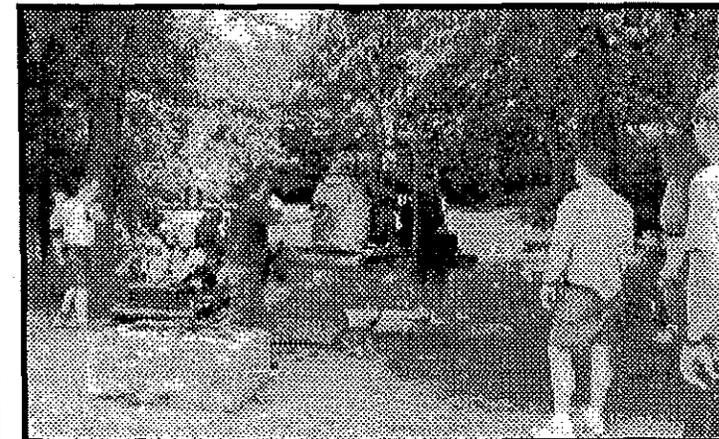


water -- one from the Atlantic Ocean and one from Lake Erie -- and poured them together thus marrying (opening) the Erie Canal spanning New York State's new manmade waterway. Friday's ceremony commemorated the fact that 160 years ago a traveler from Delphi could travel all the way to New York City via the waters of the Wabash & Erie Canal, Lake Erie, the Erie Canal and Hudson River.

Action by the City employees was greatly appreciated by the Canal volunteers and nearby trailer park. Monday City employees with cooperation from the Delphi Limestone Company employees set up two 6 inch diesel pumps loaned by the stone company. They were placed at Founders Point beside the monument dedicated to the late Jack Wroten. This spot is the same place where the stone company regularly diverts fresh water into the canal in normal times. That three million gallon per day source was stopped on Saturday morning after the first huge downpour from the clouds.

Thanks to all who helped there was no water in the new Interpretive Center. However, several other buildings in Canal Park had water lapping on their floors. Considerations for other Delphi homes and businesses along Deer Creek kept the city crews busy for over 72 hours when a call for additional rain still loomed as a big threat.

Removal of flood water from the upper end of the canal at Founders Point with the two pumps relieved many worried north end property owners even though it had not yet entered their homes. Delphi was very flood prone in the years up to 1953 when the flood control system was put in place. This first week of July 2003 tested the system in a most unusual 500 year localized flood event that made national news.



Right: Volunteers from the city and the stone company unload and ready a pump loaned by the stone company to keep the buildings from further flooding. Photos courtesy Dan McCain

### CENTER'S FACADE EXPLAINED

As visitors toured the Wabash & Erie Canal Conference & Interpretive Center they were given an excellent four-page architect's description of the new Center's facade, which depicts Delphi buildings built during the canal era (1830-1850). When facing the front of the Center, it starts at the north end near the furniture company and proceeds around the building, along the side facing the canal, and across the back.

The first building on this corner is modeled after the Pigman Building, which sat on the southeast corner of Main and Washington Sts., where the present flower shop and Oddfellows Lodge is now located. At its site, in the very early days of the community, the first frame house was constructed. Pigman's building replaced it. It became a locally famous landmark called "the old brick block." If you needed to get somewhere in Delphi, you were often directed in reference to this building. It was erected by George W. Pigman, who was born in Ohio in 1811 and settled in Delphi in 1836. Therefore, this building was probably built in the very late 1830s or early 1840s. It was a large and imposing structure, probably the largest brick

building erected in Delphi in those early years. It had a kind of rough beauty in its plainness, simplicity, and imposing style — like early civilization built into the wilderness, striving for high aspirations. It characterizes those early years of work and striving. Different businesses occupied the rooms at different times, but Pigman occupied the right side of the building for his mercantile business in which he was engaged all of his life. He was active in public affairs, was elected auditor in 1841-1851, was county commissioner in 1869, then Delphi City Clerk, and in 1878, Carroll County Clerk. He died in that office on August 16, 1882. During that term of office, his building was demolished and replaced with the French Second Empire Oddfellows Lodge Building, which presently occupies that location. He was

Drawing courtesy of MSKTD & Associates, LLC



Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center  
Delphi, Indiana



also a Whig by politics, then a Republican, and belonged to the Methodist Church and the Oddfellows Lodge.

The business room to the left of the prominent firewall, was occupied by Henderson Dunkle, and across the top of this room was a sign "H. DUNKLE" "Books and Stationary." Dunkle was born in 1826 in Pennsylvania and came to Delphi in 1837 with an older brother, William. He was a printer and mastered the compositor's craft. He was also a Whig, later a Republican. He was publisher of "The Carroll Express," a Whig newspaper in Delphi from 1844-1848. It may have been printed in this building since he also dealt in paper goods here. In 1851-1852, he was a compositor for Applegate and Graham of the "Delphi Times." He was also clerk of Dunkle and Kilgore Hardware Store and was elected county treasurer in 1871 and 1873, then on to county auditor in 1878. Dunkle married the first white female child born in Delphi, Mary Dewey, the daughter of Aaron Dewey, who taught the first school in Delphi, and built the first brick house in Delphi. Like Pigman, he was also a member of the Oddfellows Lodge. That helps explain how the successor building on this site was the Oddfellows Lodge.

The model used for the next structure was the Bolles Building. It was originally built by William Bolles and James H. Stewart in 1850. Bolles, a prominent businessman, operated the mercantile house of Bolles and

Colton. They built a warehouse on the south side of the canal, just west of the Washington Street Bridge.

The model for this building still stands on the east side of the Court House square on Washington St. It is now occupied by the Antique Mall and the building just north of it. It was originally two buildings — the building by the alley, with three windows abreast, and the building south of it, with five windows abreast. You can see by looking at the early pictures of that side of the square, that some latitude was taken in the design, because there are only six windows abreast on the interpretive center representation.

This is the oldest building on the Court House square. Starting in the 1850s, more and more business buildings were being constructed of brick. In the early days, Delphi experienced several fires (1839, 1844 and 1850), which burned down much of the town. Shortly after this building was built, there was a huge fire, which broke out on Thursday, October 10, 1850 in the M'Cannell & Ruffing shoe-shop. It destroyed the businesses on the northeast corner of the intersection of Washington and Main Sts. for a loss of \$16,660. But, this newly built building contained the fire. Otherwise, half the town would have burned to the ground. That corner was known for some time as "the burned out block," until the Case brothers built the current building in the mid-1850s.

Of course, several buildings occupied this business block at various times. The north end of the building was called Bolles Hall. He did business there. It was also used as an entertainment hall, as several of the buildings in town were. There was a new year's celebration there in 1855 attended by many of the older settlers, who began to feel the importance of organizing an Old Settlers' Association. Things had changed so much and passed them by that they felt the need to organize a society to remember the early pioneer community. In August of 1855 "Old Settlers" began and continues to this day.

The middle part of the building housed the William Bradshaw Jewelry store. For many years, he had a large sign in the form of a pocket watch hanging out from above the first floor to identify his business. Another pocket watch sign hung flat against the building between the third floor windows.

William Bradshaw was instrumental in developing this community. He eventually bought the Dunkle and Kilgore machine shop and started the Delphi Body Works. It is the oldest continuous industry in the State of Indiana and is owned by William Bradshaw's great grandson. It is still in business today on South Washington St.

In the building to the right, there was the Bolles and Gasaway business — later the Federated Stores, Ben Franklin dime store, and the current Antique Mall. Bolles was involved

with Gasaway and Colton, and Pigman and Dunkle did business individually, and as part of partnerships, many times. (In the early years of the community, the object of life was working, producing, doing business, providing goods and services, building a business and estate, and helping the community. It wasn't unusual to find one person involved in different businesses in different ways throughout his entire life.)

The next two buildings sat together on the north end of the east side of the Court House square, down the street from the Bolles Building and the "old brick block." The structure on the right represents the "Northwestern Hall," a grocery and liquor store, run by Joseph Assion. It was a hangout for the Democratic Party, which was dominant here from the time of the Jacksonian Democracy. It was a frame, two-story building, quite typical of the frame structures that occupied much of Delphi's business district in the years after the first settlement. Many frame structures were replaced by brick buildings, which were more fire resistant, and because of canal prosperity from the 1850s onward. This building was demolished in 1864 by Joseph Assion. Assion, together with John Ruffing, then built the "City Hall," a community center where dances, veterans meetings, meetings for special occasions, concerts, plays, etc. were held on the same site. That building still stands and, as part of Delphi's permanent historical infrastructure, is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is owned by the Delphi Preservation Society, which hopes to reclaim the third floor Opera House, which was installed in 1882 by John P. Lathrope in place of the "City Hall."

The corner building had as its model the Buford House, which was an important building housing a hotel, tavern and stagecoach depot. It was built by Major William H. Buford, who arrived in Delphi in 1832, painted the first house in Delphi, mustered the first company, was the second cabinet maker, and, for his first 12 months here, shook with the "ague" all the time. Buford was known as the best landlord on the upper Wabash. He built the Buford House in the 1830s and, in 1848, built another hotel across the street to the north, which became known as the Knight House, because he felt too circumscribed.

He did business in the Buford House until it burned in 1869. There are two stories connected to this event. One holds that some drunks poured kerosene on a rat, set it on fire and it ran into a hole setting the hotel on fire, burning it to the ground. But, at the same time, there was also a suspected arsonist in Delphi. Previously the livery stable behind the Buford House burned and other fires occurred at the time. This brought emphasis of the need to organize a fire department and have a night

watch to prevent such things. In 1870, the three-story brick Ruffing Building, was built by Assion's partner in the City Hall enterprise, John Ruffing. Today, that building stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of Washington and Franklin Sts.

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As we turn the corner, there are two more modest buildings (one frame, one brick) whose models were found on east Main St. They occupied the area on the north side of the street between the Case Building and the alley. They're quite typical of the simple, but individualistic style of building in the early community. They are uniquely designed by the individuals who sponsored them. Notice they are brick or frame; have one, two or three stories; have three, five, six or seven windows abreast; have lintels and sills; some have false facades; and some have gables.

The first building had a bakery in the first business room. A sign hung perpendicular to the building from the second story to a pole on the sidewalk. This was the bakery of Capt. John P. Lathrope. He was born on October 27, 1841 at Penzance, Cornwall, England, an only child, and came to America in 1851, eventually settling east of Delphi. He served in the Civil War as the leader of the 9th Indiana Volunteers Regimental Band. Lathrope was known as the most expert cornetist in the United States. He as a band leader and music teacher. He was the cornet teacher of Walter P. Rogers, who played in the John Philip Sousa's band and became the world's greatest cornet player. He grew up in the Case House, which was relocated to the Canal Park in 1987. His recordings are still available on CD

Lathrope was a many-talented man. Apart from musical pursuits, he was engaged in business in Delphi. He ran the bakery, after which this building is modeled, a clothing store on Washington St. where the Opera house is located, a restaurant, and later a confection shop. He remodeled the "City Hall" on the third floor of his building into the Lathrope and Ruffin Opera House in 1882. It served with two other opera houses as entertainment centers until they were subsumed by motion pictures early in the twentieth century.

The other part of the building contained the Dixon and Callahan boot and shoe making business. They had a sign over the entrance to that effect: "Dixon and Callahan," "Boot and Shoe Makers." Over the other door, was a sign simply saying "Shoe Store," while above the second window on the second floor, was a sign saying "Cash for Hides."

The model for the brick two-story building next door was the business of "J. H. Stewart." This was a drug store. He had a sign over the sidewalk attached to the building and a pole on the sidewalk, saying "Drugs &

Medicines," "Wholesale & Retail." Above the door and the bay windows was a sign simply saying "J.H. Stewart." James Hervey Stewart was a man of considerable local fame. Born in 1809 in Kentucky, he came to Delphi on his 21st birthday, March 27, 1830. He was elected county clerk in 1834 and held that office for a quarter century while also practicing law.

He was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and belonged to the Oddfellows Lodge. He also published **Recollections of the Early Settlement of Carroll County, Indiana** in 1872, which was the first published history of Carroll County and gives an account of the first Old Settlers' meeting, has accounts of the fire and other events, has rosters of the city and county officers, has histories of the churches and has biographies of settlers.

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As we turn the corner toward the back of the building, we can see two other facades whose design was based on actual models from the early days of Delphi. This is a more utilitarian part of the building with service entrances to the Center. The two buildings used a models were also utilitarian buildings from Delphi's past — the near building was a blacksmith shop, and the larger facade was a livery stable. The signage hasn't been painted on the Center yet, but it will be in due course. The blacksmith shop was that of Harry Baum, practical horseshoer. He did business from a shop on the northeast corner of the intersection of Union and Main Sts., currently occupied by Main Street Marathon. Harry Baum was a man of prominence in the community and a member of the school board in the early 20th century.

The livery stable was modeled after the Swatt's livery stable, which sat on the northwest corner of the intersection of Franklin and Market Sts. It wasn't the earliest building that rested on the site, but it was probably built at about the time of the Civil War. The door for the horse would have been where the fenced in area is. In those days, the horse was the means of transportation. When you came to town or were traveling through, you needed a place to bed and care for your horse, so there were usually several stables in town such as this. Sometimes they adjoined hotels, so that customers could conveniently care for their horses. The building stood on the corner of Franklin and Market until 1899 when it was demolished and replaced by a brick building, which was used as a livery for horses, then for both horses and automobiles, and variously used later as a Chrysler-Plymouth dealership, Moose Lodge headquarters, and finally, the REMC building.

