



# GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

The Grant County Historical Society  
is not scheduling a Society tour  
during July 2015 -  
you are encouraged to attend the full-day  
Samuel Plato symposium and tour  
sponsored by Indiana Landmarks  
at the Hostess House on July 25.



Samuel Plato was born in 1882 and arrived in Marion at the height of the Gas Boom in 1902. Plato, an African American, was given an assignment to construct a school in Weaver, a prosperous African-American community located a few miles south of Marion. From there, his reputation as a talented architect and meticulous carpenter grew.

In 1912 when J. Wood Wilson, a wealthy banker, commissioned a home to be built as a wedding present for his bride, only the best would do, and the architect of choice in Marion at the time was Samuel Plato. The result was our community's beautiful Hostess House.

The buildings Plato designed are historically valuable because of their amazing craftsmanship, unique variety of styles, as well as their classic age-defying design. Eight Platonian structures including the Hostess House are on the National Register of Historic Places.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE:  
SAMUEL PLATO'S WORK  
IN MARION**  
Saturday, July 25, 2015

Sponsored by Indiana Landmarks'  
African American Landmarks Committee

Lectures and tours focused on  
African American heritage in Marion  
and the architectural works of Samuel Plato -  
held at the Plato-designed  
Wilson-Vaughan Hostess House.

Full-day symposium 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fee for the day including lunch:  
Indiana Landmarks Members: \$25.00  
General Public: \$40.00

For information & reservations, call:  
Chris Della Rocco at Indiana Landmarks  
1-800-450-4534  
or [click here to register online.](#)



**Wilson-Vaughan Hostess House**  
723 West 4th Street  
Marion, Indiana