



“I BELIEVE IN THE VISION OF SAVING THIS OLD FARMSTEAD. I LOVE MY COMMUNITY AND THE HISTORY IT HOLDS. THE FARMSTEAD’S HISTORY AND GREENVIEW’S HISTORY ARE LOCKED TOGETHER AND IT’S WONDERFUL TO COMBINE THE TWO AND SHARE IT WITH THE CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

— Charlotte Wohler, President, Historic Marbold Farmstead Association



“THE MONEY WAS WONDERFUL, BUT IT WAS THE PRESTIGE [OF LANDMARKS ILLINOIS] THAT LEAD TO WHY THIS GRANT WAS IMPORTANT—IT WAS A CATALYST AND HELPED US SELL THE STORY TO OTHER PEOPLE. HAVING THE SUPPORT OF LANDMARKS ILLINOIS WAS WORTH 100,000 TIMES THE GRANT AMOUNT FOR THAT REASON.”

— Dick Hart, Founding and Current Board Member, Elijah Iles House Foundation

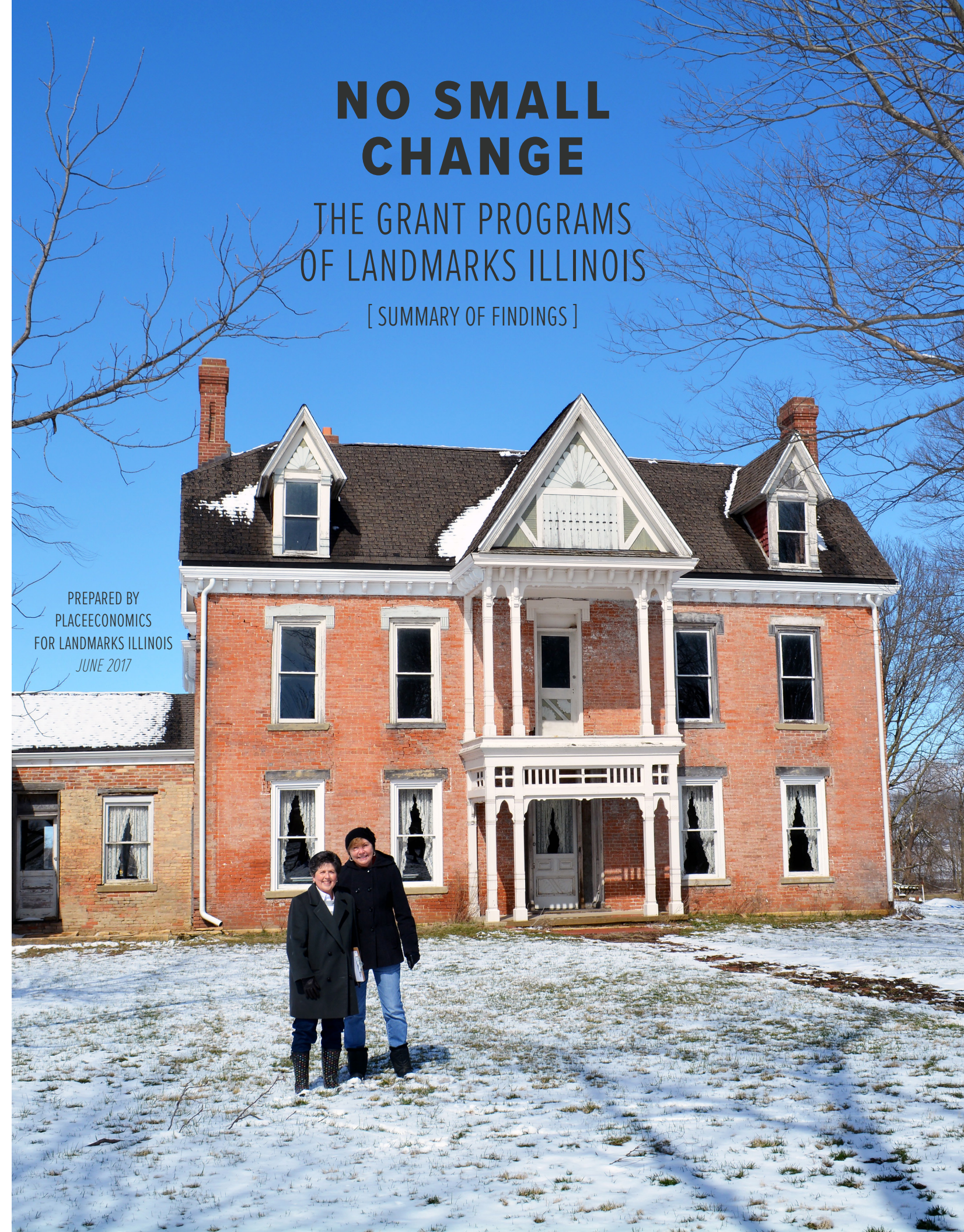


## THE CONCLUSION

These interviews uncovered four significant patterns among grant recipients:

1. The grants were generally **small**
2. The grants were usually one of the **early** awards received for the project
3. The grants added **credibility** to the organizations receiving them
4. The grants were used to **leverage** additional support and funding

While the funds themselves were primarily awarded for a physical structure, from the recipients’ point of view, their real purpose was supporting the needs of the local community – its meaning, its memory, its values, and its distinctiveness. Landmarks Illinois’ grants were the spark and the support needed at critical times to preserve and sometimes heal the fabric of communities from every corner of the state.





THE METHODOLOGY

To understand the impacts of the Preservation Heritage Funds (PHF) grants on a qualitative level, eleven Illinois communities were visited and dozens of community members involved with the projects were interviewed. These projects were selected to reflect a range of geographical locations, dates of the grant award, and community sizes, as well as the availability of original participants for interviews and perspective. These conversations gave insight into why the buildings were important on a local level and how the PHF awards had impacts far beyond their grant amount.

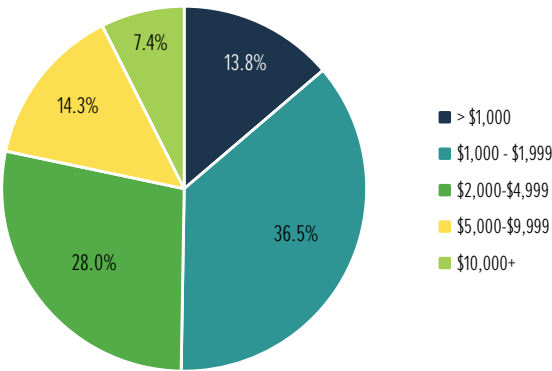
THE FINDINGS

Landmarks Illinois’ grant programs administered 192 grants between 1984 and 2017. The funds were typically used to repair and stabilize buildings that are important locally, based on their history and their ability to continue serving their communities.

This study was commissioned to better understand the scope, geographical reach, and effectiveness of the \$825,629 provided through three grant programs administered by Landmarks Illinois: the Endangered Building Grant program; the Preservation Heritage Fund (PHF); and the Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II Preservation Fund Grant.

SIZE OF GRANTS

Most of the grants are relatively small. More than 14% of the grants were less than \$1,000 and nearly 36% were between \$1,000 and \$1,999. Only 7.5% of the grants were in amounts of \$10,000 or more.



SHARE OF FUNDING

Landmarks Illinois’ grants often accounted for less than 5% of the entire project costs (22.1% of grants), or between 5% and 9.9% (14.4% of grants). While these grants were small, we repeatedly discovered that recipients received the grants early in the project and were able to use the funds as leverage to attract additional money. **On an aggregate basis, every \$1 of money from Landmarks Illinois was matched by more than \$16 from other sources.**



HOW GRANTS WERE USED

The stated purpose of Landmarks Illinois’ grants is “to address threats to the historic resource from demolition or imminent deterioration, to assist properties in need of stabilization, and to fund analyses as to the structural condition of the building or its eligibility for landmark designation.” The grant funds were distributed for the following purposes:

REPAIR / STABILIZATION / RESTORATION	42.5%
SURVEYS / ASSESSMENTS / APPRAISAL / FEASIBILITY	19.2%
ROOF / WINDOWS	17.5%
OTHER	10.0%
WORKSHOPS / CHARRETTES	4.2%
ARCHITECTURAL / LEGAL	3.3%
HVAC	3.3%

THE STORIES



BEECHER | BEECHER MASOLEUM  
\$1,500 in 2013



COBDEN | DUBOIS BUILDING  
\$1,500 in 2013

“WHEN OUTSIDE PEOPLE SAY ‘YOU ARE WORTHY OF THIS!’ IT HELPS. THE NAME LANDMARKS ILLINOIS HELPS.”

— Jane Pfeifer, Historic Elsie Foundation



ATLANTA | DOWNEY BUILDING  
\$10,000 in 2006

“NOBODY WOULD HELP ME SAVE THIS PLACE LOCALLY, SO I HAD TO GO BIGGER. LANDMARKS ILLINOIS WAS MY SUPPORT. THEY EVEN MADE SCARECROWS AND CAME TO MY HALLOWEEN PARTY [AT THE MAUSOLEUM]!”

— Sandra Thielman, Founder, Beecher Mausoleum Guardian Angel Association



CHICAGO | SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY ART CENTER  
\$1,500 in 2013

“I DID THIS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. WE HAD NO TOURISTS IN TOWN IN 2008. SINCE THE CAFÉ OPENED IN 2009, SALES TAX REVENUE HAS GONE UP 43%. NOW TOURISTS HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT.”

— Bill Thomas, Economic Development Director, Logan County



BISHOP HILL | DAIRY BUILDING  
\$1,500 in 2013

“WE ALL UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN RESTORATION TAKES PLACE. WITH THAT RENEWING COMES A FEELING THAT ‘I CAN BE RECONNECTED.’ WITH A LIFT AND EXPANSION IT SHOWS THE BUILDING IS ALIVE, THE BUILDING IS NOT DYING.”

—Masequa Myers, Executive Director of the South Side Community Art Center



ESLAH | FARLEY MUSIC HALL  
\$1,500 in 2013



GOLDEN | PRAIRIE MILLS WINDMILL  
\$5,000 IN 2004  
\$2,500 IN 2007