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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD, INC. ANNOUNCES 16th ANNUAL UPPER STORY TOUR – May 7

Downtown Springfield, Inc. and event sponsor, Illinois Association of Realtors announce the 16th Annual Upper Story Tour, Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Upper Story Tour invites attendees to take time to look up and think beyond the ground floors passed every day on the sidewalk, continuing the tradition of taking the public behind “the velvet rope” to view unique historical, residential and commercial spaces often not otherwise accessible.

Tour sites include: 401 S. 2nd (Fully accessible) - Construction of the load bearing masonry structure began in 1868 and was completed 20 years later in 1888 at a cost of \$4.5 million. It is the sixth building to serve as the state capitol and the second such building in Springfield. Designed by Alfred Piquenard of Cochrane and Garnsey, an architectural firm based in Chicago who won the commission in a design competition, the Capitol stands 405’ tall at the flagpole making it the tallest domed Capitol in the country – taller than the US Capitol by 72 feet. It is approximately 300,000 square feet and a portion of its foundation walls are 17 feet thick and descend 25 feet into the ground, resting on bedrock.

Recent renovations have returned portions of the building back to its period of significance, a time that respects the original architect’s visions for the building. The recent west wing renovation won several design awards including Preservation Project of the Year from Landmarks Illinois. The renovation also achieved LEED Gold from the US Green Building Council which is a first for state capitols and reinforces the sustainability objectives of the state. Tours of the Capitol will be a guided and run every 20 minutes. Tours will start in the 1st floor rotunda. Visitors shall enter thru the east doors where they will have to pass thru security prior to the tour.

220 S. 2nd (Partially accessible) - The current Trinity Lutheran Church was built in 1888 to replace an older building that had housed the Congregation on 3rd street since 1860. The new structure was built to accommodate increasingly high attendance that had seen standing room only services for several years. The church was built in cooperation with the Lutheran Seminary that was at that time located in Springfield, off of Carpenter Street. Incredibly, it was only one year from the laying of the cornerstone to the completion ceremony and dedication 1889, the same year that current Illinois State Capitol was finished. The church is also home to a gorgeous Casavant Organ, which has provided the musical backdrop for the Congregation for over 40 years! The current interior, having undergone numerous changes and renovations since its beginning, has remained largely the same since a major renovation in 1972. We welcome you to enjoy our beautiful, historic church!

301 E Lawrence (Partially accessible) - The Dana-Thomas House (DTH) was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 for Susan Lawrence Dana, a forward-thinking socialite living in Springfield, Illinois. The home, the 72nd building designed by Wright, contains the largest collection of site-specific, original Wright art glass and furniture. Wright’s first “blank check” commission, the home has 35 rooms in the 12,000 square feet of living space which includes 3 main levels and 16 varying levels in all.

3 W Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 15 • Springfield, Illinois 62701 • T/217/544-1723 • F/217/544-1725

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Rightfully regarded as a treasure, the DTH is a gorgeous house museum. Following its acquisition of the House, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency undertook a major restoration project. The results yielded a beautifully preserved example of Mr. Wright's genius. This tour will include the bedroom of Mrs. Dana's cousin Florence, an upper-story room not typically part of guided tours. Also, several of Mr. Wright's blueprints will be on display in other rooms of the house. Please enter thru the arched top front door on Lawrence.

222 S 6th Street (Partially accessible) - Home to Maldaner's Restaurant since 1894, this Richardsonian Romanesque building been a mainstay of fine dining in the city of Springfield. The original cast iron storefronts and two-story copper frame center bay were meticulously restored in the 1970's. Visit Chef Michael Higgins' ongoing rooftop garden project including his solar panels and bee hives. Also meet Beekeeper Arvin Pierce presenting a live bee hive demonstration.

221 S. 6th (Not accessible) - This three story brick Italianate style building was built in 1866. It has undergone several alterations to the exterior store fronts. The most recent alteration, in 1999, replaced the glass storefronts by infilling the original cast iron storefront frames which are still in place. Some of the famous previous tenants of the first floor of this building were Stout and Lauer Jewelers 1970-76, Graham's Restaurant 1928-60 and the original tenant was the Springfield Savings Bank 1866-79. The private second floor apartment you will be touring once housed photographers, a dentist, real estate agents and possibly the original tenant Schwartz & Dilger Architects.

414 - 416 E. Adams (Not accessible) - This three story red stone building was built in the early 1890's. The building originally contained commercial spaces on the first floor and private residences on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The Schnepf family has had business in this building since the early 1900's. These businesses ranged from shoe stores to printing. The second and third floors were converted from private residences to a hotel in the 1930's. Today, you will see the original 1930's era hotel in its shuttered state.

409-411 E. Adams (Not accessible) - These two structures were built separately in the 1890s. The 409 building housed plumbers, a newspaper, printers and a wallpaper company throughout its early days. The 411 building also housed a print smith and even an undertaker, according to the 1917 Sanborn map. Both buildings have their original cast-iron storefront columns and pressed-metal cornices intact. Café Moxo has found a home on the first floor since 2007 and the apartments on the second and third floors, which you saw in their raw state on last year's tour, have recently been completed.

Advance tickets for the Upper Story Tour may be purchased online at www.downtownspringfield.org or at the DSI Office, 3 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 15, Springfield, Illinois 62701 until 2:00 p.m. May 7. Advance tickets are \$8 for DSI members and \$10 for non-members; tickets are also available at the door at all locations for \$13 for DSI members and \$15 for non-members. New College and High School Student Tickets are available for \$5 online or at the door. Students must present student ID at door. Children 12 and under are free.

Tour is self-guided. Attendees will be given a wristband at their first tour site and then proceed to other sites at their own pace and order. Light refreshments will be served (while they last) at select sites provided by Sugar Jar Bakery, Maldaner's, Augie's Front Burner, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

For your dining pleasure, we encourage attendees to choose from the many fine downtown restaurants offering specials to Upper Story Tour patrons (must show wristband). Thank you to the Alamo, Augie's Front Burner and Maldaner's for offering the following specials to Upper Story Tour guests: Alamo – live Blues music, no cover, full menu; Augie's – Thrifty Thursday 3 Course Dinner for only \$14.99; and Maldaner's – 10% off food purchase. A full list of participating restaurants will be available at each tour site.

For advance ticket purchase and detailed program information please go to www.downtownspringfield.org or call 217-544-1723.

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