

PressRelease



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## **THE CHICAGO ATHENAEUM LAUNCHES A PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM TO CELEBRATE GALENA'S MOST IMPORTANT ARCHITECT—SAMUEL CHARLES MAZZUCHELLI**

***A New Mazzuchelli Brochure, Book, and a Heritage Plaquing Program Identifies the Architect's Buildings in Galena, Illinois for Residents and Visiting Tourists.***

**GALENA, ILLINOIS (JUNE 28, 2018)** — Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli is without doubt the first architect of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

Mazzuchelli came to Galena in the 1830s as a pioneer Dominican Missionary, and he designed and built some of Galena's most notable landmarks, as well as over 20 Catholic churches up and down the Mississippi River and the first St. Raphael's Cathedral in Dubuque. He also planned new cities in Wisconsin and Iowa, and designed Iowa's first State Capitol Building in Iowa City.

The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design, together with Galena City Beautiful, have undertaken a new public education initiative to highlight the architectural achievements of Mazzuchelli and to shed a renewed light on the importance of this great Galena historical and cultural figure with a new tourist brochure, book, and heritage plaquing program to publicly identify his landmark buildings.

"Mazzuchelli was the Frank Lloyd Wright of his day," states Kieran Conlon, Museum Vice President of The Chicago Athenaeum.

"Born in Milan, Italy, Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli was sent to Galena, Illinois in 1828."

"As a Pioneer Missionary, he educated, protected, and advocated for the Human Rights of the region's Native Americans, and wrote the first known published book in Wisconsin—an 1834 prayer book in the Native Chippea language."

—MORE—

SAMUEL CHARLES MAZZUCHELLI ARCHITECT  
Add One

“By 1835, Mazzuchelli was the most revered and highly-cultured figure in the Tri-State Region. He not only founded new Catholic parishes, but he also designed and built them.”

“Like Frank Lloyd Wright, he was not formally trained or educated as an architect, but he was well enough versed in Italian and European styles of architecture of the early 19th-Century. He had the ability to translate this knowledge and give architectural form to the designs of his new churches, schools, and civic buildings in Galena.”

“Whenever there was an important architectural project to be built, a new courthouse or a new government building, everyone sought Mazzuchelli’s advice and his experience as an architect,” continues Conlon.

“He was a brilliant architect and his work remains a part of our City and our State’s important cultural history and legacy.”

The Galena landmarks designed by Architect Mazzuchelli include:

- **The First Jo Daviess County Courthouse (1839)**
- **Old Market House Town Hall (1845) at 123 N. Commerce Street**
- **Saint Michael’s Church (1842 and 1857) at 227 South Bench Street**
- **Saint Mary’s Church (1850) at 400 Franklin Street**
- **St. Mary’s Parochial School (c. 1856) on Young Street**
- **St. Rose Academy (1859) at 228 North Bench Street**

Just outside Galena, in nearby New Diggings, Wisconsin (15 minutes north of Galena), Mazzuchelli designed the poetic St. Augustine’s Church (1844).

This wooden church that emulates stone is a small, high-aesthetic architectural treasure that was just recently and gloriously restored by the Knights of Columbus and the Jeffris Family Foundation.

SAMUEL CHARLES MAZZUCHELLI ARCHITECT  
Add Two

As an early advocate for women's education, Mazzuchelli also founded and designed the first buildings for the Dominican Sinsinawa Mound College (1848).

Located in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin (585 County Road Z ), the Mound is 10 minutes west of Galena.

An exhibition at the College traces Mazzuchelli's journey from Italy and landing here in the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

The exhibit also highlights his accomplishments as a religious leader, educator, and architect. On view is a stunning display of architectural drawings, letters, and notes, his writing desk, a design for a tabernacle, a chalice, his architectural instruments, and his miraculous prayer belt.

The Mazzuchelli exhibit at the Mound is open to the public daily from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.  
Telephone (608) 748-4411 for groups of five or more.

Pioneer Missionary, Human Rights Activist, and Architect Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli is also destined for sainthood, already achieving the first stage of canonization through a series of miracles confirmed by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Mazzuchelli "Venerable."

A new, comprehensive book on *The Architecture of Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli* is being prepared by The Chicago Athenaeum and will be released this fall.

For more information about Mazzuchelli and the Museum's Public Education Program, contact Jennifer Nyholm, Director of Communications, The Chicago Athenaeum at +815/777-4444 or by email [jennifer@chicagoathenaeum.org](mailto:jennifer@chicagoathenaeum.org).

**NOTE TO REPORTERS AND EDITORS:** Photographs of Mazzuchelli designed buildings in Galena are available by contacting The Chicago Athenaeum.

**About The Chicago Athenaeum** ([www.chi-athenaeum.org](http://www.chi-athenaeum.org)) is a global nonprofit education and research institute supported by its members. Its mission is to provide public education about the significance of architecture and design and how those disciplines can have a positive effect on the human environment.

**About Galena City Beautiful** is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization that seeks to improve the city through urban beautification and to inspire civic loyalty and civic ownership. City Beautiful strives to protect and preserve city Galena landmarks, local history, and local tradition and culture.