

HEADLINES

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RI Earns Award of Excellence for Preservation Video

Rock Island won the prestigious Award of Excellence at the recent 3CMA annual awards ceremony held August 25, 2005 in Atlanta, GA. The historic preservation video "Old Friends Are Worth Keeping" won the award in the education/training video category for cities with a population 85,000 and under. Only three communities are selected for awards in each category. The other awards are the Savvy Award and the Silver Circle Award. There were more than 750 entries in all categories and 13 entries in Rock Island's category.

The Savvy Awards competition is sponsored by the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA) and is held in cooperation with the National League of Cities. The awards recognize outstanding local government achievements in communications, public-sector marketing, and citizen-government relationships. The Savvies salute skilled and effective city and county professionals who have creatively planned and carried out successful innovations.

The [Rock Island Preservation Commission](#) created the video "Old Friends Are Worth Keeping" to present information about historic preservation and historic architecture to the community. The video highlights the importance of protecting buildings through [landmark](#) designation and informing the public about the criteria for determining which buildings are worthy of protection.

Judges comments included, "The opening graphics are dynamite. Very nice work, easy to watch and extremely informative. Meets the stated goal."

"We're thrilled that our preservation video received this award, and it speaks to the fact that preservation can be exciting," said Preservation Commission Chairman Daryl Empen. "It also speaks to the importance of creating a product that can be shown to the public in a dramatic and educational way."

The video features images of nearly all Rock Island Landmarks and includes footage from several historic neighborhoods. Viewers are also 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.

VIEW THE VIDEO

Those with high-speed Internet connections may view the video at <http://www.rigov.org/citydepartment/s/ced/preservationvideo.html>.

It is also being played on the Rock Island public access cable TV channel 9 at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

Copies of the DVD have been donated to the Rock Island Public Library, Thomas Tredway Library at Augustana College and the Rock Island County Historical Society Library.

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 shift gears from the outdated slide shows to a more professional “road show.” 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.

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

Considering the potential organizational and educational audiences, the Commission crafted two versions of the DVD/VHS presentations. One is approximately 26 minutes long, while the other is about 12.

The Commission actively promotes 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 accompanies the DVD to presentations to provide context and answer questions.