



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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The Face of Fillmore has spotted a home on the corner of First South and First East which has recently undergone some interesting and attractive changes. It is the home of Michale and Maria Anderson. This home is typical of the old pioneer architecture with a two story home of brick with neatly spaced windows on both floors and very plain façade. Several other similar homes are found around town.

The Anderson's have added an additional roof part way up the building around the front and west sides to create a wrap-around covered porch. Cement work was also done underneath this awning to provide a great place to relax. This has certainly added a new dimension to the home.

The home has a rich pioneer history dating back to the early days of Fillmore. The builder of the home was Hiram Mace. Not only did he do the construction work, but he made the brick and lime for the mortar.

Hiram Mace was born May 5, 1811 in Aurilsous, New York, the son of Henry and Clarilla DeWaters Mace. During his early years he worked as a farmer, blacksmith, and was involved with boating on the Seneca Lake and Erie Canal. When he was 23 year of age, he moved to Handy, Michigan where he met and married Elizabeth



Armstrong.

In 1841 the Maces' were baptized into the LDS Church and in 1843 they moved 600 miles to Nauvoo. Upon arriving there, they sold their wagon and horses for a home that was already built. Hiram, ordained an elder by Brigham Young, served a mission for the church in Illinois and was a member of Captain Israel Barlow's cavalry.

Hiram and his family moved to the Salt Lake Valley in 1848 and were sent from there to Fillmore. Hiram served as a Justice of the Peace, school trustee, and district judge and city alderman.

Hiram first built an adobe house and later built the two story brick one.

His interests were varied. He was a wrestler and also taught dancing school. He served in many church positions, leaving Fillmore for a short time to serve a mission in the Eastern States in 1869. At the time of his death in 1896 he was the stake patriarch. Elizabeth died at the age of 83.

The home and property owned by Hiram and Elizabeth Mace was passed on to Edwin Mace, who later sold it to Arthur M. Brunson, a single man, for \$650.

Arthur Brunson sold the home to a group of people: Don Brunson, Wells Brunson, Neldon Brunson, Verna Walch, Echo McArthur, Ada Starley and May Ogle in 1947. As I read the abstract, I found some of the details a little odd. Who were these people Mr. Brunson had sold the home to?

A phone call to Sarah Ellen Brunson Stevens, the daughter of Neldon Brunson who is listed as one of the owners, answered this question as well as revealing one of the tragic stories of life in Fillmore.

Arthur Brunson was at this point a single man because of the untimely death of his wife Sarah Ellen Brunson following the birth of their son Neldon. The home was given by Arthur Brunson to his children, as well as to May Ogle who was his daughter's daughter. Her mother Ella, Arthur's daughter, had already passed away before the home changed owners.

Obviously, the Sarah Ellen I visited with was named after her paternal grandmother whom she never knew. To add to the family's sadness at this time, Sarah Ellen Brunson's sister also gave birth within about a week of Neldon's birth to a son, Joe Carling, and then she also passed away. Both sons were raised by relatives.

Just a year later, the ownership of the home is recorded under the names of Echo McArthur and Verna Walsh, daughters of Arthur Brunson. A year after that it was sold to Willard Huntsman for \$5000. When he passed away in December, 1976, the property and home went to his wife, Lona Huntsman, who in turn willed the home to their son S. Almy Hollis. It is Mr. Hollis who sold the home to the present owners, the Anderson's.