

Cheri Amour



Welcome to the self-guided tour of “Cheri Amour” the authentically preserved home of the “Lizard King.” The original owner’s son and his young bride moved into this charming 1932 Spanish Villa 6-unit apartment building in unit 8218 1/2, where they lived until it became too small for them when they began raising a family. For sentimental reasons, they held

onto the building for 71 years.

Hollywood celebrity Cheri Woods, a former model, actress, personal manager, Hollywood Madam, and entrepreneur, who is also the ex-wife of International pop star Stevie Woods (“Steal the Night”), ex-daughter-in-law of jazz sax icon Rusty Bryant (“Night Train”) and ex-cousin-in-law of “Miami Vice” co-star Phillip Michael-Thomas purchased the building in October 2003. The author of the sizzling autobiography “Death Row Madam: Exposing sex and drugs in the entertainment industry” Cheri stays busy with book signings, guest star and expert panelist appearances on TV and radio shows. Strangely drawn to the building but unaware of its legendary past, Cheri found herself the owner of a piece of rock ‘n roll history.

Jim Morrison, lead singer of the legendary rock band “The Doors” resided here, where it is known internationally as “Jim Morrison’s last known U.S. residence.” A plaque is prominently displayed on a post in the front of the building. An Elvis fan, Cheri made the decision to open her historical landmark building, which she named “Cheri Amour,” to the public after scouring the internet and discovering the impact The Doors have made in the music business over the past 40 plus years,

with fans worldwide. The “Cheri Amour” plaque is on the front of the building.

The interior and exterior of the building have been kept in its original condition as much as possible. The wrought iron fencing, electric gate, and bushes were later added for security purposes. Overgrown landscaping was removed to make way for the antique brick walkway which leads from the front of the building to the courtyard patio area where bistro tables and chairs have been added for guest seating. As you make your way down the front walkway and around the corner, you will see the residents’ mailbox that was later added. Prior to that, mail was deposited into individual mail slots that dropped inside each unit. See if you can find Jim’s mail slot.



You have now entered the courtyard. This is the main entrance to 4 of the 6 units in the complex, including Jim and Pam’s apartment. The other two apartment entrances were in the front of the building. The Jim Morrison bust is enclosed in a plexi-glass display case on a roman column stand, in the center of the courtyard. It was shipped here all the way from

the U.K.

In 1970, following the fire of their Laurel Canyon home, Jim and longtime girlfriend Pamela Courson, moved into apartment 8216 1/2 which is located in the center of the 2-story building, on the 2nd (top) floor. Look above 8216, and you will see Jim and Pam’s apartment. This is where the much talked about interview with Ben Fong Torres for Rolling Stone magazine took place in February 1971. This would be Jim’s last interview ever, in America. Ben was said to have lived with Diane Gardner, another resident of the building, who lived in 8218 and

worked as a publicist for Electra Records, The Doors' record company. It was rumored she was having an affair with Chuck Berry, who met Jim during one of his visits here at the apartment building. What a historical moment in rock history that must have been! Just like when the Beatles met Elvis at his Beverly Hills home! When you look up, starting at the right of Jim and Pam's apartment, is the tiny 1/4 bath which houses only a toilet- similar to an airplane restroom. In the old days, this was called a "water closet." The center window is the living room. Jim and Pam were known to have had a volatile, drug-induced relationship which often led to Pam throwing Jim's clothing and belongings out the window, landing in the now non-existent hedge below. No telling what remnants can be found in the dirt that we excavated from that area! The window to the left of the living room is the master bedroom where Jim and Pam slept. The last window on the left is the main bathroom. Although all of the units have different layouts, they were all constructed to go in a complete circle and are 2 BR/ 01 - 1/4 baths.

Jim was friendly with the former tenant in 8216 and was said to have spent many nights in her bathtub, which he preferred to his own because, as the story goes, it was "more spacious." In reality, it is not any larger than Jim's tub. Thus the sign "JIM BATHED HERE."

To the right of 8216, you will see a lizard on the wall, which was added to honor Jim's self-proclaimed "Lizard King" image. To the right of the lizard is the staircase that Jim climbed so frequently, following many late-night gigs on the Sunset Strip, or returning from the recording studio, right up the street.



Jim's unit is the only one with a security gate at the bottom of the staircase, added later for resident privacy.

Jim also “lived” in 8218, located to the right of the staircase. During his frequent spats with Pam, he often spent the night at Diane’s apartment. Thus the sign on top of the door “JIM SLEPT HERE.” The 36 year long tenant following Diane Gardner recounted the story of her first encounter with Jim after she had moved in. She was exiting her apartment, only to find Jim standing at the bottom of his stairs, smoking marijuana. In a neighborly gesture, he extended the joint and offered her a hit. She had no idea who this guy with a scruffy beard and beer belly was, thus rejecting his offer. After their initial meeting, she often heard Jim and Pam’s loud fights taking place in the upstairs apartment. When they went to Paris, she described them as just suddenly being “gone” with no notice or forewarning.



As you go up the steep staircase to enter Jim’s apartment, please hold onto the handrails. As you open the solid wooden door, you are now entering Jim’s private sanctuary. Open the peep hole from the inside and look out to see the view of what Jim’s eyes saw when he looked through it. The original oak floors and doors remain today. The once bland white interior walls have since been painted. Open the door off

of the living room to see the water closet.

Walk straight ahead to enter Jim’s and Pam’s bedroom. You will see a poster of Jim and his dog, Sage. This is where Danny Sugerman claimed to have lost his virginity to Pam, according to his book “Wonderland Avenue”. The ceiling light fixtures have all been replaced with ceiling fans.

Go through the door to enter the bathroom. All of the wall tile is

original. Go through the other door to enter the rear bedroom. Can you find the original built-in ironing board?

You have now reached the dining room. The photo on the wall was one of the last photos taken of Jim when he lived here, and shows how he looked in the end during his “scruffy period.” In February 2004 a séance was held in this room. It was attended by three world renowned psychics and filmed for a European TV series “Dead Famous” and later aired in the U.S. When the psychic asked Jim if he had Sage with him, a dog began barking outside the kitchen window. That was the only time a dog barked the entire evening.



Walk through the beads into the kitchen. All of the cabinets and drawers are original.

Go out the kitchen door to exit. Look at the view to your left when you step outside. Now hold the handrail as you slowly go down the steps!



As you continue making your way down the driveway to your left, you will see a row of 6 garages in front of you. Jim’s designated garage was the last one on the right, straight ahead of you where the sign “DOORS FAN PARKING ONLY” is posted. This is where he parked his car, a lime green Dodge Charger. When he backed

his car out of the driveway, he often hit the brick wall on the right side

of the driveway. This was due more to his frequent state of intoxication rather than his lack of driving skills. Along the wall, there are black marks behind the ivy, which still remain today.

You are now in the back of the building, where you will see Jim's original garage door displayed. It was the only one kept when all of the garage doors were replaced with the current ones. Behind Jim's garage door is the laundry room. When Jim and Pam lived here it was just a storage room. There were no laundry facilities. As you proceed around to the East side of the building, above the first set of steps you will see an open area, which is the landing at the top of the staircase you saw in the courtyard, leading to Jim's apartment. The upper window to the right of it is the kitchen. The next window to the right is the dining room. The window to its right is the rear bedroom.



When Jim and Pam were late paying their rent, which would have been less than \$500 per month at that time, the original owners unaware that their tenant was a famous rock star, served a 3-day notice to pay rent or quit to "MR. AND MRS. MORRIS." After residing there approximately a year, Jim and

Pam decided to go Europe. Pam left on February 14, 1971. She gave their coffee table to the former tenant in 8216. After spending a few intense days at his apartment with Patricia Kennealy, Jim followed on March 11, 1971. Pam's sister, Judy, took over the apartment in their absence, and Jim left their dog, Sage, who is pictured with him in the Rolling Stone's interview, with her. One can only assume that by leaving his beloved dog behind, he did not intend for his move to Paris to be a permanent one, but planned to return to this apartment that he considered home. But this was not meant to be.

On July 3, 1971, Jim reportedly passed away in Paris. To this day, the

details of his death remain a mystery. It was reported that Pam found Jim dead in the bathtub from a heart attack. Others believe he died from a drug overdose and his body was then placed in the bathtub. Some believe he is really alive, having faked his death and living under an assumed identity with the help of the FBI, since his body was never seen publicly following his reported death, other than “sightings” in the years following. Jim’s body is reportedly buried at the Pere Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Pam returned to Hollywood, where she reportedly turned to a life of prostitution. She died of a heroin overdose on April 25, 1974. Her cremated remains are in a wall crypt in Fairhaven Memorial Park in Santa Ana, California, marked “MORRISON” PAMELA SUSAN.



Now that your tour has ended, you may return to the courtyard to relax or continue straight ahead down the sidewalk to exit.

While you are here, you may wish to purchase a copy of Cheri’s book “Death Row Madam” or Jim Morrison memorabilia items to save on the shipping and handling. We have zip lock baggies of soil excavated from

the front and courtyard area and original tiles from the building staircase, all which come with a Certificate of Authenticity. Payment is by cash or by PayPal only. Inquire at unit 8216. If you would like to be added to our mailing list for notification of special events held here or upcoming auctions of Cheri Amour memorabilia items, please email us with your email address.

Please keep us in mind for lodging in Jim’s former residence, private or group tours, weddings, or special events.

**~ Thank you for coming to share a part of Jim and Pam's lives with us,
and for keeping the memory of Jim Morrison and The Doors alive! ~**

~ Cheri Woods



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