



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide Group Names Top Preservation Projects of Last 40 Years

Aug. 1, 2011 – As a commemoration of its 40th anniversary, Landmarks Illinois has announced its list of the top 40 “preservation success stories” that have taken place in Illinois over the past four decades.

“These projects represent a cross section of some of the very best grassroots preservation efforts in Illinois,” notes Jim Peters, President of the statewide nonprofit advocacy group. “We also hope that these ‘old’ ideas will encourage communities to help save other important historic buildings.”

The projects in the “40 Over 40” list are scattered throughout Illinois, stretching from Galena to Carbondale. Two dozen communities, over all, are represented. Chicago tops the list with 11 projects, with another four in Springfield. The listings also are well distributed between each of the past four decades.

Efforts during the 1970s include: the saving of a key section of downtown Galena, the preservation of a Civil War-era school in Pittsfield, and the creation of one of the nation’s first Main Street revitalization programs in Galesburg.

The decade of the 1980s included the rescue of an 1850s railroad roundhouse in Aurora, the protection of a Native American site in LaSalle County, and the creation of the Broadway Historic District in Rock Island.

Projects from the 1990s included Frank Lloyd Wright’s Dana-Thomas House in Springfield, a Catsup bottle-shaped water tower in Collinsville, and the Black Metropolis Historic District in Chicago.

The most recent decade (2000-10) featured the purchase of the modern glass Farnsworth House in Plano, the restoration of Union Station in Springfield, and a citywide effort in Chicago to save its historic bungalows.

The list was assembled in consultation with the organization’s Regional Advisors, as well as individuals who are involved in preservation efforts throughout the state. In order to view the list, go to the “40 over 40” section of www.Landmarks.org.