The Way We Were

Overview: South Side, 1100 Block of Mulholland
The 1931 Plat indicates only one building on the block. It was on the northeast corner at the intersection of Mulholland and Wells (11th) Streets. By the time the 1912 Sanborn Maps appeared, the building was labeled as a dwelling. One other dwelling (brick) and two frame outbuildings clustered along Wells (11th). The entire east half of the block was a vineyard.

1100 Block, South Side of Mulholland
1891 Plat: Dry Goods
1912 Sanborn Map: Dwelling
2010: Green Space

1839 – 1842 Amos Davis Dry Goods Store
The second oldest store in Nauvoo, known then as “Commerce.” The store was in operation prior to the arrival of the Mormons in Nauvoo in 1849.

1848 – 1884 Icking’s Dry Good Store
1898 Burned

1850s Cambre House
Built by Icarien Arthur Cambre (Cambrai) Had one of the finest wine cellars in the area

19-197 Ida Blum’s residence
Nauvoo’s “unofficial” historian
Present Green Space

Notes:
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 indicated no existing structure at this location in 2010.

Built in 1839 for Amos Davis, the store was a two-story, 24 foot wide and 124 foot long structure.

In 1839, before the arrival of the Mormons that same year, Amos Davis began his dry goods store at this location. It was the second oldest store in “Nauvoo” (known then as “Commerce”). (The oldest store was Kimball’s Trading Post along the river at the foot of old Main Street.) The “store” was also used as a tavern/hotel where Orrin Porter Rockwell lived and operated a carriage-taxi service for a time. Davis eventually joined the Mormon faith and went West during the Mormon exodus in the mid 1840’s.

In 1848, John B. Icking went into the dry goods business in the former Davis store with Louis Martin, after whom the nearby “Martin Hill” was named. The partnership dissolved, and Martin opened a confectionary and dance hall across Wells Street to the west. Icking continued in the business until 1884. The building was struck by lightning in 1898 and was almost totally destroyed by the subsequent fire.

In 1905, J.M. Fisher, Nauvoo businessman, purchased the property and built a home. Later, Carl J. Blum, one of Nauvoo’s postmasters and husband of Ida Blum, Nauvoo’s “unofficial” local historian, lived here. The house partially burned in 1936. Ida lived here until her death in 19-197. The property was sold to the LDS Church in 2000.

Note: In 1856, the whole block was purchased by Eugene Cambre/Cambrai, a member of Nauvoo’s Icarien community at one time.

Ida Blum (1889 - 1980)
Ida Blum is often referred to as “the unofficial Nauvoo Historian.” Born and raised in Nauvoo, Ida was the daughter of Robert Kuhn, early day undertaker and cabinet maker, and wife of Carl Blum, leading Nauvoo merchant (3-B Store). Over the years she published innumerable articles and two books on various phases of Nauvoo history. She also was in demand as a guide for tours of Nauvoo. (See Ida Blum’s books: Nauvoo: An American Heritage, 1969, and Nauvoo: Gateway to the West, 1974, at Nauvoo Public Library and at the Nauvoo Historical Society’s Weld House Museum.)

Cambre House
Originally, the Cambre House was a six-room “salt box” house, consisting of two stories in front and one story in the rear. The house, which has been added to over the years, remains to the south of where the former Icking store once stood.

The Cambre House was willed to the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1905 and was used in a variety of ways from 1905—2001: kitchen, dining room, and later, “clubhouse” for grade school boys who went to St. Edmund’s (former Spalding building) across the street to the west. The wine cellar was used for winter storage of apples and potatoes; the house, for various tenants. The building was remodeled in 1979 and is still in use today.
Overview: South Side of 1000 Block of Mulholland
The 1891 Plat indicates the block was totally empty; however, there was some commercial activity. By the time the 1912 Sanborn Maps appeared, a large, L-shaped, brick building fronted Mulholland, with a frame dwelling located to the south of it. (This building had been moved to that site to accommodate the structure which sprawled across the southwest corner of the intersection of Mulholland and Wells (11th) Streets.) One other frame dwelling appeared on what is now the curve of Highway 96.

1000 Block, South Side of Mulholland

1891 Plat: Empty
1912 Sanborn Map: Spalding Institute
2010: Green Space

18__ - 1868
Jacques Martin's Candy
and Confectionary
Store/Dance Hall

"Martin Hill," the hill leading
down to the "Flats" at the west
end of Mulholland
(now Route 96) was named
after Martin.

18__ - 1903
J. B. Icking residence
This house was moved south on
the block to Wells (11th) and
Ripley Streets to make room for
Spalding Institute to be built
on the site.

18__ - 1888
Pierre Bergeron's Art Gallery
Located somewhere south of the
Icking/Martin location
However, by 1907, Spalding
Institute, a large L-shaped
building, dominated a large
portion of the block.

1907 – 1920
Spalding Institute
School for grade school boys
run by the Sisters of St.
Benedict

1920 – 1923
United States Government
Vocational Training School
Used for retraining returning
World War I veterans

1923 – 1926
Vacant Building

1926 – 1940
St. Edmund's School for Boys
Run by Sisters of St. Benedict

1940 – 1955
Convent and Motherhouse
for Sisters of St. Benedict

1955 – 1977
Benet Hall
Renamed when building
reopened as classrooms and
residence facilities for girls
attending St. Mary’s Academy
as well as some of the Sisters

1977
Razed

Spalding Institute

A layout of the Spalding Institute as drawn on a 1912 Sandborn map.

The Sisters of St. Benedict

The Sisters of St. Benedict arrived in Nauvoo in 1874. They established their convent and St. Mary’s Academy, a boarding school for girls, in an existing building across the street to the north. (See Information Sheet #3 for more information.) Then, in 1904, the Sisters opened Spalding Institute for grade school boys, which was located in the former bank building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Mulholland and Wells (11th) Streets.

As the school grew, a larger facility was needed. By 1907, Spalding Institute was located in its new building across the street to the south.

Spalding Institute for Boys

A Catholic boarding/day school for boys up to 14 (8th grade), the school complemented St. Mary’s Academy for girls across the street.

1920-1926 - Due to a financial set-back and foreclosure, the Sisters were completely out of building.

1920-1923 United States Government Vocational Trade School - Used for vocational training for returning World War I veterans. The white building was a dormitory used to house the men.

1923-1926 Building stood empty until the Sisters reclaimed the property and reopened the former “Splading” grade school under a new name.

1940 - 1955 it became the Convent and Motherhouse for the Benedictine Sisters and in 1955-1977 was renamed Benet Hall after “St. Edmund’s School for Boys” closed. The building became a residence hall for grade school girls (who also had classes in the building until 1959), and some of the Academy girls (1958 and 1962-1967). Some Sisters continued using Benet Hall as a residence after 1955 when the new convent opened.

1977 Razed

The building operated under five different names in its seventy years in existence:

Spalding Institute • United States Government Training School • St. Edmund’s School for Boys • St. Mary’s Convent • Benet Hall