

[LIFE★STAR] TAKE A PEEK INSIDE THE 'MOST HAUNTED HOUSE IN THE MIDWEST,' IF YOU DARE

(P1) On a rather **unassuming** street in the otherwise nice town of Alton, Illinois, there lies a **sinister** estate that was once called the "most **haunted** place in the Midwest."

(P2) The **McPike Mansion**, a beautiful 16-room house sitting on 15 acres of **overgrown** land, has been **vacant** for more than 60 years, and maybe for good reason. Multiple **ghastly** figures, **orbs**, strange noises, and unexplained happenings have been documented over its almost 150 years of existence. Many believe that the ghost of former owners of the house and their **servants** still walk the grounds and inside the house's **dilapidated** halls.

(P3) Photographer Todd Morgan got access to the house recently and shares the photos with us here. You can see more of his work on his Facebook.

(P4) So, if you're feeling brave enough, take a tour of the McPike Mansion and get into the Halloween spirit.

(P5) The McPike Mansion was built in 1869 for Henry Guest McPike, a business man and the one-time mayor of Alton. McPike was also a skilled **horticulturist** and during his time on the grounds, he perfected his own type of grape.

(P6) The house was built in the **Italianate**-Victorian style and has 16 rooms. When it was new, it had **ornate molding**, **carved banisters**, and **boasted** 11 marble fireplaces.

(P7) The McPike family lived in the house until 1936 and has sat vacant since the 1950's.

(P8) The house also features **gnarled** oak trees, a **menacing wrought** iron fence encircling the property, and its very own graveyard. **Spooky**.

(P9) Many people, including the current owners of the house, believe the house is haunted. Sharyn Luedke, one of the current owners, **contends** that she's seen several ghostly figures multiple times during her visits.

(P10) Sharyn says she was working in the garden when she saw the ghost of Paul Laichinger, a subsequent owner of the house after the McPikes, standing by a window in the house. He was wearing the exact same **outfit** as one he is wearing in a picture Sharyn has of him.

(P11) Sharyn says that, since then, she's had many **run-ins** with ghosts. She says she was hugged by the spirit of "Sarah," a former servant at the estate. Other people have seen figures or ghostly orbs in the house as well.

(P12) The wine cellar is said to be the most haunted location of the whole property. Footsteps and voices have been heard and the heavy metal door that leads to the cellar has been seen moving on its own. A strange, unexplainable **mist** has even be reported following guests as they move through the cellar.

(P13) The house has been featured on multiple shows about ghosts and haunted places and has been explored by many **paranormal** experts. The current owners of the house also give ghost tours to anyone fearless enough to visit!

Words: 463

Source <http://www.businessinsider.com/haunted-mcpike-mansion-2014-10>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you found the passage difficult to read or had problems understanding specific words or idiomatic expressions, please discuss them with your tutor. The following discussion questions should be answered in your own words and with your own arguments.

1. Briefly summarize the content of the article in your own words.
 2. Describe the look of McPike Mansion. You can use the text or the photos to describe the place.
 3. Why do people say the mansion is haunted? Do you think the paranormal activities that these people experienced are real?
 4. This article is a tribute to Halloween. What did you do on Halloween (or is there such tradition in your country)? How is ghosts part of your culture? Share your scary stories with the tutor, and try to give vivid explanation of your experience!
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WHO/WHAT/WHERE ARE THEY?

McPike Mansion

(Place) a mansion in Alton, which is part of the Metro-East region of the Greater St. Louis metropolitan area in the U.S. state of Illinois. Built in 1869 by Henry Guest McPike (1825–1910), it is situated on Alby Street on a site of 15 acres (61,000 m²), one of the highest points in Alton, which was called Mount Lookout. The structure appeared in the series Scariest Places on Earth. It was also featured on Season 1, Episode 7 of Fact or Faked: Paranormal Files.

VOCABULARY

Unassuming	(adj) 잘난 체하지 않는
Sinister	(adj) 사악한, 해로운; 불길한
Haunted	(adj) 귀신이 나오는
Overgrown	(adj) (풀·잡초 등이) 마구 자란
Vacant	(adj) 비어 있는, 사람이 없는
Ghastly	(adj) 무시무시한, 섬뜩한
Orb	(n) 구, 구체(특히 해·달) (구체의 장식물을 뜻하는 뜻)
Servant	(n) 하인, 종
Dilapidated	(adj) 다 허물어져 가는
Horticulturist	(n) 원예가
Italianate	(adj) 이탈리아식으로
Ornate	(adj) (특히 아주 작거나 복잡한 디자인으로) 화려하게 장식된
Molding	(n) 쇠시리(벽·문 등의 윗부분에 돌·목재 등을 띠처럼 댄 장식)
Carved	(adj) 조각된
Banister	(n) 난간
Boast	(v) 뽐내다, 자랑하다
Gnarl	(v) 마디지게 하다; 혹지게 하다
Menacing	(adj) 위협적인, 해를 끼칠 듯한
Wrought	(adj) elaborated; embellished
Spooky	(adj) 으스스한, 귀신이 나올 것 같은
Contend	(v) (특히 언쟁 중에) 주장하다
Outfit	(n) (특정한 경우·목적에 위해 입는 한 벌로 된) 옷
Run-in	(n) 마주침; 언쟁, 싸움
Mist	(n) 얇은 안개, 박무
Paranormal	(adj) 초자연적 현상