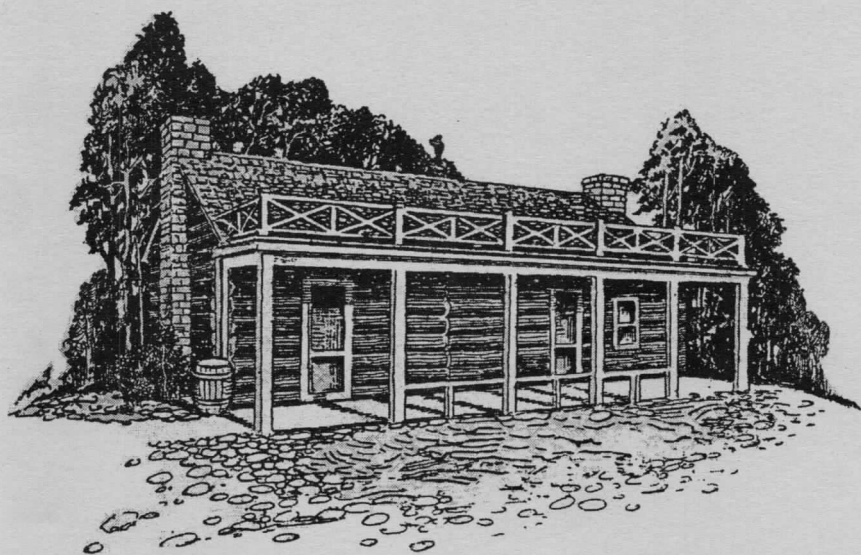


# Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites



by  
William J. Curtis



**Jackson County,  
Missouri Mormon  
Historic Sites**

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**William J. Curtis**

Cover: Jackson County Log Courthouse  
Zion's Printing and Publishing Co. sketch, ca. 1927.

Photos from Bill Curtis Photo Collection unless otherwise noted.  
Please credit.

Layout by Annette W. Curtis

2002, Rev. 2004  
William J. "Bill" Curtis

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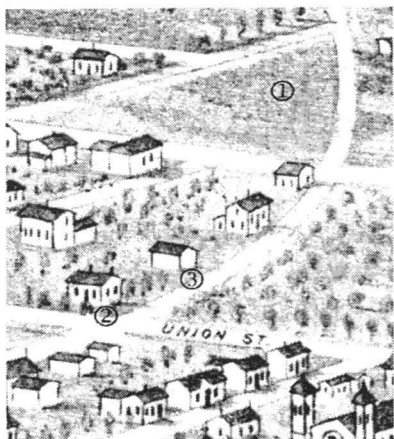
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# JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI MORMON HISTORIC SITES

by William J. Curtis

## INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

### 1. THE TEMPLE LOT



#### A. 1868 Bird's-eye View

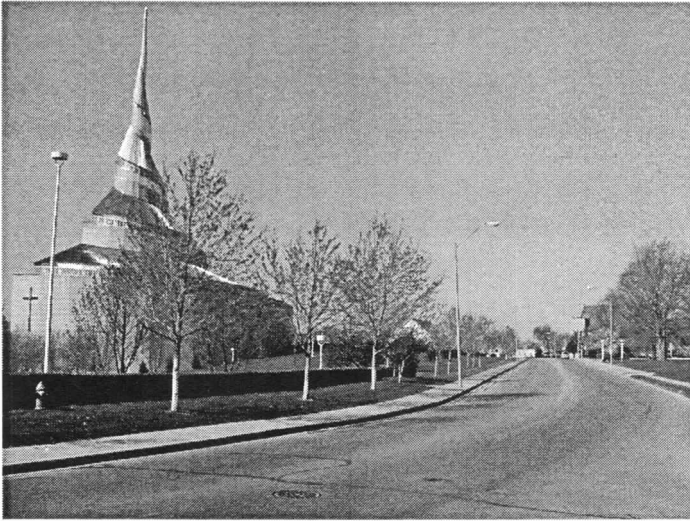
The vacant area in the upper center is the high point of the original 63+ acres of land dedicated as the Temple Lot (1). It is owned by the Church of Christ (Temple Lot). The curved street is Lexington and is the old trail that the early Mormons used to reach their settlements in Kaw Township. The house at the corner of Lexington and Union was the Edward Partridge home (2). It

was razed in the 1880s. The building directly behind it is the Mormon school (3). It was made of brick and moved from this site in the 1880s to E. Walnut. It was razed by the city in the early 1970s.

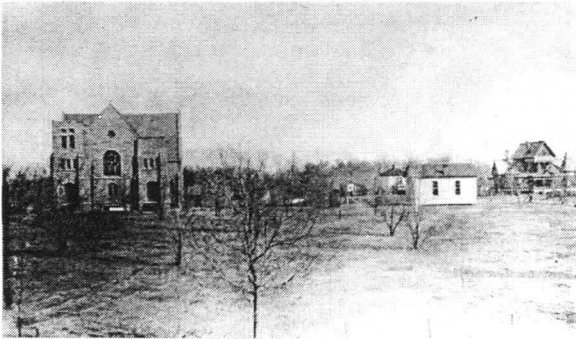
Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation (MMFF) "Mormon Walking Trail" bronze markers in the sidewalk.

#### B. Current View of the Temple Lot area:

View south west on Lexington from Union. The Community of Christ Temple is to the left.



### C. Temple Lot



This is the earliest known photograph of the Temple Lot taken about 1888. It shows the newly constructed RLDS Stone Church and the recently constructed Church of Christ (Temple Lot) building [burned by an arsonist in 1898]. In 1893 the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performed in the Stone Church on their way to the Chicago World's Fair. George Q. Cannon was in charge of this tour. MMFF Marker

### **D. Temple Lot about 1906**

This view is east toward the Independence Square. It shows the second Temple Lot church building which



replaced the first structure. This building was burned by an arsonist in 1990. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sang *We Thank Thee O God for a Prophet* on the Temple Lot in 1911 on their trip to Richmond, Missouri for the dedication of the Three Witnesses Monument.

### **E. Centennial of the Return of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) 1867-1967**

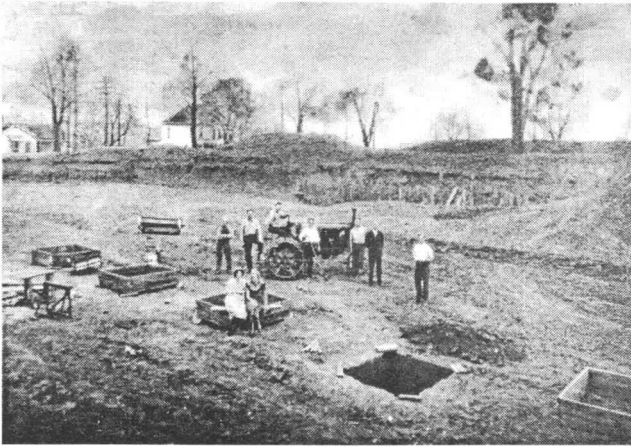
Granville Hedrick led the members of his church back to Independence in 1867. They were the first LDS group to return.



They soon purchased the site known as the Temple Lot.

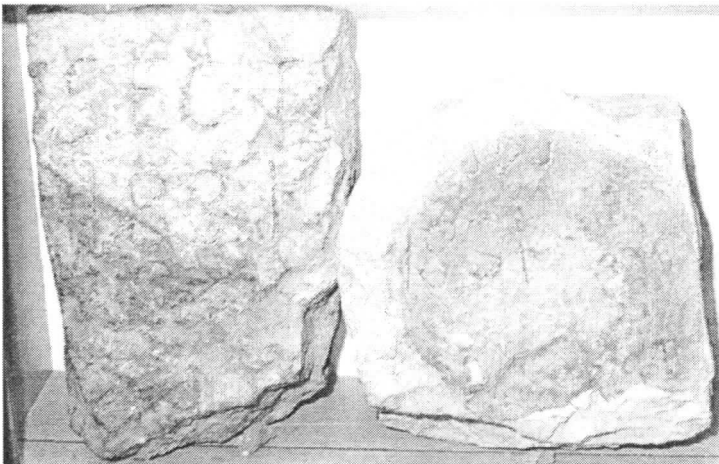
### **F. Temple Construction**

In 1929 the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) excavated the site for the construction of a Temple. The economy of the Great Depression kept the church from completing this project.



### **G. Marker Stones**

These two marker stones were found when the site was excavated for the Temple in 1929. They may be viewed in the visitors' center of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in the west lower level of their church.

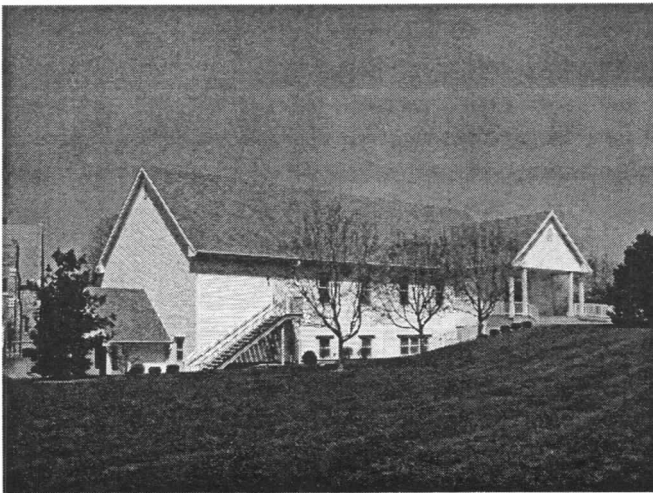




### **H. Interior of the Second Church**

This building was destroyed by an arsonist in 1990. The historic pulpit shown here was miraculously saved when the ceiling fell on it,

protecting it from the fire. It is the pulpit of the current church. Most of the church records were saved when the building burned.



### **I. The Church of Christ (Current View)**

This view shows the new Church of Christ building that replaced the one burned in 1990. The lower floor (entrance on left) has a visitors' center with various church history items on display.

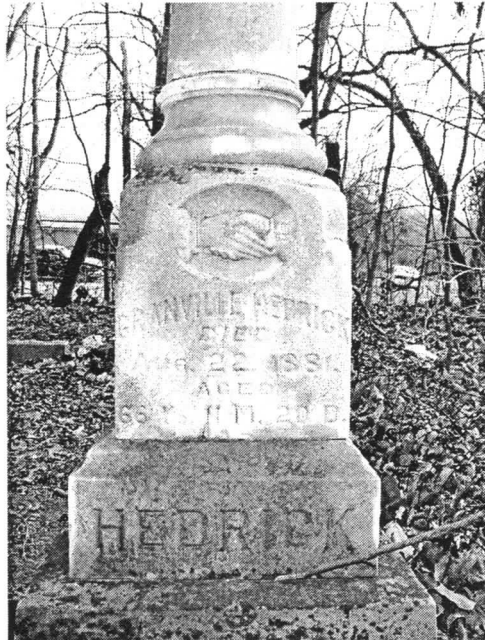
### **J. Hedrick Cemetery, SE Corner 24 Highway and Salisbury**

Granville Hedrick led his church members back to Independence in 1867. When they reached the Missouri River northeast of Independence they found that the river was beginning to thaw and the ice was covered with water. Under the leadership of George Frisby they decided to trust in the Lord and make the crossing anyway. Frisby led the first wagons across the river. The ice held and they all made it safely across.



### **K. Granville Hedrick Tombstone**

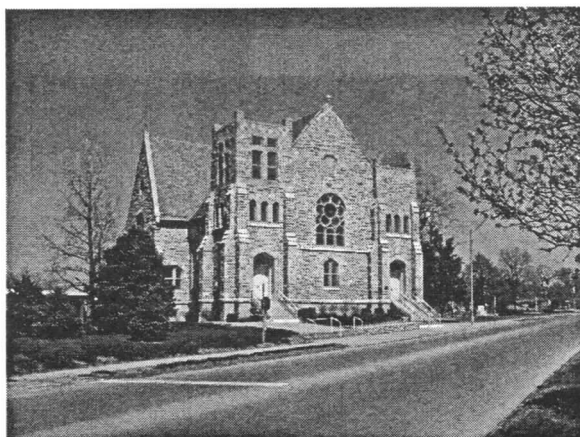
Granville Hedrick's tombstone is located in the far southeast corner of the cemetery. His wife is buried beside him. The cemetery is located on a portion of the farm of James Hedrick, the brother of Granville. Other members of the Hedrick family are buried here.





**K. The Stone Church  
(Current View)**

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) became the Community of Christ 6 April 2001.



**L. The Community of Christ Temple (Current View from the Church of Christ grounds)**

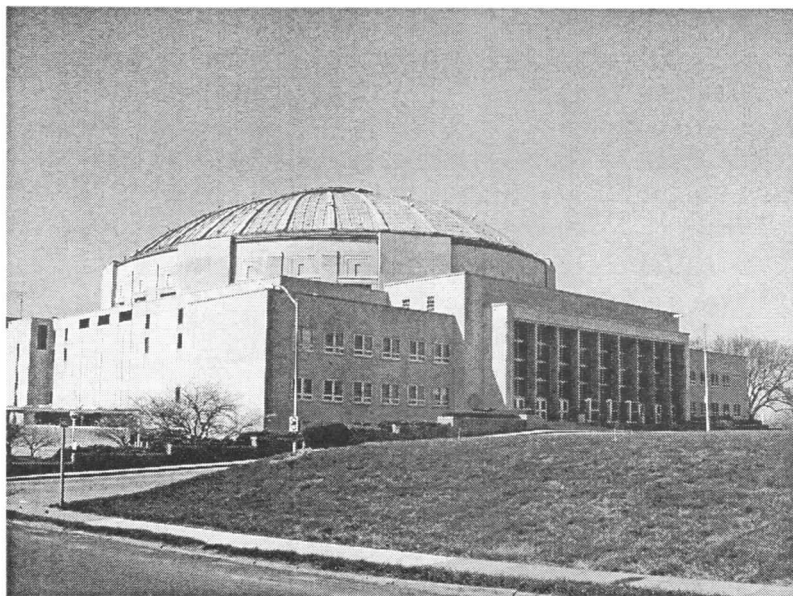
The Community of Christ Temple was dedicated in 1994. It houses the headquarters and archives of the Community of Christ. A church history museum contains many items of significance. It also houses a world renowned Casavant Freres organ. Free concerts are available daily June-August and on Sundays all year. Tours are available. Allow adequate time.



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**Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites**

### **M. The Community of Christ Auditorium (Current View)**

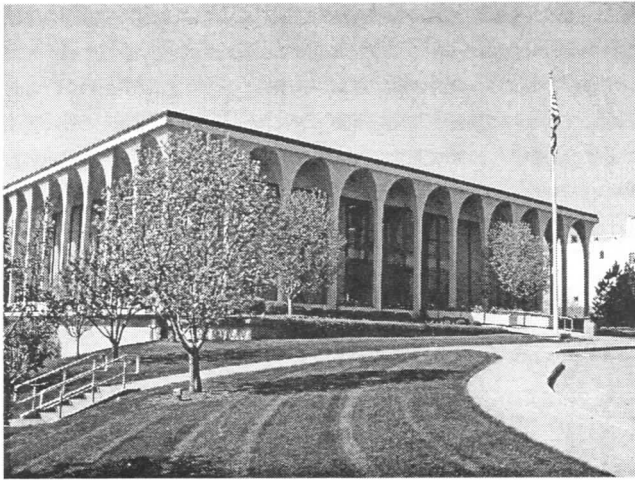


Construction began on the Auditorium in 1926. The building was finally completed about forty years later. This building contains the conference chamber where the general conferences of the church are held. It has a world renowned Aeolian Skinner organ. Tours are available.

### **N. The LDS Visitors' Center (Current View)**

**937 West Walnut Street, Independence**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dedicated this building 31 May 1971. It is located on the approximately twenty acres of Temple Lot land that the LDS Church has owned since 1904. The lower floor contains excellent historical exhibits on Missouri Latter-day Saint history. Tours are available daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Christmas Day from noon to 7 p.m. Call 816-836-3466 for more information.

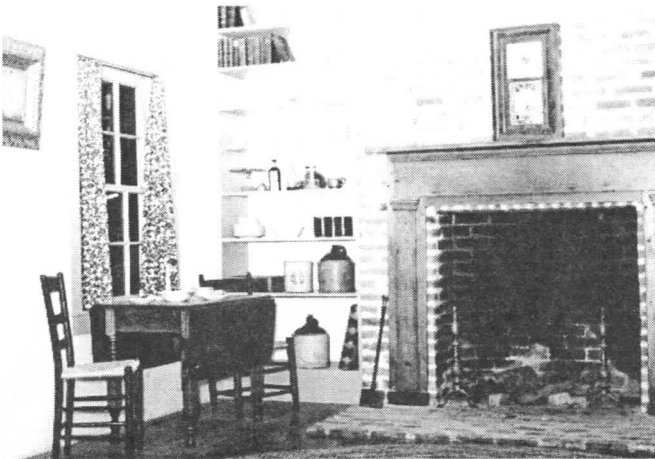


Independence Mormon Visitors' Center in 2002

## 2. THE JONES H. FLOURNOY HOUSE

### A. 1970 Interior View

The Jones H. Flournoy house was constructed in 1826 on Pleasant Street at Kansas. It was here that church leaders negotiated the purchase of the Temple Lot in 1831 from Jones Flournoy. It was the home of Moses G. Wilson in 1838 when the Prophet Joseph



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Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

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page 9

Smith was brought back as a prisoner to Independence from Far West by Wilson under the orders of Samuel D. Lucas. The Wilsons invited Joseph to dine with them in this room. Mrs. Wilson asked Joseph Smith to tell his story. When he was through, tears were running down the face of Mrs. Wilson. Neither of the Wilsons would ever be hostile to the church after that.

### **B. Original Site of Flournoy House**

#### **126 S. Pleasant**

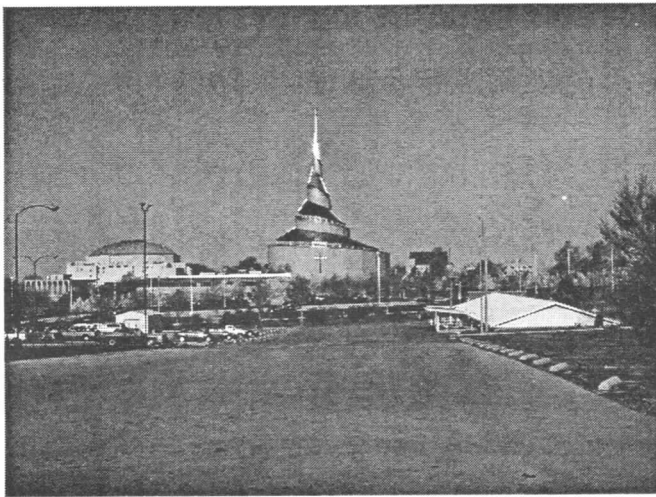
The Flournoy house had two major additions on the east making it a large mansion. The original 1826 structure in the foreground was saved from destruction in 1963 and eventually moved to the current site on Lexington.



MMFF Marker

### **C. Current View from Original Site**

The original site for the Flournoy house at 126 S. Pleasant is a parking lot for the First Christian Church. The next photo was taken looking west from the exact location of the Flournoy house, showing the closeness to the Temple Lot marked by the LDS Visitors' Center, the Community of Christ Auditorium, Temple, and Stone Church.



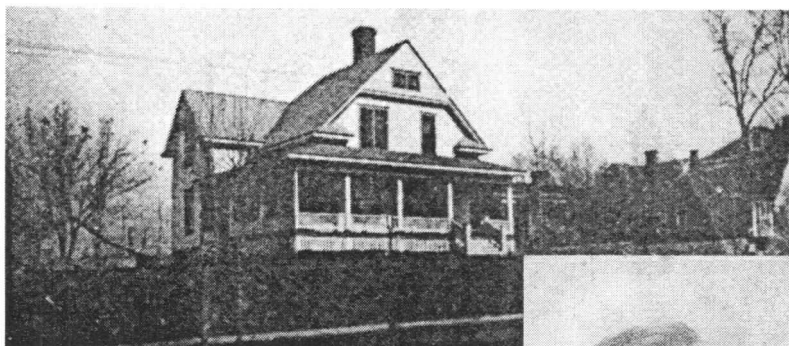
D. The Jones H. Flournoy House (Current View)

The Flournoy House has been restored and is furnished in period style. In the original location there was a fireplace chimney at the far end and a full basement. The house is open for tours and is located in the block west of the Stone Church on Lexington.

MMFF Marker



### 3. JOSEPH SMITH III HOME, 1214 WEST SHORT



#### A. Joseph Smith III's Last Home

Joseph Smith III (1832-1914) was the oldest son of the Prophet Joseph Smith. He became president of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 6 April 1860. He moved from Lamoni, Iowa to this home in 1906, where he lived until his death in 1914.



#### B. Joseph Smith III

#### C. Current View of the Joseph Smith III Home



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Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

#### 4. ALEXANDER SMITH HOME 112 S. Spring [SW corner at alley]

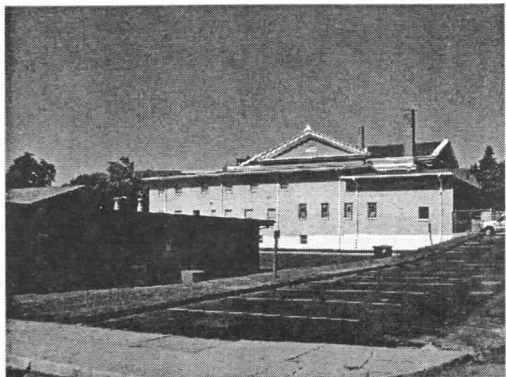


##### A. Early Photograph

Alexander Smith (1838-1909) was the son of Joseph and Emma Smith. Alexander brought his family to this house in 1882. A mob gathered here to drive them out. Alexander stood on the porch and shamed the mob into disbanding. This home was a gathering place for the visiting Saints. It was razed in 1967.

##### B. Current View of Alexander Smith Home Site

The house was on the site of this current parking lot. The east side of the First Christian Church shows in the background.

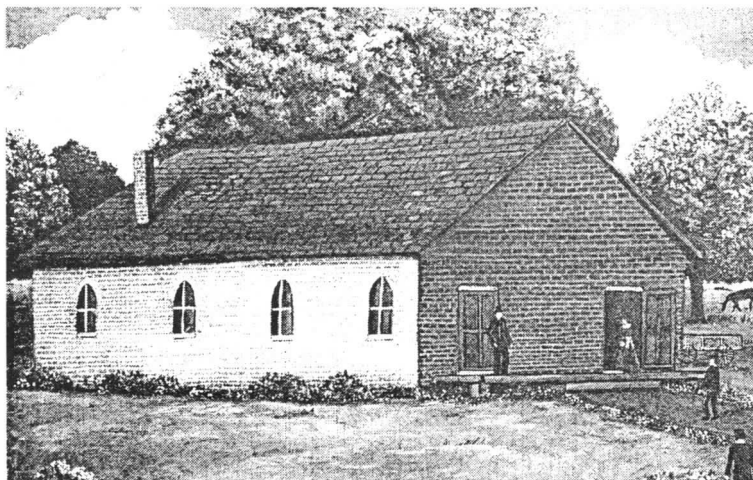




## 5. THE RED BRICK CHURCH

### A. The Red Brick Church (RLDS)

The old Red Brick church was located on the northeast corner of E. Lexington and Pearl. Construction was begun in 1879 and the building was dedicated in 1884. This building served the RLDS community until it was replaced by the Stone Church.



Painting by Nancy Harlacher ©

### B. Current View of Red Brick Church Site

Some of the materials from the old brick church were used in the construction of the current house on the site.





## 6. CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST (CUTLERITE)



Current view of the Church of Jesus Christ (Cutlerite)  
807 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri

The Church of Jesus Christ was founded by Alpheus Cutler (1784-1864) after the death of Joseph Smith. Cutler was the head stone mason for the Nauvoo Temple. He also cut and laid the cornerstones for the Far West Temple. The church was first located at Manti, Iowa. After the death of Cutler the church was moved to Clitherall, Minnesota. A branch of the church was established in Independence in the 1920s. This building was erected in 1928, a near duplicate of the church in Clitherall. This is the only small Latter Day Saint denomination that practices temple ordinances. These are performed on the second floor of this building.

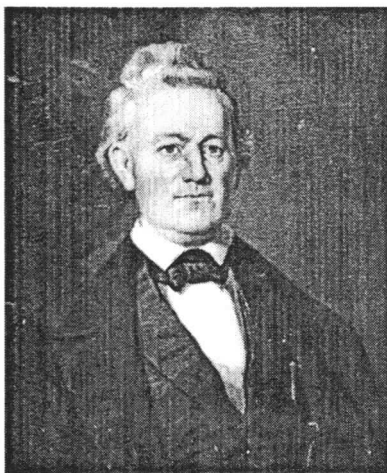
## 7. SAMUEL D. LUCAS HOME SITE [SE corner of Spring and Truman]

### A. Samuel D. Lucas

Samuel D. Lucas was the Missouri Militia general who ordered the execution of Joseph Smith at Far West. After Alexander W. Doniphan blocked this action, Lucas ordered Joseph Smith to be taken to Independence in the custody of General Moses G. Wilson.

Lucas thought this would further his political career to show off the Mormon Prophet in Independence. However, this

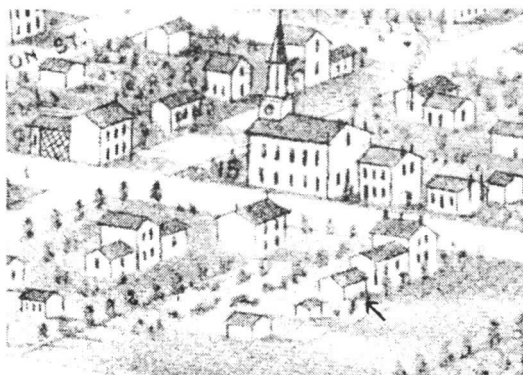
backfired on Lucas. After his arrival in Independence Joseph Smith was asked to speak on the Square. He won the sympathy of many of the city's residents. He soon was allowed to freely walk the streets of Independence. Lucas held several important positions in the Jackson County government in the following years.



### B. Samuel D. Lucas Home

The Lucas home was on the southeast corner of what is now Spring and Truman Road. Truman Road did not exist then.

This is from the 1868 Bird's-eye View of Independence. The First Methodist Church (15) across Spring Street still stands.



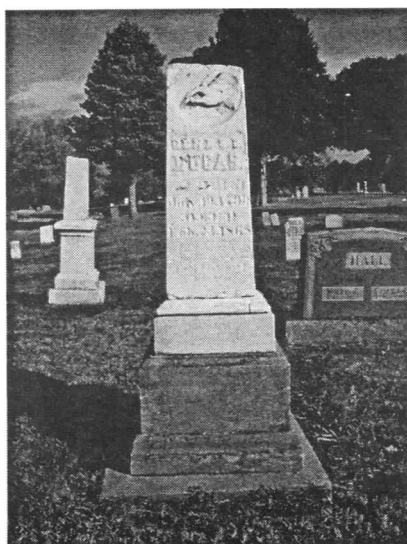
### C. Current View of Samuel D. Lucas Home Site

SW Bell Telephone Company occupies the lot.



### D. Samuel D Lucas Grave

Samuel D. Lucas was born 19 July 1799 and died a highly respected citizen in Independence 23 February 1868. He is buried at the southeast corner of Spruce and Evergreen in Woodlawn Cemetery on 700 South Noland Road. Lucas was Recorder of Deeds for Jackson County for many years. His handwriting appears throughout the early county records.



## 8. SAMUEL WESTON HOME AND SHOP



### A. Samuel Weston Home (1950s photograph)

The Samuel Weston home stood on S. Osage. It was razed in 1961 for the construction of the current Post Office. It was a one and a half story frame structure with a winding stairway in the corner. Weston was a leader of the citizens who drove the Mormons from Jackson County.

### B. Current View

The Post Office occupies the site of the Weston home on the southwest corner of Lexington and Osage.





### C. Weston Cabinet and Blacksmith Shop

The Weston cabinet and blacksmith shop was built on the southeast corner of Lexington and Spring when the town was founded. He held several county offices. His son Robert followed his trade of blacksmithing and inherited the shop lots.

### D. Samuel Weston Grave

Samuel Weston was buried in 1846 in the original cemetery section of Woodlawn Cemetery, east on Spruce on the right after the curve. He died as a highly respected citizen of the community. This replaced the plow share that marked his grave.



## Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

## 9. THE EXAMINER PRINTING COMPANY

### A. The Examiner Building

The Examiner Building was on the northeast corner of Lexington and Osage. The second floor was rented for the first chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when the Central States Mission headquarters was moved to Independence in 1907. The church's mission printing company, Zion's Printing and Publishing Company, had the Examiner press print the *Liahona The Elders' Journal* until they could purchase a press. A parking lot now occupies the site.



### B. Notice of Services in the *Liahona The Elders' Journal*

This chapel was used until a permanent chapel was constructed in 1914 at Pleasant and Walnut.

#### SERVICES IN INDEPENDENCE.

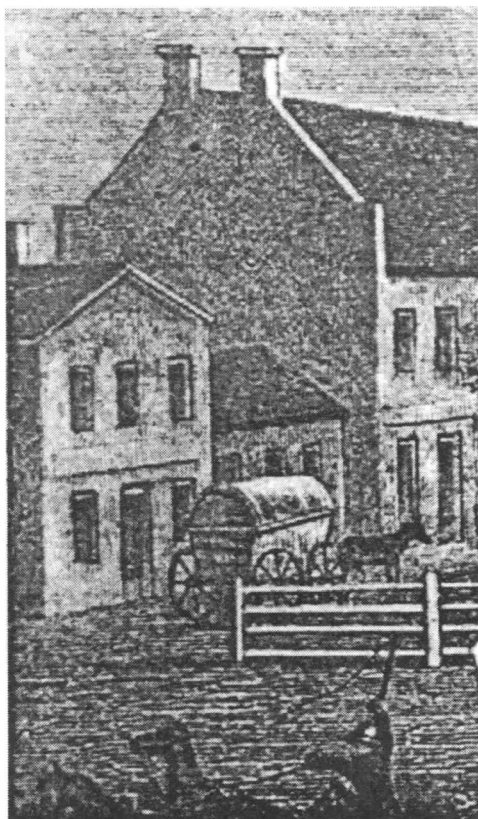
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints holds services every Sunday in the hall in the Examiner building, corner Lexington and Osage streets, Independence, Mo., as follows:

Sunday school, 10 o'clock a. m.

Preaching service, 3 o'clock p. m.

All are cordially invited to attend both services. Seats are free, and no collection is taken.

## 10. THE GILBERT AND WHITNEY STORE



### A. Gilbert and Whitney Store

The Gilbert and Whitney Store was located on the northwest corner of Liberty and Lexington. It was the Mormon dry goods store. It aroused the animosity of local non-Mormon merchants because the Mormons preferred to buy their goods at a church owned store. It was the immediate brunt of the mob's wrath 20 July 1833 after a petition was presented to drive the Mormons from the county. The store was broken into and the goods scattered in the street. The original stone foundation is still

under the current building and one inner brick wall from the original building is part of the current building. This picture is taken from an 1840s engraving of the Square. The store consisted of the two story brick building on the left and the one story frame building in the center.

MMFF Marker

## 11. THE LIAHONA OFFICE

### A. The Liahona Office (the Owen's Building)

In 1907 *The Liahona* was established in Independence as the LDS church's missionary paper. It was soon merged with *The Elders' Journal* of the Southern States Mission to become the *Liahona The Elders' Journal*. It is the major source of the Utah Church's missionary history from 1907 to 1945. When the church set up offices on the second floor of this building it was on the site of the early church's Gilbert and Whitney Store.



### B. Current View of the Gilbert and Whitney Store and the Liahona Office Sites

The current restoration of this building to its early 20<sup>th</sup> Century appearance was completed in 2004.



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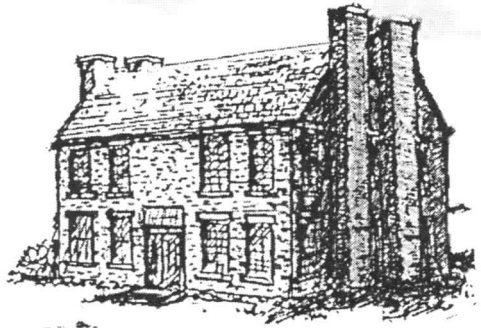
Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites



## 12. THE JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

### A. First Courthouse on the Square

This courthouse was constructed in 1829-1832. It is probably the courthouse mentioned in *Doctrine and Covenants* 57:3. This would be the building in which the church members transacted their legal affairs, such as filing land deeds and marriage certificates in



1832 and 1833. The brick walls were thin, poorly constructed and became unsafe. It was razed, the brick sold and a new building built on the original stone foundation in 1836.

### B. The Second Courthouse

This is the courthouse that replaced the first courthouse on the Square in 1836. This building is the core of the current



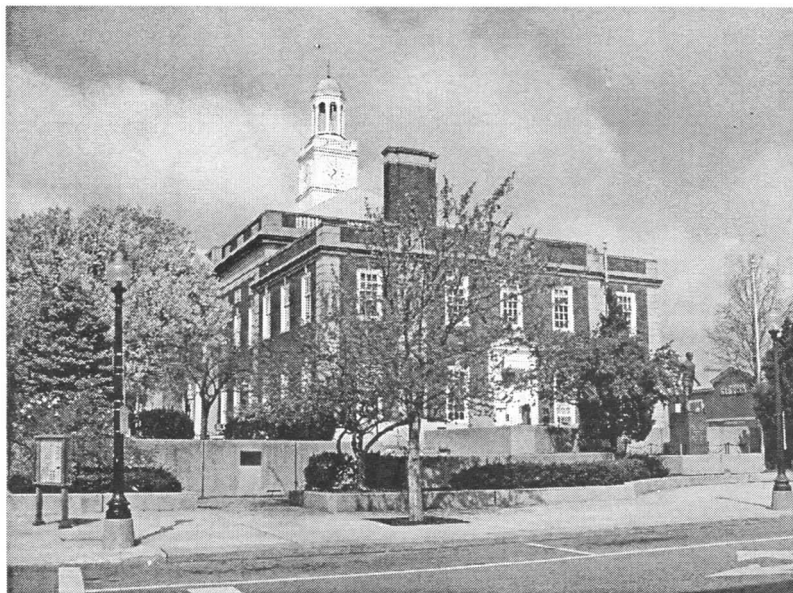
courthouse. The second floor contains the courtroom where Alexander W. Doniphan defended Orrin Porter Rockwell against the charge that he attempted to assassinate former

governor Lilburn Boggs. The courtroom was greatly changed in the 1933 remodeling of the courthouse, but it is still the same room. This building was constructed on the stone foundation of the first courthouse on the Square. It was on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn that the petition was read 20 July 1833 demanding that the Mormons leave the county [far left in this 1840s engraving]. It was also on that corner that Edward Partridge and Charles Allen were tarred and feathered in 1833.

MMFF Marker (Public Square)

### **C. Current View of the Courthouse**

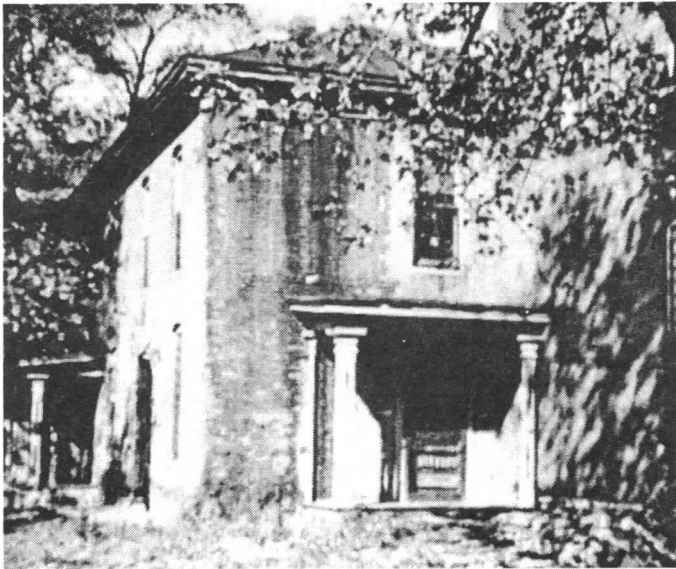
This view from the southeast shows the courthouse as remodeled under the direction of Judge Harry S Truman in 1933. Urban Renewal in the 1960s changed the landscape setting.



### 13. THE EVENING AND THE MORNING STAR - W. W. PHELPS PRINTING OFFICE

#### A. W. W. Phelps Home and Printing Office

This building was located on the west side of the 100 block of S. Liberty south of the bank drive-in facility. W.W. Phelps began publishing *The Evening and the Morning Star* at this location in July 1832. The press was on the second floor and the family lived on the first floor. The *Book of Commandments* was also printed here. On 20 July 1833 the mob threw the press out the window scattering the type in the street. A beam was inserted through the



windows on the southeast corner of the second floor and the wall was pulled out. The building was later repaired and used as a business building until about 1930. An uncropped version of this photograph has 1920s cars in the alley behind it. The press was eventually taken to St. Joseph, Missouri to publish a newspaper. Its last known location was in Colorado in the 1860s.

MMFF Marker

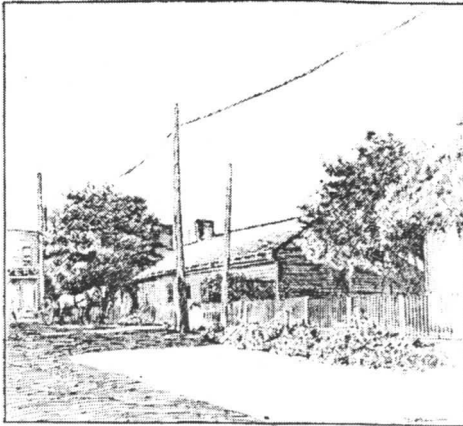


## 14. THE FIRST LOG COURTHOUSE

### A. The Log Courthouse on its Original Site

The log courthouse was constructed in 1827-1828 by the skilled slave, Sam Shepard, on the southeast corner of Lynn and Lexington. It ceased to be used by the county when the brick

JACKSON COUNTY'S FIRST COURTHOUSE MAY BE REMOVED TO SWOPE PARK.



The building of hewn oak logs, built in 1827, as Jackson County's first courthouse and jail, has been given to the county by Mayor Christian Ott of Independence. It is to be removed from East Lexington Street, Independence, possibly to a site in Swope Park. In the period of its private ownership the logs were covered with weather boarding and an addition was built in front. But the original building still is intact.

courthouse was finished on the Square in 1832. Algernon Sidney Gilbert purchased the building for a home and for the church store. Gilbert added a brick room on the rear for his family. The store was later moved to the location on the Square. The Gilberts continued to live in this building until the Saints were driven from Jackson County.

MMFF Marker

### B. Current View of the Site of the Log Courthouse

This view is north along Lynn toward Lexington. The log courthouse faced west on Lynn.



Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites



**C. Log Courthouse at its Current Location**

In 1916 the old courthouse was moved to its current location at 107 W. Kansas and refurbished and modernized. In its current

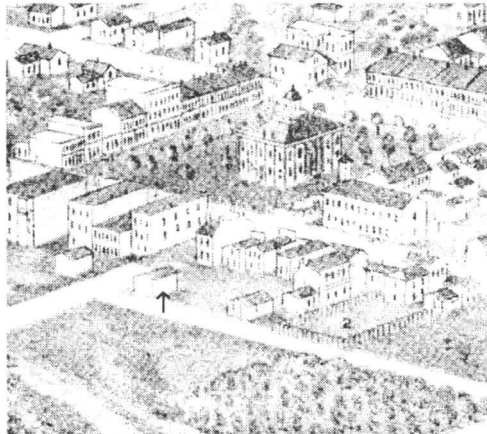
location, it is backwards. The street side is actually the rear of the building. The original fireplaces and chimneys were of soft handmade brick made by slaves. The stone fireplaces were installed in the 1920s. The building is open for tours.

MMFF Marker

**15. FIRST LILBURN BOGGS HOME SITE**

**A. 1868 Bird's-eye View - First Boggs Home**

This is the home where the future governor of Missouri lived in the early 1830s. He was friendly to the newly arriving Mormons at first, even allowing Peter Whitmer, Jr. to conduct his tailoring business in his home (arrow). The house was a small structure much like the Jones H. Flourney home.



## **B. Current View of Boggs Home Site**

The Lilburn Boggs home was on the northwest corner of Lexington and Lynn.

MMFF Marker



## **16. SMALLWOOD NOLAND HOUSE [HOTEL]**

A. The Noland House was located on the northwest corner of Main and Maple. There is no known picture of it. It was built by Solomon Flournoy, brother of Jones H. Flournoy and was the leading hotel in Independence. When Joseph Smith and other church leaders were brought to Independence in 1838 as prisoners, they were kept in this building. Joseph Smith preached a sermon on the Main Street side of the hotel. This was the most popular gathering place at the Square. The hotel had a two story porch running lengthwise on the Main Street side, making it ideal as a place to meet. It burned in the 1840s.

MMFF Marker

## **B. Current View of Noland House Site**

The current Clinton Building was constructed in 1906 after a fire heavily damaged the earlier structure. Elements of the previous buildings are contained in this building.



### **C. Solomon Flourney House**

This house is now a small brick structure on the rear of the house at Main and St. Charles (southeast corner). Flourney built the hotel at Main and Maple. He died in the fall of 1833.



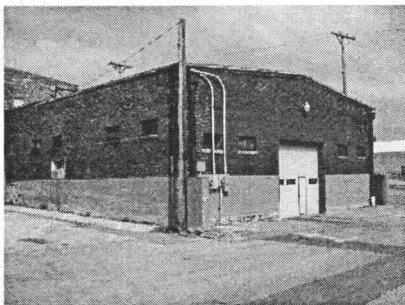
## **17. THE JACKSON COUNTY JAIL**

**A.** The first county jail was located on the southwest corner of Truman Road and Lynn. It faced toward Main. It was constructed on the same floor plan as the Liberty jail, but was only of log and not encased in stone. Church leaders were housed here for their protection in 1833 when the mobs were raging. The first jail accidentally burned when hot ashes were put beside it.

MMFF Marker on Main Street

### **B. Current View of the First Jail Site**

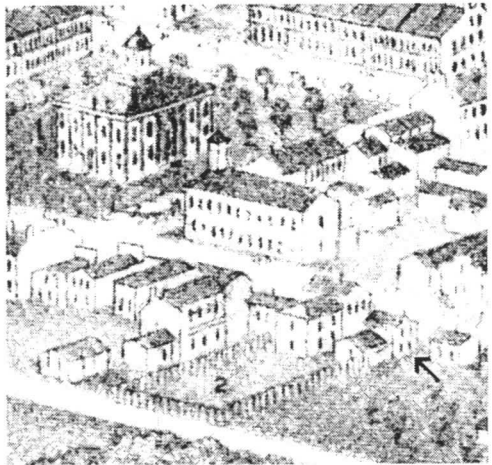
View of the southwest corner of Lynn and Truman from the southeast.





### C. The Second Jackson County Jail

This is the jail in which Orrin Porter Rockwell was held when he was accused of trying to assassinate Lilburn W. Boggs. In the drawing it is the small building closest to the right in the foreground (arrow). After the third jail (2) was constructed in 1859, this jail was sold to a slave trader then it was used as the city jail.



### D. Current View of the Second Jail Site

Located on the southeast corner of Main and Truman, this building once was the main fire station for the city. It now serves as the ticket office for the Harry S Truman Home. The building



to the right is the third jail and is now a public museum.

MMFF marker

## 18. THE SECOND LILBURN W. BOGGS HOME

### A. Second Boggs Home

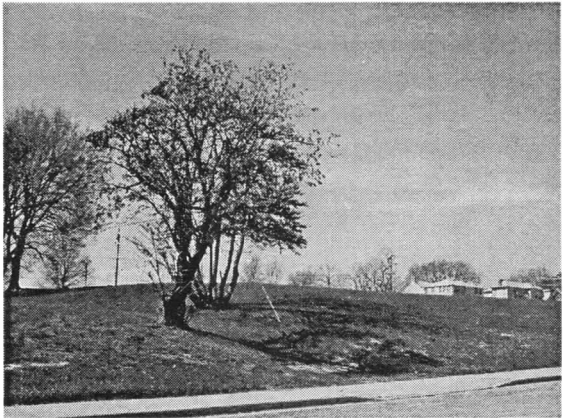
Lilburn Boggs lived in this home after he left the office of governor of Missouri. It was located on the west side of Spring Street south of Walnut. An MMFF marker in the sidewalk marks the site. On the night of 6 May 1842 someone attempted to



assassinate the former governor. Later Orrin Porter Rockwell was arrested for this but finally was acquitted by a Jackson County jury in 1843.

### B. Current View of Boggs Home Site

This view is from the southeast on Spring. Boggs home was at the crest of the hill in



the center of the photograph. This land is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. MMFF Marker



### C. Lilburn W. Boggs

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Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

## D. Times and Seasons

This issue of *Times and Seasons* describes the assassination attempt on Boggs and the attempt to extradite the Prophet Joseph Smith as accessory to the crime.

# TIMES AND SEASONS.

"Truth will prevail."

Vol. IV. No. 5.] CITY OF NAUVOO, ILL. JAN. 16, 1843. [Whole No. 65

### CIRCUIT COURT OF THE U. STATES FOR THE DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

December term A. D. 1842.

Before the Honorable NATHANIEL POPE,  
Presiding Judge.

EX-PARTE JOSEPH SMITH,  
OF HABEAS CORPUS. }  
J. BUTTERFIELD AND B.  
S. EDWARDS, COUNSEL  
FOR SMITH.  
J. LANGRISH, ATTORNEY  
GEN'L FOR THE STATE  
OF ILLINOIS.

This case came before the Court upon a return to a writ of Habeas Corpus, which was issued by this court on the 31st of December, 1842, upon a petition for a habeas corpus on the relation of Joseph Smith, setting forth that he was arrested and in custody of William F. Elkin, Sheriff of Sangamon county, upon a warrant issued by the Governor of the State of Illinois, upon the requisition of the Governor of the State of Missouri, demanding him to be delivered up to the Governor of Missouri, as a fugitive from justice; that his arrest as aforesaid was under color of a law of the United States, and was without the authority of law in this, that he was not a fugitive from justice, nor had he fled from the State of Missouri.

Afterwards on the same day, the Sheriff of Sangamon county returned upon the said Habeas corpus, that he detained the said Joseph Smith in custody by virtue of a warrant issued by the Governor of the State of Illinois upon the requisition of the Governor of the State of Missouri, made on the affidavit of L. W. Boggs. —copies of the said affidavit, requisition and warrant were annexed to the said return in the words and figures following:—

"State of Missouri, } SS.  
County of Jackson. } This day personally appeared before me, Samuel Weston, a Justice of the Peace within and for the County of Jackson, the subscriber, Lilburn W. Boggs, who being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that on the night of the 6th day of May 1842, while sitting in his dwelling in the town of Independence, in the County of Jackson, he was shot with intent to kill, and that his life was despaired of for several days; and that he believes, and has good reason to believe from evidence and information now in his possession, that Joseph Smith, commonly called the Mormon Prophet, was accessory before the fact of the intended murder; and that the said Joseph Smith is a citizen or resident of the State of Illinois; and the said deponent hereby applies to the Governor of the State of Missouri to make a demand on

the Governor of the State of Illinois, to deliver the said Joseph Smith, commonly called the Mormon Prophet, to some person authorized to receive and convey him to the State and county aforesaid, there to be dealt with according to law.

LILBURN W. BOGGS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 20th day of July, 1842.

SAMUEL WESTON, J. P."

"The Governor of the State of Missouri,  
To the Governor of the State of Illinois,  
GREETING.

Whereas it appears by the annexed document which is hereby certified to be authentic, that one Joseph Smith is a fugitive from justice, charged with being accessory before the fact to an assault with intent to kill, made by one O. P. Rockwell, on Lilburn W. Boggs, in this State, and it is represented to the Executive department of this State, has fled to the State of Illinois:

Now, therefore, I, Thomas Reynolds, Governor of the said State of Missouri, by virtue of the authority in me vested by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do by these presents demand the surrender and delivery of the said Joseph Smith to Edward R. Ford, who is hereby appointed as the agent to receive the said Joseph Smith on the part of the State.

In testimony," &c.

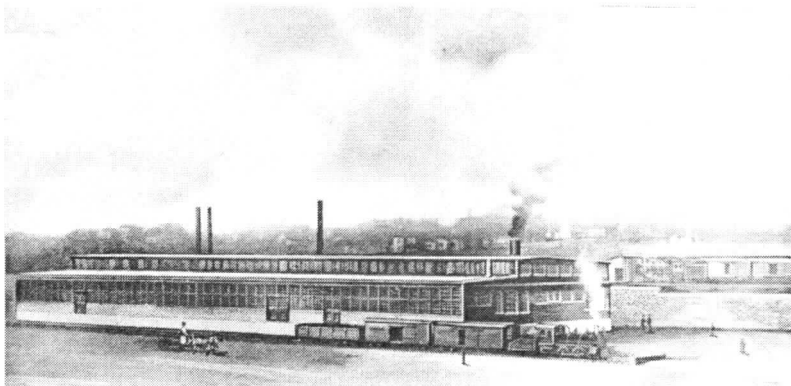
"The People of the State of Illinois, to the Sheriff of Sangamon County, GREETING:

"Whereas, it has been made known to me by the Executive authority of the State of Missouri, that one Joseph Smith, stands charged by the affidavit of one Lilburn W. BOGGS, made on the 20th day of July, 1842, at the county of Jackson, in the State of Missouri, before Samuel Weston, a Justice of the Peace, within and for the county of Jackson aforesaid, with being accessory before the fact to an assault with an intent to kill, made by one O. P. Rockwell, on Lilburn W. Boggs, on the night of the 6th day of May, 1842, at the county of Jackson, in said State of Missouri, and that the said Joseph Smith had fled from the justice of said State, and taken refuge in the State of Illinois:

Now, therefore, I, Thomas Ford, Governor of the State of Illinois, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and of this State, do hereby command you to arrest and apprehend the said Joseph Smith, if he be found within the limits of the State aforesaid,

## Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

## 19. THE DANIELSON IMPLEMENT COMPANY THE MORMON PLOWSHARE FACTORY

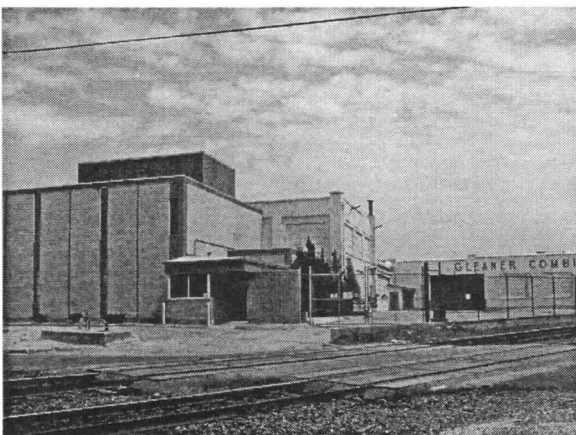


### A. Danielson Implement Company

This factory was established in 1908 by LDS members from Utah. It was to provide farm implements for church members in the West. It flourished for awhile, but was closed in 1914. It later became Gleaner Combine Corporation. It was located south of the southeast corner of Cottage and Pacific directly south of the Temple property of the LDS Church. The buildings have been vacant since about 2000.

### B. Current View of the Gleaner Combine Site on S. Cottage

This view is from the west on Cottage Street. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints still owns a significant amount of this property.



## 20. FIRST LDS CHAPEL IN INDEPENDENCE

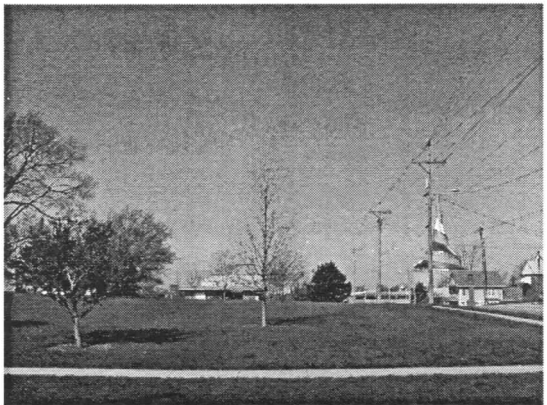


### A. First LDS Chapel

This beloved chapel was built in 1914 on the southwest corner of Pleasant and Walnut. While he was a missionary of the Central States Mission, Spencer Kimball helped with the landscaping before the dedication. President Joseph F. Smith dedicated the building. The mission offices were in the rear (right) of the chapel and the mission home was to the south (left). The building was razed in 1983.

### B. Current View of Chapel Site

This view is from Pleasant Street on the east. This was also the site of Zion's Printing and Publishing Company.



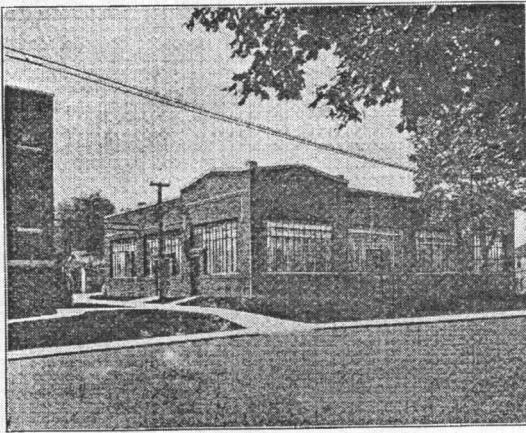
## 21. ZION'S PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY

The first permanent home of Zion's Printing and Publishing Company was on Walnut Street to the rear of the LDS chapel. It published the major portion of the church's missionary tracts, many of its books, and the *Liahona*. It published several editions of *The Book of Mormon*, the first to be published in Independence. This building was constructed in 1915 and was razed in 1954. Zion's printing operation was closed in 1951.

A. *Liahona The Elders Journal* 2 November 1915 issue.



New Home of Zion's Printing and Publishing Company  
at Independence, Jackson Co., Missouri



In the Providence of the Lord the "Printing Press is again established in Zion," and we are pleased to have the privilege of presenting to our readers a picture of the building and its inside workings.

In the year 1907, after thoughtful consid-

eration, it was decided to establish a missionary magazine for the benefit of the missionary work in the United States. The object of the paper then as now, was to create faith in the hearts of the people and assist the missionaries in their labors.

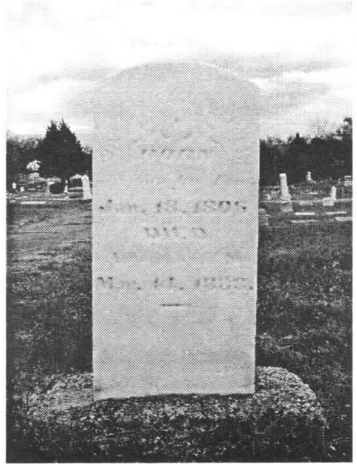
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### Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

## 22. WILLIAM E. McLELLIN'S GRAVE

### A. Original William E. McLellin Headstone

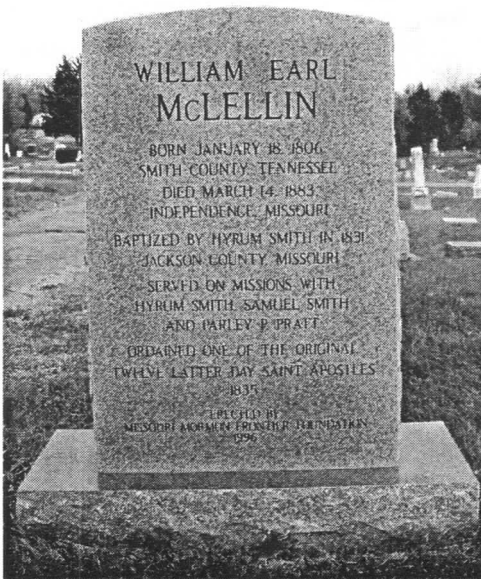
William E. McLellin was one of the first apostles chosen by the church in 1835. He turned against the church at Far West in 1838. In his later life he joined several of the factions. He lived in Independence the last years of his life. He was frequently interviewed by LDS members from Utah in Independence. He is buried in Independence in Woodlawn



Cemetery, south side of Pine past the red mausoleum. In later years McLellin lived in the 100 block on the west side of South Main Street.

### B. Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation's Marker on McLellin's Grave

Because McLellin's original headstone was rapidly deteriorating, Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation erected an interpretive marker for this colorful and controversial figure in church history. It was dedicated in 1996. Jan Shipps, noted historian and editor of the McLellin papers,



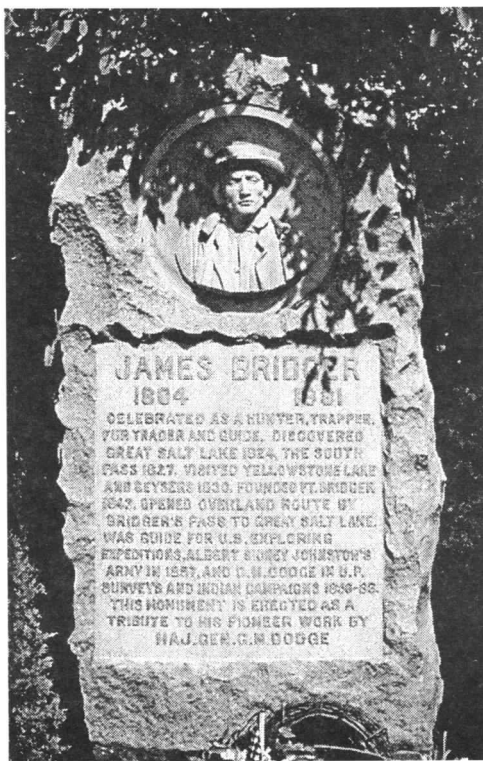
Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

was the speaker. McLellin's journals and other papers became the source of much speculation. Mark Hofmann claimed he had found them and used this claim to create some of his forgeries. McLellin's papers were later found in the First Presidency's vault in Salt Lake City. *The Journals of William E. McLellin, 1831-1836* has been published with Jan Shippo as senior editor.

### 23. MOUNT WASHINGTON CEMETERY entrance in 9200 block of Truman Rd.

#### A. Jim Bridger's Grave [east side of main road]

Jim Bridger (1804-1881) discovered the Great Salt Lake in 1824 and founded Fort Bridger in 1843. He counseled Brigham Young on the merits of settling in the Great Salt Lake Valley. Bridger guided the U.S. Army's invasion of Utah in 1857. He was a guide for the construction route of the transcontinental railroad.



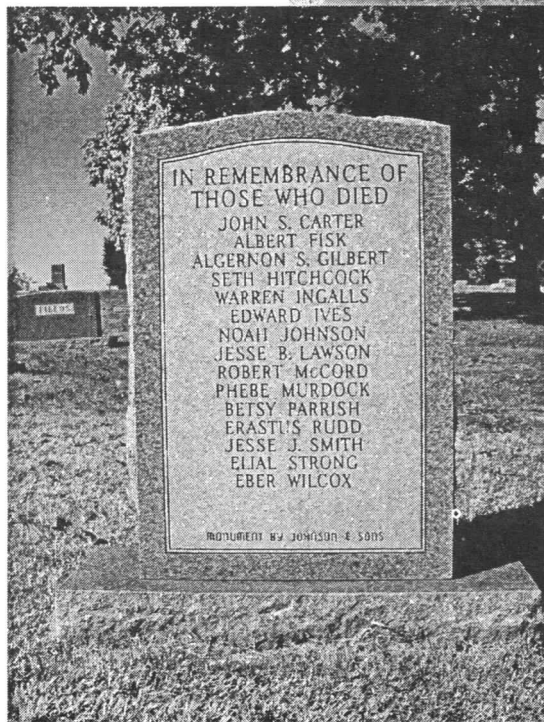
Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites



## 24. MOUND GROVE CEMETERY, 1818 North River Blvd.

### A. Zion's Camp Monument [front]

This monument honors those who died of cholera at the Rush Creek camp near Liberty. The remains of three of those Zion's Camp members were reburied here.

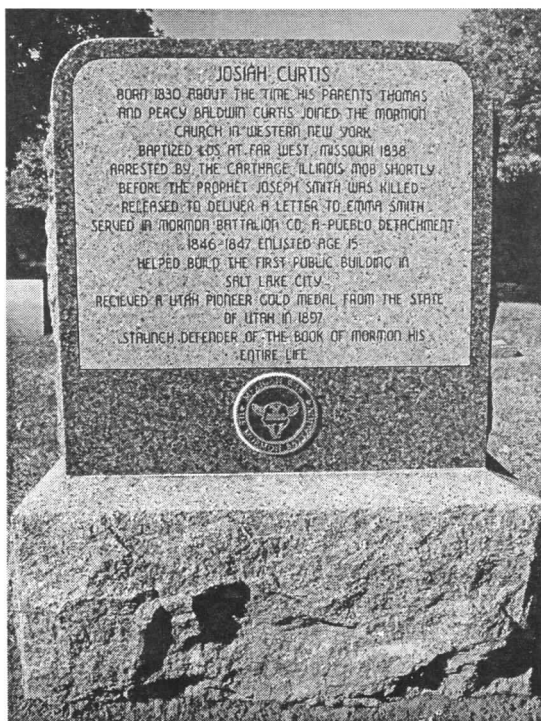


### B. Zion's Camp Monument [back]

This side lists those who died at the Rush Creek site. The monument was erected by Missouri Mormon Frontier Foundation.

## C. Josiah Curtis Mormon Battalion Marker

Josiah Curtis joined the famous Mormon Battalion at the age of fifteen. His parents joined the church the year of his birth in 1830. He was baptized at Far West. Josiah was taken prisoner at Carthage, Illinois in June 1844 and was released to deliver a letter from the Prophet Joseph Smith to his wife Emma at Nauvoo. As a member of the Pueblo Detachment of the Mormon Battalion he was one of the first to enter the Salt Lake Valley. He helped construct the first public building in Salt Lake City. When his family did not come to Utah, he went back looking for them. They had joined another faction of the church. Josiah's loyalty to his family caused him to stay in Missouri. Late in life he became a member of the RLDS Church, after his family had joined. His home was located on the site of the Community of Christ Temple.



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### Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

## D. Joseph Smith III Tomb

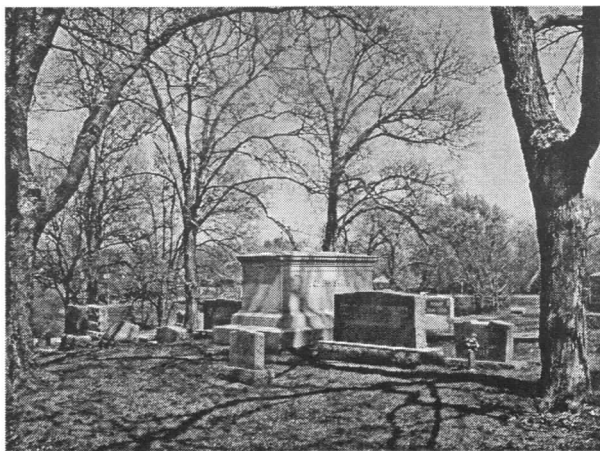


Joseph Smith III was the oldest child of Joseph and Emma Smith. He was born in Kirtland, Ohio in 1832 and died in Independence, Missouri in 1914.

He became the first President of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 6 April 1860 at Amboy, Illinois. This tomb is at the highest point in Mound Grove cemetery.

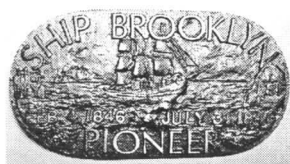
## E. Current View of Joseph Smith III's Tomb

This view shows the graves of the Smith family surrounding Joseph Smith III's tomb. His sons Frederick M. Smith and Israel A. Smith who were his successors as presidents of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are buried here.



## **E. Emily Hopkins Bartholomew (1833 - 1917) - Passenger on the ship Brooklyn**

The Brooklyn set sail from New York on 4 Feb 1846 carrying passengers and provisions for an LDS settlement in California. It appears to be the first colony of home-seekers to sail around Cape Horn. They landed at Yerba Buena, later named San Francisco, California.



She came to Independence in 1885 from Oakland, California with her husband George Bartholomew, a noted circus horse trainer. Both are buried in Mound Grove Cemetery (South Block 2, lot 26) just a short distance west of Joseph Smith III.



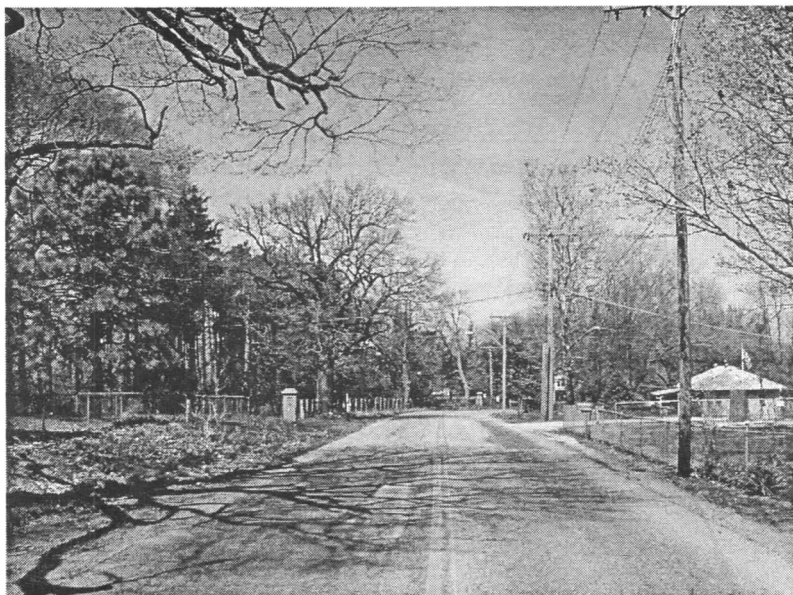
The George & Emily Bartholomew home on the northeast corner of Lexington Avenue and River Boulevard in Independence was for a time the church headquarters for the RLDS Church. It is now a parking lot for the Stone Church.

## 25. NORTH RIVER BOULEVARD

### The Trail of Despair

#### A. North River Boulevard

Many of the Saints used this route in November of 1833 to reach the Missouri River. Jackson County mobs forced them to leave in bitter cold November weather. As they wearily trudged north with only a few of their possessions, all the promises of Zion in Jackson County must have appeared broken. It is amazing that most of these disheartened Saints kept their faith.



## 26. WAYNE CITY LANDING

#### A. The road down the bluff to the landing

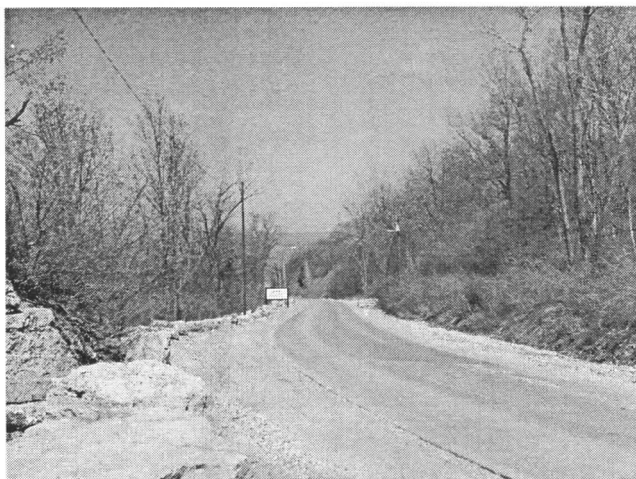
This road wound its way down the bluff to reach the landing where the Saints huddled in the cold waiting to cross the river into Clay County. Ferries operated on the river to help the Saints cross. This road no longer goes all the way to the landing.



**Road from the Bluff to the Independence / Wayne City Landing - photo from the C. Ed. Miller collection.**

### **B. Current View of the Landing Road**

The current road leads to a overlook point above the Missouri River landing and ferry site. Go north on River, take the first left after crossing Kentucky Rd. (entering LaFarge property)



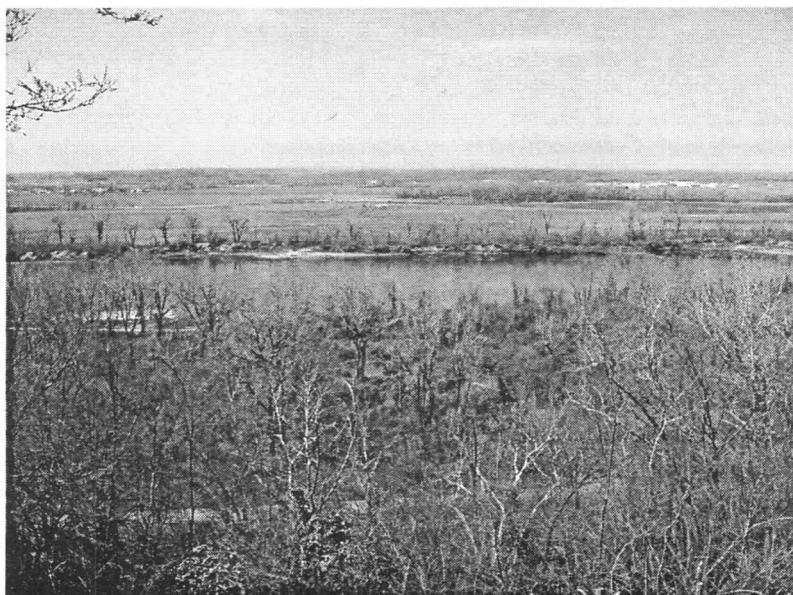
**View North from Kentucky**

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**Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites**

### **C. Current View of Wayne City Landing Site at the Missouri River**

This view is northwest from the overlook point above the Wayne City Landing site. The Saints huddled along the river in cold despair on the night of 13 November 1833 when an awesome meteor shower fell from the heavens, giving hope to the Saints that God still remembered them in their darkest moments. The night was remembered all over the world as “the night the stars fell.” Nothing is left of the landing, but the lookout point gives a good view of the river valley where the Saints crossed. This site is in the process of a complete renovation into an interpretive center by the LaFarge Company. The narrow tree line across the center of the picture marks the present north bank of the Missouri River.





#### **D. The Missouri River before the Corps of Engineers harnessed the channel.**



**Photo by P. H. Grinter in the 1880s - image from the original glass negative in the Bill Curtis photo collection (purchased from Eric Fowler).**

The modern Missouri River is a single, deep navigation channel flanked by levees and maintained by dredging. Prior to 1900 the Missouri River channel was wide, shallow and filled with sand bars and small islands. It was free to meander back and forth across the river valley with the associated erosion, avulsion, deposition and accretion. The river channel was stabilized by the Corps of Engineers in the early 1900s and all of the islands disappeared. Now the river is narrower, deeper and faster. In this picture we have a view of the Missouri River which is much closer to the Missouri River of 1833. The river course underwent major changes with each flood. Record floods of the Missouri River, which flooded the entire river basin from bluff to bluff in this area, occurred in 1844, 1903, 1951 and 1993.



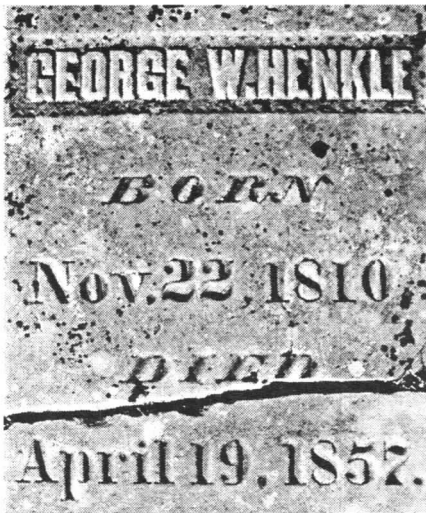
## 27. PITCHER CEMETERY

### A. Pitcher Cemetery Entrance

Pitcher Cemetery is located at Blue Ridge Blvd. and Blue Ridge Cutoff, north of 40 Highway. Traces of the old trail to Westport may be seen



immediately in front of the cemetery running north and south. Thomas Pitcher was the commander of the Jackson County militia, which forced the Saints to give up their weapons.



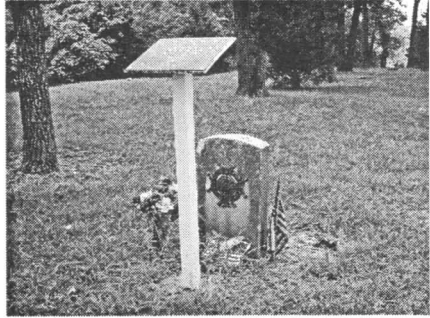
### B. George W. Henkle's Grave

Many people have confused this George W. Hinkle (22 Nov 1810 - 19 April 1857) with George M. Hinkle, who led the Caldwell County Militia in 1838 and turned the Church leaders over to Gen. Samuel D. Lucas.

### **C. Ledstone Noland Grave**

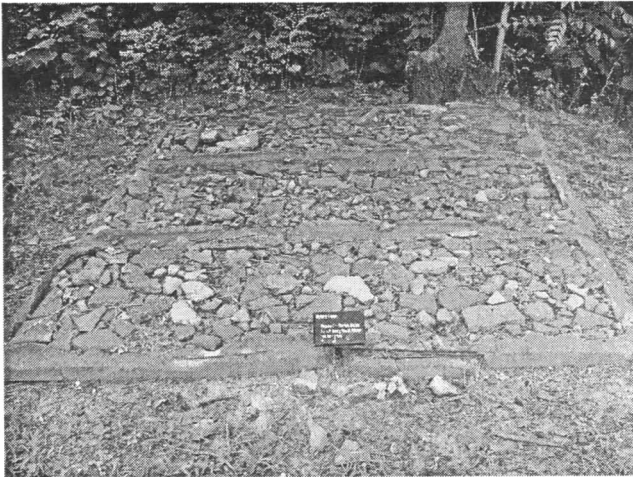
Ledstone Noland was a Revolutionary War soldier and is buried in the Pitcher Cemetery.

He is an uncle of Smallwood Noland, (ca.1786 - 1858) "Uncle Wood" of Noland house fame.



### **D. Possible Site of Thomas Pitcher Grave**

Col. Thomas Pitcher was the commander of the forces called out to oppose the Mormons. Pitcher forced the Mormons to turn over their weapons. He was one of the leaders demanding the removal of the Mormons from Jackson County. Pitcher's home was nearby on Blue Ridge Blvd.

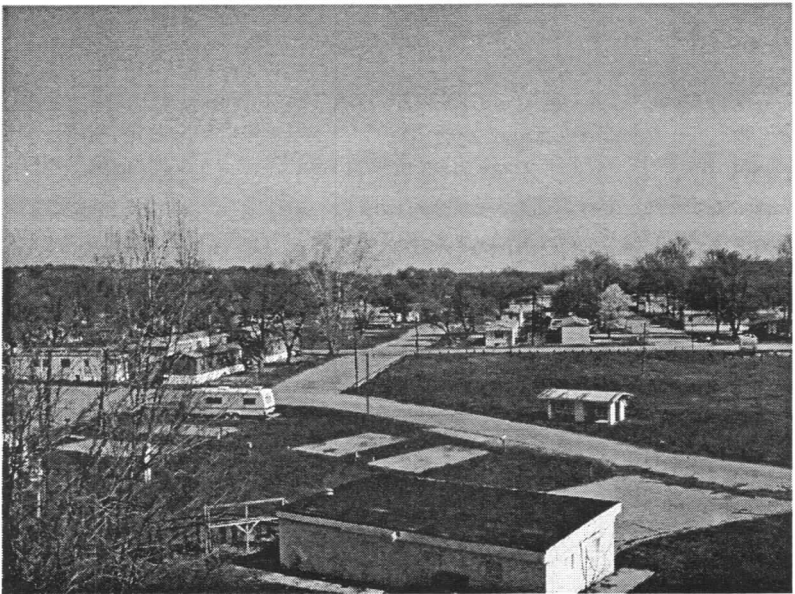


## KAW TOWNSHIP - KANSAS CITY

### 28. BIG BLUE RIVER SETTLEMENT

#### A. Big Blue Settlement

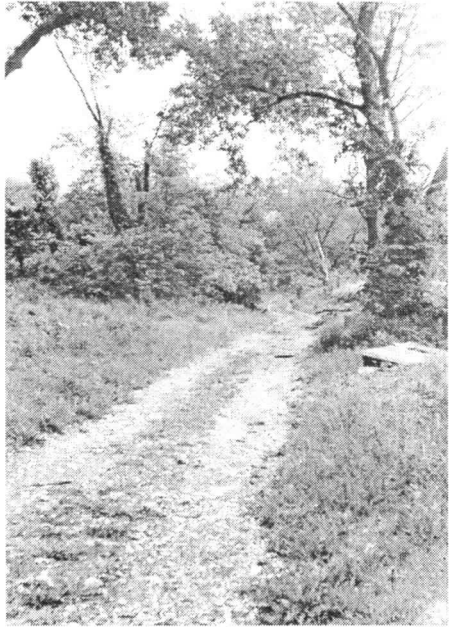
The Big Blue Settlement was located where the trail crossed the Big Blue River. The site is at the Big Blue River and 40 Highway. The trail crossing was not far north of the highway. This was the location of Porter Rockwell's ferry and the site of the first commemoration of April 6<sup>th</sup> by the Mormons in 1833. There was a battle in the "Mormon War" at this site. Some of the worst actions of the mob against the Saints occurred at the Big Blue Settlement. This view is north from 40 Highway.



## 29. THE TRAIL FROM INDEPENDENCE TO KAW TOWNSHIP

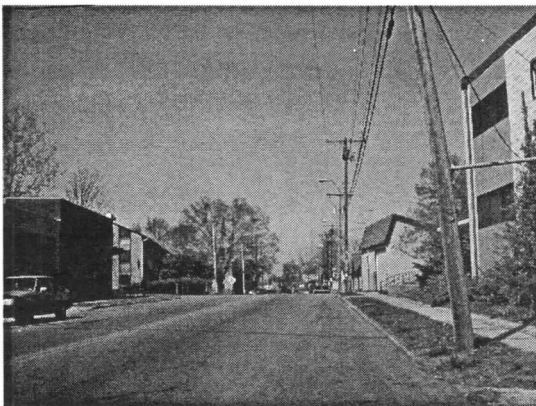
### A. The Trail West from the Big Blue Crossing

This view of the trail looks northwest up the hill from the Big Blue River Crossing. It is part of the Jackson County Park system and may be reached southeast of 27<sup>th</sup> and Topping.



### B. Moses G. Wilson Store Site

The Moses G. Wilson Store was located on the trail west of the crossing. It was at 24<sup>th</sup> and Quincy. At this point, 24<sup>th</sup> Street is on the historic trail.



Wilson's store was the center of anti-Mormon hostilities in Kaw Township. This view is west on 24<sup>th</sup> toward Quincy at the crest of the hill.

## 30. THE COLESVILLE SETTLEMENT

### A. The Joshua Lewis Home and Log School Site



The Joshua Lewis home was located in the Colesville Settlement at what is now the southeast corner of 35<sup>th</sup> and Highland. The Colesville Settlement was first located south of 35<sup>th</sup> and east of The Paseo. The Joshua Lewis home was the site of the first church conference in Jackson County. Immediately south of this home was the site of the first school in Kaw Township. The Prophet Joseph Smith assisted in laying the first log on 2 August 1831 and dedicated the land of Zion. The log school lasted until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The photograph shows the current house on the site.

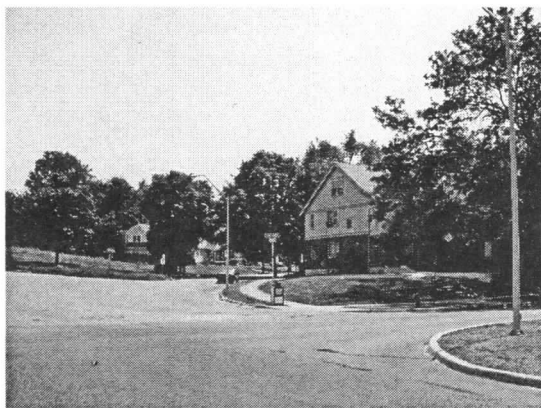
### B. Polly Knight Burial Location:

Polly Peck Knight, the wife of Joseph Knight, Sr, was very ill on the trip to Missouri. She wanted to reach the land of Zion before she died. She was taken to the home of Joshua Lewis, where she died 6 August 1831. She was buried near the Lewis home. A fence was constructed around the grave to keep out the animals. The exact location of the grave has been lost. Polly was the first member of the church to die in Jackson County.

### **C. Newell Knight Home Site:**

Newell Knight moved from the area of Joshua Lewis' home in 1832 to land owned by Joseph Knight, Jr. southeast of 51<sup>st</sup> and The Paseo. Since Knight was a leader of the Colesville Branch, the center of its activities probably moved from the 35<sup>th</sup> and Highland area to south of Brush Creek in the area of Rockhurst University.

Newell Knight's home was the meeting place for church members and for church conferences.



### **D. Joseph Knight, Jr. Grist Mill**

The grist mill was probably located near The Paseo (avenue) on Brush Creek. On 1 November 1833 the mob forces attacked the Colesville Settlement with the intention of destroying the mill. Joseph Knight continued to grind grain for food for the Mormons until they had all left the county. Joseph Knight then fled to Clay County on December 1<sup>st</sup>, one of the last to leave.



## 31. THE WHITMER SETTLEMENT

### A. The Whitmer Settlement

The Whitmer Settlement was east of The Paseo in the area of 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Kansas City, Mo. The Whitmer family lived in this area before going to Clay County. Modern streets have no relation to the sites of the 1830s homes there.

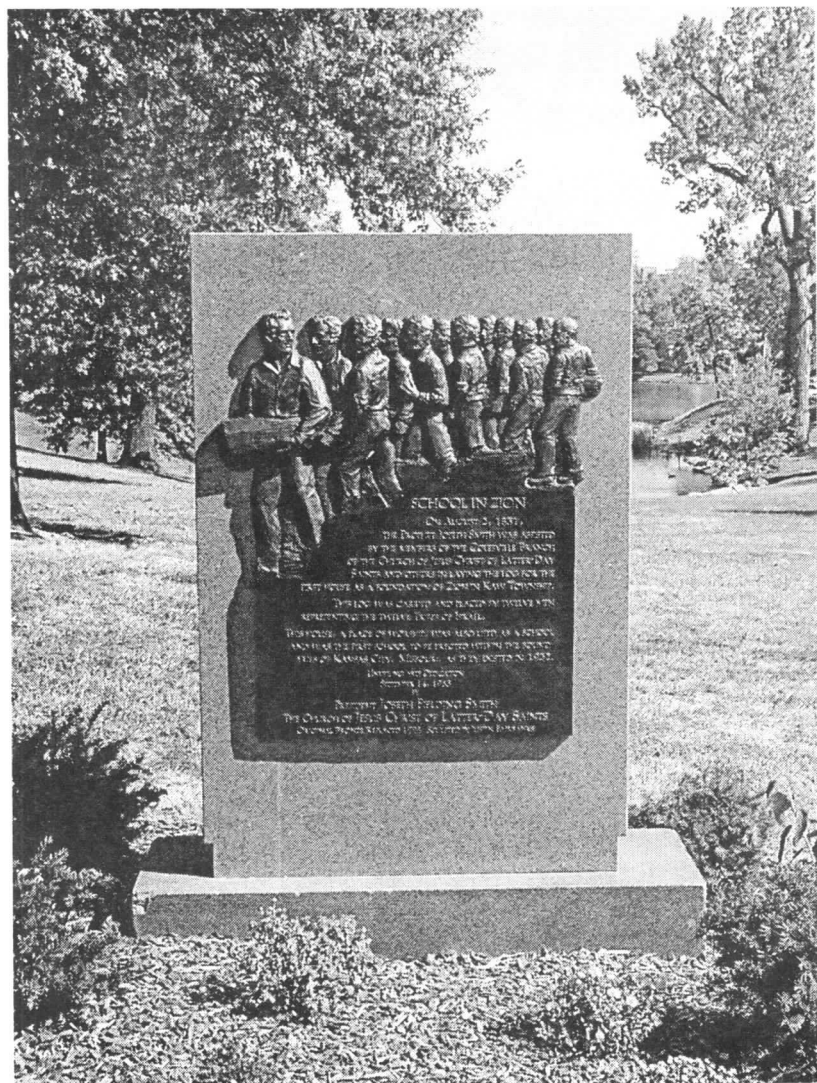


**Northeast corner of The Paseo and 31st.**



## B. The Colesville School Monument

This monument commemorates the laying of the log for the first school in Kaw Township (now Kansas City) 2 August 1831 by the Prophet Joseph Smith and others. It is not on the location of the





school, which was at 35<sup>th</sup> and Highland. This monument is located at Troost Lake on the east side of The Paseo south of 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. Joseph Fielding Smith Dedicating the Colesville School Monument**

Joseph Fielding Smith, President of the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, dedicated the Colesville School Monument 14 September 1963. The bronze plaque was later stolen. A new bronze plaque was made and the monument was rededicated 23 September 2000 under the direction of the Riverview Ward of the LDS Church in Kansas City. Mayor Kay Barnes and Samuel Ortiz (age 12) were the principal speakers.



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**Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites**

## 32. CAVE SPRING SETTLEMENT

### A. Cave Spring

Cave Spring was a large spring located along the trail. It was located north of 39<sup>th</sup> in the park median of Gillham Road. It was a place where pioneers going west on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails stopped for water and to camp in the grassy valley. A group of Saints chose to settle north of this spring and build a school.



### B. Cave Spring

Cave Spring became a fashionable place to be seen early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The spring was finally covered over by the city because the water had become unsafe.



Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites

**C.  
Current  
View of  
Cave  
Spring  
Site**

This view is from the south toward the location of Cave Spring.



**D. Mormon School at Cave Spring Settlement**

A log school was built at this site northeast of Cave Spring, on the hill just west of the northbound lanes of Gillham Road. This view is north towards 36<sup>th</sup> Street. Non-Mormon residents of Westport, not far to the west on the trail, sent their children to this school. This school was long remembered by the residents of Westport.



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**Jackson County, Missouri Mormon Historic Sites**

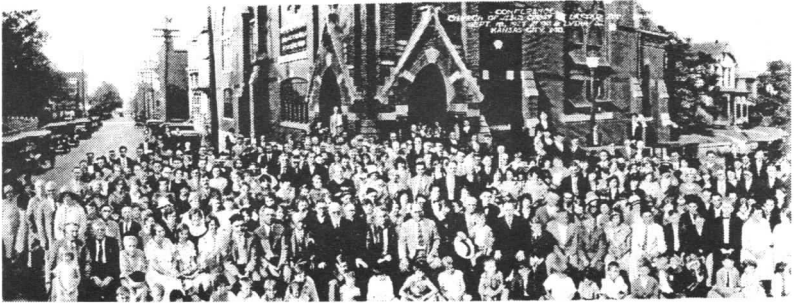
## E. Westport

In the 1850s many of the LDS immigrants from Europe came up the Missouri River on steamboats. They landed at Jackson County and outfitted at Westport to make the trip west to Utah on the Oregon and Mormon Trails. This view shows the old trail going west through Westport. The John Harris home is the second building from the right. The buildings in the far distant background are at Westport and Pennsylvania. The 1840s Daniel Morgan Boone Building is still located on the northwest corner of Westport and Pennsylvania. The 1850s Harris home has been moved to a block southwest of Westport and Main.

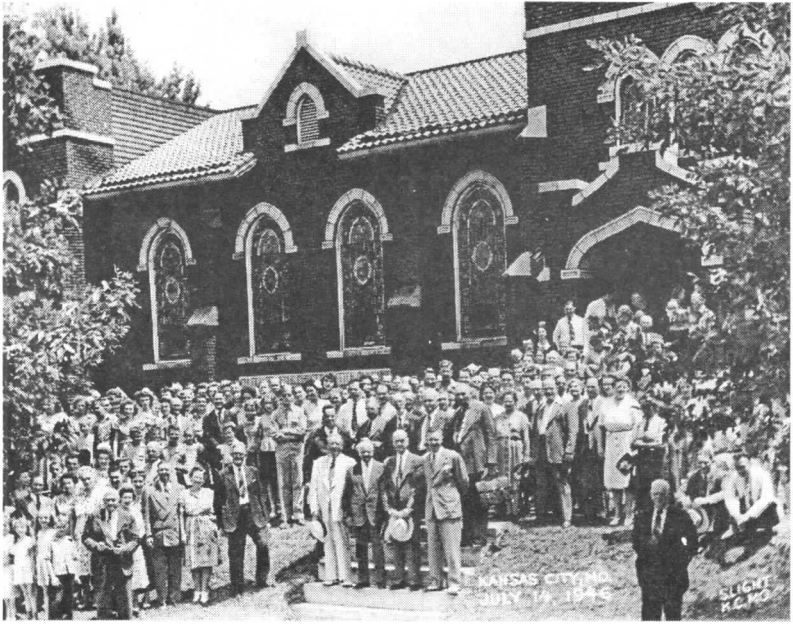


### 33. EARLIEST LDS CHAPELS IN KANSAS CITY

#### A. First Kansas City Chapel



The Southwestern States Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was moved to Kansas City 26 December 1900. The first permanent place of worship was in the Studio Building at 418 E. 9<sup>th</sup>. The first chapel owned by the LDS Church was located on the northeast corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Lydia. This photograph was taken at a church conference 18 September 1927.



### **B. Second Kansas City Chapel**

The Kansas City LDS Branch moved from the 9th and Lydia location in 1936 to 2621 Benton. This photograph was taken when President George Albert Smith visited this chapel 14 July 1946. The building still stands and is used by a Baptist congregation.

# INDEX

**Bolded page numbers indicate an illustration.**

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An armchair guide to some Mormon history sites in Jackson County, Missouri. It may also be used for information about these sites as one sees the sites on a tour.

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