



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore this week points out one of the first homes built on Main Street after the settlers moved out of the fort. Located a very short distance from the northwest corner of the fort, the home is at 190 North Main Street.

The structure was built by John Kelly, who was one of the first schoolteachers in Fillmore. His descendants have lived in the home until just the last few years.

It is believed that the lower floor, which is a walk-in basement built of stone with the door on the east, was built about 1852. The upper two brick floors were added about 1872.

One of the families to live there for quite some time was the Joseph and Melissa Trimble family. While they were there, the home had a wooden porch with balcony above it as pictured here in 1917 with the Trimble family in the yard. For a time it was told “Grandma” Melissa lived in the lower story and rented out the upper floors to the Dorrity family.

When Alma Iverson, a great grandson of John Kelly, moved into the home in the summer of 1941, the porch and balcony were removed soon afterward as a safety precaution because they were in such bad repair. The upstairs door was bricked in and a closet put in its place inside. Alma and his wife Florence McKee had nine children, eight of whom they raised in the home and are still living. Alma lived there until his passing in November of 1997.

In recent years, the home has been owned by Rita Whitecrane and then by Bruce and Deanna Hoefeldt, who added on another porch to resemble the older one. They also built the outbuildings behind the home.

The home is currently owned by the Smith’s who, are in the process of adding to the landscaping and have removed the wooden walkway and laid rocks similar to those the home is constructed of. Once again a great example of keeping the historic flavor of the Face of Fillmore for all to enjoy.

