



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore would like to point out a familiar landmark on Main Street. This is the home located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Second South. To many new comers it may be thought of as the older home behind the huge spruce trees, others will remember it as the offices of Dr. Evans, yet others will remember that it was once the only hospital in town, while still a few may remember it before those days.

Thanks to well-kept journals by the first owners, we can get a true picture of its beginnings.

Quoting from the journal of Peter L. Brunson, written in 1941: "I built this home (in 1908)...at a cost of \$5,000. I bought this lot from Rhoda Holbrook at a cost of \$4500 with 22,000 bricks on it. They were old bricks out of the store of John Kelly that was torn down. I bought the outside brick of Mortan Hanson, and the white brick or trimming I got from Delta."

His daughter Nora Brunson Hansen proudly writes of this home: "There were ten rooms, three porches, a cement cellar under the house, and a pantry with steps leading to the cellar. There were four clothes closets, two halls, and a stairway going upstairs. There wasn't a nicer home in the county. After much moving, camping, and crowded quarters, you can imagine how much we loved this home. Soon there were flowers, a garden, an orchard, corrals, a monument yard, sheds and a large lumber building –half of it was used for grain, harnesses, sawed wood ready to split, etc. and the other half was divided into two parts. The west part was for our white-topped buggy and the east room had a door and windows and was the work shop and office for the monument business."

Later she wrote: "The lights we used first were kerosene lamps placed in the middle of the table. We would sit around the table to study. Then came the gas lamps which hung from the ceiling, in the parlor, dining rooms and kitchen."

The Brunson family lived in this home from 1909 to 1918, during which time Peter L. Brunson was elected to the City Council, where he served for six years.

He was also in the Fillmore First Ward bishopric for one



year, then was called to be the bishop. In 1912 he became the second counselor in the Millard Stake Presidency with Orvil Thompson as stake president and John A. Beckstrand as first counselor. Whenever conference or church gatherings were held, the visiting authorities would stay at the Brunson home.

Peter wrote:

“Alta was an entertainer. Her home was open to the public, especially the Church authorities. In those days we stayed with each other two and three nights. I remember of having one stake conference where we had 36 people at the table at once. We had four extra beds and fed nine span of horses. She furnished beds and meals to as many as came. President Heber J. Grant, President Anthony W. Ivins, President F.M. Lyman and President David O. McKay were there at one time or another and of the quorum of the twelve Orson F. Whitney, James E. Talmage, Stephen L. Richards, George F. Richards, Hyrum M. Smith, Joseph F. Smith (and others), J. Golden Kimball and others of the seventies, and a score of Relief Society sisters.”

In 1918 the Brunson family became “heavily indebted” and the decision came of whether to sell the farm or the house. It was the home that had to go. They moved to the farm where they lived in the summers and rented in town in the winters. Several years later Peter built the home now occupied by the mortuary.

Attorney T. M. Ivory took over the house on Main Street and owned it until 1929.

On August 9, 1929 the Progress records the next owner and occupants of the home: “New Hospital Completed. The entire upstairs of the T.M. Ivory home, which was recently purchased by Dr. Evans has been remodeled and equipped for a modern hospital...The hospital will provide for six beds and will have an operating room and kitchen...The lower portion of the house will be used for living quarters.”



The home was owned by Dr. Dean C. Evans and served as the Fillmore Hospital until the “new hospital” was built in about 1950 on the corner of First West and Center Street.

In about 1994, Max Brunson, the youngest son of Peter L. purchased the home that he was born in, and he and Alta Beth lived in it until 2004. When Max’s health began to fail, they sold the home and moved back to Logan.

Brent Peterson of Hurricane owned the home for a time. It was recently purchased by Joe and Cheryl Flynn of Fillmore. They moved in with their four children in January, 2008.

A special thank you to Rollo Brunson of St. George. Without the fascinating written account he sent and the above pictures, this column would not have been possible.