



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION™

MIDWEST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Newsletter from the National Trust's Midwest Regional Office

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Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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11 Most Endangered Places Nomination Deadline

It's that time of year again... The application deadline for the **2004 National Trust 11 Most Endangered Historic Places** is fast approaching!

Since 1988, the *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* list has been one of the most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

The list has now brought national attention to more than 140 significant buildings, sites and landscapes. Information on prior listings, including their current situation is available online through the 11 Most database – www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/statemap.html

In 2003, two sites in the Midwest were placed on the 11 Most list, the East Side and Middle School in Decorah, Iowa and the Rosenwald Apartment Building in Chicago, Illinois.

For more than a century, the majestic twin towers of **Decorah's East Side School** have dominated the skyline of this farming community in northeastern Iowa. But since 1999, the 1896 Romanesque Revival school has sat abandoned.



The adjoining 1922 Middle School has had minimal maintenance. While the Middle School is likely to find continued school use, the future of the East Side School is unknown. The

MWO, along with their local partner, recently conducted a preservation development charette to offer recommendations regarding possible reuse for this treasure.



The **Rosenwald Apartments** complex was constructed and financed by philanthropist Julius Rosenwald in 1929 as a privately funded housing complex for working class black families in Chicago. The complex was vacant and in foreclosure until community members rallied community support through a visioning session.

A listing on the National Trust's 2003 *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* led to the identification of a preservation-friendly developer, who is planning a phased redevelopment as mixed income condominiums and commercial space. Although there will be many hurdles ahead, this project appears to be on the path to a save.

Nominations for the 2004 list are now open, with a **deadline of January 20, 2004**. Guidelines and the nomination form can be downloaded at www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/nomination.html While nominations are accepted from any source; it is strongly recommended that a community advocate or preservationist very familiar with the resource and the issues surrounding its preservation participate in the preparation of the nomination. Contact the MWO for further information.

New Midwest Advisor Join the National Trust

We are pleased to welcome **Kathleen Crowther** as a new Advisor to the Midwest Office.

Kathleen is the Executive Director of the Cleveland Restoration Society, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic resources in Cleveland, Ohio and Northeastern Ohio. Over the last 15 years, Kathleen has transformed the Cleveland Restoration Society from a small, volunteer-run

organization with an uneven success record into one of the largest and most respected preservation organizations in the country. By prioritizing partnerships, quality service to property owners, and a commitment to excellence, creativity, and problem solving, the organization has earned many accomplishments.

2003 Honor Awards Recognize Cotton Mill

Each year the National Trust celebrates the best of preservation by presenting National Preservation Awards to individuals and organizations whose contributions demonstrate excellence in historic preservation. This year the **Indiana Cotton Mill in Cananetlon, IN** was recognized at the National Preservation Conference in Denver, CO.

Touted as one of the most impressive pre-Civil War mills in the Midwest, the five-story Indiana Cotton Mill was built in 1849 and operated continuously for over 100 years. The mill closed in 1954, and remained boarded up and deteriorating for



Photo Courtesy of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

almost 50 years until a community-based nonprofit group brought it back to life.

Instead of turning it into a museum or a shopping mall, developers transformed the mill into 70 units of affordable housing. The effort involved more than a dozen partners and tapped funding sources ranging from investor equity and foundation grants to Historic Rehab and Low-Income Housing tax credits. Besides addressing a long-standing housing shortage, the dramatic rebirth of this white elephant is boosting the community's population and sparking reinvestment.

Midwest Office Welcomes New Staff

Good news! The MWO welcomed three new full-time staff and one new intern in 2003.

Lisa Weissman joined the office as a Field Representative for Iowa and Missouri. In addition to her graduate study in Historic Preservation, she holds master's degrees in Finance and Learning Sciences. Lisa comes with skills in organizational design and development from her years in the Change Management practice of Accenture.

Chris Morris also joined the office as a Field Representative, covering issues in Illinois and Minnesota. Her prior work as a Preservation Specialist for a Midwestern architecture firm gave her experience in a variety of preservation issues. Chris holds an MS in Historic Preservation, complimenting her previous training in Art History,

Conservation and Archaeology.

Donna Williamson is the new MWO Administrative Assistant. Donna has significant experience as a legal secretary and as a supervisor of the clerical staff at Price Waterhouse. Most recently, Donna worked with Southwest Women Working Together, a women & children's shelter in Chicago.

This summer the MWO welcomed intern **Angelo Barone**. Angelo is beginning the Preservation Program at the School of the Art Institute. He holds a Juris Doctor Degree from George Mason University School of Law and a Master of Business Administration from George Washington University. Prior to returning to school, he served as a Vice President, Debt Capital Markets for BMO Nesbitt Burns in Chicago.

Calendar

January

Applications for the 2004 Honor Awards will be available online in early January. For further information, visit www.nationaltrust.org/preservation_awards/index.html

16th — Deadline for Education Session proposals for the 2004 National Preservation Conference. For more information visit www.nthpconference.org/Propose/

20th — Applications for 11 Most Endangered Historic Places due

February

1st — Johanna Favrot and Cynthia Woods Mitchell grant applications due

1st—Donnelly and Jeffris PSF grant applications due (Round 1)

April

1st — Application for Preservation Leadership Training due

Preservation Leadership

Preservation Leadership Training (PLT) is an intensive one-week experience tailored to respond to the needs of state and local preservation organizations and agencies. It emphasizes providing a participatory experience in leadership and organizational development techniques and up-to-date and effective information and training in current preservation practices, issues and action strategies. The next PLT session is scheduled for June 5-12, in Astoria, OR. Spaces are limited, and applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2004. Additional information and applications can be obtained at www.nationaltrust.org/plt/index.html?cat=2.

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