



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Soper-Burr House makes statewide endangered list**

**Wednesday, April 6, 2011, Springfield, Ill.**—The Soper-Burr House, 812-814 Prairie St., Bloomington (McLean 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 Bloomington’s most architecturally significant homes,” said Jim Peters, President of Landmarks Illinois. “We hope this listing will help find a new buyer who will restore it to its former grandeur.”

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.

Located on a highly visible corner facing a public square, this is one of the oldest and most prominent homes in the Franklin Square Historic District. Vacant since June 2009, the house has been in the City’s building court due to neglect and numerous code violations. A local bank foreclosed on the property in 2010 and is seeking a new owner. Neighboring homeowners believe if the home is not acquired and renovated soon, its declining condition and appearance will negatively impact the overall health and character of the district.

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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 historic bridge, a 1920s community center that promoted physical fitness, an 1871 county sheriff's residence and jail, a former social settlement house, a Bertrand Goldberg-designed modern hospital, a 1930s Art Deco theater, one of the state's most extravagant movie palaces, 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).