOW that somebody else was in that room other than we three – I picture a white man in black about to put his hands on Miranda’s shoulders”. Seth states his skin was crawling. Miranda had NOT verbalized the hands on shoulders feeling when Clay felt it. Seth also had a feeling of something “looming over Miranda from behind”. Miranda said “we will leave if you make something happen” – all three researchers agree that the room, which had no lights on, PHYSICALLY GOT DARKER. They all noticed it at the same time. No light sources in the room. This occurred immediately when Miranda offered to leave if something occurred. Two other team members were sent in there (Roger and Nancy) later, were not told of the experience, felt absolutely nothing – very comfortable. Jeff and Roger in classroom with K2 activity, four yes/no answers – asked about the little girl who is supposed to haunt the building (staff named her “Bridget”) and received yes responses when asking if she was around.

Ed and Lisa – sitting on bench in carriage house. Taking photos of windows trying to capture image of the lady in white. Lisa snapped multiple photos – nothing visible to the naked eye. Picked up a fog-like image. Definitely not exhalation, they took test photos of Ed exhaling. The fog appears on two photos only.

Following discussion and debriefing, we elected to continue the investigation. Teams were sent to the 3rd floor, gym, “red room” (i.e. pillow restroom), and to the exterior of the building where the gaseous cloud was detected.

No results of note obtained. Gym team noticed that when vents settle, a tink-tink noise was heard, normal mechanical settling.

Appendix: James Scott’s Narrative

I started off the night showing some of the AAPI people around. I did have a little bit of resistance in going into the B room prior to the investigation, not in any negative way more like wow its dark. I didn't think anything of it and continued walking around. Later when it was time for my team to check out the 2nd floor I had no problem heading up the stairs but as soon as I crossed into the hall I had an overwhelming feeling of don't go into the B room. I convinced the team to go into the D room to start

off just to buy time to get my emotions in check. I fought tooth and nail to keep from just walking out. I told our team leader Stephen I didn't want to go into the B room, he stated that myself and a guest can check out one of the A rooms right next door to the B room, and the remainder of the team would start an evp session in the B room. The room we were in is the room where the "I'm Happy" came from. I had no problem in that room. We were not getting any results so I manned up and we went to the B room. I felt uneasy like I needed to leave but not overwhelmed. One guest investigator stated she kept hearing a swishing sound in the hall, so I decided to check it out. Upon leaving the room I could feel a more extreme sense of don't go back in that room or something will happen. In an attempt to regain my senses I examined the other rooms. As i would step out into the hall to go from one room to the next I could swear the invisible force that is warning me not to come back in the room was moving down th hall to me. Like a big transparent wall of negativity. I backed into the doorway, fighting not to run like hell. First rule never run know when to walk away. That's when you came up the stairs. you asked if I was ok and physically I was but my mind id saying run and don't stop. So I went outside to get some air and the run feeling followed me. I couldn't even look at the place. Terry came out to check on me and I had to bite my tongue to keep from crying, honestly my mind was that frazzled. With Brad and Terry flanking me I retrieved my equipment. I never saw anything or heard anything, but whatever was there it didn't like me .