



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Illinois Courthouse Grants Awarded

Program aids county renovation projects

Landmarks Illinois has announced that three Illinois counties—Edgar, Henry, and Morgan—will receive funding this year from the Richard H. Driehaus Courthouse Grant Program to help restore their historic county courthouses.

“Courthouses are among the most impressive—and highly visible—buildings in Illinois,” notes Jim Peters, president of Landmarks Illinois, a statewide nonprofit organization. “But many of the most important features of these buildings have been lost over time. Our hope is that these grants will be a catalyst to other long-term restoration projects.”

This year’s County Courthouse grant projects:

- **Edgar County**, in east-central Illinois, will receive a \$70,000 matching grant to remove, restore, and reinstall the “Lady Justice” statue atop the dome of its county courthouse in Paris. The Romanesque Revival-style building, which was designed by architect Henry Elliott, was dedicated in 1893. It is the tallest structure in town and the deteriorated statue had been leaning precariously in recent years.

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- **Henry County**, in northwestern Illinois, will receive a \$50,000 matching grant to repair and restore the distinctive clock and clock tower on its Second Empire-style courthouse, which was built in 1880. The courthouse, which is located in Cambridge, is a prominent symbol for the surrounding area.
- **Morgan County**, in southwestern Illinois, will receive a grant to fund an energy-efficient, exterior lighting plan for its Second Empire-style courthouse, which dates to 1869. The courthouse, which is located in Jacksonville, was designed by architect G. B. Randal. It is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar exterior renovation.

This is the first year of the statewide County Courthouse Program, which is a four-year, \$1 million effort funded by Chicago philanthropist Richard H. Driehaus. Eligible projects include the restoration of significant exterior courthouse features, including clocks, bell towers, cupolas, and distinctive ornament, as well as new, cutting-edge exterior lighting technologies.

Applications for the next round of Courthouse grants are due no later than September 1. Courthouses—or former courthouses—must be listed or “eligible for listing” on the National Register of Historic Places. Program guidelines and application forms can be found at [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org). Winning projects will receive their funding in 2011.

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*Landmarks Illinois is the state's leading voice for historic preservation. Since its founding in 1971, the 2,500-member statewide organization has gone on to save countless architectural and historic treasures throughout Illinois. Landmarks Illinois' mission today focuses on saving buildings, facilitating preservation, and educating the public through innovative programs and promotion. For more information, visit [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org).*