Travels in Time
An Education on Education

The sites included in this itinerary are in some way recognized by programming that filters through the DHPA—the State or National Registers, the Historic Theater Initiative, the Cemetery Registry, the Underground Railroad Initiative, and others. The itinerary are by no means a comprehensive list of sites in Indiana related to each theme.

Borden Institute (Clark County)

The small town in northwestern Clark County (formally named New Providence) is now named Borden in honor of Professor William Wesley Borden, the leading citizen who donated the Borden Institute. The town of New Providence was originally founded in 1817 by Borden’s father, John.

The Borden Institute materialized from the New Providence Normal School which was established on April 2, 1883. The objectives of the normal school were to prepare young men and women for teaching, higher institutions of learning, and life work. In July 1885, the normal school was rededicated as the Borden Institute and upgraded to the status of a college. Classical courses were added to the curriculum too. In 1889, the institute was chartered for the purpose of adding a four year high school curriculum. By the end of the 19th century, the Borden Institute offered normal (teaching) courses, college courses, and high school courses.

The building was ultimately demolished in the mid-1980s after being listed on the National Register in June 1973.

For more information:
A marker commemorating the Borden Institute has been placed at 301 West Street (Borden, IN) by the Indiana Historical Bureau.
Carnegie Hall at Moore’s Hill College (Dearborn County)

Through the efforts of John Collins Moore, a college called the Moores Hill Male and Female Collegiate Institute (later known as Moores Hill College) was founded in Moores Hill, Indiana and opened to students in 1856. John C. Moore was the son of Adam Moore who founded Moores Hill in the 1830s.

The college took on a unique educational role from the day it opened. It was first institution of higher education in Indiana (and one of the earliest in the nation) to admit both men and women for coeducational instruction. Because of fluctuating yearly attendance and consistent financial struggles, the college eventually moved west to form the University of Evansville in 1917.

Carnegie Hall became the main campus building upon completion of its construction in 1907. Following the move of the college to Evansville, Carnegie Hall and the rest of the campus was donated to the local public school system. Carnegie played host to grades one through twelve throughout the 20th century. Today, the structure serves the citizens of Moores Hill as a community center and was listed on the National Register in 1994.

For more information:
http://www.thecarnegiehall.org/
14687 Main Street, Moores Hill, IN 47032

Franklin County Seminary (Franklin County)

The Franklin County Seminary opened in 1831 as part of a mandate in Indiana’s 1816 Constitution for each county to have a seminary. The concept of a publically supported secondary educational system in the United States under a state-wide program was first conceived in Indiana under this county seminary system. The county seminary was to be the second level of public education, with common schools and a state seminary completing the constitutional requirements. The Franklin County Seminary serves as a physical link to this area of secondary educational history. It closed as a
county seminary by mandate of the 1851 Indiana Constitution as emphasis shifted to common schools. The seminary was placed on the National Register in 1974.

Located at:
412 E 5th Street, Brookville, IN 47012

Eleutherian College (Jefferson County)

Eleutherian College was one of the first Indiana schools to admit students without regards to race or gender. Eleutherian was also the first school in Indiana to offer advanced educational opportunities to African-American student. The Classroom and Chapel Building was constructed from 1854-1856 and is one of two surviving buildings associated with the college. A dormitory building also survives near the Chapel building, but is now a private residence.

The construction of the Classroom and Chapel Building was the culmination of local abolitionists’ efforts to visibly denounce slavery and the fruition of Reverend Thomas Craven’s dream to establish an educational institution open to both races. In 1846, the visiting Craven gave a sermon that inspired the abolitionists, who convinced the minister to locate the institution near their town. The Eleutherian Institute opened in 1848 with fifteen students as well as Craven’s son John as an instructor. Named from the Greek word “Eleutheros” (meaning “freedom and equality”), the school embodied its founders’ anti-slavery sentiments. The area around Eleutherian College in Lancaster, IN was also a stop from Madison to Indianapolis along the Underground Railroad.

Eleutherian College continued to operate as a private, coeducational secondary school until the mid-1880s. It was purchased by Lancaster Township in 1888 and utilized as a public school building until 1938. The college has undergone restoration efforts since the 1960s. The structure is now owned by Historic Eleutherian College, Inc. and houses a museum. It was listed on the National Register in 1993, is a National Historic Landmarks, and listed as a Network to Freedom Site by the National Park Service.

For more information:
http://www.eleutheriancollege.org
6927 IN-250, Madison, IN 47250
Franklin College (Johnson County)

Founded in the late 1830s, the Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute transitioned to being the four year liberal arts college known as Franklin College in 1844. Franklin College was the fifth college to be founded in the state of Indiana. According to John F. Cady’s *The Centennial History of Franklin College*, “the curriculum… was adopted accorded with the standards of the best liberal arts colleges of the East. It consisted principally of courses in the classics, mathematics, and science.”

For over fifty years, practically all of the school’s activities took place in three joined halls collectively known as Old Main. The three halls were constructed in 1847, 1855, and 1888. In 1975, both Old Main (pictured) and Franklin College’s Shirk Hall were placed on the National Register.

For more information:
http://franklincollege.edu/
101 Branigin Blvd, Franklin, IN 46131

Madame CJ Walker Building (Marion County)

The Madame CJ Walker Building is important to Indianapolis community for its association with Madame CJ Walker and her successful beauty products firm. Walker was the first black woman to open the field of cosmetology as a new and lucrative industry for black Americans. Her experimentation with hair preparations for black women eventually led to the establishment of a thriving business that included not only the manufacturing of 75 beauty products, but also clubs, training programs, beauty schools, and shops throughout the United States.

The Walker Building itself was constructed in 1927, but the building was planned out before Madame Walker passed in 1919. Beyond serving as an entertainment center (a purpose the
building still holds to this day), the Walker Building also housed the Walker Beauty College which was responsible for training thousands of Walker agents, who in turn had successful and profitable careers. At one point or another, the building housed a pharmacy, restaurant, ballroom, and even a Walker product manufacturing area too. In 1980, the Walker Building was placed on the National Register and is also a National Historic Landmark.

For more information:
http://www.thewalkertheatre.org/
617 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46202

Indiana Dental College (Marion County)

As the last quarter of the 19th century began, the idea of an education for all Americans was becoming a reality. Educated professionals were gaining acceptance, especially in medical fields. Medical and dental colleges sprang up with alarming rapidity; unfortunately, not all were quality educational institutions. The dental field was specifically plagued with diploma mills where, for a flat fee and very few dental courses, one could obtain a diploma and dental tools. To combat this problem, the Indiana State Dental Association met in Indianapolis in June 1879 and proposed to found a quality educational institution for the training of dentists. A board was elected, and the Indiana Dental College was incorporated.

As the school’s academic excellence grew in notoriety, so did the school’s population. The growth of the college in the 1880s necessitated larger, more permanent quarters than the ones the school rented. In 1894, construction began on a building at Delaware Street and Ohio Street, and, by the fall term of the same year, the structure was opened for classes. The 20 years spent in this building were ones of constant growth and continued academic excellence for the college.

By 1914, the school’s growth necessitated a move to property at North and Meridian Streets, and, in 1925, the Indiana Dental College was purchased by Indiana University and operates today as the Indiana University Dental School. The former headquarters at Delaware and Ohio was purchased for office and commercial space in 1914, and that has been its primary function ever since. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, it underwent extensive restoration, and it was listed on the State Register in 1980.

Located at:
131 East Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
DePauw University (Putnam County):

Indiana Asbury University was granted its charter in 1837 and was the first Methodist College to be established in Indiana. Asbury quickly became a leading educational institution in the state. The name of the college was changed to DePauw University in 1884 in honor of noted benefactor Washington Charles DePauw.

Two building on DePauw’s campus reside on the National Register. The East College building was completed in 1882, and it was placed on the National Register in 1975. This allowed for extensive restoration of the building to be done in the early 1980s. The other building, the McKim Observatory, was built in 1884 and has allowed for in depth astronomical research to be performed on DePauw’s campus. It was listed on the National Register in 1978.

For more information:
https://www.depauw.edu/
313 S Locust St, Greencastle, IN 46135

Evansville College (Vanderburgh County)

Conceived in large measure as part of a 1921 campus master plan, the three main features of the historic Evansville College campus are the Administration Hall, the Circle, and the President’s House. They are now situated within the larger campus that has been known as the University of Evansville since 1967. As part of the 1921 plan, the buildings and grounds of the original college are unified by their materials, style of architecture, extensive greenswards and groves, and consistent scale and detailing.

The significance of Evansville College lies in the college’s special meaning as a phenomenon of the Progressive Era. By 1900, Evansville had become an industrial and commercial power in Indiana second only to Indianapolis. With the election of the progressive mayor Benjamin Bosse in 1912, the city’s progressive citizens began pushing for the creation of a four-year liberal arts college to bring higher education and culture to Evansville. In 1917, the Evansville Chamber of
Commerce partnered with the Indiana Conference of the Methodist Church to salvage the struggling Moores Hill College and create Evansville College. After relocation and the use of temporary educational facilities, Administration Hall (now known as Olmsted Hall) was opened in 1922. Evansville College was placed on the National Register in 1983.

For more information:
https://www.evansville.edu/
1800 Lincoln Ave, Evansville, IN 47714

St. Mary’s of the Woods (Vigo County)

In 1840, the Sisters of Providence, a religious order of Catholic nuns, immigrated to the United States from France. The Sisters, led by Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, came from France for the express purpose of establishing schools and orphanages in the Indiana wilderness. Shortly after their arrival, they established the St. Mary’s Institute, known today as St. Mary-of-the-Woods College.

Regarded as the oldest Catholic women’s college in the United States, the first class at St. Mary’s Institute was held on July 4, 1841. The college was granted the first charter for higher education of women from the state of Indiana in 1846, and the academy’s first graduation occurred in 1860. By 1899, enrollment had continued to climb and the first baccalaureate degree had been earned by Elizabeth (Cooper) Turner of nearby Terre Haute, who had been a student at St. Mary’s Institute for eleven years.

The small, Catholic-based college grew in its academic importance as an institution of higher learning during the 1910s-1960s as St. Mary-of-the-Woods was one of several religious educational institutions developed for dual purposes of higher education in a religious setting and context. This growing importance led to growing enrollment, creating a demand for new facilities. This led to a building campaign to create structures like the Conservatory of Music, Guerin Hall, and the massive dormitory known as Le Fer Hall in the 1910s and 1920s.

The campus and its surrounding historic district was placed on the National Register in 2017.

For more information:
https://www.smwc.edu/
3301 St Marys Rd, West Terre Haute, IN 47885
Manchester College (Wabash County):

The college was originally founded by the United Brethren Church in 1860. The college was first known as the Roanoke Classical Seminary and was located in the small village of Roanoke in Huntington County, Indiana (about 20 miles east of North Manchester). The institution achieved a high reputation in northern Indiana; Roanoke was referred to as the “Athens of Indiana” due to the influence of the seminary.

By 1889, the institution sought a different location for their campus. Professor D. N. Howe, representing RCS, came to North Manchester to preach at a United Brethren Church that same year. Howe felt that the town would be suitable for the growing seminary and proposed at a public meeting during his visit that RCS would relocate to North Manchester if $8,000 could be donated to begin construction. Citizens enthusiastically agreed to the proposal during the meeting and beat out bids from competing towns like Huntington and Columbia City. The seminary became Manchester College in 1889 with Professor Howe as president. Baumgardner Hall (now part of the current campus’ Administration Building) was the first building on the campus.

For more information:
https://www.manchester.edu/
604 E College Avenue, North Manchester, IN 46962
Earlham College Observatory (Wayne County)

Founded by Quakers in 1847, Earlham College is a private institution in Richmond, Indiana. In 1856, the college purchased a 6.5 inch objective lens telescope from R. B. Rutherford, an American pioneer in astronomy. Five years later, the Earlham College Observatory was constructed and opened for use to house the telescope. It has been maintained in nearly original function by the Science Department of Earlham College ever since. The observatory was placed on the National Register in 1975.

For more information:  
https://earlham.edu/  
Earlham Drive, Richmond, IN 47374

St. Joseph Indian Normal School (Jasper County)

The St. Joseph Indian Normal School operated from 1888-1896, and was owned by the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions in Washington, D.C. It was designed in imitation of the Carlisle Indian assimilation school in Pennsylvania, which was founded nine years earlier. The St. Joseph school was a “contract” school supported by an annual federal per pupil subsidy to promote Indiana education, making it a relic of an era of state-church partnership now largely forgotten. It was one of two such Indian schools in the state of Indiana (with the other being located in Wabash, IN).

Although the building served as the Indian School for only eight years, it did not experience change or alterations until 1937, when it was re-modeled to serve as a residence hall for students at St. Joseph’s College. The exterior of the building remains largely the same, while the interior was thoroughly renovated to accommodate the living quarters of college students. The building is now known on the college’s campus as Drexel Hall. The St. Joseph Indian Normal School was added to the National Register in 1973.
For more information:
http://www.saintjoe.edu/
1498 S College Avenue, Rensselaer, IN 47978

To learn more about the National Register of Historic Places, preservation, or historic buildings or other program administered by the DNR-DHPA, visit us at www.in.gov/dnr/historic