



## The Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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The Face of Fillmore this week concentrates on an impressive new office building on Fifth North just up the hill from Main Street. This is new home of the Fillmore Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The 9600 square foot building will house the Warm Springs and House Range Resource Management Areas of the West Desert BLM District, headquartered in Salt Lake City, as well as other support personnel to make the field office run efficiently. Mike Gates, a Millard county native, was recently selected as the Field Manager.

The architecture and engineering for the new building were done by BLM professional staff in the National Operations Center located in Denver with assistance from the Utah State Office and the Fillmore Field Office. The building, which was completed using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, is using some innovative energy efficiency techniques. Twenty-five percent of the energy for the building will be solar.



The previous Field Office Building, built in 1979, did not meet the needs of the staff and was deficient in several areas, including seismic, fire safety and standards for disabled persons. It was determined that it would be more cost effective to build another building than to try to renovate the old one.

It is interesting to note that the Bureau of Land Management was formed during a government reorganization in 1946, combining two former federal agencies -- the General Land Office and the U.S. Grazing Service. Most of the land managed by the BLM is located in 12 western states, including Alaska, although small parcels are scattered throughout the East. Besides protecting and managing the public lands for a variety of uses, the BLM also maintains custody of nearly nine million pages of historic land documents. The BLM's mission: To sustain the health, productivity, and diversity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The earliest history of the BLM in Fillmore that I was able to uncover came from former employees Carol Frampton, Lorraine Stewart, and Carol Wise and their memories of the past.

As far as I can determine, the first home of the BLM in Fillmore was in the old George Hotel, which was located on the northwest corner of Main and Center Streets. According to Carol Wise, who went to work as a clerk for the BLM in the mid-1950's, the BLM offices were in the old hotel dining room. Offices were partitioned off using file cabinets, but it was essentially one large room with a tile floor. Employees entered through a door in the south side of the building. There was an alcove off the front door that was used for the manager's office. The manager at that time was a man named Pratt Allred. There were seven regular employees and two clerks, the other of which was Ethel Brunson from Kanosh. Carol worked mostly with the "lands man" who worked on maps and legal transactions.

Working conditions were not only cramped in the dining room of the hotel, which was still under operation as a hotel, but there were no restrictions in other areas. Carol said only two of the workers did not smoke, which was an unpleasant atmosphere to work in. The hotel was also obviously not air-conditioned. The laundry room was situated below the office and the smell of laundry soaps and bleach permeated the room. Mrs. Wise said that the hotel cooks frequently burned the morning toast, which caused other unpleasant odors.

Some time later the offices were moved across the street to the east as seen in the picture here. Howard Johns had owned a café in the James Kelly Building and this was remodeled into offices. This was a larger space, but still not large enough to accommodate everyone, so some workers had their offices in the upstairs rooms of the Kelly Store. These had to be accessed from outside doors, which made going from office to office pretty chilly in the wintertime. Lorraine Stewart remembers being hired during this time by Rowell Udy, who was the manager during that time.

In the mid-1960's, a building was built on the corner of Fifth North and Main for the BLM. This was a spacious, new structure with plenty of room for the office staff. This building is now occupied by Sunrise Engineering. Originally it had a flat roof instead of the pitched one we are used to seeing today.

Once again the staff grew, and so did the need for additional space. The building to the east was constructed at that time and has been home to the BLM for the past 31 years.

A public ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house will be held on Friday, October 15 at 10 a.m. All are invited to visit this latest addition to the Face of Fillmore.

The George Hotel, formerly known as the Day Hotel  
Built by Miah and Mary Huntsman Day in 1926.  
Located on the northwest corner of main and center streets

