



## The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards Program Criteria

Each year many individuals, organizations and local governments make significant contributions to the preservation of Kentucky's heritage. Whether 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). The purpose of the foundation was to create an annual awards program to honor worthy projects and those who have made significant contributions to historic preservation in Kentucky. Since its inception, the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation has recognized individuals, organizations and projects across the Commonwealth and today is Kentucky's signature preservation awards event.

Nominations for the awards are invited from the public and are reviewed by a panel of judges representing various historic preservation organizations and members of the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation. The awards are presented at an annual ceremony each May – recognized as 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) with which the nominee has been involved,
- 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 **before and after photographs** of the project. Criteria for evaluating nominations include:

- Historic significance of the building(s)
- 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 individuals, organizations, public officials, financial institutions, news media, volunteers or others whose contributions have had a positive effect on the preservation of Kentucky's historic resources. Criteria for evaluating nominations include:

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