



### FILLMORE VS. SALT LAKE CITY

*Utah settlers held their first legislative assembly in 1851, only four years after settling the valley. Leaders realized the community needed a statehouse where the territorial government could meet and make laws. They decided that the city of Fillmore would be a good place for the state's capital city since it was located near the center of the state. The U.S. Congress provided \$20,000 for the construction of a statehouse in Fillmore. Truman O. Angell, the architect for the Salt Lake Latter-Day Saints temple, designed the building. By 1855, one section (wing) of the building was completed in time for the first and last legislative session held in Fillmore.*

*Government officials and legislators realized that they had made a big mistake! Most Utahns lived near the Salt Lake Valley. Traveling to Fillmore took a long time and was a difficult journey. More importantly, Fillmore was too far from the people, business, and trade that continued to flow into Salt Lake City.*

*When national leaders heard that Utahns had changed their mind and now wanted to move the official statehouse from Fillmore to Salt Lake City, they felt the \$20,000 had been wasted and refused to grant more funds for government buildings. It was many years before Utah had an official capitol building.*