



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Without a doubt, the most unusual home in Fillmore is the Allgood home on north Main Street. Tourists are often seen taking pictures of the “rock house”. Del Allgood had a great talent for working with rock and wood. He used it in adding lava rock to the exterior of the home with large flowers on the front. Many of his rock and wood creations are in the yard south of the house.

Del told me once he could see how the rock or piece of wood was supposed to look as a finished project before he even began. This appears to be quite an amazing talent and he has done several artistic pieces of work. My favorite is the wooden grandfather clock that is found in the living room.

The home was originally built by Lewis Critchley in 1900. Mr. Critchley was a brick mason and made the bricks for the home in his backyard. He also made bricks for several of the homes and other buildings in town including the old Second Ward Chapel that was west of where Roper Lumber is today.

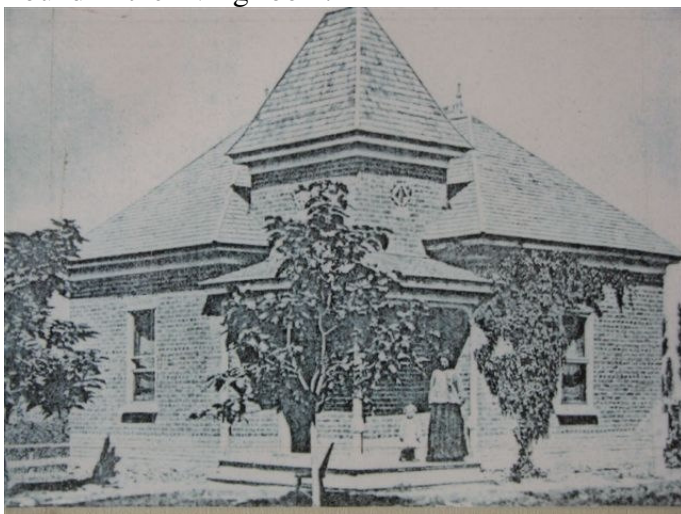
At the time the home was built, the property it was built on was a large tract and included all of the North Park and the hill east of it.

Lewis Critchley was born in England and emigrated to Fillmore. He married Harriet (Hattie) Carling and raised two daughters, Afton and Ada. Pictured here on the porch of the house as it first looked is Mrs. Critchley and Afton. As seen in later pictures, the turret on the front of the home was taken off at some point. Mrs. Allgood says that the way the wind blows down Main Street; she wouldn't be surprised if it blew off sometime during a storm.

According to his grandson, Bob Stevens, Mr. Critchley was very distrustful of banks and kept a good deal of his earnings in coffee cans buried behind his home. During the days of the Depression, people often went to him for loans, repaying him in cows and pigs and other tangible items. His “banking system” paid off for him and others he helped.

Following Mr. Critchley's death, his wife moved in with their daughter Afton and her husband Stan Stevens.

The home was then occupied by Garn and Beth



Whatcott and their family. The Whatcott's lived there for nine years before moving into their new home a few doors south.

Don and EllaVee Turner bought the home from Afton Stevens in 1960. They lived in the home for about five years. At that time there was only a living room, kitchen, bathroom, one bedroom and a screened-in porch. The Turner's brought in a mobile home and attached it to the house for the children's bedrooms. The hill behind the home soon became known as "Turner Hill" and was a favorite spot for sledding in the winter months. Don sold the North Park property to the city while he owned the home.

In 1970 Lester and Arva Allgood bought the home from the Turner's. They willed it to their son Del in 1973. In August of 1975, Del and Golda moved in. It had been vacant for some time and Del did a lot of remodeling to the home.

During the summer, the yards are a mass of flowers adding to the beauty of the Face of Fillmore.

