

HAUNTED HISTORY SERIES PART III

Exploring 'Ghostoria'



BY IRA WESLEY KITMACHER

Astoria has been the center of reported paranormal activity for well over a century. 2007's horror movie "Cthulhu," based on H.P. Lovecraft's 1936 book "Shadow over Innsmouth," was filmed in Astoria and based on local legends. In 2019, the Travel Channel program "Ghost Adventures" produced a multi-episode segment focusing on Astoria.

Uppertown Firefighters Museum

Astoria burned down in 1883 and again in 1922. Astoria Fire House No. 2, now the Uppertown Firefighters Museum, was built in 1895 as North Pacific Brewing Co. It operated as a brewery until Prohibition.

The building then housed Far West Milk Co., making condensed milk, until it too went out of business. In 1928, it was converted to the town fire station and operated until 1960.

Witnesses have reported seeing the ghost of a fireman, who reportedly fell to his death sliding down a fire pole in the 1920s. Former building occupants also reported seeing

the spirit of a sleepwalking fireman while they tried to sleep.

Other firefighting apparitions, thought to be keeping an eye out for a third town fire, have been reported, plus lockers rattling by themselves, eerie noises and disembodied footsteps.

Flavel houses

One of Astoria's most famous rumored haunts is the Flavel House Museum. Prominent local bar pilot operator and businessman Capt. George Flavel had the house built in 1884.

Disembodied voices and phantom music, thought to be of Flavel's daughters, Katie and Nellie, have reportedly been heard on the first floor of the house. The library is said to be haunted by an unhappy presence, while the second floor is reportedly inhabited by a woman who disappears once seen. One of the Flavel's bedrooms is reported to have an ever-present floral scent, although no flowers are there.

Flavel's spirit has also reportedly been seen in his bedroom.

The George Conrad Flavel House, built



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

CLOCKWISE: Uppertown Firefighters Museum. Light filters into Astoria's underground from the vault lights on the sidewalks of Commercial Street. The Flavel House Museum.

in 1901 and owned by the captain's son and his wife, Winona, was later inherited by their son, Harry. He lived in the house with his wife, Florence, and their two children.

The family abandoned the house decades ago. Jeff Newenhof, who owns City Lumber, now owns the house and is restoring

it. When the house was cleaned out, there were 3-foot-deep piles of 100-year old newspapers, magazines, unopened mail and stacks of items spread in disarray throughout the house.