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**City of St Marys Exterior Renovation of 1826 Orange Hall
Named APWA –Georgia Chapter 2015 Small Cities/Rural Communities
Historic Restoration/Preservation Project of the Year**

St Marys, GA. – The **City of St Marys Exterior Renovation of 1826 Orange Hall** was recently named as the American Public Works Association (APWA) – Georgia Chapter **2015 Small Cities/Rural Communities Historic Restoration/Preservation Project of the Year.**

The APWA GA Chapter Awards Program recognizes outstanding public works individuals, groups, projects, and awareness efforts representing the best achievements in the public works profession in Georgia. The awards are intended to bring meaningful recognition to excellence in the Public Works profession throughout the State of Georgia and bring to light the Public Works accomplishments that ultimately help keep our Cities, Counties, and State running smoothly and effectively on a daily basis.

The selection of the Exterior Restoration of 1826 Orange Hall for this award was based on the unique efforts by the City of St Marys to address environmental issues, scheduling, improving service to the community, and cooperation between agencies (various City agencies, Georgia Power Company, and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division) in the context of complying with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Historic Preservation.

Environmentally, the building had multiple layers of lead paint and scheduling was a challenge due to unanticipated issues (dry rot, old water damage, etc.) discovered under the paint. The repair of the dangerous rear stairs and porch improved community access to the project by the re-establishment of the rear door as a legal and safe exit. Based on the City’s success, Georgia EPD now uses this project as an example of how to effectively remove lead paint on historic structures.

The City of St Marys staff and Coastal Construction, the project’s prime contractor, are deserving of recognition for their innovative work in restoring and preserving this well-loved local landmark.

For more information on APWA GA Chapter’s Awards Program, visit our Chapter web page at <http://georgia.apwa.net/>.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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