

2011 NOMINATION FORM

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Historic Preservation Awards Program

NOMINATIONS must be postmarked or received in the Kentucky Heritage Council office by Monday, April 11. Entries may also be submitted via email to kyheritage@ky.gov or by fax at 502-564-5820. For each entry, submit a completed nomination form, narrative description and supporting documentation to:

Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office

300 Washington Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

ATTN: Ida Lee Willis Awards

1. Nominee

Name Jack Eckler

Title / Organization Grant County Historical Society and Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force

Address 706 Cynthiana Street

City Williamstown State Kentucky Zip 41097

Phone 850 240-8998 859 824-6765 Email nancjack@fuse.net

2. Award

(check one)

Memorial Award

Preservation Project Award

Service to Preservation Award

3. Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project(s) the nominee has accomplished. Relate this description to the criteria for the appropriate award.

The Dry Ridge Consolidated School is the most recent historical treasure moved to the heritage section of Grant County Park. A joint restoration project of The Grant County Historical Society and The Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force, this one-room Rosenwald school provided from 1923 until desegregation the only opportunity in the region for black boys and girls to receive an early education. Indeed, many Kentucky African American children and youth were educated in schools constructed with funding assistance from the Rosenwald Foundation. With the restoration of the Dry Ridge school, an exceptional piece of the history of education in Kentucky has been preserved for today's generation and for generations to come. The restored school is a community asset because it will be used as a cultural and educational center for school tours, adult meetings and an all around center where docents will tell the story of the importance of Rosenwald schools in Kentucky and in other states where they were constructed with partial funds from the Rosenwald Foundation.

Many people, organizations, corporate sponsors and public funding are responsible for saving this irreplaceable building, but no individual contributed more to the success of this project than Jack Eckler, and it is a privilege for me, as project director, to nominate him for the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Project Award. Jack was responsible for hiring and overseeing the work of craftsmen, selecting vendors as well as ordering materials, supplies and equipment. Beyond a superb job of managing this project, consistent with the standards of the

National Trust for Historic Preservation, he made a generous financial contribution to the project and found time to build the handicap ramp to the building himself. The restored school was dedicated last year, about five years after the sponsoring organizations undertook the project, and we graciously acknowledged the role Jack played so faithfully and so expertly in helping to make this event possible. Our sincere thanks and the thanks and appreciation of the Grant County community we gladly give to Jack. It is with great pleasure, then, that I nominate him for the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Project Award.

4. Supporting Documentation

Attach or enclose any photographs, articles, publications or letters of support for the nominee that would assist in the determining the impact of his/her contribution. Before and after photographs should be included for a Preservation Project Award. When submitting by mail, materials may also be submitted on a CD/DVD attached to the nomination form. When submitting via email, please submit all files in one email in PDF format; do not send multiple files. For questions, contact Diane Comer at 502-564-7005, ext. 120, or diane.comer@ky.gov.

5. Submitter of Nomination

Name Charles B. Nuckolls, Jr.

Title /Organization Project Director, Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force

Address 1237 Paddock Hills Avenue

City Cincinnati State Ohio Zip 45229-1219 Phone 513-242-4521 Email cbnuckolls@aol.com

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Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office

300 Washington Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

ATTN: Ida Lee Willis Awards

1. Nominee

Name: Jack Eckler

Title / Organization: Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School (Rosenwald School Project)

Address: Grant County Park in Crittenden, Kentucky

City: Crittenden State: Kentucky Zip 41035

Phone 859 (428-2500 Email judgeexec@grantco.org

2. Award

(check one)

Memorial Award X Preservation Project Award Service to Preservation Award

3. Description

Include a brief narrative description of the project(s) the nominee has accomplished. Relate this description to the criteria for the appropriate award.

Mr. Jack Eckler volunteered to take oversight of moving this Rosenwald School from the original location in Dry Ridge, Kentucky to the location of the Grant County Park at Crittenden, Kentucky. Mr. Eckler supervised all aspects of the project including new siding, window replacement, stabilization beams, new flooring, interior and exterior paint and ADA improvements. Mr. Eckler gave many hours to this project and as a result this building that was in a deplorable condition has been restored and is a genuine reflection of our Northern Kentucky African American Heritage. Mr. Eckler personally did much of the carpentry work himself and it was clearly a labor of love on his part.

4. Supporting Documentation

Attach or enclose any photographs, articles, publications or letters of support for the nominee that would assist in the determining the impact of his/her contribution. Before and after photographs should be included for a Preservation Project Award. When submitting by mail, materials may also be submitted on a CD/DVD attached to the nomination form. When submitting via email, please submit all files in one email in PDF format; do not send multiple files. For questions, contact Diane Comer at 502-564-7005, ext. 120, or diane.comer@ky.gov.

5. Submitter of Nomination

Name: Darrell L. Link

Title / Organization: Grant County Judge Executive

Address 101 North Main Street

City Williamstown State Ky. Zip 40135

Phone 895 823-7561 Email judgeexec.@grantco.org



TABATHA CLEMONS
GRANT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR
101 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 10 WILLIAMSTOWN, KY 41097
P: 859.428.4500 F: 859.428.4567 EMAIL: TCLEMONS@GRANTCO.ORG

GRANT COUNTY JUDGE EXECUTIVE DARRELL L. LINK

MAGISTRATES: RICHARD AUSTIN 1ST DISTRICT * BRIAN LINDER 2ND DISTRICT * BOBBY YOUNG 3RD DISTRICT

Monday, April 11, 2011

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Attn: Ida Lee Willis Awards

Dear Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office,

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate Mr. Jack Eckler for the Preservation Project Award. Mr. Eckler is most deserving of the project award for his dedication to the Rosenwald School Restoration Project. Without his oversight, hard work, and knowledge our county would not have been able to preserve this historical building.

The project began with the building needing to be relocated from a local family farm to a public site. Grant County Park was chosen as the new home to the Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School, a Rosenwald School. Mr. Eckler was essential in making sure the building was secure during the move including making sure the public who traveled on US 25 the evening of the move was safe as well. Then, he immediately started securing the building on the foundation and checked for proper alignment.

As the Director of Grant County Park it was a joy to get to know Mr. Eckler throughout this project. He truly cared about the quality of work put into the project which was evident by the fact that Mr. Eckler was on site everyday someone was working, and he did much of the work himself. He also submitted the project to a youth ministry, Kentucky Changers. The Kentucky Changers painted the outside of the building on hot summer days. There was always progress being made due to Mr. Eckler's work ethic and desire for this building to be preserved.

Mr. Eckler served as a volunteer throughout the entire project. He wanted to ensure the building met ADA standards and constructed an ADA ramp to the front door of the building. Not only did Mr. Eckler oversee the project but also he became a chief advocate for the project, reporting to boards in our county and region and meeting with myself and Judge Executive Link to guarantee the project's completion.

I ask that you award this prestigious honor to Mr. Jack Eckler as he has made direct impact to a project that now serves a beckon for learning in our community.

Sincerely,

Tabatha L. Clemons

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Grant County News

Rosenwald School to be dedicated Oct. 23

By Bryan Marshall

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 7:00 pm

School soon will be in session again in an one-room schoolhouse formerly used to educate black students in Grant and adjacent counties.



The Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School, located at Grant County Park in Crittenden, has been refurbished and renovated to serve as a teaching tool about the history of Rosenwald schools.

The school will be dedicated during a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23.

For the rest of the story, pick up this week's Grant County News.

Rosenwald School to be dedicated Oct. 23

GRANT County
News Edition
Dated Oct 21st
2010

"It looks tremendous now from where it was. It had a dugout basement under it and the foundation was caving in. It was ready to fall in the hole.

- Jack Eckler
construction manager/volunteer

by Jack Eckler
By Bryan Marshall Staff Writer

School soon will be in session again in an one-room schoolhouse formerly used to educate black students in Grant and adjacent counties.

The Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School, located at Grant County Park in Crittenden, has been refurbished and renovated to serve as a

teaching tool about the history of Rosenwald schools.

The school will be dedicated during a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 23.

"I am so pleased to have a Rosenwald School as part of our parks system in Grant County," said Tabatha Clemons, director of Grant County Parks and Recreation. "It will serve as an additional catalyst for the county to provide resources to our community. The Rosenwald School and the historical African American church in the park have generated

a lot of discussions over the past year. I envision the historical building to be utilized in several ways, but I am most hopeful that our educators will embrace the buildings as educational tools located right here at home."

In 1912, Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington partnered to pilot a rural school building program for blacks in Alabama.

The Rosenwald Fund ultimately provided \$4.7 million in grants, and blacks donated an additional \$4.7 million to build state-of-the-art school

facilities between 1918 and 1932.

Today, these buildings are called "Rosenwald schools."

"It is certainly a symbol an episode in the history of education in Kentucky," said Charles Nuckolls, member of the Northern Kentucky African-American Heritage Task Force, who acquired the school

about five years ago. "It's that episode that we want to help today's generation and generations to come to know how black boys and girls in rural areas in the state went to school."

The Dry Ridge Consolidated Color School was built in 1923 with funds from the Rosenwald

Foundation and served 50 to 60 students over the years.

When the program concluded in 1932, more than 5,300 schools, vocational shops and teachers' homes had been constructed in 15 states across the south and southwest.

More than 100 schools were

built in Kentucky.

Today, no more than 10 to 12 percent of Rosenwald schools are estimated to remain standing, including the only other northern Kentucky school in Mayslick.

The local school operated until the 1960s when schools became integrated.

It was moved a few years ago from private property on Assembly Church Road to Grant County Park restoration could begin headed Eckler, a conmanager from

said he was involved with the project for about four years.

The renovation, which cost about \$75,000, included cleaning debris from the inside, replacing siding on the exterior and bead boards inside, painting and installing windows.

"It looks tremendous now from

where it was," Eckler said. "It had a dugout basement under it and the foundation was caving in. It was ready to fall in the hole. Once it was moved and put on a square foundation, it squared back up. It's almost as good as you can get it."

A grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Lowe's breathed life into the project.

John Boh, a long-time member of the Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force, handled the finances for the project.

Fifteen Rosenwald schools will be saved from permanent disrepair and be transformed through \$1 million in grants.

The Dry Ridge Consolidated Color School received \$49,000 in funds.

"It was just an amazing adventure for me," Nuckolls said. "All of us who over the years wanted to save this school are just extremely elated."

**NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Before

Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School

Crittenden, KY

The Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School was built in 1923. It has been vacant for many years.

The grant funds will be used complete the second phase of the larger restoration project. Projects include new siding, window replacement, stabilization beams, new flooring, interior and exterior paint, and ADA improvements.

Once complete, the site will be used to educate elementary and secondary school students on the history of Rosenwald Schools. It will also provide adult education programs focusing on historic preservation, intercultural relations, and other topics of interest to community members.

The Northern Kentucky African American Heritage Task Force will manage the restoration project.

For more information about the Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School or any of the other Rosenwald School grant recipients, contact [Tracy Hayes](#) in the National Trust for Historic Preservation Southern Office.



Windows and siding will replaced at the Dry Ridge Consolidated Colored School.

1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036-2117 tel: 202.588.6000 800.944.6847 fax: 202.588.6038
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Protecting the Irreplaceable



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Before
Restoration

After
Restoration



Rosenwald School & Rice Chapel

Once used by the African American community in the County. Now restored and sitting proudly in the Grant County Park in Crittenden.









Preservation
Architecture
Services
Team

Bruce E. Goetzman, AIA
187 Greendale Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45220

April 11, 2011
Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Letter of Support for
Mr. Jack Eckler

RECEIVED

APR 13 2011

KY HERITAGE
COUNCIL

As Project Architect of the Rosenwald School project, I am writing this letter as an endorsement of Mr. Jack Eckler for the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award. A retired engineer, Mr. Eckler acted as the Project Coordinator supervising the dismantling, relocation, and restoration of the historical Rosenwald School, a one-room schoolhouse for African American students. The owners of the school wished to remove the school from its original site in Dry Ridge, Kentucky and it was moved to the Grant County fairgrounds in Crittenden, Kentucky. Mr. Eckler oversaw the installation of a new foundation, reinforcement of the floor, and restoration of the exterior and interior once the school was moved to the fairgrounds. Most importantly, Mr. Eckler donated his time and resources and completed all of his work as a volunteer in an exemplary manner for this important restoration project for northern Kentucky.



Bruce E. Goetzman, AIA



212 Westview Lane
Williamstown, KY 41097
April 8, 2011

Dear Mr. Comer:

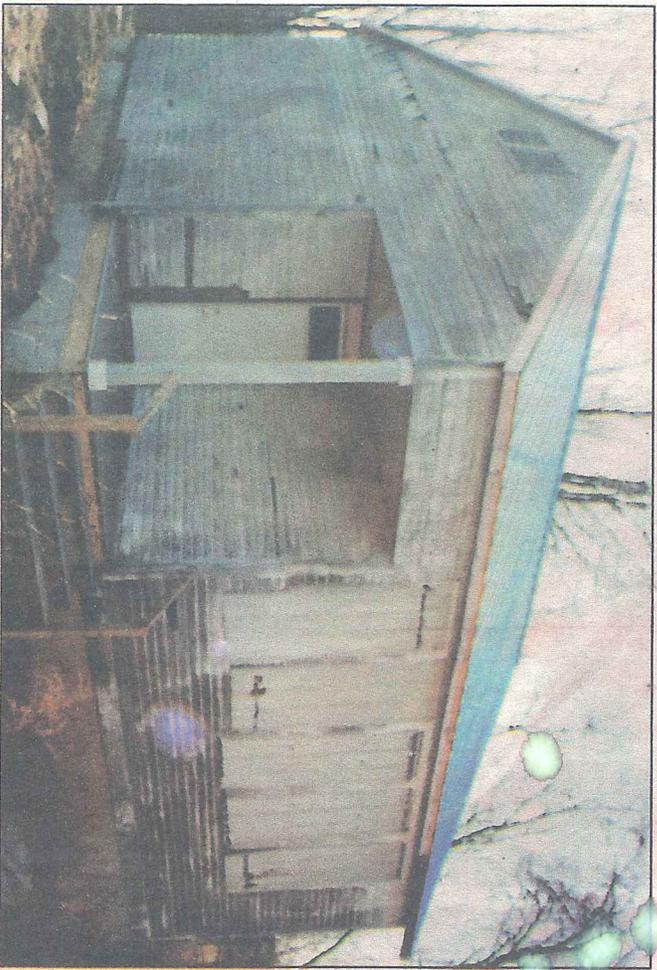
At the request of Mr. Chuck Nichols, I am pleased to write this letter to support the nomination of Jack Eckler, of Williamstown, KY for the Ida Lee Willis Preservation Project Award.

Upon my recommendation to Mr. Nichols, Jack Eckler was contacted to be the project director for the preservation of the Rosenwald School. Jack graciously accepted that responsibility. However, he did more than direct the project; through efforts the site for the school's relocation was selected, movers were located, a foundation was poured, new roof and siding were installed, windows repaired and Jack built the handicapped ramp leading into the building. Jack donated his time, talent and made a financial contribution, with no compensation.

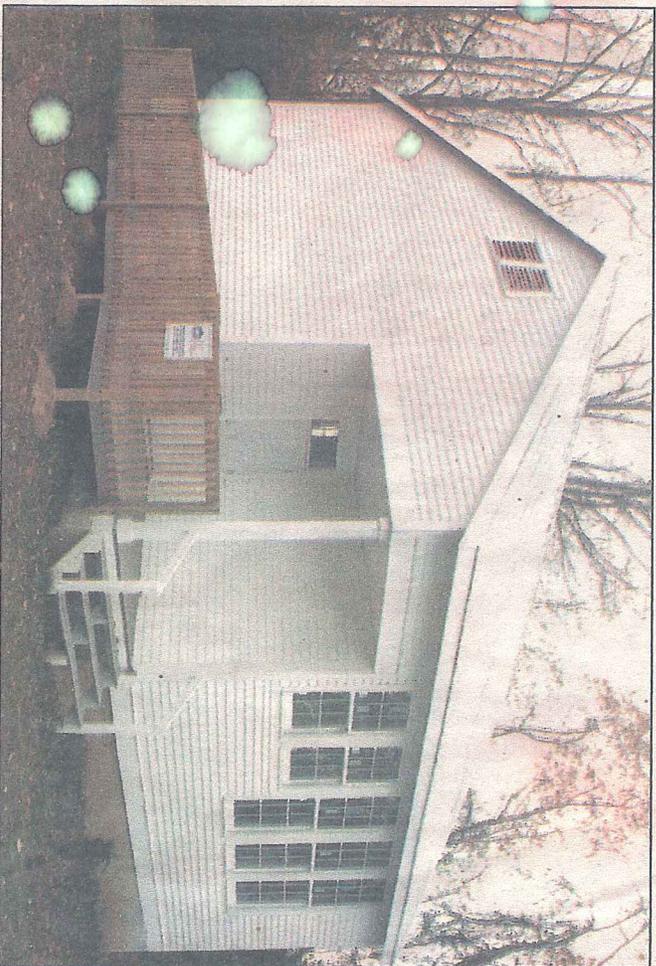
Had it not been for Jack Eckler services the Rosenwald School would not be available today at the Grant County Park for all the people of Grant County and visitors to learn more about the education of black people (African Americans) in Kentucky and Grant County.

Please find enclosed a copy of two pictures of the school before and after reconstruction.

Sincerely,
Edna Riser, Past President
Grant Co. Historical Society



BEFORE - Rosenwald School was moved from private property in Dry Ridge to Grant County Park. At the time of the move, the building was ready to fall in.



AFTER - After volunteers and grants were obtained, the Rosenwald School is ready for its dedication ceremony this weekend.















