



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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To say I drive by the Territorial Statehouse almost daily is fairly accurate. As I do, I often wonder what that block of Fillmore would have looked like if the original plans for the capitol building had been completed. The building we look at is only the south wing, so the entire building would have been much larger when all four wings were constructed along with the rotunda section to join them all together in the center.

I discovered some interesting facts and pictures about the building that answered my questions. Included here is a drawing of what architect Truman O. Angel had planned. Another picture shows a model of the building with the existing south wing in its normal colors and the part that was never constructed in white. I was amazed at the size of the building. What an impressive addition it would have been to the Face of Fillmore.



I also read that because the builders expected the red stone exterior to be covered with stucco, the stoneworkers who constructed the statehouse carved their initials into several of the stones on the outside of the building. Those initials are still visible today.



A plaque from the Daughters of Utah Pioneers dated August 3, 1935 that reads:

"Creating Fillmore City and Millard County the territorial legislature of Utah selected Pahvant Valley as capitol site Oct. 29, 1851. This spot was selected by Governor [Brigham Young](#). Construction work began in 1852. [Truman O. Angell](#), architect and [Anson Call](#), supervisor. This south wing was used by the Fifth Territorial Legislature Oct. 10, 1855. In 1856 the seat of government was moved to Salt Lake City. Later used as court house and county headquarters. Restored in 1928 and dedicated as state museum July 24, 1930. Custodians; Daughters of Utah Pioneers."



It is interesting to note a little about the architect, Truman O. Angel. His name may seem very familiar as he was also the architect for the Salt Lake, Manti, St. George and Logan Temples. Because these temples

were all being built at the same time, his son Truman Jr. was put in charge of the Logan Temple and William H. Folsom was in charge in Manti.

His work on LDS temples began much earlier as he helped as a young man on the Kirkland Temple. In Nauvoo he was the superintendent of the joiners as that temple was constructed.

His modifications to the [Salt Lake Tabernacle](#) are credited with perfecting the acoustics for which the building is famous. He also was the architect for the Beehive House, as well as other buildings in the area.

Even though it never was fully completed, the Statehouse is considered the most prominent building in our community and brings thousands of visitors each year to enjoy the history of our state.