



Trianon Walking Tour

The Gravel Path – Looking at the Mountains

Start your tour on the quad facing the Trianon. Note that the Baldwins' guests would have arrived by carriage (or perhaps later by car) entering on Hutton Lane through the metal gates, proceeding west past the pond and then looping up the incline (now a wall and stairs between the El Pomar Academic Center and Maytag Dining Hall) to suddenly view the building! The carriage would proceed along the current gravel path and past the building to the front, and after guests were received, the carriage would head to the carriage house where the horses were tended.

The Terrace

- Formerly made with marble, the terrace surface was replaced with concrete several years ago
- Note the exterior wall surface; the building has withstood a century of Colorado weather thanks to the terra cotta surface applied to the exterior stone blocks.
- The balustrade along the roof line was falling apart and allowing water into the interior of the building before being restored in 2002 thanks to a grant from the Colorado State Historic Fund and matching gifts from loyal CSS donors.
- Note the repeating design over the doors done in classical style: symbolism of music, the hunt, and war.
- All these doors would have opened out to the terrace, but age and weather have made many of them impassable. We are raising funds to restore all 72 windows and doors in the building over the next few years, and will start with these and others facing west.
- Our graduations take place here, with the graduating seniors seated on the terrace facing their proud families and friends seated on the quad. In addition, we have held other events and benefit concerts here, including the enormously popular Broadmoor Pops on the Quad concert done as a benefit for the Trianon's restoration.

Fountain Room (NW corner off the Terrace)

- This room was a breakfast room.
- It's the only family room on this floor without a fireplace, so it would have been used when the weather was nice.
- The lattice work on the walls is original.
- The ceilings in these rooms facing the mountains go all the way to the roof, so they are 19 feet high.
- Imagine having breakfast in this room on a sunny Colorado morning, with all the doors and windows open to the beautifully landscaped grounds, and with tropical plants and trees.
- Now a classroom

Dining Room (Versailles Room)

- This is the original dining room.
- The northeast door went to an enormous butler's pantry where the china, crystal, and serving dishes were held. It's now our tech director's office, and all those shelves and drawers are perfect for storing his gadgets.
- The door to the southeast went down to the billiards room, where the gentlemen would go after dinner, leaving the ladies to one of the living rooms.
- Notice the mirrors: this is one of two rooms with infinity mirrors in this house. That's not a common feature in American homes, and is also seen in the grand antebellum homes in the south. See if you can get in a position to view your image ad infinitum.
- The panels above the doors originally held paintings in the tradition of Fragonard, but were deemed unsuitable for schoolgirls, and so were painted over in the 1960s.
- The chandelier is ormolu, perhaps bronze on wood, and has its own steel beam in the ceiling to hold it up. It is believed to have been given to the Baldwins as a wedding present from Czar Nicholas II. Charles had many ties to Russia, especially through his father who was admiral of the Pacific fleet for the US Navy in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and when the monarchy fell in the revolution, he supported charities that helped displaced Russians.
- The beautiful marble fireplace and serving tables are heavily carved.
- The Baldwins held very elegant dinners in this room, but it is reported that the candles would sometimes drip down onto the ladies' bare shoulders as they sat at table.
- We use this for a conference room, and for rentals for private and corporate dinner parties.

Small Salon (Claremont Room)

- This was the Small Salon, or small living room.
- Notice the beautifully carved plaster cartouches. They hold carvings of LaFontaine's fables. His fables were drawn from Aesop's fables and when our first graders are studying fables, they come in here to see if they can identify which story is in which cartouche.
- The chandelier is 18th century Waterford, and was converted to electricity.
- Be sure to take a look at the door hardware. Some of it is extremely elaborate, especially on the doors between this room and the Grand Salon. Notice the detail even high up on the French doors, where no one would have noticed them.
- Every detail in this house is amazing. Even the fireboxes are beautifully cast iron.
- The marble in all of the downstairs fireplaces you'll see tonight is different in each room.

Grand Salon (Terrace Room)

- This was the large living room, or grand salon, of the home.
- It housed a large proportion of the Baldwins' fantastic art collection, including paintings, sculpture, books, tapestries, rugs, furniture, and objets d'art.

- The walls are covered in fabric, not wallpaper, and were originally covered in a rose damask. The woodwork was darker.
- The chandeliers came from a Spanish church and are original to the house. Notice the faces on them.
- The carved plaster in the moulding represents themes found on the outside of the house of hunt, war, and music; these themes are also found in the Grand Trianon at Versailles.
- Notice the pineapples in the plaster brackets.
- It's reported that Mrs. Baldwin would have teas on Sunday afternoons. If you were issued an invitation, but did not show, on Monday morning you would receive a card inquiring after your health.
- This room is now used for casual student gatherings, meetings and for larger events like parties and weddings. In the early days of the school, all of the girls met here for their morning meeting.

Library

- Mr. Baldwin was a scholar and knew several languages. His book collection included a number of first editions and five pages from a Gutenberg Bible, which he later sold for \$150 apiece (!). Colorado State University purchased Mr. Baldwin's library when the contents of the house were sold.
- Be sure to notice the entwined initials in the medallions on the cast iron railing of the gallery. "C" and "V" stood for Charles and Virginia, and you can see these initials in the ironwork grilles on the windows. This idea was lifted from the Grand Trianon, where Louis had double "L's" entwined. You'll also see it in the interior gates in the rotunda on your way out of the house.
- Charles believed that if you could not sleep, you should at least be able to read, so all of the family, guests and even servants had easy access to the library. The door down here goes into the hallway where there were guest rooms. His room opened up into the library, and in the corner of the gallery were two doors; one led in from the upstairs guest room hallway, and the other led directly from a three-room suite. Those doorways have been converted to bookcases now.
- At the top of the bookshelves, the moulding is made of plaster—even though it looks like wood, it's plaster. Likewise, the shell at the top of the spiral staircase is plaster, not wood.
- Show the picture of Mrs. Baldwin.
- The symmetry of the house even extended to hidden places. This door is a secret bookcase, but was not meant as much for safe storage as it was meant to keep the two-door entry theme from one end of the house to the other.
- Show them Mr. Baldwin's relatively modest bedroom, then direct them down the hall to Mrs. Baldwin's bedroom.

Mrs. Baldwin's Bedroom (Green Room)

- Mrs. Baldwin was the one with the money, and her bedroom shows it.
- The marble fireplace is Carrara marble, reported to have come from the same quarry as Michelangelo's David.
- The chandelier is 18th century Waterford, converted to electricity.
- The panels over the windows and doors held paintings, painted over by a prudent schoolmistress.
- Her bed would have been here on this plain wall; the wall was covered in fabric. She had a canopy attached high up on the wall much like those you find in royal bedrooms.
- Here's everyone's favorite part: her jewelry safe. Tucked inside here still are the pink velvet-lined trays that held her jewels. Show the jewel trays.
- On your way out, be sure to notice the little room to the right: it was their bathroom, and under the floor is a marble bathtub that matches the pink marble mantelpiece.

Campbell Gallery (South Hallway across from the Admission Office)

A good place to end the tour is here where the archival exhibit is displayed. Compare some of the historical photos with the current look of rooms, the building or the aerial shots.

Rotunda

On your way out, be sure to go out through the rotunda. It was their foyer, and held a sculpture in the center of the room and tapestries attached to the panels in the walls. If you stand on one side of the room and whisper, the person on the exact opposite side of the room can hear you.

Support the care and keeping of the historic Trianon! If you are a fan of historic buildings or of this building and its local history in particular, consider making a charitable gift to the Trianon Restoration Fund at www.css.org/give.