



NEWS RELEASE

Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1096
E-mail kfunke@usi.edu
<http://www.usi.edu/events.htm>

**For immediate release
May 1, 2000**

West Baden Springs wins first Community Legacy Award

The town of West Baden Springs has been selected as the recipient of Historic Southern Indiana's first Community Legacy Award. The award will be presented at 11 a.m. (EST/CDT) on Monday, May 8, on the front porch of the West Baden Springs Hotel, a town landmark recently restored.

The award recognizes West Baden Spring, located in Orange County, for outstanding achievements in preservation, enhancement, and promotion of its distinctive heritage. West Baden Springs will receive a \$1,000 cash award to support heritage-related projects and an emblem of achievement for public display. The award-winning town will get publicity in HIS publications and can promote itself as an award-winning community in heritage preservation and tourism.

The award-winning community was selected by a panel of judges comprising the following organizations: Historic Southern Indiana; Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana; the Indiana Department of Commerce, Division of Community Development and Division of Tourism; and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Following are the criteria for selection of the award-winning community; not all points had to be covered.

"West Baden Springs is a very special town with a rich history that came close to being taken off the map," said Katy Ross a volunteer and resident of West Baden Springs. "Local government and citizens joined by preservationist have been working long and hard to not only preserve the very special uniqueness of the town but also to tell others about our heritage."

The winning town had to initiate or pursued significant preservation efforts within the past five years; establish a program to revitalize and restore its downtown, implement zoning and planning that include billboard and sign ordinances and guidelines to protect and preserve its special character; organize a shared vision of itself as a special place, through implementation of the HSI Special Places program or the creation of a community charter regarding the future; host Historic Southern Indiana hospitality training as a means of recognizing the importance of front-line as well as managerial personnel in heritage tourism; have an active historical society, museum, archives, and/or published history or histories; or host heritage-related festivals or other special events relating to its heritage.

This will be an annual award, designed to coincide with National Tourism Week and Historic Preservation Week. There is no size limit of the community applying for the Community Legacy Award.

Historic Southern Indiana, organized in 1986, is a heritage-based community outreach program of the University of Southern Indiana.

For further information, contact Darrel E. Bigham, HSI director, at (812) 465-7014.