

The Colorado Independent



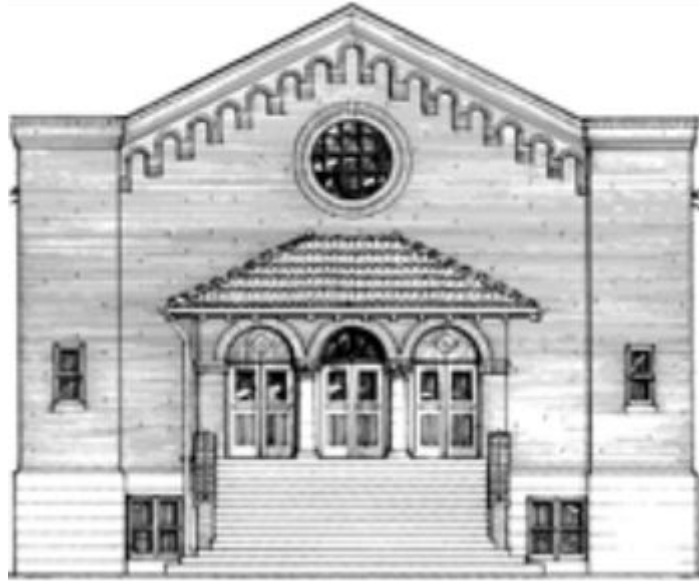
History:

The first owner of the property was from 1885-1889 was R.C. Bristol who died and left the property to his wife Ruth Bristol

In 1890, Ruth Bristol donated the property to the Church Erection Society

The Church of the United Brethren purchased the property in 1911

The first Reverend of the Church was Rev. J. Oliver in 1911. Rev. Henry Kohler headed the Church



The Ladies Aid Society of United Brethren hosted a “Chicken pot pie dinner” every Thursday from 1911-1953. This helped pay for Church activities, decorating and mission work.

It was first known as the “Tourist Memorial Church”; however, the construction had not started with the exception of a large hole, which had been dug out for the basement. The 200-member Church covered the hole with a tent and it was referred to as the “Hole in the ground Church.” Several times the tent was ripped away by high winds and the women would bring their sewing kits to repair the tent before services.



Storage area at the back of the building

Between 1911 & 1915 the congregation run by I.A. Chivington dwindled to only 27 families

In June 1916, Rev. W.G. Schaefer was sent directly from seminary to head the Church. He started a “buy a brick” campaign to help funding for the Church. The campaign sold 200,000 bricks and enabled the Church to secure a loan from the Church Erection Society based in Cleveland, OH.

In 1917, the Parsonage was built to the south east of the Church



Main entrance

In 1950, after selling Green Gables (a location that was used for Sunday school) for \$60,000 the administrative board voted to build an educational wing to the east side of the building. It was called the Schaefer Christian Educational Unit. The addition was planned to hold twelve Sunday school rooms, four assembly rooms and an enlarged community room to seat 250 people. The general contractor for the project was George O. Teats and Sons. Grant A. Wilson was the architect. The addition was dedicated in May 1952

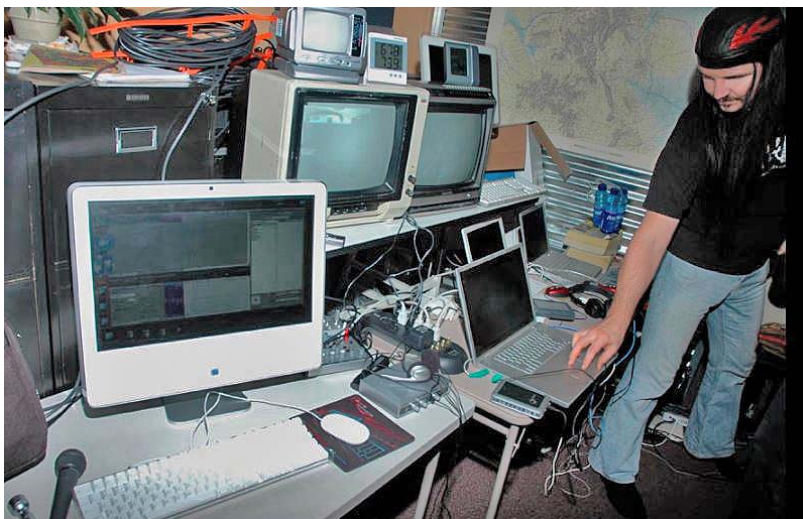
In 1957, Reverend George & Helen Edie were assigned to head the Church by the annual conference in Sterling, CO

In 1958, The Reverend Bruce Graugerger was appointed assistant Pastor

In 1960, the main sanctuary was remodeled

In 1963, the Reverend Paul Gamber was the new Pastor

In 1968, The Evangelical United Brethren & the Methodists merged and the Church became the "Central United Methodist Church"



Our base location

In 1970, the Reverend Tom Bennauzar was brought in because of the retirement of Reverend Gamber in 1971

In 1971, Reverend Keith Spahr was the head of the Church

In 1973, The Church moved to a new location and the building was sold to the Colorado Springs Police Departments. It was used as the training Academy, youth programs and the District Attorneys Juvenile Diversion program

In 1993, the Smokebrush Foundation purchased the building. They created the Smokebrush center for the Art Studios, Galleries and a 200-seat theatre. The Art Center closed in 2002

In 1993, the Colorado Springs Independent (Newspaper) purchased the Building

Interesting note:

A posting from a "Survivor" website: "I do not have contact with my parents through my choice. My mother was in a Satanic Cult, and our Church organist. My father was our Minister

in the Evangelical United Brethren Church and he sexually abused me. I believe I've been able to let go of the grief and loss surrounding these relationships”

Reported Activity:

On the first day of work, an employee saw a woman with long hair being dragged down the steps in front of the building. When she ran outside to check it out nobody was there. A woman waiting in the lobby, “She looked so real the first time that I saw her I asked if she needed help” she describes the woman as having dark brown hair, a black and white dress (50-60's style) and a hat

The basement

There are reports of a priest wandering the property. He has been seen looking in the mirror of the restroom adjusting his collar and then walked right past a person in the restroom.

There have been reports of hearing what sounds like a little girl saying “Help me” near the kitchen area; it has only been reported on Mondays

Employees have seen a little girl running around the front desk, but cannot find anyone when they go to investigate



Main Lobby

Late at night, one of the employees was putting away archived newspapers in the “Morgue” and heard the sound of typing coming from the business offices. This was at a time that she was the only person in the building

A sales assistant reported that she went to and got a cup of water, but when she looked at it there was something disturbing the water like there was something in it stirring. This happened to them three times and when they tried to recreate it, they had no luck

An Art director said that during the renovation of the building she was taking reports of constructions workers saying that they saw and heard people in the building after it had closed for the day

A Distribution Manager was working in his office alone and heard footsteps. He went out to investigate and could not find anyone in the building. When he returned to the office the paper that he was working on was missing and he has never found it

A Classified sales person reported that she has heard the voice of “the angry man who goes between the basement and the parsonage” she has heard that it is the spirit of a man who Police followed out of the parsonage and into the main building before killing him. She reports that this happened sometime in the 80’s or 90’s

An IT tech was working alone in the server room and felt a chill; he says that this is a common occurrence so he ignored it. However, he was the reflection of a person in a computer monitor looking at him, when he turned around it was gone. He has talked to it to see what kind of reaction he might be able to get and claims it worked but he will not let us know what he said



Hallway in back of building

The reason that we were contacted was because of a recent incident:

The Women's room on the first floor has had the hot water turn on when there was nobody in the room. "It is always on all the way" and has been witnessed by almost all of the women there

Investigation:

Saturday November 18 2006

Video monitoring of six locations

- Two in the main lobby
- Upper hallway
- Lower Hallway leading to breakroom
- Breakroom facing hallway

Microphones located:

- Two in main lobby
- One in the kitchen
- Two in the computer room by the ramp

Temperature:

- Main entrance
- Mid building in cubes
- Hallway in back of building

During the investigation the temperature actually increased from 67.6 degrees of 74 degrees in all of the monitored locations



Hall leading to the breakroom

EMF readings were taken hourly at each location being monitored by video. There were no significant readings

Around 2:00 a.m., we started hearing what appeared to be music and singing

Just after 2:00 a.m., we started looking into what might be causing what sounded like music and singing. We discovered that the building is located not far from the highway (I-25) and the main Colorado Springs power generation plant. When there is traffic on the highway and the power plant is running at the same time the sound enters the building and due to its "church" architecture, the acoustics cause the sounds to change to something that is very similar to the sound of singing and music.



The Breakroom

Around 3:00, Bryan and Baxter were taking a break in the breakroom. Baxter could see all the way down the hallway; Bryan was facing the opposite direction. During conversation, Baxter stated that he had just watched a woman walk across the hallway and enter the Women's room. He described the woman with detail (shoulder length brown hair, and a peach skirt) we got up and knocked on the restroom door but there was no response. After a couple of minutes, we entered the room and there was nobody there. We played back the video, and other than an odd expression when Baxter saw the woman, there was nothing.

At 5:45 one of our team reported hearing the singing while in the breakroom

Conclusion:

This building has a lot of personal experience ghost stories and an amazing history. We were able to explain some of the phenomena and had an unusual experience of our own that we have a few ideas of what may have caused it, but have not been successful recreating.