



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Dotting the Face of Fillmore are many homes whose pioneer architecture is still evident although a few modern touches have been added. One of those is at 380 South 100 West.

This two story brick home is typical of those built by the early residents of Fillmore. This one has seen several owners and tenants, as it has been used recently as a rental.

The original home was built early in the history of Fillmore, around the 1860's probably by Hans Christian Hansen. Records list the owner as "Christian Hansen".

Hans C. Hansen was born on April 2, 1822 in Denmark. He married Gertrude Rasmussen and the couple had three sons that were raised in this home: Hans Christian Hansen born in 1849, E. Martin born in 1860 and Joseph Henry who was born in 1864.

Hans was educated and apprenticed to a noted architect and learned construction, carpentry and designing. He became an expert craftsman and his name is associated with the designing and building of many homes and public buildings in the area. He taught his sons these skills and the family was well known for their building expertise.

The home is constructed as many in town were, of locally made bricks. It had two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. A fire destroyed part of the home at one point, but it was rebuilt after the fire and later remodeled.

The son of the owner, Hans Christian Hansen, built the home where Doug Jolley now lives. It is decorated with wood scroll work or gingerbread, typical decorations of the day and of immigrants from Scandinavia. I have wondered if the original home on First West was also decorated the same way and that maybe those decorations were destroyed by the fire, although I have found no concrete evidence of this.

Christian and his family had a loom and wove rugs and carpets for the people of Fillmore. They were known by their neighbors as extremely clean people. They would scrub their pig troughs and clean the ditch banks and haul that grass to the pigs.

Interestingly, a later resident of the home, Eva Hanson, also wove rugs. People would keep their worn clothing and take to her. She would cut and roll and weave. In the early days of Fillmore, people depended on homemade rugs.

Although details of the history of this home are a little sketchy, the home still stands as a reminder of days gone by in Fillmore.

