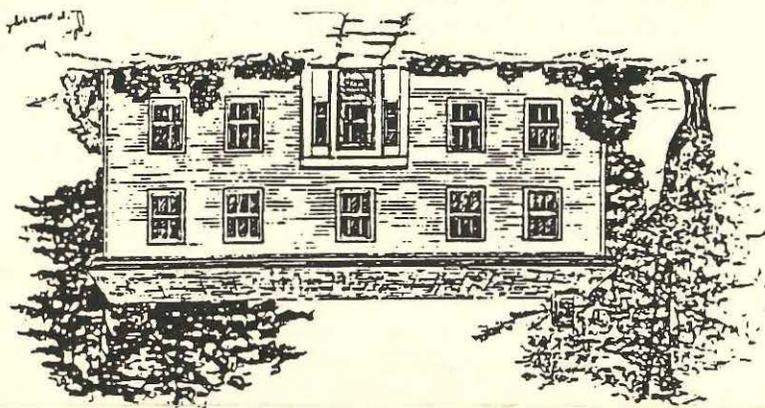


In 2006 the Reed Case House received the covered preservation plaque from the Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation. Upstairs renovation is still in progress.

Reed Case built this house in 1843-44 on Front Street in the young Canal town of Delphi. The original Federal-style frame home consisted of four rooms – two down and two up – and a center hall with a door at each end. Walls were constructed of horsehair plaster. Native poplar was used for woodwork. As he became more prosperous, Reed Case moved his family to the brick house at 312 E. Main Street in 1853. He retained the Front Street house and operated it as an inn for canal travelers and workers for several years. The back parlor and room above it may have been added at this time. In later years, it became a boarding house, and then was divided into several apartments. It was scheduled for demolition, but instead owners Jim and June Davis donated it to Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc. and it was moved to its present location in 1983.



## Reed Case House to the Welcome

### About Reed Case . . .

The Canal Era brought much prosperity to the young City of Delphi, and to the youthful contractor, Reed Case, who was responsible for building the local portion of the Wabash & Erie Canal. A bricklayer in his teen years, he became a leading citizen of this area, with extensive land holdings and business ventures.

Born in 1808, Reed Case started his own construction business at age 16. He helped build the Hendricks County Courthouse (Danville), the National Road, and sections of the Canal in Miami County before securing a contract to build the Canal in Carroll County in 1838. He was then just 30 years old.



*Reed Case*

As soon as he arrived here, he formed a partnership with James Spears. In 1843 Spears and Case built warehouses and a pork packing plant at the foot of Main Street. By 1863 they also had a large pork and beef packing plant east of Delphi. The partners added James Dugan to the firm and operated the only bank in the city, with Reed Case as cashier. He owned land in Carroll, White and Pulaski counties.

Reed's first wife, Mariah Glover, died in 1847. He then married Mariah's sister, Huldah Glover Williams, widow of a doctor. Four children were born to the first marriage, and one to the second. Reed Case died in 1871, but several descendants remained in Carroll County for many years, continuing his example of leadership.

## A Self-Guided Tour

**Entry:** *Sponsored by Jack Wroten.* The entry features impressive hand-painted faux marble and egg-and-dart border design on the walls. This original finish was replicated in 1997 by Terry and Fran Lacy of Delphi. A portion of the original is preserved under the slant of the stairway. The poplar woodwork was originally grained to resemble tiger maple. The stair rail is of native walnut. Original plank flooring was covered with narrow oak flooring in the early 1900s. The paintings are by Delphi artist Roy Trobaugh, and the small mirror is from a collection of Reed Case family belongings.

**Formal Parlor:** *Sponsored by McCain Family.* Formal parlors were furnished with fine pieces and family treasures befitting the prosperity of the family. The Cases were not exorbitantly wealthy when they lived here, but were prosperous. The furnishings here belonged to contemporaries of Reed Case – the McCain, McClure, Harley and Hubbard families. Most pieces date to the 1850s. Parlor woodwork had been removed before the house was moved here. It was replaced with poplar reproductions of the entry woodwork. Originally it was grained like the sample on the back of the original two-panel door. To rebuild the fireplace, bricks were saved and used on the inside portion. The mantel is original to the house. Blacksmith Frank Zakrajsek fashioned the andirons for our fireplaces, using historic patterns. The floor is the original wide planks, covered with carpet resembling typical ingrain carpeting of the early 1800s. Paintings dating from the Canal era and a framed human hair wreath adorn the walls.

**Double Parlors:** *Sponsored by the Gruber Family.* The front room was original to the house in 1844. The back room was added around 1853 on the same kind of huge hand-hewn beams. An example of an upper beam can be seen above the front windows. In the early 1900s woodwork was changed to the dark-stained oak fashionable at that time. Missing pieces were reproduced in 1997 of oak from the Gruber farm near Delphi. Narrow oak flooring added in the early 1900s has been removed to expose the original plank floor. The oak fireplace surround is from a house near Americus, along the Canal. The impressive 1837 cabinet is from the Carroll County Abstract Company, to which the Reed Case family had early ties. An 1872 square grand piano donated by Howard May has been restored to working order. The portraits are of Reed Case (above piano) and the Rev. John Schermerhorn, father-in-law of Reed Case's daughter Josephine. Reed Case bears his mother's maiden name as his given name.

**Kitchen:** *Sponsored by the Hildebrandt Family.* This space was a porch until at least the 1870s. It is furnished in the style of an early 1900s kitchen in memory of Faye Hildebrandt by her children. The Sellers cabinet features a built-in flour sifter and pullout porcelain work surface. The sink features a pitcher pump. The unusual wood stove has the oven above the burners. Terry and Fran Lacy designed the stencil pattern on the wood plank floor, a method often used to bring color to bare floors.

**Master Bedroom:** *Sponsored by Martha Been Justice.* The master bedroom features several items from the Reed Case family. The impressive bed, matching dresser and chest were among items left by Case family descendants in the Case house on Main Street when it was purchased by the Justices. Case family items also include two delicate side chairs, two throw rugs, three-pane mirror with leather cover, Royal Ironstone chamber pot, ladies brown high top shoes, black shawl, tapestry picture, framed Godey print, a portrait and etching. Other furnishings are from the Justice family antique collection. The fancy woodwork was grained in bird's eye and tiger maple and was restored by Terry Lacy, adhering to the original graining patterns. The walnut press originally was for hanging clothing; shelves were added later. Inside it, samples of wallpaper used in the room have been preserved. Pieces of the fireplace were rescued and reconstructed in 1999. The Lacys then applied faux marble graining.

**Grantham Bedroom:** *Sponsored by Dick and Polly Grantham.* This bedroom was added at the same time the porch below was enclosed as a kitchen. It features an iron bed, grandfather's feather tick, oak rocker, a trunk, a commode, a leather valise and Arcadia dresser. On the trunk is a woven wool coverlet, one of several donated by Lewis and Hazel Mullin. Read about the Grantham family and the popular canal-era Mentzner Tavern that sat along the Canal on the Grantham farm.

**Sewing Room:** *Sponsored by Delphi Class of 1958.* This small room features an 1851 Wheeler-Wilson sewing machine (with its original instruction manual), a spinning wheel, a carding wheel and other spinning tools. A braided rag rug covers the painted plank floors. A sample of the original faux graining can be seen on the baseboard in the left-hand corner.