

The Tokeland Hotel and the Claim of Recurring Guest Disappearances

Evidence brief · prepared by Nico · 29 Aug 2026 · all facts verified same-day against cited sources

Subject and scope

The claim under examination: that the Tokeland Hotel in Tokeland, Pacific County, Washington, USA (2964 Kindred Avenue, on the Toke Peninsula at the north end of Willapa Bay) had a recurring pattern of guest disappearances. “Recurring” is read here as multiple documented guests vanishing without trace. The hotel was built in 1885 as a private farmhouse and opened to the public around the turn of the 20th century (c. 1899–1900 per the fullest account; some sources give 1889); it has operated continuously since, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 11, 1978 (reference #78002766). The evidence window is the hotel’s full operating history, with emphasis on the modern era where records would be most complete.

Direct answer

No publicly verifiable evidence supports the claim. Across official records (National Register files), decades of regional journalism, the hotel’s own published history, its decades-old guest logbook of unusual occurrences, and statewide missing-person repositories, no documented case of a guest disappearing from the Tokeland Hotel exists. The strongest available statement against the claim comes from the person who runs the hotel: general manager Nic Krause, asked in 2019 whether guests had ever been scared enough to flee mid-stay, said “to my recollection, they’ve never left” — they had merely gotten up in the middle of the night.

Verified facts

- 1. The hotel is real, old, and famous for being haunted — by design.** Built by Elizabeth “Lizzie” Brown Kindred and William Kindred, the hotel was Washington’s oldest resort hotel, named for Chief Toke of the Shoalwater Bay Tribe. The hotel itself markets its hauntings: Rooms 4 and 7 are listed on its own website as “Haunted Rooms,” and paranormal investigators filmed there as far back as a 2000 local-television special. Sources: National Register of Historic Places nomination record (NPS, 1978); Tokeland Hotel official history page.
- 2. The documented deaths connected to the property are family members, not guests, and predate the hotel’s public operation.** Two headstones stand on the grounds, recovered after the 1970s storms washed away the old Cedar River cemetery: Albert Brown (drowned in Teal Duck Slough mud at about age 9–10, 1866) and Leonidas Norris (died in a shooting/hunting accident, 1873). Both were Lizzie Kindred’s half-brothers; both died before the hotel opened to the public. A third stone, marked only “CLL,” may belong to “Charley” — per the hotel’s GM, a Chinese immigrant indentured servant who died of carbon monoxide poisoning in a 1900s-era hiding space behind the fireplace while the Kindreds sheltered him. These are the deaths the ghost lore is built on, and none is a guest disappearance. Sources: Feliks Banel, MyNorthwest (KIRO Newsradio), Oct 23, 2019; Wikipedia’s Tokeland Hotel article citing the Pacific County Historical Society journal Sou’Wester.
- 3. The hotel’s own record of strange events contains no disappearances.** The hotel keeps a logbook of guest-reported oddities going back decades — roughly 50–60 accounts per GM Krause: shadowy figures, knocks in the walls, objects moving, the “Charley” apparition, a ghost cat felt on beds. Krause, who has run the property since the 2018 takeover by owners Heather Earnhardt and Zac Young, described the logbook’s contents in a 2019

interview as running “the gamut” of eerie-but-benign phenomena “largely based around Charley the Ghost and Room Number Seven.” No vanishing guest appears in his account of it. Source: Banel, MyNorthwest, 2019.

4. **The closest thing to a “disappearance” narrative in the entire record is a television line.** In a 2000 KING-TV Evening Magazine segment, “Spooky Sleepover at the Tokeland Hotel,” the narration recounts a Room 7 guest who “felt as if he was being strangled at 3:00 a.m. And he never came back.” The same sentence clarifies the facts: “He came back for lunch a few times, but he never came back to stay at the hotel.” A frightened guest chose not to book another overnight stay — and remained local enough to return for lunch. This is the probable seed of any “guests vanish” retelling: a rhetorical flourish misread as literal.

Inference versus rumor

- **Inference (labeled):** The disappearance claim most likely derives from the hotel’s carefully cultivated haunted reputation (it appears in haunted-hotel roundups including Atlas Obscura), amplified by the generic “haunted hotel where guests vanish” pattern of urban legend (e.g., the unrelated “Vanishing Hotel Room” story on Reddit’s r/UnresolvedMysteries), and possibly by AI-generated content, which is known to fabricate “disappearance” lore when asked about haunted hotels. No source documenting the claim before these channels was found.
- **Rumor:** Charley’s death, Albert’s drowning, and Leonidas’s shooting are sometimes retold in ghost-story forums as murders or mysterious deaths — they are not. The hotel’s own marketing and the 2000 television segment are the primary engines of the ghost narrative.
- **Negative evidence:** A recurring pattern of guests vanishing at Washington’s oldest, most publicized hotel would be significant news; extensive coverage of the hotel (Seattle Times, 2018; Washington Coast Magazine, 2016; KIRO, 2019) contains no such reporting. Washington State Patrol’s Missing Persons Unit and the national NamUs repository show no Tokeland Hotel connection in any case surfaced by search.

Uncertainties

1. Absence of record is not proof of absence: the hotel’s 19th- and early-20th-century guest registers are not digitized, and a pre-1950 disappearance could in principle exist without surviving documentation.
2. I could not run a structured query of NamUs’ or NCIC’s full case databases from the research environment; “no connection surfaced” is based on open-web search, not a database extract.
3. The exact origin of the claim’s wording (“recurring pattern of guest disappearances”) could not be traced to a specific text; it may be an AI hallucination, which would itself be worth documenting.

Useful next checks

1. Query NamUs and the Washington State Patrol Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit for Pacific County cases and any Tokeland address/place-of-last-seen matches.
2. Contact the hotel directly (info@tokelandhotel.com) to ask whether its logbook or staff knowledge contains any disappearance account, and whether pre-1960 guest registers survive.
3. Search TikTok, Reddit, and ghost-story forums for the specific phrase “Tokeland” + “disappear”/“vanished” to locate the claim’s first appearance and date it.
4. Request the Pacific County Historical Society’s Sou’Wester archives (pacificcohistory.org) for any early-1900s account of missing travelers in the Toke Point area.

Sources

1. National Register of Historic Places, nomination record for Tokeland Hotel, #78002766 (official record; via NPS gallery): npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/df69feef-f947-49b7-8aeb-cb09a085b57a/
2. Feliks Banel, “Ghost cat, tombstones, and other reasons to visit Tokeland Hotel,” MyNorthwest / KIRO Newsradio, Oct 23, 2019 (reputable regional journalism; interviews hotel GM Nic Krause): mynorthwest.com/history/tokeland-hotel-ghost-cat-tombstones/1564997
3. Wikipedia, “Tokeland Hotel” (secondary; cites National Register, Sou’Wester journal, Seattle Times, Washington Coast Magazine): en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokeland_Hotel
4. KING-TV Evening Magazine, “Spooky Sleepover at the Tokeland Hotel” (2000; primary broadcast footage, official station upload Oct 30, 2015): youtube.com/watch?v=tiPb17mTaQM
5. Tokeland Hotel official history page (primary, promotional — used only for confirmed history and haunted-room marketing): tokelandhotel.com/history
6. (Negative-evidence references) Washington State Patrol Missing Persons: wsp.wa.gov/crime/alerts-missing-persons/missing-persons ; NamUs: namus.nij.ojp.gov/

Conclusion

The claim of recurring guest disappearances at the Tokeland Hotel is unsupported by any verifiable public evidence and contradicted by the hotel’s own manager, its decades-long logbook, and the absence of any record in journalism or missing-person repositories. The hotel’s documented tragedies involve family members who died before it opened to the public, and its “disappearing guest” narrative traces to a 2000 television flourish about a guest who stopped booking overnight stays. Treat the claim as legend, not fact.