

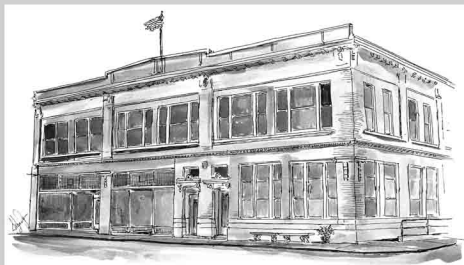
Nauvoo

The Way We Were

1295 Mulholland

1891 Plat: Hardware
1912 Sanborn Map: Variety Store
2010: Tourism Office

1860	<i>Hemmy Building</i>
186__-1889	Post Office
1874-1904	<i>Reimbold Building</i> Implement Store
c. 1905-19__	Reimbold hardware business (second location)
Before 1912	Variety store Drugstore
1912	Razed
1913	"Business Block" built (three separate stores, one façade)
1913-1919	First National Bank of Nauvoo
1919-1934	First Trust and Savings Bank (name changed)
1934	Depression. Bank closes. Building purchased by John A. Kraus
1930-19__	Kraus Cigar Store and Post Office (Cigar store located in basement)
1958-1974	Nauvoo Recreation Center
Present	Nauvoo Tourism Office



Drawing by David Alan Rediger

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.

There are few pictures and not much annotation relating to this site prior to 1913 when the present building that housed three businesses was built. The Hemmys (Lucien) owned the building in the 1860's, and the post office was located here until 1889. It is also possible that this building, razed in 1912, was called the "*Reimbold Building*" and it was used as an implement store c. 1874. The building, at some time later, was purchased by a different member of the family, N.J. Reimbold & Son (Charles), who were in the hardware business in the next block east ("1375" A). They moved their business to this location c. 1905. At some time prior to 1912, it became a variety store and, perhaps, a drug store as indicated by the "Drugs" on the awning.. By 1913, a new building, had taken its place.



Photo Courtesy of L. Tom Perry Special Collection, BYU

An interesting, 1890's compressed view of a north side streetscape showing the two blocks between Wells (11th) and Page Streets (13th). Note the conical spire of the bank at the west end of the 1200 Block, or Bluff (12th), the Icarian apartment houses on the Temple Block across the street west of the bank, and the awning of Reimbold's implement store in the far right corner (Page, or 13th Street). Maybe you can pick out the brick *Nauvoo Expositor* building and the Icarian frame building to the west.



Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

1920's street scene with the First Trust and Savings Bank in the foreground.



Photo Courtesy of Bonnie Mettemich

**First Trust & Savings Bank
OF NAUVOO.**

G. W. Dachroth, Pres., W. H. Thornber
Vice Pres., Geo. Dachroth, Cash.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
G. W. Dachroth, W. H. Thornber, Wm.
Pitt, W. B. Kimball, Geo. F. Dachroth,
Thos. Sheridan, Fred Salm, jr.,
S. D. Gnanin, J. Laubersheimer.

Bank accounts and collections solicited

In 1919 The First National Bank of Nauvoo's name changed to First Trust and Savings Bank. It operated until 1934 when the bank closed due to the Depression.

The First National Bank of Nauvoo, built in 1913 and anchoring the east end of the 1200 business block, rivaled the building complex at the west end, which also housed a bank. However, the Depression left few banks unscathed, and it (now called The First Trust and Savings Bank) failed, closing its doors on October 3, 1934. The building was auctioned and purchased by John A. Kraus the same year.

An outside, basement entrance at the front of the building—now covered by a sidewalk—led to one of John A. Kraus Cigar Store locations during the 1930's, plus a ladies' restroom and lounge area. The upstairs served as a library, and, until their building was built, the IOOF meeting room. Before occupancy by "Nauvoo Recreation Center" (described below), it housed Nauvoo's post office.

NAUVOO RECREATION CENTER
CIGARS - CIGARETTES - CANDY
COMPLETE LINE OF PIPES
IMPORTED & DOMESTIC TOBACCO
LEWIS A. WILDHABER, JR., Prop.
NAUVOO, ILLINOIS 62354

A heading from one of the pads of paper Louie freely distributed—a practical advertisement!



Louie Wildhaber

Every town has its share of characters—Lewis A. ("Louie") Wildhaber, Jr., was one of Nauvoo's. Louie was the proprietor of the "Nauvoo Recreation Center" c.1958-1974. Here he provided his customers with ribald, colorful stories and repartee, along with a myriad of things to buy, from cigars, cigarettes, pipes and "imported and domestic" pipe tobacco to canned and packaged goods—that is, of course, if you could wend your way through aisles crammed with items the shelves simply not accommodate! Sporting a large, leather wallet chained to his belt and thrilling children with a large roll of "folding" money, which he loved to display, Louie was, indeed, a "happening." One came in to sit around and visit (gossip)—if a place to sit could be found—or to shoot a game of pool in the back room. He will be remembered for the comment, "Who is going to do the work after I'm gone?"



Drawing by David Alan Badger

In the 1970's the location became the home of the Nauvoo Tourist Information Center, later called the Nauvoo Tourism Office, as it is known today.