



LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS

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MISSION

*To preserve, protect and
promote architectural
and historic resources in
Illinois through advocacy
and education.*

Preservation NEWS

AUGUST 2011
volume 40 ■ number 3



clockwise from above: Main Street, Galena (credit: Jim Peters); Map depicts communities with a "40 over 40" project; G.A.R. Rotunda, Chicago Cultural Center (former Public Library), Chicago (credit: Neal Vogel); Catsup Bottle, Collinsville.



TOP PROJECTS SINCE 1971

"40 over 40"

To commemorate Landmarks Illinois' 40th anniversary this year, we have created a list of the top 40 "preservation success stories" that have taken place over the past four decades throughout Illinois. The announcement was made at our annual meeting on June 23.

The "40 Over 40" list was assembled in consultation with our statewide Regional Advisors, as well as key board members and staff. Projects were roughly distributed throughout the past four decades and from all across the state.

Top efforts during the 1970s included saving a key section of downtown Galena, as well as creation of one of the nation's first Main Street programs in Galesburg. The decade of the 1980s included the rescue of an 1850s railroad roundhouse in Aurora and the creation of the Broadway District in Rock Island. Projects from the 1990s included Springfield's Dana-Thomas House, the Catsup bottle in Collinsville, and the Black Metropolis District in Chicago. The final decade (2000-10) featured the purchase of the Farnsworth House in Plano, the restoration of Union Station in Springfield, and the Historic Bungalow Initiative in Chicago.

We realize that, due to the limited number of slots and time period, some deserving projects may not have been included in the "40 Over 40" list. Nonetheless, we believe these projects represent a wonderful cross section of some of the best grassroots preservation efforts during the past 40 years in Illinois.

To view the complete list, go to www.Landmarks.org and click "40 Over 40". Also, join us for a discussion of the list at our October 27th Preservation Snapshots lecture (see page 3).





To Our Members

Trying to save a building today from the mid- and late-20th century is probably not dissimilar from attempting to preserve Victorian-era buildings in the 1950s or Art Deco treasures in the 1970s. Architects and architectural historians might appreciate their striking designs, but the general public seems to be largely indifferent—or antagonistic.

This has been clear in many recent preservation battles across the country, including Boston’s City Hall (built 1962-68), the Gettysburg, Pa., Cyclorama (1960-62), and Pittsburgh’s Civic Arena (1961). In Illinois, we’ve heard mixed comments about the modernist buildings at Chicago’s now-largely-demolished Michael Reese Hospital (1948-63) and even the University of Illinois’ Assembly Hall (1961).

This love-hate dichotomy about the “recent past” also surrounds Chicago’s endangered Prentice Women’s Hospital (1974; Bertrand Goldberg, architect). That building’s clover-leaf shaped concrete tower elicits a wide range of emotions, ranging from: “an architectural tour de force” to “an ugly prison.” As a result (see Preservation News, page 3), the effort to save it has been more challenging than most.

Modern buildings, unfortunately, often seem like awkward adolescents. They no longer are young and cute, but they’re also not yet old enough to be mature and respected. Or, in a phrase realtors might understand: They are old enough to have been depreciated, but not old enough to be appreciated.

Yet, these are the buildings that help define the last half of the 20th century. The effort to maintain, save, and repurpose them will one of the major tasks of current and future preservationists. In the meantime, hopefully, the general public will grow to appreciate their innovative designs and soaring forms.



June 15th “Save Prentice Rally”

The next time you read this column, a new signature will be at the bottom. After a decade at Landmarks Illinois—the past three as its President/Executive Director—I am leaving to pursue other interests, including teaching and consulting.

It has been a great honor working for this organization, one that I have supported since moving to Illinois in 1979. As we move into our fifth decade, I’m confident there will be many more successes like those described in our cover story.

Jim Peters
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Preservation News

Prentice Women's Hospital CHICAGO

On June 15th, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Prentice Women's Hospital as one of the nation's "11 Most Endangered Historic Places." Citing the building's bold and distinctive design, National Trust President Stephanie Meeks said: "It is irreplaceable and landmark-worthy, but like many buildings from the recent past...it is not appreciated and protected." The Save Prentice Coalition, which includes Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust, will continue to advocate for local landmark protection and reuse of the nearly vacant building, which was designed in 1972 by Bertrand Goldberg. The building's owner, Northwestern University, has stated its intent to demolish the structure later this year, with no immediate plans for a replacement building. For information on what you can do to help, go to www.SavePrentice.org or www.Landmarks.org.

Rehab Tax Credit Legislation

At both the state and federal levels, important tax incentive bills for the rehabilitation of historic buildings have advanced. On May 31st, the Illinois House and Senate passed Senate Bill

2168, which expands the availability of a 25% state rehab tax credit to qualifying buildings in the communities of Aurora, East St. Louis, Elgin, Rockford, and Peoria. Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock (R-Peoria) in July introduced the federal Creating American Prosperity through Preservation Act (CAPP), which is being cosponsored by U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.). CAPP is designed to make improvements to the existing Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. For more information or to encourage your Congressman to support the bill, go to "How Can I Help?" at www.Landmarks.org.

West End Settlement House ROCK ISLAND

This Prairie/Craftsman-inspired building was recently designated the city's 40th landmark by the Rock Island Preservation Commission. Constructed in 1909, it was the Quad Cities' only "settlement house," built to provide social services and educational training for the community's poorest residents. The building was placed on this year's statewide "Ten Most" list, due to deferred maintenance. The property was also named one of Rock Island's "100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures" in 2009.



Will Rogers Theatre, c. 1938
(credit: Save Will Rogers Theatre on Facebook)

Will Rogers Theatre CHARLESTON

The Charleston City Council voted in May to give landmark protection to this vacant 73-year-old Art Deco theater, which had been on this year's list of the *Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois*. Closed since 2010 and in need of rehabilitation, the theater and its adjoining commercial block are for sale. Charleston Preservation Commission Chair Kit Morice said the "Ten Most" listing not only created statewide awareness for this historic treasure, but also helped local officials recognize its architectural significance.

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to 22828 to get started.



Geoffrey Baer

Preservation Snapshots

CHICAGO'S LOOP September 15

Geoffrey Baer, multiple Emmy Award-winning producer and program host for WTTW Channel 11, will talk about his latest project featuring the architecture of Chicago's Loop.



Reliance Building, Chicago (credit: Hedrich Blessing)

40 OVER 40 October 27

Landmarks Illinois celebrates 40 of Illinois' top preservation successes over the past 40 years. Learn how some of Chicago and Illinois' beloved landmarks escaped the wrecking ball.

MOVABLE BRIDGES November 17

Dennis McClendon, Chicago cartographer and historian, will discuss Chicago's collection of moveable bridges that are such a unique part of the city's character, including several that are now protected as city landmarks.



A Strauss bascule bridge built for the Chicago & North Western Railway in 1908 near Chicago's Kinzie Street. (credit: Dennis McClendon)

Location: CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER, 77 W. RANDOLPH STREET, CHICAGO
Admission: FREE Time: 12:15 P.M.



Spotlight on the Lower Illinois River

It is one of the state's great rivers and a key transportation link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. But few Illinoisans have visited the many historic communities along the lower half of the 275-mile-long Illinois River, largely due to its isolation from Interstate highways.

En route back from the Statewide Preservation Conference in Godfrey this June, we drove through the Lower Illinois River Valley, starting at the river's confluence with the Mississippi River at Grafton and ending up near one of its major cities, Peoria. Our goal was to visit some previous Landmarks Illinois' Heritage Grant projects, as well as properties on the "Ten Most Endangered" list or those receiving a Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award. Here are a few observations along the way.

KAMPSVILLE-ELDRED These two small communities are linked by one of the state's last 24-hour/day free ferries. On the west side of the river, in peninsular-shaped Calhoun County, is a former grocery store (1910) that now houses the Center for American Archeology Visitor's Center and Museum. On the east side of the river, in Greene County, sits the Eldred House (1861), which is being restored by the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association, in part with an LI grant. The stone house was on our "Ten Most" list in 2004.

PITTSFIELD A half-hour drive north on Ill. Rte. 100 is one of the more history-rich towns in western Illinois (with apologies to Quincy). This Pike County seat boasts of more Abraham Lincoln-related buildings than any community besides Springfield—and the sites are featured on a special radio tour. In addition to the county courthouse (1894), another architectural gem is East School, a monumental Civil War-era building rescued from demolition in 1973 (see our "40 over 40" list). It now houses the county's historical museum. Across the street is the Shastid House (1838), where Lincoln stayed during his visits to Pittsfield. Both projects received LI grants—in 2007 and 1998, respectively, and the restoration of the school's clock tower won a Preservation Award in 2005.

GRIGGSVILLE Just north of I-72 (which connects Quincy to Springfield) is the nation's "Purple Martin Capital." Town leaders decided 50 years ago that, instead of using pesticides, they would combat the outbreak of mosquitoes by erecting purple martin birdhouses throughout the community. (The diet of a purple martin consists entirely of flying insects.) Today, this town of 1,200 features more than 400 12-unit aluminum birdhouses, which are located on each street corner and on a 70-foot-tall, 562-unit "Purple Martin High Rise" on the town square.

BEARDSTOWN-RUSHVILLE These two communities are located just 10 miles apart on U.S. 67, but one is an Illinois River town (Beardstown) and the other is the agricultural center of Schuyler County (Rushville). Although Beardstown is one of the state's oldest communities (1819), its most-famous remaining building is the old Court House (1844) where Lincoln once argued legal cases, including the famed "Almanac Trial of 1858." Rushville's two most-prominent buildings are the Schuyler County Courthouse (1881) and the Phoenix Opera House (1882). The latter was recently restored, in part with an LI grant.

SPOON RIVER Heading north, on a zigzag route along U.S. 24, U.S. 136, and Co. Rd. 13, are several small historic communities featured on the Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive (www.spoonriverdrive.org). The river, which meanders through Fulton County, was memorialized by Edgar Lee Masters in his 1915 collection of short poems, "Spoon River Anthology." The annual Spoon River Festival, which highlights numerous Fulton County communities, will be held this year on Oct. 1-2 and 8-9.

VERMONT This town (pop. 800) was founded in 1835 and flourished as an early meat packing center. Among its surviving buildings are four houses from the 1850s, as well as several commercial buildings on its idyllic Main Street, including the Mershon Bank and Opera House (1869), the Oddfellows Hall, and Masonic Lodge (both 1891), the latter of which received an LI grant for its pressed-metal façade.

BERNADOTTE This tiny Spoon River hamlet is the location of a historic iron truss bridge (1903) that was on our "Ten Most Endangered" list in 2008. Earlier this year, the Bernadotte Historical Society raised \$6,394 at a Hog Roast fundraiser, which will match a \$5,000 grant from the National Trust. The monies will be used to hire a structural engineer to help supervise conversion of the bridge into a pedestrian/fishing structure.

LEWISTOWN-HAVANA Founded in 1821, Lewistown features many historic structures, including the Fulton County Courthouse (1893), Rasmussen Blacksmith Shop Museum (1893), the Narrow Gauge Railroad Depot (1880), and the First Presbyterian Church (c.1870). Twelve miles away is the Illinois River town of Havana, which includes one of the state's oldest water towers (1889), restored with the help of an LI grant. Another Havana gem is the Lawford Theater (1914), located next door to a Classical Revival-style bank that now houses the city hall.

CANTON This city of 18,300 is located 20 miles southwest of Peoria. Its central square is currently being rehabilitated, along with many of the surrounding historic structures. Several of these buildings were restored by Bill Cook, who grew up in Canton before founding one of the world's largest medical equipment companies. Cook, who died earlier this summer, also was instrumental in many preservation projects in Indiana, including the restoration of the West Baden Springs Hotel in French Lick. One of the Canton buildings he purchased and restored was the Lewis Pharmacy (1915), which had been threatened with dismantlement following the death of its longtime owner (see "Ten Most Endangered," 2009). It has now reopened for business as "The Sweet Shoppe" and it's a perfect place for dessert following a catfish dinner at Brown's Fine Foods.

We hope these profiles will encourage you to do some touring of the Lower Illinois River Valley this summer or fall. It's amazing what awaits you off Illinois' "green highways" (i.e., Interstates).



Detail, Masonic Lodge, Vermont



Spoon River Bridge, Bernadotte



The original tile entry way to The Sweet Shoppe, Canton, formerly Lewis Pharmacy



Phoenix Opera House, Rushville



Purple martin birdhouses, Griggsville



Pittsfield's Shastid House, with East School in the background



Court House, Beardstown
(credit: Illinois State Bar Association)



Eldred House, Eldred
(credit: David Bahlman)

SPOON RIVER

ILLINOIS RIVER

PEORIA

CANTON

BERNADOTTE

LEWISTOWN

VERMONT

HAVANA

RUSHVILLE

BEARDSTOWN

GRIGGSVILLE

PITTSFIELD

KAMPSVILLE

ELDRED



Photos by Jim Peters, Landmarks Illinois
(except where noted)



Annual Meeting

In addition to celebrating our 40th anniversary, Landmarks Illinois took care of some business at its annual Membership Meeting on June 23rd at the Glessner House in Chicago. Four new and 16 existing members of the Board of Directors were elected by the membership, and six new officers were elected by the Board itself.

Glessner House Museum docents provided tours of the building, which was designed by H. H. Richardson in 1886. One guessing game for longtime LI members was in trying to locate exactly where the organization's first offices were located. During the early 1970s, several nonprofit organizations had offices in the Glessner House, including LI.

The new board members are:



Michael Rachlis is a partner in the commercial litigation firm of Rachlis Durham Duff Adler & Peel, LLC, and a longtime member of LI's Issues Committee. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin.



Colleen Reitan is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC). She previously served as president and chief operating officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. She has a bachelor's degree in

urban studies and economics and a master's degree in health care administration from the University of Minnesota.



Janet Rotner, a retired interior designer, moved to Chicago from New York City in 2005. She previously served on the boards of the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Children's Garden of California. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from Indiana University and studied interior design at the University of California, Berkeley.



Anne Voshel is the owner of AVA Consultants, which provides owner's representative services for commercial real estate. Anne has been a previous member of LI's board, including its Vice Chair and the chair of the Real Estate and Building Industries Council awards event. She has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Chicago.

The newly-elected board officers are: Shelley Gorson, chair; Alicia Berg, vice chair; Jim Peters, president; Frieda Ireland, treasurer; David Moes, secretary; and Julie Bauer, general counsel.

The retiring board members who were honored for their service: Gavin Campbell, Paul Coffey, Catherine Handelsman, Jim



New board chair Shelley Gorson and president Jim Peters thank exiting chair Geoff Koss for his eight years of dedicated board service, presenting him with a copy of "The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan." (credit: Diane Alexander White Photography)



Tom Yanul, an attendee of LI's first organizational meeting on Feb 24, 1971, joined former and current board chairs to cut a cake depicting LI's original logo. Left to right: Geoff Koss, Joe Antunovich, Tom Yanul, Judith McBrien, Shelley Gorson, Susan Burian, and Rolf Achilles. Former board chairs Brad White and Tobin Richter were also in attendance. (credit: Diane Alexander White Photography)

Mann, Charlie Pipal, Ellen Stoner, and Geoff Koss, the immediate past board chair.

For more Annual Meeting photos visit us at www.Landmarks.org or Facebook.

RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS FOUNDATION PRESERVATION AWARDS



President's Award (2010): University Commons, Chicago

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

King Arthur & Camelot Rooms, InterContinental Chicago

4:30 P.M. Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres Reception

6:00 P.M. Awards Presentation

Landmarks Illinois' annual awards program is a festive event highlighting innovative preservation methods, dedicated individuals, and uplifting success stories from across the state. Mark your calendar for this exciting and inspirational event. Look for your invitation this fall or visit us online at www.Landmarks.org for more information.



Buffalo Grove Lime Kiln, a project of the Polo Historical Society, winner of the 2010 Preservation Leadership Award.

Thanks to our Supporters

APRIL 9 - JUNE 30, 2011

Only through membership dues, contributions, event sponsorship, and grants is Landmarks Illinois able to preserve, protect, and promote Illinois' historic buildings and sites. The Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff sincerely thank all our supporters for their contributions. However, space allows us to only list the following:

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Landmarks Calendar

AUGUST 15

Preservation Heritage Fund
Grant application deadline

SEPTEMBER 1

County Courthouse Initiative
Grant application deadline

SEPTEMBER 15

Chicago's Loop with
Geoffrey Baer
Preservation Snapshots Lecture

OCTOBER 27

40 Over 40
Preservation Snapshots Lecture

OCTOBER 29

Richard H. Driehaus
Foundation Preservation
Awards Ceremony
InterContinental Chicago

NOVEMBER 15

Preservation Heritage Fund
Grant Application Deadline

NOVEMBER 17

Movable Bridges
Preservation Snapshots Lecture

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Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, a recipient
of a County Courthouse Initiative grant.
(credit: Jim Peters, Landmarks Illinois)