



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
October 20, 2021

The entire story of the Face of Fillmore is impossible to tell without adding its connection to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With changes to the church locally in the past weeks, it seems an appropriate time to catch up on some local church history.

Late in October of 1851, two companies made their way to the site that would become Fillmore. One was under the leadership of Brigham Young and the other was led by Anson Call. The first group's goal was to establish the site for the new capitol building and survey the city. The second group under Call was to create the settlement for the new capital of the territory.

Sunday, November 2, 1851, the church meeting was held in the home of Noah Bartholomew, Fillmore's first bishop. There was one ward, as the settlers had only been there a short while, and it contained 304 people. The town remained as one ward until July 22, 1877, when it was divided. All of Fillmore south of Center Street was known as Fillmore South Ward and everything north of Center was called Fillmore North Ward. This was changed twenty years later to Fillmore First and Fillmore Second Wards with 399 members and 250 members, respectively.

In November 1882, the two wards were again combined. (I have been unable to find an exact reason this was done.)

During the early years the members first met in a log meeting house they began upon their arrival. This was used for a church and a school. The Old Adobe Meetinghouse was the second church and was used from 1854-1900 as a church and amusement hall combination. The third church building was finished in 1908 but burned less than twenty years later. The Bartholomew Amusement Hall just next door (near the present National Guard Armory Building) caught fire and a strong canyon wind blew the fire into the church, completely destroying both structures. Church meetings were then held in the old junior high school building.

On November 14, 1920, the two Fillmore wards were again divided and the need for two buildings became a reality. The First Ward Chapel was built on Main Street where Mt. Catherine Manor now stands. It was dedicated on May 29, 1927, by President



Fillmore Utah Stake Center, also home to Fillmore Second and Third Wards, both of which gained members in the recent boundary changes.

Heber J. Grant. The Second Ward Chapel, built just west of Main Street on First North, was dedicated June 3, 1928, by Elder Stephen L. Richards.

On August 4, 1946, the two Fillmore wards were again divided with parts of both wards forming the new Fillmore Third Ward.

In 1979 the wards were changed again to form the Fillmore Fourth Ward.

September 26, 2021, the boundaries were again adjusted, with part of Fourth Ward being added to the Second Ward and part of the First Ward to Third Ward.