



MCALLISTER HOUSE MUSEUM

**423 NORTH CASCADE AVENUE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80903
(719) 635-7925**

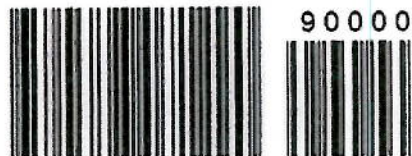
The historic McAllister House, built in Colorado Springs in 1873, becomes a museum in 1961

Major McAllister, a devoted friend and colleague of General Palmer, played a critical role in the creation and development of the city of Colorado Springs. He built a sturdy home on North Cascade Avenue, and he and his family lived in it for many years.

The story of how McAllister House came to be a museum, and the work involved in opening the museum, was recorded on cassette tapes by Vesta Tutt in the late 1970s. The old, brittle tapes were found just as the McAllister House Museum was getting ready to celebrate 50 years of serving the community as a museum.

This book is based on information from the transcribed tapes and offers a loving overview of the McAllister family, the museum and its contents.

ISBN 978-0-578-07122-0



90000

McAllister House Museum Built 1873

Treasured Memories of 50 years as a Museum



**The National Society of The Colonial Dames
in the State of Colorado**

McAllister House Museum Committee

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Colorado Springs, Colorado
2010

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in the State of Colorado
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The book was edited by Mary Anne Hubbell Sehorn. Barbara Farris Rasmussen managed the publishing process.

Inspiration for the book came from the transcription of interviews record on audio cassette tapes by Vesta Tutt and Minnow McPhee.

Members of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado (NSCDA in CO) and the curator and docents at the museum provided input for the book.

NSCDA in CO members: Olivia Ryland Bennett, Virginia J. Church, Joanna K. Fischer, Julie Green, Beverly C. Payne, Barbara Farris Rasmussen, Mary Anne Hubbell Sehorn and Poll Wells.

Curator: Owanah Wick

Museum Docents: Carol Harper, Karen Henderson, Mary Steve Humphreys and Anna Litchenberg.

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Introduction

PHOTOGRAPHIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The cover picture was taken and donated by professional photographer Stephen G. Weaver. 5245 Park Vista Blvd., Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80918, 719-389-6954: www.stephen-weaver.com.

The black and white photos of the museum and carriage house were taken by Mary Anne Hubbell Sehorn and Barbara Farris Rasmussen.



This photograph of Major Henry McAllister Jr. in his Civil War uniform was likely taken soon after he made Captain on May 8, 1863. It is a fitting introduction to this book written as part of McAllister House Museum's 50th anniversary, in June 2011. The inscription reads, "Truly thine Henry McAllister Jr Captain Comdg. Co G Anderson Cavly 15th Pa Vol Calvy."

The photograph was discovered in the archives at McAllister House Museum. Given the personal nature of the inscription, it is very possible that Major McAllister gave it to his future wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1866.

Major McAllister was a devoted friend and colleague of General Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs, and he played a critical role in the creation and development of the city. The museum, the restored McAllister house opened in 1961 and is lovingly maintained as a tribute to Major McAllister and as a way of bringing to life a picture of the McAllister family and the era in which they lived.

The story of the work involved in opening the museum was recorded on cassette tapes by Vesta Tutt in the late 1970s. The old, brittle tapes of her conversations with Minnow McPhee were recently found and restored just as the McAllister House Museum was getting ready to celebrate 50 years of serving the community as a museum. This book presents information from the transcribed tapes, such as who donated items to the museum, particularly those donated by the McAllister family. An index of gifts and donor names identified by Vesta is included at the end of this book.

Today the museum is host to many activities. In addition to daily tours for walk-in guests, reservations can be made for scheduled teas and tours at Christmas time and on holidays such as Valentine's Day. Private teas and tours can be planned in advance; tours designed especially for grade school children are popular with students and teachers. The annual Ice Cream Social held on the lawn in summer, featuring 5-cent ice cream cones, is a nod to the McAllister era.

The museum is open year-round, except in January. For complete information about activities and current museum hours, visit the website at www.McAllisterhouse.org, or call the museum at 719-635-7925.



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Vesta Tutt

Vesta Halliday Wood Tutt was the second wife of Charles Leaming Tutt Jr., marrying him in 1934. Charles Tutt became president of the Broadmoor Hotel after Spencer Penrose's death and was one of the early trustees of El Pomar Foundation, a major supporter of McAllister House Museum.

Vesta was born November 1, 1900, in Cairo, Illinois. She was a graduate of Vassar College and Oxford University and was working in archaeology when she met Charles. She and Charles had one son, John Tutt. Charles died in November, 1961, only a few months after the opening of the museum.

Vesta died in Colorado Springs in 1983 just a few years after providing so much of the information found in this book. She was an active member of The National Society of The Colonial Dames in the State of Colorado.

There is a plaque by the door of the Museum carriage house stating, "Carriage House renovated in 1984 in memory of Vesta Wood Tutt"

The McAllister Family

The original owners of the house, Henry McAllister Jr. and Elizabeth Cooper McAllister, had very interesting family backgrounds.

Henry Jr., named after his father, was born in 1836 in Brandywine, Kent County, Delaware. Henry Jr.'s father was a second generation American of Scottish heritage and a successful manager of a manufacturing company in Pennsylvania. Henry's mother Hannah Askew was the daughter of a prominent Colonial family known to be members of the Religious Society of Friends. Henry Jr. likely knew William Jackson Palmer as a youth because at one time their families lived in close proximity in a Quaker community in Darby, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. When young Henry Jr. chose to enter the Civil War he served under General William Palmer.

Interestingly, Henry Jr. also chose to marry a woman of the Quaker faith named Elizabeth Cooper. She was born in Delaware County in 1836 to Townsend Cooper and Mary R. Lukens.

Major McAllister and his wife Elizabeth had four children: Henry who died in infancy, and a second son also named Henry known as Harry, Mary and Matilda. Both daughters, Mary and Matilda, were school teachers and remained in Colorado Springs. Mary attended Swarthmore College and Matilda went to Colorado College.

The second son, Harry, attended Swarthmore College and became a well-known attorney in Colorado Springs and Denver. Harry served on the original board of trustees of the El Pomar Foundation. The first library of the El Paso County Bar Association began with the gift of Harry's extensive collection of law books.

Harry had two sons: Henry, who died in 1936, and Townsend Sherman McAllister, who also became an attorney and moved to New Jersey where he raised three daughters. Sherman, as he was known, along with his aunt Matilda McAllister attended the opening ceremonies of the McAllister House Museum in 1961.

Although this McAllister family name does not carry forward, Sherman's daughters and their descendants in the Brown, Teale and Ganger families remain frequent visitors and contributors to the museum.

The Early History of McAllister House

Major Henry McAllister journeyed West from Pennsylvania in 1872 at the request of General William Palmer, the founding Father of Fountain Colony, later known as Colorado Springs. Major McAllister and General Palmer had served together in the same regiment during the Civil War and General Palmer requested his help in developing Fountain Colony. Major McAllister became the Superintendent and Director of this colony. Once Major McAllister determined that he would be living in Fountain Colony, he set about building a permanent residence and moving his family from Pennsylvania.

At this time there were some 240 residents of Fountain Colony, and most of the houses were little more than temporary timber shelters. Major McAllister decided to build his house of brick. The house plans were prepared by the Philadelphia architect, George Summers, who also designed General Palmer's Glen Eyrie residence. The unique truncated gables on the house seem to anchor the house to the open prairie. Some of the interior finish work and the porch rails were constructed by Winfield Scott Stratton, who later discovered gold and built the Independence Mine in Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Major McAllister took great interest and care in the construction of this house. After a high wind destroyed some houses in the new colony, he decided to add another layer of bricks to the building. It was rumored these bricks were imported from Philadelphia, though this is doubtful. It is known that he did import the three marble fireplaces in the house from Philadelphia.

The McAllister family moved into the house in 1874. Major McAllister and his wife, Elizabeth, raised three children in their small Victorian house on the northern edge of Colorado Springs. Major McAllister made his home in this house until his death in 1921. For the next thirty-plus years the house was rented by the McAllister family to Mrs. Fannie Robbins, who used the house for a candy and wedding gift shop. Upon her death in 1958, the family sold the house to Shepard's Citations.

Creating the McAllister House Museum

Shepard's Citations purchased the McAllister house in 1958 from the McAllister daughters after the death of Fanny Robbins. This came to the attention of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado (NSCDA in CO). The NSCDA in CO, with the help of El Pomar Foundation and the generosity of Shepard's Citations, stepped in and obtained the home. The house was then restored and turned into a museum. The McAllister House Museum was opened to the public in June 1961. Following is Vesta Tutt's version of the events.

Vesta Tutt's husband, Charles Tutt, had originally been interested in preserving the McAllister house. When he returned from a trip to Europe, he found Shepard's Citation Company had bought the house, and they were going to tear it down and make a parking lot for their company that was across the street.

Vesta and Charles felt that the house should be preserved for its historical value to the city of Colorado Springs. Vesta alerted the president of the NSCDA in CO, Mrs. Frederick Adams, who lived in Denver. Mrs. Adams also felt strongly about preserving the historical property in Colorado, and with help from El Pomar Foundation and Shepard's Citation, the McAllister house was purchased for the NSCDA in CO from Shepard's Citations.

Because the members of the NSCDA in CO had limited funds, they sought out donations of Victorian furniture, which was of the period of the house, sometimes going to a Goodwill store to find a "perfect" piece, or in one case, rescuing an old couch from the attic of the Tutt house. Friends throughout the city searched their homes and their friends' homes to find the perfect desk or chair. "Victoriana was not such a prized possession in those days in 1961 as it is now . . . We had to beg, borrow and in some cases almost considered theft, so that we would have enough to put inside the house when it opened." (Tutt) Each item received seemed to have a story that went with it.

"Miss Helen Eyre, Mrs. Edward (Abby) Kernochan and Mrs. Charles (Vesta) Tutt were the committee that was empowered by Mrs. Adams to furnish the house." (Tutt) Mrs. Kernochan, who was in charge of accessions, ensured that every article of furniture and decoration was of the period.

Opening Day of the Museum: June 17, 1961



This is a copy of a photograph that hangs on the wall of the McAllister House carriage house. Pictured getting out of the stage coach is "Minnie," Miriam Washburn Adams. Sherman McAllister on her left is assisting her. To the left is Miss Matilda McAllister with her back to the camera. The Colonial Dame in period costume is Caroline Brown, president of the NSCDA in CO at the time of the opening of the museum.

The *Free Press of Colorado Springs* chronicled the events surrounding the official opening of the McAllister House Museum on June 17, 1961. (Stote, Free Press)

A ribbon cutting took place on the front porch, with Charles L. Tutt doing the honors. With him on the porch were Sherman McAllister of Morristown, New Jersey, grandson of Major and Mrs. McAllister, and Miss Matilda McAllister, the Major's daughter. Also present were Mrs. Samuel H. Brown, president of the NSCDA in CO and Guthrie Packard of Shepard's Citations.

Preceding the ribbon cutting, a gala luncheon was held by the NSCDA in CO at the Broadmoor Hotel. Special guests included Charles L. Tutt, president of El Pomar Foundation; W. Guthrie Packard, chairman of the

board of Shepard's Citations; Miss Matilda McAllister; Sherman McAllister; and Thayer Tutt, president of the Broadmoor Hotel.

The celebration included a procession from the Broadmoor to the McAllister House. Mrs. Josephine Tutt Mills led the way, riding a Norwegian fjord horse and carrying a thirty-seven-star flag she donated in memory of her mother. The flag, representing the flag as it was when Colorado became a state, is on display in the museum.

Mrs. Mills was followed by the Broadmoor coach drawn by four of the Norwegian horses. The coach carried several of the dignitaries who had attended the luncheon. John Tutt and Ken McPheron followed the coach on horseback, completing the parade.

Guests were given a tour of the house.

It was noted that the McAllister house presents an authentic picture of life in 1873. Credit also was given to the El Paso County Bar Association for their restoration of the library. (Stote, Free Press)

The next pages provide a brief tour of the rooms in the museum as they look in 2010, with pictures identifying some of the items described by Vesta Tutt. The rooms are presented in the order in which they are viewed when a tour is given.

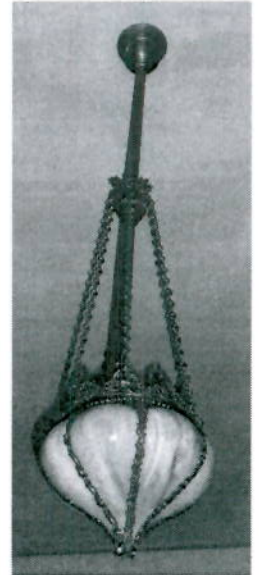
Guests are welcomed into the hallway through the double front doors. First they view the parlor and library, and then the tour continues up the stairs to the bedrooms and attic. The guests are brought back downstairs to see the dining room and the kitchen. When the tour is finished the guests leave through the kitchen door and walk to the carriage house where they are shown additional McAllister family photographs, memorabilia, and the lovely quilts on display.

Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: The Hallway

The front door of the McAllister house opens directly into the entry hall. To the right of the hallway is the front parlor, and to the left is the library. The windowed doors in this picture open to the back porch of the house. A table in the hallway, such as the one to the right of the chair, would have held a tray in which visitors could leave calling cards.



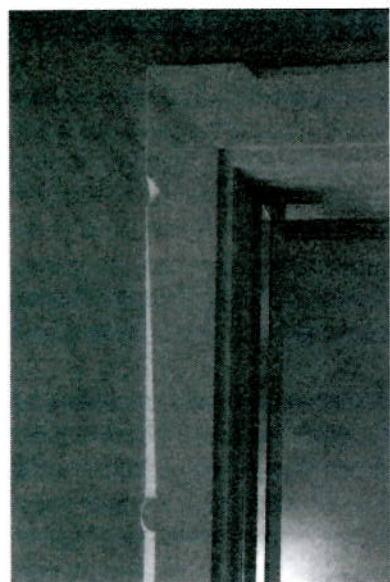
"Helen Eyre gave the long Oriental rug in the hall" (Tutt)



The entry is dominated by the pier glass mirror that once belonged to the Abraham Lincoln family and was donated by Mrs. George Thatcher. "It is really one of our prized possessions. It came without the marble which is now on the base. We had to take an old piece of marble that had been more or less a board, a substance on which cooking or materials were molded. We had to take that and have it cut and have it put in there. There were all sorts of things we had to do like that before we could open the house." (Tutt)

The light in the front hall was given by Caroline Brown in memory of her father Dr. Alfred Williams Morrison.

On either side of the pier glass mirror are copies of the photos of Major and Mrs. McAllister taken in 1909.



As you enter the entry hallway, you will see the simple beauty of Winfield Scott Stratton's carpentry work: the knobs and notches design on doors and window frames and the simple but elegant Newel post on the stair rail.



Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Parlor



The family referred to the parlor as the Front Room. It was the family's formal parlor and they did not use it every day. Here they would have received company on "calling days." The design features of this room are the bay window, an 11 foot high ceiling, picture railings and two "pocket windows" at either end of the room. The bottom two-thirds of these windows lift up and slide into the second floor inside wall and stay open thus creating a doorway out to the front and back porches. This room contains several pieces that are original to the McAllister family.

"Abby had a feeling in the beginning that we should have only certain types of furniture here. We should have rosewood. We should have walnut and we should have cherry . . . but we did not have anything to put in the bay window. We had a mahogany sofa . . . and we had no upholstery for it. So the green plush curtains had been found in the attic of our garage, and we brought out those curtains and used them for upholstery. We had to make do with so much that way. After we were given the settee which belonged to the McAllister family . . . the green upholstered mahogany sofa was moved to the carriage house" (Tutt)



Two Victorian carved back chairs with matching footstool came out with the McAllisters from Philadelphia in 1873, but were not donated until 1968 after Matilda McAllister bequeathed them to the museum.

The chairs are a lady's and gentleman's chair. The intricate carving of the chair backs is in the Rococo style. The lady's chair has abbreviated arm rests to accommodate the long full skirts of the Victorian era.



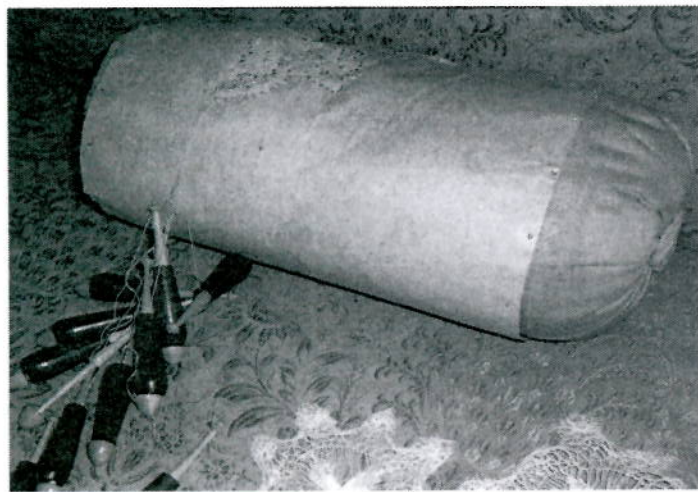
The melodeon was a gift from George Summers of Philadelphia who was General Palmer's architect and architect of this house. It was given by him to Matilda McAllister as a birthday gift. This musical instrument is



similar to an organ as it is pumped with bellows and reeds. The melodeon and piano stool were given to the museum by Matilda.

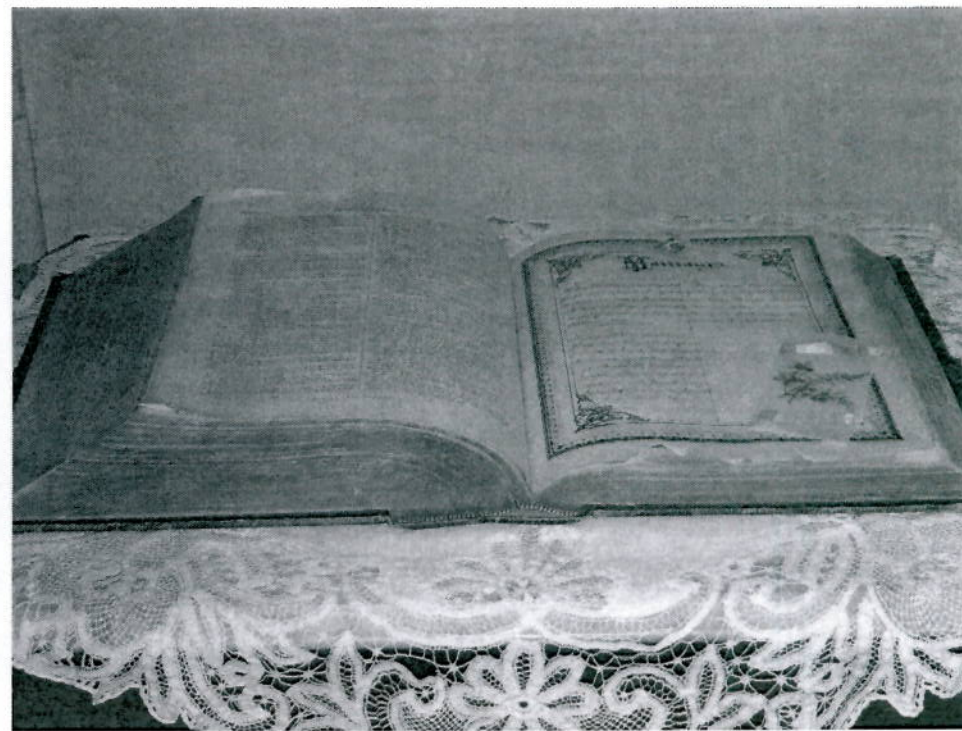


The blue settee in the bay window was a wedding gift from General Palmer's family to Mary McAllister who married businessman George Taylor in 1910 (George later became a city councilman).

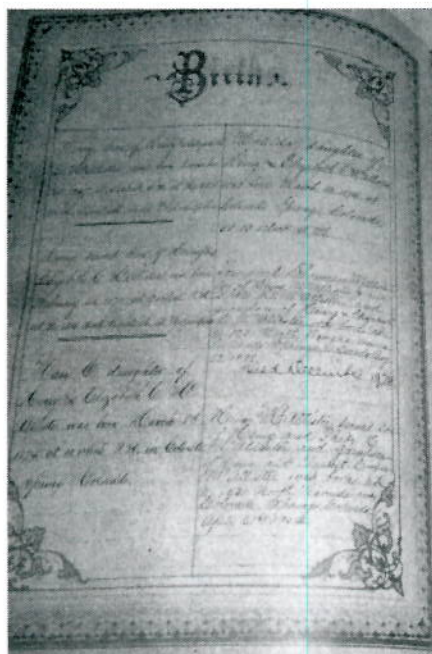
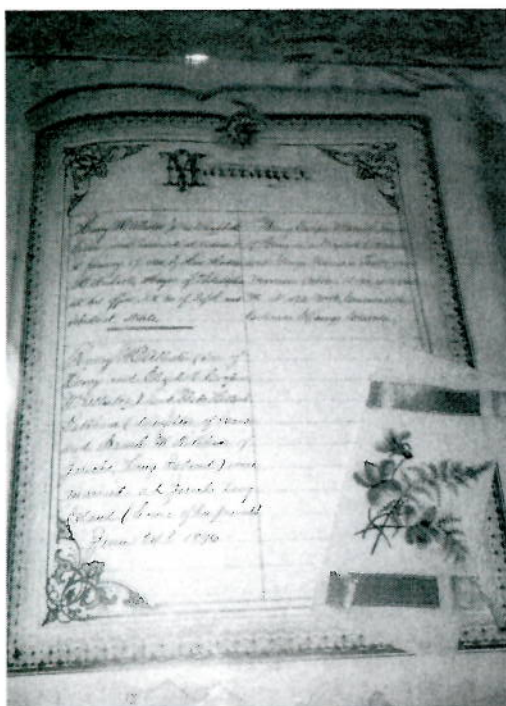


The pillow with the wooden "bobbins" on the settee is a lace making pillow. A paper pattern was pinned down, then more pins added in certain places; the bobbins would be placed across one another and wrapped around pins to form the

particular pattern; as a section was finished, the pins would be taken out. This was known as "bobbin lace."



The family Bible was given to Henry and Elizabeth McAllister in 1871 by her parents. It was donated to the Colorado College library. At some point it was thrown out and found by a custodian who took it home and gave it to his granddaughter who kept it until 1960. When she read about the preservation of the house as a museum in the paper, she donated it back to the McAllister house. The covers of the Bible are of tooled leather with ornate brass clasps. The fly leaf bears the inscription: "Elizabeth and Henry, presented by Mother and Father Cooper." It records the dates of birth of the McAllister children, beginning with the first little boy, Henry, who died shortly after birth in 1867, and the second Henry, who was always known as "Harry", and the two daughters, Mary, born March 8, 1874 at 10 o'clock p.m. and Matilda, born March 16th, 1876 at 10 a.m.



Although Major McAllister and Elizabeth Cooper McAllister were known to be Quakers, they were, according to the Bible, married in a civil service by the Honorable Morton McMichael, Mayor of Philadelphia. The only birth records of their children are those listed in the Bible.



Many visitors comment on the coal bin that sits next to the marble fireplace in the parlor. "On the day of the museum opening, I realized we didn't have any coal . . . so I rushed down . . . and got myself a bucketful of coal . . . and was putting it in the fireplace just as the guests arrived." (Tutt) All three of the original neo-classic, white marble fireplaces in the house are coal burning. They were brought out from Philadelphia when the house was constructed.

"The Bristol blue glass vases with gilt metal holders were given by Mrs. Kernochan . . . The black figures on the mantle were given in 1961 by Mrs. Douglas McHendrie." (Tutt)



Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Library

The big table in the library is an original McAllister piece that was donated by Leon Snyder, as were the two leather covered chairs (stuffed with horse hair). "The couch had been one that was in the attic at the Tutt house and the lawyers paid for the upholstery of it." (Tutt)



piece of leather and put it on the stool so it would look appropriate." (Tutt)

"When the footstool was given us from the estate of Mrs. Norman Campbell, it had a . . . covering of monks cloth on it which was not appropriate . . . and there was an old chair, which Thayer Tutt had inherited from his grandfather and it had a worn leather cover, so we ripped off the old



Another fireplace in the house is located in the library. "The brass dragon candlesticks with the Chinese figures on them came from Helen Eyre's house . . . The clock came from Elizabeth Hylbom. It had been used in Cripple Creek." (Tutt)

"At one time the library had Indian rugs on the floor, which were on loan from the Tutt family, but the various members wanted to take them back because they had used them at school in their rooms. And so the oriental is on the floor in place of it. And the reason that we put the Indian rugs into the room in the first place was we thought the stories had been so often told of the Indians pressing their noses against the panes of glass in the house." (Tutt)



"The [fireplace] screen in the corner . . . is from Charles L. Tutt Jr., the grandson of the original Charles Tutt. He inherited it and it probably came from Philadelphia . . ."
(Tutt)

The library was also used as an informal sitting room. It is the only room in the house with a closet. For a time the closet in the study was not an ordinary closet for coats, hats and boots, but was a *cache la poudre* (it was filled with pistols, rifles and ammunition). In 1878, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad crews were ready to begin work at the mouth of the gorge through the Arkansas River and then northward to reach Leadville. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe also wanted to build a line there. An armed conflict ensued. On June 5, 1879, when the D&RG needed supplies, Major McAllister loaded 30 pistols and 20 carbines into a wagon, took his son Harry, aged 12, on the seat beside him to camouflage his mission, and set forth to Pueblo to help the besieged D&RG garrison. Fortunately, the matter finally was settled in the courts.



The desk, not original to the house, came from the courthouse in Summit County. It was given in memory of Charles L. Tutt. The McAllister's yellow globe lamp on the desk used kerosene lighting until the late 1800s. Electricity came to Colorado Springs in 1886.

Two of the Major's prized possessions from his service during the Civil War are on display: his canteen, seen on top of the desk, and his saber, standing to the left of the desk.

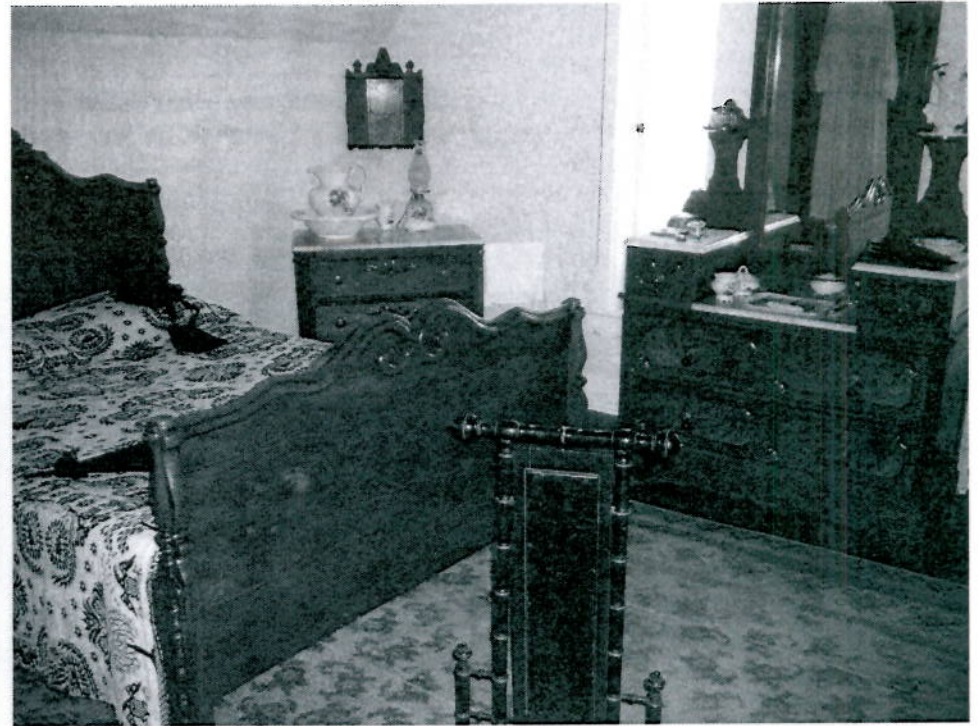


Most of the McAllisters' books were donated to the Colorado College library. Some books, still on display, belonged to the Major's son, Harry. One item of interest, which was found in one of the books, was a gift of William S. Jackson in 1963: an abstract of the court record in regard to the testimony of Major Henry McAllister at the trial to determine the heirs of the Winfield Scott Stratton estate.



Also on display in the Library is a beautiful walking stick that was a gift from the men who worked with Major McAllister in Philadelphia. The stick has a gold top inscribed with his name.

Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Master Bedroom



The east-facing bedroom is furnished as the parents' bedroom. The large pieces of furniture in the room are representative of the era, but are not original to the house. (The three children shared the second bedroom until they were older. Then the girls had one room, Harry the other, and Major and Mrs. McAllister made the library into a sleeping room until Harry went away to college in 1889.)

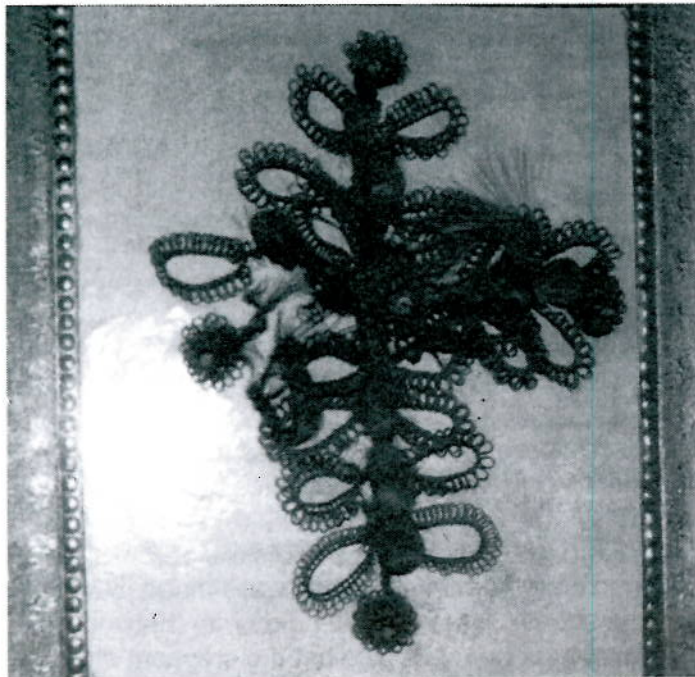
The marble topped walnut bureau was given by Mrs. James P. Shearer. Later on, the matching washstand was obtained from Mrs. Shearer's sister. The liquor case, on the wall in the corner above the washstand, is a "Duncan's Delight." A case such as this was always so named; glasses and a small bottle would be kept in it.

In the forefront is a ladies boot and shoe pull. This was used to take off shoes because the corsets ladies wore made it difficult to bend over to reach the shoes. A lady would hold on to the wood piece at the top for balance and put her shoe against the crescent-shaped piece of wood to pull off the shoe.



On the bureau are items that would have been used by ladies of the era. Of particular interest is the ceramic hair receiver. Hair was often made into a piece of mourning jewelry, and later into hair art.

An example of "hair work art" is in a framed display in the bedroom. Beginning in the 1850s through the early 1900s, hair work became a drawing room pastime. Magazines published instructions and patterns for making hair flowers, wreaths and jewelry at home.



The baby's cradle in the room is a McAllister cradle. Miss Matilda had given it to Mr. Leon Snyder, and he gave it to the museum in 1962. The cradle is a *platform rocker* cradle; the design ensuring that the rocking did not scratch the wooden floors.

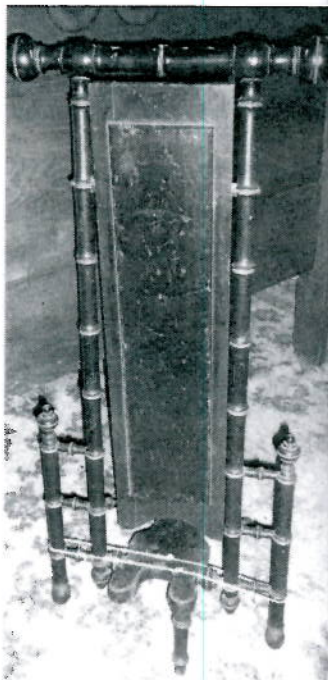


The framed photographs of Major and Mrs. McAllister, Mary and Matilda were given by the McAllister family.

In many parts of the country closets were considered rooms and were therefore taxable: houses were designed without closets which may explain why there were no closets except the one in the library. The large wardrobe, or armoire, replaced the closet's task.



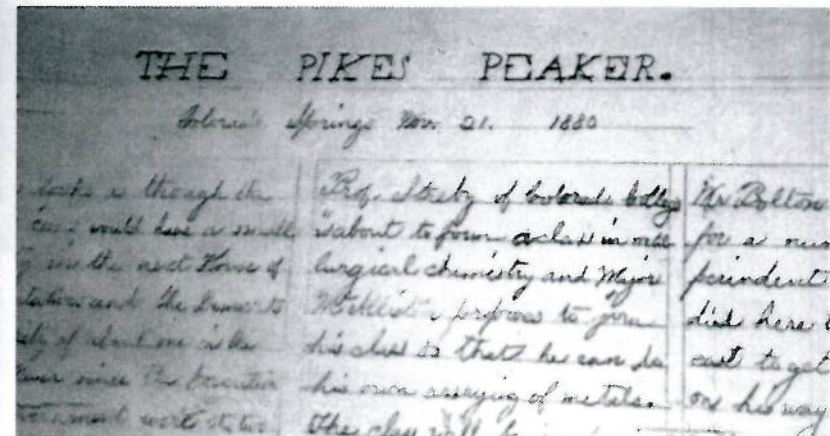
Detail of the lady's boot pull: the top bar was used for balance and the wedged piece in the front used to hook the back of the boot so it could be pulled off.



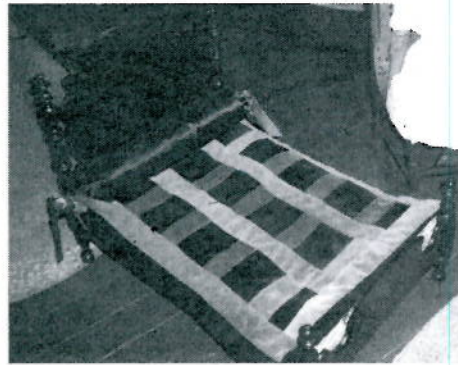
Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Children's Bedroom



This room depicts the room during the early years when the children were young. Items of note include the towel rack given by Mr. Charles Tutt and a copy of the newspaper that Harry, at age eight, wrote of his observations of happenings in his neighborhood.



The two little doll beds belonged to Vesta's aunt Alice Halliday and to Vesta's grandmother. They are typical of the period. The doll bed on the right was probably a salesman's sample.



This bed belonged to Phillip Washburn, who attended Harvard University. Upon his return to Colorado Springs, he became one of the first two rectors of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Harry used the bed and took it by train with him to college.



The large doll on the bed has been referred to as a nursing or teaching doll. It was not a toy, but rather a doll to teach women of the prairie how to take care of their babies.



"The walnut desk formerly belonged to Miss Helen Marshall and came from the Stote house. It has quite an interesting array of books on it and a slate and the books of the type which were used by children of that period. It is a beautiful desk. Yes, we are very lucky to have that desk." (Tutt)

"The chamber pot, at the base of the bed, was given by Miss Susan Emory Badger of Frisco, Colorado. She came originally from Maine and never did lose her down-east accent. She gave the chamber pot in memory of her aunt Mrs. William Dunn the widow of a Civil War general who lived in a home, which is still standing on North Cascade. Some of Mrs. Dunn's friends were horrified that Miss Badger would give such a gift in memory of



this very correct and elegant old lady." (Tutt)

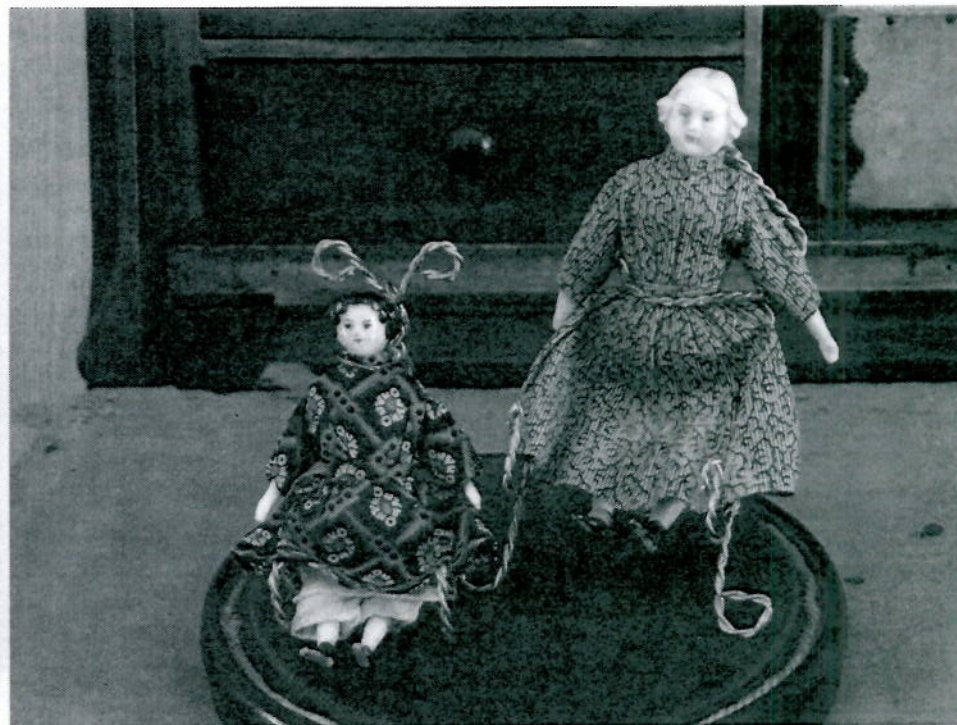
The oak rocking chair in the children's room had been in the garage of the Tutt house at 1205 North Cascade. It was used by an old sailor who used to sit in the rocker and take short naps. "No children were rocked in the rocker." (Tutt)



The pseudo-gothic chair in the children's bedroom was given by the Broadmoor Hotel Directors in memory of Mr. Penrose. "This type of chair was very popular in the middle nineteenth century." (Tutt)

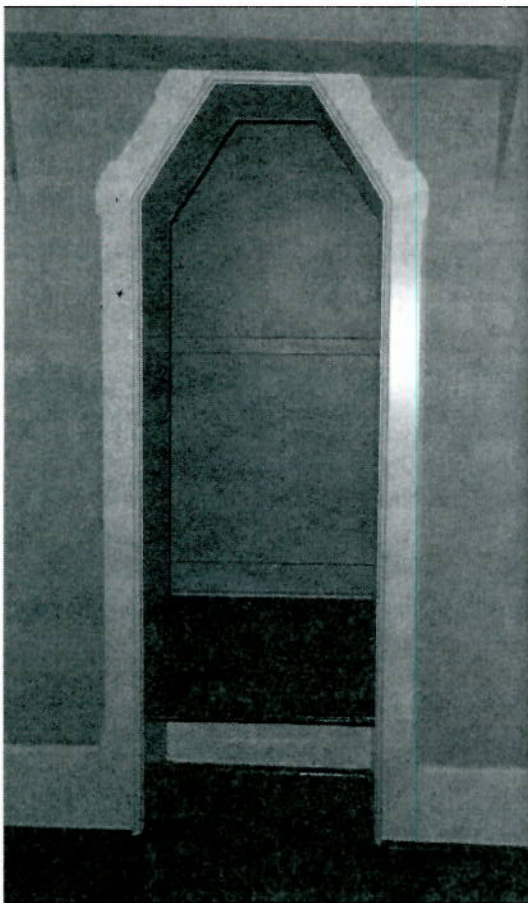


"Hettie and Lettie are the two small dolls in the children's room. They were owned by a little girl found wandering the streets of New Orleans. She was left an orphan, you see, after the yellow fever epidemic and the plague. The dolls were her only possessions. They were given us by Miss Elizabeth (Betty) McAloney because this child was adopted by someone in Betty's family. And they have always been interesting. But that's all she knew – the dolls were named Hettie and Lettie." (Tutt)



Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Attic

Access to the attic is in the hallway at the top of the stairs leading to the second floor of the house. The interesting shape of the door way to the attic, a "keyhole" doorway, is typical of Victorian times. Notice Winfield Scott Stratton's knob and notch design on the wood work around the opening.

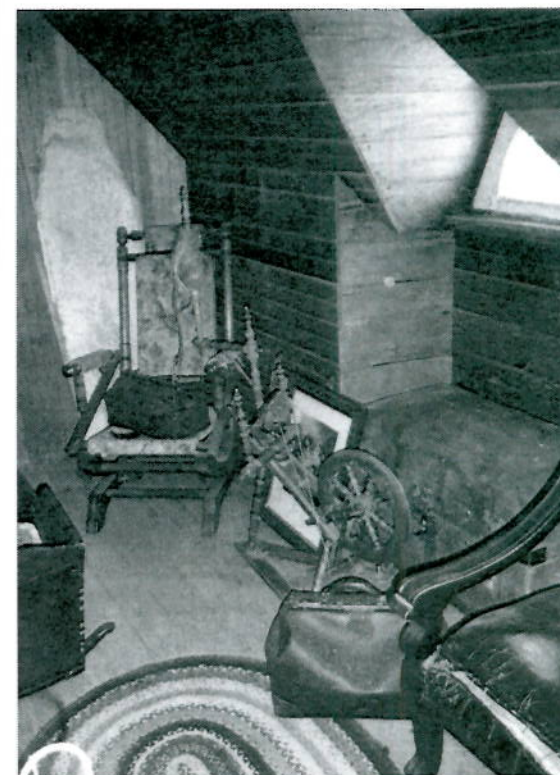


"In 1965 the lamp and shade on the wall on the landing was bought with \$50 given in memory of Mrs. Norman Campbell." (Tutt)

The east side of the attic contains a wash stand with pitcher and basin. It is on this side that the hip tub was stored when not in use in the kitchen for "Saturday night baths."



The hip tub is now on display in the kitchen.



The west side of the attic has the original tongue-and-groove cedar paneling. The items in the attic represent the different objects that might have been stored away. Seasonal changes were often made to the house; the attic space would be used to store off-season paintings, furnishings, etc. Liz Fisher (Mrs. Elizabeth Titus Fisher) donated the old leather trunk.

Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Dining Room



The dining room, often referred to as the "Little London Room," contains many fine china and silver pieces and is very typical of Colorado Springs in that time period. The number of English families attracted to Colorado Springs by General Palmer, as well as well-to-do Easterners, made early Colorado Springs quite cosmopolitan. The McAllisters were upper-middle-class and lived well, but simply, in keeping with their Quaker backgrounds.

"The back mirror on the mantel piece was brought out from Philadelphia and is from John Tutt. It hung in the Tutt home on 1205 North Cascade Avenue." (Tutt) The clock is also from the Tutt home.

"The chairs in the dining room came out from Philadelphia and were used in the Penrose house in Philadelphia. They were given by the Broadmoor Hotel Directors in memory of Mr. Spencer Penrose." (Tutt)

The walnut dining room table from Pennsylvania was given to the house by Mrs. Edward Kernochan before the museum opened.

Mrs. Helen Eyre gave the walnut sideboard in memory of Edward H. Eyre. "Mr. Leon Snyder, who was always interested in history and old houses, gave us the glass decanter which had been given to Major McAllister by his regiment." (Tutt)



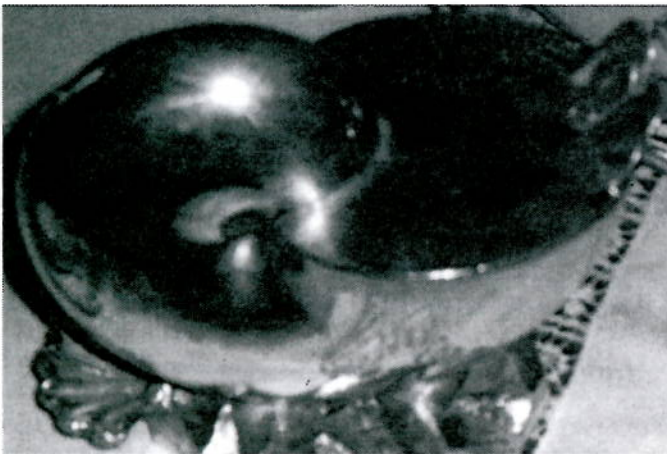
The silver service was given in 1961 by Miss Ruth Washburn in memory of Rev. Phillip and Miriam Storrs Washburn.





The hanging shelf on the north wall with three shelves was given by Mrs. Charles L. Tutt in memory of her mother, Mrs. Walter H. Wood. She purchased it on a trip through Pennsylvania.

"The spoon warmer was given by Mr. and Mrs. Thayer Tutt in memory of his mother, Eleanor Armit Tutt, who had been a Colonial Dame." (Tutt)



"Elizabeth Titus Fisher gave us the hanging lamp with the cranberry shade in memory of her mother, Mrs. Florence C. Titus. She was one of the greatest helpers in the furnishing of the house" (Tutt)



"The animal toothpick holder in the shape of a porcupine was given by Mrs. Charles L. Tutt who found it at the Fine Arts Center ABC sale." (Tutt)

Touring the Museum with Vesta Tutt: the Kitchen



When the McAllisters first occupied the house, the kitchen was in an out-building or "summer kitchen." This was a common way of decreasing smoke and heat in a house. The attached kitchen was added approximately one and one-half years after the rest of the house was built. The cupboards on the wall were "built in" and very modern for that time. (Docent Handbook)

The three-cornered sideboard, or cabinet, was given by John Tutt. The cabinet holds a set of Wedgwood stoneware. "The set of Wedgwood stoneware, brown and white, the Beatrice pattern, was given by the Broadmoor Hotel Directors in memory of Mrs. Spencer Penrose . . . [it] is dated to have been made in 1868. Mrs. Penrose used this china in the home she had at Cripple Creek."

"The kitchen table is interesting as it is one that was in the basement of Diane Thurber Ober and she was about to throw it out, and I rescued it for the kitchen." (Tutt)

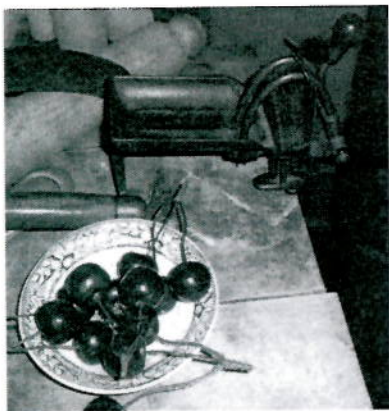
Three pieces of Britannia Ware given by Matilda McAllister sit on the shelf of the built-in cupboard. The coffee set was a wedding gift from Elizabeth's parents.



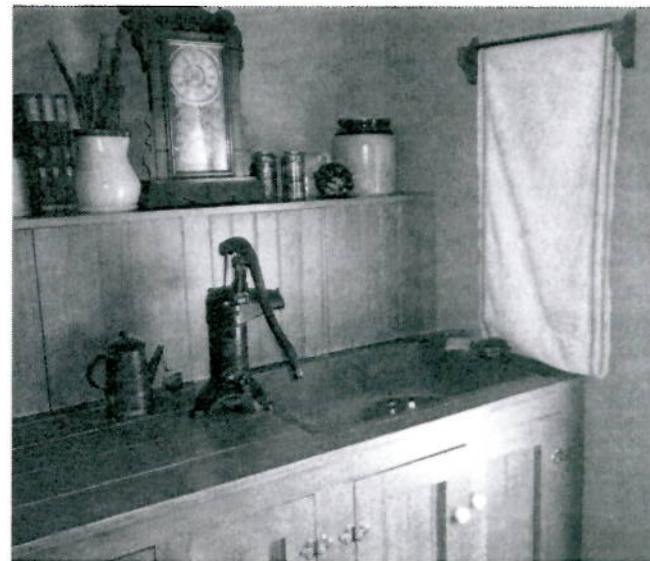
The kitchen stove was given by Mrs. Douglas McHendrie of Denver.



Mrs. Penrose's set of Wedgwood stoneware.



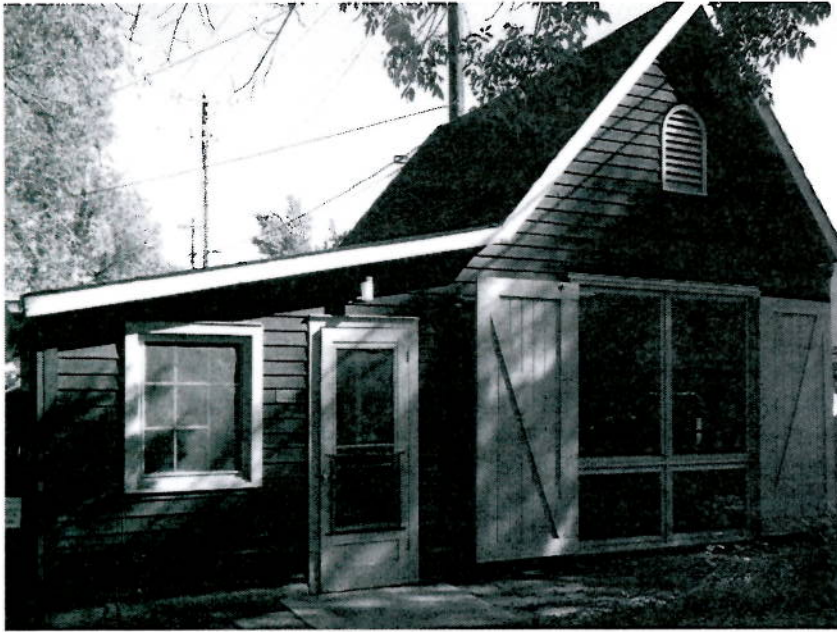
The cherry pitter, given by Mrs. John Garret, and the child-sized version of a kitchen stove, given by Mati Loa, are favorites of children who visit the museum. The stove was a travelling salesman's sample.



"The kitchen was made to look like one of the period with the pump you see at the sink." (Tutt) An old fashioned icebox is one of the current furnishings in the kitchen. This piece is not original to the house, but it is characteristic of the era of the house. Like other families, the McAllisters would put a sign in the kitchen window if they wanted the ice man to deliver ice.



Later Additions to the Museum: the Original Gift Shop and the Stable



Vesta does not mention either a gift shop or the stable in her recorded remembrances of the opening of the museum. Research into the archives of the Penrose Library provides some information about these buildings, as do recollections written by Olivia Bennett, a long-time member of the NSCDA in CO and chairman of the gift shop in 1972.

A wooden building adjacent to the kitchen door of the museum was the original gift shop for the museum. According to an article in the June 2, 1968, edition of the *Gazette Telegraph*, it was in this year that the gift shop was opened. "McAllister House now has a gift shop. Its quaint and colorful gift items are aimed to delight the public with imaginative mementos and to lift the beloved landmark out of the history category up into the present." (Aldridge, *Gazette Telegraph*) Some of the gift items for sale included Victorian china, "quaint informal stationery," cookbooks from the past, books on patchwork quilt-making and books on all phases of Colorado history. Sunbonnets, replicas of those worn by women in earlier times, and aprons with matching pot holders were also featured.

"Another feature that is new this season [1968] is the stable exhibit. Antique patchwork quilts from the McAllister House Collection will be on

permanent display along with dresses and gowns of the 1890 era." (*Gazette Telegraph*) The article doesn't provide information on the state of the stable building, or how it was converted from a stable to a building that could house exhibits.

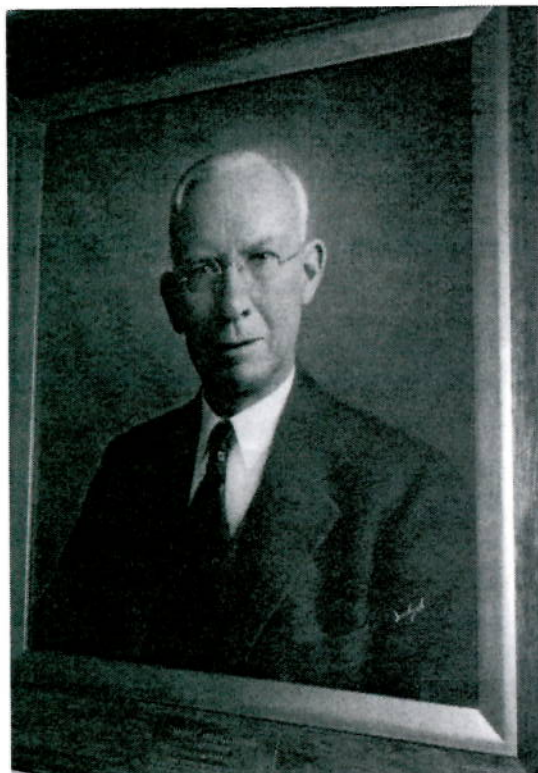
Olivia took on the job of chairman of the gift shop in 1972. The shop was still in the "ancient building behind the house." (Bennett) The gift shop was not in good condition at this point, and Olivia said she would take on the job only if she could redecorate the shop. She was given a budget of \$150 - \$250 and managed to transform the shop on this amount.

A September 1982 article in the *Gazette Telegraph*, by GT staff writer Dorothy Aldridge, tells about the restoration of the carriage house.

The wooden building behind the house, the original gift shop, was to be removed: it was not an original structure but was constructed by Fannie Robbins for storage of supplies for her candy business. The gift items would be transferred into the original carriage house, and the gift shop incorporated with the permanent displays in the carriage house. Jane Bland and Frances Henry, NSCDA in CO members, were co-chairmen of the restoration committee. Mrs. Bland commented on the plans to restore the carriage house. "When all this will be accomplished depends on available money . . . Most of the siding on the carriage house will have to be replaced and the wooden doors may have to be replaced if a careful inspection indicates they aren't in good shape. The area behind the doors will be glassed to let more light into the gift shop, with the doors being opened and closed like shutters. In addition . . . the windows will have to be redone because they're not of the same shape as those in use during the Victorian era." (Aldridge, *Gazette Telegraph*)

The restoration of the carriage house was completed in December 1983 and included the addition of a bathroom and small kitchen.

Today the carriage house still contains a gift shop and permanent quilt displays. It is rented out for small parties and functions, and tea is served when scheduled "Tour and Tea" events take place. Guests who tour the museum are invited back to the carriage house to see additional pictures of the McAllisters, Victorian memorabilia and lovely quilts.



A portrait of Henry (Harry) McAllister, 1872 – 1954, which formerly hung in the Court House Law Library, is now proudly displayed in the carriage house. The inscription on the gold plate attached to the frame reads, in part "The Law is My Life."

Small handmade quilts are for sale, and a beautiful quilt from the collection is on display.



List of Donations/Donors Identified by Vesta

The items/donors identified by Vesta on the tapes are not a complete account of the McAllister-owned items in the museum or of all items in the museum. That list is available in the Accessions book maintained by the museum and the NSCDA in CO.

Items from McAllister, Tutt, Broadmoor, El Pomar, Thatcher, Palmer

Hallway

Pier glass mirror: Mrs. George Thatcher

Thirty-seven-Star Flag: Josephine Tutt Mills in memory of her mother

Parlor

Pillow with bobbins: Matilda McAllister

Blue settee: McAllister Family

Hassock: McAllister Family

Melodeon: Matilda McAllister

Piano stool: McAllister Family

Purple lamp: Vesta Tutt

2 Victorian carved back chairs: Matilda McAllister

Bible: McAllister Family

Library

Yellow lamp: McAllister Family

Couch: Tutt House

Library table: McAllister Family

2 Leather-covered chairs: McAllister Family

Oil painting over fireplace: in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Tutt Sr.

Crewel curtains: Tutt House Attic

Major McAllister's Saber and Sword: McAllister Family

Desk: from Summit county in Memory of Charles L. Tutt

Fireplace screen: Charles L. Tutt Jr.

Bookshelves: John Tutt

Chair (matches dining room chairs): Broadmoor Hotel Directors

Brown Stalk: El Pomar Directors in memory of Spencer Penrose

Dining Room

Curtains: from Cripple Creek home of Charles L. Tutt Sr.

Glass Decanter: Leon Snyder – given to Maj. McAllister by his Regiment

4 Chairs: Broadmoor Hotel Directors in memory of Spencer Penrose

Back Mirror on Mantle: John Tutt

Clock on Mantle: John Tutt

Sideboard in North East Corner: John Tutt

Animal Toothpick Holder: Mrs. Charles L. Tutt
Hanging Shelf on North Wall: Mrs. Charles L. Tutt
Chair on west wall next to sideboard: McAllister Family
Spoon Warmer: Mr. & Mrs. Thayer Tutt

Kitchen

Britannia Ware (3 pieces): Matilda McAllister
Three-Cornered sideboard/cabinet: John Tutt
Chair behind door: Mrs. Tutt
Large shredder for cabbage: Mrs. Tutt
Wedgewood Stoneware, Beatrice pattern: Broadmoor Hotel Directors in memory of Mrs. Spencer Penrose

Parents' Bedroom

McAllister cradle: Leon Snyder; given to him by Matilda McAllister
Silver framed family photos: McAllister family

Children's Bedroom

Doll with red hair: belonged to General Palmer's family
Two doll beds: Vesta Tutt
Pseudo-gothic chair: Broadmoor Hotel Directors
Towel rack: Mr. Charles Tutt
Chest of drawers: Mrs. Sherman McAllister
Oak rocking chair: Tutt House
Brown's doll: El Pomar Foundation members in memory of Spencer Penrose

Additional Donations/Donors Identified by Vesta

Hallway

Oriental rug: Helen Eyre
Hanging Light: Carolyn Brown

Parlor

What-Not-Shelf: Elizabeth Hamlin
Snow scene picture: Mrs. Harold (Charlotte) Gile
Bristol blue glass vases, gilt metal holders: Mrs. Edward Kernochan
Rug: "Dame"
2 Chairs upholstered with red velvet: Thurber house
Tall walnut table with green marble: Martha Grayman
"Other table:" from Cuthbert, GA
Footstool with picture of house: Diane Thurber's mother
Scrapbook: Mrs. James P. Shearer
Table with scrapbook: Ethel Ammerman Hawks

Picture of mother and child: Mrs. Henry Newman
Black figure on mantle: Mrs. Douglas McHendrie
Rug: Mrs. Elizabeth (Liz) Titus Fisher
Brussels carpet: Elizabeth (Liz) Titus Fisher
Paisley shawl on couch: Elizabeth Titus Fisher

Library

Footstool: estate of Mrs. Norman Campbell
Picture of summer scene: in memory of Mrs. Walter H. Wood
Chair upholstered in crewel work: Mrs. Roy (Fran) Bayless
Brass dragon candlesticks with Chinese figures: Helen Eyre
Single black candlestick: Helen Eyre
Clock: Elizabeth Hillborne
Red metal Tole matchbox: Hazel Seymour
Bronze lamp with round glass globe: Mrs. Alfred Brown
Various volumes in bookshelves: Mrs. Alfred Brown
Abstract of court record in regard to the testimony of Major Henry McAllister at the trial to determine the heirs of the Winfield Scott Stratton estate: William S. Jackson

Dining Room

Portrait of Mrs. Thurber: Diane Thurber, frame from Abby Kernochan
Egg cups, spoons, silver basket: Mrs. Alfred Heinicke
Silver napkin ring with bird on it: Mrs. Alfred Heinicke
Silver plated and glass epergne: Mrs. Alfred Heinicke
Walnut dining table: Mrs. Edward Kernochan
Walnut sideboard: Helen Eyre
Cherry gate-leg table: Mrs. Myron Blackmer
2 Mahogany chairs: Mrs. Thomas N. Gimpering
Chair by table: Mrs. Myron Blackmer
Silver plated egg holder: Mrs. Edward Kernochan
Silver punch ladle: Mrs. Edward Kernochan
2 salt cellars: Mrs. Edward Kernochan
Silver service on sideboard: Mrs. Ruth Washburn
Hanging lamp with cranberry shade: Elizabeth Titus Fisher
Oval napkin ring: Elizabeth Titus Fisher
Rose satin overlay glass pitcher: estate of Mrs. Norman Campbell
Caster with 5 bottles: Miss Helen Marshall
Blue Chinese bowl: Miss Helen Marshall
4 gold and white soup plates: Miss Helen Marshall

Kitchen

Kitchen stove: Mrs. Douglas McHendrie
Bean pot, spice box, coal scuttle: Mrs. Douglas McHendrie

Roller towel rack and roller towel: Mrs. Alfred Heinicke
Flour sack by Eagle Roller Mill Co.: Mrs. Alfred Heinicke
Iron muffin mold: Elizabeth Titus Fisher
Grey enamel ironstone pitcher: Elizabeth Titus Fisher
Butter crock: Elizabeth Titus Fisher
Food chopper: purchased at Fine Art Center ABC sale
Kitchen table: Diane Thurber
Bread slicer, waffle iron, butter paddle: Augusta Holmes
Cherry seeder: Mrs. John Garret
Cake pan, cookie cutter: Mrs. Burton Smead Jr.
Blue stoneware pie plate: Mrs. Burton Smead Jr.
3 pieces Wedgewood Stoneware, brown and white Beatrice pattern: Mrs. Lester McCoy

Upstairs Hall

Lamp and shade on the wall: in memory of Mrs. Norman Campbell

Parents' Bedroom

Bed: Minnie Washburn Adams
3 glasses in liquor case: Mrs. Alfred Heinicke
Marble topped walnut bureau: Mrs. James P. Shearer
Matching washstand: Mrs. James P. Shearer
High back rocking chair: Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Smith

Children's Bedroom

Hettie and Lettie dolls: Miss Elizabeth McAloney
Walnut desk: from the Stote house
Walnut wardrobe: Mrs. Carl Dohlivitz
Wash stand: Mrs. Walter Bybee's father
Baby carriage: Mrs. Harold Gile
Small doll cradle: Mrs. Floyd Johnson
Spode tea set: Mrs. Marshall Geer
Chamber pot: Miss Susan Emory Badger
Table with round felt drop: Mrs. Harold Hildreth

Attic

Leather trunk: Elizabeth Titus Fisher

Carriage House

Sideboard: Mrs. Edward Kernochan
Framed Fragment of the flag that flew over Fort Sumter at the time of its surrender: Austin White in memory of his grandmother, Julia Watson

List of Sources Cited/Used

Aldridge, Dorothy, "McAllister House Renews Victorian Look," *Gazette Telegraph*, September 19, 1982

Docent Handbook, McAllister House Museum

Stote, Helen, "Colonial Dames Restore Major McAllister House," *Free Press of Colorado Springs*, February 26, 1961

Stote, Helen, "McAllister House Holds Formal Opening," *Free Press of Colorado Springs*, June 21, 1961

Tutt, Vesta, Audio Cassette Tapes of Interview re Museum, mid-1970s, transcribed with help of Tim Blevins and Katie Rudolph, Special Collections dept., Penrose Library, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2010