

Nauvoo

The Way We Were

1280 Mulholland

1891 Plat: Meat Market
1912 Sanborn Map: Meat Market
2010: Hotel Dining Room

- 1889** *Hudson Building*
 Nauvoo's only example of the Mesker Classical Revival style of architecture, famous in river towns at the turn of the century
- 1889–1920s** **Hudson Brothers Meat Market**
 The Hudson brothers were responsible for the Bull Durham ad painted on the west wall of the building.
- 1946–1960** **Benne's Electrical**
- 1960** Purchased by Elmer Kraus
- 1961–Present** **Hotel Nauvoo's "Nauvoo Room"**
 The building was connected to the hotel, creating additional dining space.

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.



Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

Hudson Building c. 1920's. Elmer Kraus purchased the building to the right, and in 1960, and in 1961, it became the "Nauvoo Room," an additional dining room in Hotel Nauvoo.



Hudson's Meat Market, latter 1800's or early 1900's

Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

Choice fresh and salt meats. Sell the best at lowest prices. Our famous lard where once used will be used again. Sausages a specialty.

Hudson Bros., Meat Market
 NAUVOO, ILLINOIS.



Photo Courtesy of Bruce Hierstein

John and Leo are responsible for the Bull Durham ad painted on the west side of the building. It has been restored over the years.

In 1879 John and Leonard "Leo" Hudson started the "Hudson Brothers' Meat Market", and, in 1889, built the Hudson Building at this location. It was one of several meat markets in Nauvoo at the time, carrying "choice fresh and salt meats, with "choice family lards a specialty." They also provided custom butchering "done on short notice." A smoke house at the rear of the building took care of any smoked meat orders that came their way.

(1280 Mulholland Continued on page 2)

1280 Mulholland, continued



Looking east on Mulholland and catching a glimpse of the Bull Durham ad on the building to the right.

Photo Courtesy of Nauvoo Historical Society

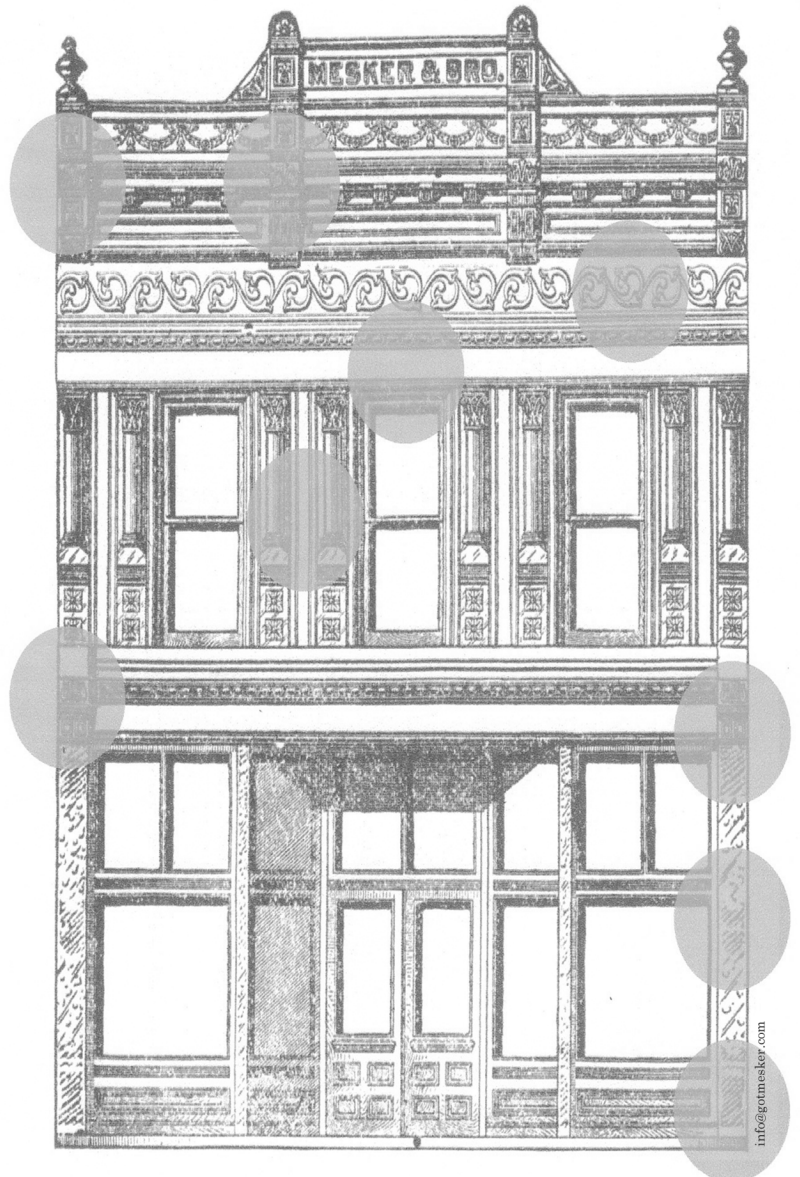
In 1946, the building was sold to Ralph and Vera Benne. Benne operated “Ralph Benne’s Electrical” here from 1946 to c. 1960 when the building was purchased by Elmer Kraus, John A. Kraus’s son.

In 1961, after renovation and remodeling that allowed the building’s rooms to flow into the Hotel Nauvoo’s dining area, the space was reopened as the “Nauvoo Room.” In 1962, the room was dedicated to Lane K. Newberry, whose paintings depicting scenes of Nauvoo, adorn the room’s walls. (A collection of Newberry’s paintings had been acquired during his lifetime for the Hotel Nauvoo. Newberry died in 1961 before he could execute a mural planned for one of the walls.)

In addition to the wonderful paintings, a marble topped sideboard saved from the old Oriental Hotel is still in service in the Nauvoo Room.

Mesker Architecture

The Hudson Building is Nauvoo’s only example of the Mesker Classical Revival style of architecture used during the latter 1800’s and early 1900’s. The Mesker Brothers, with companies in St. Louis, Missouri and ornamental sheet-metal facades made of galvanized steel and cast iron and embossed with intricate designs. These mass-produced building parts were available from mail-order catalogs. There are more than 500 Mesker buildings identified in Illinois today—most of which are in small towns, particularly in the Midwest—and more than 45,000 nationwide. If the metal work was from one of the Mesker companies, a Mesker nameplate can usually be found affixed to the building. To date, none has been found; however, the Hudson Building was definitely of that period and style .



info@gormesker.com