



*Preservation and Perseverance:
Care before It's Gone*

2025-2034

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Abbreviations

ACHP: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AICP: American Institute of Certified Planners
CDBG: Community Development Block Grants
CLG: Certified Local Governments
FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS: Geographic Information System
HPF: Historic Preservation Fund
HPTI/HPTC: Historic Preservation Tax Incentive/Credit
HUD: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
NHL: National Historic Landmark
NPS: National Park Service
NRHP: National Register of Historic Places
NTHP: National Trust for Historic Preservation
OAS: Oklahoma Archeological Survey
ODOT: Oklahoma Department of Transportation
OHS: Oklahoma Historical Society
OK/SHPO: Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office
SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office
SOI: Secretary of Interior
TCP: Traditional Cultural Property
THPO: Tribal Historic Preservation Office
USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

OK/SHPO Vision Statement

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office strives to collaborate with and empower communities to celebrate, preserve, and commemorate our historic resources through stewardship and public education with a focus on diversity and progress within the state of Oklahoma.

OHS Mission Statement

The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Preservation issues continue to evolve and change across Oklahoma but the responsible parties do not: private citizens, organizations, government agencies (local, state and federal), and the business community. Everyone plays a role in promoting the benefits of preservation to decision makers, providing resources to enhance the important work of preservation partners, preserving the history of the underrepresented communities, and supporting investment in historic buildings and places. Oklahoma sits in an unusual situation where we have direct knowledge and experience in coping with man-made disasters such as the Oklahoma City Bombing. However, we share the challenges of the more recent COVID-19 pandemic which impacted traditional downtown shopping, rehabilitation of historic buildings, and new funding mechanisms.

These experiences from the past help our preservation partners address today's and future needs. The experiences have helped Oklahomans persevere in preservation. The 2025-2035 *Preservation and Perseverance: Care before It's Gone* focuses on expanding preservation work across the state.

This plan provides an overview of the current state of preservation in Oklahoma. It also includes a summary of the engagement process which helped to develop the goals and objectives for historic preservation in Oklahoma.

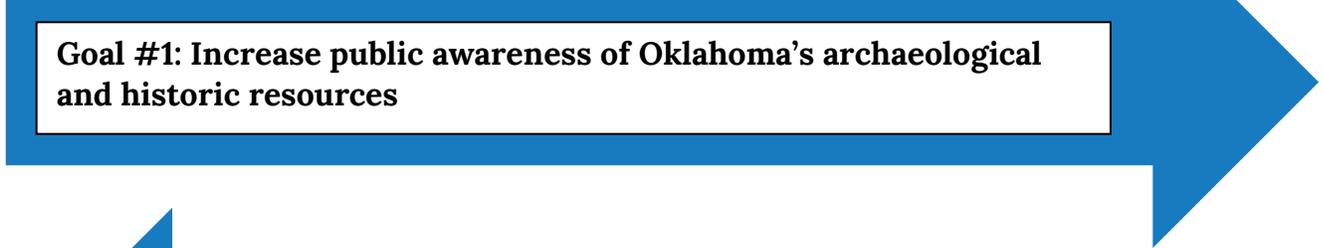
Themes and Priorities for the Next Ten Years

The engagement process focused on identifying preservation priorities for the next 10 years. Many are unique to Oklahoma while others are common across the states, territories, and tribal nations. The Oklahoma State Plan organizes these into five goals with specific objectives for each goal. Chapter 5 will go into greater details on each goal and objective.

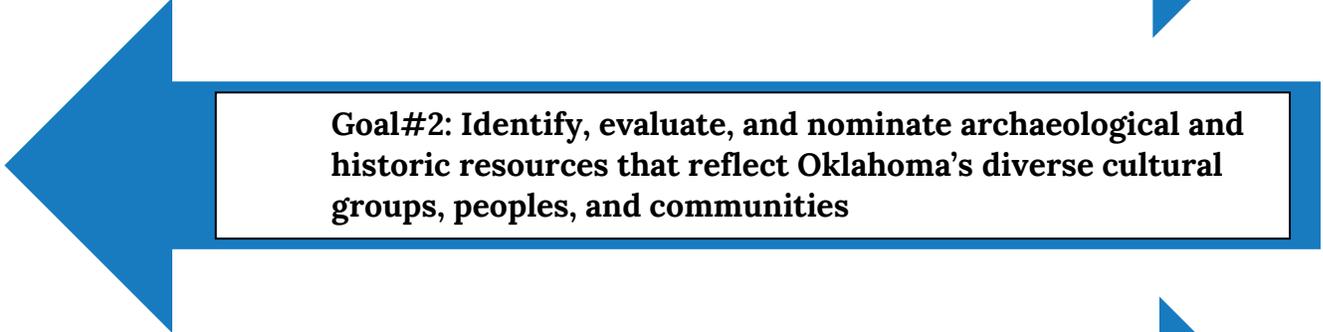
The goals and objectives are in direct response to those interests expressed by Oklahomans from around the state. In the 2025 plan, unlike those in the past, there

will be “pull-out” sections that apply to a specific group: private citizens, local groups, government, and OK/SHPO. Working together or independently, Oklahomans can realize a vision of a successful future for historic preservation around the state.

2025-2035 Goals



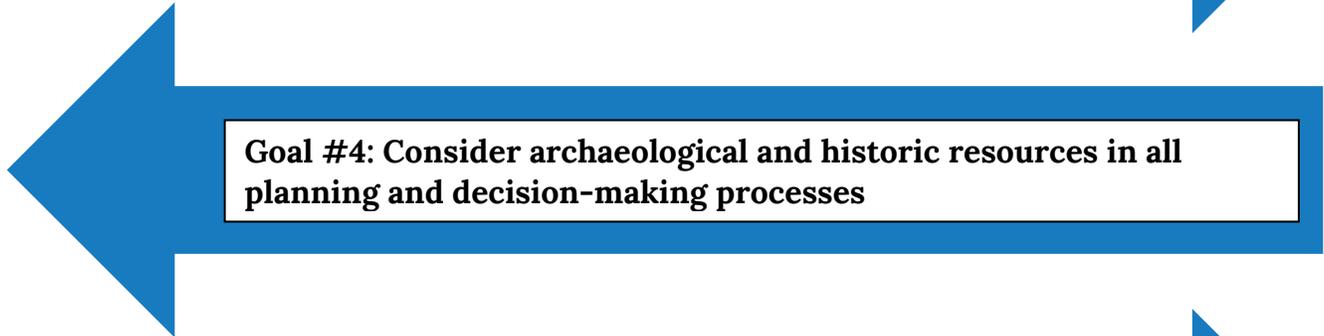
Goal #1: Increase public awareness of Oklahoma’s archaeological and historic resources



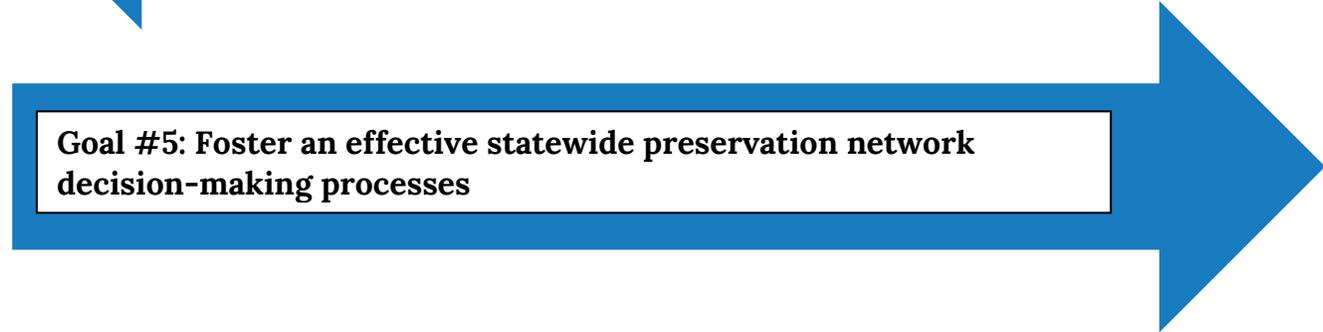
Goal#2: Identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources that reflect Oklahoma’s diverse cultural groups, peoples, and communities



Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies for historic preservation



Goal #4: Consider archaeological and historic resources in all planning and decision-making processes



Goal #5: Foster an effective statewide preservation network decision-making processes

While the State Preservation Plan emphasizes the identification, documentation, and protection of historic resources, be that the built environment or archaeological sites, as required for all State Historic Preservation Offices, this plan must also address concerns that make preservation an integral part of community development and prosperity. The 2025 plan seeks to support the efforts of all preservation partners, to educate the stakeholders, and to forge new partnerships that lead to the preservation of Oklahoma's historic resources.

Starting January 1, 2025, the OK/SHPO will manage the statewide planning process in 10-year cycles with an evaluation every five years. This current plan will run through December 31, 2035. This plan will address the following topics:

- Preservation issues, trends, and opportunities facing the state
- Goals and objectives that address strategies needed for successful and enhanced preservation practices
- A timeframe for statewide plan implementation
- A bibliography of resources used to prepare the plan
- Past goals and accomplishments

Prepared in 2020 *Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past*, Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan identified four goals which each had an extensive list of objectives to support the goal.

1. Provide information about Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources to increase public awareness and foster an effective statewide preservation network.
2. Continue to strengthen efforts to identify, evaluate and nominate archaeological and historic resources.
3. Develop and disseminate strategies and incentives for historic preservation.
4. Incorporate the consideration of archaeological and historic resources in public (including all levels of government) and private sector planning and decision-making process.

Since the 2020 plan's development, countless people across the state have worked together to achieve many of the objectives of each goal. Below are a few examples of those achievements:

- Coordinate with communities to complete surveys, especially for those under-recognized communities.
- Host an annual Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) to provide training for local historic preservation commission members and city staff
- Developed programmatic agreement for Department of Housing and Urban Development programs that will be available to homeowners in certain older neighborhoods.
- Local Main Street program convinces a new business to move into a vacant building in the historic commercial district rather than build a new facility.
- Local historic preservation commission publishes its design guidelines and widely distributes them.
- OAS re-tooled an existing lesson plan for a hands-on in-class archaeology activity using artifacts from the OAS teaching collection specifically designed to meet relevant portions of the *Oklahoma Academic Standards* for 3rd Grade Social Studies.
- OAS continues to assist an interdisciplinary team with the City of Tulsa in the re-opened investigation to locate the graves of victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. This investigation is being done on behalf of the citizens of Tulsa in close collaboration with descendants of Massacre survivors and other members of the Greenwood community.
- The Oklahoma Archeological Survey Information System (OASIS) Public Viewer is now available online. The Public Viewer presents summary open-access data on the state's archaeological sites by county, brief overviews of some of the state's most significant sites, and a form that allows citizens to easily report an artifact or archaeological site to OAS and request assistance in recording new resources.

The goals and objectives were made available to the public through the OK/SHPO website www.okhistory.org/shpo/goals. Additionally, a tracking mechanism was provided whereby the public could see what had been accomplished over the duration of the planning document.

Planning Methodology and Process

The statewide preservation plan reflects the thoughts and input from our preservation partners and stakeholders. The process included online and in-person questionnaires, conversations with the public in multiple forums, and an assessment of issues presented via the questionnaires. From July 2023 through October 2023, the first phase of public input was completed in the form of two questionnaires. In January of 2024, committee meetings were held to gain additional input from our immediate preservation partners: the Historic

Preservation Committee (HPC) of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Historic Preservation Review Committee (HPRC) appointed by the Governor.

The subsequent phase included community engagement activities designed to provide feedback and comments on the draft plan. These comments helped adjust and modify goals and objectives statements, specifically clarifying implementation steps and progress. The OK/SHPO completed the final plan in December 2024.

As with the 2020 plan, the 2025 plan will include an internal quarterly review by the OK/SHPO staff and HPRC to verify that items within the plan are being addressed and/or accomplished. These reviews will be provided on the OK/SHPO website for transparency purposes.

Chapter 2: Public Engagement

As with years past, the State Historic Preservation Office prepared a questionnaire to gauge where the citizens of Oklahoma feel historic preservation succeeds and needs improvement. This year, however, a second questionnaire was prepared to gather further details from the responses received to ensure the responses were understood and the new plan would focus on what Oklahomans see as the greatest threats. This year's responses totaled 574, a tenfold increase over the past three state plans.

The SHPO developed the first questionnaire with one main objective – to find out what Oklahomans saw as the biggest threat to preservation and what the SHPO should focus on for the next ten years. The 12 questions were provided in both English and Spanish. The questionnaire went live on the SHPO website on July 1, 2023, and was promoted through social media with almost every post until July 31, 2023. Staff attended public events to reach out to Oklahomans and more; these included a Route 66 event in Tulsa and various Oklahoma Historical Society events. In addition to in-person events, the Oklahoma Historical Society membership division mailed out hundreds of questionnaire reminders asking those interested to participate. This direct outreach proved to be an effective tool for the SHPO; in the past, events targeted for the state plan update process were not well attended and thus the number of responses was low. The SHPO received 163 responses to the first questionnaire.

Top 3 – Threatened Property Types

1. Downtowns
2. Ethnic/minority resources
3. Cemeteries

163
responses

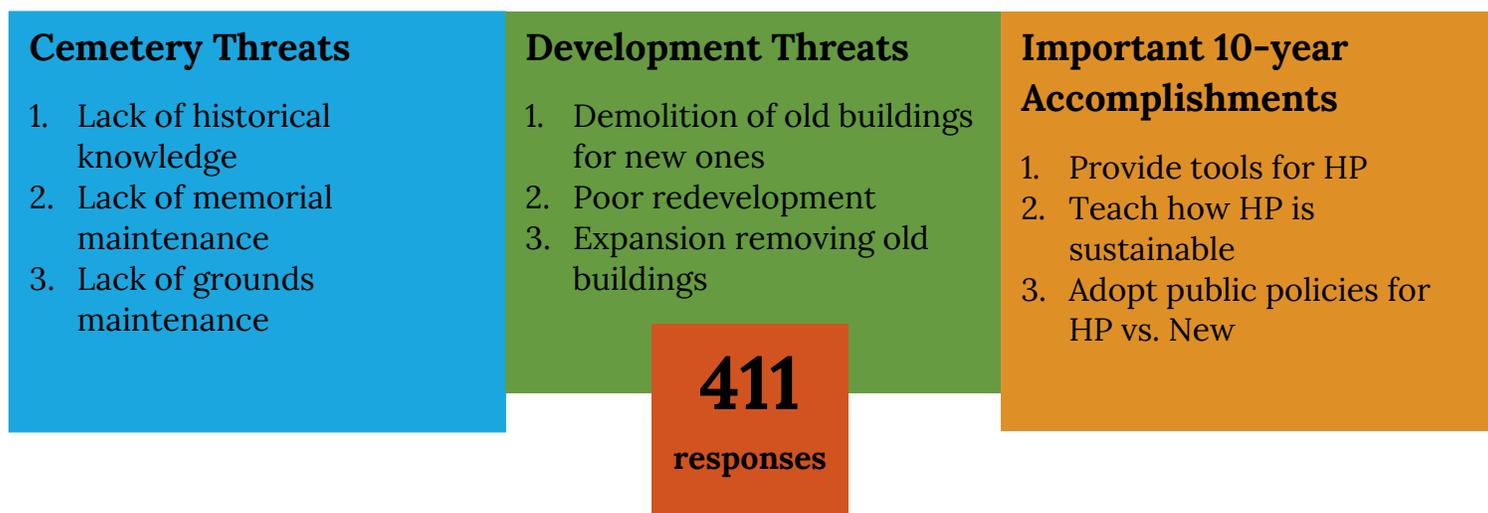
Top 3 – Greatest Threats to Historic Properties

1. Development/New Construction
2. Lack of Funding
3. Lack of Awareness

Top 3 – Communities that Need Better Representation

1. Native American
2. Women
3. African American

The second questionnaire was a continuation and clarification of the first survey developed to narrow the SHPO's focus for the plan update. SHPO staff attended the Oklahoma State Fair, set up a table at the booth of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and reached out to fairgoers to have them answer the additional questions. A QR code reminder was created that was placed in the bag of every purchase made through the Oklahoma Historical Society booth as well as handed out to those who were not available to respond immediately. Additionally, the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division took the questionnaire with them to all events, gathering additional responses. In total, 411 responses were received.



Questionnaire for Tribal Representatives

After assessing the results from questionnaires one and two, a special survey was prepared and sent to all tribal representatives (THPOs and Chief/President). All 39 officially recognized tribes in Oklahoma and the Ute (who historically used western Oklahoma as hunting grounds) were contacted.

The following questions were posed:

1. Do you want the State Historic Preservation Office to be involved in the preservation and documentation of Tribal resources? If yes, how?
2. In an effort to foster further dialogue between the SHPO and Tribal nations, on topics including but not limited to Section 106, NRHP, and Survey, which of the following would be most beneficial: quarterly virtual meetings between SHPO and THPO staff; scheduled open discussion hours, virtual; regional meetings for tribes with commonalities; other

3. What should be the SHPO focus for the updated state plan?

Five Tribal Nations responded: Chickasaw, Delaware, Kiowa, Miami and the Quapaw. All wanted OK/SHPO involvement in preservation and documentation of tribal resources (at the invitation of the tribal government). All want to see quarterly/virtual meetings between the OK/SHPO and tribes to discuss on-going issues (pertaining to all program areas). Multiple tribes ask for the plan to focus on better data sharing.

Responses to all questions for each questionnaire can be viewed online at www.okhistory.org/stateplan.

Historic preservation is...

“...passing elders’ wisdom to next generations.”

“...retaining and restoring structures that tell the story of all residents and generations.”

“...preserving our historic resources is a way to understand our history and our story. Historic neighborhoods and buildings contribute to the heart and soul of our communities.”

“...managing change to the built environment in a way that recognizes and stewards both tangible & intangible histories connected to it.”

“...preserving the past to share the future.”

Chapter 3: Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

The National Historic Preservation Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1966, was the most comprehensive preservation law the nation had ever known. The act established permanent institutions and a clearly defined process for historic preservation in the United States. The act included the creation of State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) and the National Register of Historic Places. SHPOs carry out the requirements and mandates of the NHPA in partnership with the National Park Service. The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO) is located within the Oklahoma Historical Society (Title 53 of Oklahoma Statutes).

The OK/SHPO manages several programs as core responsibilities mandated by the NHPA and others created over time to address the needs of the historic preservation efforts around the state. The core responsibilities include:

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. Administered by the OK/SHPO, this federal program helps to identify historic properties in the state significant for their association with events, people, design, method of construction, or its potential to yield information (archaeological). The NRHP establishes standards and criteria for evaluating historic properties and serves as the foundation for all federal preservation programs.

Section 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place. This review determines whether the project may adversely affect historic and cultural resources, both NRHP eligible and listed. It also provides the course of action to avoid, minimize, or mitigate such impacts. A Memorandum of Agreement or Programmatic Agreement between the agency, the SHPO, and consulting parties authorizes and codifies the mitigative actions.

Survey and Documentation

Through systematic field investigations and archival research, archaeological and architectural/historic resources are identified, recorded, and evaluated for National Register eligibility. The SHPO accomplishes most of this work through cooperative arrangements with universities, nonprofit organizations, and local governments. The information collected on archaeological resources is maintained by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, University of Oklahoma, and the SHPO houses the architectural/historic survey data in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

Certified Local Governments

The NHPA was updated in 1980 to include the creation of the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program. This program encourages counties and cities to create local preservation programs and to participate in statewide preservation planning activities. The SHPO manages this program in coordination with the National Park Service. To become a CLG in Oklahoma, a county or city must adopt an appropriate historic preservation ordinance (or county-applicable regulations), establish a historic preservation commission, and have an ongoing program to complete architectural and archaeological surveys. CLGS also have the opportunity to apply for grants that underwrite preservation planning initiatives (design guidelines, architectural surveys, educational material, etc.).

Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 was passed by the U.S. Congress and provides for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program. This program provides owners of income-producing historic properties a 20 percent federal income tax credit for qualified rehabilitation project costs. Eligible properties must be listed in the NRHP or be eligible for listing to apply. Projects must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Like other SHPOs across the county, the Oklahoma SHPO manages other programs and initiatives that extend the scope and reach of the preservation movement in the state. These include:

Centennial Farm and Ranch Program

In 1989 the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture established the Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program to recognize those families who have continuously occupied their land and carried out farming or ranching operations for at least 100 years. Governor Henry Bellmon received the first application from H.C. Hitch Jr., owner of the Hitch Ranch. Since 1989 more than 1,600 families have received recognition through the program. Additionally, historic structures awards are given if four or more buildings or

structures more than fifty years old remain on the land; this award helps identify historic buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects associated with Oklahoma's farming and ranching industries and has led to the listing of farms and ranches in the National Register of Historic Places. To qualify for the program, a family must: have occupied their land for at least 100 years, be a working farm or ranch of at least forty acres, generate at least \$1,000 in annual sales, and be operated by, lived on by, or leased out by a family member

State Register of Historic Places

Under Oklahoma Statute 53-355 the State Register of Historic Places was authorized. The State Historic Preservation Officer, in consultation with the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee, establishes a listing of sites, districts, structures, buildings, areas or objects above or below the surface of the earth whether on land or in the waters of the state, together with any designated improvements thereon, significant in the history, architecture, archeology, or culture of the state, its communities or the nation. Such listing constitutes the Oklahoma State Register of Historic Places. All historic places within the state listed in or nominated for the National Register are deemed to be listed in the State Register.

State Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program

Oklahoma Statute OS68-2357.41 provides for a State Tax Credit that mirrors the federal historic preservation tax credit program. All rehabilitation work to which the credit may be applied shall be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office which will in turn forward the information to the National Park Service for certification in accordance with 36 C.F.R., Part 67. A certified historic structure may be rehabilitated for any lawful use or uses, including without limitation mixed uses and still retain eligibility for the credit. The authorization for the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit comes from the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Geographic Information Systems

A geographic information system (GIS) is a helpful tool for managing and analyzing data to assist in communication, reporting, and understanding of geographic places and phenomena. The SHPO uses GIS to assist the review and compliance program (Section 106); document National Register of Historic Places listings; for Tax Credit application analysis; and to highlight properties in the Centennial Farm and Ranch program. GIS is also an important tool for education, outreach, and community involvement that can enhance the decision-making of legislators, large landowners, government officials, and community organizations. The overall purpose of GIS is to allow people to tell their story by using a map based on accurate information. The SHPO strives to create a GIS that is beneficial to all people of Oklahoma, to

assist them in telling their story, and give everyone an opportunity to understand the importance of preserving Oklahoma's past for future generations.

Aside from these programs and services, the SHPO also manages several education programs aimed at addressing preservation needs across the state: educational workshops, speaker series, and targeted lunch and learn series.

Preservation Partners

Although the SHPO sets the tone for statewide preservation efforts and administers national and state programs, the division itself does not own or manage cultural resources, play a role in local land use decisions, develop school curricula, serve as an advocacy organization, or carry out the functions of other agencies. Individual members of the preservation community do much of the on-the-ground local preservation work. The preservation community is most successful preserving cultural resources when working together, each playing to strengths within its unique mission-driven work. The following participants play an essential role in carrying out preservation activities across the state:

Tribal governments. Oklahoma's 39 federally recognized tribal governments are invaluable partners in preserving cultural resources related to the state's first peoples. Many of Oklahoma's Tribes have a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), which performs the same functions as the Oklahoma SHPO on tribal lands. In addition, many Tribes have established language and culture programs, museums and archives, as well as other cultural programs. Tribal cultural resource programs are growing and encompass many facets of native culture. Tribes contribute to the work of the heritage community by asserting their rights as sovereign nations to protect their cultural resources and practices and by taking part in preservation planning, federal and state project review, public education, and legislative action.

Federal and state agencies. As stewards and regulators of public property, federal and state agencies have a legal obligation to identify, evaluate, designate, and treat significant historic properties. Many also curate collections of artifacts and offer educational programs. Of the just over 44 million acres of Oklahoma, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is the largest federal land holder at 942,036 acres while the state holds 988,116 acres.

State agencies often have a specific responsibility in support of the heritage community. Oklahoma State Parks conserves and protects parkland and educates the public on the people, places, events, culture, and history of Oklahoma (along with many other responsibilities). The Oklahoma Department of Education develops school curriculum, including lessons about indigenous Native American Tribes. The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Office of the

Oklahoma Attorney General enforce laws protecting archaeological sites, objects, and human remains.

Certified Local Governments (CLG). The Certified Local Governments program is a partnership between the National Park Service, the Oklahoma SHPO, and communities that support local preservation through funding, training, and technical assistance. Participating city and county governments serve a crucial role in physically preserving cultural resources. They protect properties through thoughtful regulation and incentives. Local robust community-driven survey efforts identify and evaluate significant historic properties and designate them under federal and state cultural resource laws and local ordinances to local landmark lists and the National Register.

Nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations, such as museums, archives, historical societies, cultural organizations, and friend groups, engage in various work including advocacy and bricks-and-mortar preservation, archives and living history. Nonprofit organizations serve the entire heritage community by engaging the public in learning about and interpreting our shared past. The unique position of nonprofits enables them to reach out to elected officials, corporate interests, and the public to call for legislative action and funding for preservation activities when government agencies cannot.

Universities, colleges, trade schools, and their students. Students in many disciplines are integral to the future of historic preservation. Our universities are leading the way in architectural design, community planning, archaeological investigations, historical analysis and other disciplines associated with preservation. These institutions and their students are advocates for preservation and heritage issues, bringing needed resources to bigger efforts, and providing valuable research to solve pressing preservation issues.

Professionals and professional organizations. Preservation, building, design, finance, and real estate professionals in both the private and public sectors offer essential, specialized services that support preservation. In addition to individual efforts, professional organizations can educate the public and advocate for preservation work by demonstrating preservation's cultural, educational, and economic value and volunteering to support nonprofit and heritage community organizations.

Historic property owners. Most of Oklahoma's cultural resources, including the state's historic districts, are owned privately. Owners must engage in the thoughtful maintenance of their property and, most importantly, curate its unique story to preserve Oklahoma's special places. The heritage community can help by

providing educational materials, incentives, and funding that encourages physical preservation.

Businesses, foundations, and trusts. Preserving our history is a community value. This collective effort requires robust public support for the tax-supported government and incentive programs, laws, and policies. Businesses, foundations, and trusts help make the case for preservation to our elected leaders and the public. They can lead by example by supporting the nonprofit members of the heritage community through funding and volunteerism.

The Land of Oklahoma

Oklahoma is composed of rural lands, ranches, farms, forests, and urban areas. The state's total land area is 69,596 square miles making it the 20th largest state. According to the 2021 Federal Census, 3.987 million people call Oklahoma home, up from 3.76 million in 2010. The increases have not been that profound as to have a drastic impact on housing as is seen in other neighboring states.

| | Oklahoma City (621 square miles) | Tulsa (201 square miles) | Norman (189 square miles) |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2010 | 582,560 | 392,289 | 111,372 |
| 2021 | 687,725 | 411,401 | 128,097 |

Metropolitan Population Growth

While the population growth has been slow, it can exert pressures on cities that can impact historic preservation in both a positive and negative way.

Pressures, Trends, and Opportunities

Housing/Affordable Housing

Despite COVID-19 related economic setbacks, the affordability of housing across the state of Oklahoma remains one of the most attractive features of living here. Still, there is a need for more affordable housing throughout the state. There is an opportunity to turn older, smaller homes into affordable housing units or in creating living space on second and third floors above businesses in commercial downtowns throughout the state. The ability to have a live/work/play commercial area provides a constant clientele for the businesses in the area. Using under-utilized spaces for affordable housing should be key for any further historic preservation and commercial development growth in our cities and towns. In rural

areas, there is less housing demand, leading to neighborhood divestment and decline.

Heritage Tourism

Though the SHPO does not have direct jurisdiction over Oklahoma's heritage tourism sites, the state nonetheless has a variety of sites to offer interested travelers. Oklahoma maintains 38 state parks totaling more than 80,000 acres, offering visitors a wide variety of scenic entertainment. Museums and cultural centers across the state provide a context for the growth of civilization in this region from pre-European settlement to modern times. While staffing and resource needs continue to be ongoing issues, enhancing the online presence, even the design of virtual exhibits and museum spaces presents significant opportunities to engage with new audiences. While larger museums and historic sites may have resources to expand their digital footprint, COVID-19 fast-tracked plans for digitizing collections and expanding educational programming. Smaller facilities may still lack the necessary funds to diversify their offerings.

Diversity

In the realms of geography and the built environment, Oklahoma boasts an impressive array of diverse resources. From the Ozark Plateau and Prairie Plains in the northeast to the Wichita Mountains in the southwest, Oklahoma is filled with scenic vistas and wide-open spaces. Within this geographic setting, cities and small towns have grown and thrived, with their previous generations leaving behind architectural treasures. Yet, it goes beyond just our geographic diversity and into the state's diverse ethnic and cultural background as well. Cultural representation includes Native American tribes who continue to perpetuate the traditions of their ancestors and maintain a connection to their many ancestral archeological sites, to European settlement, and strong African American communities throughout the state. The diversity continues to grow as some of our newest cultural communities including Hispanic and Asian populations continue to introduce aspects of their culture to this region. Every day, the preservation community works to preserve this architectural diversity through technical assistance, grant programs, and historical/archeological investigations.

Education & Outreach

From school-age children to senior citizens, the preservation community's commitment to education and public outreach is as strong as ever. As we work to build relationships with educators, we also continue to grow our social media. We forecast continuing success with online educational sessions that reach an adult audience. The outreach needs to continue through training programs conducted by all preservation related parties. Public input indicates that we need a multi-faceted approach: in-person, manuals, virtual, and everything in between.

New Institutional Ideas

The shift to younger preservation professionals working on grant projects and technical preservation matters, both within the preservation community and around the state, is cause for encouragement. Undoubtedly, institutional knowledge has been lost. This can be regained, however, and new ideas for overcoming the cutting-edge problems facing the field are invaluable. In partnership with these galvanized local preservationists, much can be achieved in future years.

Political Support

Preservation practices face varying degrees of support in local communities and regions. Many times local decision-making leaders/boards must balance historic preservation with private property rights. Officials across the country have shown increasing reluctance to intervene with new preservation ordinances, regulations, and/or policies.

Mobile Workforce

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the workforce had more options involving internet-based technologies; the pandemic highlighted its importance even more. For those with the options of working from home, these advances in technology resulted in more people choosing to live in smaller, rural communities with lower costs of living. The result, however, was lower tenancy rates in office buildings, many of which are historic, in the larger downtowns.

Downtowns

Oklahoma sees positive trends in adaptive reuse projects, projects spurred by historic preservation tax credits, and in-fill developments that support new uses including mixed retail/residential. Younger generations trend toward walkability and car-free living which makes the downtowns an attractive location. However, changes in the national economy are hitting the downtowns due to online sales, curbside services, and delivery services. While arts and entertainment took a significant hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are bouncing back and continue to be a bright spot for downtowns.

Inflation/Resource Scarcity

Rehabilitations of historic buildings are made more expensive by an increasing scarcity and rising costs of construction materials and labor. The impact of inflation cannot be stressed enough and while it may be temporary (we hope), it impacts the decision to invest in historic properties.

Professional Services

For many years, Oklahoma preservation has been anchored by a core group of architects committed to the discipline. Only a portion of this group were trained in rehabilitation and restoration techniques, but everyone eventually came to admire the work and built lasting relationships with the SHPO and local communities in which they worked. Many of these preservation practitioners are leaving the profession thus leaving a void. The SHPO sees this void as a challenge that will only intensify as we progress into the next decade. It is unclear how many young architects, builders and tradesman will cultivate the skills necessary to partake in preservation-related projects.

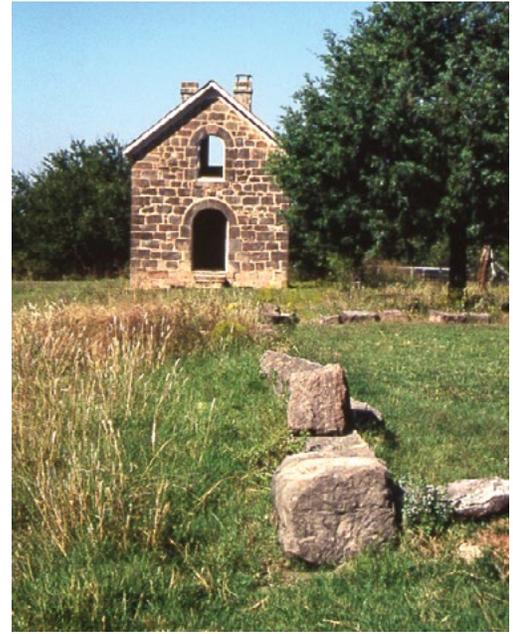
TIMELINE



TIMELINE OF THE

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Movement

- 1893:** Formation of the Oklahoma Historical Society
- 1906:** Passage of the American Antiquities Act
- 1910:** Oklahoma burial law passed
- 1916:** National Park Service established
- 1933:** Historic American Building Survey (HABS) created
- 1935:** Historic Sites Act
- 1936:** Sequoyah's log cabin and 10 acres of land in Sequoyah County deeded to the State
- 1949:** National Trust for Historic Preservation is chartered
- 1949:** State's first historic markers
- 1952:** Oklahoma Anthropological Society formed
- 1966:** Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by U.S. Congress
- 1967:** George Shirk designated as the first State Historic Preservation Officer
- 1969:** Historic American Engineering Record created (HAER)
- 1969:** Oklahoma City Preservation Ordinance passed
- 1970:** Oklahoma Archaeological Survey created
- 1976:** Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit enacted
- 1978:** Spiro Mounds Archaeological State Park opens to the public



- 1980:** NHPA amended to include Certified Local Government program
- 1985:** Oklahoma's first Certified Local Government approved (Enid)
- 1985:** Oklahoma Main Street program created
- 1986:** First five Main Street communities designated
- 1988:** Tulsa Preservation Ordinance passed
- 1990:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act passed by U.S. Congress
- 1990:** Department of Tourism transfers 11 properties to the Oklahoma Historical Society
- 1992:** NHPA amended to establish Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

- 1992:** Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. founded
- 1993:** Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. creates the first Most Endangered Places of Oklahoma list
- 1995:** Oklahoma City bombing
- 1995:** Tulsa Foundation for Architecture founded
- 1999:** Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture founded
- 2000:** Historic American Landscape Survey created (HALS)
- 2005:** Oklahoma's State Tax Credit for rehabilitation created
- 2007:** Centennial Celebration of Statehood

Impacts of Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

Federal and Oklahoma Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program
(2013-2023)

130 approved Part III
\$847,072,091.00*
*estimated qualified rehabilitation expenditures

Oklahoma Main Street Program
Since 1986

\$2.17 billion in public/private investment
21,500 new jobs
8,800 new or expanded small businesses

****Main Street Map here**

The Main Street program encourages community and economic development in Oklahoma communities and neighborhood districts statewide. By utilizing the Main Street Four-Point approach and refocusing efforts to bring vibrancy back to a commercial district, local programs can find the self-reliance and empowerment it needs to rebuild a commercial district and increase the quality of life for residents. The Oklahoma Main Street Center was established in 1985 and brought on their first five communities in 1986. Today, there are 45 programs and over two billion public and private dollars have been reinvested in the local historic districts including 15,000 building rehabilitations.

Everything Starts with Survey

Public input throughout the planning process indicates that the SHPO needs to do more to address the significance of Native Americans, African Americans, and Women (see survey results in Chapter 2). While the National Register of Historic Places may be the heart of the SHPO program, we cannot list properties without knowing what we have. Surveys play an important part in identifying properties in neighborhoods, communities, and counties. Surveys also maintain a record of the current state of historic and cultural resources in Oklahoma.

The SHPO maintains the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory, the collection of survey data for the entire state. The inventory includes information and photographs for over 72,000 historic resources. These resources are also mapped in the SHPO's GIS

system. Surveys within the inventory include those completed by federal and state agencies, Certified Local Governments participants and others.

Upon request, and occasionally during the SHPO workshop series, the SHPO staff offer free training to anyone interested in completing a historic resource survey. This training includes how to select an area for survey, how to complete the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form (HPRID), how to compose appropriate photographs and mapping for the property or project area, and how to apply historic and cultural significance. The SHPO also maintains the *Architectural/Historic Survey: A Field Guide* manual which includes all the steps to completing an acceptable HPRID form.

Survey activities are guided by internal plans, the development or pursuit of thematic contexts and in response to constituent requests. Trends across the state indicate a growing interest in historic and cultural resources associated with underrepresented communities in the NRHP, National Historic Landmark and Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. Most recently, the SHPO has received additional funding in the form of the Underrepresented Communities grant from the National Park Service to complete architectural surveys in the extant All-Black Towns.

Context

While the property must have significance, be that local, state or national, that significance is determined through an analysis of the resource's context. The context provides broad patterns and periods of history that influence the development of 'place' and community. The SHPO contextual evaluation for historic resources is based on context/themes provided both by the National Park Service and the Oklahoma Historical Society (see www.okhistory.org/pdf/ohs-histcontext.pdf for further context information). Common themes include agriculture, architecture, commerce, community planning, ethnic groups, government, industry, social history, and transportation.

Three related programs – the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, the National Register of Historic Places and the Oklahoma State Register of Historic Places – work in concert to carry out the important function of recognizing properties with historic significance.

****Graphic/photographs**

National Historic Landmarks: 22

NRHP: 1408

Districts: 151

African American: 29

Native American: 79

Women: currently not measurable as “women” are not identified as an area of significance

*statistics provided for these three categories based on public surveys

Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory: 72,323

Nature is a Force

Addressed in the 2020 State Plan, weather remains a critical issue for preservation in Oklahoma. The earliest recorded tornado measuring 1.25 miles wide hit Oklahoma on April 25, 1893, in what is today Cleveland County.

Over the last century, many types of natural disasters have struck Oklahoma, impacting historic and cultural resources across the entire state. While tornados are the most common through history, more recent events include earthquakes, ice storms, flooding, wildfires, and even hurricanes. The need to better prepare communities for disaster preparedness and recovery is crucial. Planning minimizes the risk to property and people, specifically, what is important to your home, your community, your state.

**graphics representing tornado, ice storm, and freezing weather days here

The most likely types of disasters to hit Oklahoma include: hail, lightning, flooding, strong winds, tornados, wildfire, winter weather, and occasionally hurricanes.

Several other hazards, including heat waves, droughts, and heavy rains may threaten crops and create life safety issues. The heavy rains have impacted archaeological sites through time. Many of the disaster types occur at the same time: a tornado impacting several miles of landscape can include heavy rains, lightning, flooding, and other high winds.

An essential first step in assessing disaster risk is the identification of hazard elements. By researching past disaster histories, documenting the impact on historic buildings and communities, reviewing emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans, and reaching out to communities that have experienced recent disasters, state-level agencies and local governments can better prepare for the next natural disaster.

From 2020 to 2023, Oklahoma had six federally declared disasters:

| Disaster | Declaration Date |
|---|-------------------|
| 4530 (COVID-19) | April 5, 2020 |
| 4575 (October 2020 Ice Storm) | December 21, 2020 |
| 4587 (February 2021 Cold Snap) | February 24, 2021 |
| 4657 (2022 Seminole Tornado & Eastern Oklahoma Flood) | June 29, 2022 |
| 4706 (April 19 th Tornado Outbreak) | April 24, 2023 |
| 4721 (June Derecho) | July 19, 2023 |

The term “federally declared disaster” means a disaster or other situation for which a Presidential declaration of major disaster is issued under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170). The request for a federally declared disaster is initiated by the Governor.

Declaration Types

There are two types of disaster declarations provided for in the Stafford Act: Emergency Declarations and Major Disaster Declarations. Both declaration types authorize the President to provide supplemental federal disaster assistance. However, the event related to the disaster declaration and type and amount of assistance differ.

- **Emergency Declarations:** can be declared for any occasion or instance when the President determines federal assistance is needed. Emergency Declarations supplement state and local efforts in providing emergency services, such as the protection of lives, property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. The total amount of assistance provided for a single emergency may not exceed \$5 million. If this amount is exceeded, the President shall report to Congress.
- **Major Declaration:** for any natural event, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that the President believes has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond. A major disaster declaration provides a

wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for both emergency and permanent work.

An example of how this is applied can be seen in the Shawnee Tornado declaration:

| Individual Assistance | Amount |
|--|----------------|
| Total Housing Assistance (HA) - Dollars Approved | \$4,933,828.15 |
| Total Other Needs Assistance (ONA) - Dollars Approved | \$553,921.11 |
| Total Individual & Households Program Dollars Approved | \$5,487,749.26 |
| Individual Assistance Applications Approved | 878 |

At the local level, people must determine their preservation priorities sooner rather than later because once the disaster strikes, it is too late. Identify the threatened and most vulnerable resources early. Create the list of emergency personnel that include the federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. Finally, engage the local stakeholders in the most up-to-date methods adaption strategies.

Chapter 4: Archaeology

Oklahoma Archeological Survey

The Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) was created by act of Oklahoma State Statute (§74-241) in 1970 with a series of objectives and duties: to research Oklahoma's archeological record; to work with state and federal agencies, and the citizens of Oklahoma to preserve significant archeological sites; and to disseminate information about Oklahoma's cultural heritage through publications and public presentations. The mission of OAS aligns well with that of the State Historic Preservation Office in the furtherance of preservation of Oklahoma's historic and prehistoric resources.

OAS achieves its objectives through a wide variety of initiatives. Some of the most common OAS preservation activities include:

- Archaeological research projects—often involving students, members of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, and other volunteers—from fieldwork to laboratory analysis and reporting
- Educational and public outreach activities geared toward enhancing awareness of Oklahoma's rich cultural heritage
- Teaching classes at the University of Oklahoma, lecturing at other universities, presenting programs in public schools, and lecturing to numerous civic groups across the state
- Providing college and post-graduate students with opportunities for hands-on training in field and laboratory methods that are commonly employed in archaeological research in Oklahoma
- Assisting local, state, and federal agencies as they navigate compliance with cultural resource laws
- Reviewing state and federal development projects to ensure that their actions do not destroy significant archaeological sites
- Assisting Tribes at their request in the documentation and protection of sites and resources that are significant to their cultural heritage
- Assisting with training for those engaged in cultural resource management and compliance with associated regulations
- Working with federal and state agencies, nonprofits, Tribes, and private citizens to protect archaeological sites from vandalism and indiscriminate looting
- Serving as the state's repository for information on over 26,000 archaeological sites and over 22,000 archaeological investigations across all 77 counties

About Some of Oklahoma's Archaeological Resources

An archaeological site is a place with physical evidence that allows us to interpret past human behavior. The archaeological record in Oklahoma is rich and varied.

There are numerous sites used by people long before European contact. The Burnham Site in Woods County may represent a pre-Clovis occupation (more than 11,000 years ago). Excavations at the Cooper Site in Harper County are best known for the recovery of a 10,000-year-old painted bison skull, which is the earliest painted object that has been found in the Americas. Other sites document early interaction between tribes and Europeans. The Bryson-Paddock Site in Kay County represents an eighteenth century trading post where the Wichita and French exchanged goods. Other Oklahoma archaeological sites represent historic forts and early towns. Examples of forts include Fort Gibson, Fort Supply, and Fort Towson. The site of Doaksville represents a nineteenth century trading post and intermittent capital of Choctaw Nation. More information about these sites and others can be found at okhistory.org and at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey website at ou.edu/archsurvey.

Archaeological sites have been documented through various efforts across the state, including: professional research since the 1930s; more than 22,000 archaeological surveys since the enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act; and volunteered reports from landowners and concerned citizens over the past 65 years. As of December 7, 2023, 26,160 archaeological sites have been recorded for Oklahoma. Among these archaeological resources, 7,931 (30.32%) are historic sites, 15,115 (57.78%) are prehistoric sites, and 2,068 (7.91%) contain evidence of both historic and prehistoric occupation. There is a wide range in the number of sites recorded for Oklahoma's 77 counties. Alfalfa County has only 37 recorded sites, whereas four counties have more than 1000 (Le Flore [n = 1614], McCurtain [n = 1233], Osage [n = 1424], and Roger Mills [n = 1272]). It should be noted, however, that this distribution of archaeological resources is based only on recorded sites. Many others are known to individuals but have not yet been reported formally to OAS. Still others have yet to be discovered. It should come as no surprise that three of the counties with the largest number of sites are those in which the largest number of surveys have been conducted. In other words, sites tend to be recorded where folks actually look for them.

Archaeological surveys have been conducted in all 77 counties. The image in Figure 8 captures the number of surveys conducted by county, but there is a wide range in variability among these investigations in terms of project size (less than an acre to several hundred acres) and the methods employed. The image provides a rough proxy of the intensity of efforts to investigate different areas across the state for the presence of archaeological resources. Less than 5% of the total acreage in the state has been surveyed, so we have every reason to expect that there is tremendous potential for as-yet unknown archaeological resources to be discovered.

Archaeology is a critical tool to understanding past human behavior, and archaeological sites in Oklahoma are often eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) because of the important information they contain and the questions their data can help us to answer. Archaeological data from sites in Oklahoma could help provide important information about our history, both prior to and since European contact. A few examples of relevant research questions are included below:

Questions that address changes in settlement patterns within or across communities and through time. For instance: what are settlement and land use patterns of Indigenous people prior to European contact? How did these patterns change in response to interactions with other Indigenous groups? How did settlement patterns change following European contact? What was the impact of indigenous settlement and land use on European settlements? What are settlement patterns of removed tribes in Oklahoma Territory following removal? What are settlement patterns of Freedmen communities or Black Homesteader communities?

Questions that address the material culture, foodways, or lifeways of groups or communities not well represented in historical records.

Questions that address the impact of transportation routes on settlement patterns, including trails, wagon roads, stagecoach routes, rivers and navigable streams, railroads, and more modern roads.

Questions that address interaction and trade between communities through time.

Questions that address human responses to changes in the environment. For instance, how have environmental changes in the ancient and more recent past impacted human settlements, interactions, subsistence, and culture?

Important research questions also include those related to general archaeological methods and theory.

Critical Issues in Oklahoma

In Oklahoma, many issues influence the preservation landscape: natural disasters, energy exploration, neglect, economic development, and population shifts. While some of these will undoubtedly directly threaten historic properties, others have the potential to present new opportunities for preservationists.

Laws

The National Register of Historic Places does not protect historic resources from demolition or destruction. While designation is important in developing preservation

strategies, it is not a guarantee of appropriate treatment for the property or its protection. Oklahoma lacks laws that could aid in the protection of historic built environment resources; however, the most effective way to protect historic resources is the enactment of local historic preservation zoning ordinances. Unless a city actively enforces their ordinances and extends their protection to all eligible districts and landmarks, even the cities with ordinances will continue to lose their historic resources.

A variety of state and federal laws do provide protections to archaeological resources in Oklahoma. These laws include:

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, requires that federal agencies and their designees/authorized representatives take into account the effects of their federal undertakings on cultural resources, including districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects, that are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The process of complying with Section 106 in Oklahoma provides OK/SHPO, OAS, Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, and other consulting parties and stakeholders, with an opportunity to comment on potential impacts to significant archaeological resources.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, protects archaeological sites and resources on public lands and Indian lands. Find more information on ARPA and efforts to protect against archaeological resource crimes at [savehistory.org](https://www.savehistory.org).

The Oklahoma Antiquities Law (53 Oklahoma Statute § 53-361) protects archaeological sites on the State Register of Historic Places or on property owned by or under the control of the State of Oklahoma or any of its political subdivisions that are subject to taking, salvage, excavation, restoration, or scientific or educational studies.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 protects human remains and funerary objects from federal and Indian lands.

The Burial Desecration Law (21 Oklahoma Statute § 21.1168.0-1168.6) extends protection to human remains and associated burial goods in unmarked graves on both state- and privately-owned land. If someone encounters or discovers unmarked graves and their contents in Oklahoma, they must stop any further disturbance activities and report the find to an appropriate law enforcement officer in the county where the remains are found.

Nature

Projections from climate scientists indicate that Oklahoma is likely to experience more intense periods of drought, interspersed with extreme precipitation events in the coming years (statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ok/). When heavy rains do occur, there will be greater likelihood of severe flooding like that which occurred in Oklahoma in the Spring of 2019 and impacted more than half of the state's counties. This is of particular concern for buried archaeological sites and burial grounds (many of which are unmarked and/or minimally maintained) that are on or near erosional banks along the state's major rivers, smaller tributaries, and other waterways. When the banks erode, artifacts and human remains can be part of the soil matrix that becomes dislodged and flows downstream. Additionally, overbank flooding can occur with such force that topsoil is scoured away on floodplains, dislocating agricultural crops and the archaeological sites that often lie beneath them—creating a veritable lunar landscape. Natural fluvial forces impact the integrity of these sites and may even erase them, but it also renders the archaeological materials more visible and susceptible to loss through looting activity.

In June 2019, OAS archaeologists assisted with emergency documentation and recovery efforts of a previously unrecorded site that was exposed after flooding removed 2-3 feet of topsoil. Looters arrived ahead of the archaeologists and dug into the private property without authorization, removing an unknown number of artifacts and disturbing intact features. This was one archaeological site of several that were impacted by this flooding disaster and subsequent looting.

Education and the Need for More Qualified Preservation Professionals

In Oklahoma we must continue to educate the public about our historic resources and the benefits of historic preservation. This includes community leaders who are not knowledgeable about historic preservation, or the benefits historic preservation has had, and can continue to have, in their communities. This lack of knowledge is exacerbated as older preservation advocates age out of their positions and fewer and fewer new historic preservation advocates are available to replace them.

Oklahoma's declining number of new preservation advocates can be tied to the absence of in-state preservation programs. Oklahoma universities have programs for architecture, anthropology, engineering, history, and planning, all of which play a role in historic preservation but with limited classroom exposure. However, no Oklahoma university offers a degree or certificate in historic preservation. Unless we (Oklahoma) cultivate these professionals in-state, CLG participants, Main Street programs, and Cultural Resource Management firms will continue to suffer as more and more historic preservation work will need to be outsourced to out-of-state contractors.

In Oklahoma we need more historic preservationists who meet or exceed the Secretary of the Interior (SOI) Professional Qualifications Standards to fill positions in federal and state agencies, Tribal historic preservation offices, and private consulting firms who conduct the historic preservation work mandated by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The consequences of this labor shortage on Oklahoma's historic and archaeological resources cannot be overstated. Every stage of the Section 106 process—from consultation, identification, evaluation, effects assessment, protection, and avoidance to mitigation—depends heavily on well-qualified historic preservation professionals. These steps cannot be navigated effectively or efficiently without them.

This phenomenon is nationwide. There is a considerable need for sufficiently qualified preservationists, let alone those who are highly experienced experts. Tackling this issue effectively will require participation from many sectors. Oklahoma's institutions of higher learning—particularly the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Oklahoma State University (OSU)—could help fill this void by bolstering their programs to train undergraduate and graduate students in applied archaeology, history, architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, city planning, cultural resource law, and similar disciplines with specific focus on historic preservation. Agencies, Tribes, and private consulting firms serve their own interests—as well as those of historic resources—when they find creative ways to support and oversee junior staff as they gain relevant experience that is not likely to be obtained in the classroom. Community, technical, and vocational colleges and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey can provide courses and certifications in specialized skills, methods, and use of equipment that are commonly employed in historic preservation.

The solutions are needed now but must also be sustainable. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/ooh/) and the SRI Foundation (SRIF), a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance historic preservation, the projected need for qualified professionals (including archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, urban and regional planners, and architects, among others) is expected to remain and increase over the next ten years (doi.org/10.1017/aap.2022.18).

Chapter 5: Preservation Partners–Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

The 2025-2035 *Preservation and Perseverance: Care before It's Gone* sets forth a 10-year vision for the state's preservation future. Generated through public participation by stakeholders, preservation partners and the greater public at-large, this vision has the potential to involve all corners of the state. While the SHPO is the organization responsible for the statewide planning process and will use this plan to guide its programs and activities, local communities along with other preservation interests from around the state have critical roles to play in the Plan's implementation.

**those named below are not exclusive to this plan but rather just examples of who might fall under these categories.

Private Citizen

A private citizen is someone who does not have an official or professional role in a given situation. This is someone who has an interest in historic preservation outside of their daily profession. The same person may be a private citizen in one role, and an official in another. For example, the Certified Local Governments coordinator is an official when working in their capacity for the State Historic Preservation Office, but a private citizen when serving in the polls on election day.

Local Groups

The Arts

Artists can serve as partners in local preservation efforts. They can assist in the rehabilitation of historic theaters and performing art spaces, and they can adaptively reuse historic buildings into creative spaces. They also can participate in public art, placemaking, and interpretive efforts in historic places. They are key to storytelling and as stewards for cultural traditions.

Certified Local Governments, counties and local governmental offices

Under state law, local governments can adopt plans and land use management tools which guide sound development as well as public health and safety. This activity includes comprehensive plans, historic preservation ordinances, historic preservation planning documents, zoning overlays, and conservation districts. Local planning and historic preservation commissions (including those that participate in the Certified Local Governments program) have formal roles in identifying and designating historic and cultural resources. They also play a key role in educating stakeholders and elected officials on the benefits of historic preservation in their communities.

Economic Development Community

These organizations serve as the local experts in securing funding and in navigating the development process. This can include development corporations, housing groups, and neighborhood revitalization organizations. They facilitate and serve as intermediaries in promoting preservation-based development. Other groups can partner with economic development groups on preservation and conservation approaches for revitalizing neighborhoods while achieving housing goals.

Educational Institutions

Local schools participate in preservation in various ways. In addition to providing formal education, schools throughout Oklahoma encourage participation in National History Day, students volunteer in community-based preservation projects, and participate in local hand-on learning at museums around the state. Higher educational institutions that provide formal education in historic preservation, architecture, archaeology, planning, history, and other related fields, participate in local preservation efforts by providing expertise, access to information, and undertaking research.

Historical Societies

These groups have as their principal responsibility to protect and interpret the history and heritage of the group they represent (city, county, cultural organization, etc). Often this is done through programming, archival collections, research/documentation, outreach/education, cemetery preservation, and more. They may also operate museums and historic sites.

Local Main Street Programs

Main Street programs manage various initiatives aimed at downtown/commercial districts that maintain these areas as thriving spaces for the municipalities. Main Street programs in Oklahoma work to improve adaptive reuses of historic buildings, undertake placemaking, create incubator spaces for new small businesses, organize special events, and support a unified vision of their downtowns. Main Street communities have close relationships with building owners, merchants, elected officials, and other important stakeholders in their community. Main Street programs can leverage those relationships to the benefit of historic preservation [highlight local success stories]. Main Street programs also play a key role in disaster preparedness.

Preservation Advocacy Groups

Non-profit organizations, such as Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., help to facilitate preservation in many ways: partnering with survey work, facilitating preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations, awards programs, and speaking at

public hearings/meetings. Some offer incentives in the form of grants or loans to entice investment in historic properties.

Tourism Organizations

Heritage Trail groups, convention bureaus, and local tourism offices provide essential marketing information that support heritage assets to build local visitation, economic development, and investment in local buildings/businesses. With increasing interest in cultural heritage, tourism organizations have opportunities for involving new participants and attracting new visitors.

Government

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

An independent agency under the President of the United States, the ACHP plays an important role in administering the Section 106 process mandated under the NHPA. As part of the consultation process, the ACHP may issue formal comments to federal agencies and parties that cannot agree to a satisfactory resolution regarding federally financed or permitted undertakings impacting historic or cultural resources. The ACHP may also consider and provide preservation alternatives in coordination and participation with the federal agencies and other involved parties. In addition to its Section 106 responsibilities, the Council advises the President and other federal agencies on preservation issues and organizes a number of research and policy initiatives as well as training and educational services.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA's primary responsibility is to assist and coordinate response and recovery efforts in disaster-declared areas. As part of that responsibility FEMA may provide grants, loans and other resources, and support for utilities and public infrastructure restoration, debris management, and life safety enhancements. The agency also provides disaster mitigation planning grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, and Tribal Nations in support of disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts.

National Park Service (NPS)

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1916, the NPS core mission is to preserve and protect the nation's cultural and natural resources for future generations. Known more publicly for its management of the country's National Park System, the NPS is also the lead federal agency for historic and cultural resource preservation and stewardship. Additionally, they offer a range of documentation, planning, education, and funding initiatives. One of its key programs, the National Register of

Historic Places, recognizes properties and places significant to local communities, a state, or the nation. Income producing National Register eligible or listed properties may participate in both the federal and state Historic Preservation Tax Credit Programs. In Oklahoma, the SHPO administers the NRHP, Tax Credits, CLG, and other preservation programs.

Oklahoma Archaeological Survey

Housed at The University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey served to research Oklahoma's archeological record; to work with state and federal agencies and the citizens of Oklahoma to preserve significant archeological sites; and to disseminate information about Oklahoma's cultural heritage through publications and public presentations.

Oklahoma Arts Council

Oklahoma Arts Council works to diversify and enhance the state's creative arts through programs and technical assistance directed to artists, arts organizations and other art-related entities. Through their funding, arts education is made possible in schools and communities across the state, and they support community art learning programs. The arts are important for preserving and carrying on Oklahoma's unique heritage. They offer a special way of teaching Oklahoma's compelling story.

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ODEMHS)

ODEMHS prepare for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates against disasters and emergencies. They also provide support, training, and guidance in local disaster preparedness planning. The primary responsibility is to prepare and implement the state's Emergency Management Plan, which outlines procedures and responsibilities for disaster response and recovery on the part of federal and state agencies and local governments. The agency offers both disaster and non-disaster related grants which help support efforts in communities and Tribal Nations.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT is the agency responsible for maintaining the state's highways, rail, aviation, and other public transportation systems. As it receives federal money for the construction and maintenance of state roadways and other systems, ODOT must participate in Section 106 consultation as required under the NHPA and work with the SHPO, other agencies, Tribal Nations, the public, and the ACHP when necessary to mitigate potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. ODOT currently maintains a programmatic agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, the SHPO, and the ACHP governing how ODOT will manage the consultation process.

ODOT employs archeologists, architectural historians, historians, and other professionals to document and investigate historic and cultural resources as part of the projects.

Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS)

The mission of the OHS is to collect, preserve, and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. They do this by maintaining multiple historic sites and museums, maintaining an extensive collection of archival material, operating a historic marker program, and offering public programming.

Oklahoma Main Street

A division of Oklahoma Commerce, the Oklahoma Main Street program has been bringing new life into the heart of communities across the state for over 30 years. Historic preservation, downtown revitalization efforts and economic stimulation help to restore the core assets of communities in Oklahoma. The statewide organization does this by refocusing efforts in commercial districts to bring back vibrancy to commercial buildings. Oklahoma Main Street provides training, resources, and technical assistance for preservation-based historic commercial district revitalization.

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

As a division of the larger OHS, the SHPO helps to facilitate and administer a number of preservation programs that benefit individuals, communities, and organizations around the state. The SHPO must fulfill several mandates under the NHPA including: architectural/archeological surveys, the National Register of Historic Places, preparing statewide plans, federal historic preservation tax credit program, Section 106, education and training, and operating the Certified Local Governments program.

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD)

The OTRD maintains and manages the state parks system along with other various outdoor recreational amenities. They also oversee several historic resources within its parks system such as those constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other New Deal related programs.

Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs)

Oklahoma has 39 federally recognized tribes of which 27 have federally designated THPOs. The THPO conducts reviews as part of Section 106 and NAGPRA consultation processes. The THPOs also participate in surveys, documentation, nominations of properties to the NRHP, and undertaking preservation practices related to TCPs and sacred sites.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

In addition to its core mission of agriculture, the USDA also provides programs related to rural development, including grant funding for infrastructure, business development, community facilities, housing rehabilitation, and preservation activities.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD administers several housing and community programs, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships, which help to help to facilitate property rehabilitation in support of maintaining and adding attainable housing in local communities. They have other grant opportunities that do not have permanent funding but have often assisted with preservation based initiatives such as disaster planning and neighborhood revitalization planning documents.

What follows serves as a suggestion of ideas for each group of ways by which they can assist with the preservation movement in Oklahoma. These suggestions are based on the goals and objectives identified through the public input process.

- Goal 1: Increase public awareness of Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources
- Goal 2: Identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources that reflect Oklahoma's diverse cultural groups, peoples and communities
- Goal 3: Develop and disseminate strategies for historic preservation
- Goal 4: Consider archaeological and historic resources in all planning and decision-making processes
- Goal 5: Foster an effective statewide preservation network

*Note: The font is larger on the following pages for easier reading

Private Citizen

Goal #1: Increase public awareness of Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources

Objectives:

- Expand effective working relations with representatives from media
 - Strategies
 - Write an op-ed piece for media regarding a specific preservation issue in the community such as preservation awareness, development issues, and downtown redevelopment
 - Follow preservation-related organizations on social media platforms
- Connect with rural communities
 - Strategies
 - Communicate with land advocacy groups regarding conservation easements
 - Advocate for and/or identify the historic and archaeological resources in a rural community
- Increase resources such as social/digital media to transmit information
 - Strategies
 - Provide content for preservation related organizations on social media
- Connect with underrepresented communities
 - Strategies
 - Provide details to local organizations/government/SHPO pertaining to underrepresented communities
 - Attend activities sponsored by underrepresented communities
- Encourage Main Street & CLG participation
 - Strategies

- Meet with elected officials to discuss the importance of preservation in your community using statistical data provided by SHPO/Main Street
 - Meet with elected officials to encourage participation in state programs that enhance preservation in communities
- Make information about resources widely available
 - Strategies
 - Meet with local librarian to determine what they have in their holdings and what their needs are
 - Meet with the local economic development organization to discuss historic preservation resource needs (pamphlets, workshops, etc)
- Update Oklahoma's economic impact study
 - Strategies
 - Review results of current (dated) study and consider/discuss/emphasize the positive effects of preservation in community/state
 - Approach local groups, government entities, and SHPO requesting a new/revised study be prepared

Goal #2: Identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources that reflect Oklahoma's diverse cultural groups, peoples, and communities

Objectives:

- Prepare more NRHP nominations
 - Strategies
 - Prepare a NRHP nomination for an important historic resource in the community
 - Work with local organizations to promote what is already recognized in the community
- Develop, conduct, and update surveys
 - Strategies

- Make recommendations to local government and/or SHPO of areas to be evaluated
 - Explore opportunities to partner with local, county, and regional nonprofit organizations and government entities in survey and documentation initiatives
 - Promote survey results and their implications to local policymakers, developers, and community residents
 - Recommend survey topics to the SHPO via their project suggestion form
 - Explore opportunities to partner with local, county, and regional non-profit organizations and government entities in survey and documentation initiatives
 - Promote survey results and their implications to local policymakers, developers, and community residents
- Continue to develop GIS maps
 - Strategies
 - Utilize online mapping provided by SHPO and other governmental agencies
- Develop archeological statewide standards
 - Strategies
 - Respond to surveys released during standards update process

Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies for historic preservation

Objectives:

- Assist organizations/agencies in preservation advocacy
 - Strategies
 - Become a member of historic preservation-related organizations
 - Express support to elected officials for creation of a state grants program for historic buildings
- Promote (encourage) local landmark designations
 - Strategies

- Appeal to local government to create legislation allowing designation
 - Submit an application for local landmark designation
 - Submit an application for local landmark designation of an underrepresented community property
- Continue to promote Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Buy a historic building and rehabilitate using SOI Standards (serve as the local example)
 - Talk with elected officials about the economic impact to the community specific to HPTI
- Develop and promote curricula for schools
 - Strategies
 - Create a lesson plan about historic preservation or an important historic property in your community
 - Express support to school board for lessons on historic preservation and its importance
- Encourage the use of the Secretary of the Interior Standards
 - Strategies
 - Read the SOI Standards at the NPS website or watch a recorded SHPO workshop to learn more about the Standards
 - Share how you utilized the Standards in the update of your home with your neighbors and friends
 - Encourage the use of the Standards in local design guidelines
- Provide training
 - Strategies
 - Attend preservation-related training offered by governmental bodies
- Preservation Awards
 - Strategies
 - Nominate local projects and/or people for awards
- Develop preservation programming
 - Strategies

- Write the history of an important building or neighborhood to be used by a local preservation organization
- Promote alternative methods of historic preservation
 - Strategies
 - Attend one of the SHPO workshops on proper repair techniques in historic preservation
 - Promote the use of local preservation-minded contractors, craftsmen, and artisans
- Local Financial Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Pursue and secure grants and other forms of financial and technical assistance when undertaking research, surveys, and other documentation work
 - Promote local financial institutions and tax professionals that provide funding for historic preservation projects

Goal #4: Consider archaeological and historic resources in all planning and decision-making processes

Objectives:

- Designate and preserve local historic districts and landmarks
 - Strategies
 - Prepare an application to designate a local district or landmark
 - Volunteer to assist community to identify important resources to be protected through designation
- Encourage adaptive reuse (regardless of HPTC or 106)
 - Strategies
 - Share success stories of adaptive reuse in your community
 - Buy a historic building and renovate it for a new use, putting it back into service

Goal #5: Foster an effective statewide preservation network

- Increase number of qualified consultants in the state
 - Strategies
 - Attend a SHPO National Register training course to learn how to prepare an NRHP nomination
 - Prepare a successful NRHP nomination to qualify to become a consultant in the state.
- Encourage local governments to become CLGs
 - Strategies
 - Offer to serve on historic preservation commission
 - Attend meetings
- Continue publication of *Preservation Oklahoma News*
 - Strategies
 - Subscribe for electronic newsletter
 - Write an opinion piece on historic preservation for the newsletter
- Collaborate with THPOs
 - Strategies
 - Notify THPOs when you find an archaeological site/evidence
- Strengthen community preservation initiatives
 - Strategies
 - Attend neighborhood association meetings
 - Propose preservation activities for neighborhood, e.g., wood window repair workshop for homeowners
- Advocate for HPTC
 - Strategies
 - Local business shares its success with the HPTC process
 - Request your community or the SHPO prepare an economic impact study
 - Encourage someone who has purchased a historic building to look into utilizing the HPTC program to rehabilitate the property

Local Groups

Goal #1: Increase public awareness of Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources

Objectives:

- Expand effective working relations with representatives from media
 - Strategies
 - Write how-to articles
 - Offer tours of historic properties and share the history of the community
 - Provide articles highlighting organization's activities specific to historic resources
- Connect with rural communities
 - Strategies
 - Conduct a membership drive
 - Create an organization (or utilize a current organization) that can hold easement for the protection of farmland/rural landscape
 - Integrate the identification of farmlands, ranches, and agricultural resources as part of a broader disaster resilience plan
- Increase resources such as social/digital media to transmit information
 - Strategies
 - Update materials to target youth, young adults, and underrepresented populations in the professional aspects of the preservation and archaeological fields
 - Create websites that serve as a clearinghouse of information related to training, internships, and educational opportunities offered by preservation partners around the state
- Connect with underrepresented communities
 - Strategies
 - Create interpretive panels specific to underrepresented groups in the community

- Produce multilingual publications
 - Encourage and facilitate local preservation partnerships through networking events, meetings, and workshops with traditional preservation networks and nontraditional entities that advance and expand the preservation network
- Encourage Main Street & CLG participation
 - Strategies
 - Meet with local officials to discuss the benefits for the community if they participate (using data from SHPO/Main Street Program)
 - Bring in speakers to meetings or organizations to promote the benefits
- Make information about resources widely available
 - Strategies
 - Keep websites up-to-date specific to historic preservation
 - Offer virtual and in-person programming
- Update Oklahoma's economic impact study
 - Strategies
 - Cosponsor the update to the economic impact study

Goal #2: Identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources that reflect Oklahoma's diverse cultural groups, peoples, and communities

Objectives:

- Update historic contexts (prehistoric and historic)
 - Strategies
 - Contract to write a historic context update for the SHPO
- Prepare more NRHP nominations
 - Strategies
 - Cosponsor the preparation of a nomination

- Develop, conduct, and update surveys
 - Strategies
 - Cosponsor the preparation of a survey
- Continue to develop GIS maps
 - Strategies
 - Provide data for use in GIS mapping
- Develop archeological statewide standards
 - Strategies
 - Respond to surveys distributed during update process

Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies for historic preservation

Objectives:

- Assist organizations/agencies in preservation advocacy
 - Strategies
 - Host workshop on how-to: identify an archaeological site, restore a wood window, repoint masonry, complete an oral history
 - Support the creation of a state grant program for rehabilitating historic buildings
 - Provide data on the economy of rehabilitation versus new construction with local officials and state legislators
 - Identify pro-preservation legislators and encourage support
- Promote (encourage) local landmark designations
 - Strategies
 - Cosponsor a local nomination
 - Support legislation creating local designation
- Continue to promote Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Partner with the SHPO to prepare a historic preservation impact study
 - Hold meetings in a federal tax credit building and promote it as part of the meeting

- Invite SHPO to give presentation to property owners about the program
- Develop and promote curricula for schools
 - Strategies
 - Partner with preservation-related entities in offering internships and preservation trade opportunities for students and young adults
 - Organize social events for youth and young professionals that promote involvement opportunities as well as the mission of local preservation organizations
- Encourage the Secretary of the Interior Standards
 - Strategies
 - Organize homeowner fairs, home tours, local marketing programs to raise knowledge of Standards
 - Invite SHPO to give presentation to property owners on Standards
- Provide training
 - Strategies
 - Offer AIA, AICP, etc credit for continuing education opportunities specific to historic preservation
 - Provide best practices workshops
- Preservation Awards
 - Strategies
 - Nominate properties
 - Host the unveiling event at your historic property
 - Nominate a significant property and/or person for a national award
 - Create an awards program for your community
- Develop preservation programming
 - Strategies
 - Host virtual programs on preservation topics
 - Create new events and host them in downtowns, neighborhoods, or other historic spaces as a way to raise awareness of preservation's impact
- Promote alternative methods of historic preservation

- Strategies
 - Host a SHPO event about historic preservation techniques in your community
 - Demonstrate how you put preservation techniques into use on your property
 - Promote the use of preservation-minded contractors, craftsmen, and artisans
- Local Financial Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Partner with statewide economic development, planning and environmental groups to create new incentives and educational programs related to historic preservation and revitalizing neighborhoods
 - Use CLG and other granting programs to emphasize preservation planning that integrates heritage tourism as part of the local planning and economic development efforts
 - Explore nontraditional funding sources for preservation incentives and programs (CDBG, USDA, arts, housing organizations, etc.) and promote within communities
 - Prepare fundraising plans that help diversify funding sources for preservation initiatives
 - Promote the use of local financial institutions and tax professionals that have knowledge in historic preservation projects
- Promote strategies to protect significant archaeological and historic resources following natural or man-made disasters
 - Strategies
 - Form local preservation and disaster preparedness task forces composed of local professionals tasked with addressing gaps in local disaster preparedness efforts
 - Create disaster preparedness plans
 - Raise awareness of disaster risks through community meetings and workshops

- Utilize NPS seismic and flood adaption standards and guidelines when applicable

Goal #4: Consider archaeological and historic resources in all planning and decision-making processes

Objectives:

- Provide technical assistance (non-106)
 - Strategies
 - Host workshops geared toward development community specific to best practices and offer continuing education as part of the session to encourage attendance
- Make data more easily accessible
 - Strategies
 - Digitize your organization's records for online access
 - Link resources on your website
- Designate and preserve local historic districts and landmarks
 - Strategies
 - Request the city to adopt a preservation zoning ordinance
 - Sponsor a workshop for city officials concerning local government's roles and responsibilities in the enforcement of historic preservation laws
- Encourage adaptive reuse (regardless of HPTC or 106)
 - Strategies
 - Digitize your organization's records for online access
 - Host workshop geared toward development community specific to best practices and offer continuing education as part of the session

Goal #5: Foster an effective statewide preservation network

Objectives:

- Increase number of qualified consultants in the state

- Strategies
 - Host workshop on what you need to become a consultant in your building
- Encourage local governments to become CLGs
 - Strategies
 - Schedule meetings with local elected officials to discuss the benefits of the program for the community (using data from SHPO/NPS)
- Continue publication of *Preservation Oklahoma News*
 - Strategies
 - Provide articles to POK
 - Register to receive newsletter
- Collaborate with THPOs
 - Strategies
 - Work with tribal governments to promote the cultural history of the property or community
 - Seek nominations for endangered places nominations from tribal governments
 - Provide information about descendants in cemeteries
- Strengthen community preservation initiatives
 - Strategies
 - Attend candidate forum nights and ask questions specific to historic preservation
 - Learn what governmental institutions offer funding for project activities
- Advocate for HPTC
 - Strategies
 - Host a before and after workshop on how to complete a tax credit project
- Mitigate adverse effects on non-federal property
 - Strategies
 - Follow permit applications at City Hall
 - Advocate for retention of historic resources

Government

Goal #1: Increase public awareness of Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources

Objectives:

- Expand effective working relations with representatives from media
 - Strategies
 - Invite media to an on-going project
 - Provide calendar of events to media
 - Advertise preservation related events
 - Coordinate for a series of articles/stories on historic preservation
- Connect with rural communities
 - Strategies
 - Promote grant funding
- Increase resources such as social/digital media to transmit information
 - Strategies
 - Create online newsletters
 - Create video shorts
 - Create a dedicated webpage that catalogs available technical and funding programs at the state and national levels
 - Organize yearly state of preservation statement
- Connect with underrepresented communities
 - Strategies
 - Hold meetings for the Black Heritage Committee of the OHS
 - Recognize and address barriers to local participation from underrepresented and under resourced communities
 - Invite underrepresented communities to project meetings
 - Develop workshops and trainings using local ethnographers, artists, folklorists, oral historians and community groups on preserving tangible and

- intangible aspects of local culture and heritage using Main Street, Heritage Tourism, Oklahoma Historical Society as channels for delivery
 - Prepare all information as multilingual
- Encourage Main Street & CLG participation
 - Strategies
 - Consult with local government/commissions concerning agency projects
- Make information about resources widely available
 - Strategies
 - Create and update websites specific to historic preservation and ongoing projects
 - Update contact lists regularly
 - Establish cost estimates for rehabilitation of existing buildings and share with governmental officials (elected and appointed)
- Update Oklahoma's economic impact study
 - Strategies
 - Provide data to consultant/firm conducting the economic impact study
 - Provide funding

Goal #2: Identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources that reflect Oklahoma's diverse cultural groups, peoples, and communities

Objectives:

- Update historic contexts (prehistoric and historic)
 - Strategies
 - Sponsor the development of context documents
- Prepare more NRHP nominations
 - Strategies
 - Prepare nominations as part of Section 106 mitigation

- Provide guidance on resource types and context narratives to underrepresented communities
 - Create information resources and toolkits for guiding local efforts in NRHP preparation
- Develop, conduct, and update surveys
 - Strategies
 - Maintain a complete list of historic properties within jurisdiction
 - Encourage integration of survey and documentation data into state and local planning efforts
 - Create information resources and toolkits for guiding local efforts in data collection and management
 - Conduct in-house theme-based surveys
- Complete a 106 online submission portal
 - Strategies
 - Upon completion: attend training and implement its use
- Continue to develop GIS maps
 - Strategies
 - Provide SHPO a GIS layer for historic properties under their purview (update it cyclically)
 - Make GIS-based mapping of historic resources in disaster prone areas widely available and accessible to property owners and preservation partners
 - Use GIS StoryMaps and other digital technologies to interpret documented places and stories of diverse communities to a wider audience
- Develop historic archeological statewide standards
 - Strategies
 - Respond to surveys issued during update process
 - Attend public meetings
 - Assist in the development of the standards via review and comment on the draft standards

Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies for historic preservation

Objectives:

- Assist organizations/agencies in preservation advocacy
 - Strategies
 - Promote the availability of local, state and national level historic preservation incentives in public workshops and meetings
 - Review existing regulations, such as zoning variance relief, parking and building codes, to make adaptive use and preservation projects more feasible
- Promote (encourage) local landmark designations
 - Strategies
 - Create local legislation allowing for local designation
 - Encourage community members to prepare documentation
 - Offer workshops on preparing documentation
- Continue to promote Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Lease space in historic properties
 - Engage with overlooked stakeholders (young people, artists, seniors, housing advocates)
- Develop and promote curricula for schools
 - Strategies
 - Conduct a survey with local school administrators and teachers to determine effective ways to engage and involve youth in historic preservation
 - Create a Junior preservation/historian program to research and document projects related to local history and historic sites
- Encourage the Secretary of the Interior Standards
 - Strategies
 - Local government produces design guidelines and widely distributes them
- Provide training
 - Strategies

- Host and/or attend hands-on workshops specific to preservation topics: masonry repair, window restoration, wood floor rehabs
 - Develop new training programming targeted to local decision makers as part of community forms, roundtables and planning initiatives
 - Develop toolkits on community engagement and consensus building methods and processes
- Preservation Awards
 - Strategies
 - Local government creates an award program to recognize historic preservation efforts in their community
 - Agency creates an award program to recognize historic preservation efforts in their program area
- Develop preservation programming
 - Strategies
 - Undertake large- and small-scale placemaking efforts in Main Street districts, neighborhoods, and tourism destinations that enhance local identity
- Promote alternative methods of historic preservation
 - Strategies
 - Digitize agency records
 - Collect oral histories in underrepresented communities
 - Share information about upcoming historic preservation projects
- Local Financial Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Advocate the use of CDBG and other funding sources to support housing rehabilitation and conservation
- Promote strategies to protect significant archaeological and historic resources following natural or man-made disasters
 - Strategies
 - Create model disaster mitigation guidance for use in publicly funded historic preservation and disaster

mitigation plans related to housing, public facilities, and historic sites

- Conduct periodic training and orientation on integrating historic preservation with local disaster planning
- Provide training resources on disaster resilience to community development directors, preservation partners, facility managers, museums, and owners of historic properties

Goal #4: Consider archaeological and historic resources in all planning and decision-making processes

Objectives:

- Enforce laws and Section 106 regulations
 - Strategies
 - Upon signing mitigation documentation, track the outcomes to ensure you are meeting targets
 - Train staff on outcomes of programmatic agreements so that steps are not missed
- Provide technical assistance (non-106)
 - Strategies
 - Seek input from professionals in the field on projects prior to implementation
 - Use best practices information from other federal and state agencies
- Provide technical assistance (Section 106)
 - Strategies
 - Promote successful 106 mitigation measures through media
 - Offer training opportunities for staff that implement Section 106 programs
- Make data more easily accessible
 - Strategies
 - Provide database of successful mitigation measures

- Provide web based step-by-step tools for program staff
- Designate and preserve local historic districts and landmarks
 - Strategies
 - Provide online data from properties that have been determined eligible
- Encourage adaptive reuse (regardless of HPTC or 106)
 - Strategies
 - Provide case studies of successful rehabilitation projects on web and through social media
 - Provide workshops that focus on successful rehabilitation projects that discuss pitfalls as well

Goal #5: Foster an effective statewide preservation network

Objectives:

- Increase number of qualified consultants in the state
 - Strategies
 - Utilize universities to include projects in courses that allow students to prepare NRHP nominations or conduct surveys as part of their curriculum
- Encourage local governments to become CLGs
 - Strategies
 - Bring in the SHPO to discuss the benefits of becoming a CLG
- Continue publication of *Preservation Oklahoma News*
 - Strategies
 - Agency provides articles on successful rehabilitation of historic resources
 - Agency provides articles that update ongoing projects
 - Agency provides articles on funding mechanisms within agency divisions
- Collaborate with THPOs
 - Strategies

- Work with THPOs as their knowledge of tribal histories for exceeds anyone else's
 - Tribal governments host training for non-tribal members
 - Workshop presented by Tribal Nations specific to identifying TCPs
- Strengthen community preservation initiatives
 - Strategies
 - Support the development of a statewide preservation grant
 - Promote funding opportunities offered by agency
- Advocate for HPTC
 - Strategies
 - Provide best practices information to development community and small business owners
 - Provide case studies of "difficult" projects and how compromises were reached
- Mitigate adverse effects on non-federal property
 - Strategies
 - Seek public input before planning projects
 - Use professionals to plan and implement preservation related projects
 - If a historic resource must be demolished, release a public statement before taking the action

State Historic Preservation Office

Goal #1: Increase public awareness of Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources

Objectives:

- Expand effective working relations with representatives from media
 - Strategies
 - Utilize the Oklahoma Historical Society's communications division to reach out to media in the state
- Connect with rural communities
 - Strategies
 - Promote the Centennial Farm & Ranch program at county historical societies and rural libraries
 - Work with Museum division to create a traveling truck/exhibit for program
 - Gather oral histories from small rural communities with declining populations
 - Identify and document properties within rural communities including rural cemeteries
 - Promote grants available from other organizations that can be utilized by rural communities, such as USDA development grants
- Increase resources such as social/digital media to transmit information
 - Strategies
 - Learn how to better utilize Facebook tools for more effective outreach via social media
 - Create a social media series to interest followers, e.g., Where in the world is our survey coordinator?, What inspires you to save historic places?, and What inspires you to visit historic places?

- Create Facebook events when promoting online webinars
 - Coordinate with other organizations for additional promotion when sharing events
- Connect with underrepresented communities
 - Strategies
 - Create a webinar series highlighting one or many underrepresented communities/preservation projects
 - Ensure there is a SHPO presence at various OHS events
 - Attend Capitol Days annually
 - Promote the OLI, NRHP, and SRHP at county historical societies and libraries
- Encourage Main Street & CLG participation
 - Strategies
 - Have representatives attend Capitol Days to highlight the SHPO's CLG program and its CLGs
 - Survey the Oklahoma Main Street participants to determine how SHPO can assist their organizations in promoting historic preservation
 - Develop a new countywide CLG program to help smaller communities
 - Create more engaging presentations to interest the audience
- Make information about resources widely available
 - Strategies
 - Continue to update and disseminate maps and databases
 - Connect architectural and thematic surveys to map data to make information more accessible to the public
- Update Oklahoma's economic impact study
 - Strategies
 - Work with Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, AIA, or other organization to hire consultant to conduct study
 - Promote results statewide
- Promote the importance of archaeological resources in Oklahoma

- Strategies
 - Continue to develop and disseminate publicly accessible interpretations of archaeological resources
 - Present and disseminate talks given by researchers and professionals that communicate non-sensitive information learned from archaeological projects for public audiences
 - Encourage researchers and professionals to develop and disseminate publicly accessible interpretations of archaeological resources

Goal #2: Identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources that reflect Oklahoma's diverse cultural groups, peoples, and communities

Objectives:

- Update historic contexts (prehistoric and historic)
 - Strategies
 - Develop topics for historic contexts with agency participation
- Prepare more NRHP nominations
 - Strategies
 - Increase the number of archeological site nominations
 - Create a SHPO training course on how to write a National Register of Historic Places nomination
 - Prepare in-house nominations focusing groups identified in statewide survey as needing better representation
- Streamline and coordinate all data collection resources (forms, manuals, etc.)
 - Strategies
 - Restructure SHPO's website for more ease of use
 - Annotate forms with relevant information and resources
- Utilize the Oklahoma State Register

- Strategies
 - Conduct a webinar about the State Register and its importance to historic preservation
 - Develop a website to solicit nominations to the State Register
- Complete a 106 online submission portal
 - Strategies
 - Provide for submission of NRHP nominations, CLG applications and reports, Tax Credit Applications, and additional program documentation as overseen by the SHPO
- Develop, conduct, and update historic and thematic surveys
 - Strategies
 - Create a training course on how to conduct surveys for Oklahoma
 - Conduct more in-house surveys
 - Develop parameters and implement statewide cemetery survey
- Continue to develop GIS maps
 - Strategies
 - Make GIS data (layers) available for use by others
 - Develop additional StoryMaps using maps created by the SHPO
 - Create a map of State Register properties
- Develop historic archeology statewide standards
 - Strategies
 - Organize stakeholder meetings
 - Survey state and federal agencies, tribal nations, THPOs and interested parties

Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies for historic preservation

Objectives:

- Assist organizations/agencies in preservation advocacy
 - Strategies

- Develop a webinar on successful advocacy efforts
 - Create a how-to advocacy series *So You Want to Save a Building?*
 - Bring in specialists from partner organizations such as NTHP and NPS to discuss strategies such as sustainability, public policy development, and local legislation creation
- Promote (encourage) local landmark designations
 - Strategies
 - Bring in speakers on the importance of local landmark designations for CLGs and their commissions as well as the public
 - Develop a list of local landmark designations within the state
 - Develop draft language for local landmark designation for use by communities
- Continue to promote Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Provide information for CLGs on successful tax incentives projects within their communities via e-newsletter
 - Develop a “hot topic” series for developers addressing the problems and solutions
 - Create a one-sheet to disseminate information about the effects of the tax credit program in Oklahoma
- Develop and promote historic preservation curricula for schools
 - Strategies
 - Develop lesson plans for teachers
 - Create an adopt-a-building program for elementary school students
- Encourage the Secretary of the Interior Standards
 - Strategies
 - Develop workshops for professionals involved in rehabilitation of historic buildings
 - Develop workshops for nonprofessionals involved in rehabilitation of historic buildings

- Encourage agencies and organizations to hire qualified individuals who meet the SOI standards
- Preservation Awards
 - Strategies
 - Evaluation current awards program and develop new program, if applicable
- Promote alternative methods of historic preservation
 - Strategies
 - Develop a how-to series on preservation techniques
 - Compile a list of preservation-minded contractors, craftsmen, and artisans; make it searchable online
- Local Financial Incentives
 - Strategies
 - Compile lists from CLGs nationwide on what local incentives are available
 - Prepare a list of preservation friendly funding sources
 - Bring in an expert on tax incentives from the IRS to speak to owners/developers
- Promote strategies to protect significant archaeological and historic resources following natural or man-made disasters
 - Strategies
 - Develop a fact sheet in conjunction with Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) on what to do following a disaster in Oklahoma
 - Promote the SHPO office in media as a point of contact following disasters
 - Participate in OEM's emergency manager training
 - Promote the use of *seismic and flood adaptation Standards*

Goal #4: Consider archaeological and historic resources in all planning and decision-making processes

Objectives:

- Highlights federal and state laws (including Section 106) that protect cultural resources and historic properties
 - Strategies
 - Summarize and synthesize available information and relevant reporting contacts on website
- Provide technical assistance
 - Strategies
 - Update SHPO fact sheets
 - Create brochures and booklets about SHPO programs
 - Promote “how to save” a historic building programming developed by SHPO
- Encourage adaptive reuse (regardless of HPTC or 106)
 - Strategies
 - Develop a webinar series on interesting adaptive reuse projects within Oklahoma and around the US

Goal #5: Foster an effective statewide preservation network

Objectives:

- Increase number of qualified consultants in the state
 - Strategies
 - Update the consultant form to provide for more specific specialties
 - Develop a consulting-parties suggestion list for federal projects
 - How-to trainings specifically to cultivate SOI qualified consultants
- Encourage local governments to become CLGs
 - Strategies
 - Distribute information to all cities and counties within Oklahoma promoting the CLG program
- Continue publication of *Preservation Oklahoma News*.
 - Strategies
 - Reevaluate content of the newsletter
 - SHPO staff contribute articles

- Coordinate with other interested parties to provide articles for newsletter
- Collaborate with THPOs
 - Strategies
 - Organize/facilitate monthly meetings between SHPO and interested THPOs
 - Support THPO counterpoints with historic preservation statewide
 - Work with tribes to develop a kids' book on TCPs
 - Develop a storytelling series with a tribal storyteller
- Strengthen community preservation initiatives
 - Strategies
 - Get back to basics
 - Reintroduce social media campaigns
 - Develop a statewide development grant program
- Document historic resources that have been lost on an annual basis
 - Strategies
 - Map demolition of historic resources
 - Highlight all the non-adverse effects the SHPO has issued
 - Promote what buildings have been lost annually on the website

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