

The Gothic Chapel at Crown Hill Cemetery

Special Event & Wedding Rental Information



Originally named the Gothic Vault, this limestone structure was designed by D.A. Bohlen and constructed by Peter Routiers in 1875 at a cost of \$38,922. It served as a temporary place of entombment in the event of delayed burial and an alternate venue for funeral services in poor weather. The Vault held the body of Hoosier Poet James Whitcomb Riley for over a year after his death in July 1916 until his burial on the summit of the Crown in October 1917. The chapel has undergone two major restorations, in 1971 and 2006, with the latter costing over two million dollars.

Included in the 2006 restoration was the installation of a custom-built organ designed by Classic Organs of Indiana and built by Rodgers Instruments of Oregon. The organ combines the sounds of 183 pipes and 2,545 digital pipes to create an instrument capable of both soft and grand music.

Another added feature in 2006 is the beautiful vestibule which expands the seating capacity from 65 in the main chapel to 90 or more.

The Gothic Chapel hosts public and private events including concerts, recitals, dinners, weddings, lectures, tours, memorial services, and funerals.

Gothic Chapel Rental Rates for Special Events and Weddings:

- **Rental Rates:** \$200 per hour with a minimum rental of 2 hours. The rental time includes all set-up and clean-up. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required upon signing of rental contract.
- **Special Halloween (October 31) Rate:** \$400 per hour with a minimum rental of 2 hours.

Included in the Rental of the Gothic Chapel:

- Use of our beautiful chapel, built in 1875 and newly restored in 2006.
- Sound system for music. Rental party must supply their own music CD.
- Podium and microphone.
- Kitchen sink and a small counter surface for serving food. Please note that caterers must be "self-contained;" there are no food prep or food storage facilities.
- Crown Hill Security at the 34th St. Gate for events held outside of Crown Hill's normal gate hours. (October - March, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; April - September, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
- Crown Hill Attendant present in the chapel during the event.
- Seating in the main chapel for 65 and seating in the vestibule for 20-25, plus bench seating. Overflow seating in the side room for 20.
- Use of seven 60" round tables - will seat 8 to 10. (Rental party must provide all linens.)
- Use of 100 chairs, four 6 ft. tables and two 8 ft. tables.

Rental Restrictions:

- Pipe organ may only be played by an organist from Crown Hill's list of approved musicians. A list and their fees will be provided upon request. Rental party must make arrangements for an organist on their own. If needed and if scheduled in advance, the organist may practice in the Gothic Chapel without an additional facility rental fee.
- No candles will be allowed with the exception of a "Unity Candle" for weddings (if on a table), and candles used in table centerpieces.
- Nothing may be attached to the walls by any means.
- Alcohol consumption is limited to wine and must be served in accordance with the law.
- For weddings - the use of a aisle runner is prohibited for safety reasons (the marble floor is too slick).



Special Event and Wedding Rental Contacts

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For Funeral & Memorial Service information, please contact the Crown Hill Funeral Home at (317) 925-3800 or info@crownhill.org.