

Chapter 4

LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF A PROPHET

One of the highlights of the experiences of the Saints in Nauvoo was that of listening to the voice of the Prophet Joseph Smith. “I had the privilege of listening to his voice in my early childhood,” Mary Ann Winters, step-daughter of Parley P. Pratt, declared, “and even then the Holy Spirit testified to me that he was a Prophet of God.” I saw him in Kirtland, Far West, Quincy and Nauvoo. In Quincy he visited from house to house among the Saints to see how they were situated, and gave words of strength and encouragement to them. She also said that she heard Joseph preach on many occasions in Nauvoo and was present when he delivered his last public discourses in June 1844. He was, she concluded, “loved, honored, and revered by all his faithful followers.”¹

Latter-day Saints listened intently as Joseph spoke to others in and outside the Homestead and Mansion House, in his Red Brick Store (especially in the upper room known as the Lodge), in the homes of many Saints, in the Masonic Hall, on river boats, along the shores of the Mississippi and in a multitude of outdoor meetings often held in groves.

Many Saints first heard the voice of the Prophet as they were welcomed by Joseph Smith and other Saints at one of the landings located in Nauvoo. The two most frequently used landings utilized primarily by those immigrat-