

LANDMARKS ILLINOIS
53 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1315, Chicago, IL 60604
www.landmarks.org

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**WHEATON'S ARCHITECTURAL 'GREAT PLACE'
AMONG STATE'S "TEN MOST ENDANGERED"**

SPRINGFIELD, IL. Apr. 2 – The Adams Memorial Library, 102 E. Wesley St., Wheaton (DuPage County) was named to the list of “Ten Most Endangered Historic Places” for 2008 by Landmarks Illinois, a statewide advocacy group. The announcement was made today in the Press Room of the State Capitol.

“This exquisite building is an invaluable asset to the community,” said David Bahlman, president of Landmarks Illinois. “It is imperative that the historic structure and the artifacts within are properly preserved.”

This Richardsonian Romanesque structure was designed in 1891 by noted architect Charles Sumner Frost to house Wheaton’s first public library. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of AIA-Illinois’ Top 150 Great Places. It is located across the street from a city park named in honor of the library’s founder, John Quincy Adams (a cousin of his presidential namesake).

When a new city library was constructed in 1965, the DuPage County Historical Society purchased the building for use as a museum. In the past two years the museum’s budget has been cut by 50 percent and county officials are contemplating their options, which include liquidating the collections and closing the facility. If the building is closed, its future could be in jeopardy since it is not a locally protected landmark.

The purpose of the “Ten Most” list is to focus attention on sites threatened by deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, or inappropriate development. Since the program’s inception in 1995, 143 properties have been identified on the

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endangered list, calling attention to statewide resources in need of preservation. Less than 20% of these sites have been lost to demolition, but many remain in need of preservation.

This year's list also includes a site along the Underground Railroad, a parochial school constructed by Civil War veterans, Chicago's first riverfront plaza, early examples of American skyscrapers, a windmill-themed sandwich shop in Central Illinois, a Mid-Century modern building designed for the Navy, and two renowned sporting facilities: U of I's Assembly Hall and Chicago's Wrigley Field.

Landmarks Illinois is celebrating its 37th year as a statewide advocacy and education organization. The not-for-profit works with citizens and communities throughout Illinois to preserve, protect and promote historic places through advocacy and education. In addition to the Ten Most Endangered list, the organization also sponsors the Chicagoland Watch List and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards.

EDITORS:

The complete list of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois, including photos, can be downloaded from our website: www.landmarks.org through the "Press Room" link.

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