



Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois and what does it do?

The Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois is an annual list of threatened culturally and/or architecturally significant properties that Landmarks Illinois has released since 1995. The purpose of the list is to focus attention on sites threatened by deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds or inappropriate development and to bolster local advocacy efforts and build support for each property's eventual preservation. The Most Endangered list also draws attention to important policy issues that affect these properties and historic properties throughout the state.

What are the benefits of having the place that I care about included in the list?

The Most Endangered list brings public attention and support to sites listed on it and encourages decision-makers to find preservation-based solutions for them. When Landmarks Illinois includes a site on the Most Endangered list it also commits to support your ongoing advocacy efforts for years to come, sharing our resources and expertise and continuing to spread the word about the site and its significance. Inclusion on the Most Endangered list not guarantee that your place will be saved, but it can provide a meaningful boost to your advocacy efforts.

What are examples of places that have been on the list in the past?

A few recent examples of places that have been saved after being included on the Most Endangered list are [Old Cook County Hospital](#) in Chicago, the [Harley Clarke Mansion](#) in Evanston and the [Hotel Belleville](#) in Belleville. A full list of places throughout the history of the program is available at the [Landmarks Illinois website](#).

How does Landmarks Illinois choose what places to include?

Landmarks Illinois staff, with input from the Board of Directors, selects the sites to include on the annual Most Endangered list. When choosing what sites to include,

we look at support and interest from others in the local community, the urgency of the threat and potential preservation solutions. We also look for alignment with our organizational [guiding principles](#), and we are particularly interested in highlighting places that tell the stories of communities that have historically not received equal recognition from the preservation field.

Who can nominate a place to be on the list?

Anyone can nominate a place to be on the list, including community groups, nonprofit organizations, local governments, historical societies and concerned citizens. You do not have to be affiliated with a historic preservation organization or group to nominate a place.

What is the timeline for the 2023 Most Endangered list?

Landmarks Illinois will accept nominations from December 13, 2022, through January 17, 2023. Nominators will be notified in early spring whether or not their place was selected. The 2023 list will be announced in May 2023.

What will I need to do if my place is chosen for the list?

If your place is selected for the list, you'll work with Landmarks Illinois to prepare for announcement day by providing background information, reviewing communications materials, sharing photos and assisting with outreach to local media. While Landmarks Illinois will take the lead on the announcement, the partnership and support of nominators is key to the success of the Most Endangered program.

Does listing a place prevent it from being demolished or inappropriately altered?

Being included in the Most Endangered list is a purely honorary designation that offers no protection against demolition or alteration; however, the visibility that comes with being included on the list encourages alternative outcomes.

Does listing come with funding?

Being included on the list does not come with any funding attached; however, we prioritize places that have been on our Most Endangered list to receive funding through Landmarks Illinois [grant programs](#).

Can I nominate a site for the Most Endangered list if I nominated in the past and wasn't successful?

Yes, we gladly accept repeat nominations, though re-applying is not a guarantee that your place will be selected. Please include in your nomination what has changed for the place since submitting your previous nomination.

Can a place be included in the Most Endangered list more than once?

Landmarks Illinois can choose to include a place on more than one Most Endangered list if we believe that repeating a listing will make a meaningful difference to advocacy efforts. We encourage you to reach out to staff to discuss if a repeat listing makes sense for your place before submitting a nomination.

What if I'm not sure whether my place is a good fit for the list, or if I have other questions?

Please reach out to Landmarks Illinois Advocacy Manager Kendra Parzen at kparzen@landmarks.org for questions about places in the greater Chicago area, or to Landmarks Illinois Regional Advocacy Manager Quinn Adamowski at qadamowski@landmarks.org for places in the rest of the state.

Where can I find help using Submittable?

For help with Submittable, please visit <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>.