

# Jacksonville History Center



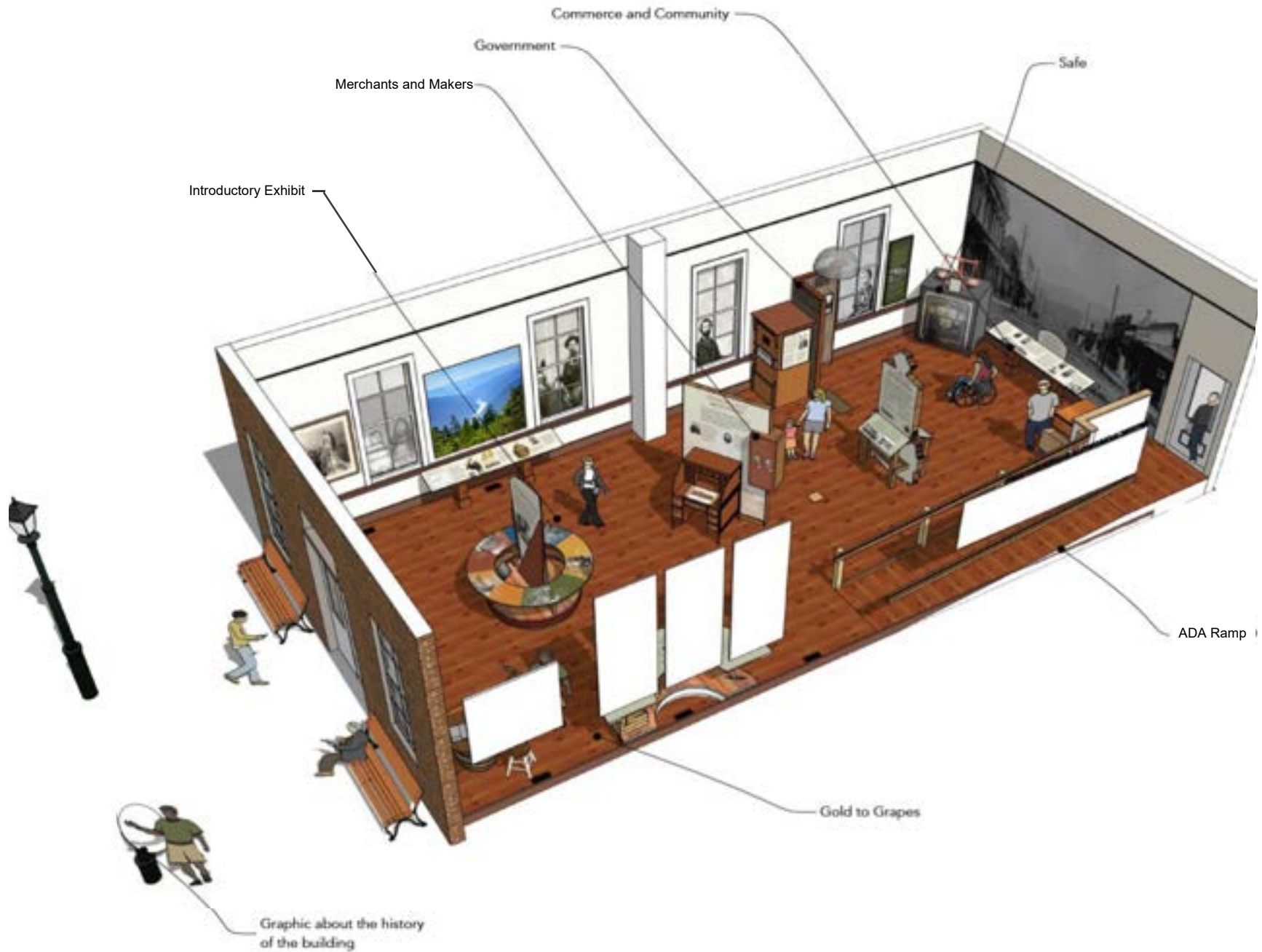
**Exterior of Old City Hall**

**Right: Placemaking plaque with building history**

**Windows: Each building window will be fitted with a “cling” graphic Peter Britt image, highlighting an aspect of Jacksonville’s history.**

## Overview of Museum Layout

The design maximizes the 1,139 square feet while allowing for traffic flow.

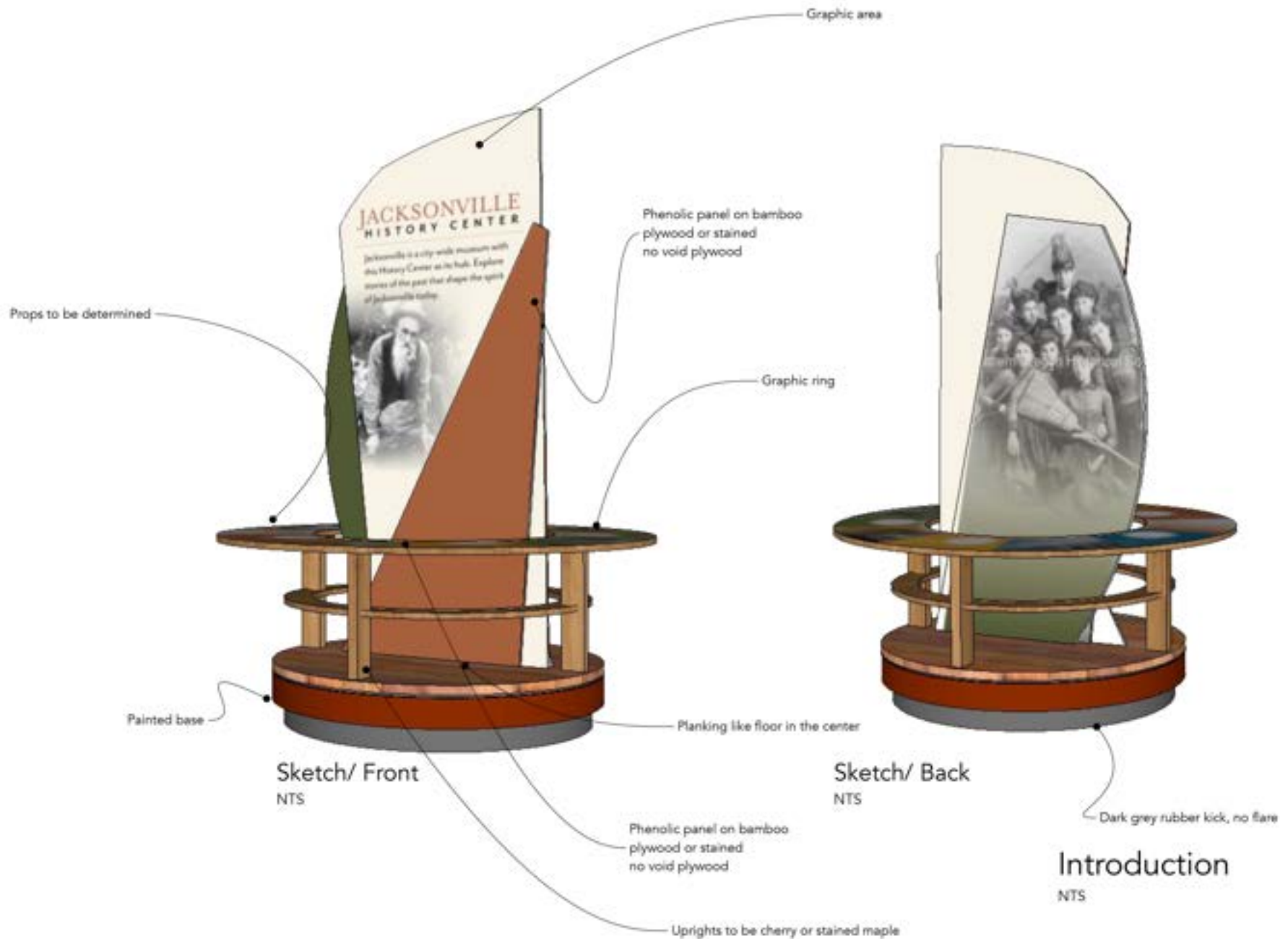


## Entry Exhibit

**Circular desk top lays out 5 themes:  
The Land, Gold Rush, Merchants and Makers, Town Life, and Government,  
highlighting Jacksonville's role as the 19th century commercial,  
governmental, and social hub of Southern Oregon.  
Touchable educational artifacts will augment exhibits,  
and screens on various exhibits playing video loops will add imagery.**



**Text on back side of panel reads: "Settlers brought their culture and traditions with them, creating a vibrant town life that made Jacksonville a regional social center."**

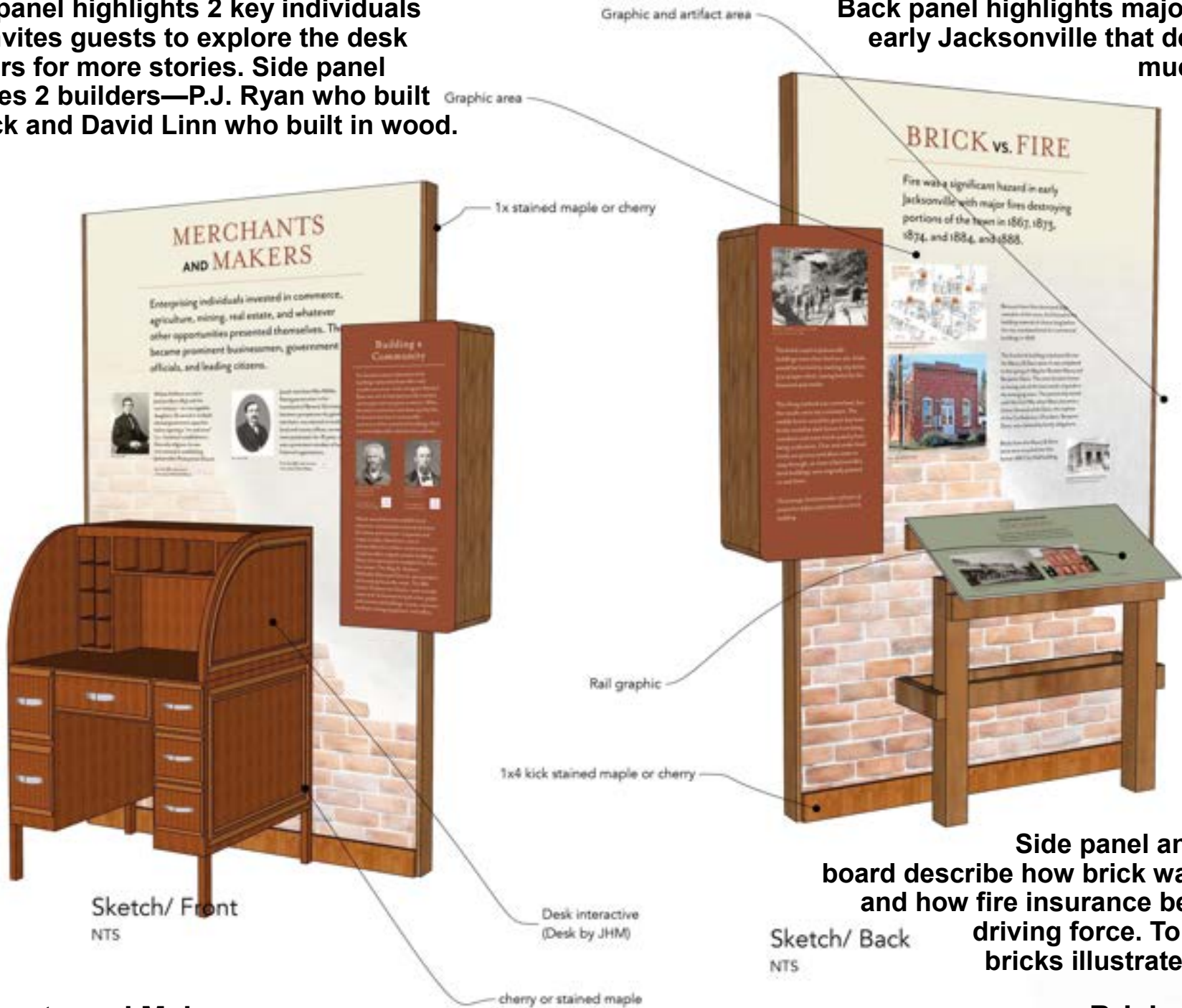


**Central Exhibits (L to R): History Center (front); Town Life (back).  
Merchants and Makers (front); Brick vs. Fire (back).  
The Railroad (front); The Depression (back).  
1910 Jacksonville (back wall mural).  
ADA access ramp (right) from Fire Hall entry.**



Back panel highlights 2 key individuals and invites guests to explore the desk drawers for more stories. Side panel features 2 builders—P.J. Ryan who built in brick and David Linn who built in wood.

Back panel highlights major fires in early Jacksonville that destroyed much of the town.



Sketch/ Front  
NTS

Sketch/ Back  
NTS

Merchants and Makers

Brick vs. Fire

Side panel and panel board describe how brick was made and how fire insurance became a driving force. Touchable bricks illustrate quality.



Sketch/ Front  
NTS

**The Railroad**

**Railroad back panel tells how the Oregon & California Railroad's bypassing Jacksonville began turning the town into a back water.**

**The panel board describes the spur railroad line the town built in an attempt to maintain regional prominence.**

**Depression back panel describes the second "Gold Rush" and how the Great Depression turned Jacksonville into a ghost town.**

**The panel board features Robbie Collins who led the town's renaissance in the 1960s.**



Sketch/ Back  
NTS

**The Great Depression**

Finished all sides  
Edges painted

Graphic area

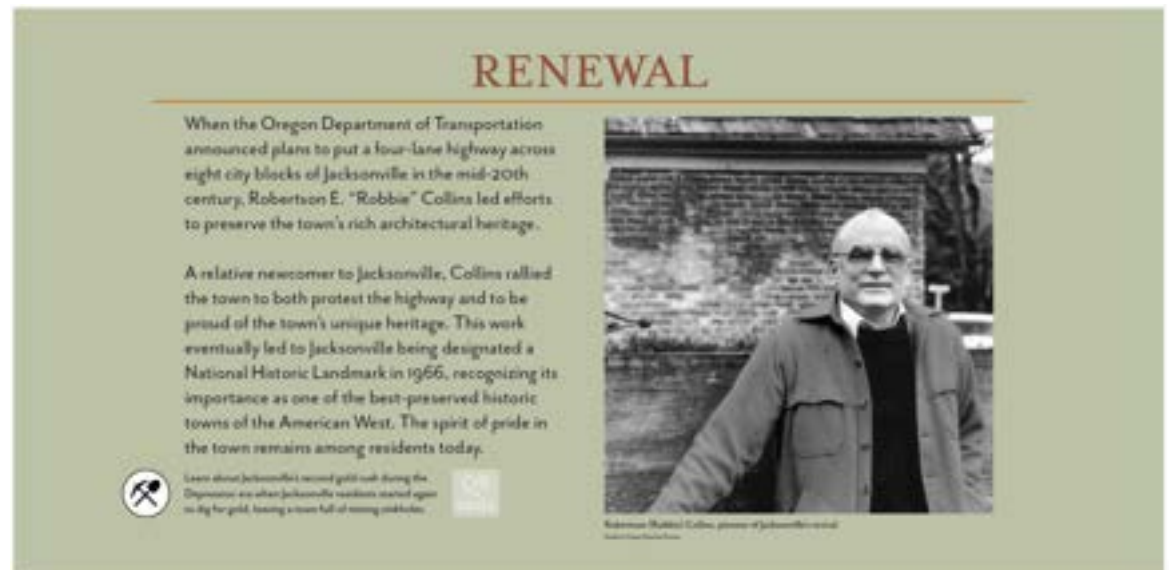
Gri

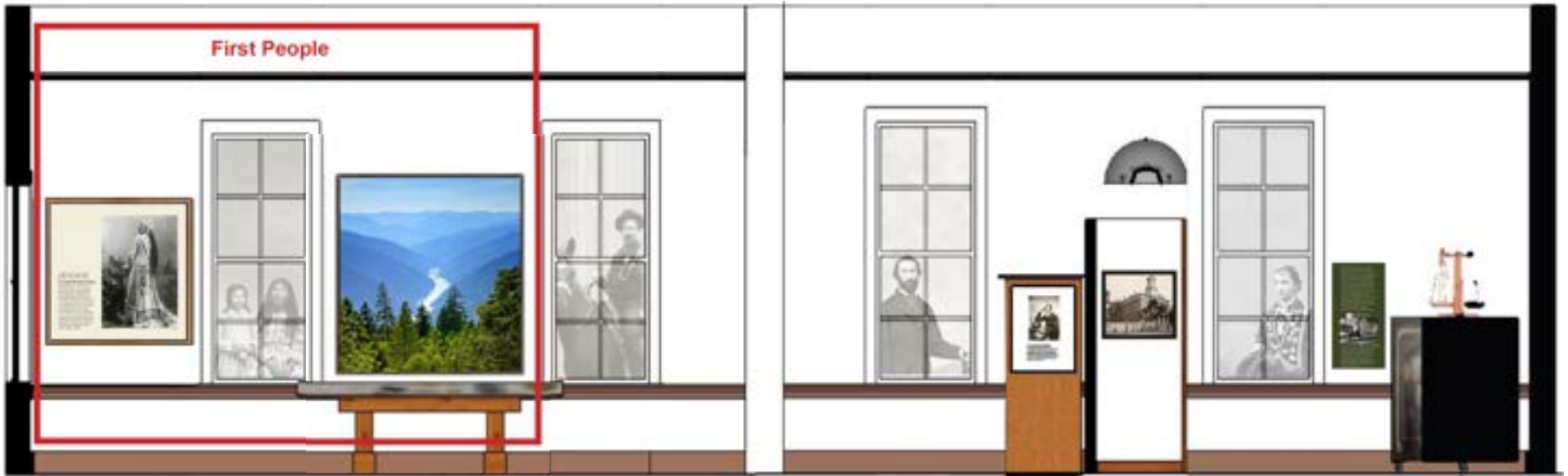
Rail graphic



## Renewal Panel Board

Renewal panel board highlights Robertson (Robbie) Collins' role in preventing the Oregon Department of Transportation from putting a 4-lane highway through Jacksonville which would have taken out 11 historic structures. His leadership led to Jacksonville's renaissance and the town being designated the first National Historic Landmark District on the West Coast.





East Wall initial exhibit highlights Indigenous People.



## People Enter the Rogue Valley

Wall hanging depicts Rogue River Valley. Panel board shows various tribes who occupied the region, shows the natural resources that appealed to their hunter-gatherer societies, and highlights Tecumtum, Tye (Chief) John, the Athabaskan chief who signed three Table Rock treaties.



### PEOPLE ENTER THE ROGUE VALLEY

People first entered the Rogue River area at least 10,000 years ago. Native American tribes such as the Takelma and the Shasta have lived along its banks for thousands of years.

The tribes spent summers in the mountains, where men hunted for deer and elk and women gathered berries, salmonberries, and other plant foods.

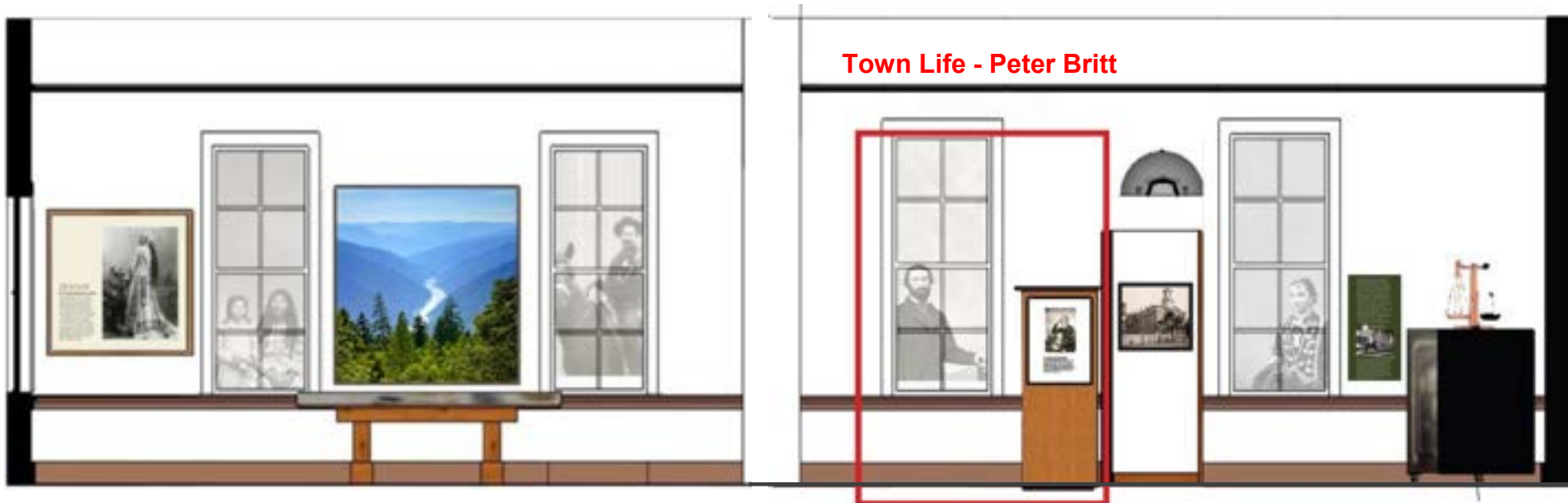
They went to the woods for the salmon runs in the fall and women gathered hazelnuts, acorns, and seaweed.

Conflicts between the largely European settlers and the indigenous peoples of southwest Oregon increased in the 1830s and became known as the Rogue River Wars.

After the Rogue River War of 1855-56 between tribes and new settlers, the Native peoples of southwestern Oregon were forcibly relocated by the U.S. government to the Grand Ronde and Siletz reservations during the mid-1850s.

Tecumtum, also known as Tye, was the principal chief of the Takelma people and signed the Table Rock Treaty in 1855. He was a prominent leader and negotiator during the Rogue River Wars.

This is a traditional Takelma gourd, used for storing and carrying water.



**Town Life - Peter Britt**

**EAST WALL**

**This Town Life exhibit is an interactive stereoscope of Peter Britt images. Guests push a button to view a sequence of 3-D photos.**

**Signage describes Peter Britt's role in documenting the region, its people, and town life, and how his photographs were instrumental in designating Crater Lake a national park and in designating Jacksonville a National Historic Landmark District.**



**PETER BRITT  
PHOTOGRAPHER**

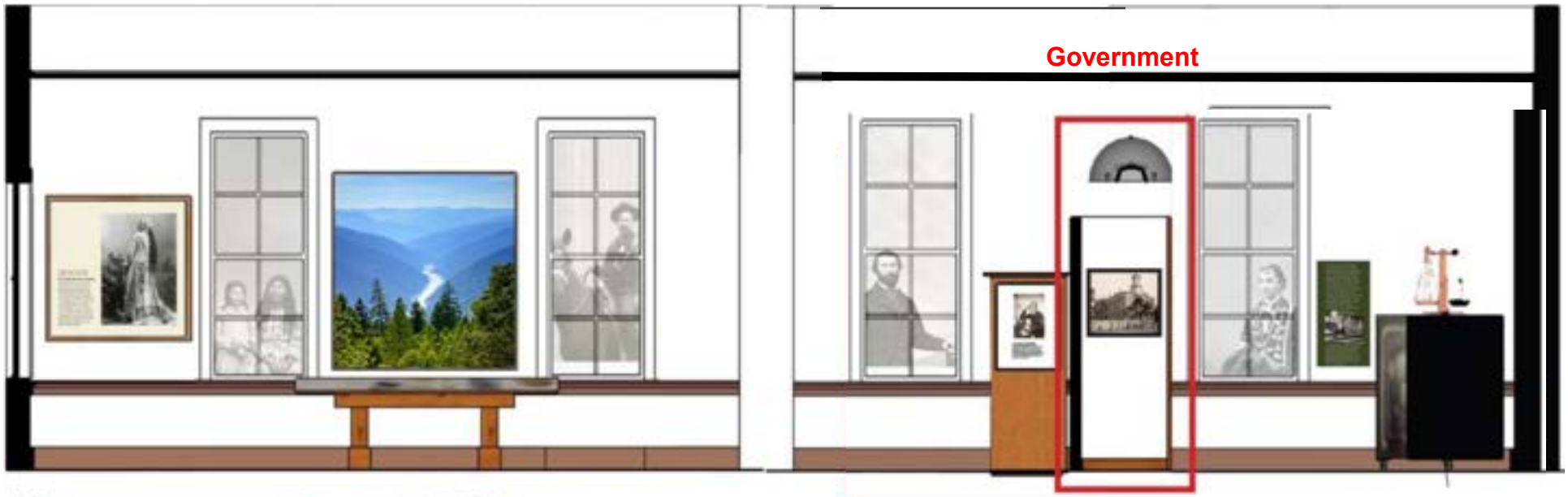
Swiss immigrant, Peter Britt, arrived in Jacksonville in November 1852 with a two-wheeled cart of photographic equipment, a yoke of oxen, a mule, and five dollars in his pocket. He filed a donation land claim on what is now the Britt Festival grounds, the Lower Britt Gardens, and portions of the Jacksonville Woodlands.



After unsuccessfully trying his hand at gold mining then working as a "mule skinner" hauling supplies to the mining camps, he acquired a "grub stake" and opened "P. Britt's Photograph and Daguerrotype Room" in 1856. Britt became the best known and most popular photographer in the southern Oregon and northern California area.

Britt photographed most of the region's prominent citizens as well as farmers,

miners, Chinese workers, and Native Americans. He photographed events and landscapes. In 1874, he was the first person to photograph Crater Lake, and his photographs were used to make Crater Lake a national park in 1902. His photographs were also used to document and establish Jacksonville's National Historic Landmark District in 1966, the first such District on the West Coast.



Government

EAST WALL

From the discovery of gold, Jacksonville was the Southern Oregon hub, the Jackson County seat, and home to the county courthouse for 70 years.

**Jacksonville Courthouse, 1888**  
Source: Ken O'Neil/Hungry for History

An 1824 two-story wooden Masonic hall served as the county's first courthouse until it became too dilapidated to use. In 1884, the imposing historic Jackson County Courthouse was built at a cost of around \$52,000. When completed, it was declared "the crowning glory of Jacksonville." However, that same year the railroad bypassed Jacksonville in favor of the Raton valley floor.

In 1922, the county seat was moved to Medford, and the building no longer served as a courthouse. From 1950 to 2000, it housed the Southern Oregon Historical Society's museum. In 2000 it became the new home of Jacksonville's City Hall.

The historic Jackson County jail near to Jacksonville's new City Hall is the site of three previous jails.

**1824 Jail, 1824**  
Source: Ken O'Neil/Hungry for History

The original 1824 jail was replaced in 1875 by a sturdy brick building with seven-inch thick wooden planks separating the cells. It housed Louis O'Neil, the last person to hang in Jacksonville.

In 1889 the second jail burned down, killing three inmates, one who was due for release the next morning. A third jail was constructed with concrete floors, a corrugated iron ceiling and five steel-plated jail cells that slept four inmates each.

**1924 Jail, 1924**  
Source: Ken O'Neil/Hungry for History

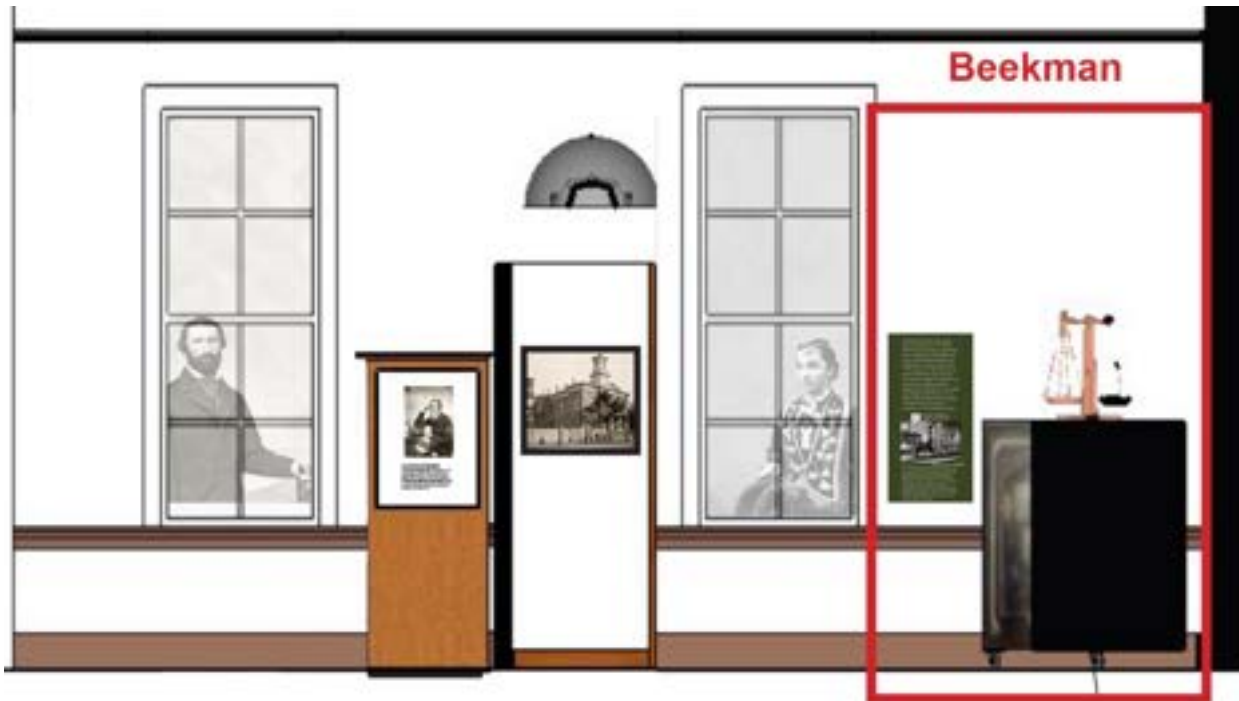
By 1921, the third jail was torn down to make way for the current building, designed to house 25 prisoners in heavy iron cages. This jail housed the DeBartement brothers, convicted of the West's last great train robbery.

**1921 Jail, 1921**  
Source: Ken O'Neil/Hungry for History

Use the touch screen to explore the history of the first hanging in Jacksonville: Jefferson Davis, convict #1189; the first Oregon Sheriff to die in the line of duty; the West's last prisoner hanging, and more.

The Government exhibit includes A/V and AI, with historical interpreters sharing stories of key individuals, trials, and "justice" in a frontier town, and AI bringing historic images to life and having the individuals tell their own stories. The directional speaker focuses the sound so as not to disturb other guests.





## Cornelius Beekman Wall Panel

**Entrepreneur, public servant, and philanthropist, Cornelius Beekman was probably the most prominent and wealthiest of Jacksonville's pioneer settlers. His home and bank, still completely furnished with original artifacts, are town museums.**

**A gold scale on top of the adjacent safe illustrates how most trade was by barter or done "on account" with payment in gold or silver, not paper money.**

# CORNELIUS BEEKMAN

Cornelius Beekman came to Jacksonville in 1853 as an express rider. He carried mail, packages, and gold over the Siskiyou mountains between Jacksonville and Yreka, California.



Cornelius C. Beekman, behind counter of 1853 bank.  
Historical Society of Oregon

When the company he worked for failed in 1856, he opened Beekman's Express. He covered the same 67-mile route two or three times round trip each week. Beekman also bought a safe to store the gold between trips, becoming the first financial institution in the Pacific Northwest. In 1863 he became the Wells Fargo agent and formally opened the Beekman Bank.

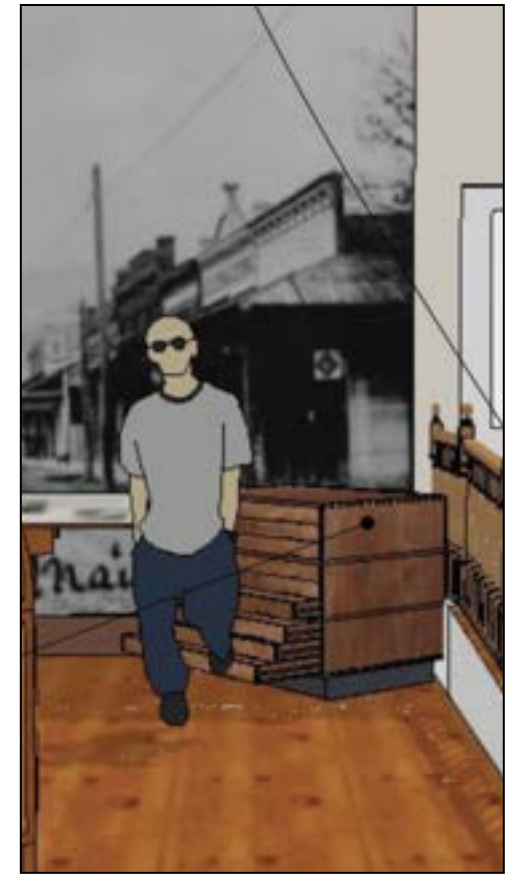
From that rather humble beginning, Beekman built a business empire of banking, insurance, mining, and real estate. He was also a philanthropist, donating money for churches and schools. He served as Mayor of Jacksonville, a candidate for Governor of Oregon, head of the Masonic Lodge, and a University of Oregon board member.

He became the most prominent and wealthiest man in Jacksonville. In 1950, *The Oregonian* newspaper named him one of the 100 most influential individuals during Oregon's first 100 years of statehood.



## Community

The back wall features a full wall mural of Jacksonville's California Street circa 1910. The panel board display in front highlights four individuals who illustrate various themes. The flat files on the right are interactive with pull out drawers whose contents develop the Town Life theme and show the town's diversity—Chinatown, Black pioneers, schools, churches, fraternal orders, culture, society, etc.



A closer view of Community exhibit with mural, flat file, and panel board contents.

### HERMAN VON HELMS

In 1851, Herman von Helms and John Wingan built a one-story brick structure which started as the Table Rock Bakery but quickly became a saloon and a bar. After fire destroyed the El Dorado Saloon in 1874, Helms and Wingan reopened on the saloon business, now called the Table Rock Saloon. Wingan retired in 1881. Under Helms, the saloon became a hub for town business, politics, and social events. When Helms added an English-style pool and billiard table, twice the size of those today, the building and business were renamed the Table Rock Billiard Saloon.




### Madame JEANNE DEROBOAM

*Luigier Gaultville Holt*

Born in Bordeaux, France around 1820, Jeanne Deroboam moved to Jacksonville in the late 1850s. She opened the Franco-American Hotel sometime before 1858 with Charles Luigier, Italy's first common-law Italian husband who later left town. She stayed on as owner and manager through her second marriage to John Gaultville, who died in 1865. Jeanne's third husband, George William Holt, built Jeanne her dream hotel on California Street, the U.S. Hotel, reportedly at a cost of \$10,000. Presidentutherford S. Hayes stayed at the hotel in September of 1880.




### JANE MCCULLY

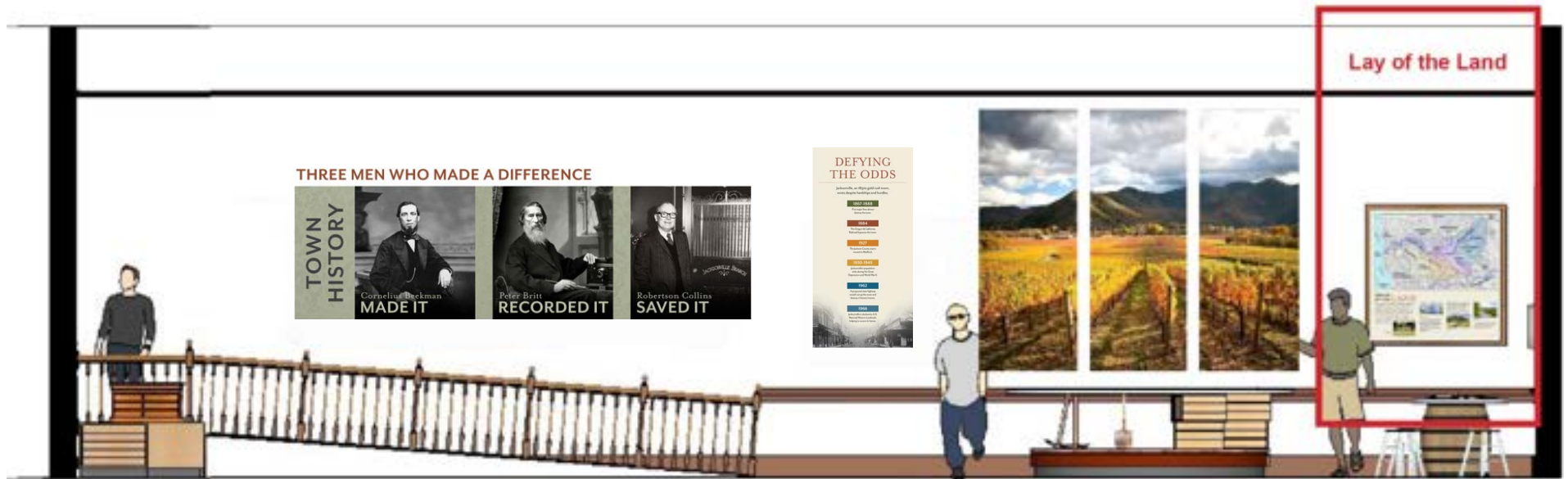
When Jane Mason McCully arrived in Jacksonville in 1852 with her husband John, she was only the second "respectable" woman in town. Her husband John was a doctor, she was a teacher, but there was no need for her services. She initially supported the couple with her baking skills. Eventually John was able to start a medical practice and then invested in real estate, his downfall. By 1861 he had racked up \$1,000 in debt. He dropped town, leaving Jane with three young children and his creditors. Jane was tough and pulled the family out of debt. She eventually started a successful school and turned her home into Mrs. McCully's Seminary. She became the only teacher that many of the children of the town's prominent families knew, helping her students to succeed at university and beyond.




### GIN LIN

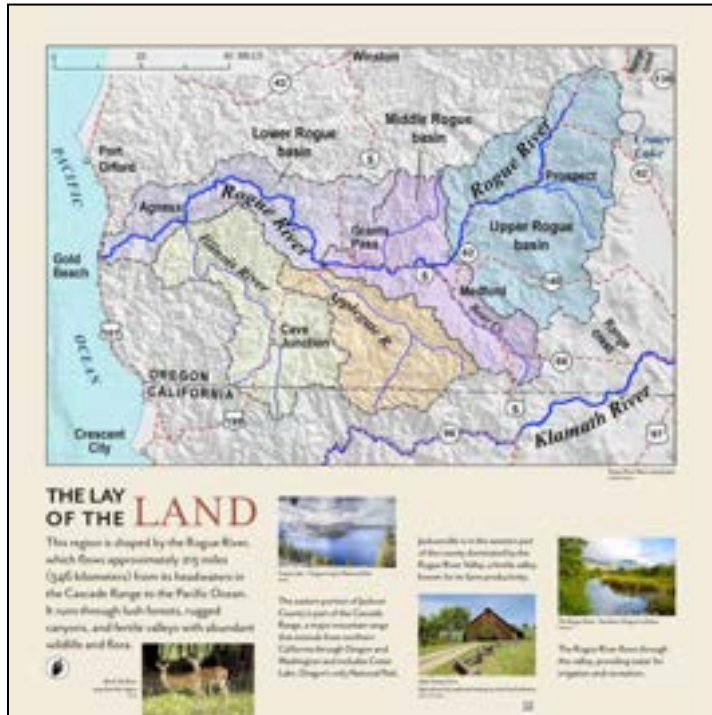
GIN Lin was a leading Chinese labor boss in Jacksonville during the Gold Rush, working in Oregon in the 1850s. Lin was able to purchase a claim in 1854 on the Little Applegate River despite state laws to prevent Chinese people from owning property. He also leased other area mines from white men who had already taken out the easy gold. A fair and clever boss, Gin is credited with introducing water-powered mining to Southern Oregon. He had an account worth over \$1-million in Cornelius Beckman's bank.



West Wall

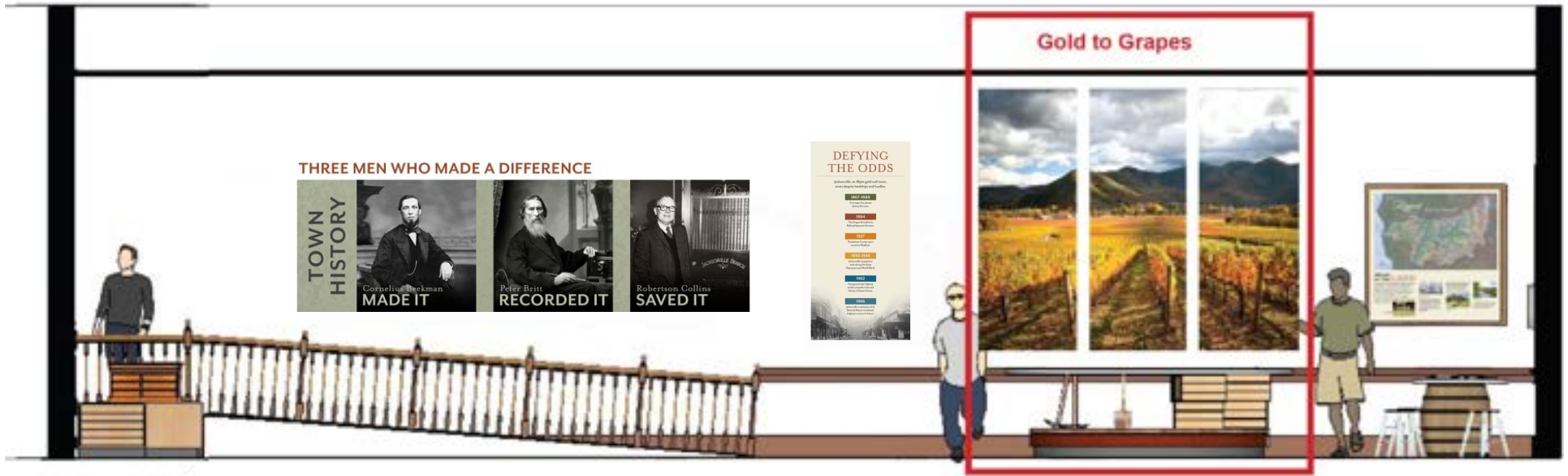
**West Wall initial exhibit shows “Lay of the Land”**



**Exhibit highlights the natural beauty of the Rogue Valley and the abundant natural resources and fertility of the land that attracted individuals for millennia.**

**Table and stools provide resting place. Flip book on table highlights outdoor and recreational activities.**





West Wall


The Gold to Grapes exhibit highlights the role gold played in the initial founding of Jacksonville, how it was replaced by agriculture, and how Peter Britt became the father of Southern Oregon's wine, orchard, and horticulture industries.




**Educational artifacts will enhance the exhibit.**

**A video screen will add information about agriculture.**


## GOLD TO GRAPES



**Gold played an essential role in the shaping of the present day town of Jacksonville.** This place was merely a stopover on the way to California for early Europeans — until gold was discovered here in the winter of 1851-52 by James Poole and James Claggett. This was the first gold discovered in Oregon.



**It didn't take long for thousands of gold seekers to flock here** and settle in what was informally called Table Rock City. When Clatsop County became Jackson County in 1852, the town's name was changed to Jacksonville in honor of Andrew Jackson.



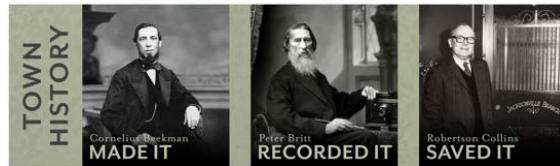
**While the gold rush only lasted a couple of decades,** other natural commodities thrived in the region. In the next decade, a horticulturist born named Peter Britt created orchards in Jacksonville and his name is known as the "father of the Southern Oregon fruit industry." The first orchard business started in 1861. They quickly grew to include peaches, apples, cherries, pears, and plums.

**In 1863, Peter Britt also established the Northwest's first winery, Valley View, in Jacksonville.** But it wasn't until after prohibition in the 1930s that a few ambitious growers began growing grapes and making wine in the region again. Southern Oregon now has over 100 wineries.

**Currently the top crops in Jackson County are peaches, wine grapes, tree nuts, and other fruits like cherries and blackberries.**

## Historic Jacksonville Should Not Exist

### THREE MEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE



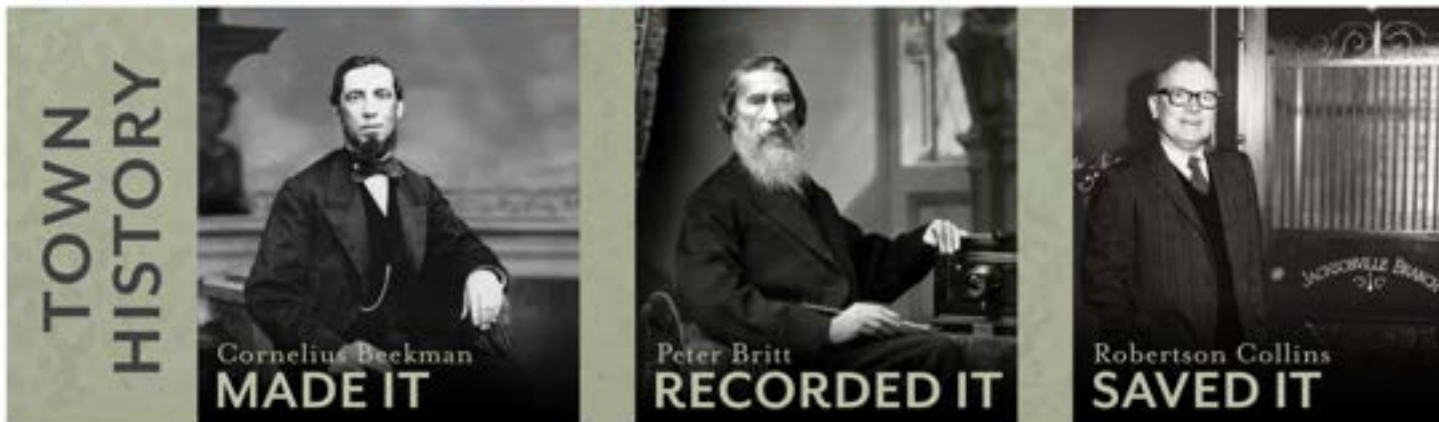
### DEFYING THE ODDS



West Wall

The “Historic Jacksonville Should Not Exist” exhibit is a way of summarizing Jacksonville’s history. The triptych highlights three men who played what were felt to be the most significant roles in that history. The wall panel summarizes major events/turning points in the Jacksonville story.

## THREE MEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE





## **Applebaker Fire Hall and Jail**

**The South Oregon Street entrance will be made ADA accessible. The existing concrete will be torn out and replaced with an ADA grade ramp.**

**The original fire hall, now fire museum, contains Jacksonville's 1861 hook and ladder truck and 1884 pumper truck. Interior signage will be upgraded and exterior signage added.**

**The jail was the City jail, not the Jackson County jail, and it was used mainly as a drunk, or drying out, tank. The remaining cell will be staged as such and appropriate signage added.**