



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Benjamin Banneker School” state historical marker will be dedicated in Bloomington, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for February 10, 2008. The state historical marker recognizing the Benjamin Banneker School will be dedicated at the Benjamin Banneker Community Center located at 930 West 7th Street, Bloomington at 3:00 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Benjamin Banneker School”:

African-American students went to “Colored School” on 6th Street, circa 1874-1915, under 1869 law. New elementary school for black students opened here December 7, 1915 with 93 students and 3 teachers. Gymnasium added 1941-1942. Schools integrated under 1949 Indiana law. Segregation at Banneker ended in 1951 despite protests from some citizens. Renamed Fairview Annex, integrated sixth grade classes with Banneker and Fairview students met here 1951-1954, until new integrated Fairview School was completed. By 1955, this building became Westside Community Center. In 1994, after major renovation, it was renamed Benjamin Banneker Community Center to commemorate its history as segregated school.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication ceremony for a state historical marker that commemorates one of Bloomington’s segregated schools. The marker will be installed outside of the Banneker Center as soon as construction on an outside wall is complete.

Historical markers commemorate significant Indiana individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. Via the Internet, that history reaches a worldwide audience. For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state.

For a digital version of this release and further information about this marker, the state Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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