



## The Face of Fillmore

*By Sherry Shepard*  
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This month marks the first anniversary of the Face of Fillmore, and with that, sincere thanks to all of the readers and contributors who have made this a great experience. I am told often how readers enjoy the column and many volunteer to tell me about their homes' past and share pictures. I have even had fan mail, which is a treat I had not anticipated. Thank you.

This week's highlighted home is that of Larry and Sue Paxton on First East and Canyon Road. When I first moved to Fillmore, the home caught my eye. I had no idea who lived there, but I liked the looks of the home and yards, as did my children. We jokingly referred to it as "Grandma's House", because if Grandma had lived in Fillmore, that is the house we had picked out for her.

It is believed that Brigham Tomkinson built the home about 1900 and that it was originally used as a school. The teacher's bedroom was where the main bathroom is now – a very tiny room. The present day bedrooms were the classrooms. Later, rooms were rented to out-of-town students who attended the public school since it was not practical for them to ride to town every day for school.

The home is constructed of adobe bricks. The walls are three bricks thick making it warm in winter, cool in summer and insulated from the noise of the outside. The original ceilings were thirteen feet high, but have since been lowered. The doorways are broad and high. Most of the windows in the home have built in window seats.

Brigham Tomkinson's son William D. and his wife Mary Edith Bennett moved into the home. They were the parents of six children – Nelda, Helen, Mildred, Tilly, Dale and Williams. Mildred and Tilly were twin girls born in the home. One lived for twelve days and the other for fourteen. It was February and their little bodies were placed in a back room with the windows open until they could be buried.



Some years ago Helen and William were interviewed by the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers about their memories of the home.

They remembered there was no indoor plumbing until 1938. Water was taken from a spigot outside the kitchen window. The floors were hardwood, which had been sanded, but had many knots

in it which made it hard to walk on. The inside walls were plastered and painted green and blue. There was a heaterola in the front room and an old wood stove with a water reservoir to heat the water.

Recently the present owners have done extensive remodeling to the kitchen and living room. New cinnamon oak kitchen cabinets, beautiful counter tops and a lowered ceiling have modernized the kitchen and made it much more attractive.

Changes have been made to the exterior of the home over the years with the removal of a few large trees, which were posing a safety hazard. The yard is beautifully kept while maintaining the flavor of days gone by.

Congratulations to Larry and Sue for helping keep the historical tradition of the Face of Fillmore.