

INDIANA STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS – FLOYD COUNTY

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22.1966.1: SITE OF CAMP WHITCOMB

SE corner Beharrell Avenue & E. Spring Street, New Albany

Marker Text: Five Indiana regiments were formed at this rendezvous point in 1846 – 1847 for service in the Mexican War. The first 3,000 men departed for active duty under Brigadier General Joseph Lane during July, 1846.

22.1991.1: NEW ALBANY

W. Spring Street at I-64 southbound off-ramp, New Albany

Marker Text: Founded 1813 along Ohio River by Joel, Nathaniel, and Abner Scribner. During 1840s and 1850s, New Albany was largest city and leading commercial and industrial center in Indiana. Industries included shipbuilding; glass and ironworks; hosiery, woolen, and cotton mills; woodworking plants.

22.1992.1: MICHAEL C. KERR HOME

1109 E. Main Street, New Albany

Marker Text: Built 1864 for Kerr (1827 – 1876), an attorney. Served five terms in the United States House of Representatives, 1865 – 1873 and 1875 – 1876. Elected Speaker of the House in 1875, the third Hoosier to serve in that capacity.

22.1992.2: NEW ALBANY

E. Spring Street & Woodrow Avenue, New Albany

Marker Text: Founded 1813 along Ohio River by Joel, Nathaniel, and Abner Scribner. During 1840s and 1850s, New Albany was largest city and leading commercial and industrial center in Indiana. Industries included shipbuilding; glass and ironworks; hosiery, woolen, and cotton mills; woodworking plants.

22.1992.3: CLARK'S GRANT

Indiana University Southeast, 4201 Grant Line Road/SR 111, New Albany just north of I-265

Marker Text: Grant Line Road marks the western boundary of the 150,000 acres of land granted in 1781 by Virginia to General George Rogers Clark and his officers and soldiers who fought to reduce the British presence in Illinois Country during the Revolutionary War.

22.1996.1: STATE BANK OF INDIANA

203 E. Main Street, New Albany

Marker Text: Second state bank was established in 1834 by General Assembly with ten branch banks; one of the most successful banks at the time in U.S. This Greek Revival Style structure, built 1837, housed New Albany branch, serving Floyd, Harrison, Washington, Crawford, and Clark counties until expiration of the bank charter in 1857.

22.1996.2: CULBERTSON MANSION

914 E. Main Street, New Albany

Marker Text: French Second Empire Style structure. Construction began 1867 for William Stewart Culbertson (1814 – 1892), leading industrialist, financier, and philanthropist in New Albany area. Listed in National Register of Historic Places, 1974; accepted as state-owned historic site, 1976; part of Mansion Row Historic District, 1983.

22.1998.1: SCRIBNER HIGH SCHOOL

SW corner of First & Spring Streets at City-County Building, New Albany

Marker Text: In 1880, an 1822 school building on this site became Scribner High School for African-American students, under an 1869 Indiana law mandating public education for African-American children and allowing segregated schools. Modern facility completed and state commissioned 1907. Closed 1952 after 1949 state desegregation law.

22.1999.1: [BUFFALO TRACE ROUTE](#)

2212 State Street, NE corner, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side One: American Bison, migrating in great herds, created a cluster of paths along the natural topography between Illinois prairies and salt licks in Kentucky. These paths, called the Buffalo Trace, used by Native Americans and became premier travel route for early settlers and military. Northern and southern routes existed between New Albany and Vincennes.

Side Two: Northern route became Federal Post Road 1800, scheduled stage coach route 1824, and New Albany-Paoli Turnpike 1836 as part of Internal Improvement Act. Became New Albany and Vincennes State Toll Road 1840, was macadamized, and charged tolls until circa 1915. Became part of state highway system. On November 11, 1926 designated Route 150 of Federal Aid Highway System.

22.2003.1: [CULBERTSON WIDOWS' HOME](#)

704 E. Main Street, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side One: William S. Culbertson, wealthy merchant, opened home November 18, 1873 to provide food, clothing, and shelter for town's destitute widows. Home had gas lighting, upstairs water closet, and up-to-date kitchen. Residents' lives were structured according to strict rules. Culbertson's will provided support for the home after his death in 1892.

Side Two: Board of Trustees for home was formed 1922; it turned the home into a boardinghouse with a monthly fee in 1947. Because of changing city regulations, the Board closed the home 1971. James Baner was builder of the brick Italianate structure, which is included in Mansion Row Historic District, listed in National Register of Historic Places 1983.

22.2004.1: A GATEWAY TO FREEDOM

SE corner of Main & Third Streets, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: 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.

Side two: 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.

22.2004.2: NEW ALBANY DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

NE corner Pearl & Market Streets, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: New Albany lots were advertised for sale 1813. It was designated county seat 1819, incorporated as town 1836, then as city 1839. Area within the district was part of early plat of New Albany. District boundaries are roughly West 1st to East 5th streets and East Spring to East and West Main streets.

Side two: District reflects the historical development and commercial growth of New Albany. It contains a collection of outstanding examples of nineteenth and twentieth century commercial and institutional buildings and a few domestic structures. Listed in National Register of Historic Places 1999.

22.2005.1: DIVISION STREET SCHOOL

1803 Conservative Street, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: Because of the growing number of African-American school-age children, the New Albany School Board authorized a new elementary school for them June 1884. It opened here 1885. An 1869 Indiana law had mandated education of colored children, with separate enumeration and separate schools supported with tax revenue within the common school system.

Side two: Improvements and repairs were made over the years. The still-segregated school closed 1946. Friends of Division Street School was organized 1999 for restoration of the building. Restoration has been a joint project of the Friends and New Albany/Floyd County School Corporation. Building listed in National Register of Historic Places 2002.

22.2005.2: FAIRVIEW CEMETERY

Culbertson Avenue and East Sixth Street, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: New Albany's second city cemetery, Northern Burial Ground, was officially created July 30, 1841 when D. W. and Margaret Wilson sold land to the city. The first burial took place the following day. In 1864 and 1875, the city made additions and improvements, perhaps influenced by a national movement to create a park-like atmosphere in cemeteries.

Side two: In 1890, lot owners paid for construction of the iron entrance gate. Name was changed to Fairview Cemetery and ornamental archway added 1896. Some of earliest vaults date to mid-1800s. Many prominent individuals, including Indiana Governor Ashbel P. Willard, local civic leaders, and victims of an 1844 steamboat disaster are among those buried here.

22.2005.3: [NEW ALBANY'S CARNEGIE LIBRARY](#)

201 East Spring Street, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: New Albany School Board organized a public library on May 8, 1884. This library building, supported with funds from Andrew Carnegie, opened on March 2, 1904 with 11,125 volumes. Building is Neoclassical style, constructed of brick and limestone. Public Library moved to new building 1969.

Side two: Floyd County Museum opened here 1971. Carnegie building included in Downtown Historic District, listed in National Register of Historic Places 1999. One of 1,679 libraries built in U.S. with funds from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Indiana built more Carnegie libraries than any other state.

22.2007.1: [NEW ALBANY TORNADO, 1917](#)

1111 Pearl Street, New Albany (New Albany Children's Academy at the corner of Pearl and Union)

Marker Text:

Side one: 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.

Side two: 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.

22.2007.2: NEW ALBANY AND SALEM RAILROAD (THE MONON)

Corner of Bank Street and Culbertson Avenue, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: Railroad organized 1847, after years of legislation to provide transportation to move goods and people to and from the state's interior. Completed to Michigan City 1854 when last rail was laid in Putnam County. New Albany's economy expanded with the Railroad's presence starting in 1850s.

Side two: Fugitive slaves' use of this Railroad in escapes caused regional controversy in the 1850s. Several changes of ownership and name occurred in the 1800s and 1900s. The name officially was changed to the Monon Railroad 1956. Owners sold the facilities in this area in 1990 to private interests.

22.2007.3: CARDINAL JOSEPH E. RITTER

SW corner of E. 13th and E. Oak Streets, New Albany

Marker Text:

Side one: Born in New Albany 1892. Was ordained 1917 after graduation from St. Meinrad College and Seminary and assigned to his first parish in Indianapolis. He advanced in the church, becoming Bishop of Indianapolis 1934 and first Archbishop of new Archdiocese of Indianapolis 1944. In the 1930s, he championed the rights of African Americans in Indiana.

Side one: He was named Archbishop of St. Louis 1946. In 1947, he desegregated five Catholic St. Louis high schools amid protests. In 1961, he was elevated to Cardinal by Pope John XXIII; only Roman Catholic Cardinal from Indiana. Was an outspoken, progressive participant in all three sessions of Vatican Council II. Died 1967; buried in St. Louis.