

# Nauvoo

## The Way We Were

### “1455” Mulholland

**1891 Plat:** Site Empty  
**1912 Sanborn Map:** Wagon Shop  
**2010:** Site Empty

**1891 Plat:** There was one building (unidentified) shown on the SW corner of the block; the remainder of the block was empty. Note: Although neither house (1485\* nor 1495\* listed below was noted on the plat, both were there in 1891.)

**1912 Sanborn Map:** There was a brick dwelling on the SW corner of the block; a frame building, labeled “wagon shop” mid block; and two brick “dwellings” (1485\* and 1495\*) on the east end of the block.

<b>1860s</b>	<b>Hemmy’s Blacksmith Shop</b> (the probable location of the shop)
<b>1926</b>	Razed
<b>2010</b>	Elementary school and school ground

Note: Most of this block has been used by Nauvoo’s grade school since 1923. (Originally, the grade school was housed on the east side of the building; the high school, on the west.) The building has been in continuous use since it was built in 1923 at a cost of approximately \$40,000.



Photo Courtesy of Maryann Garrelts

1890s photo of the Hemmy House

A descendent of the Lucius Hemmy family lived in this house from 1860 to 1977 (117 years). As with most houses in a small town, the name of the occupants become the “address”; hence, the “Hemmy House.” In the 1860’s, Lucius, ran a blacksmith shop, located just west of his home. He also served in the Union Army in the Civil War. The house continued as a residence until the 1980’s

### 1485 Mulholland

**1891 Plat:** Site Empty\*  
**1912 Sanborn Map:** Brick Dwelling  
**2010:** Guest House

**1860-1977**      *The Hemmy House*  
 A member of the Hemmy family lived in this house continuously for 117 years.

**Present**      **White House Inn**



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.



Photo Courtesy of the Nauvoo Historical Society

Old view of Mulholland looking west

# 1495 Mulholland

**1495 Mulholland**  
**1891 Plat:** Site Empty\*  
**1912 Sanborn Map:** Brick Dwelling  
**2010:** Private Residence

Known for its interesting architectural features, this is one of five homes in Nauvoo surveyed by the Historic American Building Survey in 1936. The architectural drawings are in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

**1860-1961**      **Baumert Home**  
for 101 years

**1962-Present**   Private Residence



Drawing by David Alan Badger

## Urban Legend

An urban legend has it that Joseph B. Agnew, one of the original members of the Pontoosuc Company of 1842, a band of 30 that swelled from time to time with like groups from the neighboring counties and townships and were called in to “aid some neighbor to retake their property, to defend their own and even save their homes.”

For years, it was suggested that Agnew, a strong “Anti” (anti-Mormon), lived here, that he set fire to the Temple in 1848 to “discourage any thought of their [Mormon] return,” and that his dying confession corroborated his implication. However, there is no solid evidence to connect Agnew with the deed.

There is no paper trail indicating Agnew ever owned or lived in this house in 1848.



Photo courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

A Mormon home in the 1840s.

## Baumert Residence

A new owner was not registered until 1860 when Michael Baumert, Sr. purchased the house. (Baumert was a stone mason, building local wine cellars and the Temple House, among others.) In 1865, he added a bedroom on the south (front) and a bedroom on the north in 1895. He lived here until his death in 1919. Michael Baumert, Jr., long-time publisher of the Nauvoo Independent newspaper, was born here. Two “spinster” Baumerts remained here until the last one died 1961. The house was owned and occupied by the Baumert family for more than 100 years (1860-1961) .

John Kraus purchased the property in 1962; son Elmer remodeled it in 1965, installing hardwood floors, steam heat, a bathroom—but, alas, no closets!

## Architectural Features

A plaque next to the front door designates this home as one of five homes in Nauvoo surveyed by the Historic American Building Survey in 1936. The architectural drawings are in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The house’s basic structure is unique for the 1840’s. The original house had a raised first floor with two rooms over a limestone “basement” that is only partially underground. As with some buildings erected during Nauvoo’s Mormon Era, the front and back was built by men; the women, the sides. Their work, being more uneven -- a little wavy -- called for compensation every five or six rows: a row of bricks were laid perpendicularly in order to “tie in” the wall, making it more substantial. The molded salmon-colored bricks came from the local brickyards and were laid two deep. There was no insulation, and horsehair and straw can be found in the plaster. Most of the windows and frames are original to the house. Parts of the house made of wood were put together with wooden pegs. The wide, oak, interior floors were, at one time, covered with a rag carpet stretched over a layer of fresh straw.