

HAUNTED GUIDE

MANSFIELD · OHIO



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Haunted Capital of Ohio Mansfield, Ohio HauntedMansfield.com

Mansfield draws upon its haunted population to secure a spot as the Haunted Capital of Ohio. Whether you're an expert in the field of paranormal activity, just starting out on your journey of serious exploration, or simply an avid amateur, spend a haunted night in Mansfield because we do scary well!

This Haunted Guide lets you know about the public places in our area that experts find haunted in the paranormal field, provides details about the location, describes the haunted highlights of the site, and gives you prices for the locations. ***Enjoy, if you dare...***

Keep us bookmarked at www.HauntedMansfield.com for the most current happenings. Also, find us on [Facebook](#) at Haunted Mansfield Ohio. Thanks for thinking of Mansfield and get hunting!

Ghost Ratings

To help you gauge the amount of paranormal activity or the "scary" factor of a place, here's a purely subjective scale to help you.

Ghost Ratings:

- 4 – Pee your pants scary and certified haunted by paranormal investigators
- 3 – Very scary and certified haunted by paranormal investigators
- 2 – Kinda scary with great stories and certified haunted by paranormal investigators
- 1 – Unique place, a little scary, with haunted background or happenings

Haunted Sites

Ohio State Reformatory

100 Reformatory Road

Mansfield, OH 44905

419-522-2644

Contact: Mary Kennard

www.ohiostatereformatory.org

Ghost Rating: 4 Ghosts



General Scoop & History

With the cornerstone laid in 1886, this castle-like prison was designed as a reformatory for young offenders. As one of the top five largest castle-like structures in the USA, the Reformatory houses the world's tallest free-standing steel cell block (6 tiers; 12 ranges, 600 cells). Abandoned in 1990, the original cell-blocks and administration areas remain intact. Four major motion pictures have been filmed on location including *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Air Force One*, *Harry and Walter Go To New York* and *Tango and Cash*. Music videos include *Awake* by Godsmack and *Go DJ* by Lil Wayne.

Haunted Happenings

Seen on the Travel Channel's "Ghost Adventures", "Scariest Places on Earth" & "101 Things To Do Before You Die". The SyFy Channel's "Ghost Hunter's Academy" & "Ghost Hunters". Fox Family Channel's "Scariest Stories on Earth". Many stories of haunts can be heard from visitors and workers at the site. Visit www.ohiostatereformatory.org to find dates for the following year's Ghost Hunts and Walks.

Haunted Testimonials & Tidbits

There's a guard killed in Solitary Confinement back in 1932 that still does his rounds. He's been known to jab people with his nightstick and push guests and volunteers alike. The 3rd floors of the Administration wings are known for shadows and footsteps. The activity is always changing. There's not an area in the building that people haven't experienced something over the years. Footsteps are very common. Shadow people are seen. Audible voices/whispers are common. Physical interactions like being touched, hair pulled, being grabbed/scratched, happen regularly.

What to Expect

During a Ghost Hunt, you are free to roam any area of the Reformatory except those areas blocked off by "caution" tape, chains or locks. Anyone found in those areas will be escorted from the grounds. Admission includes access to the building from 8:00pm until 3:00am and a late dinner of pizza and soda. Flashlights are recommended. You are on your own to investigate; there is no guide. The building contains hazards like steep steps, uneven surfaces and lead-based paint. Not recommended for pregnant women.

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Ghost Hunts

Reservation only. Reformatory Ghost Hunts® are serious, but informal attempts to document paranormal activity at a castle-like former prison. Ghost Hunts® provide an unusual first-hand experience to search other realms. For ages 18 and over.

Ghost Walks

Reservation only. You will be taken on a 2 hour guided tour to the hot spots where reports have been made about paranormal activity. For ages 13 and over.

General Day Tours (April 1-September 1)

Participants can take a self-guided or audio guided tour through the building. Walking shoes are recommended since there is considerable walking and stairs. This is an old building, so lighting can be irregular. For ages 7 and over.

Paranormal Penitentiary

Special FX Legend/Director Robert Kurtzman and his twisted team of artists at Creature Corps created an all new Halloween horror spectacular at the Ohio State Reformatory. Kurtzman's credits include classic horror films such as From Dusk Till Dawn, The Green Mile and The Nightmare on Elm Street /Texas Chainsaw/ Halloween/Evil Dead film series.

Traverse the dark corridors, subterranean depths and flesh-eating creatures that await you. Prepare to sink into the depths of depravity this Halloween as you enter the gothic structure of the haunted Ohio State Reformatory.

www.paranormalpenitentiary.com.

Schedules, Hours & Pricing

Ghost Hunts: Reservations only. \$70.00 per person. 8:00pm-3:00am. 18 years and older and sign waivers.

Ghost Walks: Adults 18 and older \$25.00, Youth 13-17 with adult \$20.00. 2-hour nighttime guided tour. First session: Gates open at 7:00pm and Walk at 8:00pm. Second session: Gates open at 9:00pm and Walk at 10:00pm. Private Ghost Walks available- call for pricing.

Private Ghost Hunts: \$2,400 (Fri/Sat) for 30 people or less and \$80 per person for more than 30 people (maximum 100). Sun-Thurs private tours are \$1,200 for 15 or fewer people or \$80 per person for 15-100 people. 18 years or older.

General Day Tours: \$12 adults / \$10 ages 7-17, seniors, college ID and military. Mon-Sun 11:00am-4:00pm self-guided tour. \$5.00 additional for audio tour guide.

Paranormal Penitentiary: September 22-October 29, 2017. Thursday-Sunday. Gates open at 6pm and starts at 7pm. General Admission \$20; Speed Pass \$30 and Ultra Touch Pass \$45.

Haunted Bissman Building

193 N. Main Street

Mansfield, OH 44902

ghost@bissmanbuilding.com

419-295-5002, Joe James, Project Manager

www.hauntedbissmanbuilding.com

Ghost Rating: 4



General Scoop & History

Built in 1886 where Peter Bissman's expanded wholesale grocery still stands today, although not in operation. In the early 1930s, twenty smokestacks on the north and south sides of the Bissman's filled the morning air with the rich aroma of coffee, as its brands Red Ban Java Blend, Steel Cut and Acme were prepared fresh daily. The building has an early Romantic Gothic styling and shares a haunting similarity with the Reformatory, both built in the same year by the same architect. The eerie façade of the building was used in *The Shawshank Redemption* as the entrance to the Brewer Hotel where Brooks and Red stayed after they were paroled from Shawshank. The front office inside was also used as the *Portland Daily Bugle* Editor's office in *Shawshank*. Leased to a major film company, the *Midnight Syndicate*, for the production of *The Dead Matter*, a vampire movie released in October 2008. Its industrial feel has lent itself to multiple music videos, as well.

Haunted Happenings

Seen on *Destination America's Ghost Asylum* 2016; *Ghost Asylum Season 2 Episode 14* December 2015; "*Paranormal After Party*" Season 3 in August 2014; A&E's "*My Ghost Story*" in June and November 2011; SyFy Channel's "*Ghost Hunters*" in 2010. Spirits are active in this 1886 former warehouse where investigators witness black masses, shadow figures, touching, voices & cold spots.

Haunted Testimonials & Tidbits

Paranormal investigators will get audible responses to questions asked. One of the best was when someone asked to speak to "Ruthie" the voice said "Is Ruthie here". On the third floor many people get the feeling of dread and unhappiness. The feeling of darkness and stillness haunts the third floor. Audible footsteps, voices, people being touched, black shadows and images. Others have witnessed images on the upper floors of a lady, people in Victorian clothing and people working; sounds of footsteps and voices (the voices repeat the names of former employees).

What to Expect

Tour includes history of the building, stories of movies/videos that have been filmed there and haunted stories followed by a full blown investigation. Bring your own snacks, flashlights, dust masks, recorders. 18 and older.

Schedules, Hours & Pricing

History Tours: \$10.00 per person, by appointment.

Public Paranormal Investigations: Whether you have no experience or some, we will accommodate you on our Public Paranormal Investigation! Our staff has the knowledge and experience to teach you how to hunt like the pros! Hunts are a maximum of 30 people and with 1-2 staff members. There will be access to 95% of the building.

Contact Project Manager, Joe James, to reserve your spot.

\$30.00 per person. Doors open at 7pm and investigation ends at 1am. 18 and over.

Public Ghost Walks: Our Ghost Walks have been known to be referred to as "World Class" from those who have attended them! Investigate the entire 128 year old building in pitch black! Learn the chilling tales of murder and explore the floors where paranormal claims have been made of being touched and images of shadow figures. We will even take a moment and try to communicate with the other side where employee F.W. Simon lost his life in 1911!

Does not sell out. No Reservations Required. FREE parking directly across the road. \$10 per person. Doors open at 8:30pm and Walk starts at 9:00pm.

Under 18 welcome with legal parent/guardian.

Private Paranormal Investigation: Contact Joe James at

ParanormalACE@ymail.com to reserve your spot today! 8 people or less \$560.00.

Each person after 8 is \$70.00 per person. 7:00pm-3:00am. Complimentary coffee and hot chocolate provided. Bring your own flashlight. 18 and over.

Malabar Farm State Park

4050 Bromfield Road

Lucas, OH 44843

419-295-5002, Joe James, Paranormal Investigator

419-892-2784, Siera Marth @ Malabar

www.malabarfarm.org

Ghost Rating: 2



General Scoop & History

Experience America's most famous farm, the 900-acre country estate of Pulitzer Prize winning author, farmer, and conservationist Louis Bromfield. The Visitor Center is full of interactive displays, and home of unique Ohio-made items, Bromfield's books, farm fresh products, and homemade fudge. Walk through the Ohio Songbird Aviary, petting barn, stroll through the butterfly, prairie & flower gardens, ride a farm wagon and tour the home where Hollywood stars Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall were married. Stop at the Roadside Farm Market for fine produce or dine at the Malabar Farm Restaurant featuring delicious meals prepared with an upscale yet comfortable setting.

Haunted Happenings

Seen on the SyFy Channel's "Ghost Hunters" in February 2014. Ghostly sightings have been reported by workers and visitors of the historic farm. Tales of flickering lights and appearances by Mr. Bromfield in the big house intrigue ghost hunters. In addition to ghostly visits by Mr. Bromfield, the farm is also home to the family house of Ceely Rose, who murdered her entire family in the summer of 1896. Visitors can hear the story of Ceely Rose during one of Malabar Farm's "Night Haunts" throughout the summer.

Night Haunts at Malabar Farm: May 6, June 24, July 29, August 26, 2017.

Come enjoy an evening from the normal to the paranormal at Malabar Farm State Park. The program starts at 8:00 p.m. and lasts till 11:45 p.m. The evening will begin with the haunted stories of Malabar Farm. The group will then ride on a covered wagon to the famous Ceely Rose. In 1896, Ceely Rose murdered her entire family inside of this little Pleasant Valley home. A park guide will tell the grizzly true story on the front porch. The night concludes with a tour of the Bromfield Mansion where haunted stories will be told. This program is not recommended for children under 17 years of age due to its length and content. Dress for weather conditions. Limited to 25-30 people. \$30.00 p/p. 419-892-2784. www.malabarfarm.org. (These are not paranormal investigations. Open to the general public.)

Haunted Testimonials & Tidbits

Central Ohio Paranormal Society (COPS) has had some recordings & some video footage they can't explain.

A visitor who was from the Philippines and who had never been to the US and knew nothing about Malabar, visited the Big House. Upon entering one of the upstairs

bedrooms that had belonged to Ann the eldest Bromfield daughter, said the hair on the back of her neck stood up and she did not want to go into that room. Many visitors have had the same experience in that area of the house. A man who was investigating with one of the local paranormal groups actually got physically ill upon entering that same room.

A photo was taken by one of our employees while trying out his new camera one summer evening. Much to his surprise upon scanning through the pictures the next day there was a ghostly figure of one of Bromfield's many boxer dogs. Others have felt and heard dogs in the house. One visitor actually felt a dog sniffing her, and this was before she knew Bromfield had dogs.

An employee who for a short time lived in the Ceely Rose house shared a story about his 4 year old son. This child was in a living room off the kitchen and was busy playing and talking to his toys. His conversation was so involved that his mother asked him who he was talking to and he answered "That lady that is always here." Another person that had rented the Ceely House had a similar story.

What to Expect

A general tour of the Malabar Farm home will be given to participants and known hotspots and paranormal occurrences will be pointed out. Guests are then welcome to proceed with their paranormal investigation.

Schedules, Hours & Pricing

Paranormal Investigations: \$100 per person with a 5 person minimum.

\$100/hour for any additional hours over the allotted time.

8pm–2am with Park Naturalist Supervision.

Individuals/groups can organize their own private investigation by calling Joe James, Paranormal Investigator, at 419-295-5002 or paranormalace@ymail.com.

Night Haunts: \$30.00 per person. Night Haunts are **not** paranormal investigations. They are open to the general public. Not recommended for children under 17. Contact Malabar Farm, 419-892-2784.

Day Tours- House Admission: \$4.00 adults, \$2.00 children (6-18), \$3.60 (55+), under 6 free. Contact Malabar Farm, 419-892-2784.

Renaissance Performing Arts Theatre

138 Park Avenue West

Mansfield, OH 44902

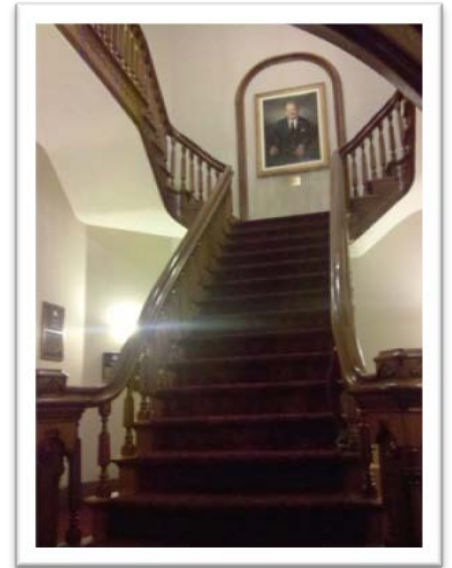
419-295-5002, Joe James, Paranormal Investigator

419-522-2726, x213, Linda Chambers @ the

Renaissance Theatre

www.MansfieldTickets.com

Ghost Rating: 3



General Scoop & History

The Renaissance opened its doors in 1928 as the Ohio Theater, a magnificent movie palace built in the “Grand Baroque” style by the Warner Brothers Management Co. With its marble floors and stairways, its one and a half ton crystal chandelier, its imposing “Mighty Wurlitzer” theatre organ, and its breathtakingly beautiful 1400-seat auditorium, it’s the premiere showcase as well as the home of The Mansfield Symphony, Miss Ohio Pageant, Neos Dance, Broadway Series and Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Haunted Happenings

Seen on A&E’s “My Ghost Story” in November 2011. Patrons and employees alike have reported many ghostly encounters over the years. Footsteps have been heard on the elegant grand staircase and along the dark hallways and twisting corridors outside the second floor grand ballroom. Spectral figures have been spotted in the balcony. Disembodied voices, laughter and even music have been heard coming from the theatre – long after the audiences have gone. The projection booth is the purported haunt of “Pete” – who took up residence at the Renaissance shortly after his beloved projector was transplanted here from the demolished Madison Theatre down the street. The wall sconces in the elegant marbled grand salon in the lower lobby are said to have a mind of their own and, when the building is unlocked in the morning, are often found turned completely upside-down. Whispered voices have been heard in their catacomb-like rooms under the stage – and on more than one occasion, actors and crew members have seen a shadowy “woman in white” standing in the wings during a performance. The most haunted area of the theatre is the lobby, which was where theatre manager Edward Rafter was murdered in a botched robbery attempt on the night of Oct. 30th, 1929. A man disguised in women’s clothing shot Rafter four times and then fled into the night. For over eighty years, witnesses have reported seeing a forlorn Rafter pacing back and forth along the marble floor– and some have even seen the ghost of his assailant, hiding menacingly in the darkest corner of the lobby.

Haunted Testimonials & Tidbits

“We were standing by the front of the stage and I looked up and saw a man standing along the back wall of the balcony. My friend yelled ‘We need to lock up, you’ll have to leave.’ – and the man just stood there. The man seemed to float down the aisle towards the balcony rail, disappearing into thin air as moved. We both looked at each other and then raced for the door.”

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"I was walking down the long, dark hallway that runs alongside the grand ballroom, when I saw a man in a tan suit emerge from the men's restroom on the second floor. He stopped when he saw me and appeared to be lost, so I asked him if he needed help – and with that he put on his hat and was gone."

"We were getting ready to make our entrance on stage when we looked across to the stage left wings. 'Who is that woman in the white dress,' I asked the girl beside me, 'and what is she doing backstage during the show?'. My friend saw her too- in fact we both commented later on the elegant full length lace dress she was wearing and the veil of some sort over her face. We watched her for about 30 seconds or so and the next thing we knew she disappeared."

"On many occasions, cast and orchestra members have reported seeing someone peering at them through the small windows of the projection booth. 'That's Pete,' I always tell them. Pete was the projectionist in the old Madison Theatre that they tore down. Pete has also been known to chase people out of the balcony. One late night I recall hearing him run up behind me as I was leaving the projection booth. I didn't turn around but just said 'Okay, Pete, I'm leaving!'"

"At least 25 times since I've worked there, I've come into the theatre in the morning to find the wall sconces turned completely upside-down."

"We were locking up one night and turning off the lights in the outer lobby when we saw what looked like a man watching us from behind the closed inner lobby doors. I yelled to my friend that we'd locked someone inside the theatre. I could see him moving back and forth behind the glass doors that led to the grand staircase. When my friend got there, we unlocked the door and there was no one there. My friend said 'Oh, that was probably Edward. This is where his office used to be and this is the spot where he was murdered.' Back in the 20s, Edward was the manager and was shot during a robbery attempt. He died two days later. Over the years people say they see him all the time, standing at the back of the auditorium during shows – or floating sadly around the spot where he fell, over 80 years ago."

What to Expect

A tour of the Renaissance Theatre is given to participants and known hotspots and paranormal occurrences will be pointed out. Guests then proceed with their paranormal investigation. Guests can go backstage, the basement area, all throughout the upstairs ballrooms and even camp out in the bathrooms where paranormal experiences are heard. Check out "My Ghost Story" for more stories.

Schedules, Hours & Pricing

Paranormal Investigations: Flat rate of \$200.00 for 4 or less. Each person after 4 is \$50.00 per person. 7:00pm-2:00am. 18 and over.

Individuals/groups can organize their own private investigation by calling Joe James, Paranormal Investigator at 419-295-5002 or paranormalace@gmail.com.

Mansfield Fire Museum

1265 W. Fourth St.

Mansfield, OH 44906

419-564-5531, Bobby Shook @ Fire Museum

www.mansfieldfiremuseum.com

Ghost Rating: 3



General Scoop & History

The Mansfield Fire Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving & interpreting the artifacts, history & traditions of firefighting. See a turn of the century fire station, hear the antique alarm bell, see the original parade of hats, browse the many pictures taken of heroic firefighters & get up close to the firefighting equipment.

Haunted Testimonials & Tidbits

Unexplained happenings like movement of a side mirror on a fire truck has been seen to move by an employee, unexplained sounds when there is only one person in the building, lights flickering and shadow people have been reported. Perhaps it's the artifacts in this museum that make the spirits come alive or a coffin in the attic that was once used at the Ohio State Reformatory.

What to Expect

A tour of the Mansfield Fire Museum will be given to participants and known hotspots and paranormal occurrences will be pointed out. Guests are then welcome to proceed with their paranormal investigation.

Schedules, Hours & Pricing

Paranormal Investigations: Individuals/groups can organize their own private investigation by calling Bobby Shook, 419-564-5531. No cost to investigate! 18 and over.

Joe James, Paranormal Investigator for Haunted Mansfield Ohio and co-owner of P.A.C.E.

Joe James, paranormal investigator for Haunted Mansfield Ohio. We are a paranormal investigation and research group based in Ohio. P.A.C.E. (Paranormal and Cryptic Explorations) has earned a reputation of professionalism and outstanding service to help individuals by applying a scientific approach to paranormal and cryptic situations while in search of an answer.

P.A.C.E. coordinates locations affiliated with Haunted Mansfield Ohio and determines if they are haunted. We also work with all paranormal investigation groups to visit the city's most haunted locations!

[Calendar of Events for Mansfield/Richland County](#)

[Overnight Packages](#)

DISCLAIMER

Haunted Mansfield: The attractions that are a part of Haunted Mansfield, and Joe James (Paranormal Tour Guide) or any other paranormal provider are independent entities offering paranormal experiences and are not under the direction of or employed by the Mansfield/Richland County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Haunted Mansfield is a concept by which interested parties (individual or a group of visitors) can learn about all attractions, businesses, etc... that have had verifiable paranormal activity and agreed to be promoted via Haunted Mansfield. The locations are presented for paranormal investigations and customers can make their own conclusions.

Prices and information subject to change without notice.

Updated December 2016