

FULTON MANSION

STATE HISTORIC SITE

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

WELCOME TO THE FULTON MANSION

This leaflet is designed to help you find original Fulton artifacts and interesting pieces in the rooms as you walk through on your tour.

Things to note:

- This home was built with many conveniences that were available in large cities at the time but were rare in this part of Texas. The Fultons enjoyed modern innovations such as gas lighting, indoor plumbing, and central heating.
- The fireplaces are the heat registers for the central heating system. A Coleman furnace located in the basement provided hot air which rose through a duct system that led to a flue centered in each chimney stack. Also, all the mantels are made of slate and were faux painted to look like marble or ebony with gold or turquoise inlay. Each room has a different design.



The first and second floors are open to the public. The staff offices are located on the third floor. During the Fulton's time, the third floor had three bedrooms and another bathroom.

The rooms may change depending on the seasons and special exhibits. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the things you see, please ask a guide.

FIRST FLOOR



LIBRARY

Used as George's office and also as a gathering place for gentlemen after dining.

Original Fulton items:

- Library table
- Bookcase with complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica (on right side)
- Mantel mirror

Items of Interest:

- To right of doorway:
 - Picture of duck made from real feathers (also original to Fultons)
 - Picture of bridge between Covington, Kentucky and Cincinnati, Ohio that George helped build when he was an engineer for the railroad companies. This bridge is still in operation today.



PARLOR

This room was used as a gathering place for family and friends. Parlor games, playing the piano, viewing pictures through stereoscope, and scrap-booking were popular pastimes enjoyed in the Victorian parlor. The Victorians' love of nature is reflected in the art themes of fruit, flowers, and animals. This theme can be seen throughout the house.

Items of Interest:

- Back Wall:
 - Left of windows, photo of Harriet Fulton (approximately age 68)
 - Right of windows, photo of George Fulton (approximately age 80)
- Left Wall:
 - Small oval picture of Henry Smith (Harriet's father)
 - Picture beneath oval on the left – son - James Charles
 - Picture on right – son - George William
- The mantel mirror is original.



DINING ROOM

Family and guests ate three meals a day with each meal lasting about an hour. The kitchen was in the basement. Also, the laundry room, furnace for the heating system, and water cisterns were located in the basement.

Original Fulton items:

- The china (rose band pattern with letter "F"), some silverware and napkin rings.
- Three dining room chairs (two in bay window and one at head of table). Harriet had 18 dining room chairs.
- Minton tile floor
- Chandelier

Also of interest:

- Highchair folds into a stroller and a rocking chair. (When the table is set for a formal dinner, the rocking chair is not on exhibit.)
- The door behind the screen leads to the Butler's Pantry where the servants used a dumbwaiter to bring food up from the basement.



SECOND FLOOR



SITTING ROOM

(first door to the right of stairs)

The sitting room was the gathering place for Harriet, her daughters, daughters-in-law, and her grandchildren. It was used for visiting, sewing, reading, etc.

Items of interest:

- Cup and saucer on small table near window on left belonged to Harriet. George gave it to her on their 50th wedding anniversary.
- Sofa and two chairs upholstered in horsehair.
- During the summer, pieces of lace made by Harriet are on the center table.
- The picture above the fireplace is the cover of a seed catalog from a company Harriet ordered seeds for her garden.



HOLDEN BEDROOM

(first bedroom on hallway to the right)

Both of the Fulton daughters (Annie and Hattie) married brothers (Eldridge and Charles Holden). At different times, the daughters and their families lived in the Mansion. Annie Holden gave birth to a baby daughter while living here.

Items of interest:

- Original sink in corner with Tennessee red marble top.
- Picture of four generations of Fulton women on table – Hattie; Hattie's daughter, Nannie; Nannie's daughter, Gillette and Harriet.
- Picture of Annie (facing out of the room, to the left of the doorway).

The color red was the color for babies during this period. Pink and blue became common in the 1920s and originally pink was for boys and blue was for girls.



MASTER BEDROOM

This was George and Harriet's bedroom. It is also where Harriet tended to her correspondence and household business.

Items of interest:

- Bed belonging to George and Harriet and in which he died at the age of 83.
- Roses and leaves in the Memorial Wreath picture to right of doorway made of real human hair.
- During the winter, Harriet's opera cape is on the rocker.



BATHROOM

One of the two and a half bathrooms in the house. This was the first house in the area to have indoor plumbing. The Mansion had three flush toilets with a septic tank buried outside.

Items of interest:

- Copper-lined tub (the water source was rain water collected off the roof)
- Original toilet roll holder belonging to the Fultons.
- Onionskin toilet paper (on vanity to the right) approximately 100 years old
- Shellcrete floor

GIFT SHOP/EXHIBIT ROOM

The home went through many years of decay; however the State decided to leave this room in its pre-restoration condition to show the construction methods as well as the deterioration and extent of the restoration efforts. All gift shop purchases directly support the Mansion.

Items of interest:

- Wall to right of doorway shows inner wall construction of pine planks stacked and staggered for strength. The pine planks measure 1 1/2 by 5 inches.
- Floor to left of doorway shows pine planks laid on their sides and staggered for strength with crushed oyster shell on top for fireproofing, soundproofing, and insect control.
- Ceiling above doorway shows iron I-beams in floors and ceilings.
- Exhibit panels show the gas lighting, heating and ventilation, and water systems used in the house.
- Small exhibit panels show map of acreage of cattle concern, owners' list, and postcard of Mansion as a trailer park.