

Indiana Historical Bureau

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News

For Immediate Release

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Union Church Historical Marker Dedication

A public dedication ceremony for the Indiana historical marker to commemorate the Union Church will be held on May 15 at 2:00 p.m. E.S.T. in Osgood, Ripley County. Everyone is invited to the dedication to help celebrate the significance of this church in the Underground Railroad and the honor of receiving a state historical marker. The text on the marker follows:

August 12, 1843 Union Church organized as Freewill Baptist church at home of Harvey Marshall. Church covenant states: "We cannot receive slaveholders into the church nor those who believe that slavery is right." First church building completed 1859 near here. In 1914, members changed denomination and name of church. New church built here 1921.

Strong anti-slavery stance of Freewill Baptist churches contributed to end of slavery and freedom for those enslaved. 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.

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