

Statement by Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation

The Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation (of Peoria) was both pleased and relieved to hear that the U. S. District Court ruled in support of the City of Peoria's decision to disallow the demolition of the landmarked apartment building located at 1319 N. Hamilton Boulevard. The city's Historic Commission had earlier determined that the building met the requirements of the local ordinance and deserved to remain in place. The prairie style apartment with its impressive entrance and front balconies is one of the few remaining historic structures of the many that once graced the Hamilton hill in the early days of the city.

The court decision supports the mission of our local CILF to preserve the landmarks and historic buildings in Peoria. Each decision that supports preservation over demolition helps build the case for future restoration and reuse, and the benefits are not only esthetic but economic. As indicated in a recent Brookings Institute study, preservation and re-use of historic buildings is generally more efficient and profitable than constructing new structures and tends to benefit the local economy as well.

Everyone benefits from this decision. Historic structures help make the cityscape unique and attractive. Reuse is part of the equation, and CILF would look forward to helping the building owners in any way that we can as they seek to adapt the structure to modern use.