



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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From the moment the first shovelful of dirt is moved, a home begins a history all its own.

For dozens of homes around Fillmore, that history dates back nearly 150 years, but the majority have been built since the pioneers and their history is also full of interesting events, although more recent.

One of these is located on the northwest corner of Second West and First South at 90 South 200 West. For many of us it will be remembered as the Vivian and Emily Wade home.

The location of this home is of interest. From early in the 20th century, the block belonged to members of the Wade family. In February 1908, Frank Partridge, son of Edward Jr., sold the rock home south across the street from the high school to Samuel Frame Wade for \$300 at 10% interest. The Wade's soon purchased the entire block and built several outbuildings for use with their animals. A stone granary was built on each corner of the block. Three of these are still standing, while the fourth was removed to build the Fillmore Stake Center. The Wade's owned the pioneer home for about 50 years with many of their family members living there at one time or another.



recent picture of home

The northwest corner of the block at Center Street and Third West was donated by Emily Rowley Wade to the Church to build the Stake Center.

Sometime in 1943 Emily Ashby and Vivian Wade, son of Samuel Frame and Emily Rowley Wade, finished building and moved into their new cinder block home on the southeast corner of the block. The lot also included two other homes: one to the west and one to the north. The home to the north was a pink stucco home, which is no longer there. Vivian and Emily lived in this home while building their new home. Emily's parents, Rodney Badger and Jane Marinda Stephenson Ashby, long-time residents of Leamington, Utah, lived in the home to the west in 1947. Rodney had become sick, and they had to be released as ordinance workers in the Manti Temple. Rodney had cancer and as a result had his legs amputated below the knee. More care for him was needed so they moved into the home to the west so Emily and Vivian could help care for him. Incidentally, the home to the west came from Topaz and had an addition made on the west side of the house.

In their new home, Emily and Vivian raised three sons - Alton Wade, residing now in St. George, Utah; Reed Weed, of Lehi, Utah; and Lewis Wade in Sandy, Utah. All three sons moved away from Fillmore after graduating from Millard High.

Vivian and Emily kept the yard of their home in beautiful condition, raising a garden, lawns, flowers, as well as fruit trees. Emily was known as a real go-getter. She was always fixing up something, building something or painting. She even installed siding and poured and set cement around the home.

The Wade's were especially well-loved among the community members for their amazing holiday displays, including a large Santa and a nativity on the lawn and lights and Christmas displays in the windows.

Early in the home's history, rooms were rented to a number of airmen who were training at Fillmore's airport (the Fly Guys). Emily fed them breakfast and supper each day. There was also a basement apartment that they rented out.

Vivian moved his barbershop and began operating it in their home out of necessity after a terrible car accident in the fall of 1965. Because of the accident, Emily was paralyzed and needed constant care. The barber pole on the front of the home was evidence of the basement barbershop many remember.

In 1981, both Vivian and Emily passed away and the house went to their son Reed Wade. He eventually sold the property to Bob Roth.

In 2005, the Leatham's purchased the home and later used it as a rental. It has recently been extensively renovated but still holds that old charm. Interestingly, Crystal Higgins Leatham lived there with her mother, Valerie Anderson, daughter of Doris and Earl Anderson, when the Roth's were the owners.

No matter how recently a home is built, it is never too soon to begin keeping a history of it for future generations to enjoy.



Left to right: The Wade family: Reed, Vivian, Emily, Alton and Lewis



Older view of home with Reed's wife Betty, Reed and Emily