



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **1915 Lewis Pharmacy makes statewide endangered list**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009, Springfield, Ill.**—Lewis Pharmacy, 8 S. Main St. in Canton (Fulton County), was named to Landmarks Illinois’ annual “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” list announced today during a press conference in the State Capitol.

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

This announcement coincided with the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s release today of America’s “Most Endangered Historic Places.” These two lists kick off National Preservation Month in May.

“This amazing apothecary is virtually intact since it opened in 1915,” said Jim Peters, president and CEO of Landmarks Illinois. “With the right owner stepping in, this treasure will remain a significant fixture, both on Canton’s Main Street and North Central Illinois.”

Termed “the finest drug store in Illinois,” at its opening, the shop retains its original cabinetry, booths, soda fountain, checkerboard floor and decorative art glass. The pharmacy was operated by the Gustine family until 1937, when it was sold to the Lewis family who operated it for an additional 72 years. An elderly Edward Lewis, Jr. finally retired and closed the pharmacy in February.

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The hope is to find a new owner who would preserve this historic institution. If an appropriate buyer can not be found, the furniture and fixtures will soon be sold at auction. Although Canton has an active preservation program for its downtown, it does not have a local landmark ordinance to protect buildings from demolition.

### Background

Since the inception of Landmarks Illinois' "Ten Most" list in 1995, 153 properties have been identified, calling attention to statewide resources in need of preservation. Less than 20% of these sites have been lost to demolition, but many remain in need of preservation.

This year's list also includes Chicago's Landmark Ordinance, the oldest commercial building in the planned suburb of Riverside, the state's oldest bank, a hospital campus of 29 buildings in Chicago, a historic stagecoach inn where Lincoln slept, an iconic structure in Aurora, a 109-year-old train depot, Illinois' largest Chautauqua auditorium, a Bertrand Goldberg-designed hospital, and a distinctive group of rural barns.

Landmarks Illinois is celebrating its 38<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 the Chicagoland Watch List and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards.

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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 gone on to save 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](http://www.Landmarks.org).*