



# ROCA COUNTRY INN

ROCA, NEBRASKA

by Amelia Painter & Angie Roberts  
Photography New Light Photography

Located just 13 miles from the southern edge of Lincoln, Nebraska, Roca and the Roca Country Inn are steeped in local history. From the moment guests step onto the property of the Roca Country Inn they are surrounded by antiques and other reminders of times gone by.

When innkeepers Linda and Phil Cochran began remodeling the historic building, which they purchased in the fall of 1998, they had no idea they'd eventually become innkeepers.

"We started with the idea we were going to make the downstairs into an antique store and we would keep the upstairs as a "get-away" for the two of us; but as we began to see the results of our work, we wanted to share the building and its heritage with others," said Phil. "We had purchased the building as a storage facility, but the more we got to love the building, the more we wanted to do something

with it that we could share with others. In the fall of 1998, we began in earnest to repair and remodel the building. As we were working on it, people from the community would stop to tell us the things they remembered about it, including a lady who stopped one day to explain that her Grandmother had gotten engaged at a dance being held in the upstairs, which at that time was an Odd Fellow's Hall."

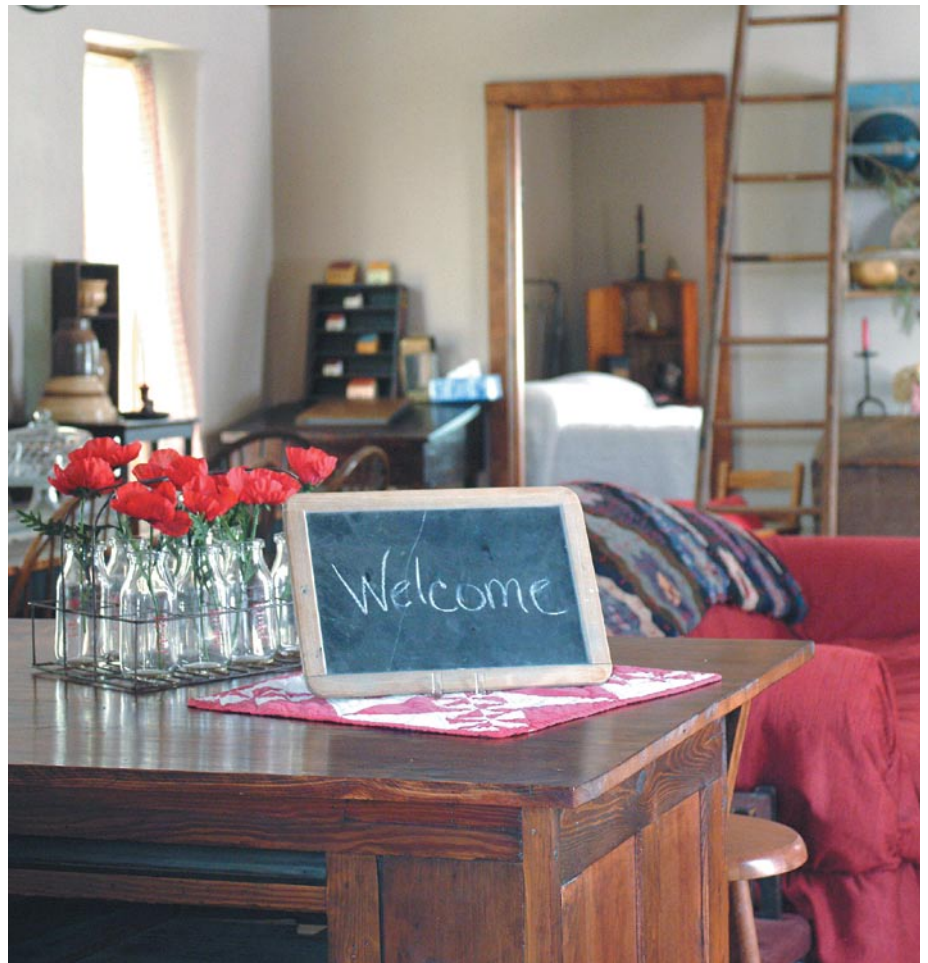
The Cochran's opened the Roca Country Inn Bed and Breakfast in October of 2004 after researching and reading a number of books on the operation of a bed and breakfast inn. "We run the Inn together", says Phil.

The property was originally built in 1879 as a blacksmith shop. The Cochrans have furnished it with early American primitive furniture and accessories to fulfill their desire to recapture the look and feel of the 1880s. Guests can step back into a time when life was simpler.

Phil went on to say that “within about three years after the blacksmith shop was built a man named Tom Musseter bought it and installed a floor (the original floor was clay and sand) and changed the building into a dry goods store. The upstairs was rented to the Odd Fellows society and became the center of community activity, including a place for people to meet and hold community dances.”

In the late 1920s the building was damaged by fire, and the wooden parts of the structure were pretty much destroyed. The test of whether the walls were sound was to try to pull them over with teams of horses; and because the horses could not pull them down, the decision was made to rebuild and workmen replaced all of the structure that had been damaged in the fire. It continued to be a dry goods store until the 1960s, including the time when the Barnhardt family sold groceries, and operated a butcher shop. Details regarding previous ownership of the building are somewhat vague, but the local connection to the building is

*Continued on page 39*







*Continued from page 37*

crystal-clear. It is in the memories of all who live in the community of Roca. Locals stop by weekly to pass along their memories of this landmark.

Sweet Annie's Primitives is located on the first floor. The interesting antique store offers unique gifts, antiques and food catering to its local customers.

You enter the unique Roca Country Inn from the outside stairs. Though consisting of one room, it takes up the entire second floor. It is a true getaway: there is no guest phone available and the surrounding rural community has a population of just 214. But not all modern conveniences are lacking; guests do have a TV with limited reception and a DVD player.

Guests sleep on a double-sized old iron frame bed and are surrounded by American primitive furniture, including a writing desk. There is a full kitchen for guests who wish to prepare their own food. The Inn has a large area that will

accommodate up to 15 for lunch or dinner at the oversized harvest table and is a perfect place for receptions or family reunions. The bathroom features an old-fashioned footed tub (no shower) and a platform pedestal sink. There is a cozy wood-burning stove and a loft for reading or just napping. Prior guests have told Phil and Linda their inn "feels like early American country life."

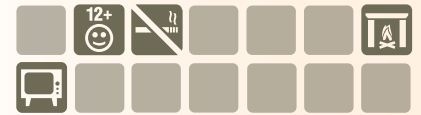
If you schedule your stay at the inn just right, you can leave with some excellent bargains from Sweet Annie's annual spring or fall antique sales. But no matter what time of year you visit, you are sure to leave refreshed and relaxed as well as a great deal more informed about "Nebraska in the Making" and its rich history. [BBA](#)

### Roca Country Inn

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### AMENITIES & POLICIES



The Roca Country Inn possesses early American country life charm.

### AREA ATTRACTIONS

The Roca Country Inn is near the following attractions:

- Roca Berry Farm
- Papa Geno's Herb Farm
- Schwarck Quarries
- Governor's Mansion and State Capitol
- Pioneer's Park Nature Center
- Museum of Nebraska History
- Historic Haymarket
- National Museum of Roller Skating
- Lincoln's Children's Museum
- Folsom Children's Zoo and Botanical Gardens



Roca, Nebraska  
Average Weather Statistics

	AVG HIGH	AVG LOW	AVG PREC
<b>JAN</b>	33°	11°	0.8 in
<b>FEB</b>	38°	16°	0.8 in
<b>MAR</b>	50°	27°	2.4 in
<b>APR</b>	64°	39°	2.9 in
<b>MAY</b>	74°	50°	4.1 in
<b>JUN</b>	85°	60°	3.7 in
<b>JUL</b>	89°	66°	3.7 in
<b>AUG</b>	86°	64°	3.4 in
<b>SEP</b>	78°	53°	3.1 in
<b>OCT</b>	66°	40°	1.9 in
<b>NOV</b>	49°	27°	1.4 in
<b>DEC</b>	36°	16°	0.9 in