



Tombstone Courthouse

State Historic Park

Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park

Park Hours and Location

Park is open daily 9 am – 5 pm.
Park is closed December 25th.

The park is located on the corner of Toughnut and 3rd Streets, two blocks off of Highway 80.

223 Toughnut Street
Tombstone, AZ 85638
(520) 457-3311



Park Programs

Ed Schieffelin Days: 1st weekend in April; Join park staff on guided excursions to Ed Schieffelin's Monument.
Power from the Past Show: October; See antique engines at this event that's held in conjunction with Tombstone's Helldorado Days.
Lighting of the Luminarias: December; The park is lit up with luminarias for a festive tradition.

Nearby State Parks

Kartchner Caverns State Park®, Patagonia Lake State Park, Sonoita Creek State Natural Area, Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, and Roper Lake State Park

Area Scenic Attractions

Birdcage Theater, Boothill Cemetery, O.K. Corral and Historama, Pioneer Home, Rose Tree Inn, Tombstone Epitaph, Crystal Palace Saloon, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Goodenough Mine Tour, Tombstone Western Heritage Museum, Bisbee, Fort Huachuca, Cochise Stronghold, Amerind Foundation, and San Pedro River National Conservation Area

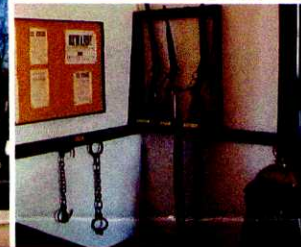
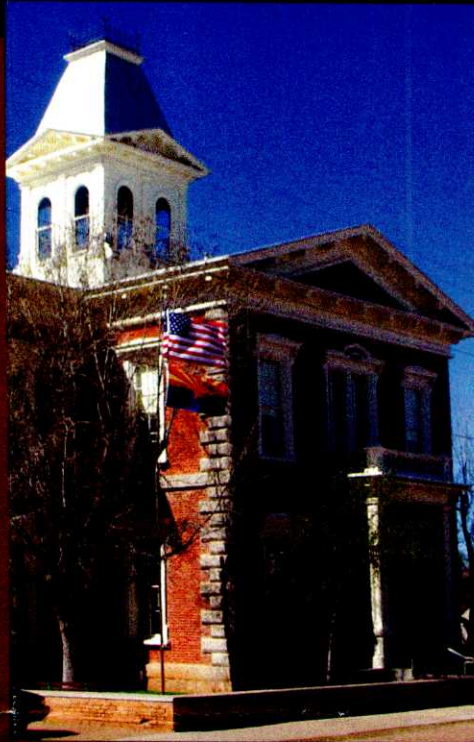
Ed Schieffelin Monument

Three miles west of the park is a memorial to Ed Schieffelin, founder of the town of Tombstone. Here, a 25-foot monument is intended to represent the type of marker a miner makes in claiming a stake.

Visit our website AZStateParks.com for a downloadable park map, driving directions, and a list of current events. This document is available in alternative formats; contact the ADA Coordinator at (602) 364-0632. Equal Employment Opportunity Agency



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Get a glimpse of the true old West at **Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park**. Built in 1882 in the shape of a Roman cross, the two-story Victorian structure once housed the offices of the sheriff, recorder, treasurer, board of supervisors, jail, and courtrooms of Cochise County. Today, the 12,000 square foot courthouse is a museum filled with the glitter and guns of those who tamed the territory.

Exhibits portray the authentic history of Tombstone as a frontier silver mining boomtown. Learn about miners, cattlemen and pioneers, and see a reproduction of the courtroom and sheriff's office. Displays include a tax license for operating a brothel and an invitation to a hanging. A replica of the gallows in the courtyard represents where seven men were hanged.

The park includes a museum, exhibits, a gift shop, restrooms, and shaded picnic areas.



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Tombstone reached its pinnacle of riches and then faded, all within the short span of eight years. The West's wildest mining town owes its beginning to Ed Schieffelin, who prospected the nearby hills in 1877. Friends warned him that all he would ever find would be his own tombstone. But instead of an apache bullet, he found silver — ledges of it — and the rush was on.

Miners soon built a shantytown on the closest level space to the mines, then known as Goose Flats. Remembering the grim prophecy given to Schieffelin, and with tongue in cheek, they changed the name to Tombstone.

The year 1881 was an eventful one for the mining camp. The population reached 10,000, rivaling both Tucson (county seat) and Prescott (territorial capital). The Earp and Clanton feud culminated in the famous gunfight near the OK Corral. A disastrous fire burned out much of the infant town, but it was immediately rebuilt. Schieffelin Hall was erected to provide legitimate theater and a meeting hall for the Masonic Lodge.

When water began to seep into the shafts, pumps were installed, but the mines were soon flooded to the 600-foot level and could not be worked. By 1886, Tombstone's heyday was over, but not before \$37,000,000 worth of silver had been taken from the mines.

As Tombstone's population grew, so did its political power. In 1881, the Arizona Legislature established Cochise County. No longer would the nearest county office be a long two-day ride. Built in 1882 at a cost of nearly \$50,000, the Cochise County Courthouse was a stylish building as well as a comfortable symbol of law and stability in these turbulent times. It housed the offices of the sheriff, recorder, treasurer, and the board of supervisors. The jail was at the rear, under the courtroom.

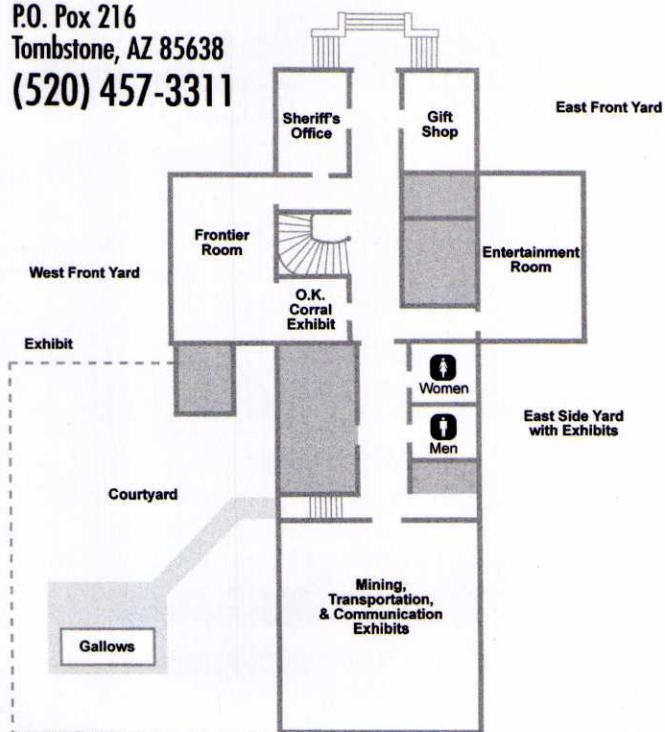
A series of colorful people held office here. John Slaughter was a local cattleman who, as sheriff, virtually cleared the county of outlaws. Some were awkwardly unconventional, such as Deputy Sheriff Burt Alford, who was experienced on both sides of the law.

Tombstone remained the county seat until 1929, when outvoted by a growing city of Bisbee, and the county seat was moved there. The last county office left the courthouse in 1931.

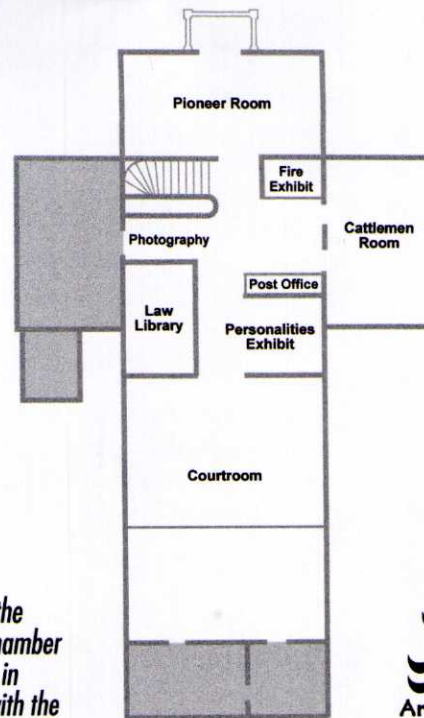
Except for an ill-fated attempt to convert the courthouse into a hotel during the 1940s, the building stood vacant until 1955. When the Tombstone Restoration Commission acquired it, they began the courthouse rehabilitation and the development as a historical museum that has continued to operate as a state park since 1959. It features exhibits and thousands of artifacts which tell the story of Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park.

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P.O. Pox 216
Tombstone, AZ 85638
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1st Floor



2nd Floor

*Operated by the
Tombstone Chamber
of Commerce in
partnership with the
City of Tombstone.*



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