

Santa Cruz Ghost Hunters make midnight visit to Capitola's Rispin mansion

[By Jondi Gumz - Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)

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CAPITOLA - Ghost hunters who got permission for a midnight visit Saturday at the boarded-up Rispin mansion are reporting some spooky goings-on.

"It's almost like a portal where spirits come through," said Monnica Sepulveda, 61, an intuitive medium since 1972.

She prefers to be known as a medium rather than a psychic but she is a top-rated psychic medium on [SelectPsychics.com](#).

Maryanne Porter, owner of the nonprofit Santa Cruz Ghost Hunters, arranged for the visit by her film and recording crew, inviting Sepulveda, who lives in Aptos, and two members of SPIRIT, a paranormal ghost group in Santa Rosa.

At [SantaCruzGhostHunters.com](#), Porter reports sensing a female presence in the mansion during her first visit inside some time ago but her camera, lights and equipment malfunctioned, leaving her with no evidence.

Asked about the midnight visit, Sepulveda said she felt the presence of a female spirit who said she did God's work and warned her about a bullying male spirit downstairs, telling her that before she left, she would hear a fall.

"The nice spirit told me not to go downstairs," Sepulveda said. "I'm telepathic, I'm able to hear."

Another woman with Porter headed downstairs, saying she was not afraid.

"As she was going down the stairs, she was pushed," Sepulveda said. "There was a large shoe print on the back of her pants. ... I wanted to pray for that man. He's one of the most unhappy lonely people."

The visitors set up two flashlights in a hallway and asked questions like "Does the man below exist?"

The flashlights turned off and on by themselves, according to Sepulveda.

"I asked the lady how many spirits have come through," she said.

The flashlight flashed 15 times then stopped, according to Sepulveda, who believes the spirits are passing through rather than part of the Rispin family.

Henry Allen Rispin built the four-story mansion in 1921 but was able to keep it only until 1929, according to Capitola historian Carolyn Swift. A religious order acquired the property in 1941 but after the nuns moved out in 1959, the mansion remained largely unused and frequently targeted by vandals.

The city bought the property in 1985 for the mansion's historical significance, but the dream of developers to turn it into a boutique hotel went up in smoke after a mysterious fire three years ago. The cause of the fire was never determined.

Sepulveda said she was not familiar with the history of the Rispin property.

"I've lived here 21 years and I've never heard of that mansion," she said, adding that building a hotel there "would be a bad idea."

Asked about her findings, Porter was circumspect.

"We may have captured something, we may not have," she said. "We still have footage to go through."

She observed the temperature inside the mansion got colder.

"This place is entirely boarded up, there's nothing to create this temperature change, so it was rather unusual," she said.

"It got really cold, but I was sweating because of the energy coming through," Sepulveda said.

The city invested more than \$600,000 in repairs to mothball the mansion after the fire, and council members worry about vandalism.

"It wasn't easy to get permission," Porter said, noting Capitola Mayor Michael Termini accompanied the group.

"He sat and watched," Sepulveda said of the mayor, who is on vacation until Aug. 27. "He didn't comment at all."