

HEADLINES



May 3, 2005

Preservation Commission to Premier Promotional Video

Bring a friend down to Rock Island's Brew & View for the premier of a new promotional video by the [Rock Island Preservation Commission](#), which is hoping to keep around some old friends of the bricks and mortar kind. The new 26-minute video will be shown at **5:55 p.m.** at Quad Cities Brew & View, 1611 2nd Avenue, Rock Island on **Wednesday, May 4**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; admission is free.



The video, titled “**Old Friends Are Worth Keeping**,” features images of nearly all Rock Island Landmarks and includes footage from several historic neighborhoods. Themes for the video include how and why it is important to preserve historic structures. There is strong emphasis on the criteria needed for buildings to be designated Rock Island Landmarks. Viewers will also be treated to a dozen images of dramatic buildings that no longer grace Rock Island streets. Several interviews were taped for the video, including [Mayor](#) Mark Schwiebert, Preservation Commission Chairman Daryl Empen, and former commission chairs Linda Anderson and Diane Oestreich.

“It was exciting to participate in this project,” said Mr. Empen. “We relay a lot of information about the method of historic preservation in a fun, interesting and dramatic way. There’s nothing stodgy about this slick production. We’re very pleased with the way it turned out.”

Preservation [Commission members](#) and staff, who are asked to give many public presentations each year on [Rock Island Landmarks](#) and architecture, felt it was time to undertake a professional representation of the landmarking program. The slide presentations used in the past were becoming outdated, yet all members didn’t have the technical equipment and expertise to present computer shows. The creation of a DVD seemed to be a good alternative. The City of Rock Island obtained a \$6,390 grant from the [Illinois Historic Preservation Agency](#), through funds provided by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, to produce the video. The city matched with \$4,260 cash and in-kind support.

Considering the potential organizational and educational audiences, the Commission crafted two versions of the presentation. One is approximately 26 minutes long, while the other is about 12. The Commission is actively seeking to provide the “Old Friends Are Worth Keeping” program to community organizations, civic groups and educational outlets, including

classrooms. A Rock Island Preservation Commission member or staff will accompany the DVD to presentations to provide context and answer questions.

“We’re looking forward to taking this video ‘on the road’ to groups in the Quad Cities community,” said commission member Steve Andich. “Rock Island has a lot to be proud of in the way it preserves buildings and they are shown off to their best advantage in this video. Anyone who watches it will learn the process and hopefully be inspired to preserve buildings themselves.”

Dphilms produced the video, providing on-site filming, voice talent, music and graphics. The script was written by Commission staffer Jill Doak.

After May 4, those with high-speed Internet connections may view the video at <http://www.rigov.org/citydepartments/ced/preservationvideo.html>. It is also being played on the public access cable TV channel 9 at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Copies of the DVD have also been donated to the [Rock Island Public Library](#), Thomas Tredway Library at [Augustana College](#) and the [Rock Island County Historical Society](#) Library.