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April 6, 2016

Chris Kloeppe, President
Board of Education, Champaign Unit 4 School District
Mellon Administrative Center
703 South New Street
Champaign, IL 61821

Re: **Central High School and Neighborhood
Champaign, Illinois**

Dear Mr. Kloeppe,

As a courtesy, I would like to inform you that Central High School and Neighborhood have been included in our annual list of the *Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois*.

The press conference announcing this list will take place Wednesday morning, April 13, in Springfield. We wanted to notify you in advance both as a courtesy and to prepare you for possible calls from the media.

This list, which has been announced every year since 1995, is based on input from Landmarks Illinois' professional staff, board members, and preservationists from across the state. Finalists are selected based on the significance of the property and the current level of threat to the site. The purpose of the list is to draw attention to the importance of the historic resources and encourage their maintenance and preservation.

The uncertainty of Central High School's future, including the options to partially or completely demolish the school and several historic neighborhood properties, has prompted its inclusion on our list. We recognize that the school board is working to ensure that Central High School meets the current and future needs of its students, however we believe such needs can be addressed without demolishing key neighborhood assets. We encourage working with preservation planning staff at the City of Champaign, local community organizations, and with Landmarks Illinois to find a solution that retains the historic character of the neighborhood and enhances the future of Central High School and its students.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff regarding ways Landmarks Illinois can help. Please feel free to contact myself or our Springfield Office Director, Frank Butterfield, at 217-836-2524.

Sincerely,

Bonnie McDonald
President

cc: Senator Scott Bennett
Representative Carol Ammons
Dr. Judy Wiegand, Superintendent