



## Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **What is the Most Endangered List and what does it do?**

The Most Endangered list is an annual list of threatened 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 Historic Places in Illinois 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 shines a spotlight on included places that can generate the public interest and support needed to make a difference for their future. It creates pressure on decision-makers to find a preservation-based solution. The inclusion of a place on the list is also a commitment from Landmarks Illinois to support your ongoing advocacy efforts by sharing our resources and expertise. Listing does not guarantee that your place will be saved, but 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 include [Old Cook County Hospital](#) in Chicago, the [Baxter International Headquarters Campus](#) in Deerfield, and the [Hotel Belleville](#) in Belleville. A full list of places throughout the history of the program is available at <https://www.landmarks.org/preservation-programs/most-endangered-historic-places-in-illinois/>.

#### **How do you choose what places to include?**

The list is selected by Landmarks Illinois staff and confirmed by our Board of Directors. 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 solutions. We also look for alignment with our organizational [guiding principles](#) and

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 throughout the state. You do not have to be affiliated with a historic preservation organization or group to nominate a place.

### **What is the timeline for the 2024 Most Endangered list?**

Landmarks Illinois will accept nominations from December 4, 2023, through January 12, 2024. Nominators will be notified in early spring whether or not their place was selected. The 2024 list will be announced in May 2024.

### **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 a successful list.

### **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 your last 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 Kendra Parzen at [kparzen@landmarks.org](mailto:kparzen@landmarks.org) for questions about places in the greater Chicago area, or to Quinn Adamowski at [qadamowski@landmarks.org](mailto: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/>.