

Judy Rippel, 317-232-2537
jrippel@statelib.lib.in.us
June 10, 2004

A Gateway to Freedom Historical Marker Dedication

A public dedication ceremony for the Indiana historical marker to commemorate "A Gateway to Freedom" will be held Saturday, June 19, 2004 at 6:30 E.D.T. at the Second Baptist Church, Main and Third Streets, New Albany in Floyd County. Everyone is invited to the dedication to help celebrate the significance of the Underground Railroad in Indiana and the honor of receiving a state historical marker. The text on the marker follows:

As early as 1821, enslaved blacks seeking freedom crossed the Ohio River from Louisville to New Albany. Antebellum and Civil War periods brought more fugitives. Many freedom-seekers were aided by other slaves, free blacks, and anti-slavery whites—all risking violence and arrest. Not everyone who tried to escape succeeded. Many freedom-seekers coming through New Albany achieved their goal, traveling as far north as Canada. 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.

Indiana heritage continues to gain attention by 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 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 at <www.IN.gov/history> or call 317-232-2535.

###