



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Regal Theater makes statewide endangered list**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2011, Springfield, Ill.**—The New Regal Theater, 1641-59 E. 79<sup>th</sup> St. (Cook County), was named to Landmarks Illinois’ annual “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” list, which was announced today at a press conference in the State Capitol.

“This is one of Chicago’s great movie palaces,” said Jim Peters, President of Landmarks Illinois. “Its current vacant condition is unfortunate – both for the South Side of Chicago and the city as a whole.”

Landmarks Illinois, the state’s leading voice for historic preservation, listed nine other endangered historic properties on its annual list which focuses attention on sites throughout Illinois threatened by deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, or inappropriate development.

The New Regal Theater was built as the Avalon in 1927 and is a prime example of the “atmospheric” motion picture palace. It was designed in a Middle Eastern/Moorish-style by noted movie palace architect John Eberson. In 2010, the New Regal was cited for dangerous exterior wall conditions by the City of Chicago and a court case was started to monitor its condition. The building has since gone into foreclosure and is expected to be sold through a judicial sale this summer. In the meantime, needed repairs have not been undertaken.

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## Landmarks Illinois Ten Most Endangered List announced—page two

### Background

Since the inception of Landmarks Illinois' "Ten Most" list in 1995, more than a third of the listed properties have been saved, less than a quarter have been demolished, and the rest remain threatened or are being rehabilitated.

This year's list also includes: an 1859 mansion, an historic bridge, a 1920s community center that promoted physical fitness, an 1871 county sheriff's residence and jail, a former social settlement house, a 1930s Art Deco theater, a Bertrand Goldberg-designed modern hospital, three century-old Catholic churches, and a pair of buildings that housed one of the state's most noted artists.

Landmarks Illinois is celebrating its 40<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 an annual awards program and a matching grants program for County Courthouses.

The complete "Ten Most" list, including photos of the following sites, is available at [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org) through the "Press Room" link.

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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. For more information, visit [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org).