



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
April 27, 2011

The Face of Fillmore this week is all about one of my favorite homes in Fillmore. Just what makes a home a favorite? Two things, really. One is obvious – its historic past. The second is the people I know who live or used to live there. Memories is what the Face of Fillmore is full of every week.

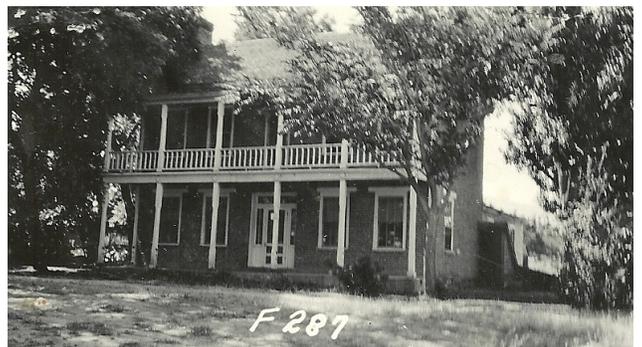
This week's home would be known to many as the Dallin Nielsen home at 155 West Center Street. This stately home has a significant historical past and in honor of that was placed on the Century Register for Utah Historic Homes on May 5, 1971 and on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on January 31, 1995.

Originally owned by Peter and Jessie Huntsman, this home has seen a number of owners in its history. It was built in 1871 by Hans Hanson, a local builder/architect who was a graduate of the University of Odense, Denmark with a degree in architecture. He was sent to Fillmore by Brigham Young and built over 200 structures in southern Utah. The home is architecturally significant because of the fact it is one of the two remaining homes in Fillmore with a central passage floor plan.

The home is Georgian style, which was influenced by Greek architecture. King George of England was impressed with the beauty of Grecian architecture and used it in many of the structures built during his reign. They were distinctive because of their ornate woodwork, spacious ceilings, dignity and order, and were very formal.

The structure sits on a red sandstone foundation that widens out about two feet down to the bedrock. The floor joists are smooth-on-top logs for the flooring to rest on. The rafters are 2" by 6" red pine with sheeting to support the shingles. The walls are handmade adobe brick made in a kiln in the southern part of Fillmore. They are 17 inches thick downstairs and slightly less upstairs. The bearing walls inside are also 17 inches thick. The bricks were painted to preserve them from deterioration.

Originally there were five rooms, including the kitchen-lean-to, with no bathrooms. In 1936 there were 13 rooms, made into three apartments with a bathroom for each. When it was further remodeled in 1967, one



bathroom was made from the two smaller ones and the partition was taken out between the kitchen and back porch.

The home was purchased by Howard Sebree in 1875 for a price of \$1295.00, but sold back to Peter Huntsman just two years later. That same year he sold it to Thomas Callister, but it's doubtful the Callister's ever lived there. Mr. Callister was known for building the home north across the street from the National Guard Armory, which became the Ira Hinckley home.

Records show that Franklin Wilcox bought the home somewhat later on from Joseph Robison, mayor of Fillmore and then sold it in 1887 to T.C. Callister for \$250.00.

In 1891 it became home to the William Payne family. Later owners were his wife Carrie, then Earl Veile, George Veile, and Milo Warner.

In 1932 Milo sold it to his daughter Vernell Christopherson for \$10.00. The lot was large and Vernell and her husband built a new home on the corner to the west. In 1937 the Christopherson's sold the older home to Vera Frampton, who had been widowed for quite a while and the money from renting the home would add to her income as the Fillmore Elementary School Librarian. She had a furnace installed and the whole back part of the house added on to make three apartments. These apartments saw many renters including Foisey King, Elwood Lambert, Farrell Smith, and others. Each time a new renter moved in Vera would repaint. She supervised the rentals very closely. She owned the home next door where the Gregerson's now live, while she lived in the next home to the east. Her brother-in-law Fay Frampton lived just east of her.

In 1959 the Dallin Nielsen family bought the home and moved in. The value of the home at the time was \$7000.00. Many improvements were made over the years although the Nielsen's decided to alter it as little as possible to preserve the historical legacy of the home. The front entrance was redone in its original style. The only change was privacy glass on the door. Wooden porches were replaced with cement as well as cement reinforcements for the foundation and a cement parking area to the west and sidewalks around the house. The screened-in back porch was torn off and replaced as a kitchen, with the partition in between removed to make a large family room. Partitions dividing the building into apartments were removed to make it once again a single family dwelling. The fireplace in the living room was uncovered and the mantel and woodwork constructed to harmonize with the rest of the room. Walls and ceilings were replaced with wall board in much of the home. The yards were also given much attention to make them attractive.

The Nielsen's were the owners for several years. Dallin passed away first and in later years Cathryn could not live alone so the home was sold to the Frame family. Oddly enough, we also have a connection with them, as well. Chris Frame is originally from my home town.

The Frame's have recently had the home painted and it looks beautiful with all of the blossoms of spring adding to the overall picture.



My personal memories of this home began as we moved to Fillmore in 1972. At that point it was owned by Dallin and Cathryn Nielsen. Dallin was our bishop and invited us to his home to visit. What a pleasant evening for our family!

In the ensuing years, we went there often. Our older daughters took piano lessons in the home and were often late coming home, as they loved to stay a while longer. Cathryn's Southern hospitality was extended to everyone on every occasion.

The special connection with this particular date stems from a royal wedding. On July 29, 1981, when Princess Diana and Prince Charles were married, Cathryn was the Young Women's president and had a giant slumber party at her home for the girls in our ward. They slept on the second story balcony and in the early hours of morning, Cathryn awakened them all to watch the wedding live on television. With the April 29 royal wedding, I could not help relive those memories in this historic home.