



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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In the spotlight of the Face of Fillmore this week is the home of Ken and Connie Martin, a turn of the century Victorian style home that is truly elegant.

A step into the foyer is like taking a step back in time. It is filled, as is the entire home, with antique furnishings, giving the visitor a taste of days gone by. A cherry cupboard from 1865 stands against the east wall of the dining area while the west wall is colorful with handmade quilts arranged neatly on a set of shelves. The parlor is relaxing and comfortable with Victorian furniture. Antiques and collectibles everywhere to add to the charm. The upstairs bedrooms are named for each of Ken and Connie's four daughters. Each is perfectly decorated in its own color scheme. An office and kitchen area are off the foyer with a ground floor bedroom that had been added on later.

The garden is an interesting spot as well. It has been done in the traditional four-square design which dates back to Medieval European monasteries. People who grew up in the neighborhood remember it as a favorite place to play. In the older photo, one can see a young birch tree near the Roger's family. Those who have lived in Fillmore for a few years will remember the same tree as being a huge specimen that everyone remarked about. In recent years it died and has been removed.

It is interesting to note right from the outset that the home's official address is 190 South Main. The main entrance I was welcomed to is actually on Second South. Ken pointed out a door on the north side of the living room, which was probably the original main entrance and the reason for the Main Street address.

The construction of the house is quite unique. It was made of a sandstone block foundation and the bricks were locally kilned. Most of the building's wood is red pine. Each room on the lower floor was built as a free-standing structure.

The home was built in 1897 by Theodore Willard Rogers, who was born in Provo on February 21, 1853, as his parent's family were on their way to answer the call to move to Fillmore. He was named Theodore after his father and Willard after Willard Richards, who had been especially kind to his mother. The family remained in Provo for about a year before continuing their relocation to this area. The Rogers lived in the Old Fort for a while



until it was safe to leave it. They bought a lot and built a log home halfway down the block west of the public square.

Theodore married Lilly Powell in 1898 in Fillmore. She was from Meadow, both parents having emigrated from the British Isles. The couple had three children. Henrietta died at birth. Willard Theodore Rogers was born in 1900 and Sarah Rogers in 1907.

In the early 1920's the Roger's family took in borders. Agnes Wilson came from Nebraska to join her son E. Vance and lived in the home. William Wilson's father courted his wife, Jane McBride in one of the parlors. (Information from William Wilson.)

The house was purchased by Bert and Ruby Cluff, who owned it in the 1930's and 1940's. Bert was an artist and painted a beautiful scene of a lake and woods on the walls of the little breakfast nook.

The story is told of how Bert liked to hunt and began letting friends come spend the night and have breakfast before they left to hunt, but when people started showing up that he didn't know and bedding down all over the home, he had to put that to an end.

William and Madeleine Wilson bought the home and raised three children there. William was in the newspaper business and his wife taught school.

The home has also been owned by the Waters family, LeRoy and Rita Logue, and Pearl Fowlke.

Each owner of the home has made a few changes, but the original turn-of-the-century style is still evident for all to enjoy.

The current owner, Ken Martin, made the comment in our interview, that if he had an endless amount of money, he would buy all of the old homes in town and restore them, as that is where our heritage lives.