

# 9

In June 1962 the First Presidency announced the formation of Nauvoo Restoration Incorporated. A board of directors was established, and Dr.

## C H A P T E R   N I N E

### NAUVOO RESTORATION

### DRAWINGS & PHOTOGRAPHS

J. LeRoy Kimball was appointed to serve as president. Church president David O. McKay explained that the corporation was formed for the purpose of restoring much of historic Nauvoo to the way it appeared before the Saints left it in 1846.





*Figure 9.2 Well, photograph, 1960s, LDS Church Archives. This is traditionally known as the temple well. It was located toward the east end of the basement and used to supply water needs in the temple.*

One of the major contributions of Nauvoo Restoration was the archaeological excavation of the Nauvoo Temple site. This work was conducted with great care under the direction of professional, well-respected archaeologists. Preliminary trenching undertaken in an attempt to locate the remains of the temple was conducted under the direction of Dr. Melvin L. Fowler, curator of North American Archaeology from Southern Illinois University. He was assisted by Dee Green, a Salt Lake archaeologist who served as crew chief of the excavation work. The direction of all archaeological research for Nauvoo Restoration was

later turned over to Dr. J. C. Harrington, formerly chief archaeologist for the U.S. National Parks Service. Over a three-year period J. C. Harrington and his wife, Dr. Virginia S. Harrington, directed the examination of the entire basement area.

Upon completion of the project, an excellent book was published illustrating and describing the excavation work as well as outlining the understandings they gained from the work. This book, *Rediscovery of the Nauvoo Temple*, was written by Virginia and J. C. Harrington. Many of the photographs and drawings they produced provide valuable



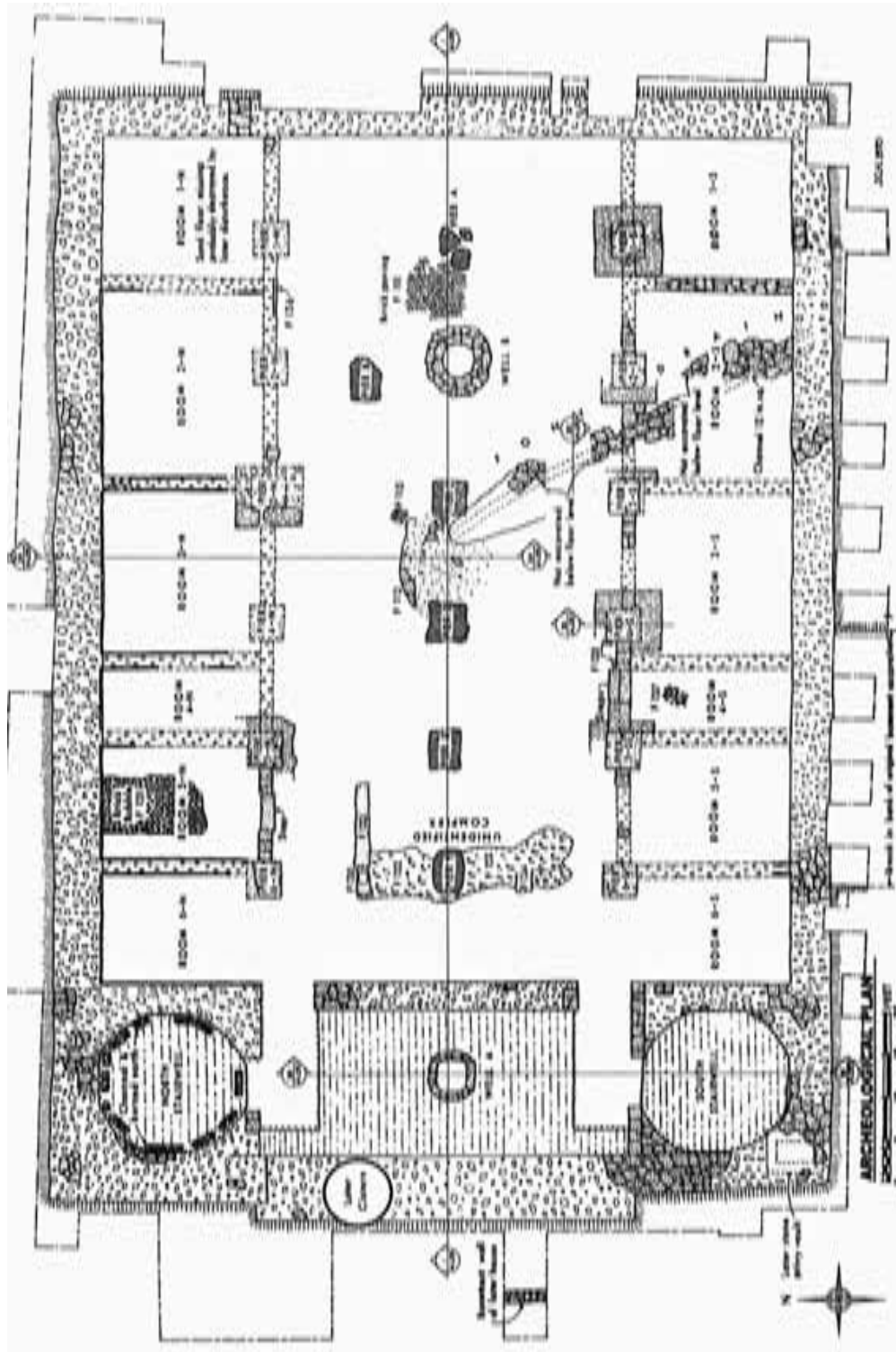


Figure 9.3 Archaeological Plan of the Temple Basement, drawing, 1970, LDS Church Archives. This drawing, based on archaeological findings, was produced by Nauvoo Restoration and was published in 1971 in J. C. and Virginia Harrington's *Rediscovery of the Nauvoo Temple*. This drawing shows archaeological remains of the original temple, along with remains of the French Icarian piers, which were put into the basement in 1848 just prior to the destruction of the walls. Note the 30-foot section at the lower right where the original bank had been sloped down to facilitate the removal of soil from the basement area during construction.

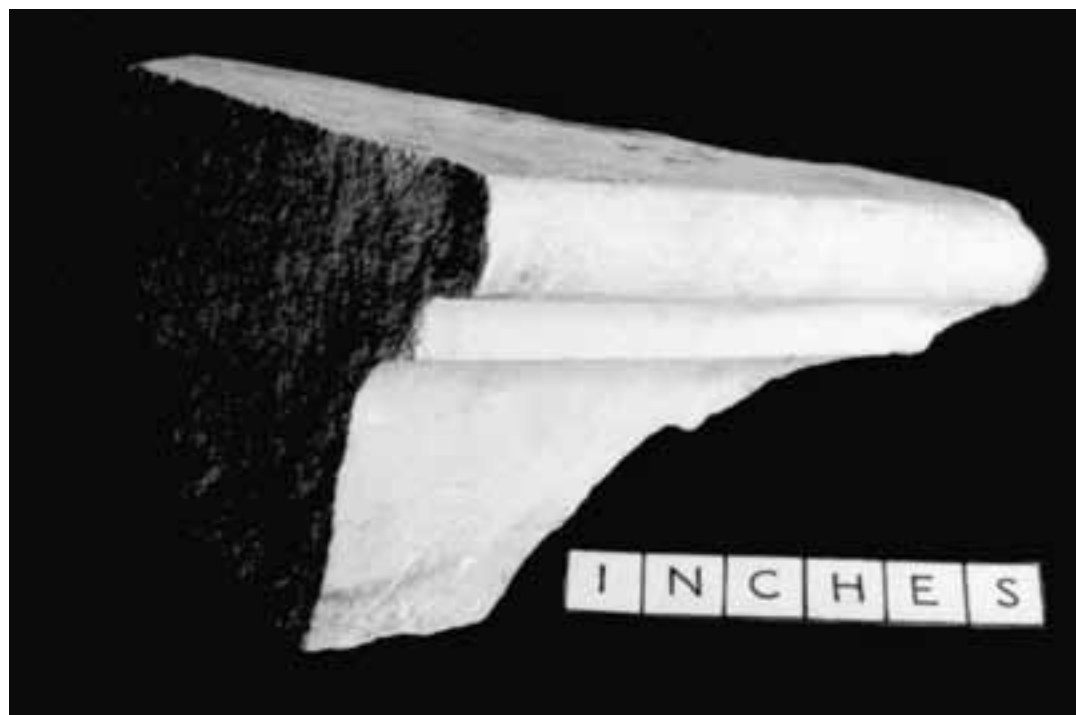




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*Figure 9.4 Portion of Stone Font Base (inverted), photograph, 1960s, Nauvoo Restoration, LDS Church Archives. This stone font base is upside down. The stone arcs were cut to fit under the bellies of two of the stone oxen.*



*Figure 9.5 (Top) Remnant of Stone Baptismal Font Rim, photograph, 1960s, LDS Church Archives.*

*Figure 9.6 (Bottom) Remnant of Baptismal Font Stone Step, photograph, 1960s, LDS Church Archives.*





*Figure 9.7 Font Drain, photograph, 1960s, LDS Church Archives. This photograph was taken facing southeast; the font drain has an opening of 12 inches square.*

insights concerning the Nauvoo Temple. By permission of Nauvoo Restoration and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, many of these illustrations have been reproduced in this book. A number of the photographs and drawings are included in the text of chapters 5 (Figure 5.2), 6 (Figure 6.9), and 8 (Figures 8.2–8.5). Several additional illustrations are included in this chapter.



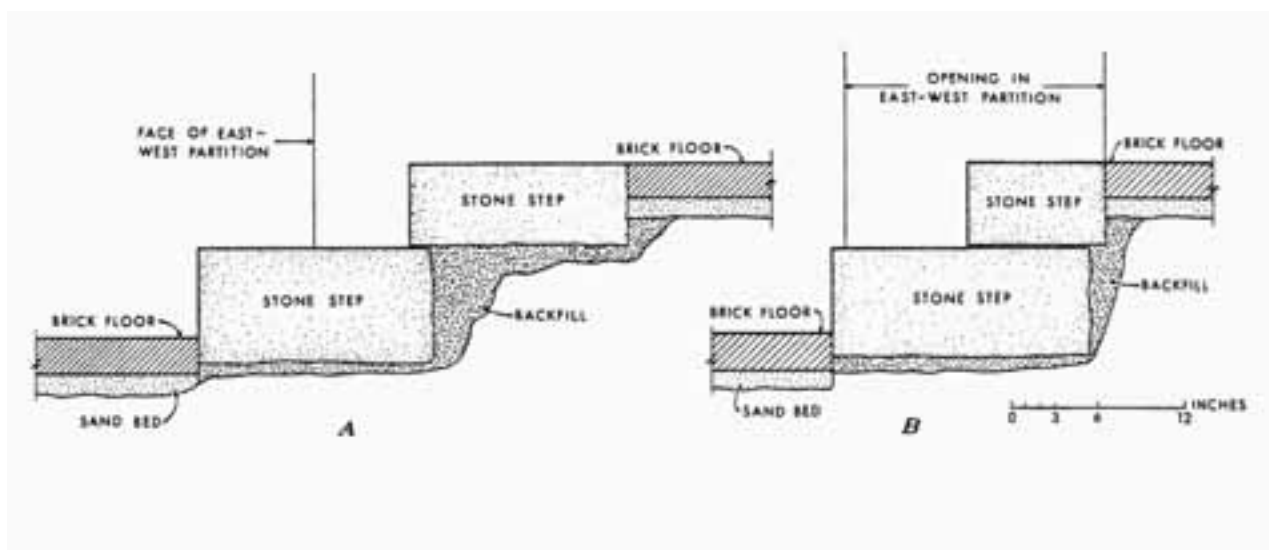


Figure 9.8 (Top) North Stairwell, photograph, 1960s, LDS Church Archives. This is a photograph of the northwest corner stairwell after removal of debris and burned wood. There was an open area 6 feet in diameter in the middle of each spiral stair. George Washington Bean was a young teenager living in Nauvoo who worked in the temple running a windlass in the north stairwell, carrying up to the attic story the wood and water needed to carry on the endowments.

Figure 9.9 (Bottom) Steps to Side Rooms in Basement, drawing, 1970, LDS Church Archives.





*Figure 9.10 South Stairwell, photograph, 1960s, LDS Church Archives. This is a photograph of the southwest corner stairwell and remains of masonry at the time of excavation.*