



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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With its white steeple towering above the surrounding trees, the Fillmore Utah Stake Center is one of the prominent buildings in the Face of Fillmore. Located at 300 West and Center Street, this building has been the home to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for nearly half a century.

The lot on which the chapel stands was once part of the Wade property. A ride around the block will find stone granaries near each of the corners, with the exception of the northwest one. Before construction of the church, a matching granary was also found there. According to early workers on the stake house, so were a lot of boulders, which required much effort to move.

On August 4, 1946, the Fillmore Third Ward was established and granted permission to use the Fillmore Elementary School Building until a chapel could be built to house the ward; however, before the completion of the church building, the ward moved into the Fillmore First Ward Building and shared it for a time.

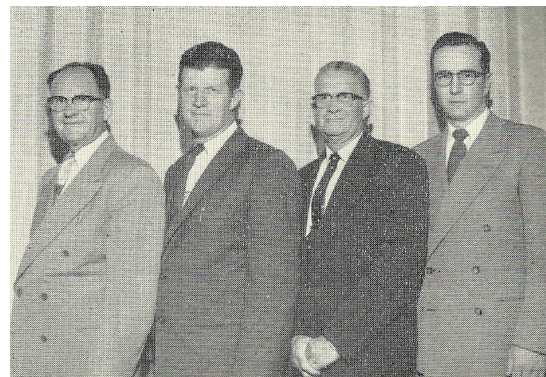
Plans were immediately launched for raising funds and preparing for the construction of a new chapel. In 1947 the present site of the building was arranged for and the work of clearing the site began, as pictured here.

On January 7, 1954 ground was broken for the construction of the new Stake Building and Fillmore Third Ward Chapel. Lorenzo Hanson was retained as construction foreman.

Nearly two and a half years later the building was completed and on Sunday, June 3, 1956, it was dedicated by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

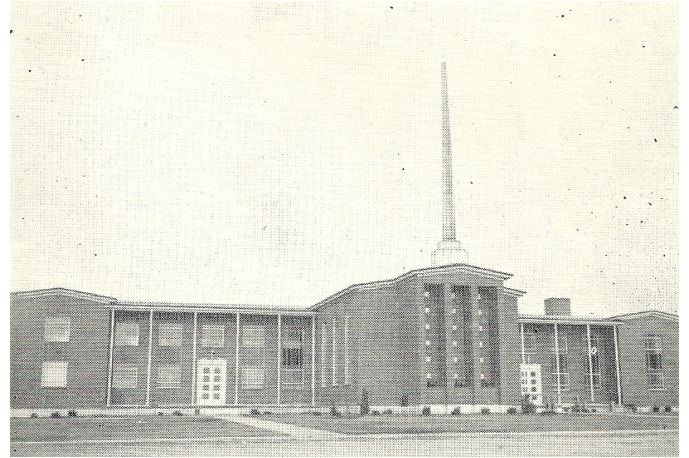
At that time Roy Olpin was the Stake President and is pictured here second from the left with his counselors and executive secretary: Harold Wood, D.L. Melville and LeGrande Davies.

Years passed and in 1998 the need arose for enlarging and upgrading the chapel, so the chapel section of the building was demolished in the fall of 1998. Through the winter, spring and summer months the new chapel continued to take shape. Meetings were still held in the building during construction with the cultural hall becoming a temporary chapel. On October 24, 1999, the new chapel section of the building was dedicated by Elder Mitch Myers.



Fillmore Utah Stake Center

Again in the winter of 2010, it became evident that further upgrading to reinforce the structure of the building was necessary. This project was one that could not be done with regular church services being held there, so the Fillmore Second Ward moved to Meadow to share their building for a time, and the Fillmore Third Ward went to



Flowell. The office wing of the building housing the Stake President's office, as well as both bishops' offices could still be used.

With the complete of this renovation, the wards again met for the first time back in the Fillmore Utah Stake Center for regularly scheduled meetings on December 4th. As one ward member explained, "It's good to be home again."