

100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures

Rock Island Preservation Commission

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Rock Island Preservation Commission Identifies Rock Island's 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures

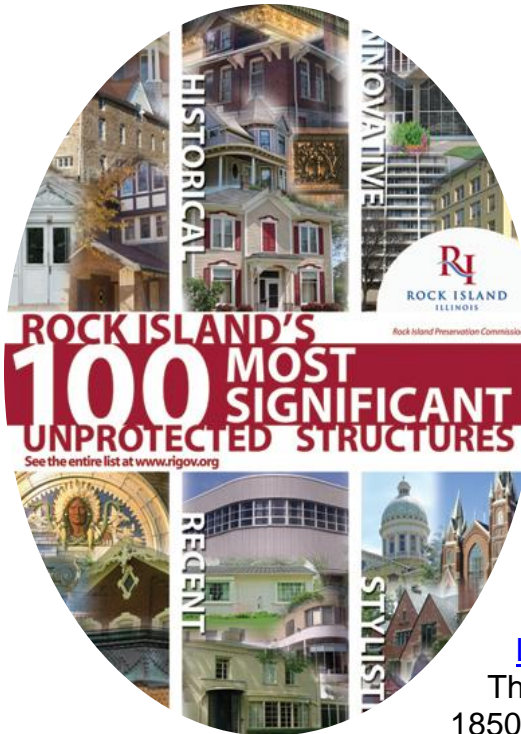
The Rock Island Preservation Commission has spent the past nine months surveying post-World War II subdivisions, researching the homes of some of Rock Island's most prominent historical citizens and comparing the architectural merit of hundreds of buildings – all for the purpose of identifying [Rock Island's 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures](#).

These 100 structures represent the best of Rock Island's historic buildings that aren't already designated a [Rock Island Landmark](#) or located in the [Highland Park Historic District](#).

These buildings embrace the full history of Rock Island, from the 1850s to the 1960s. The grandest and most well known of Rock Island's unprotected buildings are included, along with the best examples of modest, everyday homes that are representative of their era. This list also encompasses a range of building types, from a barn and gas station to mansions, office buildings, churches and apartments.

"By naming the 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures, we hope to build awareness among property owners and the general population about the importance of these special places," said Bob Braun, Rock Island Preservation Commission chairman. "Buildings are considered historic once they reach 50 years old, yet it is sometimes difficult to recognize that structures of the recent past have unique qualities. Buildings also tend to be most in danger of unsympathetic remodeling when they are about 80 years old, so the Commission wanted there to be some sense of what was truly worthy of preservation and why. This was a very useful exercise in evaluating the architectural and historical value of our building stock," he added.

The precursor of Rock Island's 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures (MoSUS) was a 1988 study called the Significant Structures List. The word "unprotected" was added so as to not diminish the value of the already designated and exceptional Rock Island Landmark and Highland Park Historic District properties.



Buildings listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) were intentionally left on the “unprotected” list. It is the [Rock Island Preservation Ordinance](#), adopted in 1984, that provides local design review which protects historic architectural features. A National Register listing is largely honorary, providing protection only when state or federal funds or licensing impacts a historic resource.

“It was time to update the list,” said Jill Doak, City of Rock Island urban planner and staff to the Preservation Commission. “More than 50% of the buildings had been designated landmarks, listed on the National Register, demolished or drastically altered. Plus, no buildings after the 1930s were included on the 1988 list.”

To be on the MoSUS list, a structure had to be located in Rock Island’s municipal boundaries, constructed in 1960 or earlier, and not designated as a Rock Island Landmark or local historic district or protected by state historic site or national historic landmark designations. Additionally, groups of buildings identified as a single unit through geographic, stylistic or historic relationships were considered. The Preservation Commission selected the 100 buildings based on: 1) integrity of primary structure or district; 2) rarity of architectural style or type with consideration for building age; 3) special decorative or structural features associated with the building or site; and 4) historic associations with important individuals, but building integrity had to be sufficient enough that the historic individual would recognize the structure.

“Some of the buildings on the list are surprising,” said Mr. Braun. “The [Quonset Hut](#) on 4th Avenue is rare, and becoming more so as time passes. There is a [Gordon-Van Tine catalog bungalow](#) on the list, plus we added the [Long View Park Conservatory](#) and four [Lustron](#) homes. There are also buildings on the list that might surprise people to know they are not Landmarks, such as the [Buford Mansion](#), [Fort Armstrong Theatre](#), [Negus Row House](#), the [Safety Building](#), and the major buildings of [Augustana College](#), like [Old Main](#) and the [Weyerhaeuser House](#).”

The complete MoSUS list is organized by address and by name on the City of Rock Island website at www.rigov.org. Thumbnail images of the homes are shown, which then link to a description page for each of the 100 properties. The description pages include historical and architectural narrative, a larger image, construction date, architect or builder, if known, and the rationale for the MoSUS listing.

MoSUS posters were also produced as part of the project. To obtain a free copy of the 16.5 x 22 inch color poster, stop by the second floor of Rock Island City Hall while supplies last.

Drafts of the description pages were provided to owners of the MoSUS buildings in late August, asking for their assistance in correcting or enhancing the narratives. City staff received dozens of helpful calls, enriching the descriptions and adding facts.

“Overwhelmingly, owners were pleased to see the Preservation Commission recognizing their properties,” said Ms. Doak. “Some had architect’s plans, abstracts, newspaper articles, letters or anecdotes that helped build a more colorful story.” She noted the owners of the [Lundberg House](#) at 1626 27th Street were able to tell the Commission who built the home’s distinctive

chimney based on a letter in their possession. In another instance, an abstract led to clarifications about [Joseph C. Cameron](#), an early pioneer.

A long term goal of the Preservation Commission is that a high percentage of the MoSUS buildings be landmarked. “We hope that over the next 20 years, many of these buildings move from the unprotected list to bona fide Rock Island Landmarks,” said Mr. Braun. Anyone can nominate a building to be a Rock Island Landmark. To learn about the [process](#), please call the City’s Planning & Redevelopment Division at 309.732.2900.

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Rock Island’s 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures (MoSUS):

1203	2 Avenue	Gest House	3913	14 Street	Raymond & Beulah Criswell House
1305	2 Avenue	Negus Row House	3918	14 Street	Strieter House
1639	2 Avenue	First National Bank of Rock Island	2527	15 Street	Ben Vinar House
1705	2 Avenue	Best Building	3635	15 Street	Jack & Rosalie Zukerman House
1715	2 Avenue	London Building	3730	15 Street	Elly & Henry Carlson, Jr House
1504	3 Avenue	Modern Woodmen of America Home Office	121	16 Street	Holsapple's Place
1528	3 Avenue	City Hall	230	16 Street	Royal Neighbors of America
1800	3 Avenue	Safety Building	2605	17 Avenue	Benjamin L. & Lillian Driffill House
1828	3 Avenue	Fort Armstrong Theatre	1049	17 Street	Henry W. Horst House
1900	3 Avenue	Fort Armstrong Hotel	1625	17 Street	Long View Chalet
1401	4 Avenue	Galbraith Motor Company	1719	17 Street	Long View Conservatory
1724	4 Avenue	Argus Building	1929	17 Street	George C. & Nada Rausch House
2100	4 Avenue	Murrin Brothers Saloon	901	18 Avenue	Fire Station No. 5
1820	5 Avenue	First Methodist Episcopal Church	1600	18 Avenue	Samuel & Alma Kenworthy House
1925	5 Avenue	Immanuel Lutheran Church	2601	18 Avenue	Audubon School
2013	5 Avenue	Quonset Hut	230	18 Street	Central Trust & Savings Bank
2103	5 Avenue	Bear School of Automotive Safety Service	628	18 Street	Peetz House
2800	5 Avenue	Sacred Heart Church	1505	19 Avenue	Hiram S. Cable House
2810	5 Avenue	Ben Harper House	2105	19 Avenue	Herman & Rose Goldstein House
1900	6 Avenue	Morris Rosenfield House	320	19 Street	Sala Apartments
427	7 Avenue	West End Settlement	709	19 Street	Patterson House
1804	7 Avenue	Buford Mansion	730	19 Street	Samuel S. & Annette Guyer House
2912	7 Avenue	Henry Peter Bosse House	917	19 Street	Anderson House
4501	7 Avenue	Swedish Zion Lutheran Church	720	20 Street	Case-Mitchell House
2020	9 Street	Donovan House	1223	20 Street	Gustafson House
2951	9 Street	Dingeldein Wine Hall	1600	20 Street	Stuart & Grace Harper House
328	11 Street	George F. Roth House	1226	21 Avenue	Christian Gaetjer House
4563	12 Avenue	Reuben & Alice Anderson House	1337	21 Avenue	Steepmeadow Apartments
1114	12 Street	Church of Peace	1038	21 Street	Greenough-Scott House
1302	12 Street	Henry and Jessie Paulsen House	1209	21 Street	Michael H. Sexton House
1811	12 Street	C.H. Langman House & Office	1210	21 Street	C.W. Hawes House
2901	12 Street	Sexton's House	2929	22 Avenue	Thoms House
4141	12 Street	Otto & Elizabeth Seidlitz House	729	22 Street	Quincey House
3801	14 Avenue	Skelly Service Station	2903	22.5 Ave	Doris & Victor Day House
3735	14 Street	Kenneth & Ruth Sturtevant House	516	23 Street	Cameron House
			524	23 Street	Speidel House
			625	23 Street	Marshall House

903	23 Street	McCandless House	
1300	24 Street	Denkmann-Hauberg House	
1401	25 Avenue	Rock Island High School	
1605	26 Street	Richard's Bungalow Court	
1700	26 Street	Emmert C. & Lulu Clevenstine House	
1626	27 Street	Edward & Marie Lundberg House	
3860	28 Avenue	John & Sherry Scherer House	
1609	28 Street	Emily Skallberg House	
3225	29 Ave Ct	John W. Burgess House	
1600	29.5 Street	Jhirard & Nettie Dizotell House	
533	30 Street	Woltmann House	
2200	30 Street	Frank & Bernice Downer House	
2401	31 Avenue	St. Pius X Catholic Church	552 31
	Street	Charles Jewell House	
741	34 Street	Bartholomew House	
1422	40 Avenue	Heinz & Anita Maxeiner House	
711	43 Street	Spencer Memorial Methodist Episcopal Parsonage	
830	43 Street	George Borg House	
2801	River Heights Road	Bel Aire Barn	
2824	River Heights Road	Bel Air, John Looney's Second House	
35	Woodley Rd	Aaron & Alice Novak House	
1918	Government Housing		
		Augustana College	
		Free Classic Queen Anne Double Houses	
		Lincoln Park	
		Lustron Houses	
		Park View Tudors	
		Sam Weisman's Addition	