



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Tucked beneath the shade of the pioneer era black locust trees, the old brick home on the corner of Main and Second North is the focus of this week's Face of Fillmore.

A detailed history of the home and its residents was written by Carol Wise and it is from that that much of the information for this week's column is taken. Mrs. Wise's interest in the home is multifaceted. It was the home of her grandfather, Joseph Carling and also to her husband's great-great-grandfather, Nathan Bennett Baldwin. Carol and her husband Jack were married there in 1957.

The early, east section of the home was built in 1875 by Nathan Baldwin. The bricks for the walls were hand-made on the site. As they were formed, they were placed by hand into the ovens to fire them. Thumb and fingerprints of the brick builders can still be seen as indentations in the sides of the bricks on the home.

The brick was laid in Scandinavian style, with several courses laid in the regular staggered fashion, then one course was laid with the ends of the brick showing to the outside. At first I thought this would make the other end of these bricks visible on the inside of the wall, but soon found out the walls are three bricks thick. This made the home warmer in winter and cooler in summer. This also made for deep windows. An unusual feature is that the windows on the upper floor are level with the floor.

Nathan Bennett Baldwin lived in the home with his wife Sarah Ann Pine Baldwin and their children. Nathan's plural wife Margaretta Oler lived in the one room adobe house west of the brick home with her sons Virgil and James. Later, as the home became too cramped, they moved to a farm north of town.

Carling family records show that the brick home was purchased from Virgil and Mary Baldwin on May 26, 1905 for \$800. Mr. Carling added a dining room, kitchen and pantry downstairs and bedrooms upstairs as well porches on the east and south, as seen in the snow picture. After this addition, the original portion of house became the living room and bedroom downstairs and two big bedrooms upstairs. The cost of addition was



\$1500. The living room was more of a company parlor as it was used only on special occasions. The dining room was used as what today would be called a family room.

Piped culinary water was brought into the home in 1910. Before that time water was carried up the hill from Chalk Creek.

Joseph Carling hauled freight and after 1919 owned stage line which ran between Fillmore and Salt Lake City. During those trips he saw the “modern conveniences” of the city. He brought home a big white bathtub with large claw feet and other bathroom fixtures and had them installed when few homes in Fillmore had such luxury. The older girls in the family helped with such improvements as kitchen cabinets and closets in the bedrooms.

The home was heated with coal and wood stoves. It was a common practice to heat water bottles and place them in the beds before retiring for the night. A furnace was put in the home in the early 1950’s.

In 1975 the home was purchased by Don and Ellie Fuller, who are in the current residents. Their interest in preserving the original aspects of the home is truly in keeping with the spirit of this great historic community.