



PROJECT MUSE®

Mormon Trail, The

William Hill

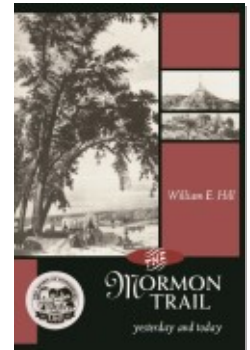
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**MORMON FERRY SITE
(Iowa Side)—Today**

The Mormon ferry was located a little north of where the present I-680 or Mormon Bridge spans the Missouri River. Here is a similar view. The route into Florence from the Iowa side of the river was similar to the one shown in Piercy's sketch.

Nebraska



VIEW OF MISSOURI RIVER—Piercy, LDS Church Archives

This plate shows the view from what was left of Winter Quarters looking northeast towards the Mormon Ferry. In his narrative Piercy wrote that a cabin, the last remnant of Winter Quar-

ters, was being burned when he arrived. Note a cabin burning to the right in this plate. The wagons shown climbing the hill on the trail coincide with the view from the Iowa side view.



CUTLER'S PARK—Hansen, LDS Church Archives

This is another of Peter Hansen's 1846 drawings. The bottom half of the sketch is actually the right half of a panorama of the area. Cutler's Park was actually established before Winter Quarters. However, because of their concern for safety and their relations with the two local Indian tribes, the Mormons decided to abandon their camp at Cutler's Park and establish a

new camp along the Missouri River near the ferry site.

Today there is a small marker in the area. It appears that the traces of the old road going up the hills as shown in the sketch are still evident. More trees have grown up along the creek, obscuring both the hills and recent construction in the area.



CUTLER'S PARK—Today



**WINTER QUARTERS—Christensen,
Brigham Young University Museum**

This is C.C.A. Christensen's painting of Winter Quarters. Note the cabins all lined up and the typical grid pattern used by the Mormons. A

reconstruction of a similar log cabin is part of the Mormon Winter Quarters Visitors Center.



WINTER QUARTERS CABIN—Reconstruction Today



MORMON MILL—Today

Today two reminders of the Mormon past remain in Florence, site of Winter Quarters. First is the Mormon Mill, the only remaining Mormon structure. Turkey Creek, the stream that ran the mill, has been moved and routed underground. After the Mormons left, the mill was taken over and expanded. Years ago it was dismantled and then moved only a few hundred feet to its present site.

The second reminder is the Mormon cemetery. This memorial stands on top of the hill where many of the Mormons who perished that fateful winter of 1846-47 were buried. The

statue depicts a mother and father bidding their final farewell to their young child whom they are burying in a shallow grave in the frozen ground. If you stand in the right spot on the right side facing the statue, you will even see a tear on the mother's face. This very moving bronze statue depicts both the suffering endured and the strength shown by the Mormons. None of the specific graves of the early Mormons is marked, but the names of more than three hundred are listed on a bronze plaque. The new Mormon Trail Center is nearby.



WINTER QUARTERS CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL—Today



**STEAMER OMAHA AT WINTER QUARTERS LANDING—Simons,
Collections: Council Bluffs Public Library**

Within a few years after the Mormons settled the area steamers learned to navigate the Missouri River. This George Simons sketch shows the riverboat *Omaha* unloading Mormons at

Florence (Winter Quarters).

Today the site is partially occupied by the water company. Part of the old landing area is thought to be near the right edge of the picture.



FLORENCE LANDING SITE—Today