

Chronology of Historic Crown Hill Cemetery

Year	Date	Event
1863	September 25	The Association of Crown Hill formalized by community leaders as a non-profit, non-denominational, non-sectarian corporation with a board of thirty Corporators.
	October 16	First 236 acres of land are purchased from three local farmers for \$51,000.
	December 12	Purchase of Martin Williams' farm and tree nursery finalized. Included Strawberry Hill, known later as Crown Hill, the city's highest hill and the pioneer's favorite picnic spot.
	December 31	First Superintendent Frederick W. Chislett, a landscape architect, moves his family into a cabin on the south approach to the Crown.
1864	June 1	Crown Hill Cemetery dedicated.
	June 2	Lucy Ann Seaton becomes first burial at Crown Hill, having died at age 33 of "Consumption," or Tuberculosis. The Seaton's were new to the city and her husband John, a Civil War Union Captain, advertised her funeral in the newspaper seeking people to attend, which many did. Their daughter, also named Lucy, was buried alongside her mother just four months later.
	July 30	Main entrance and lodge (on the Michigan Road) is completed.
	October 30	East entrance to the cemetery is opened.
	Fall	First private mausoleum for the Caleb B. Smith family built in Section 5.
	1865	February 19
1866	May 1	Gatehouse at east entrance is completed.
	July 1	A total of 480 burials are recorded with 71 monuments and 85 memorials.
	August 27	U.S. Government established National Cemetery at Crown Hill.
	November	707 Union soldiers reburied in National Cemetery at Crown Hill.
1867	September 9	A residence for the superintendent on the grounds is approved with completion in 1869.
1868	May 30	First Memorial Day is celebrated at the National Cemetery.
1869	June 1	Grounds are expanded to 256 acres.
1870	June 7	The City of Indianapolis semi-centennial celebration held at the Crown Hill picnic grounds.
1872	April 12	Crown Hill Board votes to help finance the replacement of a wooden bridge over Fall Creek with an iron one so that large monuments can be brought to the cemetery.
1875	January 7	Construction of the Gothic Chapel designed by D.A. Bohlen begins and completed by year's end at a cost of \$38,922.25.
1877	November 13	Cemetery donates several lots to various benevolent societies.

1878	April 26	Oliver P. Morton becomes the first of eleven Indiana governors buried at Crown Hill.
1880	January 20	First telephone installed at the cemetery.
1885	November	Gothic Gate and Waiting Station designed by Adolph Scherrer completed in time for funeral procession of Vice President Thomas A. Hendricks (Nov. 30), one of three U.S. Vice Presidents buried at Crown Hill. This gate, located on the east side of the cemetery, becomes the main entrance. The Waiting Station is used as the Administrative Office until March 1970.
1886	April 30	All property south of Maple Road (38 th St.) has been purchased and amounts to 393 acres.
1889	July	A total of 157 acres on the north side of Maple Road is purchased.
1901	March 17	U.S. President Benjamin Harrison, the nation's 23 rd president, is buried at Crown Hill on Section 13
	April	Original main entrance on Michigan Road is razed and replaced by a new west entrance in the southwest corner of the South Grounds.
1911	October 11	Forty acres on the north side of Maple Road is purchased.
1912	February	Reburial of 1,160 pioneers from Greenlawn Cemetery into the Pioneer Cemetery lot on the North Grounds. Only 35 of these pioneers were identified.
	November 7	Autos are permitted entrance to the cemetery.
1914	May	A new superintendent's residence is planned south of the Waiting Station on Boulevard Place.
	June	First sections of Brick and Wrought Iron Fence designed by George Kessler are completed on the north and south sides of 38 th Street. Construction was completed in the late 1930s.
1917	October 17	James Whitcomb Riley becomes the first burial on "The Crown."
1918	April	First automobile is purchased for the cemetery.
	June	U.S. Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks buried. Served under Theodore Roosevelt. Fairbanks, Alaska named after him.
1920s		Service Yard, Barns, and Workshops were constructed by Latham and Walters in the early 1920s.
1925	June	U.S. Vice President Thomas Marshall entombed in a family mausoleum. Served as VP under Woodrow Wilson for two terms from 1913-1921 and coined the phrase, "What this country needs is a good five cent cigar."
	Fall	Construction of the 38 th Street bridge and underpass begins and is completed by the summer of 1927 at a cost of \$170,000.
1931	October 27	1,616 Confederate prisoners of war who died at Camp Morton are reburied from Greenlawn Cemetery.
1933	February 7	Last cemetery horses sold.
1934	July	John H. Dillinger, infamous bank robber, was buried after being killed by the FBI

		outside the Biograph Theater in Chicago.
1935	November 16	First family interment is made in the North Grounds on Section 223
1942	October	Military bivouac or "War Show" consisting of more than 250 pyramidal tents and 2,600 soldiers is erected on the North Grounds to aid recruiting efforts.
1950	June	Last two dwellings (including the superintendent's home) are razed.
1951	January 13	Community Mausoleum (now called the Crown Hill Mausoleum), was dedicated.
1957	April	Entrance north of 38 th Street is opened.
1962		Three Greek Goddess statues were purchased when the Marion County Court House was razed and erected at Crown Hill. These statues were part of twelve which stood on top of the court house since it was built in 1873. They are Themis, the goddess of law and order; Demeter, the goddess of grain and fertility; and Persephone, the daughter of Demeter and who was considered the embodiment of the Earth's fertility at the same time that she was the Queen of the Underworld.
	Spring	Four Garden Crypt buildings constructed east of the Crown Hill Mausoleum from 1962 through 1989.
	Spring	First of Garden Crypts built on North Grounds.
1963	September 25	Celebrate the 100 th Anniversary of the founding of historic Crown Hill Cemetery.
1965	April	Southwest entrance (at 32 nd Street and the old Michigan Road) is closed and removed the following year.
1968	July	Ground broken for the new Administration Building at the 38 th Street entrance. Office moved to this location in March 1970.
1972	May 2	Restored Gothic Chapel is dedicated.
1973	February 28	Crown Hill Cemetery is designated a National Historic Place.
1984	March 23	Crown Hill Heritage Foundation incorporated to preserve cemetery and city heritage.
1987	April	Equatorial Sundial placed in front of Crown Hill Mausoleum.
1988	Spring	Crown Hill Cemetery is recognized as a museum of local and state history.
1990	Fall	Lewis E. Enkema Fountain placed inside the 34 th Street entrance.
1991	May 27	Dedication of the monument in the new military section, (Section 28). Honors are extended to the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.
1992	Fall	Historic brick fence restoration completed.
1993	Spring	Crown Hill Funeral Home dedicated.
	October 3	Rededication of the Confederate Lot (bronze plaques at this site contain the names of those interred here).
1996		The Abbey, a garden mausoleum located east of the Crown Hill Mausoleum, was completed.

1998	January 1	Sommer Family Fountain at Gothic Chapel endowed.
1999	Summer	Rhoads Cemetery, originally established in 1844 on the Westside of Indianapolis and comprised of 46 people from five pioneer families, was relocated to the Pioneer Cemetery and dedicated in October.
2000	October 29	Indiana AIDS Memorial dedicated.
2001		Waiting Station undergoes restoration.
	November 2	Latino burial section on North Grounds dedicated at “Day of the Dead” celebration.
2002	September 14	Heroes of Public Safety Memorial and Section dedicated.
	October 24	Sallie E. Gould Crown Hill Tree Fund established with Central Indiana Community Foundation.
2003	March	“Spring” stained glass window dedicated in the Crown Hill Mausoleum, a gift of Rachel H. Newman.
	September 25	Celebrate the 140 th Anniversary of the founding of historic Crown Hill Cemetery.
2004	January	Dedication of the “Summer” stained glass window in the Crown Hill Mausoleum, a gift of Rachel H. Newman.
	November 11	Field of Valor garden mausoleum and section dedicated.
2005	Spring	Sommer Twins memorial and extensive landscaping dedicated on the southwest corner of the cemetery. Monument erected in honor of Mary and Mildred Sommer who frequently visited the cemetery to admire the trees with their father.
	May	The Gothic Chapel underwent a \$2.5 million restoration and renovation which included the installation of a custom-built Rodgers organ, a gift of Marianne Tobias, and the addition of the vestibule, a gift of the Fortune family. Work was completed early 2006.
		Shepherd’s Way (Section 237) was rededicated as an infant section with bronze and granite statuary and landscaping, a gift of Rachel H. Newman.
	November 11	Eternal Flame at the Field of Valor was lit and dedicated. Eagle Plaza was dedicated. Both gifts of Rachel H. Newman.
2006	June 4	“Hearts Remembered” Memorial dedicated. Monument memorializes 700 children who were Indianapolis orphans and abused children buried in unmarked graves. Memorial was sponsored by the Care for Kids Foundation.
	Fall	Dedication of the “Dogwood and Cardinal” stained glass window in the Crown Hill Mausoleum, a gift of Ada Adair.
2008	June	Wright-Whitesell-Gentry Cemetery, comprised of 33 people, was relocated from the northeast side of Indianapolis to the Pioneer Cemetery and was dedicated on June 11. (The total number of pioneers buried in the Pioneer Cemetery is 1,239.)
	Fall	Cremation Garden with fountain developed at Garden Mausoleums, east of the Crown Hill Mausoleum.