



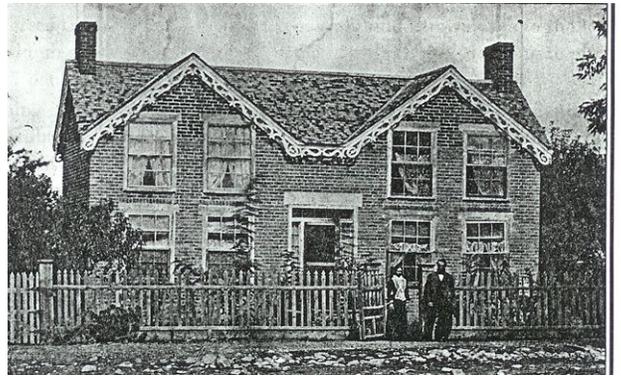
The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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This week's Face of Fillmore spotlights the well-preserved pioneer home at 80 West 100 North.

This two-story home is made of adobe brick with a stone foundation, both common for the period in which it was built. The appearance has changed little in the 100+ years except for the fence, the gingerbread trim and the porch, as seen in the pictures.

County records show that the house was built in 1877 although no builder is listed. The original owners were said to be brothers who opened a store in Fillmore and lived in the home only a short time. The floor plan had rooms on each side of the building, which were identical to each other. These were divided by the stairway in the center. It is thought that one brother lived on the west and the other on the east.



The home was purchased by Almon Robison from Gilbert Webb the same year it was built for \$1282.

Almon Robison was a prominent rancher in eastern Millard County. He was born on May 15, 1845 in Crete, Illinois to Joseph and Lucretia Hancock Robison, the tenth of eleven children. They lived in the first stone house outside the fort where the Spinning Wheel Motel is now located.

Almon was 11 when his family moved to Fillmore. He attended schools in Fillmore and then returned to Illinois and Michigan to help others make the trip to Utah. He married his first wife, Eva Olmstead, in Michigan. She died in childbirth. The baby, who was named Almon Proctor Robison, died two weeks later.

After a few years, Almon married Josephine Sweeting who was from the same area in Michigan. They had no children of their own but had a positive influence on the youth of Fillmore.

Almon and Josephine lived in the home during most of the year, moving to the ranch west of town during the summer. The cattle operation began as a small one, but in a few years the cattle were numbered in the tens of thousands.

Almon was also known as a great benefactor to those needing help and it was said that many could attribute their business success to his financial help and advice.

Upon his death on February 12, 1919, Almon was one of the wealthiest men in southwestern Utah.

The home was inherited by his nephews, Lewis and Roy Sweeting, who are pictured here as youth. After his death Josephine had the home to the west built and lived the remainder of her life it in.

If you are a believer in ghosts, this is the house for you. In a narrative about some of the older homes in Fillmore, written by a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers as a historic home tour, we read, "This is Fillmore's haunted house. Some locals say that spirits hover over and around about. They have stories to tell that confirm their convictions. One such story is that a man who had an irrigation turn from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. saw two little girls walking hand in hand near Almon's house. Then they floated from the ground and above the chimney. There are several similar stories and some of these even suggest the same spirits have been seen about Almon's grave in the cemetery."

The house has seen many owners since Almon and Josephine Robison's time and is now owned by Linda Chavez, whose family has made great changes to modernize the kitchen and improve the front porch. Linda is enthusiastic about keeping the historic homes of Fillmore preserved for future generations to enjoy.

