

## Boulder ghost hunters investigate the paranormal

The Boulder Daily Camera wrote up an [article](#) on our investigation of the [Historic Highland Building](#) in Boulder, Colorado.

### **Boulder ghost hunters investigate the paranormal**

By Mitchell Byars Camera Staff Writer

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When creepy sounds and unexplained events have you thinking a ghost is afoot -- or, in this case, afloat -- who you gonna call?

Well, the "Ghostbusters" aren't here, so locals turn to the Boulder County Paranormal Society for explaining the supernatural.

So after workers at the Highland Building at 885 Arapahoe Ave. started complaining of some spooky things going on after dark, the Paranormal Society team camped out in the building Wednesday night trying to solve the mysteries. Team members said they are not like the ghost hunters you might see on TV -- and no, they don't use proton packs.

"The hardest part is debunking the perception that people have from TV, with people just running around screaming," said team member Joey Stanford.

Team leader Richard Estep said everyone on the team is skeptical when it comes to the great beyond. "Our team, rather than coming in and saying 'Great, we're gonna find you ghost,' we come in and look in every nook and cranny and measure everything we can to find a rational explanation for this," he said. "Only then do we consider the paranormal."

Some workers at the Highland building said they had seen doors mysteriously open and lights come on for no apparent reason. One woman even claimed that a female voice could be heard in one of the staircases saying, "Watch out."

So the Paranormal Society broke out its equipment and sleeping bags to spend the night monitoring the building.

The team will pore over the readings from audio, radiation, ultraviolet and other equipment it set up at the building and go over the findings with tenants Friday.

As Estep walked his team of seven through the building before preparing to seal it off, members began taking all sorts of readings and investigating every room -- even a storage unit behind a moving bookcase.

"Well, if we don't find anything, at least I get to feel like a Bond villain," Estep said as he inspected the hidden room.

Estep said that in most cases, things like loose bolts, faulty wiring or creaky floorboards account for the freaky occurrences.

"Ninety to 95 percent of the time, I wouldn't say we find nothing, but we find a rational explanation, which is our goal, actually," he said.

But every once in a while, Estep and his team find something that even they can't explain. "That's the reason we are willing to waste 90 to 95 percent of our time," he said. "When things are unexplainable, it really pays off the time you spent looking."

Estep said he once heard disembodied footsteps walk right by him at a Bailey school where a janitor had hanged himself. He once came into a kitchen to find the cutlery had been quietly laid out on the floor. A machine that translates electronic wavelengths into words once read "paramedic" to him.

"We've all had creepy stuff happen to us," Stanford said. "That's the part that really keeps us interested."

The team -- which does not charge for its services -- typically handles an average of one case a month of people wondering the same thing: Are ghosts real?

"It's the oldest question, and we would all secretly like to know," Estep said. "People love a good ghost story. We're just wired that way."

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**Photos:**

