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**WINDMILL-THEMED RT 66 RESTAURANT
NAMED AS ONE OF THE
“TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES”**

SPRINGFIELD, IL. Apr. 2 – The Mill, 738 S. Washington St., Lincoln (Logan County) was named to the list of “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” for 2008 by Landmarks Illinois, a statewide preservation advocacy group. The announcement was made today in the Press Room of the State Capitol.

“This quirky building represents a fascinating part of America’s architectural history,” said David Bahlman, president of Landmarks Illinois. “The Mill is a playful piece of roadside architecture that embodies our entrepreneurial spirit and our love affair with the open road.”

Built in 1929 as a take-out sandwich shop along historic Route 66, this Dutch windmill-inspired structure is a classic example of early American roadside architecture. The large addition is a former army barracks building that was moved from Camp Ellis in Fulton County after World War II and converted into a dance hall and dining space for the Mill.

The restaurant was abandoned in 1996 but, despite years of vacancy and general deterioration, the historic site remains a nostalgic landmark along the “Mother Road.” In 2006, the Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County acquired the property and stabilized the building, but its future remains uncertain.

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

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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, early examples of American skyscrapers, 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 37th 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 through the "Press Room" link.

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