



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

For Immediate Release

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“Medora Shale Brick Plant” State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated In Medora, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker is scheduled for May 3, 2008. The state historical marker recognizing the Medora Shale Brick Plant will be dedicated at the State Bank of Medora located at 24 E. Main St., Medora at 1:00 P. M. Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “Medora Shale Brick Plant”:

West Lee Wright laid out Medora 1853. Sample of local shale was made into brick “excellent for building and paving” 1904. Medora Shale Brick Company organized 1904. Construction began by 1910, one mile south of here along Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern Railroad, with six beehive kilns—round structures wrapped with steel bands and squared chimneys. By 1927, ten kilns were at the site. Plant closed 1990s. In 2007, ten kilns remained. Medora was part of a large industry making a variety of clay products for agriculture, street paving, and building construction, which contributed to Indiana’s growth as a leading industrial state. In 1920, Indiana was seventh in U.S. for production of clay products.

Everyone, including former employees and their relatives, are invited to attend this dedication ceremony for a state historical marker that commemorates one of Indiana’s few remaining historic brick plants.

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 90 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’s website at www.IN.gov/history or call 317-232-2537.

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