

# TOUR IONA'S HISTORY

Please help us preserve the character of our community by respecting the privacy of homeowners and staying off private property.

The QR code links to a Google Map that outlines the tour route.

If you have stories, photographs, or historical information about any of the families or homes included in this tour, or if you would like to recommend a property for future consideration, we would love to hear from you. The information that is presented in this tour comes from the Iona Book Volume 1 from 1883-1983 and the Iona's Treasures Historical Homes and Buildings. Please submit your information to [office@cityofiona.org](mailto:office@cityofiona.org).



To learn more about the families who helped shape our community, visit the **Iona Historical Museum's** featured exhibit which highlights families from our history. The **Iona Historical Museum** is open Monday's 6-8pm June to September or by appointment. For more information or to make an appointment to visit the **Iona Historical Museum** please contact 208-497-8856 or 208-589-0288.

1

The Tour Begins at  
the City Building  
on Main Street

3548 Main Street



## Iona City Building

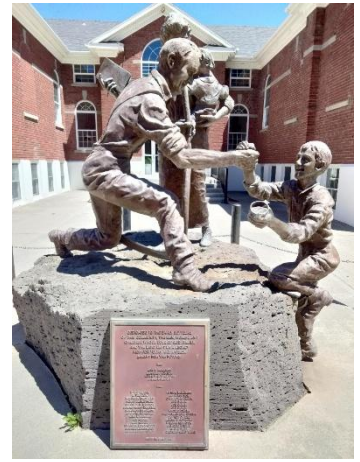
In February 1929, work began on the Red Brick Church for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was finished in December 1930. The Red Brick Church was a beautiful modern building with modern restrooms and a shower in the men's room. It had a large recreation hall with a modern stage and lighting. The chapel was on the south with light oak pews, an electric organ, and a piano on the stand. The basement included many classrooms, a modern kitchen, and a dining room.

The Red Brick Church building was converted into a school, then the city acquired it from Bonneville County School District 93 in 1992. The city's goals were to renovate the building into a Community Center and to restore and preserve its historic nature. Hundreds of community members donated time, effort and funds to help with the restoration.

Volunteer efforts resulted in the addition of a public library in the basement of the Community Center in 2004. The Iona Community Library truly exemplifies that the spirit and dreams of Iona's first settlers are still alive.

The city building was renamed the Karen Hansen Community Center in 2025. Karen was the Mayor of Iona from 1988-1996, and had previously served on the city council for 6 years. She was instrumental in acquiring the building and served the community for many years.

The Pioneer Family Memorial in front of the city building was dedicated on October 12, 2017 during Brad Anderson's tenor as mayor. The Dedication Prayer was offered by Bishop Mike Klingler.



"Dixie Hunting volunteered to erect some Veteran monuments in 2011. She had a committee and sent out several letters to Veterans and their families. The response was tremendous, and there were almost enough contributions to erect the monuments. What was left, the city donated. It was in the neighborhood of \$13,000.

There were nine pictures made of the soldiers who were killed in all of the wars, and there were 18 who received Purple Hearts. There was one Confederate soldier, Ackillis Sellars, who was a pioneer in the early settlement of Iona and is buried in the Iona Cemetery.

From Iona, 24 men were called to serve in World War I; 232 served in World War II; 52 served in the Korean War; 56 served in the Vietnam War; and 55 served in peacetime. There have been some additions made for the Iraq and other wars. These figures were compiled from the Iona History Book, Volume 2, and gathered by Ethel Ann Rockwood.

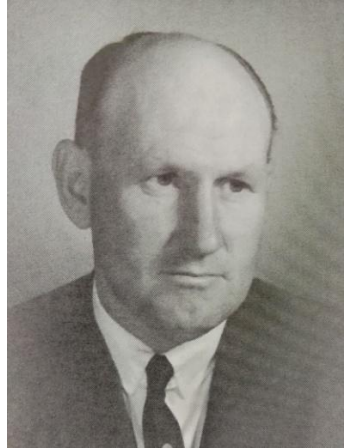
At first, it was determined that the monuments would be placed in the Iona cemetery, but it was later decided to place them at the Iona City Building because many more people would be able to view them there. That has proven to be especially true during Iona Days and holidays. Otherwise, they would typically only be viewed on Memorial Day by a lot less people.

We are very proud of our Veterans from the Iona area and feel it a great pleasure to be able to honor them each year. As a note, we try to cover the monuments in the wintertime to protect them from the harsh weather." (Iona Monument Commentary by Dixie Hunting)

# IONA MAYORS



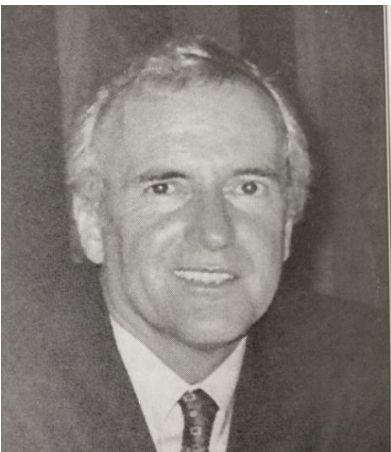
J. Harold Steele  
Appointed Mayor  
1967



William A. Storer  
First Elected Mayor  
1968-1987



Karen Hansen  
Mayor  
1988-1996



Craig Rockwood  
Mayor  
1997-2005



Brad Anderson  
Mayor  
2006-2014



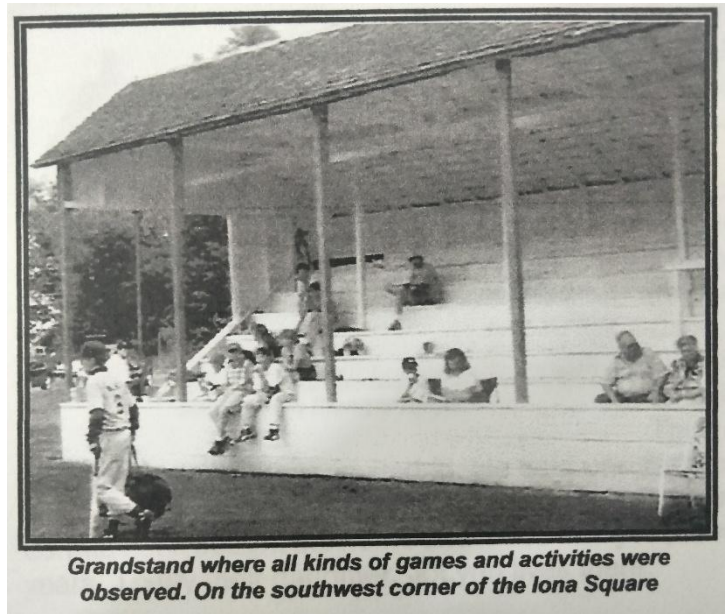
Dan Gubler  
Mayor  
2014-2025



Michael Thompson  
Mayor  
2026-Present

## The Iona Square

In 1901, Anna Starr Rockwood wanted the town to have a place for recreation. Anna and Elvira Steele presented a plan for the Iona Square to Anna's husband, Charles Welcome Rockwood. Charles agreed to the idea and many of the men in the community turned out with their scrapers and plows. They plowed up the sagebrush and leveled it. Charles donated the trees that were planted all around the square. The ladies of the community cooked a chicken dinner and served it to the workers in the old rock schoolhouse. The Iona Square has always been a hub for celebrations, sports of every kind, rodeos and dances.



When Iona Square was completed, there were many activities held there. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations started bright and early, with the shooting of the anvil. This was done by placing dynamite between two big anvils from the blacksmith shop and lighting it. The noise would wake up everyone in town. There was a parade down Main Street. The Goddess of Liberty, was crowned the queen of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, and honored in the parade. There were also foot races for prizes for all age groups. On a few occasions the contests included chasing a greased pig. Some of the other events enjoyed throughout the day were baseball, boxing, horse racing (that took place right through the middle of town), horseshoe pitching and, of course, horse pulling. The celebration ended with a firework show.

In 1955, a riding arena and rodeo grounds were put in on the northeast corner of the square. At one time there was a corral or stray pen on the southeast corner of the Iona Square. If any of the livestock had gotten loose in town it would be taken to the stray pen and the owner would be charged a fee to get the animal out.

The two shelters in The Square were built by the Iona Lions Club in 1961 and 1981. In 1978, the tennis courts were constructed on the southeast corner.



to October). They offer children art classes in June. In October, the Gallery has a Fall Show which is open to the community. They are also open to the public during Iona days. For more information contact Steve Winchester at 208-221-9476 or BonnevilleArtAssociationIona@gmail.com

This may be the oldest building in Bonneville County. The construction started in 1887. The stones were cut and hauled by the men of the community. The building was complete in 1888, under the supervision of James E. Steele. The building cost \$1500. It was both the school and the church and also used for community events. An additional wing was added in 1894. In 1963, the Bonneville Art Association was organized. Painting classes were held and membership increased. In 1969, the Stanger family donated the building to the city of Iona for the specific use of the Art Association.



The memorial in front was moved from the Red Brick Church. It honors the pioneers of Iona and was erected in 1944.



3

Across the Street, to the  
West on Main Street to

3673 Main Street

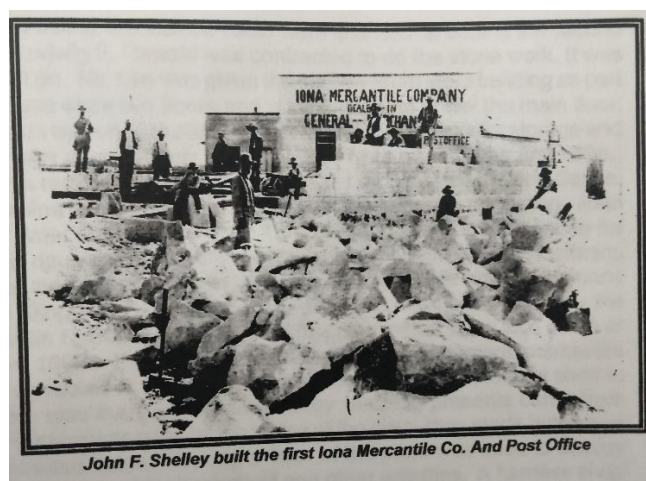
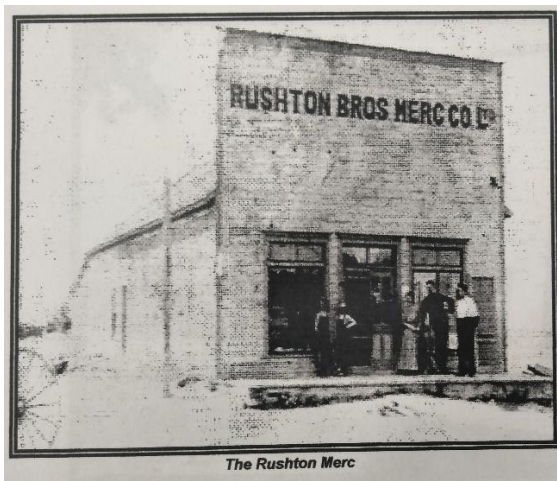


### **Mercantile Building and Old Downtown**

The photo of the Iona Main Street shows the original downtown buildings in 1920. Just out of the picture was a blacksmith shop that burned down. It was owned by Mart Nelson. The first building in the picture was a pool hall and a confectionary owned by George Stephens. Harry Rowberry bought it from Mr. Stephens. Later, it was owned by Rufus Beach (Beach's Corner is named after Rufus). Rufus Beach traded the building and his house to Albert Cloward for

his 360-acre homestead at Cloward's Crossing (Cloward's Crossing is on the Snake River. It serves as a fishing and boating access site, providing recreation to residents and visitors). Mr. Cloward made a movie house in the west part of the building. It was known as Tabby's Theater. This building later was moved and was a Blacksmith shop where the gas station is now. The second building was also a blacksmith shop and never had anything but a dirt floor. The next two buildings were a confectionary owned by Mr. Barzee and Oscar Erickson and a barber shop owned by Will Barlow. The fifth building was the Post Office that was earlier in the Iona Mercantile building.

The Rushton Merc was located across from the old blacksmith shop on Main Street. In 1903, the Rushton brothers started the Rushton Brothers Mercantile Company. John Rushton was president and Melvin Rushton was manager. David Allen Rushton had stock in it and worked hauling groceries and supplies from ZCMI store in Idaho Falls to the Rushton Merc in Iona.



The sandstone Iona Merc was built to the north of the original frame store that housed the Iona Post office. John F. Shelley built the frame store and was the first Postmaster and the first school teacher in Iona. He later moved to Shelley, Idaho and settled the area.

The Iona Merc building is now the only old building still on Main Street. In the late 1890s the Iona Merc was one of the largest mercantile businesses in the area. It consisted of a two-story rock building with an implement shed to the side. On the main floor was the grocery store. Many wedding presents came from these shelves. The barter system was used by the ladies of the town. They made butter and traded it to the store for needed items. The upper floor of the store was used to display clothing. In the winter it was used for basketball and other activities. A harness shop stood to the south where they could buy bolts, ropes, wagon grease, barbed wire and necessary supplies to repair farm machinery. At one time they had a chain of stores in Iona, Ucon, Eagle Rock, Lincoln, and Shelley. It became known as the first chain store in the area.

The old rock store was built in 1897. Sandstone rocks were quarried up behind the second big hill to the east of Iona. Ludwig F. Oswald was contracted to do the stone work. It was constructed by Thomas W. Lee. Mr. Lee was given the old two-room store building as part payment for his labors. There were two floors and a full basement under the main floor. A slide was constructed which was used to slide the case goods downstairs for storage and future use. This store had the first radio. Charles Hansen brought his radio over to the store to listen to the baseball World Series. This store had the first gasoline pump in town with gas selling for 25 cents per gallon. John F. Shelley was the owner when it was incorporated. It then sold to Charles W. Hansen and then sold again to his daughter Marie and her husband Alvin Holman. The Holmans added the meat and locker system to the south part of the store. The ownership of the building has changed hands many times since.

4

Turn East onto  
Rockwood Avenue to

5293 Rockwood Avenue

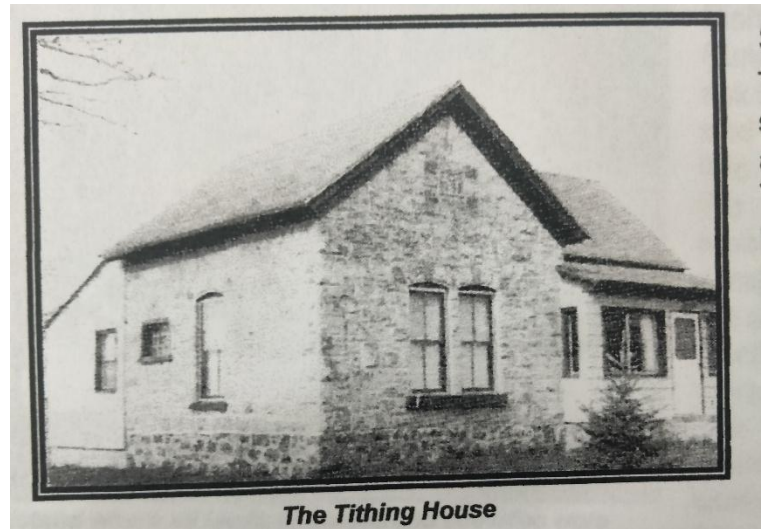


### Iona Historical Museum

The current museum was originally the Tithing House and used as church offices for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The building was built in 1895 and called the “Tithing Yard”. The yard had buildings to take care of tithing which included; grain, livestock and poultry, and included the hay which was fed to livestock.

### Wagon Box Prophecy (currently in the museum)

Wilford Woodruff and Heber J. Grant, leaders of the church, held a meeting in 1884 and declared “The Wagon Box Prophecy”. The meeting was held in the open air with a wagon box as a pulpit. Wilford Woodruff said, *“Be not discouraged; be not disheartened, because God’s blessing is upon this land. It will only be a little time before there will be prosperous and happy settlements of the Latter-day Saints here. You feel that you have gone away from your friends, that you are almost out of the world, but it will be only a short time when you will have a meeting-house, and a schoolhouse and all of the facilities here that you had at home before you came here. God will bless and multiply this land.”* (Gospel Standards, Heber J. Grant page 85).



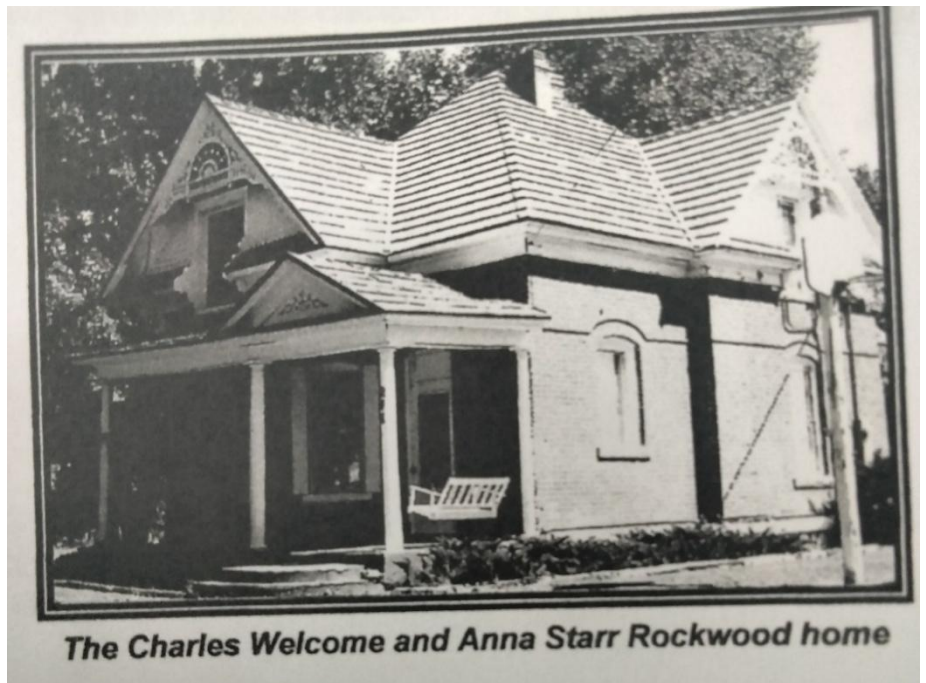
The Wagon Box Prophecy painting by Ramona Horton. The picture hangs in the Iona Stake Center.

5

Directly Across the  
Street, to the  
South, on  
Rockwood Avenue

5284 Rockwood Avenue

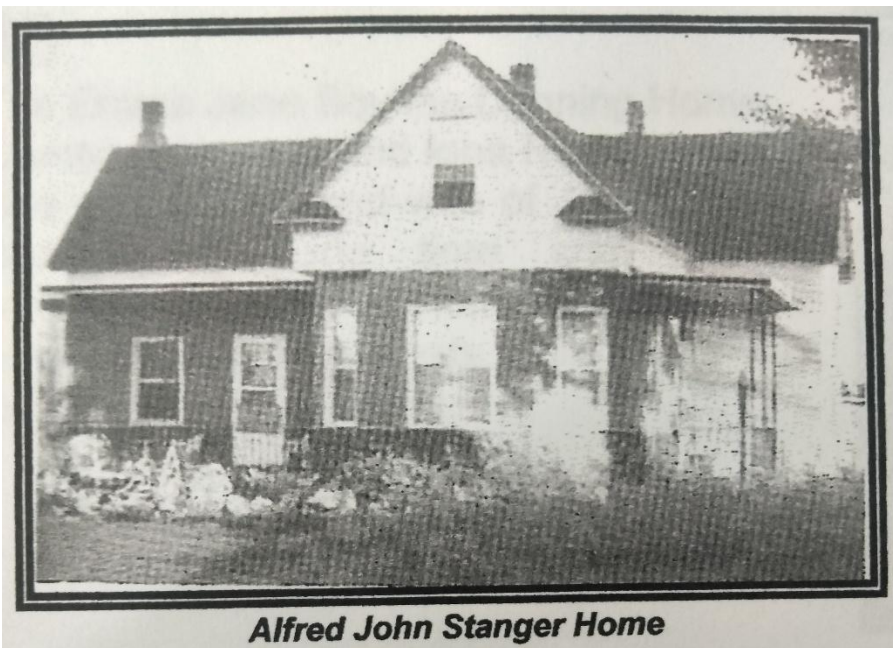
Charles and Anna Rockwood came to the Iona area in 1896. When they first arrived in Iona the wind blew so hard that Charles declared he would stay in bed until the wind stopped blowing. After three days he gave up and went back to work. Charles purchased land in Iona and told Anna, "Mother, I'm building you a home in Iona for when you get old." (She lived to be over 100 years old!) He built a beautiful two story, seven room house. It was adorned by an attractive porch. Anna and their family soon turned it into a comfortable home. Anna was instrumental in creating the "Iona Square." Charles died in 1914. With the help of her family, Anna lived in the home as a widow for 36 more years before she died.



6

Head East on  
Rockwood Avenue to

5428 Rockwood Avenue



Alfred John and Emily Amelia Mulliner Stanger's first home was a dugout along Sand Creek, until they could get a log cabin built. Alfred later had this house built in Iona, around 1900. Here they raised their large family. When church leaders would visit Iona, they would stay with the Stangers. The

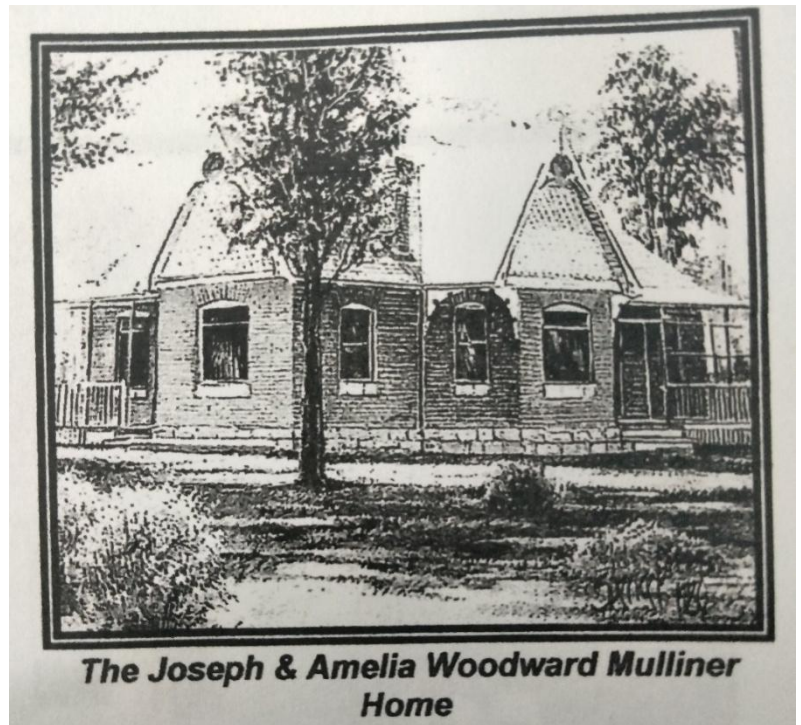
Stangers cared for and fed many people who came to visit. Alfred said that one Sunday he fed and cared for fifty teams of horses. The home was converted into three apartments when A.J. died. Later Earl and Loretta Louk bought the home and made many improvements. They lived there for about 42 years.

7

## Continue East on Rockwood Avenue to

5482 Rockwood Avenue

In 1883, Joseph and Amelia Woodward Mulliner and their two sons, Joseph Jr. and Hyrum L. moved to the Iona area. In 1910, they purchased property in Iona and built their home. They had four more children. Joseph was elected into the Idaho House of Representatives in 1896 and to the State Senate in 1898. In 1918, the Henry James Bodily family bought the home and moved in. Later, the Lloyd and Alba Bodily Gardner family moved in and remodeled the home. In 1945, the Demont and Genevieve Rockwood Madsen family moved in and lived there until 1992. The Madsens put siding on the outside of the house because the brick had started to crumble.



8

## Directly Across the Street to the North is

5491 Rockwood Avenue

This home was built by Johnny Elliott and Thurman Simmons in 1937, for Theodore Eugene and Nina Johanna Clapp Olsen. They

raised their family-Ronald, Marguerite, Virginia, and Kay-in this home. Nina lived here until her passing. A member of the Olsen Family has continually lived in this home. It is currently owned and loved by their granddaughter, Susie Ransom.

9

## Head North on 55<sup>th</sup> East to

3861 North 55<sup>th</sup> East

Wrol Christian Olsen married Sophia Louise Peterson in 1883. They had four children when Louise suddenly passed

away. Ingaborg Homquist came to Iona in 1898 traveling from Norway. Wrol and Ingaborg were married in 1898 and raised their family here.

Wrol had a stroke in 1934 and died in 1938 and



Ingaborg died in

1942. Their son, Lavod and his wife, Maggie, moved into the home and raised their family and cared for Lavod's older sister Edna. They built a new home in 1970.

Geneva Olsen Widsteen returned to live in this home with her sister.



*The Wrol Christian Olsen Home*

10

## Across the Street to the North

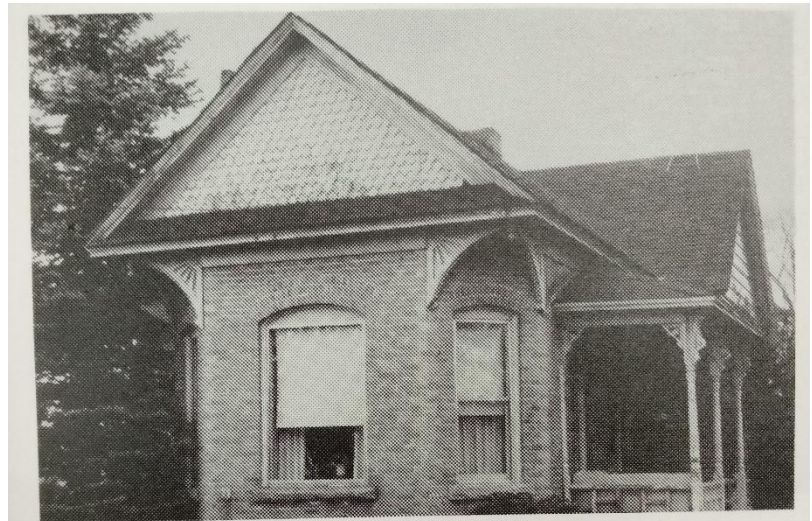
3991 North 55<sup>th</sup> East

LaVar and Gertude Clark grew up in Iona.

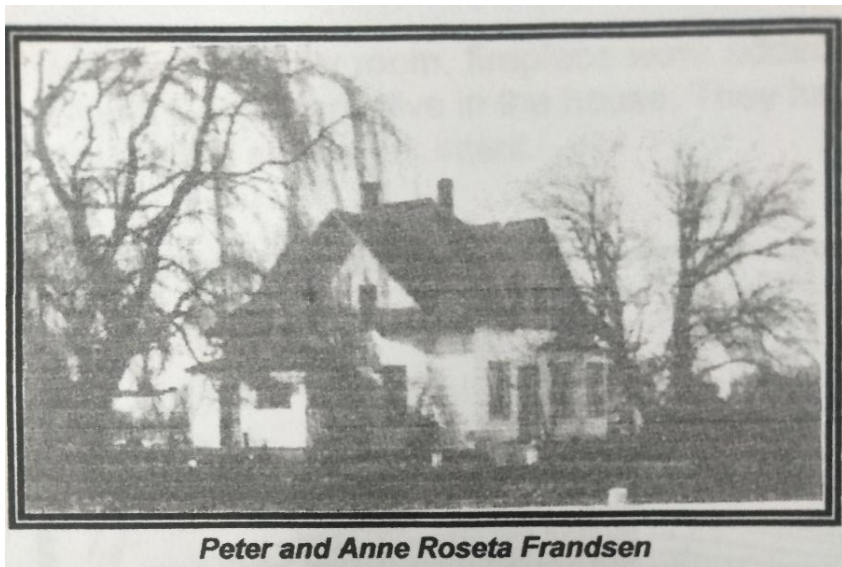
They had good times of fishing, chickarees (stealing chickens and cooking and eating them), dancing and picnics. One night

LaVar, Leon Bodily, Elaine Rockwood and

Gertrude decided they would have a chickaree. They went over to Gertrude's brother, Jack Steele's home and while LaVar and Leon caught the chickens, Elaine and Gertrude went in their house and got bread, butter, jelly and what they needed for a meal. They took it down to Del Stanger's sheep camp to cook it. How the word got around they never knew but, it wasn't long before there were a lot more people there. Of course they didn't have food for all that crowd, so Doc Wilde and Warren Rockwood made the long trip across the street to Person's and stole more chickens. Mr. Person didn't seem to object to his donation. Reed Stanger made some good baking powdered biscuits. Gertrude told her mother what fun they had and her mother's reply was to come home to get chickens when they wanted them. Gertrude told her that wouldn't be any fun.



W. G. Steele home built 1894. The LaVar Clark home.



11

Continue Heading  
North on 55<sup>th</sup> East to

5051 North 55<sup>th</sup> East

This house was built about 1900, by Peter and Anne Roseta Frandsen, where they raised their 10 children. In 1946, their son, Melvin and Ivy Fransen bought the house.

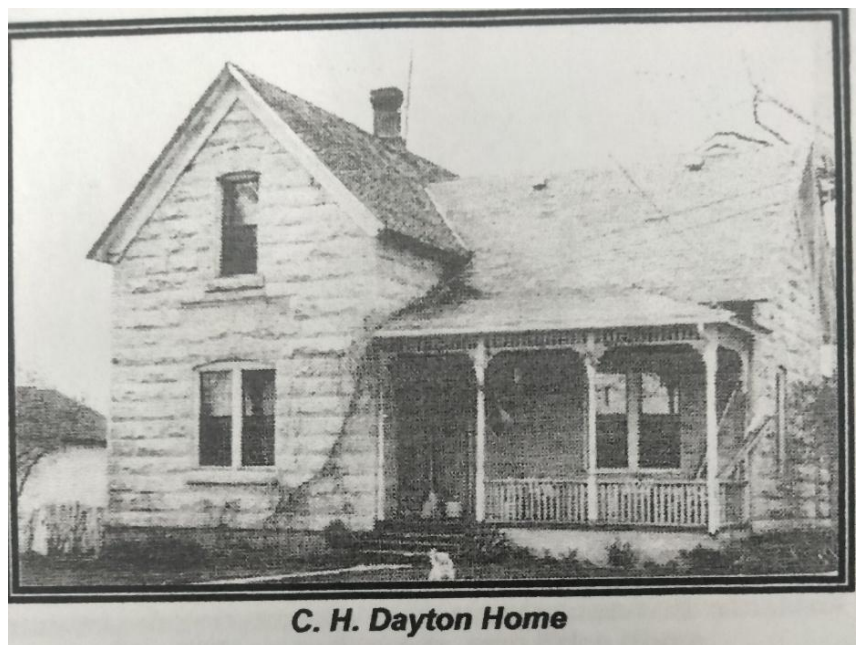
Peter remained living in a room in the house and kept his belongings there until he died.

12

Head back South on  
55<sup>th</sup>, Turn West onto  
Steele Avenue to

5367 Steele Avenue

This home was built in 1895. Charles H. and Sarah Dayton were sent by Brigham Young to colonize the Lemhi Valley. After trouble with the Indians, they came to the Iona area. In 1883,



they homesteaded 160 acres northeast of Iona. Charles was one of the builders in the first 50 years of Iona's

history, which included digging the canals, planting the poplar trees as windbreaks, and building the church and school. He built the first bridge across Sand Creek. He also owned one of the first cars in Iona. They built a two-room log house on the ranch. In 1889, they started building a new rock home in Iona. The home was later owned by Tom and Mildred Smith.

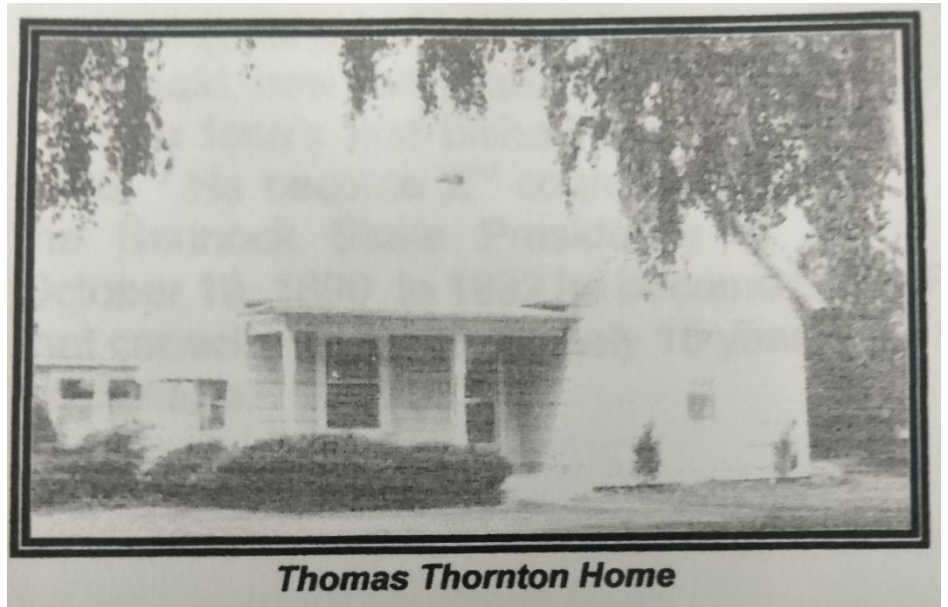


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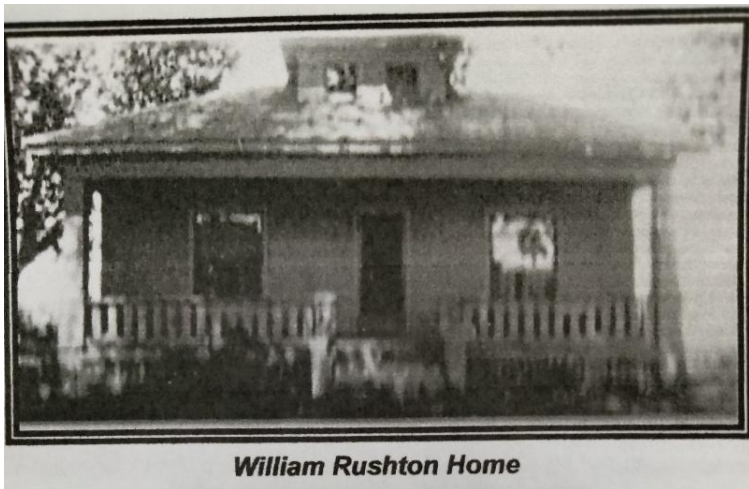
Directly Across the  
Street to the South to

3873 Dayton Avenue

Thomas Ephriam and Betsy Adamson Thronton lived in this home. Thomas came by wagon in the spring of 1900. Betsy and the children came by train to Elva (now known as Ucon). They made their



home on the Jensen's place south of Iona. Thomas bought the land and built the home. It was later the home of Jack and Myrtle Steele. They were among the first settlers to have water piped into their home. Thomas was on the school and village board. He was also a carpenter and a farmer. He helped build several homes as well as the church that burned down and the new brick church.



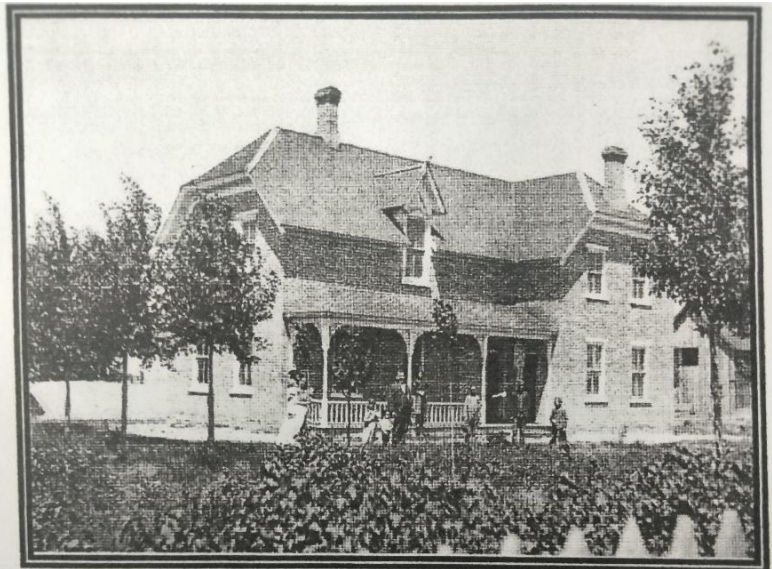
14

Continue West on  
Steele Avenue to

5223 Steele Avenue

William James and Margaret Emma Crompton Rushton were married in 1872. William, Emma and their 4 sons moved to Iona in 1885 to start a new

life. The first few nights they stayed with the James Steele family. There were 17 people in that cabin for a couple of days. The sagebrush was so tall they put sun bonnets on the children when they went out to play so they would not get lost. William cleared the sagebrush and farmed the land. Their home in Iona was built about 1890. It was originally a two-room frame house. William was one of the first to plow a furrow and to build the first canal to bring water into Iona to irrigate the farms. Emma made rag carpets for the floors and heavy quilts from overalls. She had a reputation for being able to fix a good meal with a little bit of nothing. She was called Aunt Em by many people in Iona. Ike Stephens finished the house in 1914.



***James E. And Elvira C. Crompton Steele Home***

15

Head West on Steele  
Avenue and Turn South  
onto Main Street to

3765 Main Street

James E. Steele built this house on Main Street just North of the Iona Mercantile. James landed in Eagle Rock in 1885 and homesteaded along Sand Creek. He built a little cabin, then returned to Utah for his wife, Elvira, and his children. John

F. Shelley came with him. When he returned everything had dried up and looked desolate and unproductive. He laid down by his wagon tongue and went to sleep. In his dream he saw this country in the most beautiful, flourishing condition. When he woke up, he said, "Now I am ready to unload".



***The James Albert Cloward Home***

16

Head South on Main  
and Turn West onto  
Rockwood Avenue to

5134 Rockwood Avenue

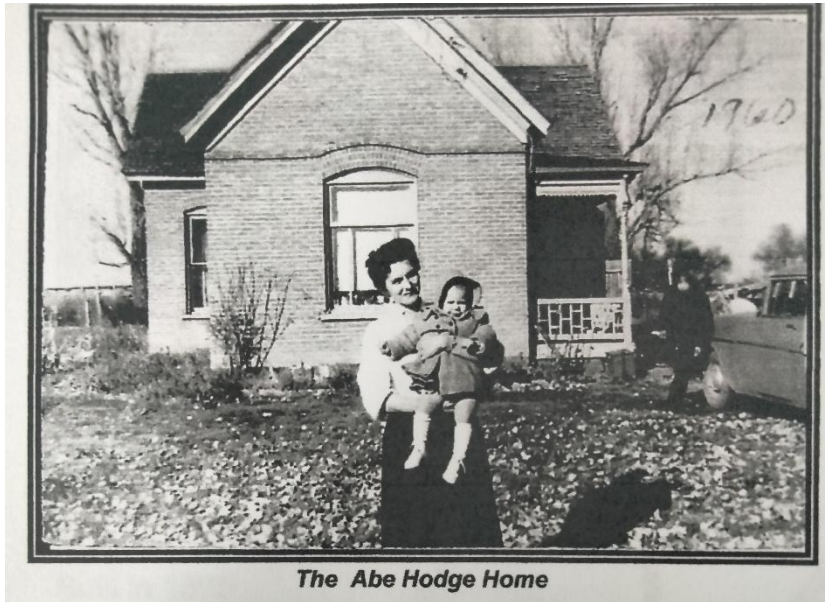
This home was built by James Albert Cloward in about 1898. James and Elsie Mariah Cloward lived in Iona from 1890 until the time

of their deaths. They had 10 children. James owned and operated the first and only movie house in Iona on Main Street. Elsie was a midwife and helped bring many babies into the world. Henry and Treasure Russell bought the home in 1918. A grandson and his wife, Alan and Pamela Hansen, have completely remodeled the home and have lived there for many years.

17

Continue West on  
Rockwood Ave, Turn  
North onto Olsen, Turn  
West onto Rushton  
Road to

4981 Rushton Road



This home was built by Abe Hodge in about 1900. In 1936, Rich and Armenia Rushton moved into the home and raised five children. In the photo, their oldest daughter, Dorothy Rushton Jenkins, is holding her oldest daughter, Vickie Anne Jenkins Dutson.

18

Continue West on  
Rushton Road to

4912 Rushton Road

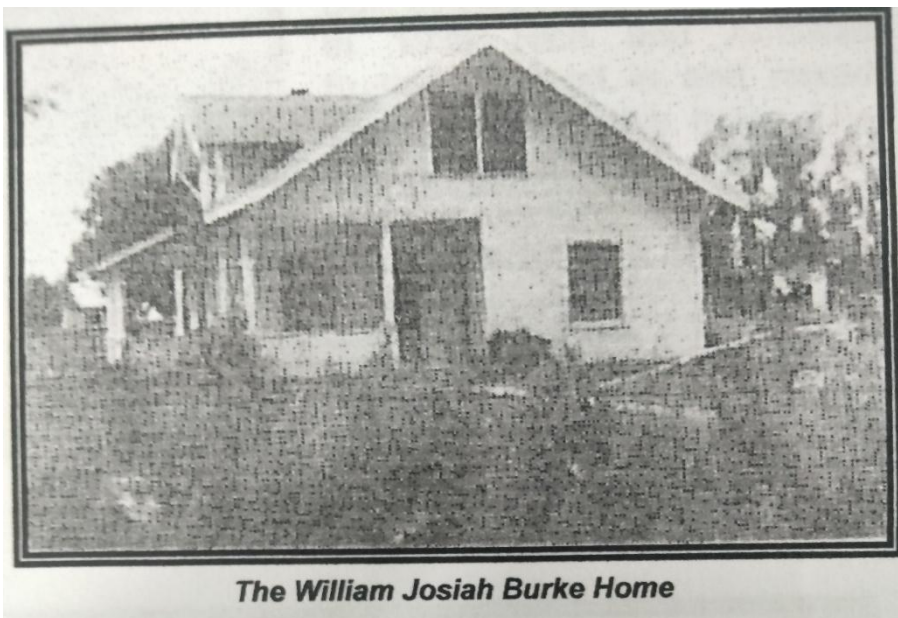
David and Martha Rushton's home was built in early 1900. They raised their family and lived there until their deaths in the late 1960s. Martha



was crowned Goddess of Liberty one 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She also loved to quilt and serve people in the

community. David and his brothers started the Rushton Brothers Mercantile Company. He was also a Deputy Sheriff and a County Commissioner.





***The William Josiah Burke Home***

19

Head Back East on  
Rushton Road, Turn South  
onto Olsen Street to

5071 Hansen Avenue

William Josiah and Mary Leone Rowberry Burke moved to Iona in 1904. They had 11 children. William built this home in 1914 for \$1200. Mary said it was the nicest house she had ever lived

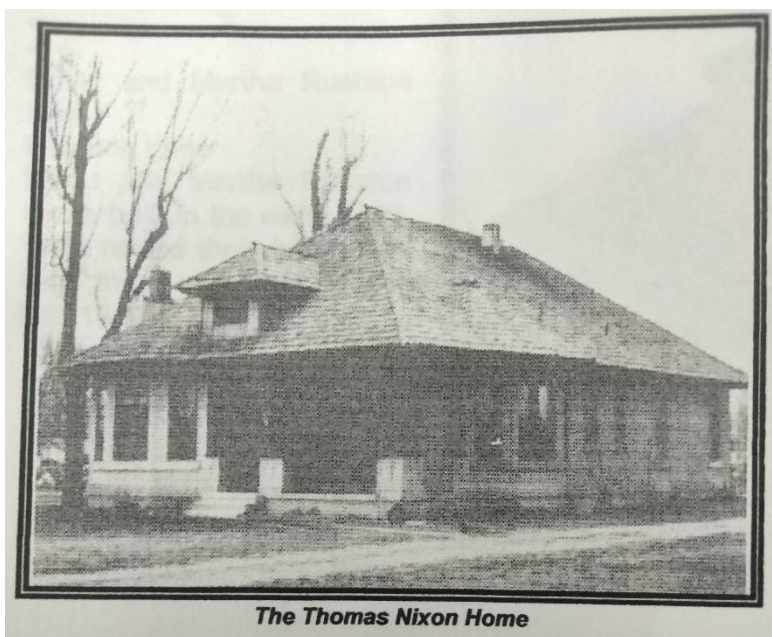
in. They raised a nice garden, had cows and chickens and an orchard. Several families have bought and lived there until it was purchased by Al and Laura Tomita. In 1964, they remodeled it by closing in the porch.

20

Directly Across the  
Street to the East to

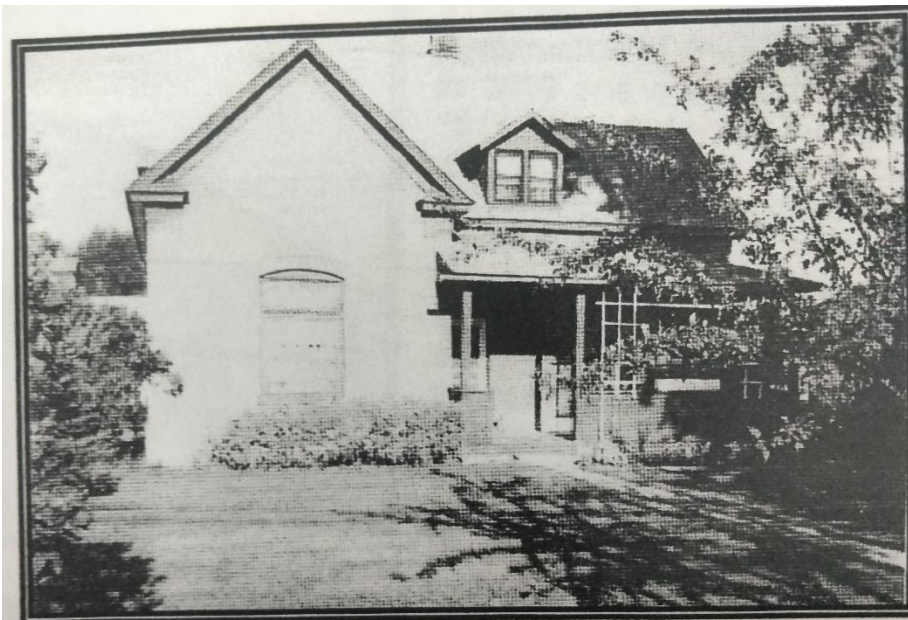
5119 Hansen Avenue

Thomas A. and Emma Catmull Nixon were married in 1887. They held their wedding dance on the dirt floor of the incomplete Iona Chapel. They had 11 children. Thomas Nixon started construction on this home in 1910 and continued through 1917. Thomas built the home with the idea that someday trolley



***The Thomas Nixon Home***

cars would go through the area and the home could be used as a trolley car station. At one time the Nixons operated an ice cream parlor and confectionery just South of the old Iona Merc. Emma served as a midwife and helped deliver over 300 babies. Eventually Mr. Nixon sold the home to Fremont and Sylvia Barnes. In 1954, James Waler installed one of the first full bathroom in the home for the Barnes'. Then it was sold to Neil and Chris Grover, who opened up the attic of the home and created a beautiful living space. The Grovers added many upgrades to the home while maintaining its historical integrity.



*Frank and Mary Herbert Home*

21

Continue South on  
Olsen Street to

3461 Olsen Street

Frank and Mary Herbert homesteaded a piece of ground west of the Iona townsite. Their first house was made of logs. They later added a couple of frame rooms. He later built this lovely brick house. Frank felt that the town needed a better recreation hall. The

only place that was usable for dances was the old Rock School House. This new building was very modern. It was down the lane west from his home among a grove of trees. It was a lovely place for dancing, theater groups and celebrations. In 1905 this dance hall burned down. A.W. Schweider purchased the home in 1924. He and Norma Schweider lived there until 1993.



*Lorenzo and Ruth Jones Ward*

22

Continue South on Olsen  
Street, Turn East onto  
Owens Avenue to

5112 Owens Avenue

After Lorenzo and Ruth Jones Ward were married in 1891, they bought the land where the house is now located. He built the first part of the house in 1902 and another addition in

1915. They raised eight children in the home. They had a well with a gas motor, in 1917, that pumped water into their house. Clyde and Ivy Smith bought the house and lived in it for many years.

23

Directly Across the  
Street to the North to

5113 Owens Avenue

Alma Legrand and Sarah Steele Owens were married in 1915. Before meeting Sarah, Alma paid for his college education by driving a stage coach in Yellowstone Park. Alma was a school teacher and

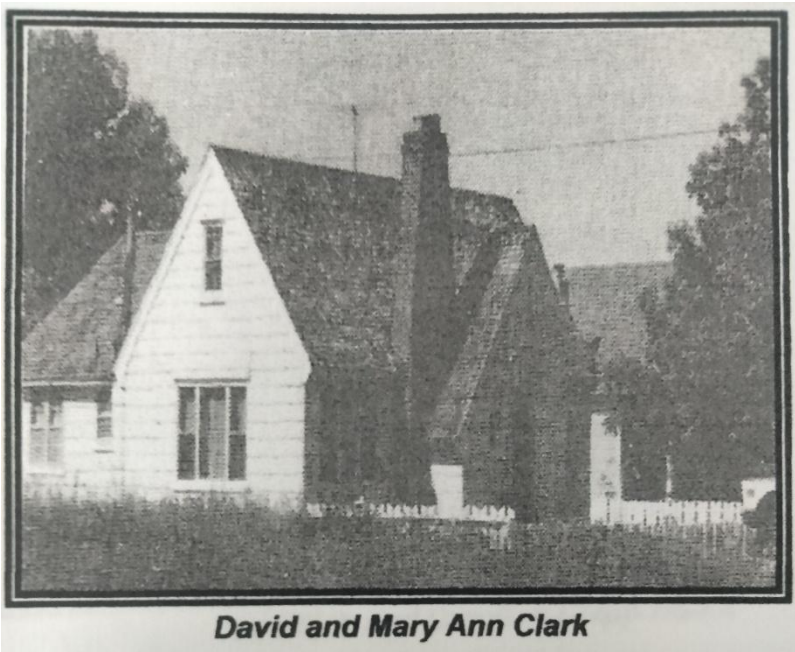
principal in Iona. He also served as a Bonneville County Commissioner. Sarah graduated from college and was a loving mother to 6 children. Alma and Sarah lived in this home when they were first married until their deaths.



24

Head East on Owens  
Avenue to

5244 Owens Avenue



When David was 19 years old, his parents and siblings went to Oregon and left him to manage their ranch. While his family was gone, he courted and married Mary Ann Clark. David loved to hunt and fish. He was also, the Bonneville County Commissioner and managed the Sperry Elevator located near the tracks east

of Iona. Mary liked to quilt, square dance and sled. She also won a prize in a national contest for her sewing. For the price of 25 cents, David bought a raffle ticket at the Rex Theater in Idaho Falls. This "Dream Home" was won by David and Mary Ann Clark in 1934. It was then moved onto this location. It was the talk of Iona.

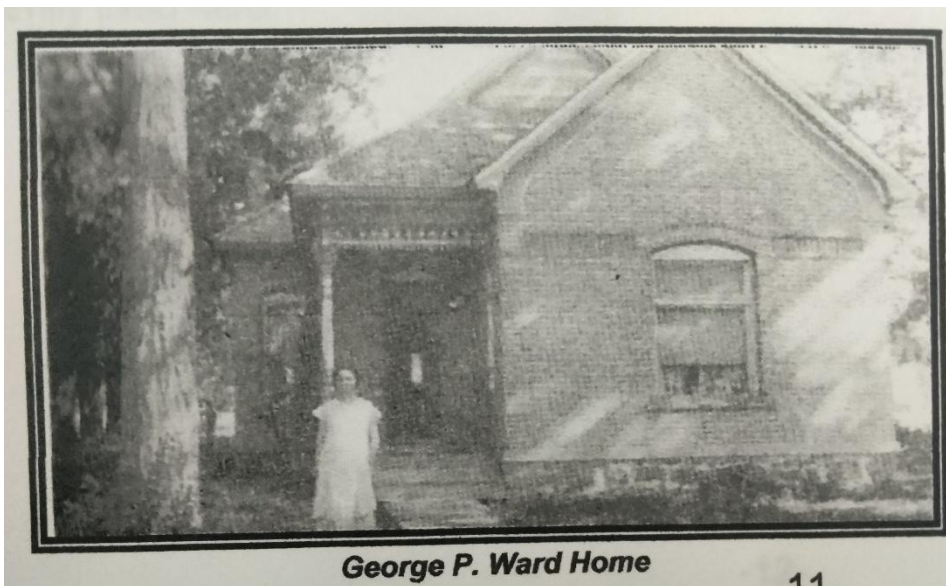
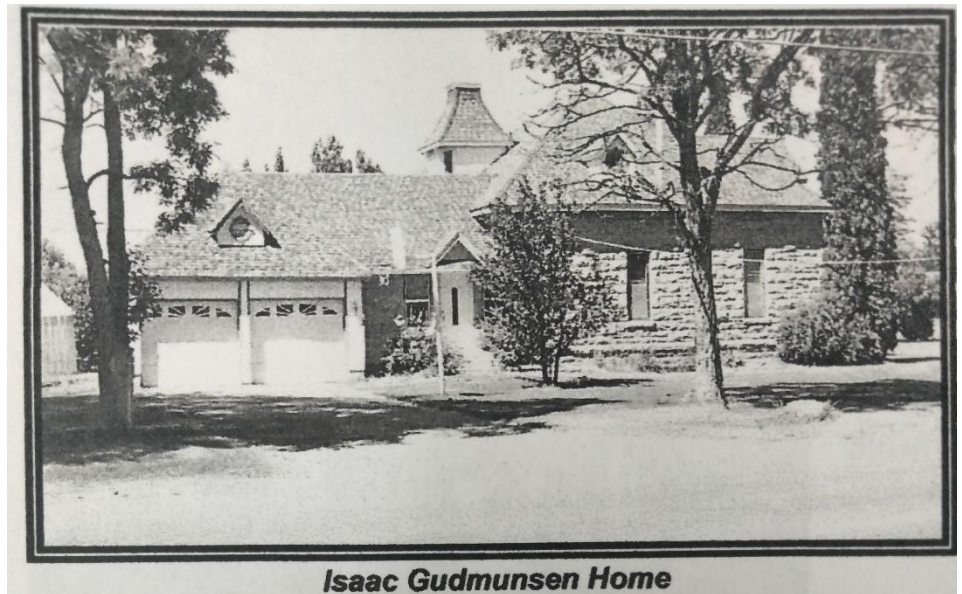
25

Continue East on  
Owens Avenue, Turn  
North on Dayton  
Avenue to

3327 Dayton Avenue

Isaac and Fanny Mulliner  
Gundmundsen settled in Iona in  
1901. Isaac was the general  
manager of the Iona Merc for

many years. The outside walls were at least 14 inches thick. It was purchased by Albert and Agnes Lindholdm in 1914. The original house had a bathroom, but was taken out before 1928. Clifford and Josie Scoresby bought the home in 1928. Outdoor plumbing was used until about 1951 then the Scoresbys installed a new bathroom. They also dug a small basement and added central heating. The coal furnace was later converted to oil. After the death of Clifford Scoresby, it was sold to John Price in 1977. The upstairs was completed by the Prices after 1977.



26

Head North on Dayton  
Avenue, turn East on  
Hansen Avenue to

5433 Hansen Avenue

George P. and Mary Bindrup Ward  
were married in 1874. During their  
first summer in Idaho the family  
lived in a tent and a covered wagon  
box. They grew some of the only

peach trees in the area. This home was built in 1901 for \$1500. This house was later owned by Charles and Mary Hansen. Mary is in the photo.

27

Continue East on  
Hansen Avenue, turn  
South onto 55<sup>th</sup> East to

3335 North 55<sup>th</sup> East

C.J. and Mary Stephens Owens came to Iona in 1884. They were farmers and had exceptionally fine horses. The house was built in about 1894. They sold the home and moved to Emmett, Idaho. C.J. returned to Iona and moved back into the house, and later moved to his ranch.

James Henry Denning eventually bought the house with his first wife, Rosanna Williams. Their family lived there for many years.



**These houses are up Iona Road, Foothill Road and Lincoln Road**

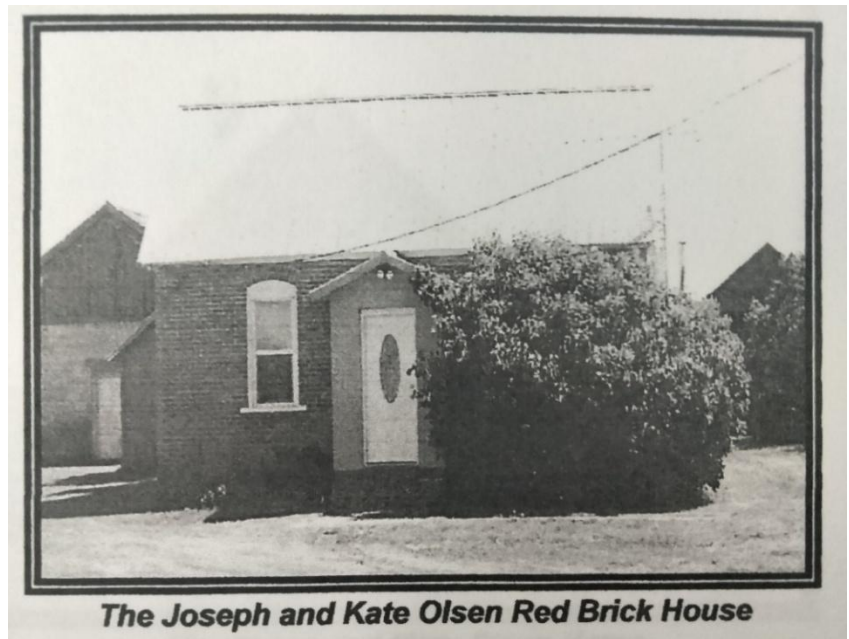
28

Turn East onto Iona  
Road to

5810 East Iona Road

This home was called the Red Brick House. It was built in 1896 by Joseph Olsen. Originally it was a two-room log house. The first winter Joe and Kate lived there, Kate almost froze. She was always chinking the cracks in the walls. The next summer they were able to completely fill the cracks in the walls.

The following summer the home was covered with red bricks. That winter Kate said she was so warm. A kitchen and another bedroom were added onto the back. The family lived there for almost 20 years. They moved next door when their yellow brick house was built. Many family members lived there, as well as many other families, school teachers, and young couples. Later, the house was remodeled. A half basement was added and two of the rooms were updated. Several years later a small entry porch was added in the front.



29

Continue East on Iona  
Road to

5828 East Iona Road

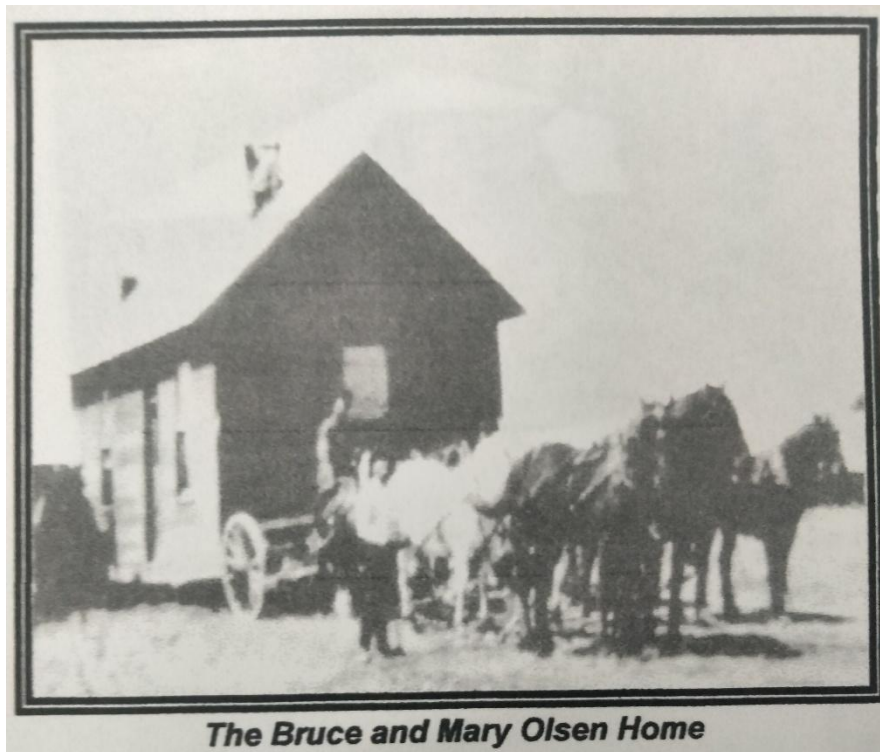
This house was built by Guy Price in 1917, for Joseph and Kate Olsen. This house has the distinction of having the first indoor bathroom in Iona. Joe had a bathroom put in especially for Kate, while he still preferred the outhouse for many years. Joe and Kate lived there until 1939, when they moved to Idaho Falls. Bruce and Mary Olsen lived there until 1948. In 1948 the home was purchased by Joe and Kate's grandson, Keith and his wife Beth. They added an addition in the back using matching brick that Keith had collected from the Newdale schoolhouse when it was torn down.



30

Continue East on Iona  
Road to

5964 East Iona Road



This house was moved, by Bruce and Mary Olsen, from another location in Iona about 1919. They pulled it with ten head of horses. Bruce and Mary each drove one of the teams of horses. They dug a basement and added a bathroom and bedrooms. At first there was no running water and they had to carry water to fill the sink and the tub. About 1932, they were able to get running water on Christmas Day. Their son, Robert (Bob) and his wife, Verla moved into the house in 1965. They also added onto and redecorated the house.

31

Continue East on Iona  
Road to

6250 East Iona Road

The home was built by Guy Price in 1914 for William and Violet Steele. William George and Violet Brunt Steele were married in 1911. Violet taught school in Iona. She was also the PTA

president for 2 years. She wrote poems and stories to be read at social functions. George worked as the Deputy Assessor, assessing all of Bonneville County, for about 35 years. He was also a member of the school board. He started a truck garden business by raising a large patch of raspberries, corn and other garden produce to sell. The house was made of yellow brick. Jim and Maurine Steele lived there for 49 years.



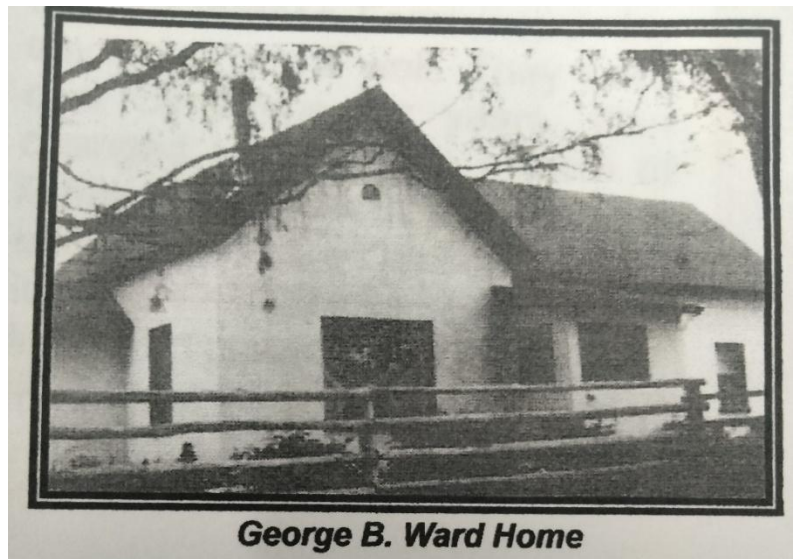
**William George Jr and Violet Grace Brunt Steele Home**

Continue East on Iona Road,  
Turn South onto Foothill Road,  
Turn West onto Lincoln Road  
to

Reed Longhurst Lane just off Lincoln

This was originally the Reed Longhurst Farm, built in 1893. The Ward Family arrived in Iona 1895. George homesteaded 240 acres along the Iona foothills. George and Esther Haycock Ward

were married in 1897. The Ward family had to live in their wagon since the materials that had been collected for their home had been stolen. A tent and a dugout were also types of homes they lived in before their one room log cabin was completed. Finally, they were able to move into a brick home.



**George B. Ward Home**

32

Continue West on Lincoln  
Road to

5390 East Lincoln Road



*The Tom and Mary Ann Davis home*

This red brick house was built before 1900, by the parents of Earl Edwards. In 1909, Thomas Wright and Mary Ann Davis bought the 120-acre farm. Mary Ann had received an inheritance from her parent's estate and Tom convinced Mary Ann to come to Idaho by telling her of the huge tomatoes that the Edwards had grown

there. This convinced Mary Ann to move to Idaho. However, the tomatoes grown there never were as big as Tom said they would be. They sold the farm to Thomas Thornton in 1929 and his son, Clifford, bought it in 1932. It later became a rental.

33

Continue West on  
Lincoln Road, Turn  
South onto Crowley  
Road to

552 Crowley Road



*Robert and Mary Elizabeth Fife Home*

"Mary Elizabeth Fife gets a new  
Brick Home."

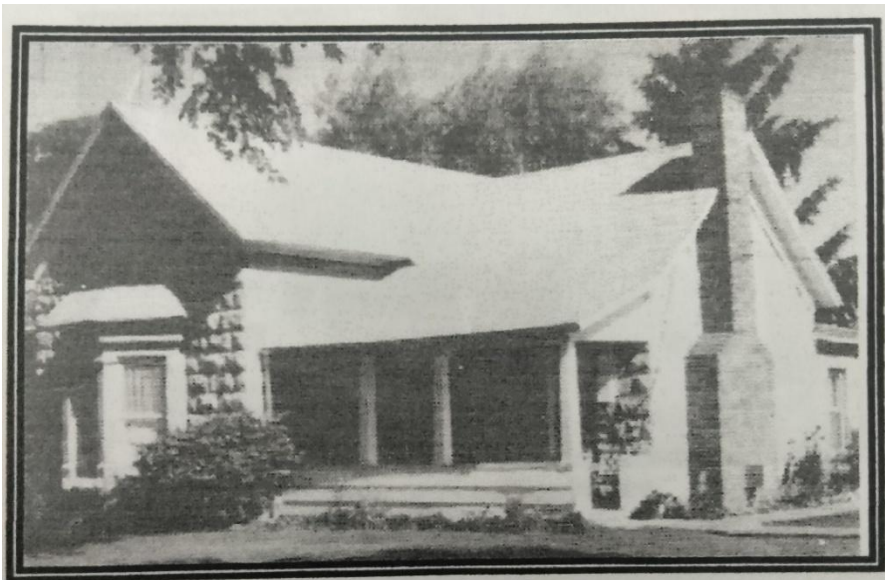
In the summer of 1902, James E. Steele asked Mary Elizabeth Fife to serve the children in the church.

Mary did not accept the position immediately. She made an appointment to meet James Steele in a few days. Mary and her husband, Robert, were pioneers in the Ammon area. They homesteaded a tract of land. The log house they built became too small for their growing family. Mary very much wanted a new brick house, but

money was scarce in the household. Robert wasn't optimistic about their chances of earning enough money to finance a new house. As far as he was concerned, the log house would simply have to do for the foreseeable future. Mary was not convinced, perhaps a way could be found to get a larger house built.

Mary told her husband about her recent meeting with James Steele. She was to meet him again at the Lincoln Church to let him know if she would accept a call to serve the children in the church. When Mary met James, she said she could not accept the call unless she had some help in her home. After all she would need to travel by horse and buggy to visit the children throughout the area, and that would take time. Mary told James that her family could not put off building a larger house. She would need to supervise the construction as her husband was too busy farming. James conversed with Herber C. Austin, an official of the Utah and Idaho Sugar Company. They worked out a plan to help Mary so she could attend to the children in the area. Austin used his influence to help secure a loan to build a house. He arranged a sugar beet contract for Robert so cash would be available to pay the loan. Then, he arranged for the Fife family to cook meals for the crew making bricks for the planned sugar factory in Lincoln. The family would be paid in bricks. Each Saturday, Mary Elizabeth Fife would receive new red bricks as payment for the week's meal her family prepared for the brick crew. On the last day the brick pit operated, Mary found she had enough bricks to build her house and a brick chicken house. Heber C. Austin selected a good carpenter and he personally supervised construction of the house. This allowed Mary the time she needed to devote to her calling to serve. As it turned out, everyone was taken care of. This house was completely remodeled by Frank and Sherry Longhurst.

## **This Home is on the Ririe Highway**



***Stan Crowley Home***

35

Ririe Highway

This home was built in 1892. In 1949, Verl and Lola Bodily as well as Theo and Freda Bodily bought the house and farm from Lloyd and Alba Gardner. The house was set back from the old Ririe Highway. Each time the road was widened, the house gets closer to the highway. It is now on the side of the road. The large

house has two bedrooms upstairs that were cold in the winter and hot in the summer. A utility room and a fireplace were added. The upstairs was also fixed up. It was later bought by Brooks and Sharla Cooper. They have done a lot of work on the house and kept the original stonework intact.

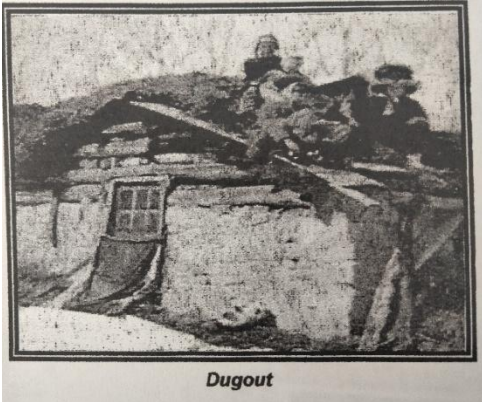
# Bonus: Homes and Buildings Lost to Time

## Covered Wagon

This was the first abode that was lived in when the settlers first came to this area. Some homesteaders turned their wagons upside down and lived under the lean-to. Some even made willow huts at first. The howling of the coyotes at night made them nervous, so as soon as time permitted the first homes were built.



*Henry and Caroline Stephens and Ezra and Ellen Williams and families*



*Dugout*

## Dugout

Dugouts were built along the hillside by digging into the hill, making an opening with logs or rocks and covering the opening with dirt, leaving just the entrance and front sticking out of the ground. Others built dugouts by digging into the ground making one big room like a cellar.

This is the home of Cadwallander and Jane Slade. They came to Iona in 1884 and homesteaded 160 acres. Cadwallander was the first church official in Iona and the first church meetings were held in his home.



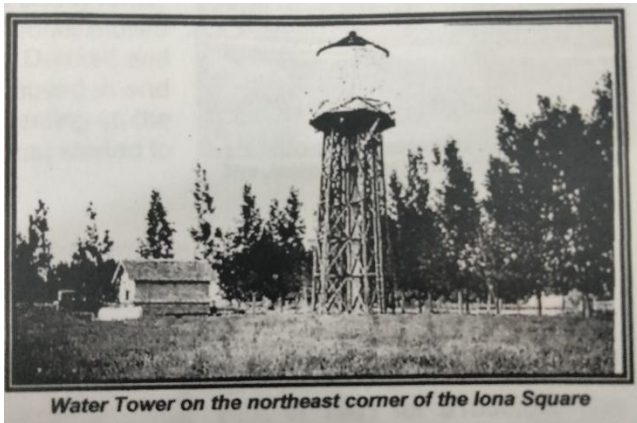
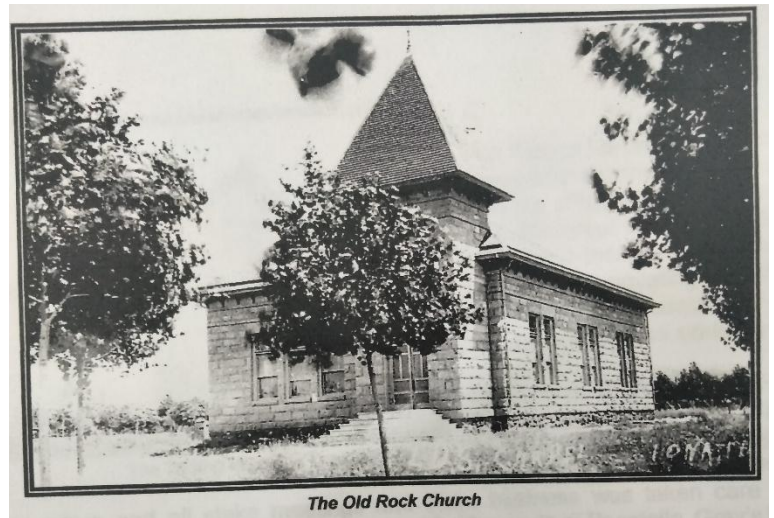
*Cadwallander Owens home where church was first held*



*Ole Olsens Cabin*

Iona church gatherings were held in the home of Ole Olsen until 1887 when the Old Rock Church was started. It was located on the corner where Roy Torngren's house was.

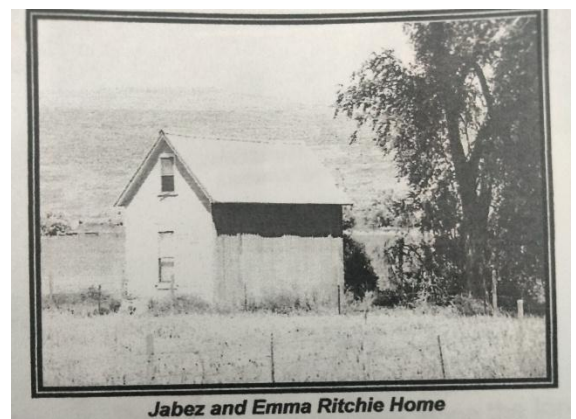
This is the second Rock Church in Iona. Construction began in 1898 and due to delays was not finished until 1902. The people of Iona used and loved this church until it burned down in 1928.

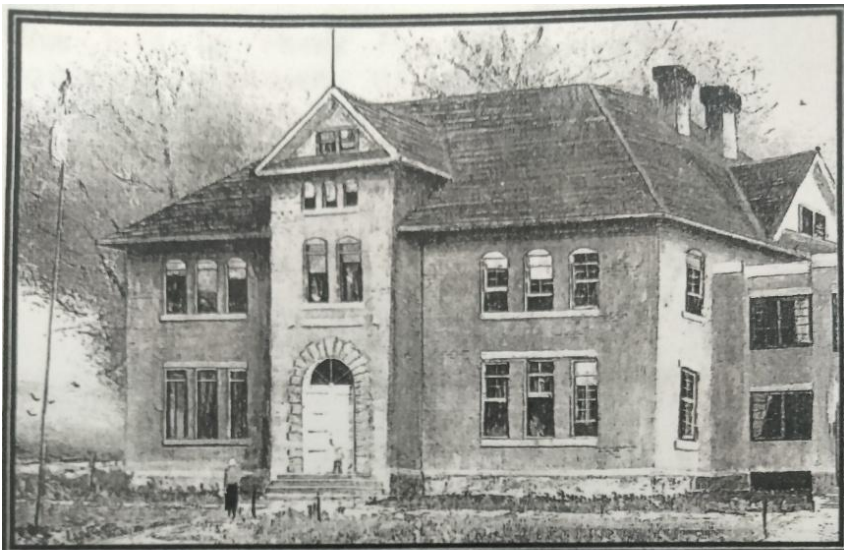


The first water systems in Iona were in the form of privately owned wells and windmills. One well and windmill were constructed in the center of a block or centrally located between three to six houses. Each family was responsible for pumping the water into their own house.

The water tower and tank were built in the northeast corner of the Iona Square. The trenches were all dug by hand, six feet deep, with pick and shovel at 20 cents per lineal foot.

This home was located on Iona Road. Sakichi and Yoshie Tamura Ogawa, a Japanese-American family, lived there for one and half generations until World War II. Sakichi came to Idaho in 1908 and worked his way around in sugar beets and potato fields. They loved Iona because it was a small farming community surrounded by sagebrush, mountains, cottonwood trees and willow trees along canal banks and streams. Jabez and Emma Ritchie later owned this house. Then, their granddaughter, LaFaye Ritchie and Heinrick Heuer lived in this house. They lived here for several years.





***The Iona Grade School***

The red brick schoolhouse was built 1903-1904. It was ready to be used as a school in 1904. It was heated by a pot belly stove. Water was carried from wells in the town and all the children drank out of the same dipper. Later, each child had to furnish their own cup. Mr. Breen was the principal in 1910-1911 and there were no eighth-grade graduates, because there was an epidemic of Scarlet Fever. Mr. Green didn't pass anyone out of the eighth-grade because there were too many absences. Mr. Antoine Petersen was hired as the principal and he

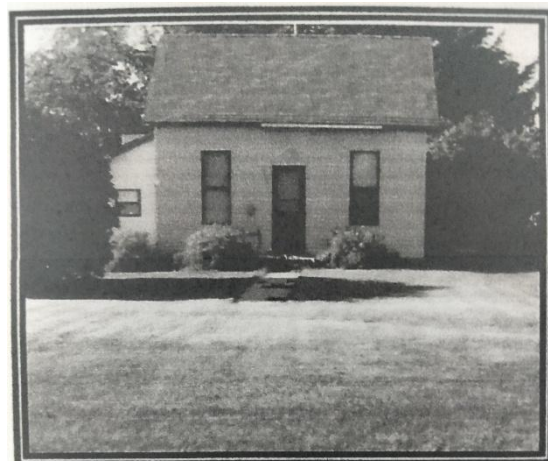
worked hard with the eight-grade students to help them pass their county tests. Also, some of the students graduated from the eighth grade at the Ricks Academy in Rexburg.



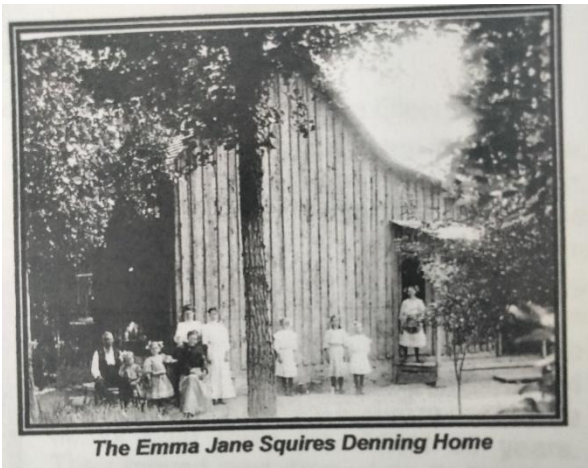
***Honeymoon Cottage***

The Cadwallender (Wally) and Iva Hamilton Owens home, was built by Henry Haderlie. It was commonly known as the "Honeymoon Cottage". When young people got married and they didn't have a place to live, they lived in the Honeymoon Cottage until they found a place.

This home was located on the North side of Steele Avenue. Killis Sellers joined up with the Confederate Army and fought in the Civil War. He was taken prisoner by the Northern Army. When the war was over, he was discharged at Council Bluffs, Iowa. He met and married Clara Ann Hames in Salt Lake City. She was the daughter of Manning Hames. They had one child and later moved to Iona. They took up squatter's rights in the mountains now known as Sellers Creek. (Sellers Creek was named after them because they were the first settlers.) They had a home in Iona and were buried in the Iona Cemetery.



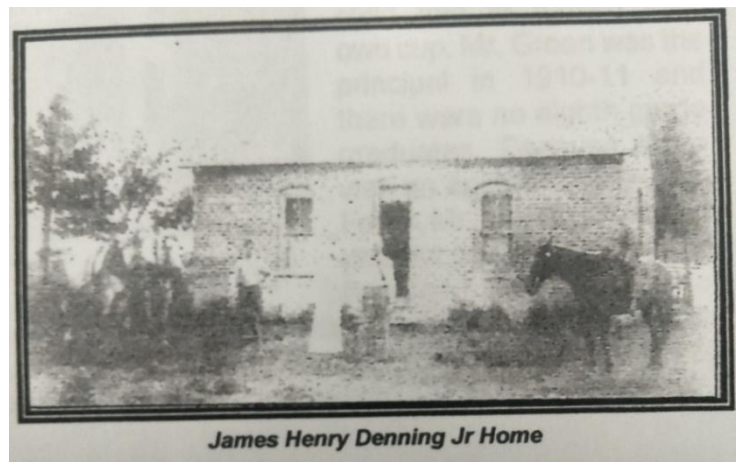
***Ackillis and Clara Ann Lucy Hames  
Sellers Home***



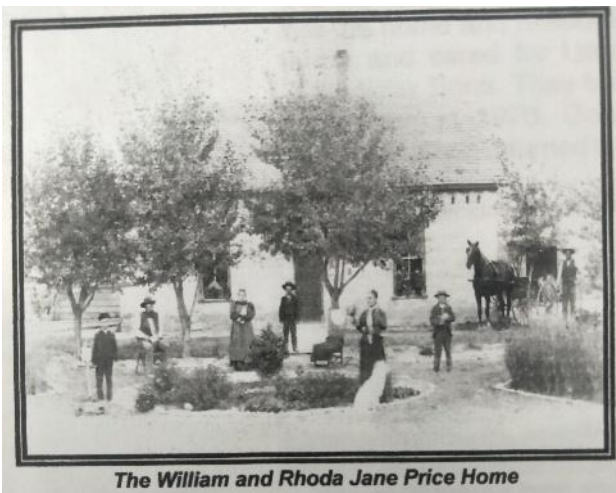
*The Emma Jane Squires Denning Home*

The Emma Jane Squires Denning home was on the corner of Hansen and Iona North Street. She was the second wife of James Henry Denning, Senior. They had 14 children. At one time she had a confectionary in front of her home where she would make ice cream and treats. L.B. Wilde later owned this home.

Before he was married, James Henry Denning Jr. built a two- room brick house on land his father, James Henry Denning Sr. had homesteaded. The bricks were laid by a Mr. Andleberg and they were obtained from the brickyard on 1<sup>st</sup> and Crowley (southeast corner). The plastering was done by T.W. Lee. Years later, Jim added two more brick and adobe rooms put up by Clarence Farnsworth. The home did not have electricity or a well. They used coal oil lamps for years, then changed to a carbide system of lighting. They used ditch water for every purpose, including drinking. In 1918, Jim had a well dug and put in a hand pump. James married Martha Kate Wetzel in 1897 and they had 5 children. He also married Molinda Grace Clapp and they had 4 children. Molinda worked in homes, cleaning and keeping house for ladies when they had new babies.



*James Henry Denning Jr Home*



*The William and Rhoda Jane Price Home*

William joined his two eldest sons on the Sand Creek at Iona, Idaho. Their first home was a dugout on the East side of the Sand Creek, where they lived while they brought building supplies from Ogden. After a two-story rock house was constructed, Rhonda Jane and the rest of the family moved here from Ogden. This photo take in 1895 shows the house with trees higher than the roof. Some of the original glass is intact on the West side. This house became the home of the Dick Haderlie family.