

Nauvoo

The Way We Were

Overview: North Side, 1000 Blocks of Mulholland

The block west of the Temple Block was really never a part of Mulholland's business district. The 1891 Plat and 1912 Sanborn Maps note that a few buildings lined Wells (11th) Street. Vineyards covered the west half of the block at that time. However, in 1874, the Sisters of St. Benedict "came to town," and everything on this block and the block directly north of it changed.

1000 Blocks, North Side of Mulholland

Note: "Block" is delineated by Mulholland, Knight (vacated), Durphy (10th), and Wells (11th)

1891 Plat:

- A. Lumber [on corner of Mulholland and Wells (11th)]
- B. Hardware [directly north of "A"]
- C. Restaurant [directly south of "D"]
- D. Millinery [on corner of Wells (11th) and Knight Streets]

1912 Sanborn Map:

Vacant brick building [former State Bank of Nauvoo/Spalding Institute]
[Same location as "B," above]

Brick dwelling [Masberg residence-pharmacy
(same location as "D" above)]

2010: Green Space

Note: The following "block" is north of the above and delineated by Knight (vacated), Young, Durphy (10th), and Wells (11th)

1891 Plat: Unidentified building mid block on Knight
[St. Mary's Academy and Convent
(former Mormon Arsenal)]

1912 Sanborn Map: St. Mary's Academy and St. Joseph Hall

2010: Green Space

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.

The Sisters of St. Benedict in Nauvoo 1874-2001

Little did anyone know that when five Catholic Sisters came to teach in Nauvoo in 1874 at the invitation of the parish priest, just what their future in Nauvoo would be. By 1907, thirty-three years after their arrival, they had amassed the equivalency of six blocks on and near Wells Street at the west end of Mulholland's business district. Over the years they oversaw an academy that, over time, was housed in three different buildings, as well as a school for boys up to twelve years of age. They purchased several nearby buildings, which, at various times, housed classrooms, students, and the Sisters.

All of their properties went into foreclosure in 1920, but they persevered; and by 1939, they had satisfied the creditors and all properties were, once again, theirs.

From 1874 to the closure of St. Mary's Academy in 1997, the Sisters of St. Benedict continued to maintain their Motherhouse in Nauvoo, as well as to expand their educational offerings to the community and to a multitude of students from grade to high school. Their boarding school for girls provided an education for up to 150 girls per semester. In 1996, the Monastery and Academy jointly employed 54 full- and part-time lay people, the number of employees second only to the Nauvoo Cheese Factory.

In 1999, the Sisters sold the majority of their properties along Wells Street to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 2001, after 127 years in Nauvoo, they moved into their newly constructed St. Mary Monastery, in Rock Island, Illinois.



St. Mary's Academy 1897-1967

Diagram of the Properties of the Sisters of St. Benedict



Diagram courtesy of Rose Blomack

The two blocks between Mulholland and Young Streets were connected as one when Knight Street was closed in the 1950's to accommodate the expansion of St. Mary's Academy and Priory/St. Mary Monastery. Additional properties were located on adjoining blocks.

Properties of the Sisters of St. Benedict 1874-2001

Note: The letter correspond to the building's location. The inclusive dates indicate acquisition/construction and the razing /termination of use.

- A. 1874-1967 St. Scholastica/St. Mary's Academy and Convent (former Mormon Arsenal/Icarian Wagon Shop/private home)
- B. 1890-1987 Rose Cottage
- C. 1897-1967 St. Mary's Academy
- D. 1903-2001 "White House"
- E. 1904-1939 Old Bank Building
- F. 1905-2001 Cambre House
- G. 1907-1977 Spalding Institute/St. Edmund's School for Boys/St. Mary's Convent /Benet Hall
- H. 1907-2001 St. Joseph Hall
- I. 1945-1947 Masberg Building
- J. 1947-2001 Priory Chaplain's Home
- K. 1938-2001 Villa Marie
- L. 1955-2001 St. Mary Priory/Monastery
- M. 1956-1979 Pedestrian Bridge
- N. 1958-2001 St. Mary's Academy
- O. 1967-1997 Mary Hall



Photo courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

F. Cambre House, a former Icarian building of the 1850's. In 1905, the "Cambre House," as well as the whole block, except for the northwest corner lot where the Blum house stood, was willed to the Sisters. The house was used mainly as storage and, occasionally, as a residence for the Priory chaplain or the Sisters. It remains.

The Sisters used several existing buildings for their school and priory before expanding into newer facilities. Among them were (E) the former State Bank of Nauvoo, (F) Cambre House, and (I) the former Masberg home.

E. Former location of the State Bank of Nauvoo (1893-1896)/Spalding Institute's first location (1904)



Photo courtesy of Leonard Hagen

By the time the 1912 Sanborn Map appeared, the State Bank of Nauvoo (at this site 1893-1896) had moved to its present location, but the building remained. (The building was first rented (1904) then, sold to the Sisters of St. Benedict (1905), who used it as the start-up location of Spalding Institute (See Information Sheet # 2 on the Walking Tour). It also housed some of the students. Razed: 1939



Photo courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

I. Masberg Pharmacy and Residence in 1876 In 1916, the residence was used as a parochial school, where the Sisters taught all grades and two years of high school to forty pupils under the direction of Sts. Peter and Paul's Father Tholen. In 1945, the Sisters purchased the old Masberg building. Razed: 1947

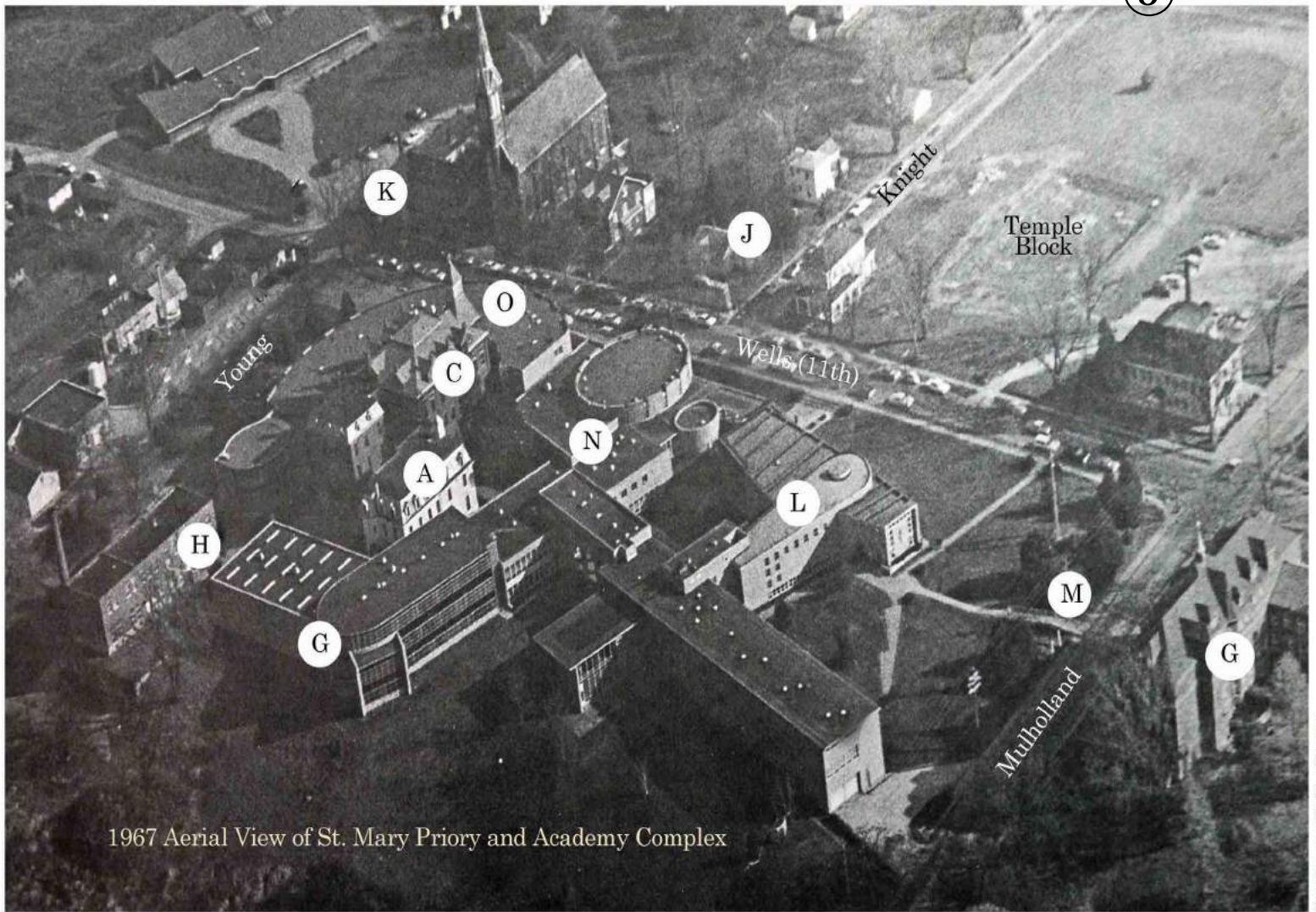


Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

This 1967 aerial view shows most of the buildings owned by the Sisters of St. Benedict over their 127 years in Nauvoo. (See list below for building identification. Refer to Information Sheet #4, p. 2 for information regarding dates of usage.)



Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

A. In 1874, the Sisters purchased the Frederick Baum residence, which had formerly served the Mormons as an arsenal and the Icarians as a wagon shop, to house their first school and convent. Initially called "St. Scholastica," the building was renamed "St. Mary's Academy and Convent" when the Sisters became an independent Mother-house in 1879. Below, a later view of St. Scholastica/St. Mary's Academy and Convent, showing modifications to the original building. Razed: 1967



Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

**Properties of the Sisters of St. Benedict
1874-2001**

Note: The letters correspond to the building's location on both the aerial view (above) and diagram on page 2.

- A. St. Scholastica/St. Mary's Academy and Convent (former Mormon Arsenal/Icarian Wagon Shop/private home)
- B. Rose Cottage
- C. St. Mary's Academy
- D. "White House"
- E. Old Bank Building
- F. Cambre House
- G. Spalding Institute/St. Edmund's School for Boys/St. Mary's Convent /Benet Hall
- H. St. Joseph "Joe" Hall
- I. Masberg Building
- J. Priory Chaplain's Home
- K. Villa Marie
- L. St. Mary Priory/Monastery
- M. Pedestrian Bridge
- N. St. Mary's Academy
- O. Mary Hall



Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

C. **St. Mary's Academy**
St. Mary's Academy, a new and expanded facility, was built in 1897 to accommodate the Academy's growing enrollment. It incorporated both classrooms and dormitory space for Academy girls until 1955 when a newer, larger facility took its place. The building continued to be used for lounge areas and a dormitory until 1967. Razed: 1967

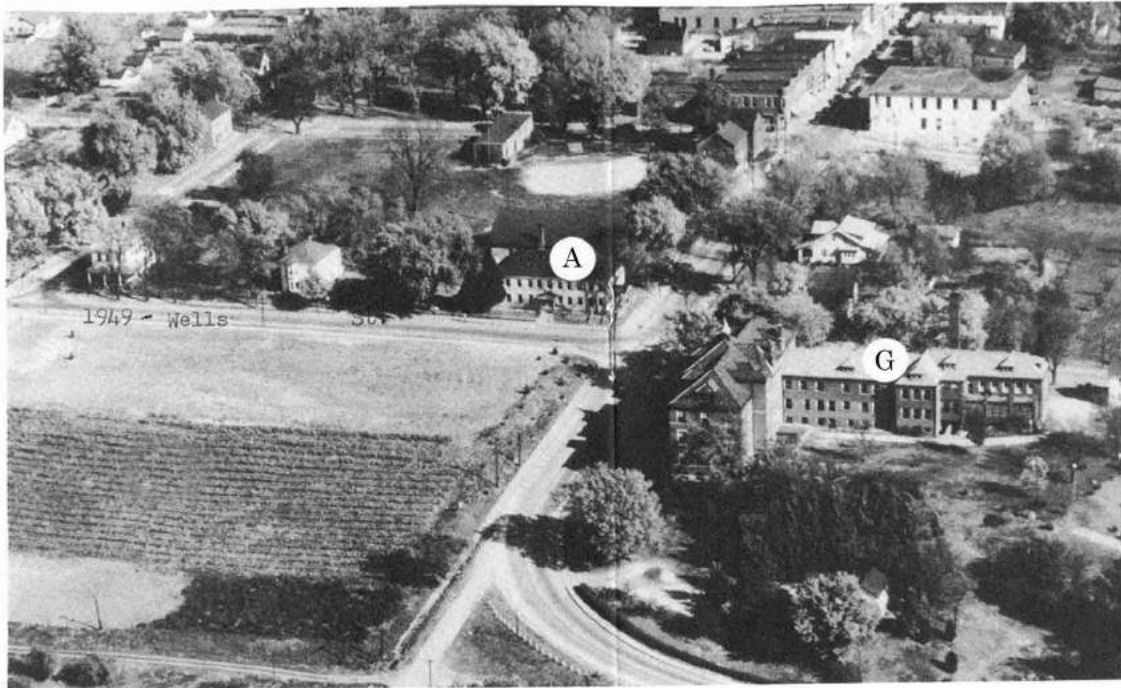


Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

1949 Aerial View of of 1000 Block, North Mulholland

By 1949, only "Rose Cottage" (See "B" on Diagram of Sisters' Properties) remained on the block, which was mainly covered by orchard and vineyard. Within ten years, the landscape would include the new quarters of St. Mary Priory/Monastery. Across the street (A) is Sts. Peter and Paul Grade School and (G) the former Spalding Institute.



Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

H. St. Joseph "Joe" Hall

Built as a power plant in 1907 for the Priory/Academy complex, the building's second and third floors were used as a dormitory. Razed 2007.

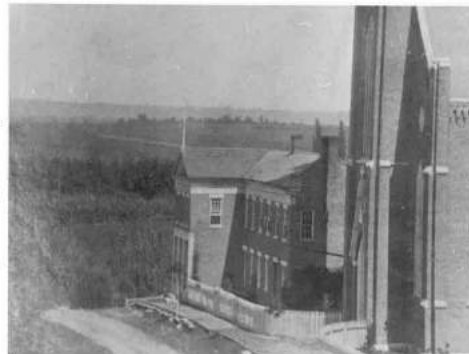


Photo Courtesy of St. Nauvoo Restoration, Inc.

K. Villa Marie

The oldest-known, available photograph of the building the Sisters called "Villa Marie". It was built as a house and store for Mormon, Parley P. Pratt in 1839, purchased by Sts. Peter and Paul parish in 1851, lost to foreclosure in 1920, stood empty from 1915-1920, regained by the parish in 1938, and purchased by the Sisters the same year. The "Villa" was used as a residence for students and Sisters. It remains.

Presently it is owned by Sts. Peter and Paul parish and used as a rectory.

In 1999, the Sisters sold the majority of their properties along Wells Street to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 2001, after 127 years in Nauvoo, they moved to their new location, St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, Illinois



Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

**G. Spalding Institute/
St. Edmund's School for Boys/
St. Mary's Convent/
Benet Hall**

Razed: 1977

(See also Information Sheet # 2)