



The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards Program

Each year many individuals, organizations and local governments make significant contributions to the preservation of Kentucky's heritage. Whether it is through the restoration of an important structure or a lifetime commitment to encouraging and promoting historic preservation in the Commonwealth, these people all demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the value of preserving and reusing Kentucky's historic and prehistoric resources.

In 1979, the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation was chartered in honor of **Ida Lee Willis**, the first state historic preservation officer and director of the Kentucky Heritage Commission (today the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office), with the purpose of creating an annual awards program to honor those who have made significant contributions to historic preservation in the Commonwealth. Since its inception, the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation has recognized and given awards to individuals, organizations and projects across the Commonwealth.

Nominations for the awards are invited from the public and are reviewed by a panel of judges representing various historic preservation organizations at the state level and members of the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation. The awards are presented at an annual ceremony each May – which is National Historic Preservation Month.

The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award for Excellence in the Preservation of Cultural Resources in Kentucky

In recognition of Mrs. Willis' lifetime commitment to historic preservation, the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award for Excellence is presented to the individual who has demonstrated great dedication to the cause of historic preservation. Criteria for evaluating nominees include:

- Significance of the project(s) the nominee has been involved in,
- Length of service, and
- Overall contribution to the understanding and development of historic preservation efforts and programs through superlative leadership.

Preservation Project Awards

Preservation Project Awards are given to recognize outstanding examples of the restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings, or to other types of projects that have made a significant impact on Kentucky's built environment. Nominations should include photographs of the project.

Criteria for evaluating nominees include:

- Historic significance of the buildings
- Use of innovative restoration techniques
- Impact on the community
- Ability of the project to serve as an example for other historic preservation efforts

Service to Preservation Awards

Service to Preservation Awards were created to recognize organizations, individuals, public officials, financial institutions, news media and/or volunteers whose contributions have had a positive effect on the preservation of Kentucky's historic resources. Criteria for evaluating nominees include:

- Impact on the community,
- Development of innovative and model preservation programs
- A strong commitment to historic preservation in Kentucky