



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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I am pleased to watch one of Fillmore's most historic homes regain some of its original look and be renamed to reflect its former history.

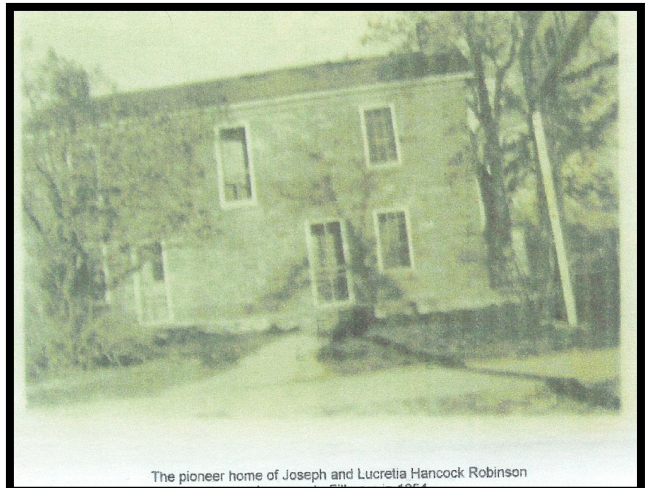
The building I am referring to is what has been known for years as the Spinning Wheel Motel at 45 South Main. The new owners have renamed it "The Robison House", at least temporarily, and have removed some of the shrubbery and signs added by past owners, making the original building more visible for us all to enjoy.

The building was originally the home of Joseph and Lucretia Robison, some of the first settlers of Fillmore. The Robison's along with their extensive family (I have heard the number of children at 15.) moved from Crete, Illinois to Salt Lake City. Theirs was not the normal trek west. Unlike many who came in "a" covered wagon, the Robison's had several to hold all of the belongings. This was in part due to the large number of children and also the fact that they were quite wealthy.

The family lived in the old fort, as did all of the earliest residents. These were small one room "houses" which lined the west and south walls of the fort using the outside wall as one of the walls of their homes. After four years of this, Lucretia did what any wife in that situation would have done. I can imagine her saying, "Joseph, you are a great husband and father, but enough is enough. I need some breathing room."

Construction began in 1858 and was completed in 1861 by Joseph Robison from a design drawn by his wife. It is the oldest rock home outside of the fort and is situated about half a block south of the southwest corner of the fort.

The two-story home was built of the same sandstone that was used for the Capital Building. This sandstone was quarried in the canyon east of town and was put into place by Edwards and Perry, the stonemasons.



Each of the original rooms in the home has its own fireplace. Lucretia Robison taught school in one of the upstairs rooms, with her own children and group of neighbors as the students.

Some years later a lumber addition added to the rear of the building and a two-story porch with fancy woodcarvings was added to the front. Hans Hanson and his sons, John George, and Albert did the carpentry work. The inside stairway leading to the second floor was put up with wooden pegs, which reportedly are still there and have held up the stairway with no sagging, though they have seen a century and a half of traffic.

The home was owned by the Alonzo Robison family for many years. In 1932 Alfred Robison, a grandson of Joseph, built the first “tourist court” in Fillmore, making it one of the longest running businesses in the state.

The motel has seen other owners in its history including Erle Emmett, Shawn DeWolfe and most like a few others.

I was able to visit with the new owner Dan DeBry and hear of his connections to the home. He is a descendant of Joseph Robison. Dan’s mother Ruby Robison was Joseph’s granddaughter. She lived in Fillmore in her early years when the family moved to Salt Lake City. Her father was an employee of Zions Bank.

Now the Joseph Robison home is back in the family and looking more like the original pioneer home it once was. Remodeling of the motel section is underway, and hopes are to restore the old home to its original historical beauty.