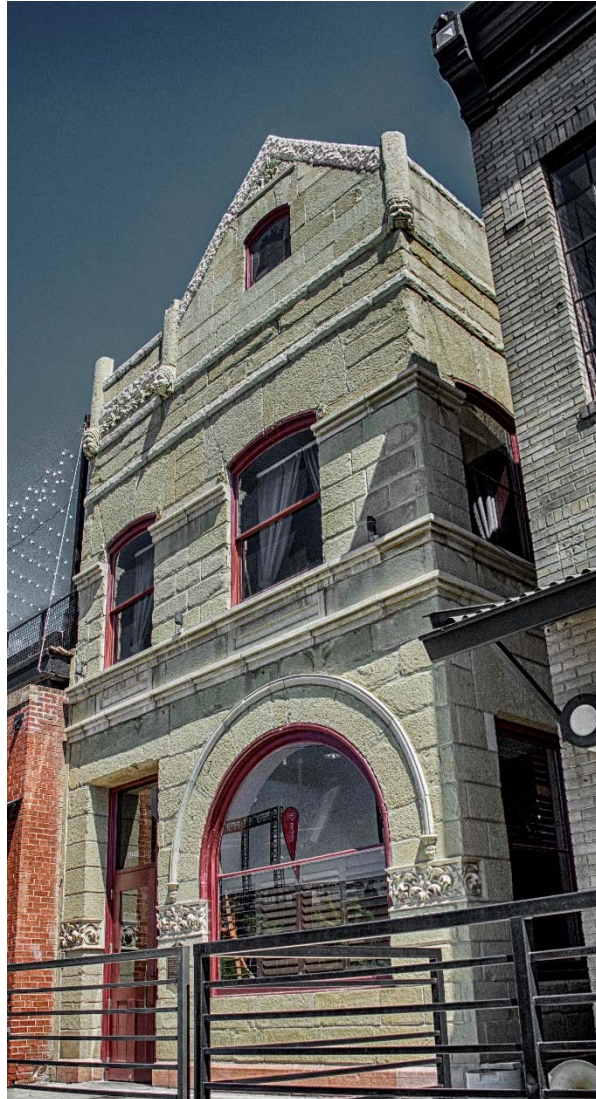


# Mattie's House of Mirrors



## **History:**

The building was constructed in 1889. It was built to be Denver's premiere brothel. The construction was paid for and overseen by Jennie Rogers (Madame Rogers) one of the most infamous brothel owners in Colorado.

Jennie Rogers was born in Pittsburgh on July 4, 1846 and Died in Denver in 1909. She is buried at Fairmont Cemetery with the name "Leah Wood" on her grave marker.

The "house" was on Holliday Street, which featured many different brothels. The locals finally changed the name of the street to "Market" for obvious reasons.

Jennie ran the “house” until 1910, when a competitor from the local mining communities decided she wanted to step up and run the best “house” in the city. This competitor was Ms. Martha Ready (Mattie Silks)



**Mattie Silks**

Mattie was born in either Kansas or Terre Haute IA in 1846. At the age of 18, she was working as a Madame in Springfield IL. She moved to Colorado in 1875 and met the man who would become her husband, Cortez Thompson. Cortez was a famous foot racer and was already married with a daughter. Thompson’s wife died in 1884. Mattie and “Cort” were engaged and held the engagement party at the Olympic gardens on Colfax near the Platte river.



**Promotion for the Brothel**

It has been said that Mattie had a “duel” over “Cort” with either Kate Fulton or Jennie Rogers (the local Madame), and depending on the source it can range from a gunfight to a topless swordfight. Some even say that Jennie shot her lover “jack” either during or around the time of the duel. None of this has been verified, but it appears that it was most likely just a fistfight.

Thompson’s daughter died and left a small child; this child was adopted by Mattie and placed in a local boarding home.



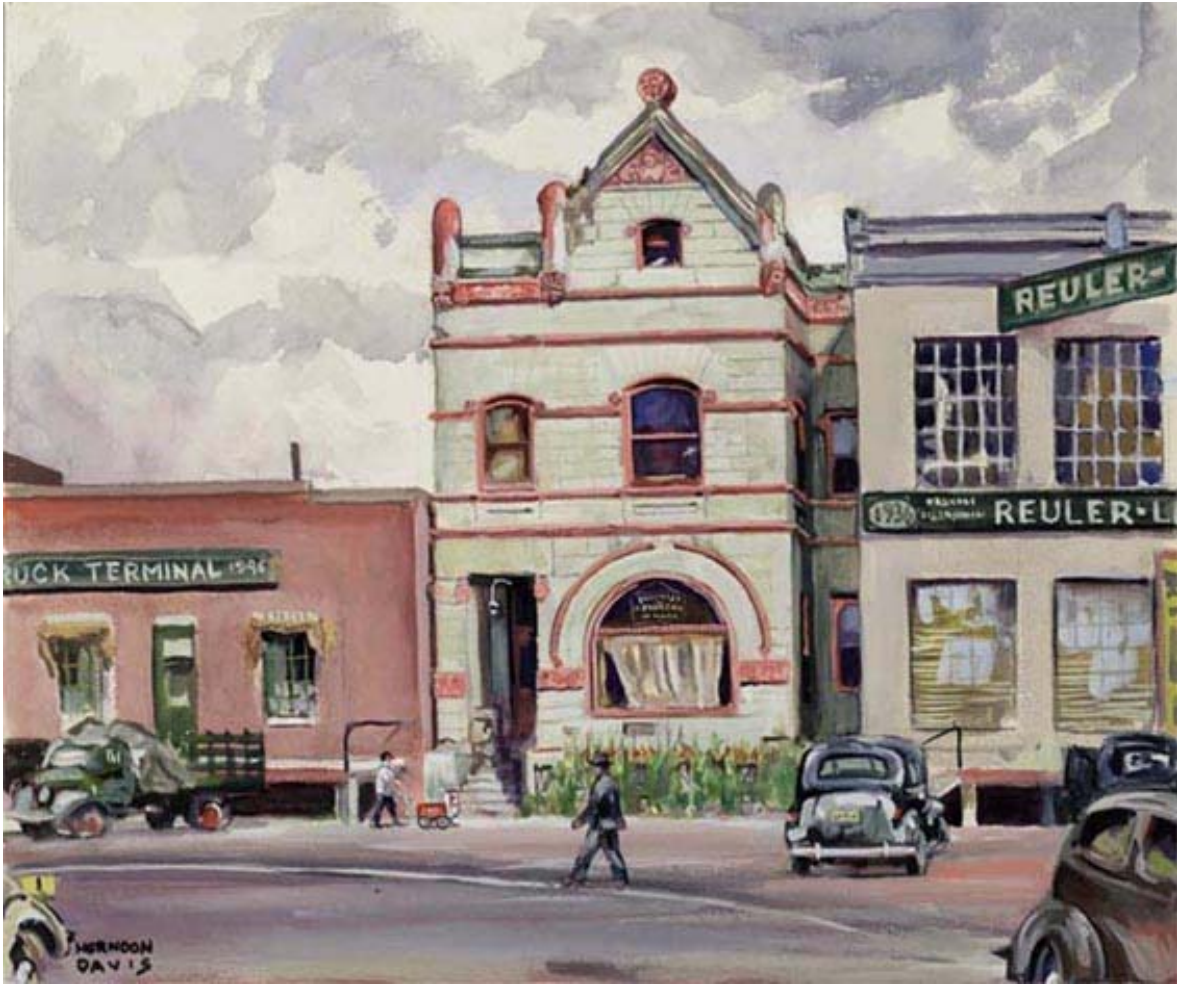
**Jennie Rogers**

Mr. Thompson died when Mattie was only 54 years old. She is buried next to him at Fairmont Cemetery.

Mattie hired Jack Ready as a financial advisor and married him when she was 77 years old. They lived in a house on Lawrence St, until Mattie’s death in 1923 or 1929.

While Mattie was operating the “house,” it gained a great reputation for being one of the best “gentleman’s” places and was even said to be one of the best eating establishments. This is when the building acquired the name “The House of Mirrors.” The reason was that Mattie had every possible surface in the restaurant covered with mirrors.

Mattie even offered benefits to Girls who worked for her, such as higher pay and medical attention.



While the Brothel was in operation under Mattie's control, the lower level was the restaurant and the upstairs was the Brothel.

The layout of Brothel was unique; the area was divided into small 9x7 rooms and some larger rooms (to make space for a small wood burning heater). The design of the room was so the "guest" would go into the room, close the door, and drop the Murphy bed from the wall, effectively locking the door.

The prices at the Brothel ranged from .75 to 2.00 (the latter including a room with heat).

The only recorded death at the location was of a woman by the name of Ella Wellington. Depending on the records, Ella was listed as one of the working girls, and accountant and even an owner of the brothel. Ella died in one of the rooms on the brothel level of the "house." It was the room located in the southwest corner. She was found dead with a .32 revolver near her. The reports range from a simple suicide to killed by an upset "john," one report even claims that a local politician was in the room and he said he watched her kill herself.





**Matties grave**

The Brothel was very successful until around 1915 when the Democratic convention came to town, and in tandem with a National Reform Movement, all of the Brothels were closed.

Mattie died and left her estate (less than \$4000.00) to her adopted daughter and Jack Ready. Jack died just a few years later.

After Mattie's death, the building went through several different owners.

Just after the Brothel was closed, the building was sold to become a Buddhist temple. When the owners of the temple discovered its previous use, they immediately moved out and sold the building.

Since then it has been; Storage building, Barber shop, Bicycle repair/sales, bar, restaurant and now part of the Lo-Do's bar and grille.

There was one reported suicide of a working girls "boyfriend" who is said to have hanged himself at back of the building on the second floor. This has never been confirmed.



**The second floor bar**

**Reported Activity:**

- Staff members have reported hearing people on the top floor after hours when the building had been cleared
- The piano that was located on the second floor was reported to play by itself. Many staff members claimed to hear this.
- During a dinner, a young girl excused herself from the families table to go to the restroom. She came back the table quickly saying that she could not get in the restroom because of "all the smoke." This alerted the wait staff who immediately went to the room, there was no smoke, but they claim that there was an antique matchbook on the lid of one of the toilets.
- Guests and staff have reported seeing unusual faces reflected in the mirrors throughout the building
- Footsteps have been heard throughout the building when there was nobody in the location that the sounds were coming from
- The elevator has been reported to move from floor to floor without the intervention of a person
- A previous Manager reported that one evening while he was alone in the building finishing the daily paperwork he noticed the lights were dimming and brightening in time with his breath. He decided to hold his breath to see what happened. The lights stopped reacting. The second he started breathing, the lights started the odd behavior again.



**Investigations:**

We have been fortunate to investigate this location many times.

The focus of the investigations has been the top floor of the building (the old Brothel)

We set up our main monitoring location at the back (east) side of the second floor and have cameras and microphones.



**Bar on the first floor**

On our first investigation, we had several odd events:

The timeframe was from 10 pm. to 6 am.

To avoid any contamination of audio recordings we disabled the heater (it was a cold/snowy night)



**Base location**

We used the same basic setup during all of our investigations at this location:

We placed cameras in the following locations:

- Color I/R viewing into the dining area on the first floor
- Color I/R viewing up the main staircase
- Color I/R viewing towards the back hallway leading to the bathrooms on the second floor
- 2 - Color I/R covering the upper dining area from both directions
- Color I/R in the Men's rest room on the second floor

We placed Microphones in the following locations:

- At the back of the first floor dining room near the kitchen
- At the bar on the second floor
- At the stairs in the back on the second floor
- At the middle of the dining room on the second floor
- At the front (west) end of the dining room on the second floor
- Temperature sensors were placed:
  - At the monitoring area
  - At the top of the stairs
  - In the south west corner of the second floor dining room





**Location of Murder/Suicide**

E.M.F. readings were taken at 45 min intervals at:

- 3 points in the Kitchen
- Hall by the downstairs rest room
- In front of the Elevator on the main floor
- At the base of the back stairs
- In the Main dining room
- At the front (west) wall of the second floor dining room
- In the middle of the second floor dining room
- At the bar in the second floor dining room
- At the top of the back stairs
- At the men's room on the second floor



**Second floor dining room**

Throughout the evening, there were no noticeable variances in EMF

Throughout the evening, the temperature was reasonably stable considering the lack of heat (good insulation)

At 2:00, 2:14, 2:25 the service elevator went to all three floors by itself

Around 3:00 a.m. one of our investigators claimed that, they thought they had heard footsteps coming from the area of the bar on the second floor. At this same time, we recorded what appears to be a conversation between two people speaking in an unknown language in the location that Ella Wellington died





**Piano on second floor**

At another investigation, the Manager that was with the group discussed the supposed suicide on the second floor. She had insisted on bringing an Ouija board to keep her busy during our investigation. Cameras were watching her and when she started asking questions about the rumored suicide the lights just above her and the lights in the area claimed to have been the location of the suicide began to blink.





Main Stairs

We returned for a follow up investigation several years later and the location had been remodeled since our last visit:

The building is not open as a bar and restaurant any more, it is now a rental banquet hall.

The floor and some of the divider wall has been removed on the main floor.

The ceiling fixtures on the second floor have been rearranged.

The Piano is no longer at the location.

The lounge area across from the bar on the second floor is now an empty area for presentations.

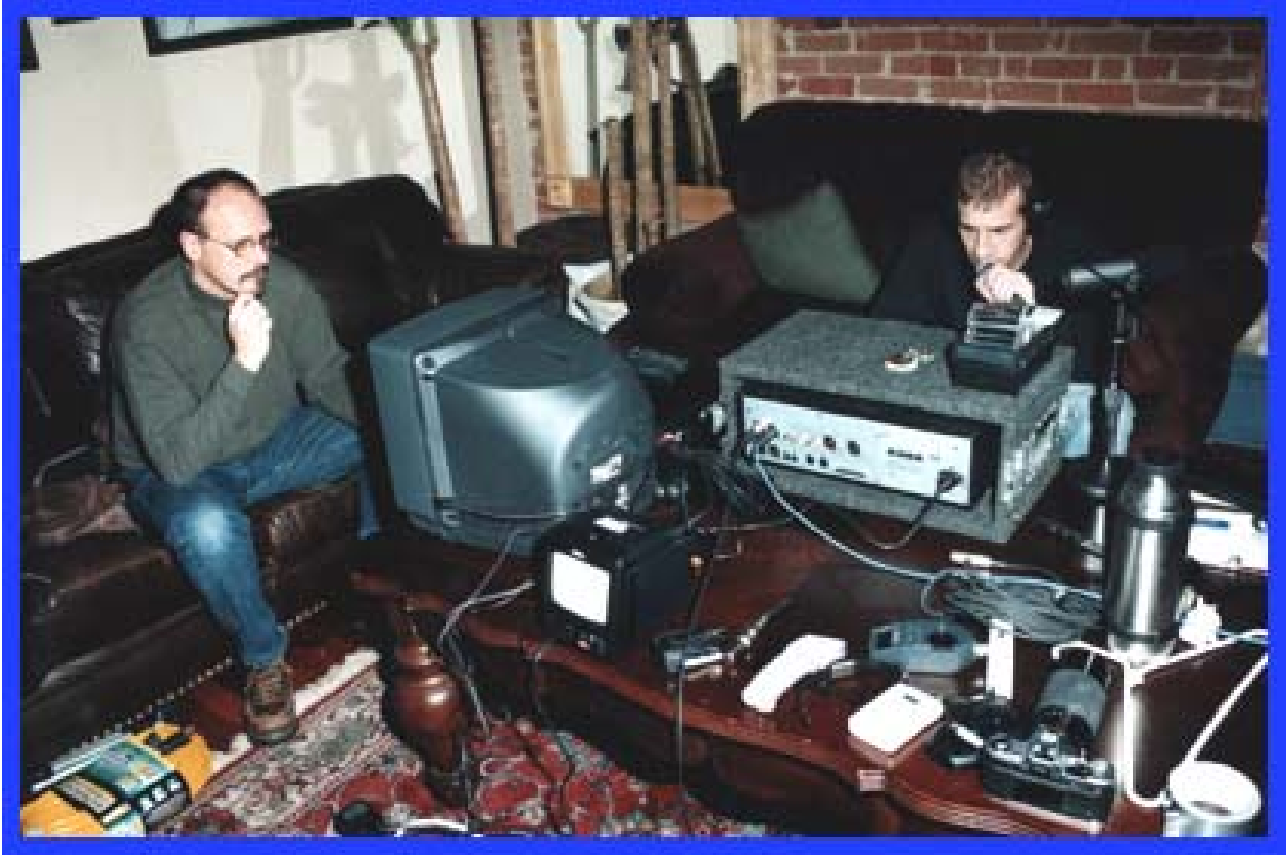
The upstairs kitchen area is now storage.

The seating and booths on the first floor was removed.



**Second floor dining room**

While we did attempt to conduct some kind of investigation, the location has been modified so much from its original condition that it was almost impossible.



**Base location**

**Conclusion:**

This location has always offered something odd for us to examine. The combination of personal experiences shared by past employees and guests and the unusual happenings at the location during our investigations make this one of our “not solved yet” cases. Unfortunately, it will probably remain this way because of the modifications to the original building.