

Nauvoo

The Way We Were

1255 Mulholland

1891 Plat: Cobbler Shop
1912 Sanborn Map: Site Vacant
2010: Restaurant

- 1918 **Kraus Café and Confectionary**
(along with six billiard tables)
Built by John A. Kraus

- 1927 – 1928 Barber Shop and Beauty Shop
(added in entrance area)

- 1934 Restaurant awarded first beer
and liquor license in Nauvoo
after Prohibition. A dance
floor replaced the earlier
billiard tables.

- 1950 Cafeteria service added. Short
orders replaced restaurant fare.

- 1951 – 1968 **“The Nauvoo”** movie theater
(added to west and rear of café)

- 1960 John A. Kraus Co. formed

- 1974 A remodel shifts the entrance
to the west side of café

- Present** **Grandpa John’s Café**
In 1987, name changed from
Kraus Café to Grandpa John’s
Café in honor of John A. Kraus.

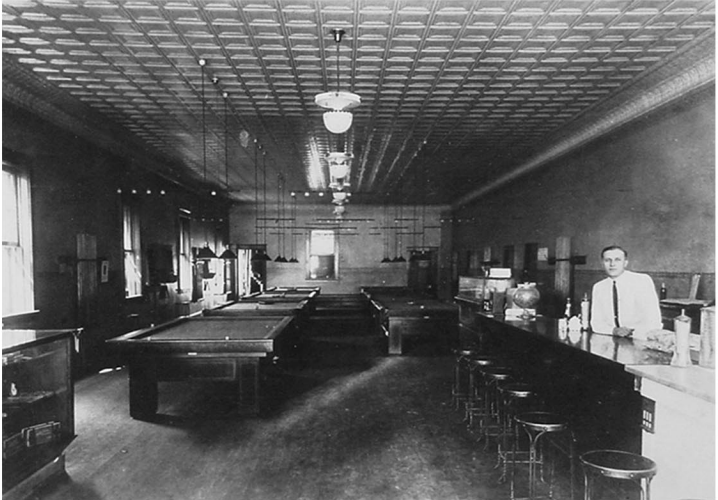
1. 1891 Plat and 1912 Sanborn Maps were used as baselines for building locations. They are available for viewing at the Nauvoo Historical Society’s Weld House Museum, 1380 Mulholland.

2. Addresses in quotation marks indicate no existing structure at this location in 2010.



c. 1920’s Kraus Café and Confectionary

Kraus Café and Confectionary was built in 1918 for John A. Kraus, who originally came to Nauvoo as a cigar maker. Kraus moved from making cigars to making ice cream, the cream coming from local cows; the ice, from the Mississippi River where it was cut, then hauled and stored in an ice house in the back of the store until needed.



c. 1920’s Billiards, anyone?

The Café’s early years offered ice cream, lunch, and billiards—6 tables filled the rear of the store where men tested their prowess and, perhaps, stayed for lunch. In the early 1920’s, many frequent customers came from the government’s vocational school down the street, where veterans were being retrained after World War I. In the late 1920’s, magazines and other various items were added.