“1430” Mulholland

From c. 1912 to the late 1930’s, Conrad Argast ran a blacksmith shop at this location. Argast moved his business from the “Flats” after a fire c. 1909 ravaged one of the major remaining businesses located in the area. Around that time, many businesses located on the Flats moved to the new Central Business District on Mulholland.

1420 Mulholland

Circa 1912, the Robert Kuhn house stood at this location (1420). It was a frame dwelling attached to brick structure, “Kuhn’s Furniture Store and Undertaking Parlor” to the west (1410). Later, it was the George Peak residence.

Lowell Horton’s original service station, c. early 1940’s

Lowell Horton’s bought the lot to the east and built a service station and garage c. 1950’s. Lloyd “Stubb” Starr, who had worked at the garage as a mechanic, purchased the garage business in 1958. Starr had a shop at this location for 37 years (1995). “Stubb’s” was a place a local person or tourist could go

(1410 and 1400 Mulholland continued on side 2)
The original Kuhn Furniture Store actually stood on the second lot from the corner (the building on the corner was added to the original building, 1400 Mulholland. See picture on side 1.) Kuhn was in business here from 1860-1910.

A cabinet maker, noted for making furniture with secret drawers and doors, Robert Kuhn had a cabinet-making shop before he owned a furniture store.

In 1881, Kuhn “undertook” the making of coffins (typical of furniture makers of the time). He also did embalming (for $5) as a sideline. Eventually, Kuhn allocated a portion of his furniture store for the corpse to be viewed; i.e., “undertaking” the responsibility that used to be the family of the deceased’s, that of presenting the body in the home or church for viewing by family and friends. Kuhn continued in the business until 1915. He carved the top of his horse-pulled hearse, which is on display at the Historical Society’s Weld House at 1380 Mulholland. Motorized hearses came into vogue after World War I (c. 1918).

Note: Fred Wiesener was also in the undertaking business in Nauvoo from 1893 until 1898. Nauvoo’s first “real” funeral home wasn’t until 1939.

Later, c. 1940’s to mid 1950’s, Horton and “Bub” Kelly expanded into the old Kuhn property to the west (1410), which became “Horton and Kelly’s Chevrolet Dealership” in the early 1950’s. He also sold appliances and offered plumbing services. Later, the dealership was owned and operated by Kelly.