



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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A personal favorite of the historic homes in Fillmore is the one on 185 North 200 West. Its unique design has drawn attention to it over the years, as well as the fact it is one of the older homes in town.



The current owner of the home is Rita Logue Ford and her husband Dixon. Dixon is currently in the process of replanting the lawn, which has been in need of attention. Over the years it has become very unlevel and new grass will certainly add to the attractiveness of the yard. Since moving into the home a few years ago, Rita has done extensive work to the downstairs, creating a large open dining area.

The original home was built in about 1865 with the official deed made to John Ashman, the builder, in 1871. He and his wife Ann Wilde Ashman were listed

as the original occupants, although it is commonly thought he had more wives.

According to family stories, the first member of the family to arrive in Fillmore was Ann Elizabeth Ashman, daughter of John Ashman, who crossed the plains at the age of 16 and arrived in 1862. She later married a teamster who escorted several pioneer companies on their trek westward. Her letters home no doubt encouraged her parents to come to Fillmore, as well.

John Ashman was a stonemason and built the home. Some reports say that it was built of red rock quarried east of town while others say it was built of cobble rocks. One family legend has it that his wives carried cobble rock from the creek in their aprons. The rock was later covered with stucco and painted white.

The home was constructed of two stories with five gables on the top floor. The downstairs began as one large room. Each end of the house was built of lathe, plaster and lumber, with a porch across the front and around the north of the one room. As seen in the early picture, there was once a south part of the house that no longer exists.

The original gingerbread trim still decorates the five front gables. The interior stairway is narrow and makes a bend, which makes the moving of furniture a major task. It is said that at one time there was an exterior stairway, which was probably used for this purpose.

The house is cool in summer and warm in winter because of the thickness of the walls – more than a foot at the entrances.



The middle part of the home burned in 1974. Contractor Mervin Trimble rebuilt it under the direction of the owner at that time, Ula Maycock. At that point, there was a small apartment on the north end of the home, where Mrs. Maycock had lived prior to the fire. Afterward she rented it out for a time. According to courthouse records, several owners have enjoyed the home, including Almon Robison, Ann Wilde Ashman, John and Lydia Ashman, John e. Peterson, Joseph Beckwith, Seymour Brunson and Clark and Ula Maycock.

The Face of Fillmore congratulates all those over the years who have been involved in maintaining the beauty of the Ashman home for future generations to enjoy.