

Nauvoo

The Way We Were

You've come full circle in The Way We Were Walking Tour.

By now, you've experienced the flavor of Mulholland's Central Business District (and environs) over the last half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th Centuries. You've revisited the past through photographs, drawings, and accounts of what went on in the various businesses that once were a vibrant part of our community.

Times change, and Mulholland Street's commercial activities continue to evolve. Wouldn't it be fun for merchants from the past to take the tour, compare the similarities and contrast the differences! From a town of 12,000 to one that's hovered near 1,000 over the past 100 years, there would be a whole lot of changes to mull over.

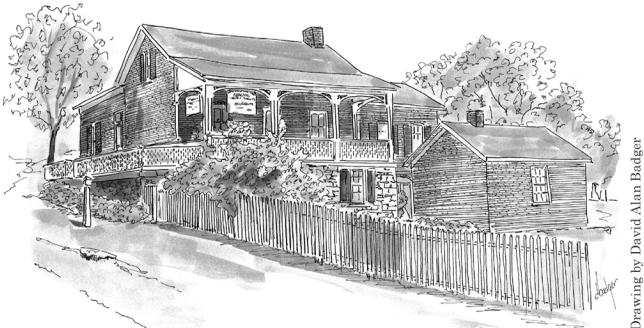


Drawing by David Alan Badger

Nauvoo Historical Society's Weld House Museum, located on Mulholland Street

We're happy you've come to share our history with us. While you're here, enjoy the restored homes and visitor centers on the "Flats," the picturesque views of the Mississippi River from both the bluff and along the river's edge, and don't miss the Nauvoo Historical Society's Weld House Museum on Mulholland and the Rheinberger Museum in Nauvoo State Park. Here you'll find more pictures, mementoes, and human resources to answer any questions your Walking Tour might have raised as well as a myriad of other informational tidbits about Nauvoo's history.

We hope you've had a good time. Please come back again. We'll be looking for you!



Drawing by David Alan Badger

Nauvoo Historical Society's Rheinberger Museum, Located in Nauvoo state Park

Other Nauvoo Industries That Are/Were Not Located on Mulholland

An overview of Nauvoo's commercial activity over the years would not be complete without mentioning the following:
Baxter's Vineyards

Presently located at 2010 Parley, 2 blocks east of Nauvoo State Park, Baxter's Vineyards grew out of Emile Baxter's Golden Hills Vineyards begun in 1857 and, later, Gem City Vineland in 1936. It is presently owned and operated by a descendant of the original Baxter family and has the prestige of being the first commercially licensed manufacturer of wine in Illinois. (See also Walking Tour Information Sheet Number 19.)

Schenk's Brewery

Schenk's Brewery was located on Young Street, between Wells (11th) and Durphy (12th), one block north of the Temple Block. Started in 1859 by Peter and Herman Schenck, it supplied the much-loved beer to Nauvoo's large German population (and others!) until 1908. Some of the brewery were razed c.1937 to make room for a new business, Nauvoo Milk Products. Some parts were incorporated into the new facility.

Nauvoo Blue Cheese (Nauvoo Milk Products)

After Schenk's Brewery's old building was razed in 1937, Oscar Rohde bought the property and formulated what was to become Nauvoo Blue Cheese—a name that became synonymous with Nauvoo. For over fifty years he and wife Mildred operated Nauvoo Milk Products. Caves, located on the property and scattered around Nauvoo, had formerly stored wine and beer and were perfect for the aging of the creamy, blue-veined cheese. In later years, the cheese was aged at other climate-controlled locations within the building as well as in the extensive system of caves in nearby Quincy, Illinois. The tasty, beloved "Nauvoo Blue" continued to be made in Nauvoo under a variety of owners and names until 2003 when ConAgra, the last owner, sold the business and brand name to Saputo, and the cheese production was relocated. Eventually, the property was sold to the LDS Church in 200__. The buildings were razed, and the area presently serves as a parking lot.

Colusa Elevator Company

In 1959, Don Griffiths, Sr., partnered with his brother John in the operation of Colusa Elevator Co. in Nauvoo. Several local businessmen met to discuss the idea of building a river grain terminal at the end of Broadway Street, adjacent to the river and the Nauvoo Quarry. In 1960 the building of this dream began. Back then, 40-50 barges—about 2 to 2 ½ million bushels of grain were loaded annually. Today, 10-12 million bushels of corn, soybeans, and wheat are shipped to buyers around the world! (The Colusa Elevator Company presently has six locations in Illinois and Iowa.)