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This collection project was selected in an attempt to record, document, and explain the "Attachments" throughout the Kentucky Building.

This project contains a memorate by the author, a taped interview by a psychic practitioner, photographs, appropriate library forms, a catalog, and a field journal.

"Attachments"

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In March of 1990, I was scheduled to work as the weekend curator at the Kentucky Building. This entails the opening and closing of all of the museum galleries. At this time we were readying galleries K-L for The Logan County Quilt Exhibit, Piece By Piece, and the weekdays had been filled with a variety of activity in this area. As I went to open galleries K-L and the Anniversary Exhibit, in galleries M-N-O, on the third floor I was accompanied by a student assistant, Edgar Head. Edgar was tall, slender and he had short black hair. As I was opening the double doors leading from galleries K-L to the Jackson Gallery I caught a glimpse of a man standing in back of me on the right side of the main staircase. Thinking he was Edgar and he did not want to startle me because my back was turned I continued to open the door, then I turned to address him. As I turned I saw a man with dark hair dressed in a black suit looking toward me and the doorway. This vision lasted only a few seconds.

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I was convinced in my mind that Edgar had come to ask me something, so I went upstairs to confront him. Edgar was not wearing a suit of black clothing (the man I saw had on a black suit similar to an old fashion mourning suit) Edgar was wearing levis, and a yellow Mickey Mouse T-Shirt. I asked him in my calmest voice if he had sensed anything strange as he went up the stairs to open galleries M-N-O. Edgar reported that when he turned the lights on for the third floor they flicked off for just an instant. I did not pursue this conversation, I felt very uncomfortable with the happenings, so I left and went downstairs.

Sunday afternoon, after I had thought about this occurrence I wanted to talk with Edgar further. He was working in the exhibit "Growing Up Victorian". I approached Edgar with caution and rehearsed my questions so I would not sound erratic. I asked Edgar about the hours he had worked in the Anniversary Exhibit and galleries K-L, he replied that on many occasions he had experienced different phenomena. Rushes of cold air, and unidentifiable noises were part of his experiences. I felt comfortable talking with Edgar about my apparition and he seemed relieved to discuss his experiences with someone.

Recently Earlene Chelf was insistent that I participate in a photo session for the Fanlight, our quarterly Museum bulletin, that was to promote the Museum Store. I dislike having my picture made and begged off, but Earlene was determined that I be included in some of the shots. A professional photographer from Western came to do the photosession. The photos are included in this project. The pictures of merchandise are clear

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but the photographs including me have a white hazy area. When the young woman photographer returned the pictures to Ms. Chelf, she said that the only explanation for the white areas was that it was a "ghost". She claimed her lighting was correct, the camera was in excellent condition and that there was not a logical explanation.

This episode may be unconnected, but I jokingly say it was my friend from galleries K-L protecting me, because he understood how much I dislike having my photo made. I laugh about this event but I will not totally discount it and I feel it merits mentioning in this paper on "attachments."

My friend and co-worker Terry Langford is a practicing psychic, so I consulted her for a professional appraisal. I asked her about my experiences and about the other rumors of "ghosts" in the Kentucky Building. Terry said that the apparitions we see, the sounds we hear and the cold air we feel are vibrations coming off of their "attachments" connected to artifacts and other special collections stored or displayed throughout the building.

Terry believes that everything has vibrations and that the vibrations can be imprinted on artifacts and manuscripts and picked up on by various people. Daily situations can alter the vibrations and an example of this is that the man I saw probably appeared because of a change in the daily routine. Reading the vibrations can range from actually seeing an apparition to just a vague uncomfortable feeling, the imprinting on different objects can vary in strength it can

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effect surroundings, explaining the cold rushes and the movement of objects. This imprinting comes from the person's life association with the object or manuscript that is housed in the Kentucky Building. Terry does not believe that these presences are negative, only curious.

Terry has experienced a presence of a clearly feminine figure in the stairwell coming from the third floor down to the Jackson Gallery. She has also heard the sound of soft murmuring voices in E-300 the large storage room in the Kentucky Building.

Other encounters with the supernatural in the Kentucky Building include: Ray Cossey hears footsteps in the stairwell coming from the library, but no one ever appears.

Shelly Prochaska feels the presence of a group of people including a child in E-300.

Belinda Smallwood has found large case books, normally kept on a top shelf, on the floor of G-8, library storage in the basement. These books were opened to the same case history (a hanging) on several occasions. When she has inquired about the books or if any one had been in G-8 recently, no one has claimed to have used the books or to admit to being in the area. On other occasions a children's book of poetry from the Baldwin Collection has been found on the floor as if someone's reading had been interrupted.

Roxanne Maroney claims to see an apparition in white wafting down the main staircase from galleries M-N-O to galleries K-L. Roxanne has also heard rustling sounds, described as the movement of clothing, and cold rushes of air in galleries M-N-O.

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The first phase of the Kentucky Building was completed in 1939, so much older buildings can be found on Western's Campus. I find myself in agreement with Terry Langford and others who believe these "Attachments" are with the collections and artifacts housed in the Kentucky Building.

When Henry Hardin Cherry had a dream to house memorabilia from the State of Kentucky I don't think he was including their "Attachments".