

NAUVOO CHRONOLOGY: HISTORY WITH EMPHASIS ON THE TEMPLE BUILDING, ORGANIZATIONS, TEACHINGS AND ORDINANCES

1820s

Area now Nauvoo was home of Sac (Sauks) and Fox Indians

1805

Zebulon Pike, explorer, met William Ewing, an Indian agent, living opposite the Sac village. His log home might have been what is today known as the Homestead.

1823

James White and family became first permanent settlers to locate on flats.

1829

Venus post office established.

1834

20 May Commerce founded.

1839

Apr Saints began purchasing land in neighborhood of Commerce.

10 May Joseph and family moved into two-room log house on Hugh White property.

22 July Healing of Saints at "Nauvoo" and Montrose.

People and Power of Nauvoo

30 Aug Name "Nauvoo" used officially in city plat.

Winter 1839-1840

Joseph sought redress in Washington, D.C.

Mission of (nine of the Twelve) apostles to Great Britain.

Doctrines introduced privately to Parley P. Pratt: Celestial marriage and pre-mortal life.

1840

6 Jun First English converts arrived in Nauvoo.

(Between 1840 and 1846 about 4700 English converts migrated to America.)

15 Aug Practice of vicarious baptisms for the dead taught in public for the first time. (First baptisms for the dead were performed in the Mississippi and other rivers.)

Aug Declaration by First Presidency that a temple was to be built in Nauvoo.

Oct Preparatory work on the temple began shortly after the General Conference of October 1840.

16 Dec Gov. Thomas Carlin signed Nauvoo charter.

1841

19 Jan Revelation received on temple and baptism for the dead to be performed therein. (D&C 124.)

Feb Nauvoo City Government established and Nauvoo Legion organized.

Feb Foundation laid and workers began to dig the cellar.

1 Mar City Council divided Nauvoo into four political wards.

5 Apr Early record of marriage for eternity.

6 Apr Cornerstone ceremony.

8 Nov Baptismal font dedicated in basement (enclosed by temporary frame walls and roof).

1842

Mar Publication in *Times & Seasons* of Book of Abraham, Wentworth Letter (included Articles of Faith), and portions of "History of Joseph Smith."

17 Mar Organization of Relief Society.

4 May First endowments given in Red Brick store.

Nauvoo Chronology

4 Aug First rafts of lumber from Wisconsin pinery arrived.
20 Aug High Council resolved that city of Nauvoo be divided by temple committee into ten ecclesiastical wards and that a bishop be appointed over each ward.
30 Oct First official meeting in Temple. Walls were 4 feet above basement and temporary floor completed for main story.

1843

May, Jul Revelations pertaining to celestial marriage recorded. (D&C 131, 132.)
May Early Sealings of children to parents.
6 Apr Walls were 4 to 12 feet above the floor.

1844

[Before 4 Apr] Keys, knowledge and “charge” of temple work conferred on nine apostles.
5 Apr Masonic Hall dedicated.
7 Apr King Follett discourse on character of God and our responsibility to seek after our dead.
17 May Joseph Smith nominated as candidate for president of the United States.
7 Jun First and only issue of Nauvoo *Expositor* published.
10 Jun *Expositor* press destroyed by order of City Council.
18 Jun Joseph made last public speech and declared martial law in Nauvoo.
24 Jun Joseph imprisoned in Carthage jail (for declaring martial law in Nauvoo).
27 Jun Martyrdom of Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith.
8 Aug Brigham Young chosen to lead Church (transfiguration).
24 Aug First renewal of baptism for the dead since death of Joseph Smith.
23 Sep First capital weighing about two tons raised on walls of the Temple.
6 Dec Last capital stone [sunstone] set above thirty pilasters.
Dec Seventies hall dedicated.

People and Power of Nauvoo

1845

27 Jan Nauvoo Charter repealed.

Jan Completion of Music (Concert) Hall.

27 Mar Last trumpet stone set in place.

21 Apr First star stone set in place.

24 May Capstone put in place (ceremony).

Jun Saints were building a stone wall around the temple that was to be 8 feet high.

Aug Temple frame completed. Glaziers ready to set glass in window frames.

Sep Announcement that Saints would leave Nauvoo in spring of 1846.

Sep Roof completed on temple and men were working on attic preparing for endowments.

5 Oct Only conference held in Temple. (Dedication of completed portion.)

30 Nov Dedication of attic story for ordinance work.

10 Dec First endowments given in Temple.

Dec Reference to baptisms in stone font (probably mid-Dec.) (reference to font about ready on 20 Jan 1846.)

1846

Jan References to baptisms in stone font. Clay floor smoothed and brick pavement laid in basement over bed of sand.

7 Jan First sealings of couples in Temple.

20 Jan Floor for second story laid.

25 Jan First sealings of children to parents in Temple.

4 Feb Exodus began.

7 Feb Last endowments given in Temple. (Between 10 Dec 1845 and 7 Feb 1846 about 6,000 received endowments.) Walls of rooms where ordinances were performed were torn down and curtains removed.

9 Feb Roof partly destroyed by fire (caused by stovepipe being overheated).

30 Apr Private dedication of Temple (by elders Joseph Young and Orson Hyde).

1 May Public dedication of Temple (by elders Orson Hyde and Wilford Woodruff).

Nauvoo Chronology

Sep Last large group of Saints left Nauvoo following Battle of Nauvoo.

1848

9 Oct Portions of the Temple destroyed by fire.

1849

Ruins purchased by Icarians.

1850

27 May Temple destroyed by fierce storm.

1865

Last partial wall torn down by community.

1937-1961

Most of temple block purchased by Wilford Wood.

1962

Nauvoo Restoration, Incorporated established.

1962-1969

Archaeological investigation of temple site.

1999

4 Apr President Hinckley announced that the Saints would rebuild the Nauvoo Temple “as a memorial to those who built the first structure.”

24 Oct Groundbreaking of the new temple.

2002

18 May-22 Jun Schedule for Open House.

27 Jun-30 Jun Schedule for Dedication.

Brief Comparison of Old and New Temple

The exterior of the new temple has been built of limestone placed over reinforced concrete and is crowned with a statue of Angel Moroni with a trumpet in his hands.

People and Power of Nauvoo

Although it is similar in dimensions and design (with the same number of columns and sun, moon and star stones) of the original building, it is much stronger than the original. There are circular stairways (matching the original) and or elevators in the corner stairways. In harmony with the Temple built during the 1840s, the basement includes a baptismal font supported by 12 oxen and the first floor assembly room with pulpits on the east and west ends. Whereas in the 1840s temporary ordinance rooms were located in the attic, the upper floors of the new five story building will include meeting and ordinance rooms (including sealing rooms), some of which have been decorated with beautiful murals. The “House of the Lord” in Nauvoo, Illinois is a harmonious blending of the old and the new.

