

# The Yak and Yeti



## History:

In 1864 Eli Allen built a one story frame house (24 x 27) with a board floor and cellar under the house. This cellar appears to still exist under the east side of the present house.

Eli was the second Postmaster of Arvada, having taken over from his predecessor Benjamin Wadsworth in 1882. Eli operated the post office from his home until 1889.

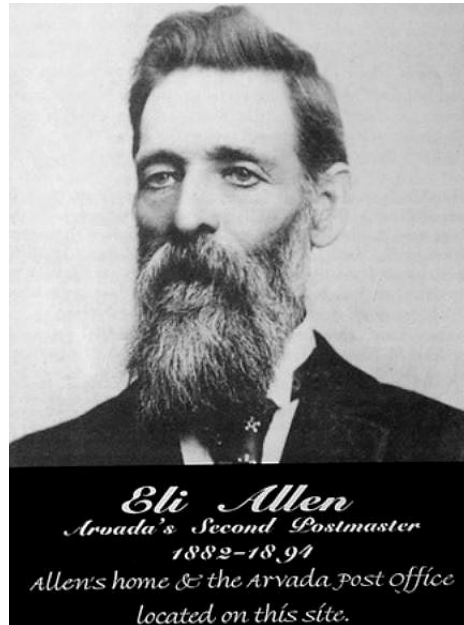
Eli also maintained race horses in a large stable on the property.

Eli was instrumental in the development of the Highline Canal, bringing water to crops in the area as early as 1863.

Eli's son, C. Irwin Allen took over the property in 1891 and in preparation for his upcoming marriage upgraded the house (or possibly replaced it) to a brick structure.

Irwin passed away unexpectedly at the age of 28, leaving the unfinished house and property to his new bride, Jennie. Photographs of the house from that time period show the distinctive "fish-scale" shingles, roof pitch and carved boards that are still visible today.

In 1894, the independently wealthy Elias W. VanVoohis came to Colorado for health reasons. While on a buggy ride along Ralston Road, his young bride Cora spotted the house. The stopped and convinced the widow Allen to sell the property.



The VanVoohis completed the construction and hired a Denver architect to design an addition, which was completed in 1895. The two sides of the house were joined at the tower, creating the look of the house today.

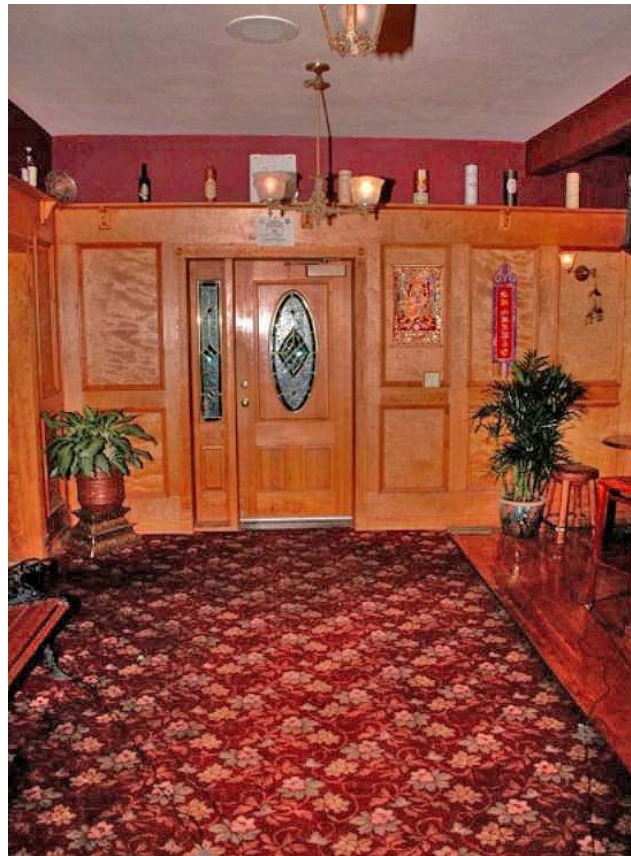


**The bar**

Cora and Elias had twin daughters, but only one survived (Elizabeth who they called Betty). Betty Married Milton "Nic" Nicholson, who was part of a well-known family of Masons and builders who were responsible for the construction of many of the churches in the area.

Cora VanVoohis' sister, mother and Uncle Ned lived in the house. Uncle Ned used to take refuge from all of the women in the tower room, which he called his "sanctuary". Ned, Cora's mother, sister and her husband Elias eventually passed away, leaving the house with just Cora, Betty, Nic and their son and daughter.

In 1929 a fire was started by "baby mice playing with wooden matches" (so said the Arvada fire marshal), which caused extensive damage to the east side of the house, including destruction of the balconies. Cora saved the children by wrapping them in wet sheets and carrying them downstairs through the smoke and flames.



**Entrance area with the "Vortex"**

Nic and Betty used to celebrate their birthdays together each year (Nic's was on September 1 and Betty's was on September 2) with an all-night party, beginning with a stuffed pork chop dinner in the upstairs dining room the off for dancing until midnight at the Trocadero Ballroom at Elitch Gardens, then back to the house for Date cake. Bridge parties were also popular in the upstairs dining room.



Cora died in the 19640's when she fell down the stairs in the home. Nic and Betty's daughter Katie (Katherine) reported visits from Cora's ghost just after the funeral. They also said that they would see their Uncle Fred's ghost in the home.



**One of the original versions of the building**

The original 1895 hardwood floors are preserved in many areas and what is not the "smoking room" was once Cora's washroom and summer kitchen, where she canned her famous peaches



**Another view of the home in the early days**

After the death of her mother, Betty divorced Nic, cut down the trees and modernized the house. She sub-divided the thirty-three-acre homestead and sold lots, then she turned the home into apartments.

She expanded the quarters by dragging the old chicken coop across the yard and attaching it to the rear of the house, where it houses the kitchen and restrooms today.



**The "Vortex"**

Katie lived in an apartment in the old barn, when she graduated from college.

Over the years the home became increasingly run-down and in need of major repairs, since the money was not available it was gutted and made ready for demolition. However, in 1997 a group of investors / contractors bought the property and spent three years of their own labor restoring it.

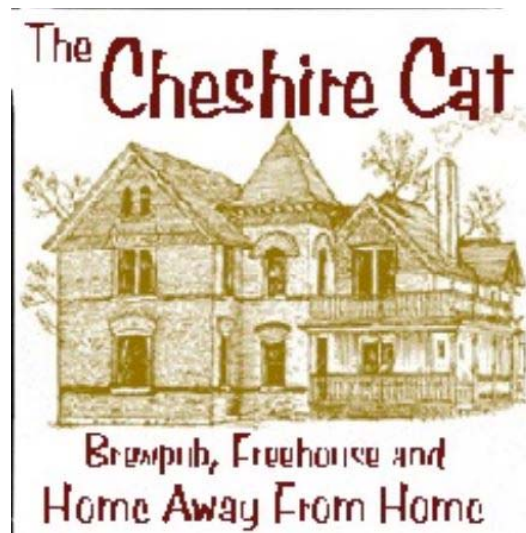
In 1982 the building was purchased to become the Cheshire Cat Brewpub. The Brewpub featured an English style menu with its own brewery.



**The Chicken Coop**

In 2008, the property was purchased to become the Yak and Yeti Brewpub.

**Reported paranormal activity:**



It has been reported by employees and guests that they have seen a woman falling down the stairway.

The employees claim that they will hear people and see shadows around the building after hours when there is nobody else in the building.

When Nic was a young boy, he said that his grandmother would come into his room, sit at the end of the bed and talk to him at night.

A contractor was working in the building in 2008 late at night, when he says that he was scratched by something while working on the bar. He says that the minute that he changed the music from loud rock to something more peaceful the room “felt” better and he had no other interactions.



**Dining room on second floor**

Several “Ghost hunting” teams visited the building over the years and most claimed that they found a “vortex” of EMF at the bottom of the stairs. They claimed that this is where the spirits would enter and exit the building.

**In July 2008 we were contacted about reported paranormal activity in the building.**

Our first investigation was conducted on July 4, 2008.

We arrived at the location at 9:00 p.m. and setup and baseline readings were completed by 11:00 p.m. We started monitoring at 11:00 p.m.



**Upstairs library area**

The first thing that we addressed was the “vortex”. We found a very strong EMF field in the area near the bottom of the stairs. This was discovered to be caused by a large amount of unshielded wiring that was part of the alarm system. We temporarily disabled the system and the “vortex” went away.



**One of the final remodels of the house**

Baxter went up to spend some time in “Nic’s room” and stated that he heard something that he disrobed as “someone thumping the light fixture”. When he got up to figure out what it was the noise moved to another fixture, he followed the sound to three different fixtures but never could find out what was causing it.

After a while Baxter decided to come back to the base location and exited the room. When he left the room, a chair that was at one of the tables in the room appeared to defy gravity and lift up by itself.



After two years of testing ideas we finally discovered what had caused the chair to move. It was a combination of the angle of the camera and the chair rocking forward as Baxter left the room. His movement caused enough vibration that the chair fell forward, which from the cameras perspective made the chair appear to defy gravity.

**Conclusion:**

The location has some fun stories, but in all of the claims that we have been able to test, we have always been able to come up with mundane explanations.



**The chair leg that moved**