

Lore of spirits, loads of food

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Restaurants occupy a special place in ghostly lore. Here are a few of the most notable:

Johnny Mango: This Ohio City world café may be known for its fowl entrées, but there is also something foul in the air. Allegedly, a trio of ghosts stalk the place – the result of three deaths that took place in the area. The oldest is named Margaret, a woman who died when a trolley car crashed into the Cuyahoga River in 1895. The place even brought in a psychic to squelch the spirits, but the stories persist.

Rider's 1812 Inn: In life, money couldn't buy love for Suzanne. And in death, she's still paying for it. You see, Suzanne is the restless ghost that haunts Rider's 1812 Inn in Painesville. In the 1830s, Suzanne was known as the "ugliest woman in Painesville," according to ghostbuster and author Chris Woodyard. Her wealth, however, made her very attractive to Joseph Rider, founder of the inn. He married her in 1834. Six weeks later, however, Suzanne died under "mysterious circumstances," presumably at the hand of Rider, who was deep in debt and looking for a fast payout. Woodyard asserts that this tale isn't just legend: "I saw her myself roaming around the place."

Marco Polo's: To become a "real" employee of this Brecksville pasta and steak eatery, you have to meet the Main Man. No, not present owner, Mike Yeager. Rather, the man who built Marco Polo's in the 1820s: George Stark. The ghost of Stark allegedly still oversees the place. It even makes a point to "initiate" new employees by calling out their names and patting them on the back. According to bartender Debbie Kassovic, George is a friendly ghost, but he still spooks unknowing employees.

It's a Deli: The West Side eatery supposedly doubles as a ghostly hang out. According to ghost-spotters, among them Clevelander Carla Nocera, It's a Deli has a spirit that resides in the ladies room and "makes the hair on your neck tingle. You feel like someone is watching you."

John Petkovic

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