

History and reported Paranormal activity at the Bullock Hotel



A report from the Rocky Mountain Paranormal Research Society

The R.M.P.R.S. investigates the history and reported haunts of the historic Bullock Hotel.

We conducted a three day on-site investigation in January 2008, to document or explain any possible paranormal activity as well as look into the past stories of ghostly phenomena.



History and reported Paranormal activity at the Bullock Hotel

Seth Bullock was born on July 23, 1849 in Canada (Either in Amherst burg or Etobicoke) to George



Bullock (A retired British Major) and Agnes Findley Bullock (Originally from Scotland)

When Seth was 16 he ran away from home and moved in with his sister in Montana. The legend is that he moved back home after being sent back by his sister. Either way he moved to Helena Montana in 1867 when he was 20 years old.

He ran for Territorial Legislature but was defeated. He eventually ran for Territorial Senate and served from 1871-1872. He was on of the people involved in the creation of Yellowstone as a national park on March 1, 1872.

After his term in the Territorial Senate he was elected as Sheriff of Lewis & Clark County in 1873. While he was serving his term he was injured by a gunshot to the arm by a man named Clel Watson

who had stolen a horse. After Mr. Watson's trial he was on the gallows about to be hanged when a mob showed up and scared away the executioner. It is said the Mr. Bullock climbed up, held the mob at bay with a rifle and pulled the lever himself.

He partnered with Solomon "Sol" Star to form the Star & Bullock Auctioneers and Commission Merchants. They set up shop in Helena, Montana.



Seth married Martha Eccles in 1874. She was his childhood sweetheart; however he had his wife and baby

girl sent back to her family home in Michigan until he could settle in the area.

The day before Seth and Sol arrived in Deadwood Wild Bill Hickok was shot by Jack McCall at the #10 Saloon.



and appointed Con Stapleton as the new Sheriff.

In March 1877 Governor Pennington appointed Seth as the Sheriff of Lawrence County.

Seth took on the job and was reported to

store. The store was a single story building that was said to house a Blacksmith in the basement area. The lower level had its own entrance from Wall Street for access. When the basement was excavated during the remodeling to the current building they discovered an old Forge that included several Ox shoes. This confirmed the rumor of the Blacksmith legend as well as the legend of the current parking area being the turnaround and service area for the local Ox teams. They called the location “Bull Flats”.

Seth & Sol decided that the hardware business would prosper in the camp of Deadwood. They arrived in Deadwood via Ox drawn wagon on August 1, 1876 with all of the supplies for the hardware store. They purchased a lot at the corner of Main and Wall streets and set up a tent to open the Office of “Star & Bullock, Auctioneers & Commission Merchants”.

The people of the camp knew that they needed a new Sheriff, so they appointed Mr. Isaac Brown, on August 5, 1876 by a “Miner’s Court” after the trial of Jack McCall. When Mr. Brown and his party were traveling between Crook County and Deadwood they were ambushed and killed. This left the position of Marshal open in the town. The Court met again

have not even needed to carry a gun. His grandson was quoted as saying “He could outstare a mad cobra or a rogue elephant” so it was said that he enforce the law just by being in the town.

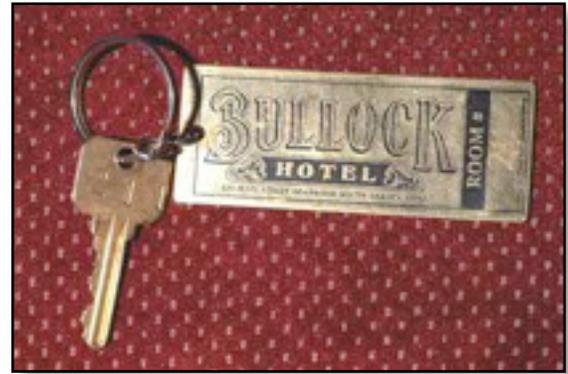
While Seth was bringing a Horse thief called “Crazy Steve” back to Deadwood for a trial, he encountered a man who was then the Deputy Sheriff of Medora, North Dakota. This man was



Theodore Roosevelt, who would eventually become President. Seth and Mr. Roosevelt became great friends and eventually Seth joined the

Seth and Sol eventually built a Hardware store on the property that they had set up shop on in 1876. From 1876-1894 the building housed the Hardware

Roosevelt’s famous Rough Riders. Seth was named as the Captain of A Troop in Grigsby’s Cowboy Regiment. Fortunately because of the end of the Spanish-American war the Troop never left training



camp. This did give Seth the opportunity to carry the title of Captain for the remainder of his life. In 1905 Seth formed a similar group in Deadwood called “The Cowboys”.

There was a fire in 1879 in the town that destroyed much of the town and then in 1894 there was a fire in the building and it destroyed the majority of the building with the exception of the foundation and the exterior walls. They rebuilt, but then the building caught fire again in 1894 with similar results. This time Seth decided to add to the building as a Hotel. The new hotel cost \$40,000.00 and included 63 ten by ten foot rooms, each with its own Chamber pot. A full bathroom on each floor, Steam heat, and was the most luxurious Hotel in the area.

When the town had settled down and became a safer place to live

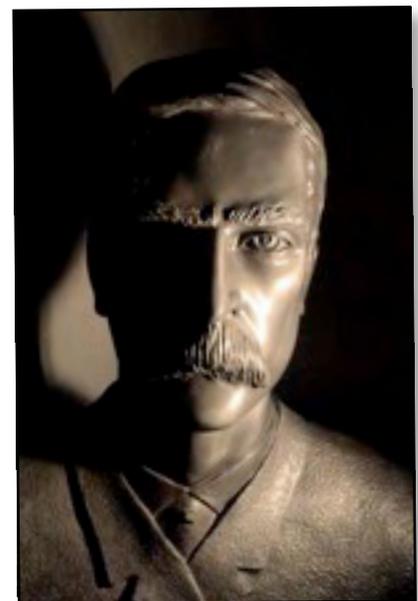
Seth sent for his family to come live with him. The family finally consisted of their 2 daughters Madge & Floy as well as their son Stanley. His wife became a very popular member of the community however later in life she had health issues and stayed primarily in her 2nd floor room and was seen regularly on the balcony at the front of the building.

Seth was invited to Mr. Roosevelt’s inauguration in 1905; he took his group of cowboys to the event. Mr. Roosevelt then appointed Seth Bullock at the United States Marshal for South Dakota. Seth held the position for 9 years.

Seth and Sol, who had started the S&B Ranch Company, convinced the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad to route a new line across a ranch that they had started. By doing this the town of Belle Fourche was started and they even offered free lots of land

to people wanting to move from Minnensela into the area. This formed the largest shipping area of livestock in the country as well as caused the county seat to be moved to the newly formed town.

Eventually Seth & Sol partnered with Harris Franklin to for the



Deadwood Flouring Mill in 1880. Seth was also the General Manager of the mill.



rooms that were originally ten by ten feet were remodeled into larger rooms with private baths and some including sitting areas, wet bars and

even Jacuzzi tubs. This renovation ended up leaving only 28 rooms because of the size increase.

The team arrived at 2:00 in the morning on January 18, 2008. Upon arrival the equipment was unpacked and the team did an initial survey of the Hotel.

The team members were assigned to different rooms and got some rest before the long series of studies would be started.

The team reconvened at 9:00 on the following morning. We discussed the reported activity with staff members

When President Roosevelt died on January 6, 1919 Bullock had a monument constructed in honor of him on Sheep Mountain in Deadwood. The dedication ceremony was held on July 4, 1919. This peak was later renamed Mt. Roosevelt.

After a very productive life Mr. Bullock was stricken with cancer and died on September 23, 1919. The place of his death is still in contention he either passed on while in the Hotel staying in room 211. Other reports have him dying at his ranch in Belle Fourche.

When the building was remodeled in 1990 for the current use the building was in horrible condition. The majority of the wood had rotted, rooms were collapsed and the original roof had collapsed leaving debris throughout the building. Over ten semi's full of trash and damaged building were removed from the building before reconstruction could begin. The



Investigation into the reported paranormal activity at The Historic Bullock Hotel & Casino in Deadwood South Dakota.

The investigation:

as well as some of the guests that were staying at the Hotel. We also attended the "Ghost tour" that highlighted some of the traditional stories and legends of the ghosts of the Bullock Hotel.

After discussing the locations with reported activity with the team and getting input from Greg on his opinions of the areas of activity we decided to monitor several areas.

- We monitored several different locations throughout the Bullock including
- *“Seth’s Cellar” located in the basement of the Hotel
- *The hallway leading to the kitchen area from the basement bar area
- *The central stairway in the front of the building
- *The top of the central stairway including the 2 mirrors that have reported activity
- *Room 303
- *Room 211
- *The back stairway leading to Bully’s Bar
- *Bully’s Bar
- * The main hallway on the 3rd floor
- * The main hallway on the 2nd floor



* The casino area where the monitoring center was located

Hourly E.M.F. measurements were taken By Viki and Stu in pre-determined areas in all of the monitored locations.

The equipment in “Seth’s Cellar”

- was:**
- 1- Video camera located at the base of the stairs looking towards the seating area
 - 1- Video camera located on the bench area looking at the seating
 - 1- Video camera located at the back of the room looking at the seating area and later moved to view the end of the bar
 - 1- Video camera looking at the back hallway near the elevator; it was later moved to the main room to watch a table with control objects
 - 1- Video camera located at the back of the room looking at the Bar
 - 1- Video camera located at the back of the room

- looking at the seating area at the bar
- 1- Video camera at the base of the stairs looking at the bar
- 1- Video camera located on a



- table next to the stairs looking at the bar
- 1- Video camera located on the bar, and later located to look into the mirror on the bar
- 1- E.M.F. meter located on the bar
- 2- Nerf Ballistic balls located on the bar as control objects
- 1- Foam Baseball located on one of the chairs in the seating area
- 7- Balloons located throughout the basement as control objects as well as a way to monitor air currents (The last night only)
- 1- Nerf Ballistic ball located on a round table located at the back of the seating area
- 3- Crayon’s on a piece of paper on the round table



located at the back of the seating area

4- Crayon's on a piece of paper on a table located in the seating across from the bar

1- New Year's hat located on the back of a chair in the seating area

1- Microphone located at the base of the stairs

1- Microphone located at the back of the room

The chairs at the bar were moved out of their normal positions

A dusting of cornstarch was put in front of the bar where the chairs are located to monitor any possible movement of the chairs

The equipment located in the hallway leading to the kitchen from the basement area was:

1- Video camera looking towards the kitchen area

1- Video camera looking back towards the basement area entrance

The equipment located in the main stairway located at the front of the building was:

1- Video camera located at the bottom of the stairs looking up to the second floor

The equipment located at the top of the central stairway at the front of the building was:

1- Video camera looking at the vertical mirror

1- Video camera looking at the horizontal mirror

1- E.M.F. meter located near the vertical mirror

1- Nerf Ballistic ball located on the top of the vertical mirror

1- Microphone located at the top of the stairway

The equipment located in room 303 was:

1- Video camera



The equipment located in room 211 was:

- 1- Video camera located near the window looking back towards the door
- 1- Video camera located near the door looking towards the bed
- 1- Nerf control object located in the middle of the bed

The equipment located in back stairway leading to Bully's Bar: (1st night only)

- 1- Video camera looking down the stairway from the 3rd floor

The equipment located in Bully's Bar: (2nd and 3rd nights)

- 1- Video camera located at the back of the dining booths looking at the fireplace
- 1- Video camera located on the bar looking at the fireplace
- 1- Video camera located on the bar looking at the bar

The equipment located on the 3rd floor hallway was:

- 1- Video camera looking down the hallway from the front of the building

The equipment located on the second floor hallway was:

- 1- Video Camera looking down the hallway from the front of the building

The equipment located in the main Casino area was:

- 1- Video camera located on top of a Slot machine looking at the table with the monitoring equipment



The First day of monitoring:

Setup started at 9:00 p.m. While the equipment was being set up, Stu started mapping the areas and determining the locations for hourly monitoring of Electro-magnetic Fields. Baseline readings were started at 11:00

Temperature findings: The Baseline temperatures were taken and recorded. At 11:00 the starting baseline temperatures

were:

- 73.0 at the Monitoring station
- 61.4 in the basement
- 67.3 on the second floor at the top of the main stairway

The temperatures remained reasonably consistent throughout the evening. The monitoring area ranged from 72.0-76.0 The Basement area ranged from 60.1-66.4 The Top of the main stairs ranged from 66.6-67.3 No unusual changes were noted

At 1:10 Matt was walking at the base of the main stairway at the front of the building when what he describes as "The building moving" was



perceived. While he was discussing this with Greg, Bryan entered the area and

and the auto-filling water started to fill the machine. This was followed by the

being blocked. It was as if something was blocking the light that was reflecting from the supplies.

At 2:25 the camera located in the hallway from the basement to the kitchen dimmed like something had blocked the I/R lighting on the camera, however the image itself was not blocked.

After the team packed up the equipment and returned to our rooms, Matt was in room 307 getting ready for some sleep when he heard what he described as the sound of “Boots on a hard floor” just outside the bathroom. This area is carpeted and could not make that kind of a sound. He did check to see if any noise was coming from the hallway but discovered that there was nobody in the hall.



had the same experience and without hearing what Matt had just described he explained it almost exactly the same way. At the same time as the mutual experience of Matt & Bryan the Clock located outside the building stopped operating for approximately 15 minutes. Photos of the clock were taken and the time metadata is included. There was no explanation for the events.

At 1:35 Bryan and Greg were in “Seth’s Cellar” when Greg reported hearing something at the bar. As Greg approached the bar he heard the Coffee machine located at the end of the bar making noise. At the same time Bryan saw the “Ready to Brew” light come on the front of the machine

machine starting to pour water. This was easy to see as there was not a filter holder on the machine. It was also noted that there were no signs of previous dripping of water on the machine or in the area.

At 2:00 Matt was in “Seth’s Cellar” and noted that there was a reflection of a light coming from some cleaning supplies. The odd thing about this is that the reflection of the light was intermittently





The second day of monitoring:

We decided to set up earlier because the areas that we were monitoring were not open to the public so it would allow us to have the ability to collect data over a longer period of time.

Setup was completed at 8:30 and baseline readings were taken.

Temperature findings:

The Baseline temperatures were taken and recorded. At 8:30 the starting baseline temperatures were:
 75.4 at the Monitoring station
 63.7 in the basement
 66.6 on the second floor at the top of the main stairway

The temperatures remained reasonably consistent throughout the evening. The monitoring area ranged from 75.4-77.9

were noted

At 8:10 one of the two Nerf Ballistic balls located on the bar in “Seth’s Cellar” rolled approximately 6 inches towards the back of the bar, and stopped before reaching the edge. When we attempted to recreate the roll, the ball would roll off of the bar no matter what we did. The bar showed no signs of ridges or wear that would stop the rolling of the bar and the bar is not uneven.

At 8:21 the soft baseball that was located on a chair located in the seating area of “Seth Cellar” moved off of the chair and ended up approximately 6 feet from the

The Basement area ranged from 63.2-63.7
 The Top of the main stairs ranged from 66.2-66.6
 No unusual changes

front of the chair. When the ball was placed on the chair by Stu, he blew on the ball and hit the chair to make sure that the ball was secure and that the ball could not accidentally roll off of the chair. When we examined the chair it was determined that the ball did not only come off of the chair, but it had to “roll uphill” to go in the direction that it went. We found no explanation for this event.

During one a Walk through to



measure E.M.F., Viki reported that she turned around to talk to the person who was with her and discovered that there had been nobody behind her.

Once again Matt had the experience of hearing what sounded like “boots on a hard floor” just outside the bathroom of room 307.

The third day of monitoring:

We set up even earlier for the final day of monitoring the building

All of the equipment was set up and baselines taken by 7:00 p.m.

Temperature findings:

The Baseline temperatures were taken and recorded.



At 7:00 the starting baseline temperatures were:
70.0 at the Monitoring station
62.6 in the basement
67.1 on the second floor at the top of the main stairway

The temperatures remained reasonably consistent throughout the evening. The monitoring area ranged from 70.0-77.9

The Basement area ranged from 62.6-63.2

The Top of the main stairs ranged from 67.1-66.9
No unusual changes were noted

Matt reported a similar experience to what Viki had reported on the previous days events. He stated that while he was in the Casino looking at the large portrait of “Seth Bullock and the Cowboys” he turned around to talk to the team member that had followed him into the room and there was nobody with him.

For the duration of the evening there were no significant events.

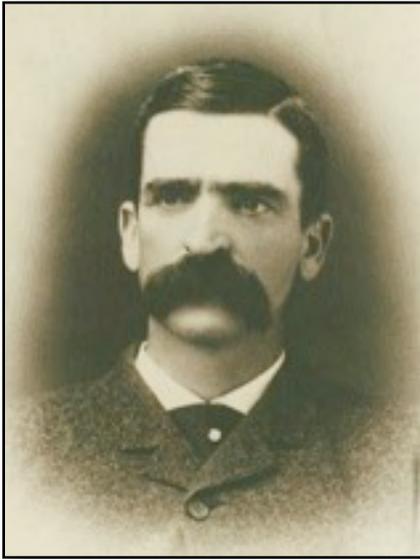
Ghost Stories from the Historic Bullock Hotel & Casino

The ghost stories of the Bullock reflect the rich and colorful history of the location and its past residents. Some of the stories are based on facts while others have become more of



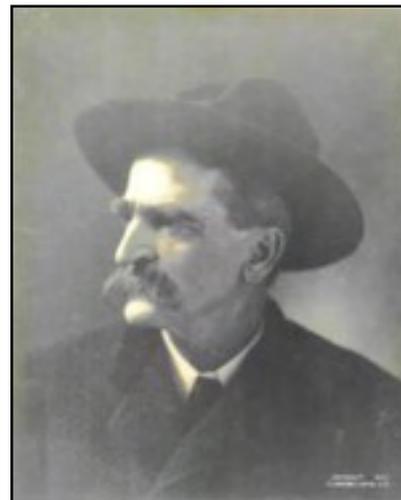
the traditional style of ghost lore.

The Bullock’s basement, now known as “Seth’s Cellar” was once a Smallpox ward and hosted the majority of the children from the town when they came down with the sickness. The reported ghost from this time is the spirit of a little girl named *Sarah*. Sarah and her mother (one of the prostitutes from Kitty’s) were patients in the Smallpox ward in the basement. The legend tells of Sarah watching her mother die just before she was also taken by the disease. The ghost of Sarah has been reported by many children throughout the years, the story is that when a child is not being watched by



their parents a little girl coaxes them into the basement with the promise of toys and a companion to play with. The children then report that a “Tall man” tells them that they need to get back to their parent’s room and then helps them back to the room. The legend continues that when the child’s parent opens the door to let the child into the room that the child has one hand up in the air and one down to their side. The reason for this is because the child is holding the hands of the man who helped them back to the room as well as the little girl who had taken

them to the basement. The parents report that they can not see anyone with the child. However when the family is at the front counter checking out the child states that the person in the photograph at the counter is of the man who helped them back to the room. The photograph is a portrait of Seth Bullock and his lifetime friend Theodore Roosevelt.



There is a first hand story from an employee of over 14 years that was preparing for a child’s birthday party by inflating helium balloons for the party. When the balloons were inflated (about 45 of them) the employee reports that while she was looking at the balloons clinging to the



ceiling she would see an occasional balloon get pulled down as if someone was pulling on the string attached to the balloon. The same party had another odd incident with the balloons while the party was happening. The report is that while the children were playing, all of the balloons popped at once.

There is a mirror at the top of the main stairway that is reported to be the last of the original furniture still at the location. Across from the mirror there is also a newer mirror. Throughout the years both employees and guests have reported seeing different reflections of people in the mirror. They have even reported seeing the images of

Seth Bullock and Teddy Roosevelt in the reflections of the mirrors.

A woman had been given a vacation as a gift by her husband just before his death. She decided to go on the vacation as a way to remember her husband. She was staying in room 303 and one night around 2:00 in the morning she went to the front desk to report that she had been awakened by someone sitting on the end of her bed. She reported a tall man in a hat. When she looked up at him he “just vanished” she refused to stay in the room and the staff had to get her belongings for her.

Many different employees have reported that if they are whistling or appear not be not working while on duty, Mr. Bullock will let them know that he is not happy by making his presence known. They report that if they are just standing idle during their shift they will have items they are

working with move from the location that they were left in and they also report that they will hear a mans voice calling their names when nobody else is in the room with them.

There have been reports from both employees and guests of plates and glasses “taking flight” in Bully’s Bar. The bar has also been the location of bar stools moving on their own as well as glasses in the rack above the bar reportedly will shake and hit each other while only one staff member is present.

Bully’s Bar is also the reported location of the latest



full apparition of Seth Bullock. This event took place in 1989.

The smells of Lilac, Roses and Cigar smoke are reported throughout the building and are rumored to be from the

presence of The Bullock's. The cigar smell is reported in Mr. Bullock's old room (211)



as well as throughout the Casino floor. The other scents are reported throughout the entire building. It is said that the smells are most prevalent during the winter months when the natural smell of foliage cannot be sensed.

The cleaning staff has reported that the cart that is used to carry supplies between the rooms has moved on to the next room and sometimes even to a different location in the Hotel.

Several guests and staff have reported that the shower in room 208 will turn on and off by itself.

In the Bullock Suite there have been reports of a few types of ghostly phenomena. Members of the cleaning staff

as well as several guests have reported that the antique desk clock in the room will chime even though it has been broken for many years. One employee even reported that the clock "jumped onto the floor by itself". There is a replica of the hat that Seth Bullock was

known to wear hanging on the entertainment center just above the television. Guests have reported that the hat has moved and even been seen to float above the entertainment center.

Several of the rooms in the Bullock are reported to have activity however the room with the most activity are; 205, 207, 208, 209, 211, 302, 303, 305, 314, Bully's Bar and Seth's Cellar. All of these locations have had reports of activity such as appliances and lights turning on and off by themselves, the sounds of a crying baby when there is no child present in the

building, in the guest rooms the staff has reported that just after replacing the toilet paper they will go back into the bathroom and the roll will be completely unspooled and they are the only ones in the room. Another story of Mr. Bullock is that guests and staff say that they cannot keep radios on the channels that they put them on. Mr. Bullock is reported to change the station to a Country-Western station because of his like for that type of music.

In the past when the Piano that is now located near the entrance to Bully's Bar was



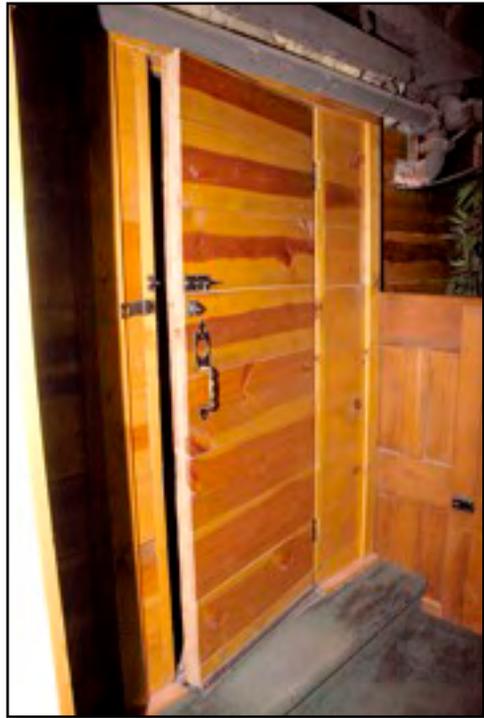


in the basement, people would report that they would hear the sound of music being played on the piano when nobody was in the basement.

A letter to the Hotel from a past guest relates a story of a woman who was waiting for her husband to come back to the room when she saw some paperwork fly off of the television and then felt what she thought was her husband sit next to her in the bed. When she turned to comment about disturbing the papers on the television she discovered that she was the only one in the room.





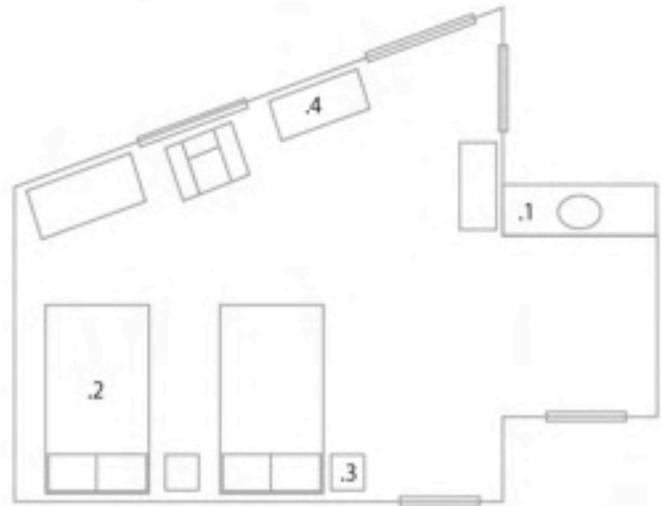


Bullock's Hotel, Deadwood, SD 01/18/08 - 01/19/08
Room Diagrams

Room 303



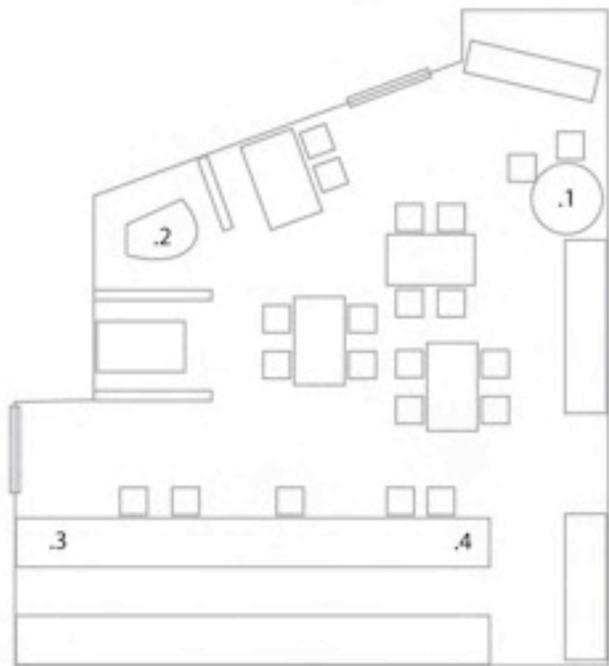
Room 313



Room 211



Bully's Bar



Bullock's Hotel, Deadwood, SD 01/18/08 - 01/19/08
Room Diagrams

