

FULTON MANSION

state historic site

ACTIVITY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

George Fulton owned a very large and successful ranch of longhorn cattle. He and his wife, Harriet, built the Fulton Mansion in 1877. They called their home “Oakhurst” because of the tall oak trees around it. The Fulton Mansion is important because it provides a look at the lives of wealthy ranchers, called “**cattle barons**,” who lived in south Texas at this time. The Fultons’ house looked very different from the other homes in the area. It has three stories, a steep roof, a small tower and many fancy details on the walls and windows. These are all elements of the **Second Empire** building style. This building style was popular from 1860 to 1880 and often used for homes in large towns or cities.

Also, the Fultons did not have **electricity**, but they had many modern **conveniences** that most of their neighbors did not have. The home had overhead gas lighting, indoor flushing toilets and a central heating system. Mr. Fulton was also an **inventor** and wanted all of these things to make life easier and more comfortable for his family and guests. Mrs. Fulton loved her gardens. She grew fruits, vegetables, herbs and many different kinds of flowers. They had four grown children and 16 grandchildren who made many happy memories with them in the Fulton Mansion.

VOCABULARY WORDS

Review the words and their definitions below. They are also written in bold letters in the **Introduction** and the **Take a Closer Look** section on the last page.

Cattle Baron—someone with great power or influence in the ranching business.

conveniences—anything that saves or simplifies work. They can also add to a person's comfort.

dormer window—an upper window built straight out from a slanted roof.

electricity—electric current used as a source of power for modern machines or appliances. It can be supplied from a fixed source (wall outlet) or a portable source (batteries).

finial (pronounced: fin-ee-uhl)—a small, rounded decoration sometimes found at the top of a pointed roof.

inventor—a person who creates a new process, appliance, machine, or article.

quoins (pronounced: koins)—a pattern of bricks or stones on the corners of a building.

Second Empire—a popular building style from 1865 to 1880 inspired by French design. Details usually included towers, curved roofs, dormer windows and other fancy ornaments.

transom—a separate, horizontal window above a door.

WORD FIND

George Fulton held more than a dozen different jobs during his life. Some of them are listed below. Find these words in the puzzle. (Hint: Words can also be written backwards.)

book keeper
rancher

bridge builder
reporter

engineer
sign painter

inventor
teacher

land surveyor
watchmaker

B R I R W Q K G R B T R S R R
R M E H E Q J E B E Y M Q E A
I F E P D P E V A P H B L K N
D N L J E N O C G T G A I A C
G J U H I E H R A A N T Z M H
E V N G T E K P T D T H O H E
B T N F R V J K S E J O N C R
U E I R E I H U O V R Z L T O
I I S I I G R S Y O B G K A B
L M B X E V J T W I B J U W E
D I N V E N T O R J L I K S V
E H R Y N O N Q W D D A G Q D
R X O R E T N I A P N G I S I
O R H X Z T K V Q P N N R O T
V F U Y B E Z B N O X L H W M

If you could choose one of Mr. Fulton's jobs to do, which would you choose? Why? _____

THINK ABOUT IT

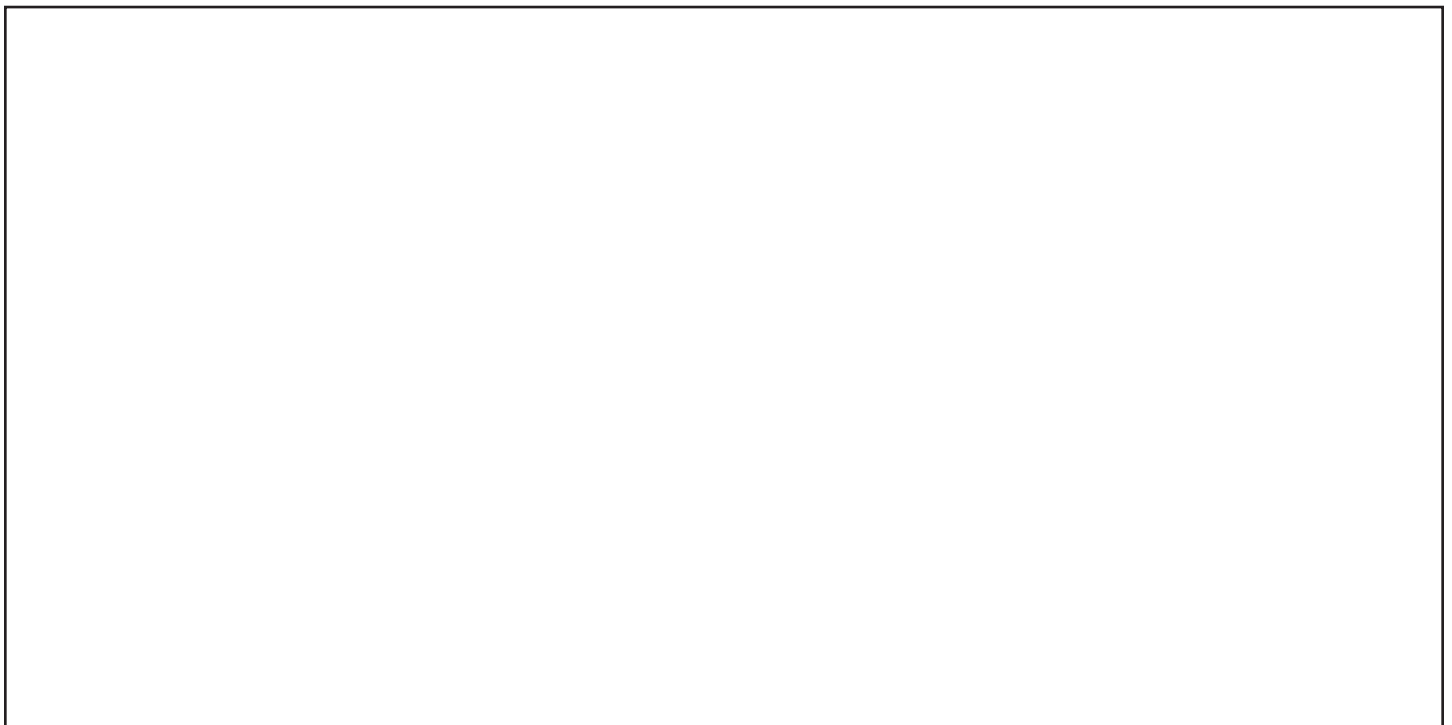
Electricity powers many of today's devices and activities. The Fultons did not have electricity, but enjoyed many things that people still have today.

Look at the tasks listed in the chart below. Think about ways to complete each task with and without electricity. In the space provided, write down your answers. For example, if you wanted to hear music, listening to the radio requires electricity, but listening to a choir sing doesn't. If you have time, add a task and answers of your own at the bottom of the chart.

Task	Needs Electricity	Doesn't Need Electricity
Making music		
Playing games		
Cooking a meal		
Lighting a room		
Communicating with someone who lives far away		

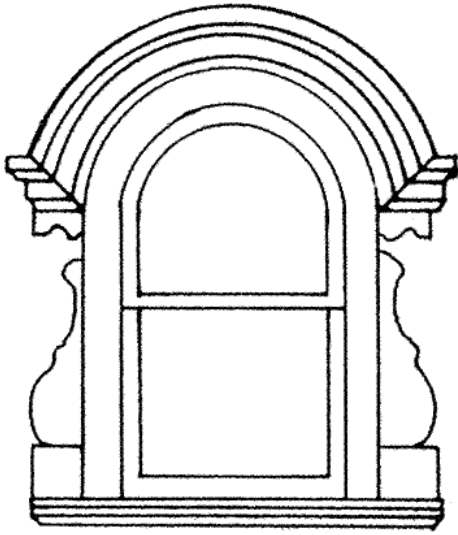
PICTURE YOURSELF

Draw a picture of yourself doing a game or activity that the Fulton family might have enjoyed. It can take place outdoors or inside, but please remember the Fultons did not have electricity.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

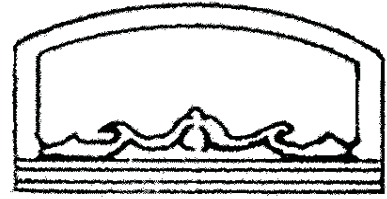
Look at these drawings of different details from the Fulton Mansion. Can you find them on the cover drawing of the building? These items are described in the **Vocabulary** section.



Dormer Window



Quoins

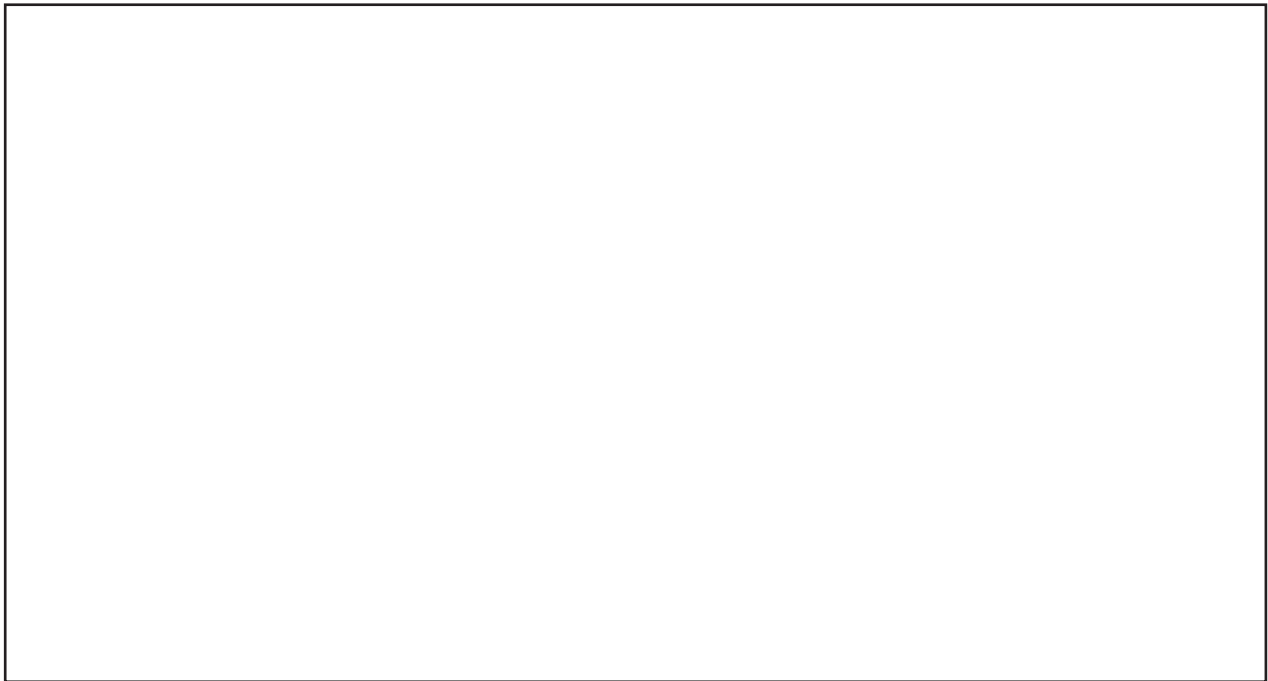


Transom



Finial

What other decorations do you see on the outside of the house? Draw your favorite in the space below.



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