



## **AUDIO TOURS: THE MODERN WAY TO TOUR BROADWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT**



AUDIO TOURS, with a CD in your car stereo or iPod buds in your ears, are the newest way to tour Rock Island's Broadway Historic District. The Rock Island [Illinois] Preservation Commission and Broadway Historic District Association are featuring 50 noteworthy buildings in the Broadway neighborhood in three different formats: audio, web browsing and a new, full color brochure.

The audio option is available through the purchase of a \$10 CD and brochure at Rock Island City Hall or through FREE downloads of individual .mp3 files from the city's website at [www.rigov.org](http://www.rigov.org). The audio option is packaged with an extensive web browsing feature that includes audio files, text on the history and architecture of the buildings, images and maps. Exclusive to the web browsing and audio feature are themed tours of Broadway. These themes range from Landmarks in Broadway and Movers & Shakers to topics focusing on unique and outstanding architecture or specific architectural styles, such as Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial and Classical Revival.

Complementary to the audio and web tours is a complete revamp of the nearly 20 year-old tour brochures that previously featured smaller geographic areas of Broadway. The new brochure, called History & Architecture: Broadway Historic District, is 52 pages of stunning images and enjoyable stories about these colorful, architecturally rich homes in the premier historic neighborhood in Rock Island. A new component of this free brochure is a glossary with companion illustrations. So, if you've read about a Palladian window, but really didn't know what it was, the newest Rock Island Preservation Commission brochure will not only describe the window, but will show you an example from the neighborhood.

Robert Braun, chair of the Rock Island Preservation Commission and owner of a Queen Anne home featured in the tour, said "The updating of the tour brochure was long overdue, and the Preservation Commission wanted to use new technologies to offer the tour in a new way to younger or computer-savvy audiences. Now people can visit Broadway in a way tailored to their interests or capabilities."

The audio tours, brochures and web pages are a joint project of the Rock Island Preservation Commission and Broadway Historic District Association (BHDA). The publications were made possible by the financial commitment of the City of Rock Island, BHDA and a grant by the U.S. Department of the Interior, administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The Broadway Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 and contains the largest concentration of Rock Island Landmarks. The architecture of the neighborhood spans the mid-1850s to the 1940s, including the opulence of the Victorian era.

Several of Rock Island's most well-known historic people lived in Broadway and are featured in the tour: Minnie Potter of The Argus, Robert Wagner of Rock Island Brewing Company, bottler A.D. Huesing, entrepreneur and banker Phil Mitchell and housing developer Benjamin Harris to name a few.

Copies of the free brochure are available at Rock Island City Hall, the Preservation Commission kiosk at the Rock Island Public Library at 401 19th Street, and various tourism outlets. The CD may be purchased for \$10 at Rock Island City Hall, 1528 3rd Avenue. Links to the audio and web tours are at [www.rigov.org](http://www.rigov.org).