



{ghosthunting}
STATE - BY - STATE

WEST VIRGINIA

[By Charlene Quimby]

The Civil War was a devastating time in American history with the country divided and families split apart. Virginia was greatly effected by this division and consequently, in 1863, split into two States , one of which became West Virginia .

Some may visit the beautiful state of West Virginia for it's rolling hills, to visit a piece of American history or for fall foliage, while others have Point Pleasant, and the Moth Man in mind. With such history, West Virginia is rumored to be loaded with paranormal activity.

Please take note that all of the following places require permission to visit or investigate prior to entering.



Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum

71 Asylum Drive • Weston, WV 26452

Phone: 304-269-5070

info@trans-alleghenylunaticasylum.com

www.trans-alleghenylunaticasylum.com/

The Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum, is the largest hand-cut stone masonry building in North America, and the second largest in the world. This magnificent stone structure in the mountains of West Virginia was constructed between 1858 and 1881 under the Kirkbride plan. The purpose of the Kirkbride plan was to have long and rambling wings in order to provide patients with therapeutic sunlight and fresh air.

In June of 1861 construction of the building was put to a halt due to the Civil War. Soon after, the partially finished building was taken over by Union soldiers and became Camp Tyler making Weston, WV a military post. After the war ended, construction of the asylum was finally completed.

During it's time of operation and housing the insane, patients were subject to brutal medical procedures such as lobotomies and electro shock treatments. Violence was common, murder was less common, but did occur, therefore, some of the more violent patients were subject to being shackled.

Because of the buildings physical deterioration, it was forced to close in 1994. Reports of paranormal activity circulated while the facility was still operational but seem to have picked up since the building was purchased in 2007. Paranormal phenomena has been reported all through the massive structure. Visitors report footsteps following them in the hallways, strange noises and voices including the sounds of children playing in the halls. Other reports of phenomena include shadowy figures darting about the corridors, full body apparitions and doors slamming shut. According to one source, she was grabbed and dragged down the hall by an invisible force.



Moundsville Prison

818 Jefferson Ave • Moundsville, WV 26041

Phone: 304-845-6200

Fax: 304-843-4146

www.WVpentours.com

Moundsville prison is a huge, eerie structure complete with turrets and battlements to give it a castle like presence. This Gothic style prison was opened in 1876 and closed it's doors in 1995. It was once on the top ten list of most violent correctional facilities. Moundsville was full of violent criminals some of whom died violent deaths. During it's 119 year history, almost 1000 men died within these massive stone walls. Out of those 998 men, 102 men were murdered, and 94 men were executed by either hanging or electrocution. Suicide, murder and violence contributed to the deaths of hundreds of inmates. Many believe that a few of these lost souls remain imprisoned in

death as they were in life. A shadow-man has been seen walking the South Corridors of the penitentiary. He appears as a solid mass and has even been photographed. The most well known of the ghost would be that of R.D Wall. This poor soul was "jumped" in the 'Hole' by fellow inmates and suffered a violent death of stabbing and beheading. He seems to be seen on a more frequent basis and has even caused the guards to sound the alarm when a man is seen in the yard of the prison, but when security would check the grounds, there would not be a soul, so to speak, to be found.

Investigators have experienced being grabbed in the Sugar Shack, seeing full body apparitions, hearing voices and equipment failure. Others have reported being scratched and the doors of the gallows unexplainably and violently swinging open.



Trans Allegheny Books

725 Green Street • Parkersburg, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-4499

tabooks@suddenlinkmail.com

http://www.westvirginiabooksonline.com

The Trans-Allegheny Book store is a grand building with stained glass windows, glass tiled floors, sculptured hand-carved wooden staircases, vintage bookcases, and a beautiful wrought iron and brass spiral staircase. Built in 1905 and originally used as the Carnegie Library building until 1976, it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Popular legend has it that the building is haunted. Over the years there have been tales of books flying off the shelves, disembodies foot-steps, swinging chandeliers, and shadowy figures lurking about. At least five ghosts are said to inhabit the bookstore. The most popular of these spirits witnessed is that of a little girl. She's been described as being about 8 years old and wearing a white bonnet. She's always seen sitting on the third step of the wooden staircase - between the first and second floors or playing on the same staircase. She is purported to be so solid that customers have actually tripped over her!

Witnesses have also claimed to see an apparition of an older gentleman sporting a derby hat and brown jacket on the second floor. Visiting psychics have given him the name Henry. There are even reports the bookstore is haunted by a local newspaper reporter who was tragically murdered in her nearby home in 1989. The reporter spent a great deal of her time in the old Carnegie Library. Maybe even more interesting, are the claims of three resident ghostly cats that are seen on the shelves and disappear upon approach or looked at straight on.



Monroe County Courthouse

216 Main Street • Union, WV

Phone: 304-772-3018

monroecountywv.net

The Monroe County courthouse, was built in 1882. It is, however, the third courthouse built on this site, with the first being built in 1800. The courthouse, originally held the county jail in the basement area until it was replaced with a 2-story wing and adjoining jail in 1975. During the basement's tenure as the county jail, there were several deaths, and suicides. Locals tell tales of the "old jail" area of the basement being haunted-with rumors of, disembodies voices, and objects moving of their own free will. Accounts state the creepy sound of a man mumbling while no one is in the area. Two witnesses, in the tax office, located in the basement, once saw a bucket of Halloween candy slide across the entire length of a counter before falling off.