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Jay and Mary Matson to Receive Statewide Preservation Award

Chicago, Ill. – On Saturday, October 29, Jay and Mary Matson of Galesburg will be honored with a “Lifetime Achievement Award” by Landmarks Illinois as part of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards. This 17th-annual event honors individuals, organizations, and projects throughout the state that represent excellence in historic preservation.

“This year’s award-winning projects are a testament to the deep commitment of preservationists across the state,” said Jim Peters, President of Landmarks Illinois.

This couple’s fight to save the Seminary Street commercial district in Galesburg began in 1975 when the Sandburg Mall opened north of town, greatly affecting Main Street area businesses, including their own retail store. Instead of moving their business to the mall, the Matsons decided to save Seminary Street.

The Matsons soon acquired most of the properties on Seminary Street with a vision of bringing restaurants and businesses to the area. At that same time, the couple shared their story with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Galesburg subsequently was chosen to be one of the three pilot areas for a new national Main Street Program.

Along with working with the City to create a tax increment financing district to assist with restoration efforts, the Matsons also created Seminary Street Historic Commercial District, a non-profit organization. “While it has taken over 35 years, Seminary Street has been given a new life because of the Matsons’ dedication,” the awards jury noted.

Other award winners around the state were:

- **Ancel House**, *Glencoe*—Restoration
- **Champaign County Courthouse**, *Urbana*—Reconstruction
- **Classic Cinemas**, *Various Locations*—Stewardship
- **Clayville Restoration Project**, *Pleasant Plains*—Advocacy
- **Municipal Center River Wall and Plaza**, *St. Charles*—Restoration
- **Parkside Apartments**, *Kewanee*—Adaptive Use
- **Scully Building**, *Lincoln*—Rehabilitation
- **Sullivan Center**, *Chicago*—Project of the Year for Restoration

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Since 1994, Landmarks Illinois has been assisted by a generous grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation to honor those whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation and inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote historic resources throughout Illinois.

The award itself is a small-scale replica of the entrance arch and a portion of the Trading Room from Louis Sullivan's Chicago Stock Exchange building, which was demolished in 1972. The fight to save this important part of Chicago's built environment led to the founding of Landmarks Illinois in 1971. In addition, winners receive a \$500 cash award.

The awards ceremony will be held on October 29, from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. at The InterContinental Hotel, Chicago and is open to the public. Tickets are available at \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. To make a reservation, contact Landmarks Illinois at 312-922-1742.

Landmarks Illinois would like to thank the members of this year's awards jury for generously donating their time and expertise: Jean Follett, Historic Preservation Consultant, Hinsdale; Allison Garwood Freedland, AIA, Chicago; Allen Johnson, MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC, Chicago; Michael Lambert, ARRIS Architects + Planners, Plainfield; and Hank Norris, Brinkoetter & Associates Realtors, Decatur

For more information about the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards, visit www.Landmarks.org. Images of all winning projects are available from our press room at http://www.landmarks.org/image_library.htm .

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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 through innovative programs and promotion. For more information, visit www.Landmarks.org.