



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore announces this week the placing of the first stone bench on Main Street as part of the beautification project. More will come soon, but there is always something special about the first one. Our thanks to those who donated them.

This first bench was donated with funds from the Warner family and has been placed in front of Warner Motors, their family business. Pictured here are Joe and Madge Warner, etc.

It is interesting to note that the bench sits along what used to be the west wall of Old Fort Fillmore. It is made of stone similar to the Territorial Statehouse, quarried in the canyons east of town. The actual stones for the benches were taken from the old Noah Bartholomew home which was once located just east of Main Street and north of 100 North, is pictured here. It sat on the edge of the hill with an impressive view of the little valley below where part of the fort was located and the mountains beyond. The rocks from the home were donated to the city by the Paxton family, who presently own that property.

As I look at this section of town and think of all of the mid-1800 homes in town, my first question was, "Why is there nothing left of the old fort from 1851, if it was just a few years older than these homes?" In my mind I had the entire fort built of these same stones and decided they must have been torn out and used for building elsewhere in town. In actuality, the old fort was made from cedar posts filled in to keep out the cold and wind. According to Carl Camp from the Statehouse Museum, the structure must not have been well-built or attractive as it is reported on several occasions, Brigham Young instructed the early residents to improve it. Fillmore residents only spent a few years in the fort. Mother Nature has removed all sign of it over the ensuing years.

