

The Whaley House’s Unfinished Household

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Whaley House stories keep the family present through small footsteps, laughter and objects moving in the parlour. The real household’s losses sit beneath a heavily promoted haunting tradition today.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	San Diego, California, United States
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Nineteenth-century family home; later visitor traditions

THE ACCOUNT

The Whaley House’s ghosts are often recognised by the scale of their sounds. Its operator recounts visitors hearing small footsteps, a child crying or laughing, and associates them with Thomas Whaley Jr., who died young. Other stories describe a parlour lamp’s hanging crystals moving without an obvious cause, or a presence on the stairs. These are domestic disturbances rather than a single spectacular appearance. A house becomes unsettling by continuing to behave like a home after the family whose habits might explain it has gone.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The museum operator’s account records Thomas Jr.’s death from scarlet fever at eighteen months and the property’s earlier association with the execution of Yankee Jim Robinson. It presents the later noises and movements as spiritual encounters. Those claims are part of the attraction’s interpretation; the page does not establish that the sounds were made by a particular deceased person.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The smallness of the details gives this haunting its character. A crystal shifting or a childlike footstep asks less of the imagination than a full apparition, while leaving just as awkward a question about who is still using the room.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Whaley House Haunted Night Tour

Whaley House Museum / Historic Tours of America

<https://www.whaleyhousesandiego.com/haunted-house-ghost-tour/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-033>