



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
November 9, 2011

A drive through the streets of Fillmore brought me to the conclusion that nearly every home has an outbuilding. Whether recently built or one of the pioneer era, this seems to be one item that residents of Fillmore all have.

Many of the outbuildings around town are garages of varying sizes, from the basic one car type and the common two car garage to one that has space for a fleet for cars.

Smaller outbuildings have been used ever since the beginning of the city for a variety of uses. Early stone, brick or log ones were used for storage, for ice houses and for granaries. Rumor has it that some even housed polygamous wives.

It is fascinating to look at the block where the Fillmore Stake Center is located. There are stone granaries near each of three corners built in the late 1800's by the Wade family, but the matching one on the northwest corner was removed to build the stake house.

One well-preserved rock building just north of the corner of First East and First South is owned by Mike and Maria Anderson. This building was probably built well after the pioneer home it sits near. A faint carving above the door reads: "Wells Brunson Born 2 Feb. 18__ __, Died 1891." If Wells built this stone shed, it was done sometime before 1891, when a relative must have recorded his information at its entrance after his passing.

Perhaps the smallest of the buildings we are looking at today belongs to Dennis Fowler and sits near his home on Second West. It is barely tall enough for a person to stand in and one has to stoop over to walk through the door, according to a neighbor. It was probably used as an ice house. Ice was cut from snow banks on the mountain and stored in these well-insulated buildings to keep food refrigerated. Some were lucky enough to have a well under the building, the cool air doing the refrigerating.

The largest of this group of buildings is the barns which give a country look to our community. Some are over a hundred years old, dilapidated and list to one side. Others have been more recently constructed with all of the comforts any animal would enjoy.



One is a combination of the two eras. The Roper Barn, located just south of the highway on the south end of Main Street, is a great meeting of the past and present. Originally, this barn was the livery stable located where the fire station now stands. In early Fillmore history, stagecoach passengers disembarked at the Wixom Hotel a half block south of the creek bridge on Main Street. The drivers then drove to the livery stable and left their rigs for the night while they stayed at the Robison Hotel. The old stable was brought in pieces to its present site and an attractive barn was built around it. Remnants of the old barn are still visible inside.

In recent years, residents have continued to find a need to store their yard tools, horse tack, lawnmowers, and other assorted belongings and continue to build homes for these items. Some still decorate them to look like the Old West like this one belonging to Ralph and Christy Myers, while others look like small cottages someone could move into like this one at the home of Bob Kitchen.

Take a close look and you will notice some unusual sights behind the homes that line the streets of the Face of Fillmore.