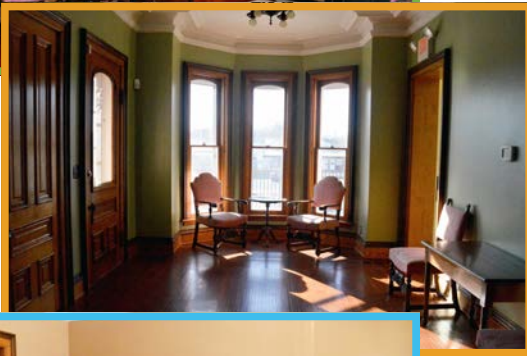
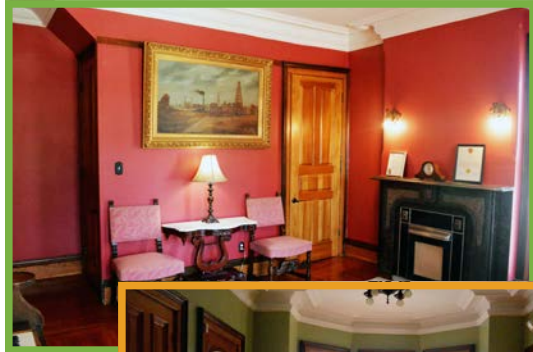


Carter House Rental

The Carter House is a community treasure renovated and maintained by the Wood County District Public Library.

The first floor of the house is used by WCDPL for programs and meetings, and is available for use by community groups and private individuals.

To learn more about renting the Carter House, call Angie Babcock, Administrative Coordinator, at (419) 353-8044 or email angiebabcock@wcdpl.org.



The Carter House

307 North Church Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402

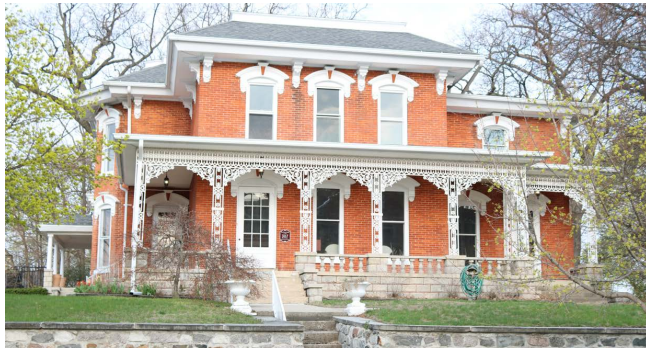
We're Your Library.

251 North Main Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402
(419) 352-5104
wcdpl.org



WOOD COUNTY
DISTRICT PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Welcome



The Carter House is located near the heart of downtown Bowling Green at 307 North Church Street, directly behind the Wood County District Public Library.

Originally built around 1877 by prominent businessman Norton Reed, the Carter House has a long history in Wood County. In 2006, Robert and Patricia Maurer and their family donated the home to the library in memory of Mr. Maurer's aunt, Martha Maurer Carter. Mrs. Carter taught school for 35 years in Bowling Green and Toledo. Her lifelong love of learning and education made the family's gift to the library an especially fitting tribute to her memory.

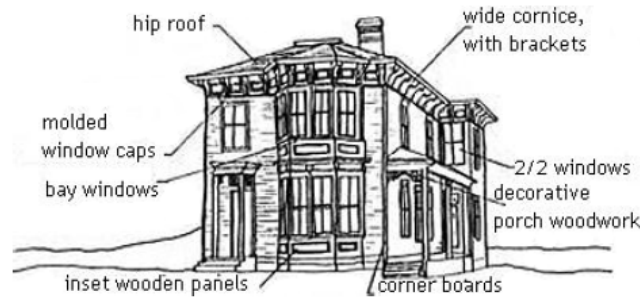


Martha Maurer Carter
1913-2006

Following an extensive renovation, the home was reopened in 2013 and named the Carter House in honor of Martha Maurer Carter.

Architectural Style & History

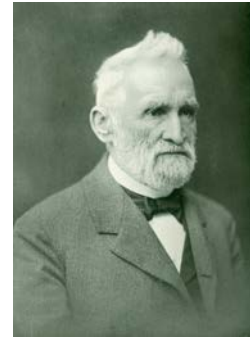
The Wisconsin Historical Society describes Italianate architecture as "characterized by distinctive wide eaves with numerous brackets, gently-sloping hipped or gabled roofs... [these houses are] typically square with boxy proportions. Frequently, windows have hoodmolds or even pediments, and sometimes they are round-headed. Bay windows are common, as are balconies with balustrades." This architectural style was popular from roughly 1825-1900.



Norton Reed

Norton Reed, the home's first occupant, was a key figure in the struggle to bring the county seat to Bowling Green. Reed served on the Bowling Green city council in 1867, 1869, and 1871.

His personal wealth enabled him to finance numerous business projects, including funding the Reed Block with his brother Edwin, with was Bowling Green's first business block constructed in all brick. Contemporaries described Reed's home at 307 North Church Street as an "ornament to the city."



Norton Reed
1821-1912

Benjamin James

Attorney and Ohio General Assemblyman Benjamin F. James owned the house from 1897 until 1934. James played critical roles in the construction of the current County Court House and in securing Bowling Green as the site of the university in 1910.



Benjamin F. James
1913-2006

During his lifetime, it was said that the house on North Church Street, named Mon Cambria at the time, was one of the most distinguished homes in Bowling Green. James enjoyed what was acclaimed as "one of the finest private libraries in the state."



It is not surprising then that Mrs. James, formerly Myrtle E. McElroy, frequently offered use of her home as a meeting place for the newly formed Shakespeare Round Table, which still exists today.

At just such a meeting in 1911, the group's members gathered at Mon Cambria to raise funds and create support for the establishment of a public library. The library, nurtured by the women of the Shakespeare Round Table, would eventually become the Wood County District Public Library.