



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore would like to spotlight this week the older stone house just across the street to the south of Millard High School.

The home at the corner of Second West and Center Street was built in 1871 by Lewis Tarbuck, a pioneer stonemason and bricklayer. His expert workmanship was highly acclaimed. In the late 1960's the home was placed on "The Utah State Register of Historic Sites", chosen by the Governor's Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee.

The home is 20 feet by 34 feet, with two stories and a front and back porch. It is constructed of sand stone two feet thick. The front door opens into an entryway with doors to the right and left and stairs leading to the upper floor. Both the north and south rooms have fireplaces, making them cozy places to sit. The interior of the home has been well kept in recent years with furnishings that show off its pioneer heritage.

The home is English style architecture with amazing workmanship. The details are similar to George Washington's home and can also be found in Cove Fort. The tall windows are especially interesting. Knowing that glass had to be shipped long distances on less than smooth roads, it is amazing that such large windows got to Fillmore in one piece.

The house itself has changed little in appearance over the years. Older pictures do not look much different from the current ones, which is why only one picture is included.

The yard has changed considerably over the years. It was once filled with a variety of trees and had large lilac bushes on either side of the dirt walkway that led to the front porch. It was also surrounded by a picket fence and had a fruit orchard and stables west of the house.

The original owner Edward Partridge Jr. has a most interesting family history. His father, Edward Partridge Sr., was rejected by his family as being "deranged" when he was baptized into the LDS Church. Within two months of that time, he was called

to be the first presiding Bishop of the Church. He and his family suffered as the saints were moved from one place to another because of persecution. An account of their trials can be read in "Steadfastness and Patient Endurance: The Legacy of Edward Partridge" from the June 1979 *Ensign*. He passed away in Nauvoo.

Edward Jr. was only six years old when his father died. After crossing the plains and helping care for his family, he filled a mission to Hawaii in 1854-57. He managed Amasa Lyman's Farmington farm until the family moved to Fillmore. In 1869 he was elected probate judge in Millard County and was soon called as bishop here. He served as president of the Sandwich Islands (Hawaiian) Mission from 1882 to 1885. His



secular affairs also included being the acting mayor of Fillmore, a member of the territorial legislature, Millard County recorder, and a member of the state constitutional convention in 1895. At the time of his death he was stake president. He had two wives and seventeen children.

In February 1908, Frank Partridge, son of Edward Jr., sold the home to Samuel Frame Wade for \$300 at 10% interest. The Wades soon purchased the entire block and built several outbuildings for use with their animals. A stone granary was built on each corner of the block. Three of these are still standing, while the fourth was removed to build the Fillmore Stake Center.

The Wades owned the home for about 50 years with many of their family members living there at one time or another and then they sold it to a family named Brough. In 1974, Michael and LindaGay Harris bought the home. For a short time, the Berry family lived there until they moved into their new home. At that point the Harris's began the long process of restoring the home and making it a comfortable place to live. This process has been ongoing ever since, with all of the Harris family enjoying the home and the great pioneer heritage it represents.

Mrs. Harris's father John Dean and his wife Jeanne moved into the home and lived their about twenty years before moving north to be closer to the medical care they needed. Now the Harris's spend as much time there as their busy lives allow.

Professor of Architecture at the University of Utah, Thomas Carter, is currently writing a book about the architecture of several pioneer homes in central and southern Utah. He told the Harris's that this home is the best preserved example of this type of architecture he has seen.

Congratulations to another family who is carrying on the great legacy we enjoy here in Fillmore.