



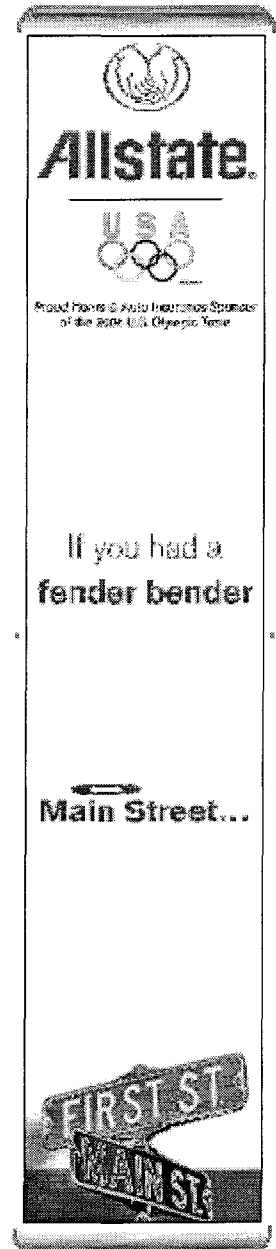
List of Most Endangered Historic Places

By Associated Press

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Here is the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2004 list of the most endangered historic places in the United States, and the threats they face:

- * Vermont: The state appeared on 1993 list because it faced onslaught of retail development. The National Trust said the threat is worse than ever, with Wal-Mart planning several new superstores that could spur sprawl, declining investment in downtowns, the loss of locally-owned businesses and the erosion of the state's unique sense of place.
- * 2 Columbus Circle, New York, N.Y.: The new owner of the Manhattan building plans renovations, which could threaten the building's distinctive features that have made it an icon of modernist design.
- * Ridgewood Ranch, Willits, Calif.: The final home and resting place of the legendary horse Seabiscuit is owned by a church association that lacks the resources to stabilize and maintain the 20 or so buildings that still stand.
- * Bethlehem Steel Plant, Bethlehem, Pa.: The sprawling mill is threatened with demolition. Steel from the plant was used to build the White House, Empire State Building and Golden Gate Bridge.
- * Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn.: The collection of modest wooden structures suffers from neglect and vandalism.
- * Gullah/Geechee Coast, South Carolina and Georgia: The coastline is the homeland of descendants of slaves, who have managed to retain a distinctive culture, traditions and language. It is being overrun by sprawling new resorts, subdivisions and strip malls.
- * Tobacco Barns, southern Maryland: Historic barns have been abandoned or are being demolished because of state-sponsored buyout to farmers.
- * Madison-Lenox Hotel, Detroit: The owner wants to demolish a century-old hotel for a parking lot. The city's landmarks commission has refused to grant a demolition permit so the complex could be rehabilitated.
- * Historic Cook County Hospital, Chicago: The historic hospital could be converted to housing and help bring vitality to its neighborhood, but it is slated for demolition instead.



* George Kraigher House, Brownsville, Texas: The 1937 house by famed architect Richard Neutra is vacant and is being destroyed by weather, neglect and vandalism.

* Nine Mile Canyon, Carbon and Duchesne counties, Utah: Encompassing an estimated 10,000 petroglyphs and pictographs, this site is threatened by extensive oil and gas exploration plans.

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