

2018 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES IN ILLINOIS



1
Kincaid Mounds
Brookport, Massac and Pope Counties



2
Early Settlement-era Buildings
Mill Race Inn, Geneva, Kane County
Amasa White House, Geneva, Kane County



3
Central Congregational Church
Galesburg, Knox County



4
Rock Island County Courthouse
Rock Island, Rock Island County



5
The Forum
Chicago, Cook County



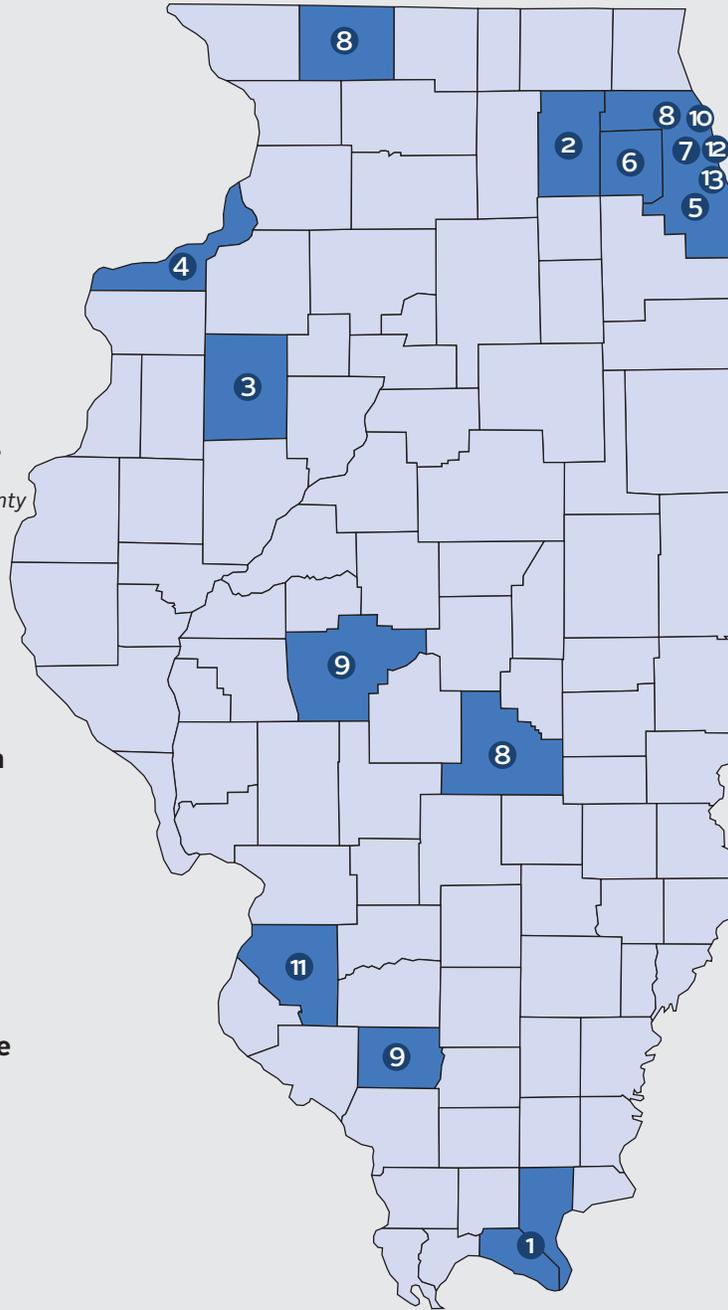
6
Old Nichols Library
Naperville, DuPage County



7
Second Church of Christ, Scientist
Chicago, Cook County



8
Chautauquas & Tabernacles
Cook County, Stephenson County, Shelby County



13
Thompson Center
Chicago, Cook County



12
Varsity Theater Block
Evanston, Cook County



11
Nite Spot Café
Fairmont City, St. Clair County



10
Stran-Steel House
Wilmette, Cook County



9
Illinois State Fairgrounds
Springfield, Sangamon County
Du Quoin, Perry County

2018 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois

KINCAID MOUNDS**Brookport, Massac and Pope Counties**

A rare, archeological site built by settlers in the Middle Mississippian period more than a thousand years ago. The site, which spans Massac and Pope Counties, is a National Historic Landmark. However, with no full-time staff dedicated to Kincaid Mounds, a local nonprofit organization is concerned that limited funding, deteriorating interpretation, farming practices and soil erosion threaten the proper care and long-term survival of the mounds. Just nine of the original estimated 19 earthen works exist today.

EARLY SETTLEMENT-ERA BUILDINGS**Mill Race Inn & Amasa White House, Geneva, Kane County**

Two specific sites built within the first two decades of Geneva's founding are included in this listing: the Amasa White House and the Mill Race Inn. These sites represent both commercial and residential development during Geneva's early settlement years, are humble in nature and exhibit the vernacular architecture being constructed by Geneva's first settlers. Mill Race Inn faces demolition and Amasa White House remains vacant with no use.

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**60 Public Square, Galesburg, Knox County**

Built in 1898 and designed by C.E. Gottschalk and Beadle Architects, this historic church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been host to prominent figures like Galesburg native Carl Sandburg, who celebrated his 75th birthday and the release of his autobiography at the church. Lack of funding, however, has led to deferred maintenance of the structure and an inability to complete significant repairs. The church congregation needs new partners, funding sources or possibly to sell the historic church in order to secure a long-term preservation solution.

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE**1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Rock Island County**

The Spanish Renaissance or Roman-style building was designed by Fredrick C. Gunn and Louis S. Curtis and built in 1897. The courthouse served as the county seat since 1897, but today faces demolition following the completion of a new Justice Center in late 2018. The Public Building Commission has called for the demolition of the historic structure after courthouse operations move to the new center next door. Public support to seek reuse options has been strong, but the final decision resides with the Rock Island County Board.

THE FORUM**324 E 43rd Street, Chicago, Cook County**

A former assembly hall built in 1897 in the Bronzeville neighborhood on Chicago's South Side attracted musical greats like Nat King Cole and Muddy Waters and served as the site of important civil and labor rights meetings. The Forum today requires significant rehabilitation. Funding has been difficult to secure for this unique historic building on a retail corridor challenged by decades of disinvestment.

OLD NICHOLS LIBRARY**110 S Washington Street, Naperville, DuPage County**

This building, constructed in 1898 and designed by architect M.E. Bell, was Naperville's first public library. It features rusticated limestone quarried in Naperville and is locally landmarked and in a National Register district. However, the landmark status only protects the structure's main façade, and a developer has plans to demolish the remainder of the building for a new development.

SECOND CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**2700 N Pine Grove Avenue, Chicago, Cook County**

This classically inspired church, built in 1899 and part of a National Register Historic District in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, is the oldest continually operating Christian Science church in the city. It was designed by S.S. Beman, perhaps best known as the architect behind the Pullman Company Town in Chicago. The National Register district does not provide landmark protection, unfortunately, and the congregation's marketing of the building in a desirable real estate area leaves it vulnerable.

CHAUTAUQUAS & TABERNACLES**Waldorf Tabernacle, Des Plaines, Cook County****Oakdale Tabernacle, Freeport, Stephenson County****Chautauqua Auditorium, Shelbyville, Shelby County**

Three structures related to the Chautauqua and Camp Meeting movements in Illinois are included: the Waldorf Tabernacle in Des Plaines, the Oakdale Tabernacle in Freeport, and the Chautauqua Auditorium in Shelbyville. These structures all require maintenance and repairs in order to serve the community once again. They represent a unique part of Illinois' history in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with large gathering spaces in natural settings for the public to hear sermons or educational lectures.

ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUNDS**801 E Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Sangamon County****655 Executive Drive, Du Quoin, Perry County**

Illinois' two state fairgrounds, Springfield and Du Quoin, are both home to numerous structures that have suffered from deferred maintenance as the State of Illinois lacks the capital required for such projects. In Springfield, Barn 13 required emergency repairs this year and the Coliseum remains closed due to deterioration, while the Grandstand building in Du Quoin is in need of a new roof. Over a dozen buildings at both fairgrounds need significant repairs and new roofs, but funding sources have not been secured.

STRAN-STEEL HOUSE**2105 Chestnut Avenue, Wilmette, Cook County**

This unique home built of steel and baked iron enamel was featured at the "Homes of Tomorrow" exhibit at the 1933 Century of Progress Fair in Chicago. It was designed for the Stran-Steel Corp. to feature modern home design and was relocated to Wilmette after the Fair. It has no landmark protection and faces a demolition threat by its current owner who plans to build two new homes on the site. The owner has offered the home to anyone who can move it from its current location by this summer.

THE NITE SPOT CAFE**Collinsville Road & 45th Street, Fairmont City, St. Clair County**

This former restaurant along Route 66 features an iconic mid-century, neon sign outside that continues to remind passersby of a bygone era when families and tourists hit the "Mother Road" – the historic highway from Chicago to Los Angeles. The Nite Spot Café closed in 1984 and remains vacant. The building is threatened with condemnation and demolition by Fairmont City, despite the owner's plans to complete the necessary structural repairs this year.

VARSITY THEATER BLOCK**1706-1726 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Cook County**

The 1700 block of Sherman Avenue is one of the last remaining historically intact blocks in downtown Evanston and is unprotected. Historic structures on this block, like the 1926, J.E.O. Pridmore-designed Varsity Theater, contribute to the city's downtown character and are vulnerable teardown targets to make way for future new developments.

THOMPSON CENTER**100 W Randolph Street, Chicago, Cook County**

Chicago's best example of grandly-scaled, Postmodern architecture. Designed by Helmut Jahn and built in 1985, the building faces a demolition threat as its current owner, the State of Illinois, pursues a possible sale that may not require reuse of the existing structure. LI listed the Thompson Center in 2017 on our Most Endangered list, and this year, has released renderings to show a reuse concept for the irreplaceable building.