

Post Bulletin

Preservation Alliance lists 10 most endangered places in Minnesota

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ST. PAUL -- The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota has announced its list of the 10 most endangered historic places in the state.

For the first time, the list includes a landscape view -- the Mississippi River Valley in St. Paul.

The nonprofit preservation group said the proposed billion-dollar hotel and retail Bridges development would negatively impact the appearance and ecology of the Mississippi River Valley.

"We support development on the West Side if the design is consistent with zoning guidelines," said Bonnie McDonald, the alliance's director. "But we're opposed to the scale of the Bridges and how the design would alter both the cultural and natural landscape."

Mike Zipko, a spokesman for Bridges developer Jerry Trooien, said: "It's not surprising that a self-appointed group of experts would be so arrogant to presume to be the spokesperson for this kind of conclusion. A few tall buildings do not negatively impact the river, its ecology or its view corridors. Most people believe it will enhance and frame the river valley."

Other places making the list include St. Anthony Falls Historic District in Minneapolis, the Southeast Minneapolis Public Library, St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Jordan, the Ely Community Center, the Litchfield Opera House, the State Theater in Owatonna, the Minneapolis St. Louis Railway Passenger Depot in Waseca and the Serbian Cultural Center in South St. Paul.

The top 10 also includes a group of schools considered historic: Beardsley School, Jasper School, Kasson Elementary School, Pipestone Central School, Two Harbors High School, and Worthington Central School.

The Preservation Alliance compiles the list in an effort to spur restoration.

Of the 125 buildings and places on the group's endangered list since 1992, 52 have been saved or stabilized - including the Sears building and the Stillwater Lift Bridge.