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Streator Catholic Churches make statewide endangered list **Immaculate Conception, 404 N. Park St., Streator (LaSalle County)** **St. Anthony's Church, 407 S. Park St., Streator (LaSalle County)** **St. Stephen's Church, 711 Lundy St., Streator (LaSalle County)**

Wednesday, April 6, 2011, Springfield, Ill.—Three Catholic Churches in Streator (LaSalle County), were 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 the best groupings of historic churches in an Illinois community," said Jim Peters, President of Landmarks Illinois. "The fact that all are facing possible demolition is shocking."

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.

Citing shrinking congregations and costly building repairs, the Catholic Diocese of Peoria approved a consolidation plan that resulted in the September 2010 closure of these three late-19th and early-20th century churches. While congregants from each closed parish are currently challenging the consolidation under a Canon Law process with the Vatican, services are being held at St. Stephen's Church. However, many fear this is temporary until funds can be raised to build a new church. St. Anthony's Church and Immaculate Conception Church have been vacated and are planned for demolition.

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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 Bertrand Goldberg-designed modern hospital, a 1930s Art Deco theater, one of the state's most extravagant movie palaces, and a pair of buildings that housed one of the state's most noted artists.

Landmarks Illinois is celebrating its 40th 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 through the "Press Room" link.