



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

The first floor of the house is used by WCDPL for programs and meetings.

The first floor is also available for use by community groups and private individuals. To learn more, contact the library at 419-352-5104, or visit [wcdpl.org](http://wcdpl.org).



## The Carter House

307 North Church Street  
Bowling Green, OH 43402



WOOD COUNTY  
DISTRICT PUBLIC  
**LIBRARY**

251 North Main St. **We're Your Library.**  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
[www.wcdpl.org](http://www.wcdpl.org) 419.352.5104

## Welcome to the Carter House



The Carter House is located near the heart of downtown Bowling Green, directly behind Wood County District Public Library, at 307 North Church Street. The home was built around 1877 by prominent Wood County businessman, Norton Reed.

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.



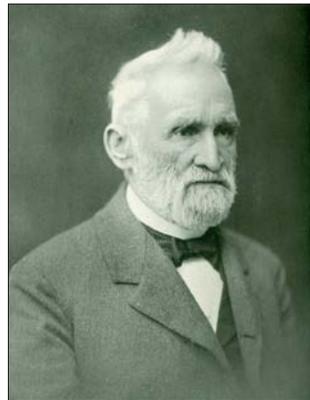
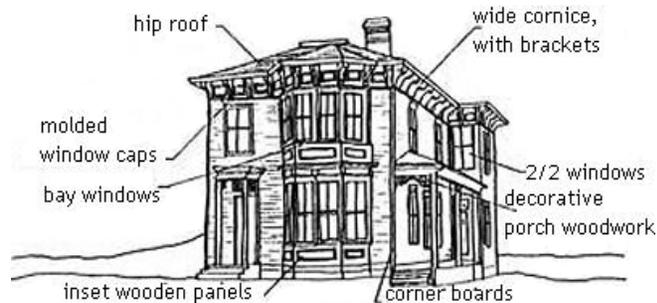
*Martha Maurer Carter*  
1913 - 2006

Mrs. Carter taught school for 35 years in Bowling Green and Toledo. Her life-long love of learning and education made the family's gift to the Library an especially fitting tribute to her memory.

Following an extensive renovation, the home was opened 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 roughly 1825 - 1900.



*Norton Reed*  
1821 - 1912

### Norton Reed

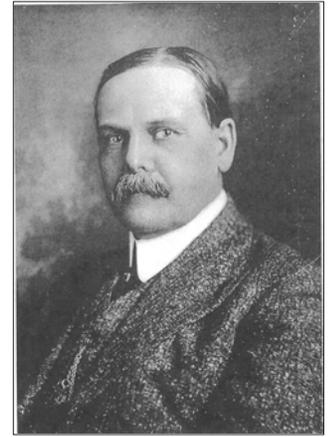
Norton Reed, the home's first occupant, was a key figure in the struggle to bring the county seat to Bowling Green. Reed served on the Bowling Green city council in 1867, 1869, and 1871.

His personal wealth enabled him to finance numerous business

projects, including, with his brother Edwin, the Reed Block, Bowling Green's first business block constructed in all brick. Contemporaries described Reed's home at 307 North Church as "an ornament to the city."

### Benjamin F. 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 was one of the most distinguished homes in Bowling Green, and that James enjoyed "one of the finest private libraries in the state." It is not surprising then that Mrs. James, the former Myrtle E. McElroy, frequently offered use of her home as a meeting place for the newly formed Shakespeare Round Table (a group which still exists today). At just such a meeting in 1911, the group's members gathered at the James' home 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.