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### **The Colored School Historical Marker Dedication**

A public dedication ceremony for the Indiana historical marker honoring The Colored School was held on February 13, 2005, at the Monroe County Historical Society, Sixth and Washington Streets in Bloomington, Monroe County. A large crowd attended the dedication to help celebrate the significance of this school and the honor of receiving a state historical marker. The text on the marker follows:

By 1874, what has been known as the Colored School opened in Center School here at Sixth and Washington Streets to serve African-American elementary students of Bloomington. An 1869 law had mandated education of colored children, with a separate enumeration and separate schools supported with tax revenue within the common school system.

Before 1869, education of African-Americans was generally not within the common school system. The school building on this site was used until 1915, when it was replaced by the Carnegie library. Students attended classes at another site until the new Banneker School opened on the west side December 1915; the school remained segregated until 1951.

Installed 2005 Indiana Historical Bureau and Bloomington Black Business & Professional Association, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Indiana heritage continues to gain attention with the placement of historical markers throughout the state commemorating significant Indiana people, places, and events. The installation of historical markers helps communities present, promote, and preserve their rich history for both citizens and visitors. Via the Internet, that history is reaching a worldwide audience.

For decades the Indiana Historical Bureau has administered the Indiana Historical Marker program. These markers have the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of Indiana at the top. There are over 450 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 <[www.IN.gov/history](http://www.IN.gov/history)> or call 317-232-2535.

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