

Wyoming Chapter of ARMA
September Chapter Meeting
Atlas Theatre – Cheyenne, WY
Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Attendees:

ARMA Members - Della Beasley,Carolynn Coy, Donna Crock, Stephanie Gertken, Deanna Grimm, Geetha Murugesu, Sandra Padilla, Marci Smith, Barb Thomasee, Antonia Torres,

Guests: None

Due to issues with structural integrity on the upper floors, attendees were required to sign liability waivers in order to participate in the building tour. As attendees arrived, they reviewed and signed these waivers prior to the tour.

The meeting officially began at 11:40 am with a brief introduction of the history of the Atlas Theatre building and the ongoing work to restore structural elements and the exterior. Highlights include:

- The building was originally constructed in 1887; the theatre was constructed in 1908.
- Prior to the theatre renovation, the ground floor was a confectionery shop and the upper floors were offices.
- Current restoration work includes taping breaks in the metal framework of the building so that it can survive the winter without further damage.
- There have been numerous ghost and supernatural sightings reported in the theatre. One such story is tied to a fire which killed two people: a child and an adult man. While the child was buried in an unmarked grave in a local cemetery, there is no information about what happened to the body of the man and one of the tour guides believes he is still in the building.
- In addition to a full season of productions from the Cheyenne Little Theatre Players, the theatre hosts the Old Fashioned Melodrama as well as live music.

The group split into two with half touring the theatre first and half touring the upper levels first. During the tour of the theatre, the group got a chance to look around backstage and in the upper balcony. The Atlas retains its original asbestos fire curtain featuring hand-painted advertisements for businesses from the theatre's debut.

During the tour of the upper levels, attendees were required to wear hard hats as a safety precaution. The upper floors were originally professional office spaces. Later they functioned as hotel rooms and more recently, the space was a haunted house and still features fake blood smeared in places. The upper floors contain many small rooms with connecting passageways and secret doors. The building was constructed with an interior courtyard in the center and skylights overhead, which have now been closed off.

The tour concluded at 12:55 pm.

