The Way We Were

"1220" Mulholland

1891 Plat: Saloon
1912 Sanborn Map: Saloon
2010: Park

1890 – 1905 Theo’s Saloon
1908 – 19 Confectionary/Cigar Store
1912 – 19 Leisy’s Saloon
192_ – 192_ Summer’s Restaurant
1927 – 1938 Anton Funeral Home
1940s (early) George’s Place
(saloon)
1940s Burned
Present The Way We Were
Interpretive Park

1200 Mulholland

1891 Plat: Ag Implements/Hardware
1912 Sanborn Map: Ag Implements
2010: Gift Shop/Restaurant

1899 – 1938 Ochsner’s Emporium
1899 - 1938 Variety of other Businesses
1938 - 1949 Schrader Building/Schrader Arcade
1940 – 1945 Schrader’s School of Aeronautics
1946-1949 Mormon Theater
1949 Burned
Present Zions Mercantile

"Theo’s," operated by Theodore "Theo" Ochsner, brother to Joseph, the owner of the Ochsner Building to the west, operated a saloon at this site c.1890-1905. Around 1908, it became a confectionary-cigar store. A man by the name of Leisy operated a saloon here c. 1912. Later, c. 1920’s, the building housed Bill Summer’s Restaurant. (Liquor was no longer served because of Prohibition.)

Circa 1927, George E. Anton had ownership/proprietorship of this building. It was the first location of his funeral home, and it remained here until the latter 1930’s when he moved the business to its new location (Knight and Page Streets, where Nauvoo’s present funeral home is located). It was mentioned in Wm. C. Reimbold’s obituary, that his was the first corpse at “Anton’s Service” in 1938.

The building returned to its original use, a saloon, in the early 1940’s when George Weber opened “George’s Place.” The building burned soon afterwards, sometime in the early 1940’s.

1. 1891 Plat and 1912 Sanborn Maps were used as baselines for building locations. They are available for viewing at the Nauvoo Historical Society’s Weld House Museum, 1380 Mulholland.
2. Addresses in quotation marks indicate no existing structure at this location in 2010.
Around the turn of the 20th Century, Mulholland was starting to flex its muscles as Nauvoo’s commercial district. Ochsner’s Emporium, built by Joseph F. Ochsner in 1899, was one of the main business establishments at that time. The “Business Block” was a large, impressive building, probably meant to rival or, at least match, the “Business Block” across the street to the north. The three-story, 75’ wide and 100’ long building had 26,000 square feet of floor space and could house multiple businesses.

The building’s various businesses met the needs of a farming community of the times. The stock included everything from wagons and buggies to windmills, hardware, pianos, and sewing machines. Scales, recessed in the street in front of the building, were used to weigh the contents of horse-drawn wagons. E.C. Reimbold operated a general hardware store in the building, as well. In addition, at this time and/or up to 1938, there were a number of other businesses in the building: a restaurant, paint store, furniture store, an automobile sales/service agency, a tailor shop, and bowling alley, among others.

In 1938, Ochsner’s Emporium was purchased by Leonard J. Schrader for the purpose of starting “Leonard J. Schrader School of Aeronautics.” (1940-45). The school’s tag line: “Nauvoo, the Air City, with more flying activity per capita than any city of its size in the world.”

In 1946, Schrader began remodeling the building, removing the roof and cupola and installing terrazzo floors on the main floor of the building’s long hallway, creating an arcade of businesses running through the building from front to back.

Plans called for a movie theater (“Mormon Theater” run by K. Butterfield), a grocery store (Chris Voltis’ Super Mart”), a restaurant (run by Mrs. Wm. Marshall), a cocktail lounge (run by Schrader) and a locker plant. Schrader planned to include two floors of apartments, as well (only one apartment was ever completed).

The building burned in 1949, leaving “the hole across from the bank.” It remained as such for almost sixty years when a new building was built at the site in 2006.