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Push on for Ritter Museum in New Albany

By Daniel Suddeath

The Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter Birthplace Foundation has hired an expert to consult the group on developing a conceptual plan for a museum at the New Albany site along East Oak Street.

Troy McCormick of Natural Concepts has been hired to form a conceptual plan, as the foundation has set a goal of funding and completing the museum by New Albany's Bicentennial in 2013.

It's referred to as the "bricks-and-mortar project," and is considered the third and final phase of the restoration of the birthplace of Cardinal Ritter. The foundation is seeking to raise \$60,000 to complete the final phase, which features the addition of a museum.

The museum would chronicle Cardinal Ritter's life including his time in Indianapolis and St. Louis where he championed efforts to desegregate parochial schools in both dioceses.

The final phase also calls for a brick-enclosed rose garden to honor Cardinal Ritter's favorite flower.

The Cardinal Ritter birthplace has been restored in part through the \$6.7 million Neighborhood Stabilization Program in the area, and houses Louisville's Home of the Innocents as its primary tenant.

To donate, send checks to the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation, P.O. Box 831, New Albany, IN, 47151.