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Civic Trust scoops AIB's Better Ireland Awards

LIMERICK Civic Trust has won the Heritage/Environment section of the AIB Nationwide Better Ireland Awards 1998 for its restoration of a Georgian Building in Pery Square emerging first in a line of 300 competitors.

The Trust is now £25,000 better off as a result of its local, regional and now national wins, which alone scooped £20,000. It was one of four national category winners.

"We are absolutely delighted, although it was a bit nerve wracking," admits the project supervisor of the work in progress,

Dorothy Meaney. "Limerick Civic Trust started the restoration in November last year and expect to be open as a visitor and interpretative display centre this October. A total of 18 people on a FAS Job Initiative scheme are working on No 2 Pery Square and the prize money will go into its decoration".

Limerick Civic Trust will open its heritage doors to other organisations on a paying basis for use of the building for events. As An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern stated at the AIB Nationwide Better Ireland Award ceremony in Cork last week:

"These are the very model of what community awards should be, because they bring to our attention the wonderful work which is already underway and shine a powerful light on work of exceptional excellence".

Group chief executive of AIB Group, Tom Mulcahy, confirmed the altruistic objective of the scheme with his congratulations: "It has provoked an awakening of people and their communities as to what they can do for themselves".

Thanks to the treaty city's appreciation of its inheritance, a Georgian beauty is reborn.

