



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard

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The Face of Fillmore salutes a family of great builders in early Fillmore – the Hanson family.

Martin Hanson and his brother Hans C. came to Utah from Denmark in their youth. Their father, Hans Christian Hanson, was educated and apprenticed to a noted architect and learned construction carpentry and designing. He would design and build a home, then design and build furniture for it. These skills were taught to his sons and passed on to their sons, as well.

Martin Hanson, one of those sons, built the home at 280 South 100 West in the early 1870's.

The exterior of the structure was made of plaster with shapes imprinted into it to give the appearance of the red bricks used on many homes of the period. It was well-insulated and because of that is cool in the summer and easy to heat in the winter. The bay window on the south and the distinctive gingerbread wood trim on the porch and around the eaves are typical of the Hanson architectural style and were handcrafted by the builder.

Martin made the bricks as well as the doors and window frames by hand that he used on the buildings he built. He is credited with building the first bank in Fillmore and other public buildings.

Martin and his wife Caroline Christiansen Hanson raised their family in this comfortable home. Two of their sons - Wren and Henry followed in their father's footsteps and became great architects. They are responsible many of the homes and public buildings in Millard County.

Max Nichols owned the home for a number of years and did some remodeling, while trying to maintain the original design as much as possible. He added a new bedroom on the north of the building as well as putting siding over the plaster.

As can be seen from the early picture, the porch and dormer windows were also added at some point, but gingerbread was saved to put around the edges to match the rest of the home.

The home is currently owned by the Cory Anderson family. They too have an interest in maintaining the original pioneer look of the home.

