

[Back](#)

About this Tour

○○○



Beaver Historic Courthouse Museum



21

Beaver County Historic Courthouse was designed by architect Richard K.A. Kletting in the Queen Ann Victorian style. Union soldier William Stokes, stationed at nearby Fort Cameron, oversaw construction which began in 1876 and was completed in 1882. The original cost of construction was \$10,900.

The three-storied courthouse has a deep

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[Back](#)[About this Tour](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUPPORT

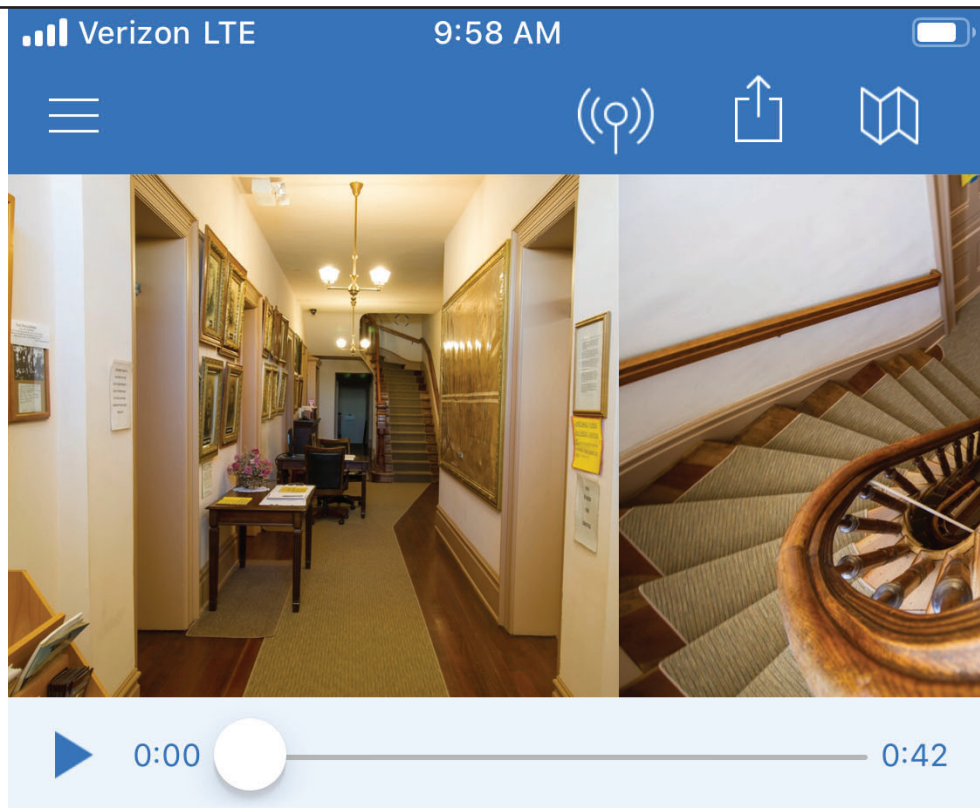
The activity that is the subject of this [type of publication] has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the State Historic Preservation Office of Utah. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

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[Start Tour](#)

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1) Front Hallway & Staircase

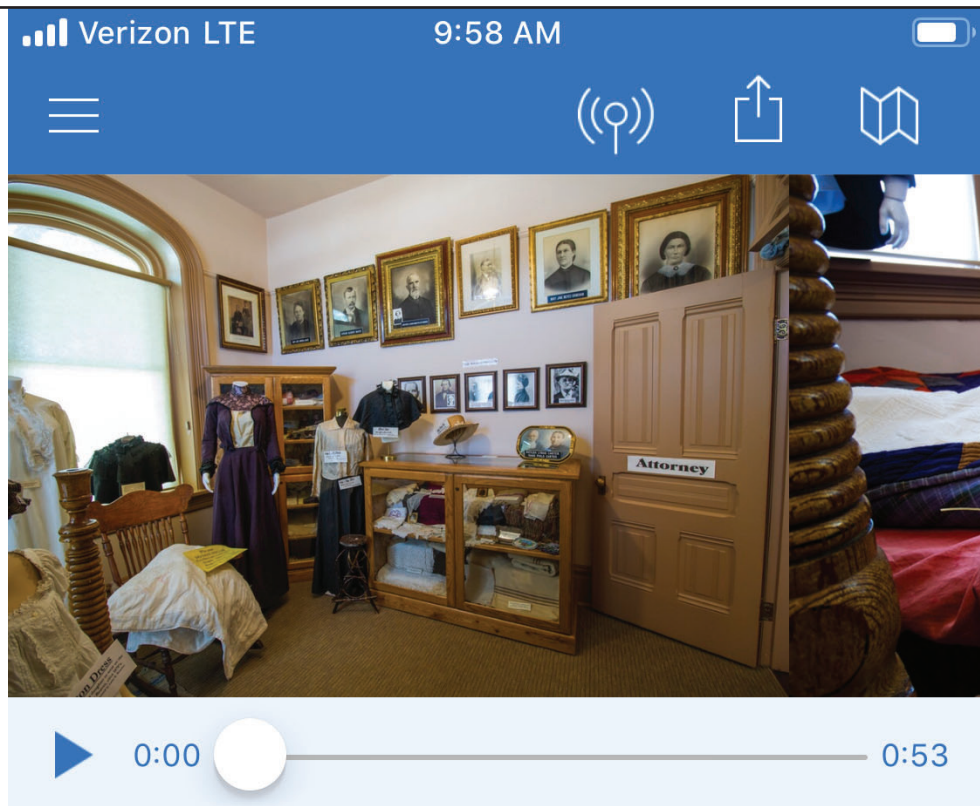
Welcome to the front hallway of the courthouse. Photographs of some of the early pioneers who settled Beaver, Utah are hung through the hall. In one of the display cases, you will see a silver sacramental service (pictured above) used in the old Beaver Stake House. The set was made in 1886 and was owned by Martha Beaumont who donated it to the museum in 1956.

[Previous](#)

Stop 2 of 21

[Next](#)

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2) Bedroom & Old Attorney Office

This room was an attorney's room when the building still functioned as a courthouse. It has been decorated like a typical bedroom from an early to mid-1800s pioneer home. The 4-post bed was hand carved and bound with a rope to hold up the straw mattress.

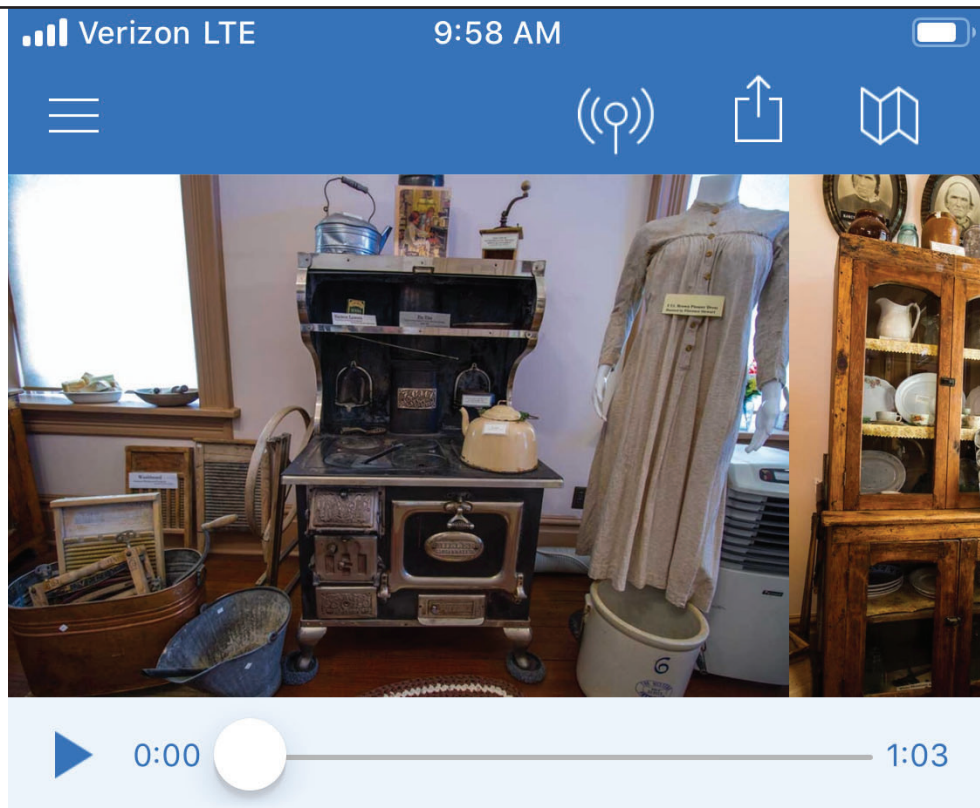
The room also contains trunks which were

[Previous](#)

Stop 3 of 21

[Next](#)

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3) Kitchen & Old Assessors Office

When this building was a functioning court house, this was the assessor's office. The county **assessor** estimates the value of real and personal property in their jurisdiction which is used to help calculate property taxes.

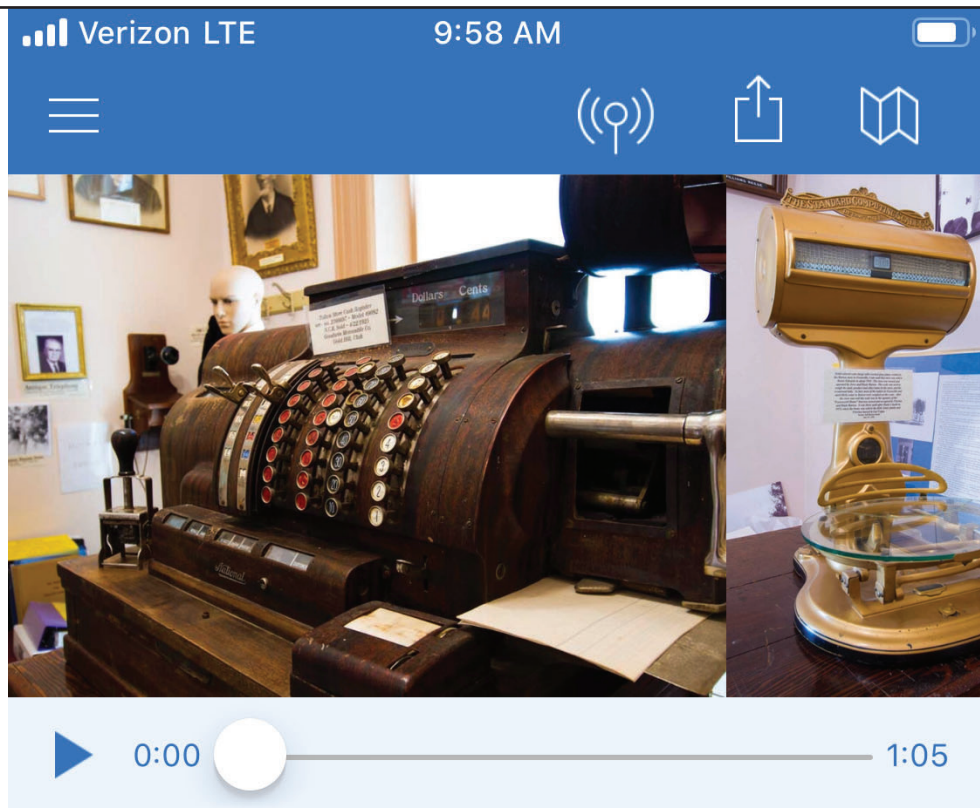
The room now represents a pioneer kitchen. Pioneers had to grow and make most of

[Previous](#)

Stop 4 of 21

[Next](#)

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4) Store & Treasures Office

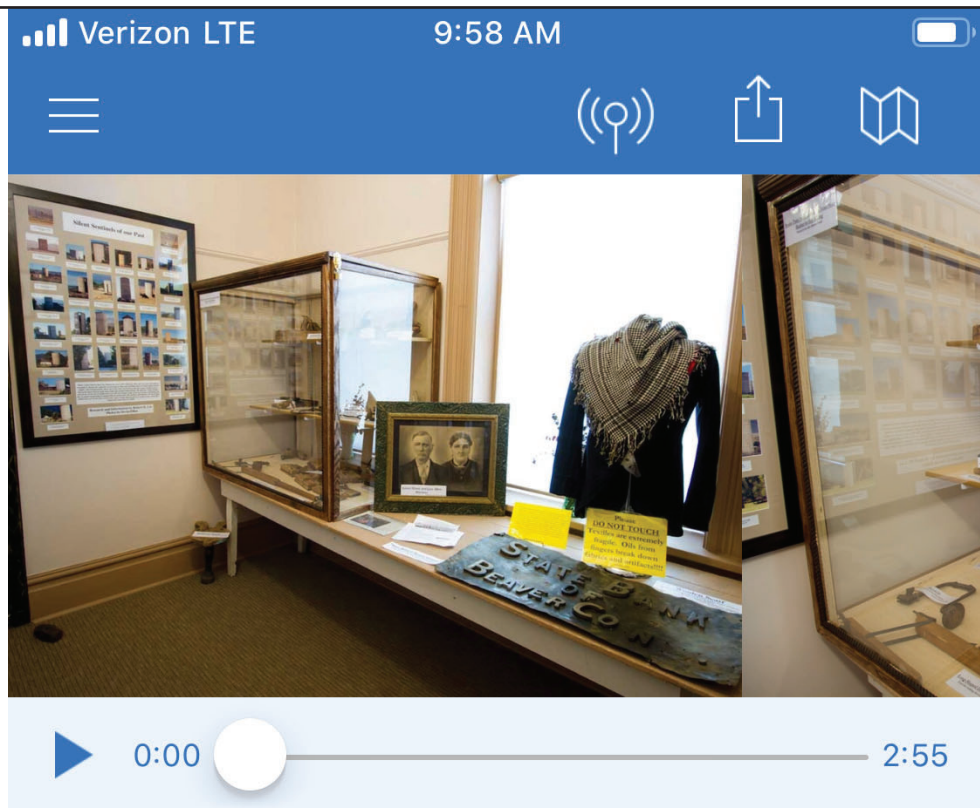
This room, formerly the treasure's office, displays artifacts from several of the old stores in Beaver. The 1882 cash register came from the old Tolton Store. You can still see the Tolton building on Main Street. Look for an old brick building with "Tolton Block" carved across the top. Historic cash registers used many different buttons to print figures onto a paper receipt.

[Previous](#)

Stop 5 of 21

[Next](#)

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5) Tool Room & Clerk's Office

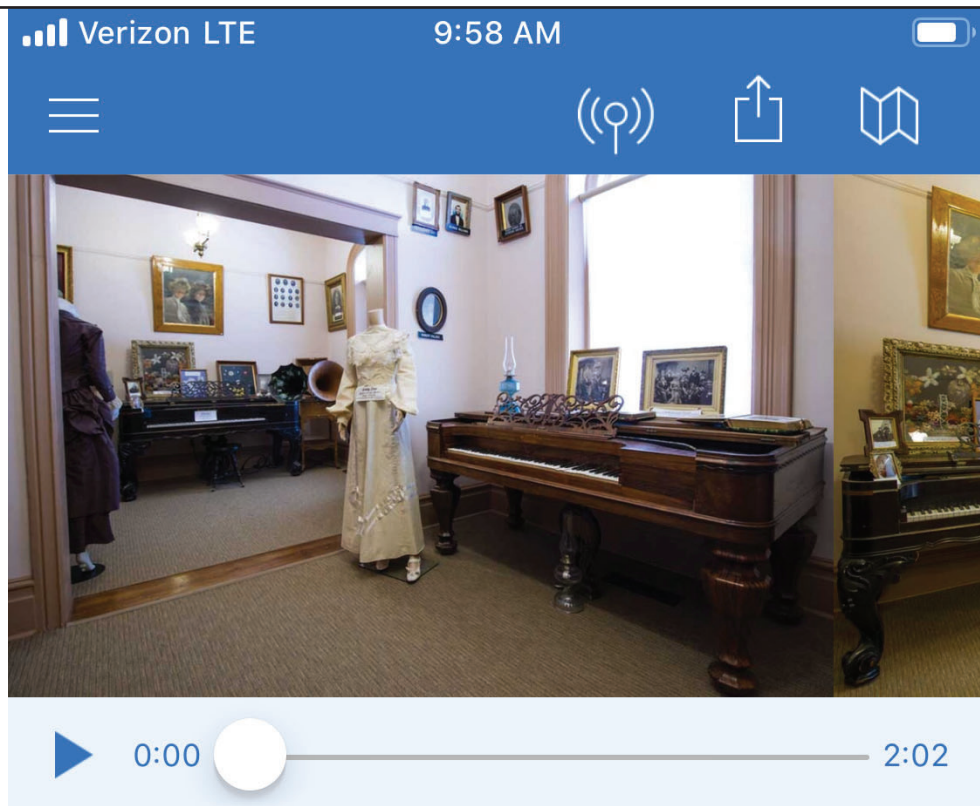
This old clerk's office has been transformed into a tool room. The first display houses the ship building tools of James Henry Blackner. The photographs of James Henry Blackner and his wife Jane Allen Blackner, who both immigrated from the United Kingdom, are next to the display. James Henry was a ship building before he came the United States. In fact, he helped build the SS Great Eastern which in 1859 was

[Previous](#)

Stop 6 of 21

[Next](#)

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6) Music Room & Recorders

This was the county recorder's office. It was the recorder's job to maintain permanent public records like leases, mortgages, real estate sales, mining, military discharges, etc. The museum has transformed the space into a pioneer music room.

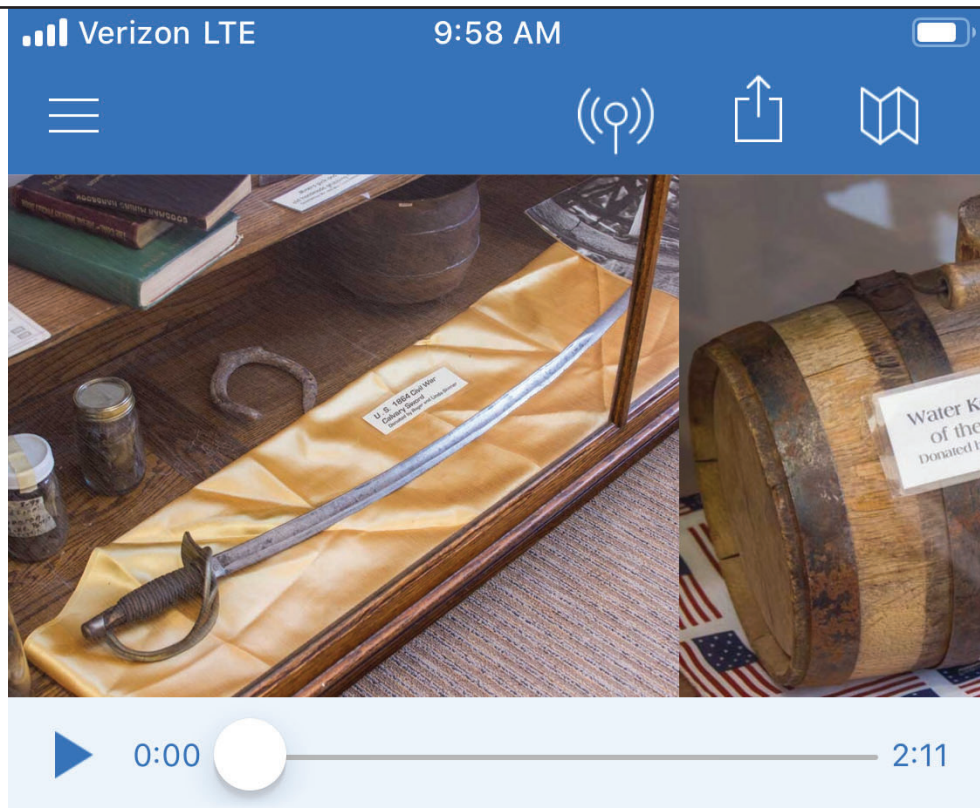
The U.S. Military brought in a lot of furniture when it established Fort Cameron in 1873 including the two pianos in this room. The

[Previous](#)

Stop 7 of 21

[Next](#)

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7) Buffalo Room & Sheriffs

Welcome to the Sheriffs room. Among the artifacts in the room is a Civil War sword dated from 1864. The great-great grandson of the original owner sent the sword back to Utah from Florida because he felt it belonged in Beaver where his ancestor originally had it.

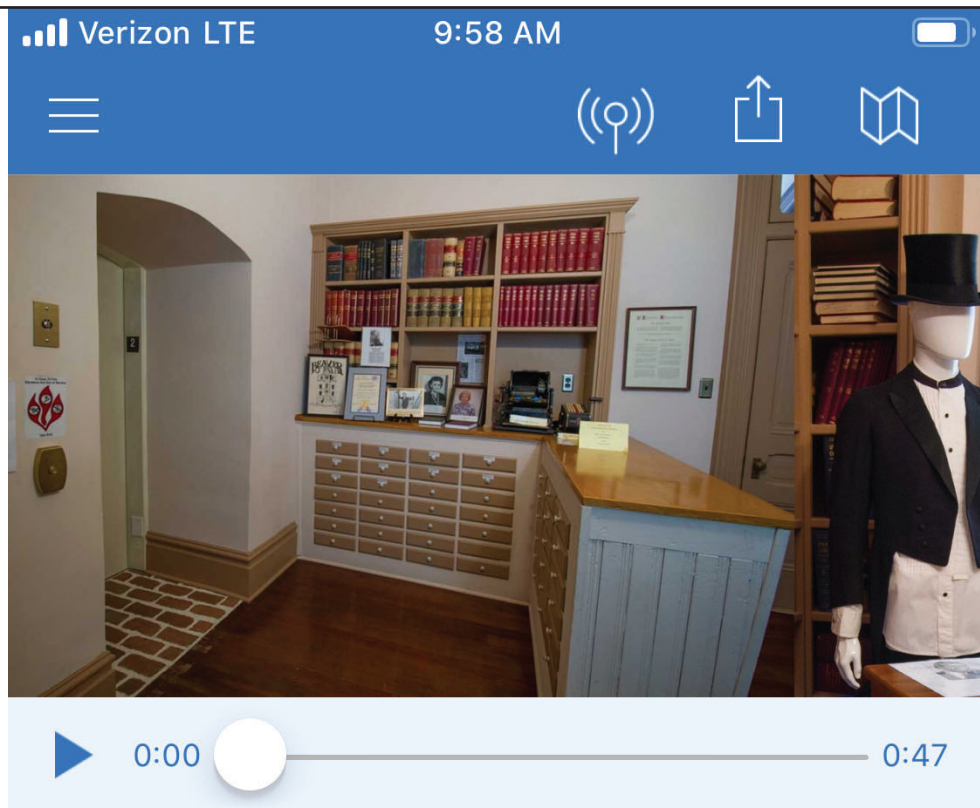
In the same display case as the sword, is a water keg used by the Mormon Battalion.

[Previous](#)

Stop 8 of 21

[Next](#)

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8) Philo T. Farnsworth & Court Clerk

What was once a county clerk's office has been transformed into a room honoring Philo T. Farnsworth, inventor of the TV and native of Beaver, Utah. The room contains many of the old law books from the courthouse as well as information about the life and inventions of Philo T. Farnsworth.

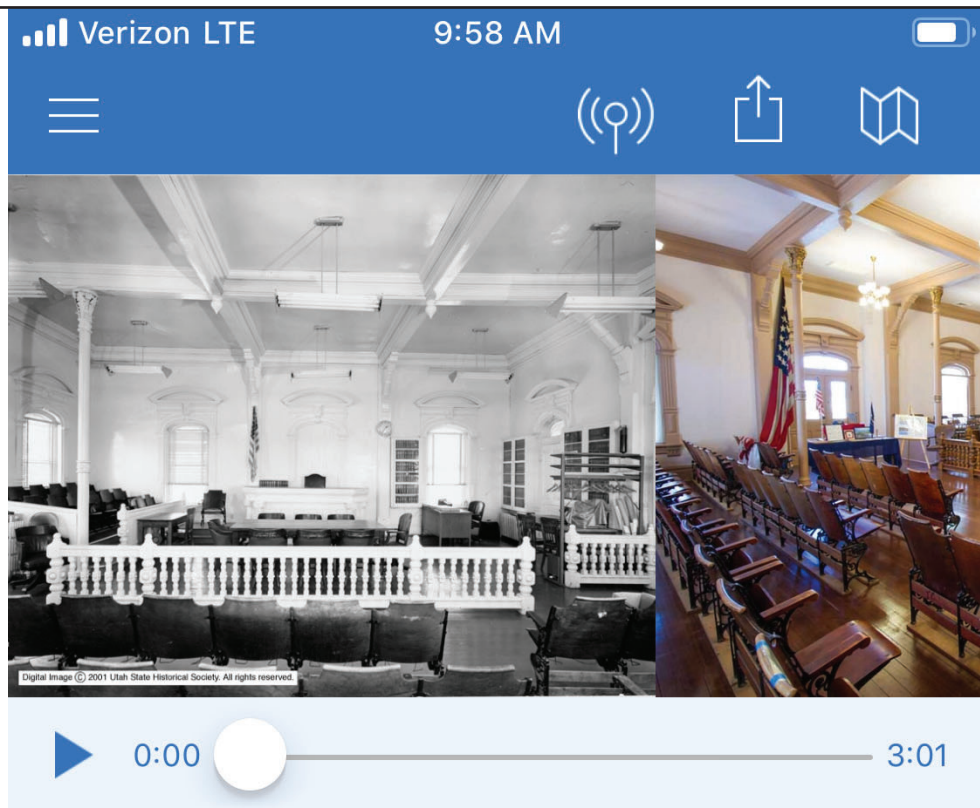
On display is a tuxedo made for Philo T.

[Previous](#)

Stop 9 of 21

[Next](#)

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9) Courtroom

Welcome to the courtroom, arguably the most important room in the courthouse. All of the furnishings you see, including the hand-carved woodwork around the windows, bench, jury chairs, and flooring, are original from 1882. The carpenters for the courthouse were C.C Harris and C. Shepherd who also carved the staircase you saw at the beginning of the tour.

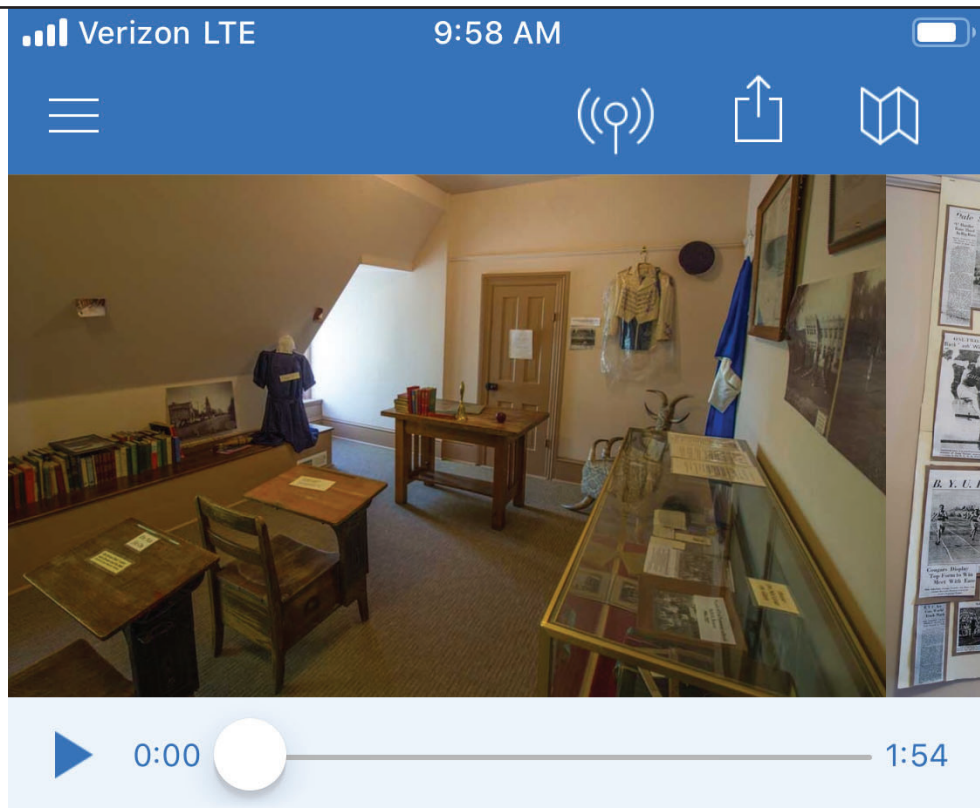
[Records show C.C Harris was paid \\$140](#)

[Previous](#)

[Stop 10 of 21](#)

[Next](#)

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10) School Room

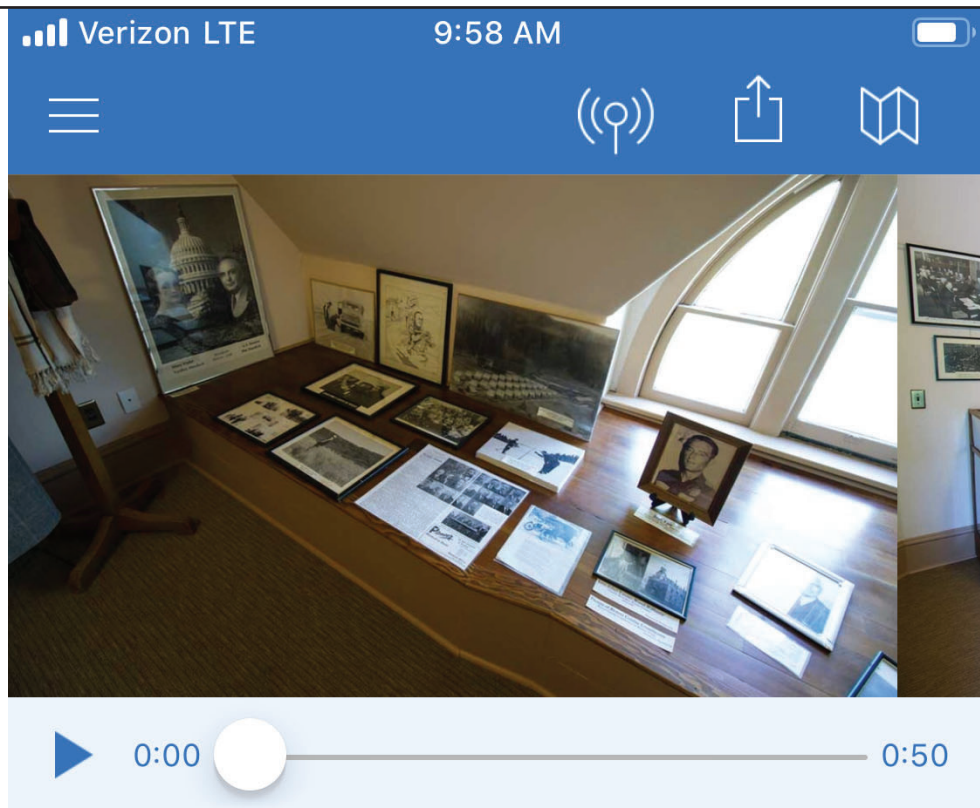
This room is a representation of a school room from the early days of Beaver. Up until the 1900s most schools were one-room buildings where children of ages were taught together by one teacher. In the room are two wooden desks and a horned chair from county pioneer teacher Winfred Smith Hodges. The chair was purchased in Texas and represents a furniture style that very popular in the late 1800s.

[Previous](#)

Stop 11 of 21

[Next](#)

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11) Political Room

The museum calls this the political room because it contains photographs and memorabilia of different political figures from Beaver. You will find a case of script coins and information about the early sheriffs and mayors of Beaver in addition to a pioneer coat owned by John A. Smith.

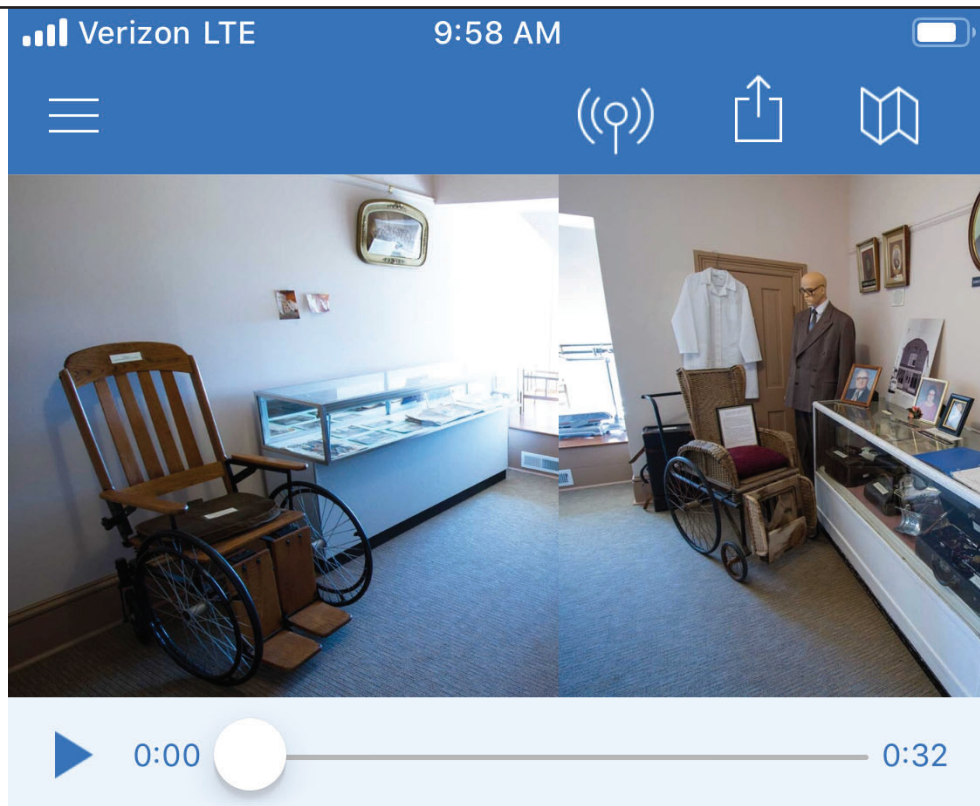
Most of the artifacts in the room come from Senator Orrice Abram "Abe" Murdock, Jr.

[Previous](#)

Stop 12 of 21

[Next](#)

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12) Medical Room

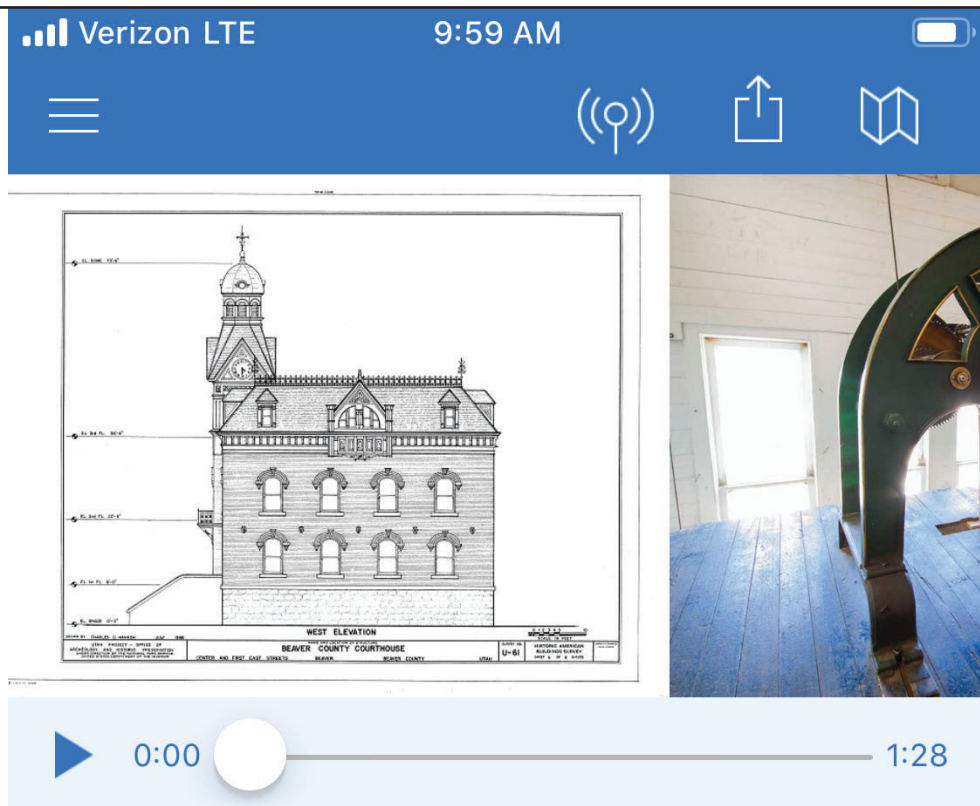
This is the medical room. On the walls are photographs of the midwives in Beaver and the early doctors. In the room you will see doctor's tools as well as a suit from Doctor McQuarrie. I'm sure you have also noticed the wicker and wooden wheelchairs. These wheelchairs were donated to the museum by a woman who helped prepare bodies for burial.

[Previous](#)

Stop 13 of 21

[Next](#)

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13) Clock Tower

Upon entrance to the clock tower you might notice the smell. Bats used to live in the tower before it was sealed off from the outside. The wood is original from 1889 and has retained the smell of the bats.

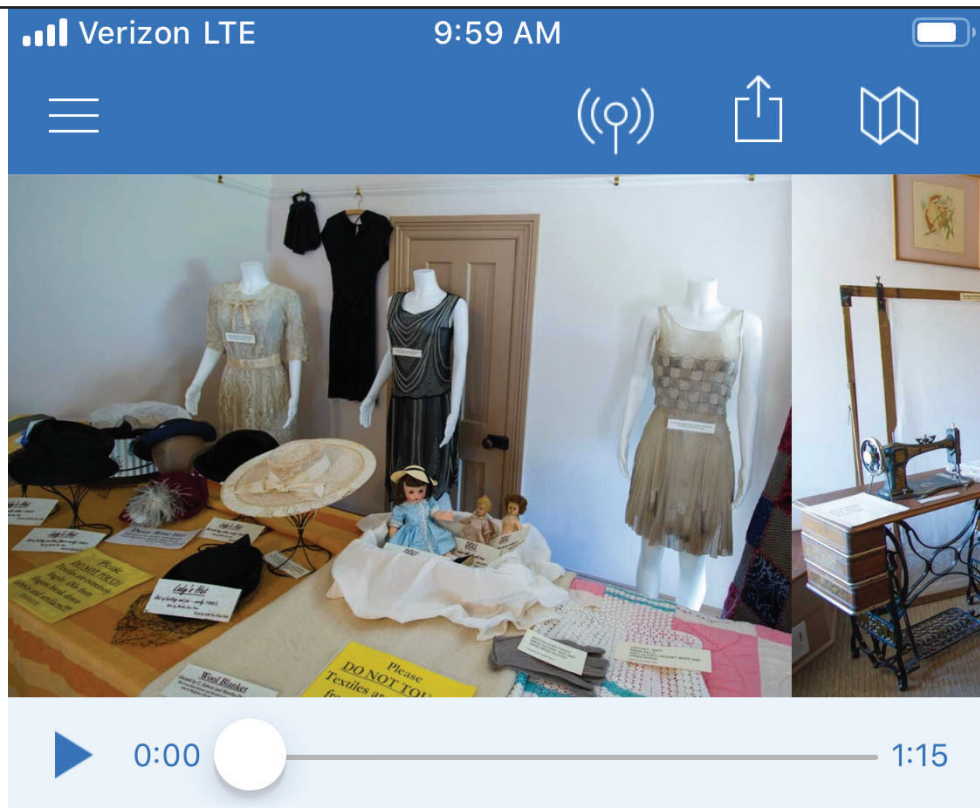
In 1888, the courthouse caught fire and burned down. An entry from the journal of Samuel Orson White, a Beaver local, said, "The dentist, in a drunken stupor, left cigar

[Previous](#)

Stop 14 of 21

[Next](#)

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14) 1900's Room

This room is called the 1900s room because most of the artifacts are from after 1900 although a few are from the pioneer era.

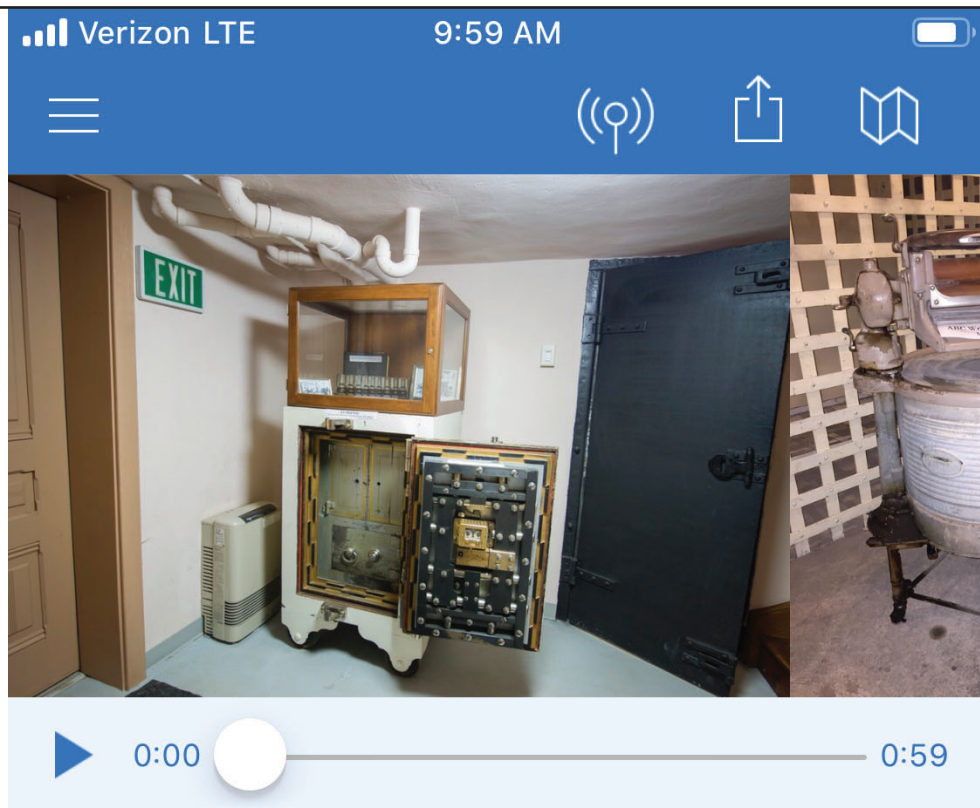
When Beaver began to develop industry, they built wool mills, also known as woolen mills, because many of the pioneers were immigrants from the United Kingdom and had worked on these types of mills before coming to the United States. There are

[Previous](#)

Stop 15 of 21

[Next](#)

Snippets from the “Beaver Historic Courthouse Museum” mobile app tour on “Utah Heritage Walks” app.



15) County Jail

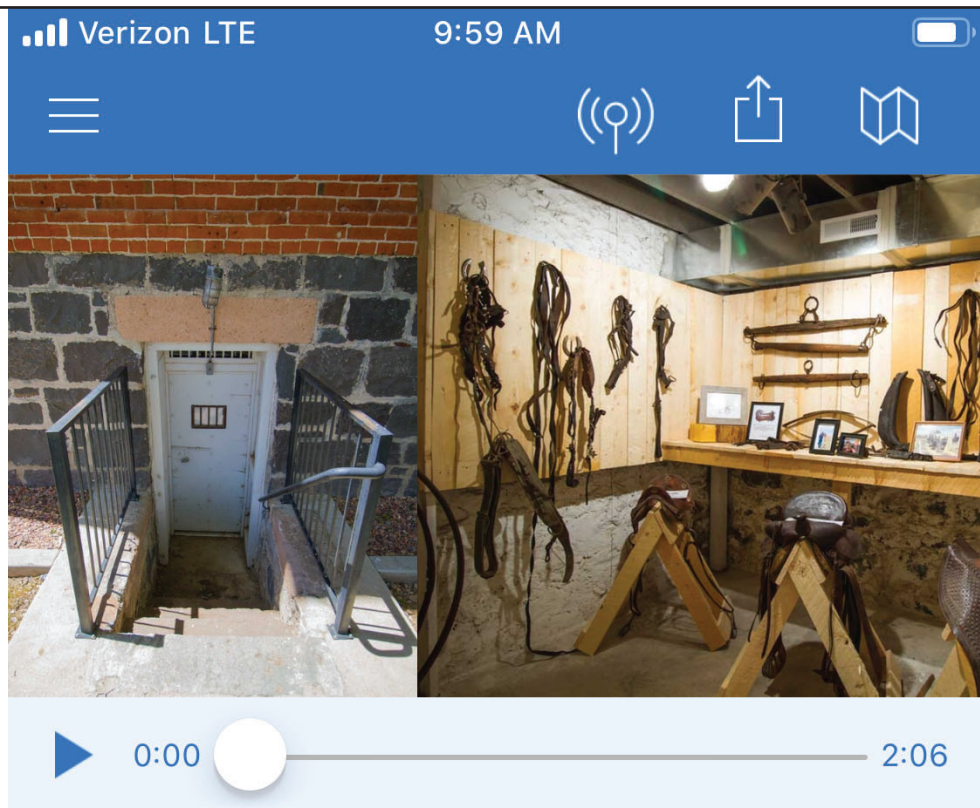
Before entering the county jail, take a look at the old bank safe from 1873. The safe has a time lock, combination lock, and weights 4,000 lbs. The safe was first used in Milford, Utah before it moved to Beaver where it was used by a local title company. Above the safe is a display of an old coin dispenser with slots for 1, 5, 10, 25, 50-cent pieces and 5, 10, 20-dollar coins.

[Previous](#)

Stop 16 of 21

[Next](#)

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16) Door to the Jail for Inmates

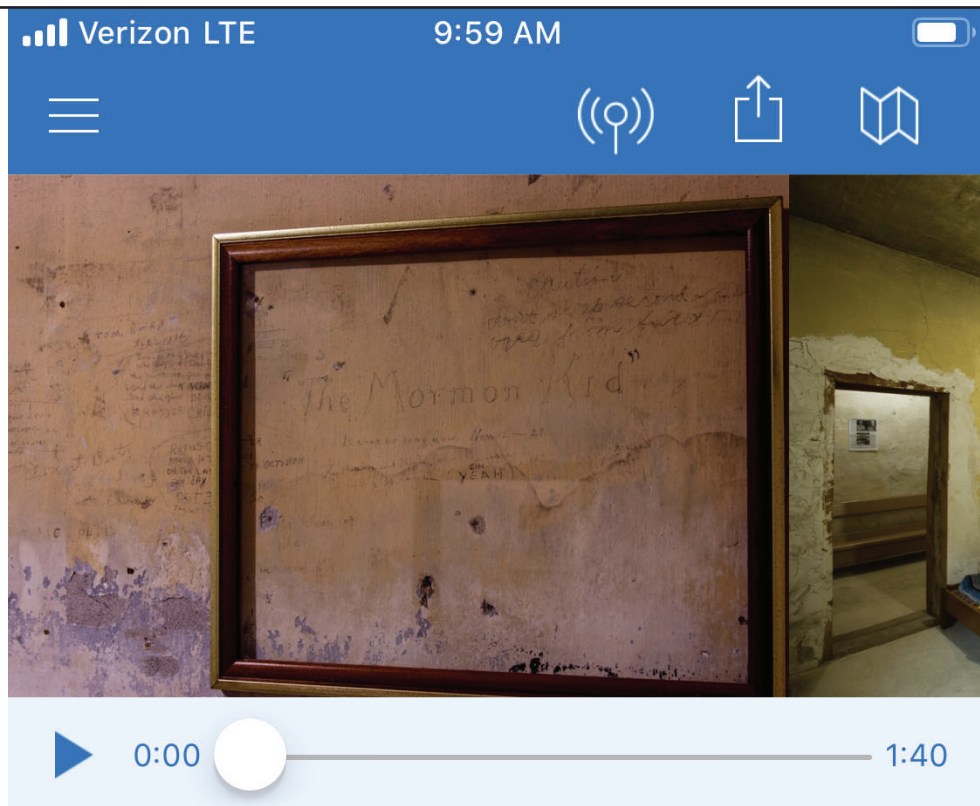
This part of the basement used to be jail cells. Inmates were brought through a separate, outside door rather than through the courthouse front door. The space now functions as a tack room displaying different wagon and horseback riding artifacts. There are several different types of saddles including a woman's side saddle, 1940s regular saddle, and a cavalry saddle. You can also see the reins, collars, and

[Previous](#)

Stop 17 of 21

[Next](#)

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17) Jail Cell

This was one of the original jail cells. The cells were lightly furnished with beds for inmates and not much else.

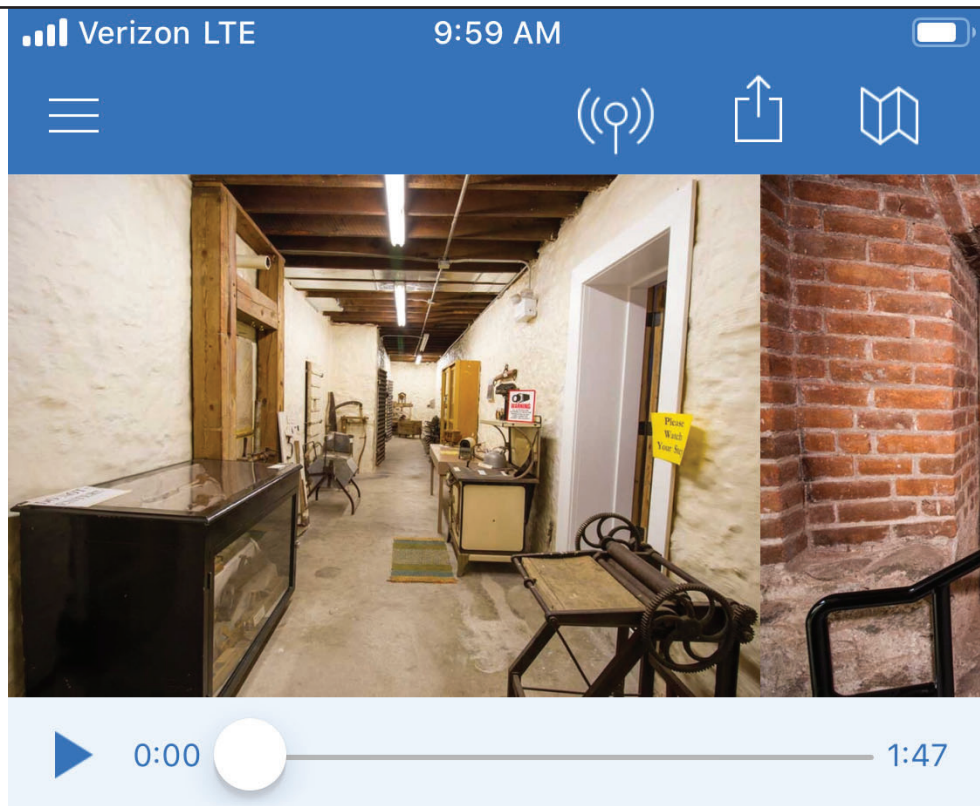
The writing on the wall says "The Mormon Kid" who went by Matt Warner and ran with the Butch Cassidy gang. Matt Warner was eventually sent to jail and after his time in jail he cleaned up his act. Surprisingly, he ended up being the sheriff of Price, Utah in

[Previous](#)

Stop 18 of 21

[Next](#)

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18) Jail Hallway

Along the hallway you can see examples of tools and machines used by the early settlers of Beaver.

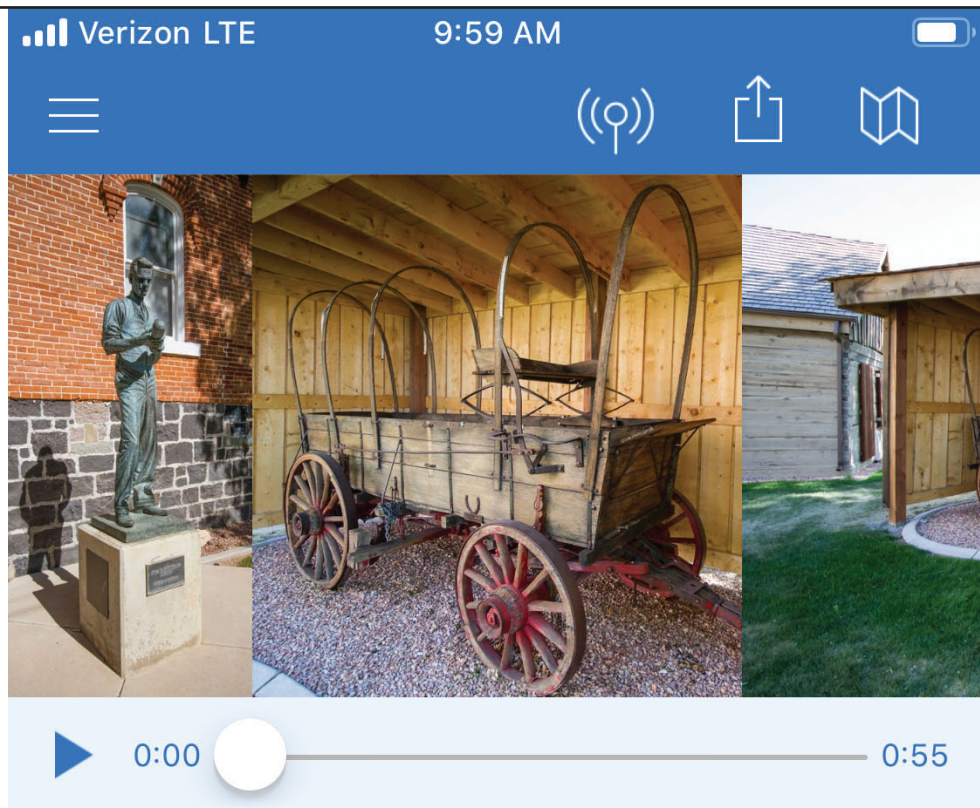
The honey extractor, as its name suggests, was used to collect honey from honey combs. The Honey combs were placed inside the container and swirled rapidly to release the honey. The honey was then drained off, strained, and read for use.

[Previous](#)

Stop 19 of 21

[Next](#)

Snippets from the “Beaver Historic Courthouse Museum” mobile app tour on “Utah Heritage Walks” app.



19) Park

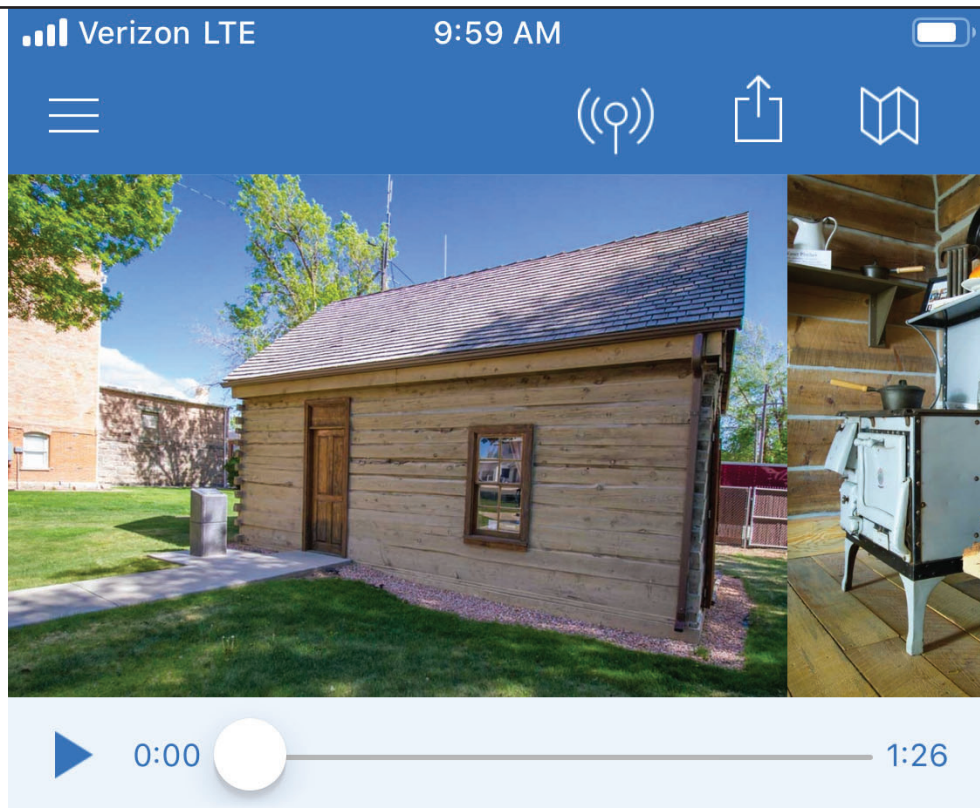
The remainder of the tour will take you outside to explore the grounds of the museum. Next to the courthouse is a statue in honor of Philo T. Farnsworth. Farnsworth, known as "The Father of Television" is famous for inventing the TV but that was one of many inventions credited to him. Identical to the one in the national statuary hall in Washington, D.C. which was a gift from the state of Utah in 1930

[Previous](#)

Stop 20 of 21

[Next](#)

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20) Cabin

Welcome to the Philo T. Farnsworth cabin. Farnsworth was born in Manderfield, Utah a farm area six miles north of Beaver, and the family's cabin was moved to the courthouse park in 2009. The cabin is furnished to look like it would have in the early 1900s when Farnsworth lived here. There is a six-burner cook stove and a pot belly stove with nickel plating which has been restored. Typical of the period, the cabin has cupboards instead

[Previous](#)

[Stop 21 of 21](#)

Snippets from the "Beaver Historic Courthouse Museum" mobile app tour on "Utah Heritage Walks" app.