

# Galena Marine Hospital

GALENA, ILLINOIS | GALENA MARINE HOSPITAL

**DESERTED OLD HOSPITAL NOW  
PLAGUED BY BIZARRE,  
HAUNTED HAPPENINGS**

**ARE THE ENTITIES IN AGONY?  
OWNER FEARS GHOSTS ARE IN  
PAIN AND ARE WARNING US TO  
KEEP OUT!**



## GHOST HUNTERS

**CALL FOR  
HELP**



Frank, owner of the Galena Marine Hospital, froze with fear when he saw a “mysterious fog come out of nowhere, hover, and run.” The few witnesses that have set foot inside recently have reported “voices wailing in pain.” Now Frank is afraid that the dead in his building might be in “pain and agony.” As a hospital for sick and dying sailors who had nowhere else to go – Did these people feel tortured in life, and are they still tortured in death?

**PARANORMAL  
CLAIMS**



Tall shadow figures are seen lurking throughout the building, footsteps and loud movements are heard coming from empty rooms, “moaning sounds” are heard “as if someone is in pain,” strange bursts of light appear out of nowhere, and an unnatural looking “cloud-like fog” has been seen hovering and “running away.”

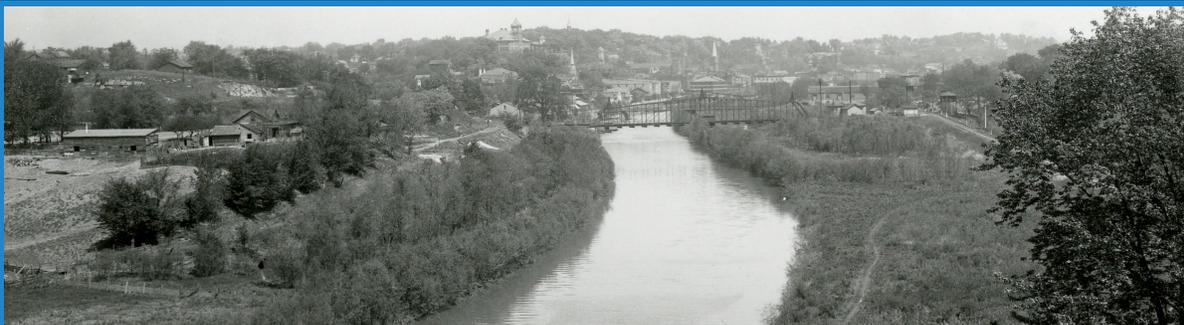
**HISTORICAL  
SNAPSHOT**



The Galena Marine Hospital was constructed in 1857 and completed in 1860 as a hospital for “ailing men of the seafaring business,” including steamboat captains. Closing in 1866, the building became a German-English School, a sanitarium, and has had many private owners. It is a very mysterious building with many gaps in its history. Frank has owned the building for over two decades.

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# The Galena River



## PARANORMAL CLAIMS

### STRANGE FIGURES

- A 6 ft shadow figure is seen walking up the staircase.
- A shadowed torso is seen floating throughout the building.
- A “Cloud-like fog” figure appears out of nowhere, hovers, and disappears.
- A white flash is seen floating in the basement. The flash of light has been described as “hovering for at least five minutes.” It is accompanied by a “whooshing” sound.

### FOOTSTEPS & SOUNDS

- Loud footsteps are heard coming from empty floors.
- An unexplained “whooshing” sound is heard throughout the hospital. Witnesses swear birds, bats and wind are not to blame.

### VOICES

- “Painful wailing and moaning” is heard, especially in the basement. Most of the time, the wailing sounds like it is coming from a man’s voice.
- Muted conversation is heard coming from empty rooms. Witnesses have heard men and women’s voices.
- A voice that yells “Go back to bed!” has been heard coming from the basement bedroom.

### OTHER HAUNTINGS

- Freezing cold spots are felt out of nowhere, followed by “intense feelings of being watched.”
- Cabinets open by themselves in the basement kitchen.
- People feel watched while they walk alone outside of the hospital, as if they are not wanted on the property.
- Visitors have been touched on the shoulder by unseen hands.
- Invisible bodies are felt “brushing against” visitors as they explore the building.
- Doors open and close by themselves.
- Cords and wires plug and unplug on their own.

## HISTORY

### A NEED FOR A MARINE HOSPITAL

- 1857 - 1860: Construction of the Galena Marine Hospital was authorized by an act of Congress, and building was completed in 1860. It was built to house 50 patients if needed.
- The Galena Marine Hospital was built to care for seafaring men who worked on the Galena River and Mississippi River.
  - *Newspaper 1854: A hospital here is demanded by common humanity. The number of persons who are engaged in our river commerce is large, and we have all felt that the duty was an urgent one... Many hands of our steamboats are homeless and friendless... They are prone to sickness at any time... Lot in life is a hard and cruel one.*
- By the 1850s, Galena was the busiest port between St. Paul and St. Louis, with as many as 15 steamboats docked at one time.
- It is unknown how many deaths occurred in the Galena Marine Hospital.
- 1860s: Historians believe that the Galena Marine Hospital would have also housed Civil War Soldiers.

### THE HOSPITAL IS CLOSED

- 1866: Deemed too costly to operate and without enough patients, the marine hospital was shut down.

### THE BUILDING GOES THROUGH MANY HANDS

- 1868 - 1891: The building was used as German-English school.
- 1912 - 1933: The building became the Nash Medical Factory and Sanitarium.
- 1941 - 1950: The building was privately owned by several people.
- 1956: The building was purchased with the goal of renovating it for apartments, but it fell through.
- The building has gone through many hands, but nothing permanent has stuck.

### FRANK BUYS THE BUILDING

- 1990s: Frank bought the building with the eventual goal of renovating it as a home. He still owns it to this day.