



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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This week the Face of Fillmore focuses on a prominent location on Main Street. Located at the corner of Main Street and First South, this lot has always been the site of important happenings in our town.

The first Millard County Courthouse pictured here was located on the southeast corner of the “Public Square”. It was constructed in 1871 and 1872 at a cost of \$9000, which was paid for by taxation. Patterned after the first courthouse in Salt Lake City, the two-story building was constructed of a high sandstone foundation with rock steps. The south and east sides of the building were red brick with a bell tower of white lumber. Rock for the building was hauled from Chalk Creek and Maycock Springs.



The old courthouse became the Millard Academy in 1885 and was the first advanced school in the area where students could further their educations beyond high school.

At some point it became the home of the city government and then the time came for it to also house the first library in town. Through efforts begun by American Legion Post 61, under the direction of Commander Arnell Jackson, the library became a reality. The Commercial Club Room became the location for the library and, according to city records, “On April 6, 1925, Fillmore opened a new public library with eight hundred volumes, twenty-six periodicals, and three daily newspapers.”

In 1938 during the tenure of Mayor James A. Kelly, it was discussed that the building was no longer in good enough condition to be used, so the



Old City Building

decision was made to tear it down and build a new one. City offices and the library were housed in other places until the completion of the new building in about 1940.

For the next 45 years, the city offices and library occupied the new building and then in 1985 it was decided the offices would move to the building vacated by the Fillmore Hospital after the new hospital was built. Renovations to the building were completed in October, 1986 and the move was made.

This began a new era for the building on Main Street. Citizens will remember a variety of businesses that have called it home, among them Deano's Pizza, a game arcade, a clothing store owned by Jan Robison, the driver's license office, Bill Justesen's computer store, a lawyer's office and more.

One of the most embarrassing experiences I have ever had happened at this location. Just weeks before our third daughter was born, I went to get my driver's license renewed. Waddling down the outside basement stairs was a struggle but getting back up them was an even more monumental task. I was so relieved at having successfully renewed my license and making it back to the car, that I just sat there, relaxed and relieved. It was then that a horrible thought came to me. "My car doesn't have yellow interior!" Trying my best to hide from anyone who might recognize me, I extracted myself from behind the wheel of the wrong car and found my own. I still cannot pass that spot without thinking of it.



In recent months, plans have been discussed for this building, but in the end, the most economically sound decision seemed to be to tear it down. On April 29, passersby watched as machinery made quick work of demolishing the building.

At the present time, the area is now opened up, showcasing the Territorial Statehouse for people who drive on Main Street, inviting them to turn the corner and get a closer look. The historic American Legion Hall is also more visible now.

A sprinkler system has just been installed this week to water the lawn that will follow.

