**B. Ft. Mifflin**

Is Ft. Mifflin haunted, or is the presence of ghosts there a good marketing campaign to help “save the Fort that saved America”? I spent a few hours there walking around and experiencing the fort in the almost complete absence of other visitors. There were only two of us in the fort that Monday afternoon on April 6th, 2009. The memory of that peripatetic walk, focused on the stillness and silence of the setting, punctuated by the frequent roar of the planes overhead, and the occasional sound of aquatic wildlife. The experience was far from ghostly, or even “historic”.

I visited the buildings and the casemates, including haunted” No. 5 and No. 11 of **Ghost Hunter** fame. I sensed nothing! I heard no “screaming woman”. I saw no lamplighter, nor photographed any other light anomaly. I heard no phantom “tour guide”. I did not hear the door close to the Blacksmith Shop, nor did I see any “Rev” War or Civil War soldiers. The casemates were empty of Confederate and political prisoners. I missed the “faceless man”. There were no sounds of children playing, not a dog barked! I did not smell anything unusual…….It was “paranormally “dead”!

Was it because I was not participating in any contextual cultural scenarios, like those we do during a “ghost excavation”? Was it because we were not “targeting” specific individuals with performance acts, as I always do in a “ghost excavation”? It could be! But my first impression (and background research) also suggests that Ft. Mifflin is also “haunted” by contemporary issues of politics and economics. I have a “sense” (and this is NOT nonsense) that there is a concern to give the public (i.e., “ghost hunters”) what they want: a good and new “ghost story” and a good scare!

I also learned that it isn’t “politically correct” to criticize any “ghost hunting” group here or their methods (no matter how they perform their “investigations”!). They are all considered “pros”! That is a truly “scary” thought! If there are real “interactive” presences here (as opposed to place memories), do they also have to “cut through” the politics, the territoriality, and the “showmanship” to manifest on their own accord? If you know the right people (or ghost), you can ask them personally…!