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Ziock Building Added to National Register of Historic Places

First step on path to redevelop the Ziock Building

Rockford, May 13, 2011: The National Park Service (Department of the Interior) today announced that it has granted historic status to the Rockford landmark, named in honor of textile pioneer, William H. Ziock. Built in three phases between 1912 and 1950 by the Ziock family and the Amerock Corporation, the building (416 South Main) housed titans of two industries that helped fuel the industrial growth of Rockford: textiles and hardware. Today, the complex is commonly known as the Amerock Building because of its last major tenant and owner.

"It is appropriate that this award comes during National Historic Preservation Month in May" states Don Bissell, enthusiastic founder of the Friends of Ziock (FOZ). A grass-roots citizens group, FOZ is working with city and county officials to identify the highest and best use of the building as a major step toward redevelopment and a catalyst for surrounding development downtown.

Friends of Ziock spokesperson, Jeff Orduno, cautions that the group will not rest with the historic designation. Because developers can now take full advantage of tax credits associated with historic status, the potential for redevelopment is vastly improved. This is particularly true if the State of Illinois passes State Historic Tax Credits of 25% as a companion to the federal Credits of 20% that are currently available.

"Redevelopment creates jobs and produces tax revenue – these are our ultimate goals. With increased employment, property tax that could top \$1 million annually and other municipal revenue streams, everyone in the community wins."

The building is currently owned by the City of Rockford, as is much adjacent land downtown. "In the healthy downtown community, public property is balanced by private sector investment with buildings occupied, appropriately assessed and producing taxes sufficient to cover municipal costs. The bonus will be that new tenants will breathe life back into this downtown landmark and light the riverfront skyline," reports FOZ member and restoration architect Gary Anderson.

The Friends of Ziock invite the public to join them in a celebration of historic status and in anticipation of the rest of the journey to redevelop the Ziock Building. The celebration and open house will be held on Thursday, June 9 between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the Prairie Street Brewhouse, 200 Prairie St. The open house will feature a gallery of Ziock historical photos as well as 'before and after' examples of similar projects. Video and audio-taped interviews of Ziock descendents and former employees, Ziock family genealogy, the presentation to the Rockford Historic Preservation Commission as well as other historic documents will be displayed. Several special additions to the party are planned. Parking is available on the north side of the Brewhouse.

To learn more about the Building or Friends of Ziock, visit our website at www.ziock.org.