



## Indiana Historical Bureau

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# NEWS

For Immediate Release

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## **“New Albany Tornado, 1917” state historical marker will be dedicated in New Albany, Indiana**

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for March 23, 2007. The state historical marker commemorating the New Albany Tornado of 1917 will be dedicated at the New Albany Children’s Academy, 1111 Pearl Street, New Albany at 4:00 P.M. The dedication will be held on the 90th anniversary of the storm.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “New Albany Tornado, 1917”:

Tornado struck city at approximately 3:30 p.m. March 23, 1917. Moved through north side of town, affecting roughly ninety blocks. Mayor and others formed Citizens Relief Committee. Next morning Red Cross joined forces with Committee; within hours, workers deployed throughout affected area. Red Cross nurses treated injured at St. Edward Hospital. Tornado killed at least 45 people, injured hundreds more, destroyed approximately 300 homes and buildings, left 2,500 homeless, cost over \$1,000,000 in total damage. At this site, “Olden Street Colored School” collapsed during the storm, trapping teachers and students; there were several deaths. Tornado ranks among deadliest to strike Indiana since 1900.

Everyone is invited to attend this ceremony that commemorates one of the deadliest storms in Indiana history. The efforts of officials and individuals from the town and around the state who offered their assistance in the wake of the tornado’s path deserve recognition.

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

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