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**For more information:**

Jim Peters, President

(312) 922-1742 x-224

email: [jpeters@lpci.org](mailto:jpeters@lpci.org) website: [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org)

## Top Illinois Preservation Projects to Receive Awards

**Chicago, Ill.**—Nine outstanding preservation efforts from across the state will be honored later this month by Landmarks Illinois, a statewide group that advocates for the protection of historic properties.

This year's award winners range from the restoration of a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century home to the reconstruction of a courthouse clock tower. Other winners include: a 1940s river wall and plaza in St. Charles, a husband and wife team in Galesburg, a chain of historic theaters, and a Louis Sullivan-designed building in Chicago.

"This year's award-winning projects are a testament to the deep commitment of preservationists across the state," said Jim Peters, President of Landmarks Illinois.

The nine winners will receive a Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award—which includes \$500 and a distinctive trophy—at a special ceremony on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the InterContinental Hotel, Chicago. The award-winners are:

- **Ancel House, Glencoe—Restoration**

The site on Lake Michigan is what drew the current owners, Ellen and David Muslin, to the Edward Dart-designed Ancel House when they purchased it in 2006. They originally intended to demolish the 1961 house and subdivide the property. Then they learned more about the significance of the building's architecture and the importance of this house in the context of its neighborhood. The Muslins ultimately decided to restore and update the house, while following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. "This is a true preservation story of an often-underappreciated period of architecture," the jury remarked.

- **Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana—Reconstruction**

The clock tower of this 1901 courthouse was drastically shortened after multiple lightning strikes beginning in 1915. The Citizen's Committee to Restore the Courthouse Clock and Bell Tower was formed in 2000 with the goal of restoring the tower to its original height. This \$1.5 million project was completed funded by private donations. "The level of dedication of the community and the impact the project has had on Urbana's downtown is impressive," stated the awards jury.

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- **Classic Cinemas, Various Locations—Stewardship**

The Classic Cinemas chain of theaters began in 1976 when Willis and Shirley Johnson purchased the then-deteriorating Tivoli Theater in Downers Grove (1928). Since that time the Johnsons have been joined by their son Chris in purchasing and restoring 13 theaters in the northern Illinois. Among their theaters are the Lindo in Freeport (1921), the Lake in Oak Park (1936), the Paramount in Kankakee (1931), as well as the York in Elmhurst (1924). The York Theater is also home to the Theatre Historical Society of America.

- **Clayville Restoration Project, Pleasant Plains—Advocacy**

Once a campus for training historic site manager, the 17-acre Clayville historic site stood vacant for more than a decade. The c1830s Broadwell Tavern, two log cabins, and several outbuildings were in disrepair and forgotten under years of overgrowth until the property was purchased by the Pleasant Plains Historical Society in 2009. This organization spearheaded the purchase, clean-up, restoration, and preservation of this site through mainly volunteer efforts. Since this project was completed in March 2010, the site has been utilized for various functions and events by a wide range of community organizations.

- **Jay and Mary Matson, Galesburg—Lifetime Achievement**

This couple's fight to save the Seminary Street commercial district in Galesburg began in 1975 when the Matsons acquired most of the properties on Seminary Street with a vision of bringing restaurants and businesses to the dying area. The couple was responsible for Galesburg becoming one of the three pilot areas for the National Trust for Historic Preservation new National Main Street Program in the 1970s. They are also responsible for creating the Seminary Street Historic Commercial District, a non-profit organization as well as creating a tax increment financing district through the City. "While it has taken over 35 years, Seminary Street has been given a new life because of the Matsons' dedication," the awards jury noted.

- **Municipal Center River Wall and Plaza, St. Charles—Restoration**

This striking Art Moderne-style complex was designed and built in the 1940's by famed architect R. Harold Zook. After years of deterioration and multiple alterations, much of the site no longer resembled its original design. In 2009, a \$4 million project was undertaken by the City to rehabilitate and restore the wall and plaza. The jury noted, "The restoration of the river wall and plaza was an amazing effort by a municipality with a huge payback for the community."

- **Parkside Apartments, Kewanee—Adaptive Use**

During the 1990s this former hotel fell into disrepair while being used as a rooming house. The building was purchased in 2006 by the Henry County Housing Development Group which updated it for modern living accommodations. Built as the Parkside Hotel in 1915 (with an addition in 1931), it was known as the Hotel Kewanee from 1950 on. Using historic documents, plans, and photographs, original hotel rooms have been converted into apartments. Even after vandalism destroyed the original front desk, marble salvaged from the building was used to construct a new one. "This project not only provides affordable housing," the awards jury noted, "but has also helped spark an interest in preserving and restoring other historic buildings in the community."

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**Scully Building, Lincoln—Rehabilitation**

In 2001, this 1907 red sandstone structure was devastated by a fire and remained vacant until local residents Patrick and April Doolin purchased the property in 2009. The Doolins have restored the exterior and renovated the interior with many of its historic features. The building was updated using “green” technology that provides numerous energy-saving systems. The building is now home to Integrity Holdings, the Doolin’s company, which employs about 25 local residents. “The painstaking rehabilitation and the impact it has had on the community is impressive,” stated the awards jury.

• **Sullivan Center, Chicago—Project of the Year**

Joseph Freed and Associates purchased the former Carson Pirie Scott and Company Building in 2001 with the intent to restore the State Street anchor it to its original glory. This Louis Sullivan-designed building has been a centerpiece of the Loop since the late 1890s. As part of the award-winning restoration effort, all of the signature ornamental ironwork was removed, restored, and reinstalled. In addition, the building’s long-missing cornice and colonnade were reconstructed. A financial partnership between the owners and the City of Chicago made this remarkable restoration possible. “The level of detail of this project sets the bar for future restoration projects of this scale,” stated the awards jury.

**About the Awards.** This is the 17<sup>th</sup> year Landmarks Illinois has presented these awards, aided by a generous grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. The awards are designed to honor those whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. The award itself is a small-scale replica of the entrance arch and trading room from the Chicago Stock Exchange building, which was demolished in 1972. The fight to save this structure led to the founding of Landmarks Illinois in 1971. In addition, winners receive a \$500 cash award.

This year’s awards jury was: Jean Follett, Historic Preservation Consultant, Hinsdale; Allison Garwood Freedland, AIA, Chicago; Allen Johnson, MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC, Chicago; Michael Lambert, ARRIS Architects + Planners, Plainfield; and Hank Norris, Brinkoetter & Associates Realtors, Decatur.

The awards ceremony, which includes cocktails and appetizers, will be held on October 29, from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. at The InterContinental Hotel, Chicago and is open to the public. Tickets are available at \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. To make a reservation, contact Landmarks Illinois at 312-922-1742.

**Photographs of Award Winners.** For more information about the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards including images of the winning projects, visit [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org).

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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 saved 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).*