



LANDMARKS
ILLINOIS

APOLLO'S 2000



THE
ARCH

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2 TO OUR MEMBERS

6 A FAMILY'S MISSION TO LANDMARK
A LITTLE VILLAGE ICON

8 2024 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC
PLACES IN ILLINOIS

10 AROUND THE STATE



Cover: The Galindo family — (left to right) Isis, Naomi, Javier, Lidia Galindo and Evelyn Stell (with her son, Benjamin) — in front of the Apollo's 2000, an event venue and concert hall at a historic former theater in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. The family has owned and operated the theater for 35 years and initiated the process to have the building designated a Chicago Landmark. Read about their story on pages 6-7.

Above: The ribbon cutting ceremony at the Farnsworth House in 2004, marking the opening of the home to the public.

All photos by Landmarks Illinois unless otherwise noted.



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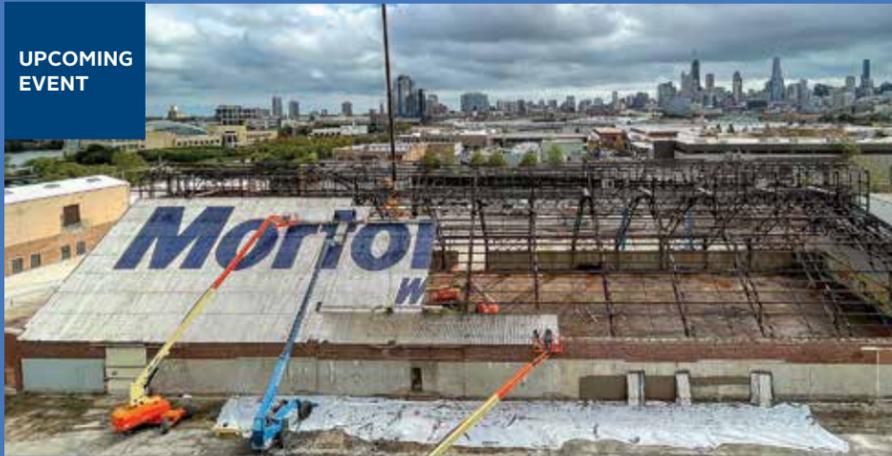
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TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

THE SALT SHED 6 - 8 p.m. 1357 N. Elston Ave., Chicago

Presented by Landmarks Illinois' Real Estate and Building Industries Council & Skyline Council

Join Landmarks Illinois' Real Estate and Building Industries Council and young and emerging professionals committee, the Skyline Council, for a joint event at The Salt Shed, the newly renovated former historic Morton Salt Factory. Connect with real estate, architecture, preservation and development professionals at the networking reception featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and behind-the-scenes tours of the iconic Chicago Landmark. Details, registration and sponsorships available at Landmarks.org.

Photo © Sandra Steinbrecher

**OTHER EXCITING
LI NEWS**

Celebrating major staff milestones!

Landmarks Illinois is congratulating four staff members who are celebrating significant anniversaries with the organization. Please make sure to thank our dedicated team members at our next event for their continued service to helping people save places!



Landmarks Illinois hosts one-hour presentations on historic preservation efforts across the state. Preservation isn't a one-size-fits-all practice. Many people have preservation efforts that are dear to them. Our Preservation Snapshots lectures feature guest presenters who have covered topics including the Edith Farnsworth House in Plano, the Underground Railroad in New Philadelphia and Gillson Park in Wilmette. Visit our YouTube channel, YouTube.com/@LandmarksIllinois, to watch folks who are taking preservation by the reins.

**SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**

**LANDMARKS ILLINOIS
RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS
FOUNDATION
PRESERVATION
AWARDS**

**6 - 9 p.m.
Apollo's 2000
2875 W. Cermak Road, Chicago**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25
2024 ANNUAL
MEETING**

12 p.m. — Via Zoom
Free, Registration required
Register at **landmarks.org**



PLUS!

Look For Our 2023/24 Annual Report Landmarks Illinois will release its **Annual Report** following the Annual Meeting on June 25. The report will feature a look at our biggest preservation successes and insight into how your continued support helps people save places across Illinois. The report will be published on our website, Landmarks.org, and we will share it with our email newsletter subscribers. Make sure you are signed up for our email communications!

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO TO OUR MEMBERS

Reflecting on the ‘Herculean’ preservation effort 20 years ago to save the Edith Farnsworth House

On May 1, Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust for Historic Preservation marked 20 years since opening the Edith Farnsworth House in Plano to the public. Photos from the ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2004 are inspiring to see, even today. Considering the many challenges preservationists endure, it is rewarding to reflect on such an enormous success. May 1, 2004, was a pivotal moment for Landmarks Illinois and preservation across the U.S.

If you missed it, I recommend watching Landmarks Illinois’ Preservation Snapshots presentation from April featuring architect Joe Antunovich, who served as Chair of our Board of Directors during the effort to save this iconic house. You can find the presentation on Landmarks Illinois’ YouTube channel. Even those familiar with the Edith Farnsworth House preservation saga learned something new.

“Saving the Edith Farnsworth House put Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust on an international stage, where we received considerable acclaim for a bold preservation move.”

While undertaking Herculean preservation campaigns is not new to preservation, the story of the Edith Farnsworth House and its preservation is exceptional. The house is a seminal Miesian design that deeply influenced Modernist residential architecture. The fact that preservationists mobilized to raise \$7 million to successfully purchase the house at an international auction makes this preservation effort legendary.

Saving the Edith Farnsworth House put Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust on an international stage, where we received considerable acclaim for a bold preservation move. Moreover, this experience gave us the courage and determination to always seek creative preservation solutions.

In my time with Landmarks Illinois, I have seen this characteristic time and time again: filing litigation to protect preservation laws and procedures; building our own charette development team to propose a reuse plan for Old Cook County Hospital, and, with partners,



successfully saving both the James R. Thompson Center and the Johnson Publishing Company Ebony Test Kitchen.

This spirit of courage continues as we work to move preservation forward through our Guiding Principles, The Relevancy Project, our DEI Action Plan and, in the year ahead, transformational planning. We have challenges as large or larger than the Edith Farnsworth House ahead, so the bold and courageous standards set by this project will guide our way forward.

The Edith Farnsworth House has continued its evolution in the 20 years since it opened to the public. In November 2021, to mark the house’s 70th year, the National Trust for Historic Preservation rededicated the historic site to honor the woman who built it: the Farnsworth House became the Edith Farnsworth

House. With women in leadership positions at both the National Trust and Landmarks Illinois, we will continue our efforts to make preservation more inclusive, thereby influencing future generations of leaders.

Preservation successes on the scale of the Edith Farnsworth House require many hands. Landmarks Illinois thanks everyone involved in this preservation effort—past, present and future. This includes visionary board members, the hardworking staff at Landmarks Illinois and the National Trust, and the many donors whose contributions ranged from \$10 to \$1 million. Your advocacy and financial support make it possible for us to continue our courageous work to preserve places that matter.

With appreciation,

Bonnie McDonald

Bonnie McDonald

*The Edith
Farnsworth House.
Credit: Liz Chilsen*

Landmarks Illinois Regional Advocacy Manager Quinn Adamowski, Director of Reinvestment Suzanne Germann, Board Member Jean Follett, and President & CEO Bonnie McDonald at the renaming dedication ceremony at the Edith Farnsworth House in November 2021.



The crowd at the 2004 ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Edith Farnsworth House. Credit: Joan Hackett

By Suzanne Germann
Director of Reinvestment

LITTLE EGYPT ARTS ASSOCIATION Marion Preservation Heritage Fund Grant Recipient

The Powell building and its tenants, the Little Egypt Arts Association (LEAA), are anchors on the southwest corner of Marion's Tower Square Plaza. Built in the early 20th century, the building was home to Powell's Haberdashery for much of its history. Powell's was not only known for its quality men's wear but also its iconic advertising. The slogan, "Powell's Best Clothes in Egypt," referring to the region's nickname since the 1800s, could be seen on barn roofs and along highways throughout Southern Illinois.

After sitting vacant for several years, the Powell family gifted the building to LEAA in 1997. LEAA has remained a mainstay on the now-thriving Marion Square, acting as an arts oasis through arts programming, photography classes, mural crews and youth programming. LEAA has rehabilitated and maintained the property for the past 26 years through grants, donations and fundraisers. They will use the \$2,500 Preservation Heritage Fund Grant to install an accessible bathroom on the first floor. 🇺🇸

Little Egypt Arts Association Board Members George Stone and Janet Bixler in front of the historic Powell building in Marion.



RENDLEMAN ORCHARD Alto Pass

Landmarks Illinois Banterra Bank Preserve
Southern Illinois Grant Recipient

Rendleman Orchards began in 1873 when John and Isabelle Rendleman bought and established the original 88-acre family farm, raising chickens, cows and corn. Over the past 150 years, the small family farm has grown into a modern agricultural enterprise that spans more than 800 acres and includes fruits and vegetables, with peaches being the main crop. Fifth-generation owner Wayne Rendleman and his wife Michelle Sirles manage the farm, expanding fruit and vegetable production as well as overall customer experience.

The property includes more than 60 structures, many of them historic migrant housing. The Landmarks Illinois Banterra Bank Preserve Southern Illinois Grant will be used to make necessary repairs to one of the migrant homes. There are plans to use the structure to house historic elements from the farm and eventually to make cider. The family is currently working on a nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Landmarks Illinois Banterra Bank Preserve Southern Illinois Grant was a two-year pilot program in support of economic development in the region. Since 2022, the partnership has provided eight grants to owners of historic properties along commercial corridors throughout Southern Illinois. 🇺🇸



HYDE PARK UNION CHURCH Chicago

Barbara C. and Thomas E. Donnelley II
Preservation Fund for Illinois Grant Recipient

Hyde Park Union Church sits on historic Woodlawn Avenue near the University of Chicago campus. The church's original congregation was founded in 1874 by a group of people who included founders of the university. The congregation remained closely associated with the university until Rockefeller Chapel was built on the campus in 1928.

Hyde Park Union Church was completed in 1906. The current sanctuary building was designed by architect James Gamble Rogers and financed by John D. Rockefeller through the American Baptist Education Society. It is a handsome example of the Romanesque Revival style popular in late-19th century Chicago. The massive red rockface Lake Superior sandstone facade is surmounted by a peaked cornice with limestone trim and a Celtic cross, framed by large corner towers. Stained glass by Louis Comfort Tiffany, Franz X. Zettler and C.J. Connick studios was donated to the church by its members and their families between 1906 and 1961.

Since 2021, the congregation has been working with Bauer Latoza Studios and Berglund Construction on a conditions assessment to develop a phased plan for repairs to the social hall, in particular its roof and the damage that roof leaks have caused. The congregation will use the \$2,500 Donnelley Preservation Fund Grant from Landmarks Illinois to prepare a similar plan for repair and restoration of the sanctuary. 🇺🇸

Credit: Eric Allix Rogers



BRONZEVILLE TRAIL TASK FORCE Bronzeville

Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund
for Chicago's South Side

The Bronzeville Trail Task Force plans to convert the abandoned Kenwood CTA train tracks at 42nd Street and Indiana Avenue into two miles of parkway for walking, biking and jogging. This will provide a direct connection from the Bloomingdale Trail to the Chicago Lake Front Trail.

The former CTA tracks, originally built in the late 1800s, were initially meant to service the Union Stock Yards, but passenger trains began using the tracks in the 1880s. The Kenwood Line, which was shut down in 1957, holds a significant place in Bronzeville's history. Although some of the embankments have been removed, much of it is still intact.

The task force was created in 2020 and has served as a steward for the development project through community engagement. It will use the \$2,500 Timuel D. Black, Jr. Fund Grant for marketing and promotional materials to support its ambitious fundraising campaign. 🇺🇸

Bronzeville Trail Task Force board members and supporters, including Chicago Ald. Pat Dowell, during a cleanup day for the trail in 2023.
Credit: Bronzeville Trail Task Force Facebook

APOLLO'S 2000

A family's mission to landmark a Little Village icon

By Kaitlyn McAvoy *Director of Communications*

Apollo's 2000 is one of Chicago's newest landmarks. The former Marshall Square Theatre opened in 1917 in the city's West Side neighborhood of Little Village or "La Villita." For more than 100 years, the prominent Beaux Arts building has been an important fixture in the vibrant Mexican-American community. For the past 35 years, it has been the lifeblood of the Galindo family, led by Mexican immigrants Javier and Lidia, who raised their three daughters, Evelyn, Naomi and Isis within its walls.



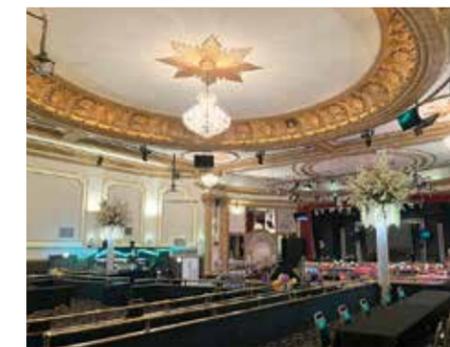
"The Apollo's 2000 holds profound significance for our family, transcending its role as a mere building," said Evelyn Stell, the Galindo's oldest daughter.

"To us, it embodies a cherished second home, a sanctuary where dreams took root and flourished. For my parents — immigrants whose aspirations found fertile ground within its walls — it symbolizes the realization of their American dream."



Apollo's 2000 today operates as an event venue and concert hall, hosting charitable fundraisers, educational workshops, political events and cultural celebrations. It was officially designated a Chicago Landmark in April. The effort to achieve this designation was a unique one, as it was led by the Galindo family themselves. Often landmarking is initiated by an outside party or city staff, who later seeks owner consent for support.

"To us, it embodies a cherished second home, a sanctuary where dreams took root and flourished."



In their case, the Galindo family worked alongside preservation experts from Landmarks Illinois and Preservation Chicago as well as local preservation activist Andy Pierce and Chicago city staff to launch and navigate the landmarking process.

"In hindsight, the process of pursuing Chicago Landmark designation was a transformative journey that deepened our connection to the Apollo's 2000 and reinforced our commitment to its preservation," said Stell. "It taught us the power of collaboration, the importance of advocacy and the profound impact that historic buildings can have on shaping the identity and vitality of a community."

For the Galindo family, designating the Apollo's 2000 was a tangible way to ensure the preservation and protection of this historic and culturally significant community space. It also can lead to new funding sources that can help the family pay for needed restoration and maintenance work.

"Our view is that landmark designation not only honors the past, but also paves the way for a brighter future where the



Apollo's 2000 continues to stand as a symbol of resilience, community and progress," said Stell. 🇺🇸

Clockwise from top left: Naomi Galindo looks at the signatures of guests her family's venue has welcomed over the last three-and-a-half decades in the dressing room off the main stage.

The Galindo family. (Left to right) Evelyn Stell, Naomi, Lidia, Javier and Isis Galindo.

Javier Galindo in the Apollo's 2000 original projection room with the old projectors and reels. The family has left this room largely untouched to help tell the story of the former theater.

The Apollo's 2000 today operates as an events venue and concert hall.



ADVICE FOR OWNER-LED LANDMARK DESIGNATION

For those embarking on their own landmark designation journey, the Galindo family offers the following advice.

- 1 Do your research** Learn about the landmark designation process in your area, including the criteria required and application process. Gathering historical documentation and conducting research on the property's significance will be crucial in building a strong case for designation.
- 2 Community Engagement** Engage with local residents, community organizations and preservation advocates early in the process. Building a coalition of supporters will not only demonstrate the property's significance to the community but also provide valuable allies in advocating for landmark status.
- 3 Seek Expert Guidance** Professionals experienced in historic preservation and landmark designation processes, such as historic preservation consultants, architects and legal experts, can offer invaluable insights and assistance in navigating the complexities of the process.
- 4 Collaborate and Communicate** Foster open communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders throughout the process. Keep community members, local officials and preservation advocates informed and engaged, soliciting their input and support along the way.

2024

MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES IN ILLINOIS

Credit: Bishop Hill Heritage Association

On May 7, Landmarks Illinois announced its 2024 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. This year's list calls attention to 10 culturally and architecturally significant sites across the state that are desperately in need of preservation resources. Among them are three State Historic Sites. Visit our website at [Landmarks.org/most-endangered](https://landmarks.org/most-endangered) to learn more about this year's list.



LIBBY, MCNEILL AND LIBBY BUILDING

Blue Island, Cook County
The former canning and bottling factory was built in 1918 for the Libby, McNeill and Libby company and was an economic engine for the community, employing hundreds of local residents and migrant workers, until it closed in 1968. Today it is vacant and beginning to decay.

PORTAGE THEATER

Chicago, Cook County
The prominent theater, completed in 1920 near Portage Park's popular "Six Corners" area, has been an important cultural institution for the local community. However, it suffers from deferred maintenance.



SEARS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Chicago, Cook County
Constructed in two phases in 1905 and 1914, the Administration Building served as office headquarters for the former retail giant, Sears, Roebuck and Co., until the 1970s. It is part of the company's sprawling campus and sits vacant and underutilized despite its potential for reuse.



Credit: MacRostie Historic Advisors

FORMER COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Collinsville, Madison County
The former Collinsville Township High School welcomed generations of students between 1908 and 1982 and has had various uses since, but today sits empty and deteriorating in a prominent part of the Southern Illinois city.



Credit: Kim Mangan

DECATUR MASONIC TEMPLE

Decatur, Macon County
The Decatur Masonic Temple has served as an important community center in Decatur's historic district since it was built in 1929. The building has suffered deterioration and does not generate enough income today to pay for proper maintenance, leading to expensive, ongoing damage.



Credit: Jerome King

FORMER LINCOLN SCHOOL

East St. Louis, St. Clair County
Built in 1886 as a school for Black students, the historically significant building faces possible demolition due to the lack of proper investment and a preservation plan.



Credit: Colson Photography

JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Vienna, Johnson County
Built in 1871, the Johnson County Courthouse was the oldest continually operating courthouse in Illinois before it closed in 2023 when a roof truss fractured. Until funding for permanent stabilization is secured, the future of the building remains uncertain.

STATE HISTORIC SITES

The following three State Historic Sites have all fallen into disrepair. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has not been provided with sufficient funding to properly maintain the properties.

BISHOP HILL COLONY CHURCH

Bishop Hill, Henry County
(Opposite page, top) Built in 1848, the Colony Church is among the surviving original buildings in the Village of Bishop Hill, one of the earliest settlements of Swedish immigrants in the United States.



Credit: Pope County Historical Society

BUEL HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

Golconda, Pope County
The Alexander Buel House, constructed in 1840, is a state historic site with ties to the Trail of Tears.



SHAWNEETOWN BANK STATE HISTORIC SITE

Old Shawneetown, Gallatin County
Shawneetown Bank State Historic Site is home to the former Bank of Illinois, the oldest bank building in the state. 🇺🇸

HARLEY CLARKE MANSION Evanston

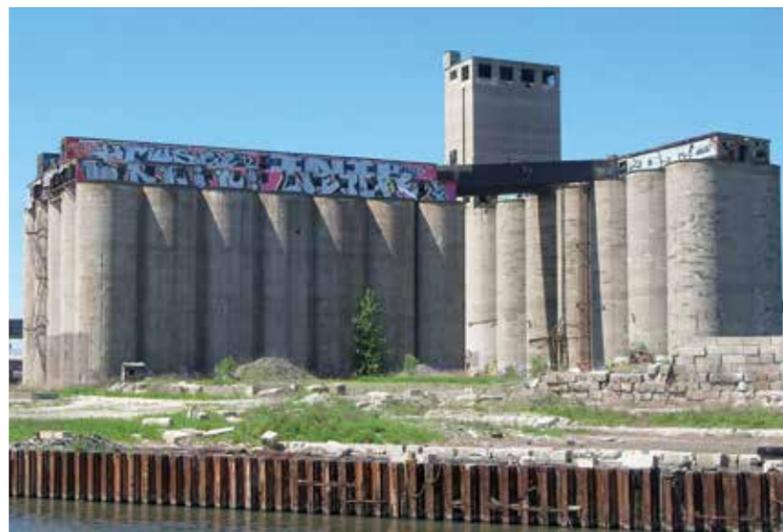
Landmarks Illinois has supported the City of Evanston in its search for a new user for the Harley Clarke Mansion, included in the 2016 Most Endangered list. For decades, the city has owned the historic lakefront mansion that anchors Evanston's Northwest Historic District. Last year, Landmarks Illinois provided input to city staff on the city's Request for Expressions of Interest for reuse of the mansion, which solicited a strong response. We also provided support for the city's Request for Proposals for Harley Clarke Mansion reuse, which closed in late May 2024. The next step is for the City of Evanston to review RFP responses and select a proposal.

Credit: Liz Chilsen



DAMEN SILOS Chicago

Landmarks Illinois is participating in a federal review of the proposed demolition of the Damen Silos, included on the 2023 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. These 1906 grain silos are one of the last remaining monuments to Chicago's early 20th-century dominance in the U.S. grain industry and are an important visual icon for the adjacent McKinley Park neighborhood. Consultation with the private owner, the State Historic Preservation Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—responsible for issuing the required federal permit for the demolition—and interested community and advocacy organizations kicked off in March. The city of Chicago will resume its own permitting and community engagement process for the demolition once federal consultation concludes.



WILL COUNTY COURTHOUSE Joliet

The Will County Courthouse, listed in 2022 as a Most Endangered Historic Place, has been demolished. Though Landmarks Illinois and local advocates undertook a multi-year effort to encourage reuse of the architecturally distinct building, Will County leadership chose to ignore redevelopment options presented by architects and developers. No official plans for the site exist, underscoring the highly problematic push by the County to demolish the building. A key takeaway, and perhaps ultimately the legacy of this battle, is the need to change the laws that make the needless loss of these public assets possible. Landmarks Illinois will continue to seek changes in state statutes that could incentivize governments to choose preservation over demolition.

Credit: Lewis Purdy



CENTURY AND CONSUMERS BUILDINGS Chicago

We need your help to save these two architecturally significant skyscrapers in Chicago's Loop, listed on our 2022 and 2023 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois. The State Street buildings are owned by the U.S. General Services Administration, and a federal consultation process for the buildings concluded this spring without a determination of whether they would be reused or demolished, making their future uncertain. Please write to your elected officials expressing support for reuse of the Century & Consumers Buildings. A letter template and list of elected officials is provided on our website at landmarks.org/centuryandconsumersbuildings.



GEMINI GIANT Wilmington

The Gemini Giant, one of numerous Route 66 roadside attractions and part of Landmarks Illinois' 2017 Most Endangered list, has been saved. The iconic, 28-foot-tall statue, erected in 1965, had become increasingly vulnerable due to changes in ownership. In March, the Joliet Area Historical Museum purchased the Gemini Giant using funds from an Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity grant. On March 20, crews worked to remove the Giant and move it to safe storage. To ensure its continued presence on Route 66 and in its home town, the museum is allowing the City of Wilmington to feature it as a central attraction in the new South Island Park.

(Left to right) City of Wilmington Administrator Jeannine Smith, Joliet Area Historical Museum Chief Executive Officer Gregory Peerbolte, Landmarks Illinois Regional Advocacy Manager Quinn Adamowski, "Save the Gemini Giant" representative Ryan Jandura, and Scott Durano of VFW Post 5422.

Credit: Jeannine Smith

RAY HOUSE Rushville

For years, the Ray House was vacant and in a state of significant deterioration due to deferred maintenance, landing it on our 2019 Most Endangered list. The Schuyler County Architecture Foundation was formed to acquire the property and repurpose it into a meeting space, event venue and visitors center. Since acquiring the Ray House, the foundation has amassed over 1,800 volunteer hours and secured over \$280,000 in donations for renovation work. Phase I has been completed, including stabilization and replacement of the porches and roof. Phase II is now underway, which focuses on excavation and a new foundation.

Courtesy Schuyler County Architecture Foundation



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NOVEMBER 22-APRIL 18, 2024 Through membership dues, contributions, event sponsorship and grants, Landmarks Illinois is able to preserve, protect and promote Illinois' historic buildings and sites. The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff sincerely thank all our supporters for their contributions.

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