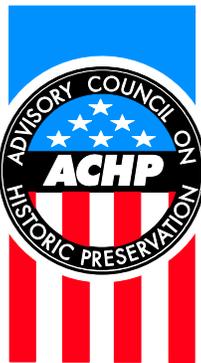


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Preserving America's Heritage

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Honors GSA's Martin Luther King, Jr. Building Rehabilitation in Atlanta

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) today presented its Chairman's Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation to the General Services Administration (GSA) for restoration, rehabilitation, and reuse of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Building in Atlanta.

"GSA has shown how an iconic structure in a historic urban setting can receive new life and purpose and become a renewed asset to its community," said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, ACHP chairman. "Recognizing that it is usually better to upgrade and improve the efficiency of existing structures rather than raze and replace them, this accomplishment by GSA is worthy of widespread emulation."

Donaldson presented the award to The Honorable Martha A. Johnson, GSA Administrator; Mr. Robert A. Peck, Commissioner, Public Buildings Service; Mr. Shyam Reddy, Regional Administrator, GSA Southeast Region; and, Ms. Beth L. Savage, Director, GSA Center for Historic Buildings.

"I am honored to accept this award on behalf of GSA and all who worked to restore the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Building. Their work has transformed this building into a welcoming and modern workspace, while paying respect to its rich history and namesake," Johnson said. "Across the country, GSA's efforts ensure that the tapestry of our nation's historic architecture is preserved for today and protected for generations to come."

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Building, dedicated in 1933, began its existence as Atlanta's main post office and the central mail processing facility for the entire southeast. Ultimately, its purposes shifted as processing operations moved outside the urban core area and the Postal Service left the building completely in 1980. It became a federal office building, and in 1988 it was the first major federal structure to be named in honor of Dr. King. Underuse resulted in some deterioration to the naturally aging structure, but seven decades after its construction GSA seized the opportunity to improve and reuse it as GSA's Southeast Region headquarters. Rehabilitation began in 2005 and was completed in 2011, with the revitalized structure recently receiving LEED Gold status. *(For more details on the building's history and the rehabilitation project, go to the award narrative posted on www.achp.gov.)*

The presentation took place at ACHP's winter business meeting at its Old Post Office Building headquarters. An independent federal agency, the ACHP promotes the economic, educational, environmental, sustainability and cultural values of historic preservation and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also influences federal activities, programs, and policies that affect historic and cultural properties.

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