

# Nauvoo

## The Way We Were

Overview: Temple Block: 1100 Block  
North side of Mulholland

By 1850 the Mormon Temple had been destroyed by fire and tornado, and the Icarians (1849-1846), who had purchased the vacated block in 1849, were utilizing it as the hub of their experimental, utopian community. (A diagram depicting the location of the Icarian buildings on Temple Block can be seen on the Icarian Interpretive Panel located at the beginning of the Walking Tour.) Never much more than 500 at any given time, the Icarians' social experiment started out with promise, but by 1856, internal dissension caused it to fall apart. By the 1900s, the former Icarian School and a few frame apartment buildings were all that were left of Nauvoo's Icarian community's existence on Temple Block. (Refer to A and D on 1912 Sanborn Map diagram.)

Once the 1860s rolled around, the block saw little economic activity. Over the years that followed, a few local businesses dotted the block, along with a few houses, a hospital, parochial school, and parish hall.

By 1962, the entire block had been purchased by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. (NRI). In 2002, a new Mormon Temple was dedicated.

### The Evolution of the Icarian School Building on Temple Block

(See A on diagram, p.2)

**1860-1890**  
Drug Store/Post Office



In 1879 the southwest corner was used as a post office and the southeast room as a drug store. Robert Aitchison operated the drug store and served as postmaster from 1879-1886 and was reappointed in 1889..

**1907-1912**  
Feger's Hospital and Drug Store



Dr. G. W. Feger used the building as a hospital for a few years. Two apartments were in the building, as well. Later, the entire building was used by the Bossler and Knaust families as living quarters.

**1918-1961**  
Former Icarian School as Sts. Peter and Paul's Grade School



Parts of the building were used as a rectory and a business school for at different times.

**1962-1972**  
Former Icarian School as Latter-day Saints (LDS) Visitors Center



Purchased by LDS Church in 1962 Razed: 1972

The building that had served as the Icarian's school and dormitory stood for 121 years, serving the Icarians, Catholics, and Mormons in differing capacities (Approximately one-fourth of the stone used in the Mormon Temple was recycled into this building.)



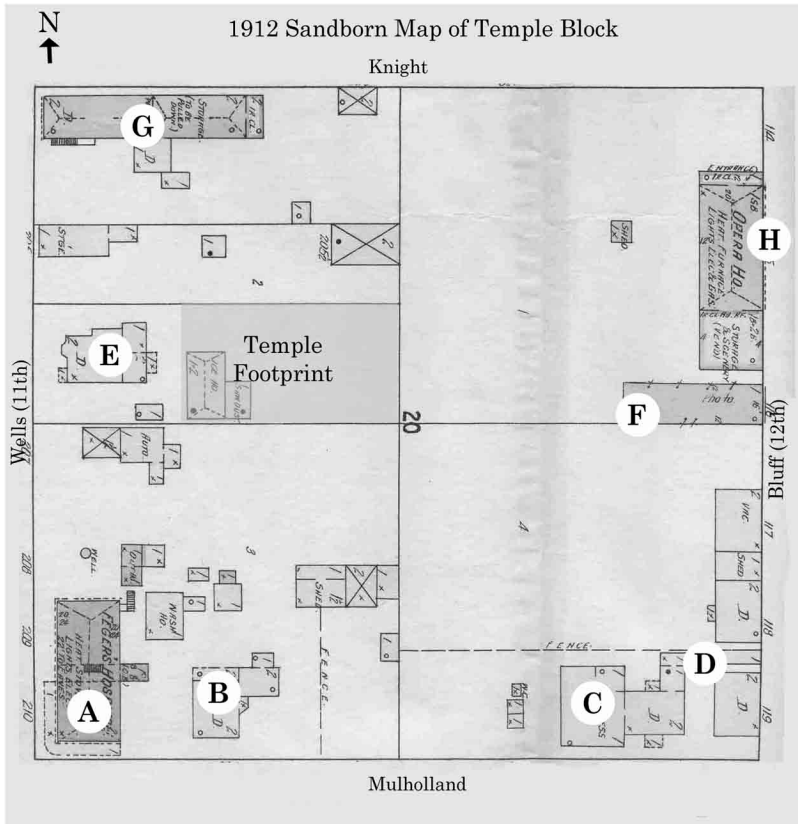
**1851- c. 1860**  
Icarian School

Drawing by David Alan Badger

Photo courtesy of Newspaper Scan

Photo courtesy of the Nauvoo Historical Society

Photo courtesy of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc.



**1912 Sanborn Map of Temple Block**

Listing (right) refers to placement on map. Inclusive dates refer to buildings' usage.



Photo Courtesy of Ann Haas

A drawing of what the Mormon Temple looked like after it was damaged by fire (1848) and a tornado (1850). The Icarians utilized the limestone from the ruins in many of their buildings: (A) the Icarian School, (D) the foundations of the Icarian apartment houses and the (H) Icarian Refectory/Dining Hall.

In 2002, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dedicated the new Nauvoo Temple.

## The Evolution of Temple Block 1850-2002

**A on diagram:**

- 1851-1860** Icarian School
- 1860-1890** Drug Store/Post Office
- 1907-1912** Feger's Hospital/Drug Store
- 1918** Purchased by Catholic Church
- 1918-1961** Sts. Peter and Paul School Grade School
- 1962** Purchased by LDS Church
- 1962-1972** Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) Visitors Center
- 1962** Purchased by LDS Church
- 1972** Razed

**B on diagram:**

- 1859-1924** Knaust/Hart Residences
- 1926-1961** Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Hall
- 1964** Razed

**C on diagram:**

- 1860 - c.1892** Schaefer's Harness Shop
- 1892 - 19\_\_** Ochsner's Harness Shop
- 1912 - 19\_\_** Duesenberry's West End Garage
- 1952** Razed

**D on diagram:**

- 1850 - 1856** Icarian Apartment Houses (See also C on diagram)
- After 1856** Various uses
- 1913** Nauvoo Public Library (First location)
- 1949-1952** Razed

**E on diagram:**

- 1917-1935** L.V. Datin Residence
- 1963** Razed

**F on diagram:**

- 1890s** Palace Saloon
- 1903-c.191\_\_** Gouly's Photography
- 1920-1959** Mississippi Valley Telephone Company
- 1959** Purchased by LDS Church
- 1959 or 1962** Razed

**G on diagram:**

- 1850s** Icarian Blacksmith Shop
- 1870s** Reimbold's Dry Goods Store (Probably Max Reimbold)
- 1886- 19\_\_** Charlie Reimbold's Residence
- 1973** Razed (the last remaining structure on Temple Block)

**H on diagram:**

- 1849-1860** Icarian "Refectory" (Dining and Meeting Hall)
- 1860s** Burned
- 1864-1938** "City Hall"/"Opera House"
- 1938** Burned



Photo Courtesy of Ann Haas

Early 1900 parade on Mulholland passes Temple Block. ( Letters denote placement on diagram, p. 2 of Information Sheet #4.)



Photo Courtesy of Mary Logan

**C** 1912-1930's Dusenberry's West End Garage



Photo Courtesy of Mary Logan

**D** 1850- 1856 Icarian Apartment Houses

Three, two-story frame apartment buildings housed members of the Icarian Community. A fourth, similarly constructed building was also located on Bluff (12th) (to the right of the two pictured above) and was probably used as the Icarian's library and print shop. Razed: 1949-52



Photo Courtesy of Leonard Hogan

Circa early 1900's. Former Icarian apartment house on the corner of Bluff (12th) and Mulholland

**D** The building on the corner of Mulholland, facing Bluff (12th) (left in picture), housed several businesses over the years: "Loomis's Drug Store," "Nicaise's Sewing & Millinery"/"Nicaise-Hohl's Dressmaking Shop."



Photo Courtesy of Mary Logan

**B** 1859-1924 Conrad Knaust/George Hart



Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

**B** 1926-1961 Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Hall

The Parish Hall was used as Nauvoo's community center, housing a gym and hosting a variety of community events: minstrel shows, donkey basketball games, funeral services, graduation exercises, and LDS conferences, among others. Razed: 1964

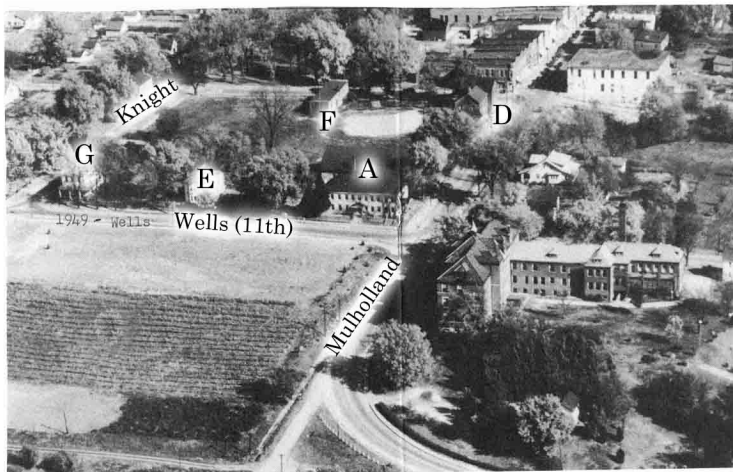


Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

A 1949 aerial view of Temple Block and adjoining blocks where vineyards lined the block to the west and Spalding Institute (renamed over the years) dominated the curve of Mulholland/Rt. 96 to the south.

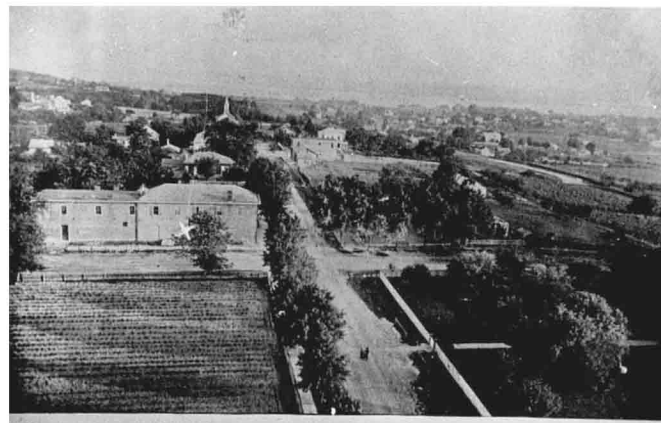


Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Restoration, Inc.

G Max Reimbold Store and Charlie Reimbold's Residence

The Icarians had a blacksmith and harness shop at this location in the 1850's. It was replaced by Max Reimbold's Dry Goods Store in the 1870's (above) and, later, by Charlie Reimbold's home (right), the last remaining structure on Temple Block before it was razed in 1973.



newspaper scan



Photo Courtesy of Mary Logan

E 1917-1935 L.V. Datin Residence

The original Mormon Temple, built in the 1840's, would have been located directly behind it. Between 1937 and 1963, the property was owned by the Reorganized Church of Latter-day Saints (RLDS/Community of Christ Church) and used as a rental property. In 1963, the LDS Church and RLDS Churches made a mutual property swap for the property. Razed: 1937

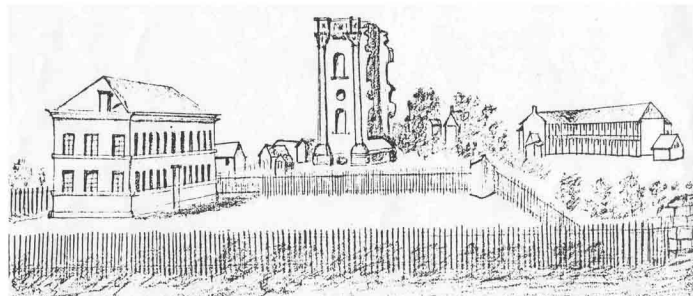


Photo Courtesy of Mary Logan

H 1853 Drawing of Temple Block, showing Temple ruins, Icarian School, and "Refectory"

The Icarians built a "Refectory" (dining and meeting hall), a large, L-shaped, frame building, at this location in the 1850's. The frame building's foundation was made from recycled Temple stone. Burned sometime prior to 1864.

H 1888 "Opera House"

In 1864, John Dornseif replaced the Icarian building with another frame building, presumably on the same foundation, which was called "City Hall," [which appeared to be more of a gathering place than a political venue.] It also burned [sometime between the 1891 Plat, when it was labeled "City Hall" and the 1912 Sanborn Map, when it was labeled "Opera House"]. Dornseif replaced it with a smaller, brick structure called "Nauvoo Opera House," which was used a dance hall, theater for dramatic productions, movie theater, etc. It burned, due to a projection room fire! Burned: 1938



Note: South side of the building can also be seen on p.3, bottom, background.



Photo Courtesy of Larry Nicholl

F 1890's Palace Saloon was operated by the Schenk brothers. In 1903 "Frank Goult's Photography" was located here, moved from the 1300 Block of Mulholland in the 1880's.

Note 1: Most sales of Temple Block property were made to the LDS Church between the early 1940's and early 1950's. In the 1940s, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) and Nauvoo Restoration, Inc. (NRI) began acquiring parcels on Temple Block. By 1962 the entire block had been purchased. All remaining buildings were razed by 1973

Note 2: Over the years, all, or parts, of Temple Block had various owners: local residents, the early Mormons, the Icarians, the Catholics, and the RLDS Church (Community of Christ). By 1962, the entire block had been re-purchased by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 2001, a new Mormon Temple was built.