

**LANDMARKS ILLINOIS**  
53 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1315, Chicago, IL 60604  
[www.landmarks.org](http://www.landmarks.org)

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**CHICAGO'S FAMOUS SKYLINE  
ADDED TO  
"TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES"**

SPRINGFIELD, IL. Apr. 2 – The Michigan Avenue “Streetwall”, from Randolph St. to 11<sup>th</sup> St., Chicago (Cook County) was named to the list of “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” for 2008 by Landmarks Illinois, a statewide advocacy group. The announcement was made today in the Press Room of the State Capitol.

“These buildings help define Chicago,” said David Bahlman, president of Landmarks Illinois. “The structures and their rooflines are protected elements under the landmarks ordinance, which would be threatened if inappropriate additions are permitted.”

This 12-block stretch of historic buildings is one of the most outstanding streetscapes in the world. Designed over the course of 50 years by prominent architects, these buildings reflect an array of styles and building technologies dating from 1880 to 1930. After 25 years of discussion, local landmark designation was finally approved by the Chicago City Council in 2002.

Two current proposals, however, threaten the streetwall’s character. The former Chicago Athletic Association (12 S. Michigan Ave.) and YWCA (830 S. Michigan) have been slated for rooftop additions, despite the limitations of height and scale enforced in landmark districts.

The additions are designed to be set back from the historic façades, but call for considerable demolition of the existing buildings. Their height and mass would greatly disrupt the historic skyline as viewed from Grant Park and the lakefront. Should these

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projects gain approval from the city, they would set a precedent for high-rise additions in landmark districts and weaken the local landmark ordinance.

The purpose of the “Ten Most” list is to focus attention on sites threatened by deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, or inappropriate development. Since the program’s inception in 1995, 143 properties have been identified on the endangered list, calling attention to statewide resources in need of preservation. Less than 20% of these sites have been lost to demolition, but many remain in need of preservation.

This year’s list also includes a site along the Underground Railroad, a parochial school constructed by Civil War veterans, Chicago’s first riverfront plaza, a windmill-themed sandwich shop in Central Illinois, a Mid-Century modern building designed for the Navy, and two renowned sporting facilities: U of I’s Assembly Hall and Chicago’s Wrigley Field.

Landmarks Illinois is celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> year as a statewide advocacy and education organization. The not-for-profit works with citizens and communities throughout Illinois to preserve, protect and promote historic places through advocacy and education. In addition to the Ten Most Endangered list, the organization also sponsors the Chicagoland Watch List and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards.

### *EDITORS:*

*The complete list of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois, including photos, can be downloaded from our website: [www.landmarks.org](http://www.landmarks.org) through the “Press Room” link.*

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