



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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This week the Face of Fillmore takes a close look at the home at 40 East 100 South and the man who built it.

Daniel Stevens was a man of hard work and vision for the town of Fillmore. Among his accomplishments were the improving and enlarging an important section of Fillmore's Main Street, as well as becoming a state senator. As senator, he is credited with helping with the preservation of the Territorial Statehouse.

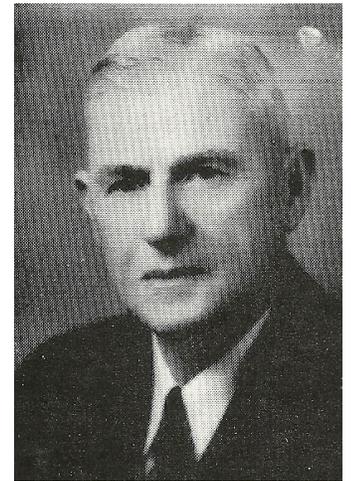
In January 1897 Daniel took over the management of the store located on the corner of Main and Center. In 1905 he made his first addition to the building, as well as changing the name to Stevens Mercantile Company. He bought the store from his father in 1912 and in June 1917 opened a store in Delta, which was financed from the proceeds of the Fillmore store.

Daniel's ideas for business did not end there. His dream was for a hotel and on March 7, 1928 he began excavation for the project to the south of the store. This hotel became a show place and hosted many events as well as having some famous people as its guests.

From an old newspaper article published on February 22, 1929, we read a description of his project. "Now, he has just completed the masterpiece of the great part of a lifetime of conscientious and intelligent effort. It is in the form of an imposing business block on Main Street of his home town, and houses a thoroughly modern department and grocery store and a modern thirty room hotel with cafe connecting into this building and its equipment. Mr. Stevens caused to be placed only the finest construction and materials that money can buy, and the result is an addition to Fillmore's business district that causes the heart of every patriotic citizen of this fair little city to quicken with pride."

While he was busy with improving his business ventures, as well as having dealings with the family operated farm, Daniel entered into another construction project – the building of a new home for his family. The home was built in 1905 and was a show place in its day. Here he and his wife Florence May Cooper Stevens raised their children: Ava Mae who married Ward Starley, Daniel Ward whose wife's name was Ila, Alta Florence who married Burt Mathews, Evan Stevens who died very young, Isabel Elaine who married LaVoy Kimball, Maxine who married Don Cummings and Marjorie who married Dean Fisher. Most of the children and/or their spouses became involved in the family businesses.

Following his wife's death in 1932, Daniel remarried a few years later to a lady named Bertha Johnson. She lived only a few years and he eventually moved into an



apartment in the hotel. His daughter Maxine and her husband Don moved into the family home. During the time they lived there, the home was remodeled to include three upstairs apartments. Later they built a new home just next door to the east.

In 1967 Doris and Drew Rasmussen bought the home and are still living there. Among the many improvements they have made to the home is the addition of the garage. The exterior of the home still reflects its historical beginnings.