

The Gothic Chapel at Crown Hill Cemetery

Wedding Ceremony 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 Days, Times, & Rates for Wedding Services:

- **Rental Days/Times:** the Gothic Chapel is **only** available for rent for wedding ceremonies on Saturdays from 5:00 - 8:00 pm, and on Sundays during the hours of 11:00 am - 7:00 pm.
- **Dates Unavailable:** the Gothic Chapel is unavailable on all major holidays, as well as Halloween, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and all October weekends except the first one.
- **Rental Rates:** \$1,000 min. for 3 hrs. (Additional hours, or portions thereof, are \$500 per hr.) The rental time includes a rehearsal and all set-up and tear-down. Also included in the rental fee is the use of the Waiting Station 2 hrs. prior to the ceremony for the Bridal Party (if desired.) A 50% non-refundable deposit is required with the signed contract. Remaining fees and a \$250 refundable Security Deposit is required 10 days before the wedding date.

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.
- Crown Hill Attendant 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 100 chairs and several six or eight foot tables. Rental party must provide table linens.

Rental Restrictions:

- Pipe organ may only be played by an organist from Crown Hill's list of approved musicians. Rental party must make arrangements with and pay 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).
- Nothing may be attached to the walls by any means.
- The use of an aisle runner is prohibited for safety reasons (the marble floor is too slick).
- No food, drinks, or alcohol may be served.



Wedding Rental Contact

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