



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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With temperatures soaring in Fillmore and other communities all over the country, evening is a time when residents finally get a little relief from the heat and venture outside their air conditioning to enjoy a few evening hours of perfect temperatures.

On one of these occasions recently, I was wandering around the North Park with my grandchildren and learned a few lessons in history. Tucked in a shady spot near the amphitheater is a monument that I had paid little attention to before. Financed by the Roy and Mary Dame family in 1980 and built by the Daughters of the Pioneers of eastern Millard County, the marker pays tribute to the rocks it is made of and their important uses in the past 130 years. The engraved plaque also shows interesting scenes from early Fillmore.

In 1854, the rocks in the monument were quarried in the canyon east of Fillmore and used to build the rock church which was located inside the original fort one half block east of Main Street. The church was a two story structure that was 30 feet by 40 feet in size. The stones were put in place and covered with adobe. Throughout Fillmore's history, many references are made to the old adobe church.

After a time the church was remodeled and enlarged to 30 feet by 60 feet. The roof was changed to an oval shape. With these changes the building was used as a church and school until 1900. It then became the Relief Society building for several years and was afterward was used in various ways.

In 1915 the Dame family bought the building, with stones from it being used to construct the monument and nearby steps. A thank you to families like theirs who go the extra mile to help preserve the historical Face of Fillmore.

