



## Landmarks Illinois Statement

Regarding Century and Consumers Buildings, 202-220 S. State St.

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GSA Public Meeting to Review Draft EIS

October 2, 2023

Good afternoon, my name is Kendra Parzen and I am Advocacy Manager for Landmarks Illinois, the statewide nonprofit organization helping people across Illinois to save the places that matter to their communities. In both 2022 and 2023, we included the Century and Consumers Buildings in our annual list of the Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our initial comments on the draft EIS shared by the GSA.

We are pleasantly surprised by the draft EIS's findings regarding the impacts of Alternative A: Demolition, and Alternative B: Adaptive Reuse. We strongly agree with the characterization that demolishing these buildings would have impacts that are negative, significant, and long-term. We also agree that adaptive reuse would have impacts that are

beneficial and long-term. These findings frankly pose the question, why is demolition of these buildings still on the table when adaptive reuse is clearly the superior alternative?

Nevertheless, since demolition is still very much on the table, we also feel compelled to comment on the mitigation proposed in this draft report, which is to landscape the cleared lots as green space. Although there are examples of flat green spaces and plazas in the greater Loop area, with the exception of Pritzker Park, these examples are not located along State Street, one of the city's densest corridors. Open space with landscaping is not consistent with the visual character of State Street, nor with land use plans for this area of the city. The aesthetic and visual effects of this change would not be minor-to-moderate, but severe, and it would be extremely poor compensation for the loss of these historic buildings.

Thank you for considering our comments today. We anticipate submitting additional comments in writing.