



## Indiana Historical Bureau

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# NEWS

For Immediate Release

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## John Freeman state historical marker will be dedicated in Indianapolis, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana Freedom Trails, Underground Railroad state historical marker is scheduled for October 29, 2006. The state historical marker honoring John Freeman, located at 1099 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, will be dedicated at 2:00 pm. The ceremony will take place at Landmark Center along Pennsylvania Street between 11th Street and 10th Street.

The text follows for the state marker entitled "John Freeman":

In 1844, John Freeman, a free black, purchased land in Indianapolis. By 1853, he owned land in this area worth \$6,000. In June 1853, a slaveholder claimed Freeman was his runaway slave. Freeman spent nine weeks in jail; he hired lawyers; claim was dismissed. Black citizens held public meeting August 29 at Masonic Hall to congratulate Freeman. Under Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, seizure of free blacks and freedom seekers in the north was common. The Underground Railroad refers to a widespread network of diverse people in the nineteenth century who aided slaves escaping to freedom from the southern U.S.

Everyone is invited to attend this dedication recognizing John Freeman.

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 80 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 more than 470 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 Web site at [www.IN.gov/history](http://www.IN.gov/history) or call 317-232-2537.

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