

Nauvoo

The Way We Were

Overview: South Side, 1100 Block of Mulholland
The 1981 Plat indicates only one building on the block. It was on the northeast corner at the intersection of Mulholland and Wells (11th) Streets. By the time the 1912 Sanborn Maps appeared, the building was labeled as a dwelling. One other dwelling (brick) and two frame outbuildings clustered along Wells (11th). The entire east half of the block was a vineyard.

1100 Block, South Side of Mulholland

1891 Plat: Dry Goods
1912 Sanborn Map: Dwelling
2010: Green Space

1839 – 1842	Amos Davis Dry Goods Store The second oldest store in Nauvoo, known then as “Commerce.” The store was in operation prior to the arrival of the Mormons in Nauvoo in 1849.
1848 – 1884	Icking’s Dry Good Store
1898	Burned
1850s	Cambre House Built by Icarian Arthur Cambre (Cambrai) Had one of the finest wine cellars in the area
19__ - 197__	Ida Blum’s residence Nauvoo’s “unofficial” historian
Present	Green Space

Notes:

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 indicated no existing structure at this location in 2010.

Built in 1839 for Amos Davis, the store was a two-story, 24 foot wide and 124 foot long structure.

In 1839, before the arrival of the Mormons that same year, Amos Davis began his dry goods store at this location. It was the second oldest store in “Nauvoo” (known then as “Commerce”). (The oldest store was Kimball’s Trading Post along the river at the foot of old Main Street.) The “store” was also used as a tavern/hotel where Orrin Porter Rockwell lived and operated a carriage-taxi service for a time. Davis eventually joined the Mormon faith and went West during the Mormon exodus in the mid 1840’s.



Circa the latter 1850’s. J.B. Icking’s General Store

Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

In 1848, John B. Icking went into the dry goods business in the former Davis store with Louis Martin, after whom the nearby “Martin Hill” was named. The partnership dissolved, and Martin opened a confectionary and dance hall across Wells Street to the west. Icking continued in the business until 1884. The building was struck by lightning in 1898 and was almost totally destroyed by the subsequent fire.

In 1905, J.M. Fisher, Nauvoo businessman, purchased the property and built a home. Later, Carl J. Blum, one of Nauvoo’s post-masters and husband of Ida Blum, Nauvoo’s “unofficial” local historian, lived here. The house partially burned in 1936. Ida lived here until her death in 19___. The property was sold to the LDS Church in 2000.

Note: In 1856, the whole block was purchased by Eugene Cambre/Cambrai, a member of Nauvoo’s Icarian community at one time.

Ida Blum (1889 - 1980)



Ida Blum is often referred to as “the unofficial Nauvoo Historian.” Born and raised in Nauvoo, Ida was the daughter of Robert Kuhn, early day undertaker and cabinet maker, and wife of Carl Blum, leading Nauvoo merchant (3-B Store). Over the years she published innumerable articles and two books on various phases of Nauvoo history. She also was in demand as a guide for tours of Nauvoo. (See Ida Blum’s

books: Nauvoo: An American Heritage, 1969, and Nauvoo: Gateway to the West, 1974, at Nauvoo Public Library and at the Nauvoo Historical Society’s Weld House Museum.)



Photo Courtesy of St. Mary Monastery

Cambre House

Originally, the Cambre House was a six-room” salt box” house, consisting of two stories in front and one story in the rear. The house, which has been added to over the years, remains to the south of where the former Icking store once stood.

The Cambre House was willed to the Sisters of St. Benedict in 1905 and was used in a variety of ways from 1905- 2001: kitchen, dining room, and, later, “clubhouse” for grade school boys who went to St. Edmund’s (former Spalding building) across the street to the west. The wine cellar was used for winter storage of apples and potatoes; the house, for various tenants. The building was remodeled in 1979 and is still in use today.

Overview: South Side of 1000 Block of Mulholland
 The 1891 Plat indicates the block was totally empty; however, there was some commercial activity. By the time the 1912 Sanborn Maps appeared, a large, L-shaped, brick building fronted Mulholland, with a frame dwelling located to the south of it. (This building had been moved to that site to accommodate the structure which sprawled across the southwest corner at the intersection of Mulholland and Wells (11th) Streets.) One other frame dwelling appeared on what is now the curve of Highway 96.

1000 Block, South Side of Mulholland

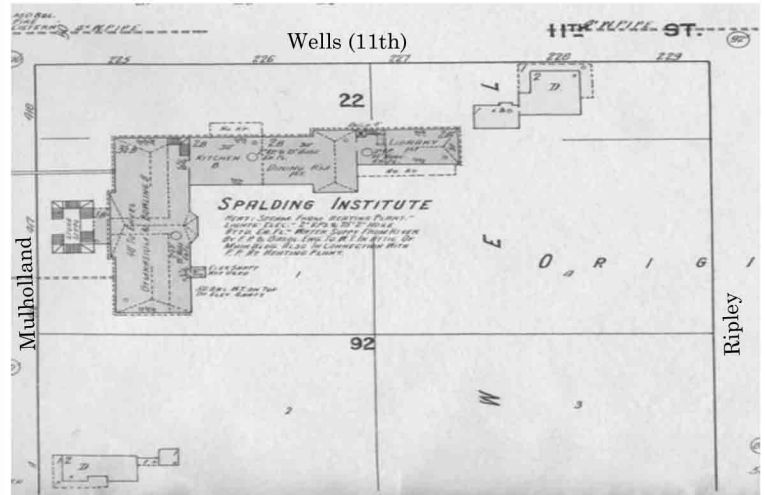
1891 Plat: Empty
1912 Sanborn Map: Spalding Institute
2010: Green Space

- 18__ - 1868** **Jacques Martin's Candy and Confectionary Store/Dance Hall**
 "Martin Hill," the hill leading down to the "Flats" at the west end of Mulholland (now Route 96) was named after Martin.
- 18__ - 1903** **J. B. Icking residence**
 This house was moved south on the block to Wells (11th) and Ripley Streets to make room for Spalding Institute to be built on the site.
- 18__ - 1888** **Pierre Bergernon's Art Gallery**
 Located somewhere south of the Icking/Martin location. However, by 1907, Spalding Institute, a large L-shaped building, dominated a large portion of the block.
- 1907 - 1920** **Spalding Institute**
 School for grade school boys run by the Sisters of St. Benedict
- 1920 - 1923** **United States Government Vocational Training School**
 Used for retraining returning World War I veterans
- 1923 - 1926** **Vacant Building**
- 1926 - 1940** **St. Edmund's School for Boys**
 Run by Sisters of St. Benedict
- 1940 - 1955** **Convent and Motherhouse for Sisters of St. Benedict**
- 1955 - 1977** **Benet Hall**
 Renamed when building reopened as classrooms and residence facilities for girls attending St. Mary's Academy as well as some of the Sisters
- 1977** **Razed**



Drawing by David Allan Badger

Spalding Institute



A layout of the Spalding Institute as drawn on a 1912 Sandborn map.

Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

The Sisters of St. Benedict

The Sisters of St. Benedict arrived in Nauvoo in 1874. They established their convent and St. Mary's Academy, a boarding school for girls, in an existing building across the street to the north. (See Information Sheet #3 for more information.) Then, in 1904, the Sisters opened Spalding Institute for grade school boys, which was located in the former bank building on the southeast corner of the intersection of Mulholland and Wells (11th) Streets.

As the school grew, a larger facility was needed. By 1907, Spalding Institute was located in its new building across the street to the south.

Spalding Institute for Boys

A Catholic boarding/day school for boys up to 14 (8th grade), the school complemented St. Mary's Academy for girls across the street.



1920-1926 - Due to a financial set-back and foreclosure, the Sisters were completely out of building.

1920-1923 United States Government Vocational Trade School - Used for vocational training for returning World War I veterans. The white building was a dormitory used to house the men.



1923-1926 Building stood empty until the Sisters reclaimed the property and reopened the former "Spalding" grade school under a new name.

From 1940 -1955 it became the Convent and Motherhouse for the Benedictine Sisters and in 1955-1977 was renamed Benet Hall after "St. Edmund's School for Boys" closed. The building became a residence hall for grade school girls (who also had classes in the building until 1959), and some of the Academy girls (1958 and 1962-1967). Some Sisters continued using Benet Hall as a residence after 1955 when the new convent opened.

1977 Razed

The building operated under five different names in its seventy years in existence:

Spalding Institute • United States Government Training School
 • St. Edmund's School for Boys • St. Mary's Convent • Benet Hall