

Annual DHPA Preservation Awards

On April 11, the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology presented four of their yearly Historic Preservation Awards at the Lost Marsh Golf Course (Hammond, Ind.). A reclaimed brown-field, the Lost Marsh was a great venue that embodied the power of preservation and conservation to reshape the landscapes of former industrial centers. For the past 16 years, the DHPA has presented these awards for outstanding performance in the field of historic preservation in Indiana. This year, the award recipients included: the Delphi Preservation Society, Michigan Street LLC, Don and Bonnie Mills, the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home, and Chief Justice Randall Shepard

Malia Vanaman (Associate Grants Manager) presented the Award for Outstanding Stewardship and Ongoing Rehabilitation of the Assion Ruffing City Hall and Delphi Opera House to the Delphi Preservation Society. The

organization is a three-time recipient of grants from the Historic Preservation Grant Fund Program. The major projects included stabilizing and replacing the roof and rehabilitating the façade. This all-volunteer organization has also completed National Register nominations for other Delphi properties, created publications on Delphi history and architecture,

sponsored other publications, and assisted with the design committee for the city's façade improvement program.



Assion-Ruffing City Hall, Delphi



The Michigan Street LLC received the Award for Outstanding Commercial Rehabilitation Tax Credit Project for the rehabilitation of the All American Bank Building in South Bend. This award, presented by Dave Duvall (Tax Credit Administrator), is given to only one of the more than thirty tax credit projects that the DHPA

funds each year. Designed in the Neo-Classical style by the architectural firm of Virthum & Burns, the building, located in South Bend, was completed in 1924. The building was underutilized for several years, until Michigan Street LLC rehabilitated the entire building and added a substantial addition.

Dave Duvall also presented Don and Bonnie Mills with the Award for Outstanding Certified Historic Homeowner Rehabilitation for the rehabilitation of the Abijah O'Neall II House near Crawfordsville. The Montgomery County couple purchased the O'Neall house in 2004 and over the



past several years have devoted considerable time to its restoration and rehabilitation. Abijah O'Neall constructed the brick I-house in 1848. He was active in politics, serving in various offices including the Indiana General Assembly. Through the home-owner tax credit program, the Mills were able to invest their own money to rehabilitate the home.

Paul Diebold (Team Leader Survey and Registration) presented the Award for Outstanding National Register Nomination to The Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home Alumni Association and the Military Department. The groups collaborated to nominate the campus of the



ISSCH Administration Building

Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH) to the National Register of Historic Places and received the "Award for Outstanding Effort". Originally designed for disabled veterans, it became the home for thousands of orphaned Hoosier children. The Alumni Association, which has maintained strong ties to the Home since its founding in 1892, began working on the National Register process. During the nomination process, the Indiana Department of the Military assumed control over the site and helped to finish the nomination. The Military Department plans to readapt both the historic and non-historic buildings of the campus and use the structures to continue to serve children. Today, the campus is home to the Hoosier Youth ChalleNGe, a program for at-risk youth ran by the Indiana Army National Guard.

In a special presentation on April 13 at the Whiting Community Center (Whiting, Ind.), Chief Justice Randall Shepard received the 2012 Outstanding Hoosier Preservationist Award. Presented by Dr. Jim Glass (Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer), the award honors Chief Justice Shepard for his leadership in the Indiana Preservation movement over the past 35 years. His accomplishments include representing Indiana in several leadership roles in the field of historic preservation. During his tenure as Chief Justice, he led a program of restoring the Supreme Court courtroom to its original 1888 grandeur, while also restoring other historic spaces

in Indiana's judiciary system. He also initiated innovative programming to educate Indiana residents about the 83 historic courthouses still in use across the state. As chair of the Courthouse Advisory Commission, he led a three-year effort to extend the public awareness of the value of these historic courthouses. Shepard also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Indiana Landmarks and is a past trustee and Chair of the Board of Advisors for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In his hometown of Evansville, Shepard served as president of the Conrad Baker Foundation, which took over ownership of the Vanderburgh County Courthouse and embarked on a successful program of restoration and

adaptation. He also successfully advocated for preservation of the former Evansville Custom House, and supported preservation of the Willard Library. He has successfully led the preservation movement for almost four decades and has made an indelible mark on the field of historic preservation in Indiana. The DHPA is proud to honor these recipients and would like to thank them for their continued commitment to preserving Indiana's historic places.

