Tutt House

(Anecdotal info in italics)

History
The Tutt Alumni House was built as a private residence in 1898, by well-known local architect E.C.G. Robinson. He was associated with Count Pourtales in planning Broadmoor City in the 1890s and was a friend of Spencer Penrose.

The house was designed in Georgian Revival style and measures 10,000 square feet. There are 9 fireplaces (all but the one in the study are working fireplaces), 87 doors, 97 and a six car garage/carriage house. None of "the boys" who were raised in the house can confirm, but it appears that the "Study" was originally a screened in porch – note the exterior threshold on the door leading into the study. The house has always been electrified. It was well designed with overhangs and sun angles taken into consideration. Cross ventilation was made possible by some interior windows (second floor).

Robinson died before finishing the house, his widow saw it through and a few years later sold it to George Fowler, who, in today's terms "flipped it“ and sold it to Charles L. Tutt Sr. Several generations of the Tutt family enjoyed this great, stuccoed house, with large grounds, fronting 125 feet on Cascade Avenue and extending 190 feet east to Uintah.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leaming Tutt Sr. purchased it in 1905 and lived there until their deaths in 1909 (Charles) and 1912 (Josephine Thayer). Charles Tutt Sr. is best known for his association with Spencer Penrose, the Broadmoor Hotel and the El Pomar Foundation.

Charles Leaming Tutt Jr. was born January 9, 1889 and died November 1, 1961. He married twice. He married Eleanor Dexter Armit August 17, 1909. Eleanor was born June 7, 1889 and died March 16, 1925. He married Vesta Holliday Wood in 1934. Charles Jr. lived in the house with his family until 1959.

Charles Jr. and Eleanor had three sons: Thayer, Charles III and Russell. There is an oil portrait of the three boys, a gift from Millie Tutt, daughter of Charles III, hanging in the house. Thayer and Russell were both closely involved with Colorado College. Thayer, who passed away in 1989, was a founder of the WCHA and a great supporter of Colorado College hockey. Russell, who died in 1992, had been a member of the College Board of Trustees for many years and an important figure with the El Pomar Foundation. Russell’s son Thayer is now moving into his father’s footsteps. Elisabeth Sophia Anderson '03, Daughter of Marne Tutt – granddaughter of Russell, and Thayer’s son Davis, scheduled to graduate from CC in 2015, the first members of the immediate family to do so.

In addition to the three sons mentioned above, Charles Tutt and his first wife had a daughter, Sophia or "Dodo", who died as a young adult. After the death of his first wife, Charles married his housekeeper and the family nurse, Vesta and had one more son, John Wood Tutt who died in 2006.
Prior to the construction of I-25, Uintah street was one of the lightly travelled E-W streets much like the streets to the north of the house. When Uintah was designated an entrance/exit road for the freeway it was widened, cutting approximately 100 feet of lawn from the Tutt House property. Looking out the front door, imagine the yard extending to about the center double yellow line. There is a framed picture of the house, taken in 1920, that shows the more extensive front yard. The Tutts donated the house to Colorado College in 1959 and it was welcomed by President Louis T. Benezet (who passed away in 2002) as "a splendid new addition to our campus". For many years, the house was rented as a single family residence, in compliance with local zoning regulations. The house was presumably for a single family, but through the years, numerous visitors have indicated that they rented rooms from the principal occupant, mostly in their student days.

After numerous and sporadic attempts to get permission to use the house for a variety of college purposes, the College was finally successful in receiving a "conditional use variance" in 1985. After extensive renovation, the alumni office took up residence in December of 1985. The house was formally dedicated on June 1, 1986, with many members of the Tutt family in attendance, including Russell T. Tutt. Under the guidelines of the use variance, the house may be used only for alumni program related activities.

At the time the alumni office came to Tutt House – it had been refreshed and renewed: painted, repairs made, carpeting laid, wallpaper hung, draperies installed. It had no furnishings. All of the furnishings the visitor sees have been donated to the house or are on loan for use in the house.

The house required significant repairs in 2002, resulting from heavy rainfall in summer 2001 when roofers were in the midst of replacing the roof.
Tour

First Floor
The main floor is used primarily for meetings, receptions, meals and general entertaining. All woodwork is original. The floors are made of golden oak, a now extinct tree. Golden oak must have been popular!

In answer to a common question; none of the fireplaces have/had Van Briggle tiles. They were all examined by an expert who was chronicling the use of VB tiles in north end homes. The fireplace in the foyer is the only one on the first floor that was damaged to the extent that new tiles we affixed in 1985 when the house was renovated. All the fireplaces now have glass screens as there are no dampers in the chimneys and they help some in keeping the heat in the house. The family notes that the living room fireplaces had Delft tiles on them (although not in the 1920's as pictures of the room indicate) which Vesta Tutt had removed to take to their new home in the Broadmoor.

Bands used to set-up on the landing, while people danced in the foyer. Note the photo of a Christmas party (assumed, since Santa is in the picture) with the guests in costume, gathered in the foyer. The paintings over the fireplaces were given by Jonathan Garver '5? In honor of his mother.

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The piano in the living room, table and chairs in the study, the floor lamps are on indefinite loan from the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. The drum breakfront a gift from the Brugger family; and the love seats, upholstered side chairs, wing chairs in the foyer and folding chairs used for events were purchased by the Tutt House committee with a gift from Ed Honnen, who was related to the Tutt’s through marriage.

The current dining room table was owned by the Tutt Family (as was the matching buffet in the living room) and was given to the house in 2013 by the daughter of John Wood Tutt. A picture in the dining room shows the table and buffet as they appeared when in use by the Tuttts. Those are the only pieces of furniture in the house originally owned by the family.

The “study,” also known as “Charlie’s Room,” was the family room for the Tutts. At one time the walls were filled with the stuffed heads of wild game. The shelves were filled with an extensive collection of Southwestern artifacts. Anecdote from Evaline McNary, the long-time head of housing and food service: “whenever I was over here, they always dragged out this smelly, moth-eaten buffalo robe, threw it on my lap and proudly declared that it was Sitting Bull’s sleeping bag. The drawings now on the walls of this room were all done by Marshall Kean as a gift to the College. Marshall is the Retired Director of Special Projects for CC. They feature recent presidents as well as legendary faculty (no longer living). Our version of stuffed heads on the wall The tall breakfront, and a buffet in the dining room are on loan from Prof. David Finley, retired and his wife Judy Reid Finley ‘58. There is also a heavy table used for meetings that was an old CC library table. Assorted chairs in both the dining room and study were a gift from Jonathan Garver ’5?

The kitchen was modernized and equipped to handle catering equipment in 1986. Most events held at the alumni house seem to involve food in some way. There are two pantries, the butler’s pantry and the pastry pantry, which holds a marble slab for bread making. There are secret compartments to hide the silver.
The copy room was the butler’s office. Children were not allowed into this room, unless invited. *When visiting the house at the dedication, Russell, then well into his 70’s declared that you could only come in to “Clark’s” office if invited and he had never been invited.*

In the living room, Helen Hunt Jackson’s personal portable writing desk (*her laptop*) can be found. *The story is that she wrote her famous novel Ramona at this desk.* There is no connection to the Tutts. It was a gift to the college from the Jackson family and resides her where people can see it.

As a note, of the nine fireplaces in the house all work except for the one in the study. There were six bathrooms in the house originally. With the addition of a handicapped bathroom, in the space that once housed the laundry room, we now have seven.

**Second Floor**
The seven bedrooms of the second floor have become offices. Nearly every office features art or memorabilia that has been given to the house.

Those familiar with homes of this era are surprised at the number and the size of the closets. *We have been told that for tax purposes, any space with an entry door was considered a room, thus making the addition of closets an expensive proposition.*

The bathtubs in the second floor bathrooms are original – the shift from claw foot tubs to the more “modern” tub was a sign of how up-to-date the house was.

NW office: Vesta’s wrapping room. Closets and cabinets were used for storage.

SW office: sitting room for master bedroom

Main office: Master suite, Charles always slept on the porch. Sleeping porches were common in Colorado Springs houses, because many people came here to recover from tuberculosis. *As Edward Robinson, the designer came to CS because of health, one presumes they were for his use – or that he thought their presences would increase value.* Tutt did not have tb but reportedly slept on the unheated porch off the master bedroom.

SC office: Dodo’s room.

SE office: guest suite

The back bedrooms were used by the boys.

Note that there are fire hose cabinets on each floor.

Note also the interior windows to allow for air circulation.

The wooden stadium seats on the landing are from the Broadmoor World Arena (Ice Palace) purchased when the WA was torn down, to keep a piece of hockey history in the alumni house.
**Third Floor**
The third floor originally housed the servants’ quarters. Note the interior windows for light and cross ventilation. It is unusual to find so many closets on this floor. In 2005, this floor was renovated to house three more offices and the fire hose hook removed and windows changed in the west room.

**Basement**
The most interesting thing about the basement is its vault. The seven foot vault doors hide a wine cellar. *Legend has it that much of the Broadmoor’s wine collection spent prohibition in this wine cellar.*

There was a coal-fired boiler which centrally heated the whole house set in a lowered section of one of the basement rooms – and the west spaces were for coal storage.