



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Charleston Historic Preservation Commission to Receive Statewide Preservation Award for Advocacy**

**Chicago, Ill.**—Charleston Historic Preservation Commission is one of nine outstanding preservation efforts from across the state that will be honored next month by Landmarks Illinois, a statewide group that advocates for the protection of historic properties.

This year's award winners range from a main street bank in Warren to the State Capitol. Other winners include: two extraordinary individuals, a hotel, and a Chicago landmark.

"This year's winners of The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award are truly inspiring and monumental in their own way. Each winner, demonstrating the catalytic impact of stewardship, activism, and continued investment, has proven that preservation is a key revitalization strategy. More importantly, Award winners are saving places for people to create more vibrant and vital communities across Illinois," said Bonnie McDonald, President of Landmarks Illinois.

When the United States Postal Service announced that it intended to close the Charleston Post Office as part of a larger program to shutter over 4,000 underserved branches, the local historic preservation commission worked quickly to save the 97-year old Colonial Revival building. Each member of the Charleston Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC) took on an important role in the wider effort to save the post office: neutralized negative press, lobbied local politicians for public support, sought out prospective buyers for the property, and arranged a series of open houses. Perhaps most effectively, the CHPC wrote and disseminated a document outlining historic preservation incentives for the greater Charleston community, a step the Postal Service neglected to take as part of its own marketing strategy.

Through these extensive and extraordinary endeavors, the CHPC was able to find a suitable buyer for the property. The once-threatened, much beloved post office is now under the ownership of a local couple, who have sensitively rehabilitated the building into a pet supply store. The CHPC's tireless efforts to save the Charleston Post Office went far beyond the typical role of the historic preservation commission, and their advocacy has stimulated preservation both at this site and in the city of Charleston.

The nine winners will receive a Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Award—which includes \$500 and a distinctive trophy—at a special ceremony on November 1st at the InterContinental Hotel, Chicago. The other award-winners are:

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- Apple River State Bank, Warren—*Rehabilitation*
- Arcade Building, Riverside—*Restoration*
- The Fortnightly of Chicago, Chicago—*Stewardship*
- Illinois State Capitol (West Wing), Springfield—*Project of the Year*
- Indian Boundary Park Field House, Chicago—*Restoration*
- Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria—*Rehabilitation*
- Walker and Carolyn Johnson—*Lifetime Achievement*
- Wrigley Building, Chicago—*Rehabilitation*

Landmarks Illinois is dedicated to the preservation of buildings and landmarks throughout Illinois - not solely for the sheer aesthetics of a building and its architectural merits, but rather, for the influence that these structures have on their communities. Landmarks Illinois is dedicated to highlighting how these places have worked their way into the fabric of their communities and how they have evolved to maintain their relevancy in their neighborhoods. And often, they have served as rallying points for entire communities. It is this concept of "People in Places" and the role of building preservation that we are celebrating.

**About the Awards.** Since 1994 Landmarks Illinois has been aided by a generous grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation to honor those whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. The award itself is a small-scale replica of the entrance arch and trading room from the Chicago Stock Exchange building, which was demolished in 1972. The fight to save this structure led to the founding of Landmarks Illinois in 1971.

This year's awards jury was: Susan Baldwin Burian, Baldwin Historic Properties. Jake Goldberg, Goldberg General Contracting, Bonnie McDonald, Landmarks Illinois, Paul O'Kelly, retired president and coo of the Chicago Stock Exchange, Janet Rotner, retired Interior Designer, Will Tippens, Related Midwest and John Tully, Thomas M. Tully & Associates.

The awards ceremony, which includes cocktails and appetizers, will be held on November 1, from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. at The InterContinental Hotel, Chicago and is open to the public. Tickets are available at \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. To make a reservation, contact Landmarks Illinois at 312-922-1742.

**Photographs of Award Winners.** For more information about the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards including images of the winning projects, visit [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org). Images of all winning projects are available from our press room at [http://www.landmarks.org/image\\_library.htm](http://www.landmarks.org/image_library.htm).

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*Landmarks Illinois serves as the state's leading voice for historic preservation by promoting the reuse of buildings as a strategy for economic development and sustaining healthy communities, while expanding the public's understanding and stewardship of the built environment. Since its founding in 1971, the 2,500-member statewide organization has saved countless architectural and historic treasures throughout Illinois. For more information, visit [www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org).*