

Port Arthur's Haunted Parsonage

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Port Arthur's parsonage is remembered both for a respected minister's family and for its haunting reputation. The site's own interpretation preserves those histories without making them the same thing.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Tasmania, Australia
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Nineteenth-century settlement; site ghost stories documented from 1870

THE ACCOUNT

Among Port Arthur's prison buildings, the parsonage changes the scale of the haunting. This was also a place where a minister's family lived. The historic site's audio tour identifies the Reverend George Eastman as a man the convicts called the good parson, then notes the house's later reputation as one of Australia's most haunted. The imagined presence therefore occupies a domestic building within a penal settlement, rather than another cell. An ordinary household and an extraordinary concentration of confinement shared the same landscape. The ghost tradition makes it difficult to keep those two worlds apart.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Port Arthur's official material says ghost stories have been documented at the site since 1870. That date concerns the wider site, not a proven first sighting in this particular house. The audio guide establishes the parsonage's association with Eastman and records that its original upper storey was lost to fire; it does not authenticate an apparition of him.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The lost upper floor is a quietly eerie detail. Even before a ghost enters the account, the house visitors see is incomplete. Its reputation occupies more space than its surviving rooms.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Port Arthur audio tour, chapter 7

Port Arthur Historic Site

<https://assets.portarthur.org.au/uploads/2025/08/Port-Arthur-Audio-Tour-script.pdf>

Ghost Tour

Port Arthur Historic Site

<https://portarthur.org.au/ghost-tour/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-039>