

Nauvoo

The Way We Were

1390 Mulholland

1891 Plat: Large, double, unidentified building
1912 Sanborn Map: Site Empty
2010: Restaurant

1920s -1930s Horton's Standard Oil Service Station
1950s Wisslead's Ideal Food Market
Present: McKee's Celtic Restaurant

1380 Mulholland

1891 Plat: Unidentified Building
1912 Sanborn Map:
2010: Museum

1842 - 1846 Dr. Weld's Medical Office and residence
c.1912 - 1933 Dr. Varney's Medical Office Obstetrics, being a speciality, Varney added a small maternity hospital onto the back of the building
1964 - 1968 Steffey's Insurance Office and residence
1986-Present Nauvoo Historical Society's Weld House Museum



Drawing by David Alan Badger

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.

Although not much is documented prior to the 1920's, this corner of Mulholland and Barnett (14th) was a busy place in the 1920's and 1930's. Two different owners, at various times, operated a "filling" (gas) and service station here. In the late 1920's, early 1930's, it was a Sinclair Station, followed by Lowell Horton's Standard Oil Service Station, run by John Gobac, in 1933. (Horton later moved the business across the street to the north. Partner, Raymond "Bub" Kelly, owned and operated the business after Horton's death in 1958.) In the late 1950's, the Wissleads operated the "Ideal Food Market," for a couple of years, followed by several stores catering to tourists. The building became the a residence and gallery in the early 1980's to 1993 when the building was torn down and the present building, erected.

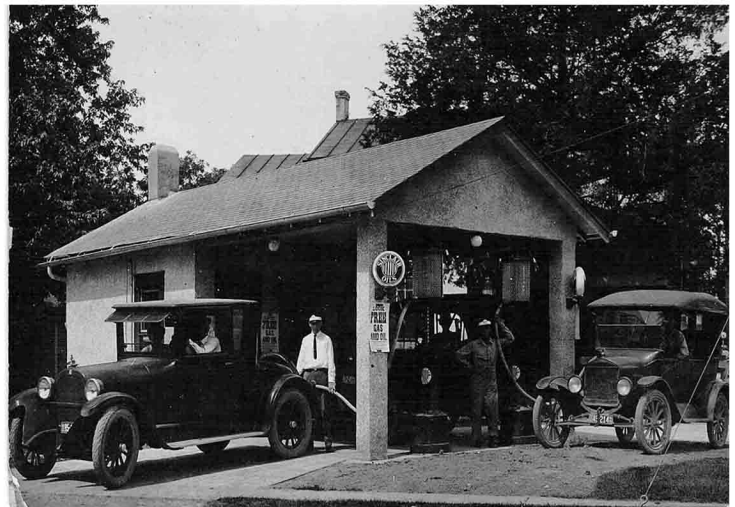


Photo Courtesy of the Nauvoo Historical Society

Sinclair Station c. latter 1920's or early 1930's

The United States Government owned this lot in the 1830's. Little is known about its use at that time. Perhaps it was a land office where deeds were registered.

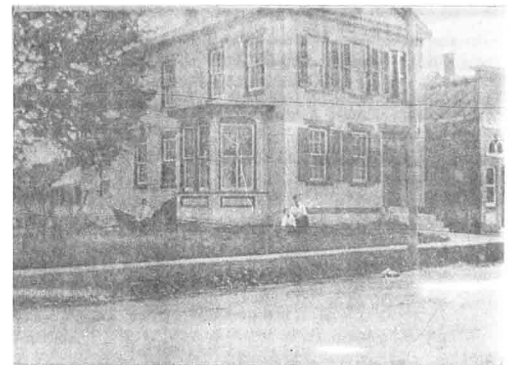
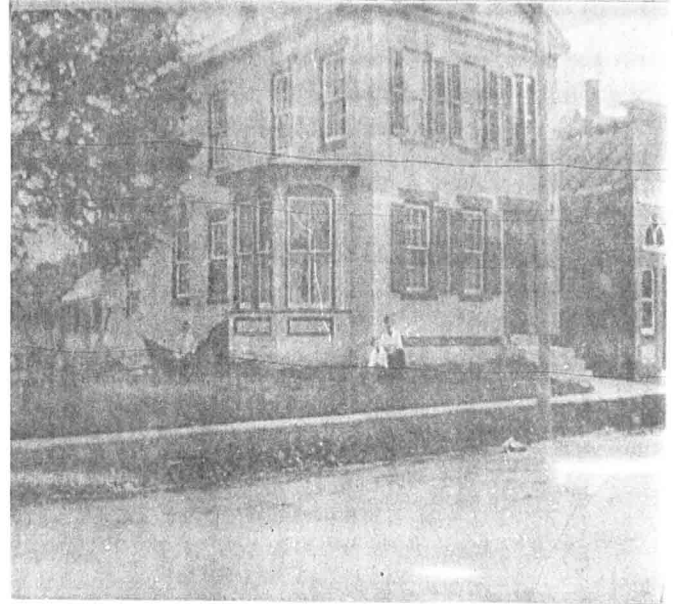


Photo Courtesy of Genny Simmons

The present structure was built between 1837-1842 in the Greek Revival Style. (see drawing on left.)

1380 Mulholland

Daniel H. Wells built the Weld House on Mulholland Street circa 1837 in the Greek Revival style. The first known occupant was Dr. John Weld, a physician, whose desk, chair, and medical bag are on display. Dr. Weld was born in Vermont in 1808, came to the area in the 1830s, and lived in the house from 1842 to 1846 during the Mormon Era. Another doctor, Franklin Varney, also set up his medical practice here c. 1912-1933. His specialty was obstetrics and he added a small maternity hospital onto the back of the building. Varney's tenure was during another interesting period in the state of Illinois – Prohibition. As the story goes, he was said to have treated and harbored members of the Chicago Mafia while they recuperated from their wounds. Later the house was a boarding house and tearoom, eventually becoming the insurance office and residence of Phil Steffey (1964-1968).



Weld House Purchased by Nauvoo Historical Society

The Nauvoo Historical Society purchased the Weld House in 1986, and began massive restoration. Two matching grants, adoption of rooms by families, and contributions of funds and labor followed. The NHS continues to restore upstairs rooms and preserve artifacts and collections of the many periods of Nauvoo's rich history.

In addition to Dr. Weld's possessions, visitors can view a 900-piece arrowhead collection, river history, pioneer artifacts, copies of Joseph and Hyrum Smith's death masks, 1895 wedding garments, antique farm tools, Nauvoo business artifacts, Icarian books, and photos of Nauvoo spanning over 150 years. Other artifacts include a slice of the Trading Oak Tree, a plaque that once marked the area of Captain White's Home, an original handwritten ledger of Joseph Smith III, and an original map created during the lifetime of Joseph Smith. A large flat panel screen, allows visitors to view our numerous photos, displaying the many periods of Nauvoo's rich history. Two newly restored rooms will be the Icarian room and the River room.