



Indiana Historical Bureau

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News

For Immediate Release
September 27, 2010

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Artist “William Merritt Chase” Commemorated with Indiana State Historical Marker at Nineveh Heritage Festival

Born in Indiana, 1849, William Merritt Chase was an internationally known artist and teacher of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Chase worked in oil, pastel, watercolor and prints, combining diverse influences into a style that became recognized as “American Impressionism.” He founded the Chase School of Art in New York City, which eventually became Parsons The New School of Design, and influenced an entire generation of art students, including Charles Sheeler, Charles Demuth and Georgia O’Keefe.

The Nineveh Heritage Committee is holding a public dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker on Saturday, October 9, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. (EDT) at 7784 S. Georgetown Road in Nineveh, Johnson County. The Nineveh Heritage Festival, “Painting the Town,” will begin with a parade at 10:00 A.M. Indiana artists will join in the celebration and art-themed activities will take place.

The text follows for the state historical marker entitled “William Merritt Chase”:

Prolific artist who helped develop and promote a style internationally recognized as distinctly American. Born 1849 near here; studied art in Indianapolis, New York, and Munich. Returned to New York in 1878; opened lavish Tenth Street Studio where he painted, exhibited and sold works, gave private lessons, and hosted cultural events. Worked in many styles and media including oil, watercolor, and pastels; labeled as an “American Impressionist.” Taught male and female students mainly on East Coast and in Europe; many became important artists. Active in influential art organizations; helped establish Shinnecock Summer School of Art and Chase School of Art. Died 1916.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For more than 95 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 more information about this marker, the Indiana Historical Marker Program, and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-6276. For more information about the dedication ceremony and the Nineveh Heritage Festival, contact Nancy Voris, 317-933-2853.