



Painting of Early Warsaw's Waterfront. Circa 1840

In the 1840's, tensions were high between the people of Warsaw and Nauvoo. Warsaw was a center of anti-Mormon feelings. Today, however, there is generally a feeling of peace and goodwill between the communities and peoples. Warsaw has a very rich history spanning more than 200 years. For many, the brief "Mormon Troubles" period seems to be just an unfortunate blip on history's radar.

Most remember Warsaw as a bustling river city with much trade and industry. Warsaw was a hub for education, the arts, and social life. What started as a military fort in 1814, Warsaw became a city that even once aspired to be the Capital of the United States!

Today, Warsaw is mostly a bedroom community to the industries across the river at Keokuk. Farming, hunting, fishing, boating, and tourism are also important.

Sources Cited: (A) History of Church Volume 4, p. 471 (B)

Tour Historic Warsaw, by Climer, Fornell, and Havens, 1984, p. 6 (C) According to a Warsaw historian.



Map of Warsaw, Illinois (From Google Maps)

A few "Non-Mormon" points of interest:

Fort Edwards Monument, (Map #7) located on a bluff known as "The Point," this 50 foot tower was dedicated in 1914.

Ralston Park, (Map #8) once the parade grounds for Fort Edwards, is now a city park. Look for the model of the Statute of Liberty!

Riverfront Park and Goose Landing (Map #9). Be sure to take time to see the river!

Historic Warsaw Brewery is north of "The Point." Once home to Burgermeister Beer, the building has now been partially restored.

Warsaw History Museum (Map #10), 401 Main St., has many items from Warsaw's past. Check sign in the front window for hours.

Geode Glen Park (Map #11) Go east to 7th and look for the sign on the north side of the road. This park is great for Geode hunting!

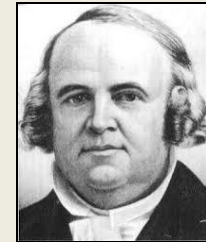
Warsaw is a welcoming town that offers a variety of places to eat, shop, and stay.

For more info visit: www.warsawillinois.org

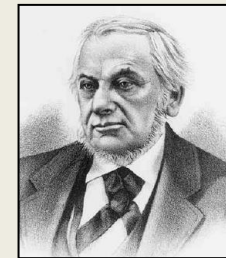
This guide was written and published privately by researcher Brian Stutzman and is not affiliated with any group, church, or government. It is part of a future book about Warsaw and the Mormons. For information email: stutzmanbrian@gmail.com.

A Guide to Mormon History in Historic Warsaw, Illinois

Warsaw, Once Home To:



Willard Richards, LDS Apostle



Thomas Sharp, Editor of "The Warsaw Signal"

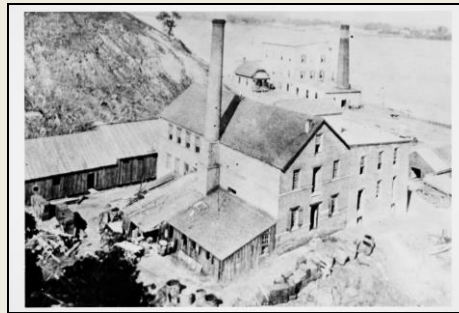
Eliza Graham, star witness for the prosecution of the 5 men who stood trial for the murder of the prophet Joseph Smith.

Just 18 Miles South of Nauvoo on the Great River Road



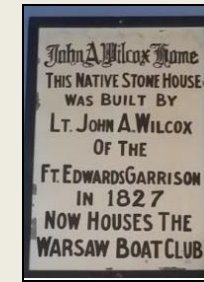
Map #1. (See map on back) 154 Main. The back brick part of the home was Warsaw's first hotel, the **Warsaw House**. Also known as the Fleming Tavern and now a private residence, this was where the mob met after they killed Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum at the Carthage Jail. Upon their return, some of the mob boasted they had "killed ol' Joe." Of the 5 men to stand trial for the murder of Joseph Smith, 2 of them lived here. Eliza Graham, who worked and lived here, served the mob that night. Being a Mormon, Eliza was the star witness for the prosecution at the trial. Her aunt who was not a Mormon, Ann Fleming, was the hotel owner and a witness for the defense. Ann contradicted Eliza's testimony. All 5 of the accused were acquitted. Eliza moved to Nauvoo, married John Pack, and then moved to Utah. John Pack became a founder of the University of Utah. A few years later the Flemings moved to central California. Samuel Fleming, husband to Ann, served in the California Legislature and became a gold prospector. In the drawing above, the "out building" on the left, which no longer stands, was once a local jail.

Map #2. 204 Main, now a private residence in an apartment building, was once home to "The Western World" newspaper between May 13, 1840 and May 5, 1841.^(B) The paper moved down to the river area (map #3) as it went through a few name and ownership changes, and became Thomas Sharp's Warsaw Signal.



Factories and businesses were once located near Water Street and Main Street in Warsaw as shown above.

Map #3. Water Street and Main. In a building that is no longer standing, most likely on the North side of Main Street at Water Street, local accounts say Thomas Sharp published *The Warsaw Signal* newspaper during an era known as "The Mormon Troubles" period ^(C). Sharp was an intense critic of the Mormons. Things escalated when William Smith, brother to the Mormon prophet, beat Sharp for a seat in the state legislature in 1842. By 1844 tensions simmered. In June 1844, after the Nauvoo City Council ordered the destruction of the Mormon-critical *Nauvoo Expositor* newspaper, Sharp's Warsaw Signal called for citizens to make their feelings known with "Powder and Ball". A few days later, Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed at Carthage.



Old sign from inside 710 South Water Street

Map #4. 710 South Water Street. Built in 1827 by early settler Major John R. Wilcox, it is one of the oldest homes in Warsaw. He died in 1840 and his widow Hannah married Thomas Sharp on September 6, 1842. Sharp lived here for a time. It once housed the Warsaw Boat Club and today it's a private residence.

Map #5. 424 Main. The Thomas Sharp Print Museum. In 1987, six local families started a museum at this site. It was short lived. Sharp never published here.

Map #6. Oakland Cemetery (not shown) is located on Cemetery Rd. Several of those who were in the mob that killed the Smiths are buried here. It is said the secret of who committed the murders probably lies buried in Block 6 which is on the far back right hand side behind the brown roofed building.

Also of note: LDS Apostle Willard Richards, a cousin of Brigham Young, moved to Warsaw about September 8th, 1841 for several weeks to help immigrants settle just south in an area called Warren. ^(A) Due to local hostilities, the settlement was abandoned in 1842.