



Oklahoma Historical Society

FY2024 Annual Report



Preserving Our Heritage Since 1893

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) was founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association to safeguard newspapers chronicling a young Oklahoma Territory.

Now, 131 years later, the OHS continues collecting, preserving, and sharing our history and culture. Our extensive collections have grown to include artifacts, photographs, documents and records, oral histories, audio, film, and video. Beyond our headquarters at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City, we maintain museums, historic homes, forts, and battlefields across the state.

Through exhibitions, publications, and experiences, we strive to illuminate Oklahoma's complex and fascinating past. Our commitment to serving all Oklahomans ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to connect with our shared history.

**Our mission is to collect,
preserve, and share the history
and culture of the state of
Oklahoma and its people.**



**Oklahoma
Historical
Society**

Agency Leadership



Trait Thompson
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



Karen Whitecotton
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Trait Thompson
Executive Director

Karen Whitecotton
Deputy Executive Director

Chantry Banks
Director of Museums and Historic Sites

Jessica Brogdon
Director of Communications

Nicole Harvey
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Gabby Hosek
Chief Financial Officer and Legislative Liaison

Tad Jones
Director of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Jacob Krumwiede
Director of OKPOP

Leon Natker
Director of the Oklahoma History Center Museum

Lynda Ozan
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Dr. Matthew Pearce
State Historian

Chad Williams
Director of Research

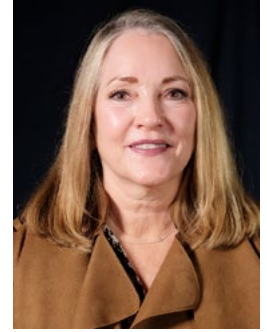
Board of Directors



Duke R. Ligon
PRESIDENT



Karen Keith
VICE-
PRESIDENT



Donna Sharpe
TREASURER

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Jack D. Baker, Oklahoma City
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Kenneth Sivard, Idabel
Charles Tate, Ardmore*
Barbara Thompson, Oklahoma City
James R. Waldo, Oklahoma City*
Weldon Watson, Broken Arrow*

*appointed

The Oklahoma Historical Society is both an agency of the State of Oklahoma and a private membership organization governed by a 25-member Board of Directors. Twelve are appointed by the governor of Oklahoma, and thirteen are elected by OHS members.

The Oklahoma Historical Society reached more than 580,000 students, educators, researchers, history enthusiasts, and learners of all ages in FY2024.

With an operating appropriation of just 0.12% of the state's annual budget, we serve thousands of Oklahomans across the state.



\$2,529,317

CONTRIBUTED

to the OHS in donations, memberships, grants, and friends group support

\$1,440,240

GENERATED

in earned revenue

**32,245 HOURS
OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Whether welcoming guests, assisting researchers, guiding school groups, helping with events, or working with collections, the impact of our volunteers can be seen every day.

A MONETARY VALUE OF \$1,079,885



Above: Education Day at Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson

Above, right: Students on a trip to the Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

Right: OHS volunteers share Oklahoma history and culture at an event

5,731 Members

enjoyed free admission to more than 20 OHS museums and historic sites, special discounts, invitations to members-only events, subscriptions to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and *Mistletoe Leaves*, and more!

Join the OHS.
Connect with History.

483 INDIVIDUALS

have been members of the Oklahoma Historical Society for more than 20 years

OHS membership reaches history supporters in

48 STATES

From Our Members

“Oklahoma’s bold and exciting history is not about places and events—it is about our people. Being a member and supporter of the Oklahoma Historical Society guarantees that the stories about our people and their resilience and brilliant ideas that changed the world will live on for future generations.”

—Bob Burke

“Being Native American and an Oklahoman, it’s very important to me that our history is presented correctly. I’ve been a Historical Society member for years and appreciate their continued excellence. I realize they cannot do it without our support!”

—Judy Barker

“I joined the Oklahoma Historical Society when I was in graduate school, a long time ago. I have now published four novels, three of which are set in Oklahoma and are critically acclaimed. I know for a fact I couldn’t have achieved that without having read *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* for decades. This membership has helped shape my life.”

—Margaret Verble



Historical Marker Program

Across Oklahoma, historical markers highlight key aspects of our history. Visit okhistory.org/markers to locate markers near you, learn how to get a historical marker in your community, or share information about markers you visit.

Historical markers identify historic places, events, individuals, and communities, offering a welcome stop on road trips and a glimpse of history on everyday travels.

711 HISTORICAL MARKERS are included in our online database

The Chronicles of Oklahoma

Established in 1921, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* is our quarterly journal with scholarly articles, book reviews, and minutes of the OHS Board of Directors quarterly meetings. The notes and documents section features collections, resources, profiles of individuals and families, biographies of Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame inductees, and more.

Past issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 1921–2019 are available through The Gateway to Oklahoma History, our online repository. Current issues are a benefit of OHS membership. Join the OHS at okhistory.org/join to begin your subscription to *The Chronicles Of Oklahoma* today.

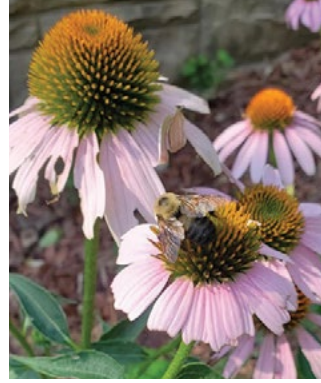
394 ISSUES of *The Chronicles* available online



CLEANING HISTORICAL MARKERS

Our staff and volunteers participated in the William G. Pomeroy Foundation's national initiative to clean historical markers. The OHS was recognized for having the largest volunteer group, and cleaned more than 20 markers statewide!





Recognizing the Historical Community 2024 Awards and Honors

Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame
Debra Echo-Hawk
Hannibal B. Johnson

Guardians of History
Representative Bob Ed Culver
Senator Kevin Matthews

E. E. Dale Award
Outstanding Book on Oklahoma History
Built from the Fire: The Epic Story of Tulsa's Greenwood District, America's Black Wall Street, Victor Luckerson

Linda Williams Reese Award
Outstanding Thesis on Oklahoma History
“The Modern Frontier’: Oklahoma Settler Memory in the mid-Twentieth Century,” Martha Believeau, University of Oklahoma

Bruce T. Fisher Award
Outstanding Oklahoma History Project
“Gardens on Blue Hawk Peak,” Pawnee

Muriel H. Wright Award
Outstanding Article Published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*
“The Influence of Oklahomans on the Bakersfield Sound: One of Country Music’s Greatest Eras,” Phil Neighbors (Spring 2023)

William D. Pennington Award
Outstanding Social Studies Teacher
Jaime Lee, Bixby 9th Grade Center

Joseph B. Thoburn Award
Outstanding Student Historian
Adrian Pan, Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics

GARDENS ON BLUE HAWK PEAK

A volunteer group established flower gardens at the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum to provide valuable context through historical landscaping. The gardens are also a stopping point for butterflies on their annual migration path.

Each year, the Oklahoma Historical Society honors historians, educators, students, legislators, and organizations for exceptional contributions relating to Oklahoma history.



THE OKLAHOMA HISTORIANS HALL OF FAME

The Hall of Fame recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions to the preservation, collection, interpretation, and dissemination of Oklahoma history. The 2024 inductees were Hannibal B. Johnson and Debra Echo-Hawk.



Nurturing Curiosity

Oklahoma History Center Museum Learning and Engagement

The Oklahoma History Center Museum engages students through field trips, outreach programs, living history, Oklahoma National History Day, and online offerings. The museum supports educators with standards-based resource guides, hands-on learning materials, and professional development opportunities. Learn more online at okhistory.org/resources.

11,338

STUDENTS, EDUCATORS,
AND CHAPERONES

experienced a field trip to the Oklahoma History Center Museum free of charge, thanks to funding from the Inasmuch Foundation

12,277

SERVED

through in-house programs

11,627

SERVED

through outreach programs

52

COUNTIES SERVED

Oklahoma National History Day

Each year, thousands of students in grades 6–12 take part in Oklahoma National History Day. They dive into research, analyze and interpret sources, and finally showcase their work through exhibits, performances, papers, documentaries, and websites. In May, students from across Oklahoma come together to compete in the state finals at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

In June 2024, 62 students and 11 teachers from Oklahoma traveled to Washington, DC, for the national contest.

7,439 SERVED



Traveling Trunks

Oklahoma students can explore history in a hands-on way with our 27 traveling trunks. Packed with lesson plans, engaging activities, and artifacts students can interact with, trunks allow learners to develop closer connections to the subject matter and gain insight into history. Thanks to the BancFirst Charitable Foundation, the Oklahoma History Center Museum offers this resource free to teachers and librarians.

26,148
LEARNERS SERVED

The Traveling Trunk program is made possible by support from the BancFirst Charitable Foundation.



TRUNK TOPICS INCLUDE:

- African American, Latino, and women's history
- Agriculture
- Archaeology
- Civil War
- Colonial life
- Cowboys
- Dust Bowl
- Explorers
- Fur trade
- Great Depression
- Migrations
- Oil and gas
- Pioneer life
- Radio
- Space exploration
- Tribal nations



Preserving the Past through Archives and Collections

Artifacts, photographs, documents, newspapers, film, and audio preserved in OHS collections tell the story of the cultures, communities, and individuals who shaped Oklahoma history.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

Historic photographs of Nuyaka Mission were donated by a descendant of teacher Martha Evelyn Ashley and principal Haddington Germmel Brown, who worked for the school at the end of the 19th century. Located near Okmulgee, the mission served Muscogee students from 1882 to 1923. Names of students listed on the back of select images make this collection even more precious (2024.039, Andrea Gibbud Collection, OHS).

703

NEW COLLECTIONS
were added in FY2024

3,875

RESEARCH INQUIRIES
ANSWERED

from students, educators, scholars,
family historians, and researchers

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

This 1862 journal chronicles a few months in the life of a quartermaster serving at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. Included are accounts of day-to-day transactions, struggles with illness, and references to locations such as Fort Washita, Fort Coffee, Skullyville, and New Hope Seminary (2024.072, Paul McGuff Collection, OHS).

5,500

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

preserve the correspondence, journals, records, and documents of missionaries, businesspeople, public servants, and civic leaders

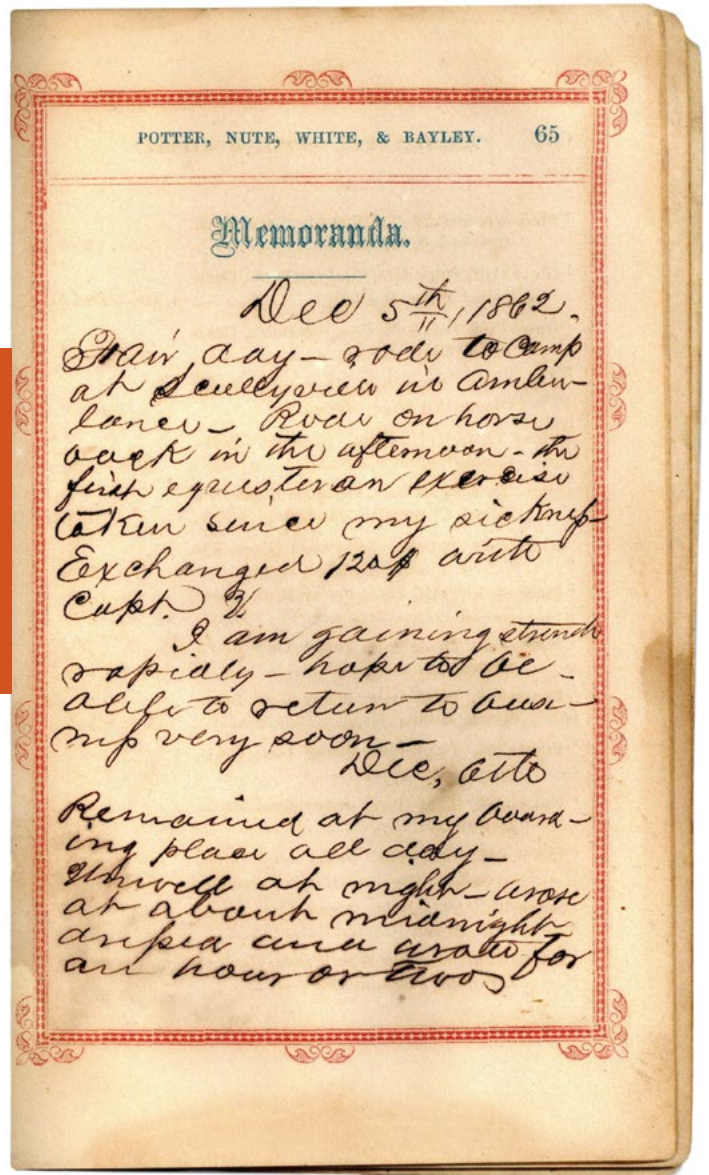
NEW TO THE COLLECTION

Pontotoc County ledgers, including Southern District case files of the United States Court for the Indian Territory, probate records, naturalization records, and civil trial dockets, are now part of the OHS archives (Allen Historical Society Collection, OHS).



NEW TO THE COLLECTION

Longtime OHS member and supporter Shirle Lamb Williams donated extensive materials documenting the history of Wagoner County, including city records and genealogical data. Pictured: Ms. Williams describes her research to OHS Archival Collections Manager Mallory Covington.





NEW TO THE COLLECTION

OKPOP is now preserving the Ramona Reed Collection, which includes dresses, boots, and scrapbooks of the Tahihina-born country singer and yodeler.

Born in 1930, Reed began performing on local radio at just 15; by age 17, she was entertaining at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. In 1950, she toured with Bob Wills, recorded a few songs, and performed at Cain's Ballroom for KVOO's live radio show (2024.022.002, Ramona Reed Collection, OHS).

198,903

ARTIFACTS

are preserved by the
Oklahoma Historical Society



NEW TO THE COLLECTION

This decorative jewelry box was created by George Bloom, an undertaker in Muskogee, Oklahoma Territory. Bloom made caskets for burial, and also built these small, intricate boxes. This particular item was selected to represent Oklahoma Territory at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 (2024.107.001, Tom Bloom Collection, OHS).

Artifacts, textiles, and artwork are tangible representations of the past that help us create connections to our heritage.



NEW TO THE COLLECTION

These watercolor scene designs for the 1955 film release of *Oklahoma!* were created by production designer Oliver Smith (2024.040.001 and 2024.040.003, Hornblow Collection, OHS).



NEW TO THE COLLECTION

This Mosrite 1965 Ventures II model guitar, once played by Lahoma-born Nokie Edwards of The Ventures, is now part of the collections preserved by OHS at OKPOP.

Designed for the surf rock genre's signature sound, it features a sleek German-carve body and innovative engineering by Oklahoman and master luthier Semie Moseley (2024.008.001, Oklahoma Historical Society Collections, OHS).





11 MILLION PHOTOGRAPHS

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

One of the earliest photographs in OHS collections is this daguerreotype of Dwight Mission, c. 1843.

The mission was established in 1829 in Cherokee Nation, and a school opened the following year. It grew to include multiple buildings, 12 staff, and more than 80 students. The site was abandoned in 1862, and many structures burned during the Civil War. In 1886, it was re-established by the Cherokee National Council. It operated as a day school and, at times, a boarding school until 1948 (697, OHS Photograph Collection, OHS).

85,000

BOUND VOLUMES

include family histories, county histories, and publications about Native Americans, Oklahoma history, genealogy, and the West

3,700

NEWSPAPER TITLES

chronicling Oklahoma history are available on microfilm

AMERICAN INDIAN ARCHIVES

11 MILLION

DOCUMENTS

6,000

VOLUMES



12,000

ORAL HISTORIES

with more than 1,700 recordings on YouTube

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

Growing playlists featuring Oklahomans who served in the Peace Corps and a series of oral histories sharing the stories of Oklahomans with developmental disabilities are now available on YouTube @OHSAudioArchives.



COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

This stunning dress worn by Rhonda Walters is among the gowns featured in the Oklahoma History Center's *Inaugural Impressions* exhibit, which focused on Oklahoma's first ladies (1991.059.001, Rhonda Smith Walters Collection, OHS).

Give to the OHS Collections Endowment

The Dr. Bob Blackburn Collections Endowment provides funds that allow the OHS to acquire and care for historical items. All endowment proceeds are dedicated to pursuing and preserving the precious materials that tell the story of Oklahoma.

Call 405-522-0317 or visit us at okhistory.org/give to donate.

Your Support Preserves Collections

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

Keepers of the Traditions (detail) by Enoch Kelly Haney is featured in *Into the Mirror*, an exhibit of art by Native artists at the Oklahoma History Center Museum (2021.105, Robert Braver Collection, OHS).



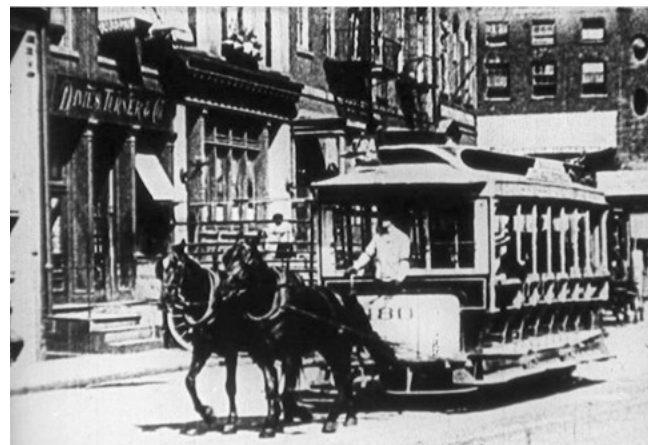
COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

In 1932, Thomas C. Allen and James H. Banning became the first African Americans to complete a transcontinental flight, traveling from Los Angeles, California, to Long Island, New York. Allen wore this flight helmet and goggles during the 21-day journey covering 3,300 miles (2006.146, Hannah W. Allen Collection, OHS).

1,100
FILM AND VIDEO COLLECTIONS
with more than 1,400 historic videos on YouTube

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

A compilation of footage from the 1890s–1920s titled “Gay Nineties Live Again” is our most viewed content on the OHS Film and Video Archives YouTube channel. Find us @OHSfilm (F2012.113.005, Roberta Ware Collection, OHS).



COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

Santa Fe (ATSF) 2926, 4-8-4, on passenger train No. 1, "The Scout," Belva, Oklahoma, 1947 (2008.008.0335, Preston George Collection, OHS).

More than 7,300 photographs from the Preston George Collection are now available on The Gateway to Oklahoma History. George chronicled transportation in the 1930s–1940s, and this extensive collection spans six countries and 49 states.



What Will You Discover?

The Gateway to Oklahoma History is your free online portal to historic photographs, newspapers, documents, maps, and more.

Delve into history at gateway.okhistory.org!

515,163 photographs

593,956 newspaper issues

Resources for every county in the state

Books, maps, documents, and periodicals

Back issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*

1,115,317

ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE AT

GATEWAY.OKHISTORY.ORG

110,094 ITEMS ADDED IN FY2024

Additions include issues of the following newspapers:

The Achille Press

Albion Union Advocate

The Altus Times

The Alva Weekly Record

The Billings News

Claremore Daily Progress

The Daily Transcript

(Norman)

Drumright Evening Derrick

Durant Weekly News and

Bryan County Democrat

The Guymon Observer

Indian-Okla Methodist

(Oklahoma City)

The Madill Record

Mayes County Republican

McCurtain Gazette

Nowata Daily Star

The Oklahoma County Register

Okmulgee Daily Democrat

The Olustee Democrat

The Osage County News

Pauls Valley Democrat

Pawhuska Journal-Capital

The Perkins Journal

The Perry Daily Journal

The Stillwater Gazette

The Yukon Oklahoma Sun

View historical collections of the OHS and our 27 partners on The Gateway to Oklahoma History.

The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

Explore the past through *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, which offers more than 2,600 entries available online for free. Discover the people, places, cultures, communities, movements, and events that shaped our history. Search by keyword, or browse by time period or topic.

2,658 ENTRIES
okhistory.org/enc

SOME OF OUR MOST-READ ENTRIES IN FY2024:

Osage Murders	Osage Oil
Oklahoma City Bombing	Five (Civilized) Tribes
Tulsa Race Massacre	Toby Keith
Osage	Drummond Ranch
Bass Reeves	Geronimo
Ghost Dance	All-Black Towns
Land Run of 1889	Doan's Crossing

135,060

FOLLOWERS OF @OKHISTORY
ON FACEBOOK, X, AND INSTAGRAM



Visit more than 60 social media accounts for our museums, historic sites, and collections at okhistory.org/social



14,287

SUBSCRIBERS TO *EXTRA!*
WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

Visit okhistory.org/extra
and subscribe today!



7.3 MILLION
PAGEVIEWS ON OKHISTORY.ORG
IN FY2024

okhistory.org

Visit the OHS website to find upcoming events and plan your visit to our museums and historic sites. Uncover a wealth of resources for educators, genealogists, preservationists, researchers, and learners of all ages—all available for free. View virtual tours and online exhibits, explore the collection, and become an OHS member!

A VERY OK



PODCAST

17,115 DOWNLOADS IN FY2024

Hosted by OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson and Dr. Bob Blackburn, our monthly podcast takes listeners on a journey through Oklahoma history.

Check out our most popular episodes to date:

“What is Spiro?”

“They Call the Thing Rodeo”

“Soldiers, Ranchers, and Outlaws (1866–1907)”



305 Events

across the state included festivals, classes, tours, living history programs, camps, lectures, film screenings, conferences, webinars, musical performances, demonstrations, and exhibit openings that brought Oklahoma history to life.



FY2024 Highlights Include:

Oklahoma Farm-to-Table Festival, Oklahoma History Center

Solar Eclipse Watch Party, Fort Towson Historic Site

Civil War Demonstrations and Education Day, Honey Springs Battlefield

1880s-era Baseball Game, Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show, Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum

Fall on the Farm, Hunter's Home

Doaksville Candlelight Tours, Fort Towson Historic Site

1840s Garrison Weekend, Fort Gibson Historic Site

Everyday Oklahoma: Fascinating Stories about Familiar Places webinar series, State Historic Preservation Office

History and Haunts, Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion

Osage Ribbonwork class, White Hair Memorial

Blacksmithing and Wheelsetting Demonstrations, Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School

Juneteenth Celebration, Oklahoma History Center

Poetry reading with Ken Hada, Museum of the Western Prairie

Chuck Wagon Gathering, The Chisholm

Cemetery Symbols program, Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue

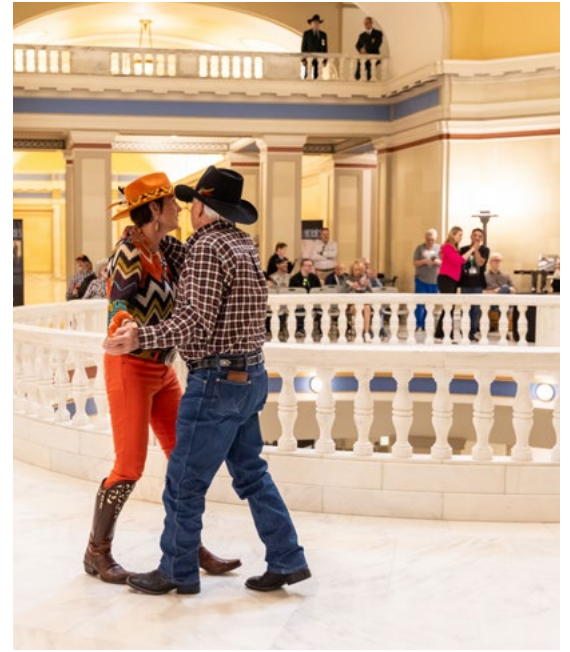
Hidden Oklahoma: How Archaeology Reveals Secrets From Our Past webinar series, State Historic Preservation Office

Archaeological Field School, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center

Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival, Will Rogers Memorial Museum

Family Farm Day, Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center

STEAM Night at the Museum, Oklahoma History Center



BOB WILLS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Music lovers gathered at the Oklahoma Capitol in March to honor the King of Western Swing. Presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Arts Council, Bob Wills Day included dancing with live music by Jay Steagall & The Part-Timers, Bob Wills' Texas Playboys under the direction of Jason Roberts with special guest Katie Shore (pictured), and Kyle Dillingham.



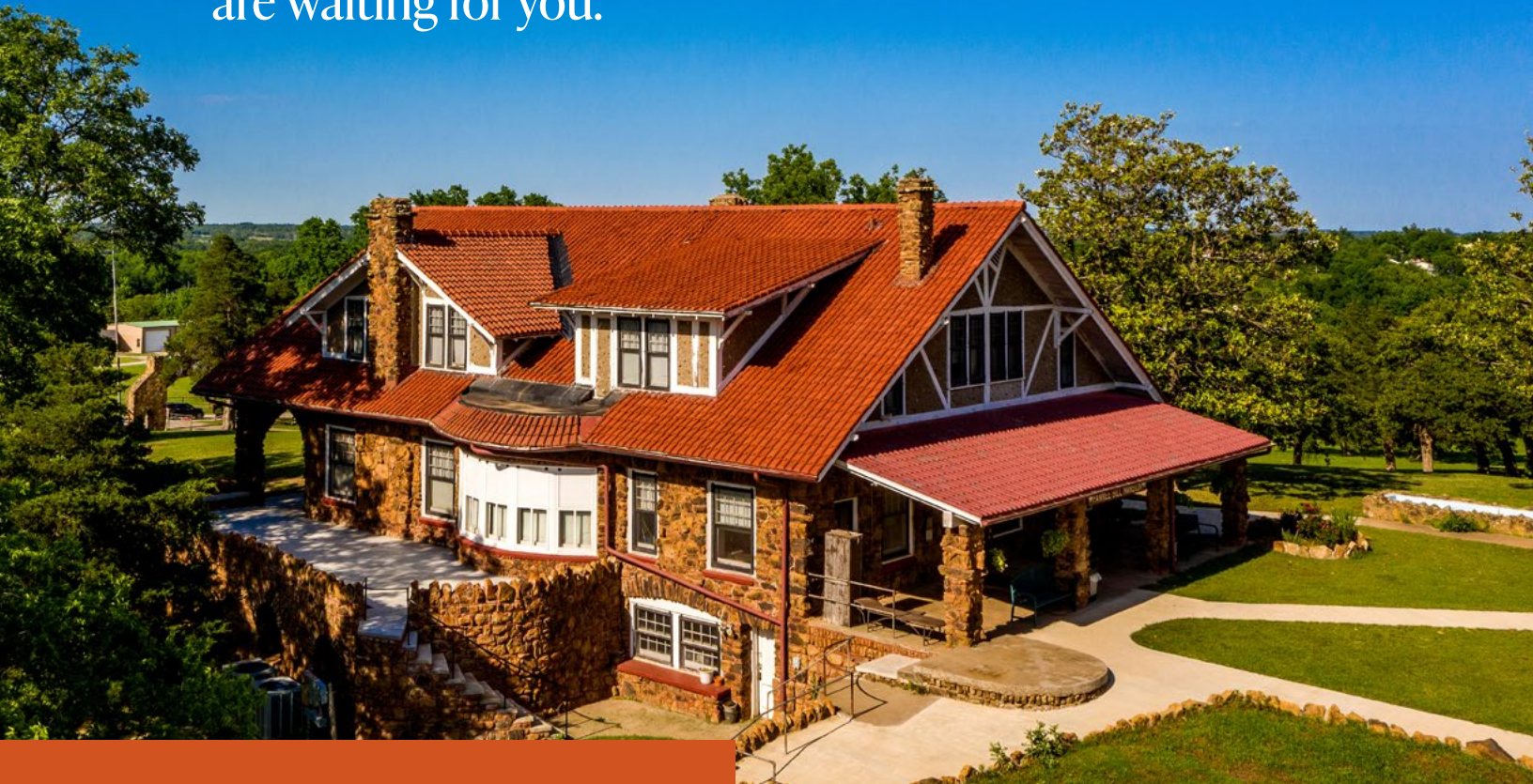
ECLIPSE WATCH PARTY

Fort Towson Historic Site hosted a Solar Eclipse Watch Party in April. Located in southeastern Oklahoma, Fort Towson was in the path of totality and offered onlookers from across the region a spectacular view of the eclipse.

PREVIOUS PAGE

FY2024 events include the Farm-to-Table Festival at the Oklahoma History Center and Civil War Demonstrations at Honey Springs Battlefield.

More than 20 Oklahoma Historical Society destinations across the state are waiting for you.



Find Your Destination

Visit Oklahoma Historical Society museums, historic homes, forts, and battlefields and begin your journey through history.

Above: The mansion at the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
Right: Chuck Wagon Gathering at The Chisholm, Kingfisher



Museums and Historic Sites

Atoka Museum and Civil War Cemetery, Atoka*
Cabin Creek Battlefield, Big Cabin
Cherokee Strip Museum and Rose Hill School, Perry*
Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center, Enid
The Chisholm, Kingfisher*
Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson
Fort Supply Historic Site, Fort Supply*
Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson
Fred and Addie Drummond Home, Hominy
Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City*
Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
Hunter's Home, Park Hill
Museum of the Western Prairie, Altus

Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City
Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton
Oklahoma State Capitol Museum, Oklahoma City*
Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library,
Guthrie
Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum, Pawnee
Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue, Ponca City
Sod House Museum, Aline
Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro
Tom Mix Museum, Dewey*
White Hair Memorial, Hominy
Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore

*affiliate

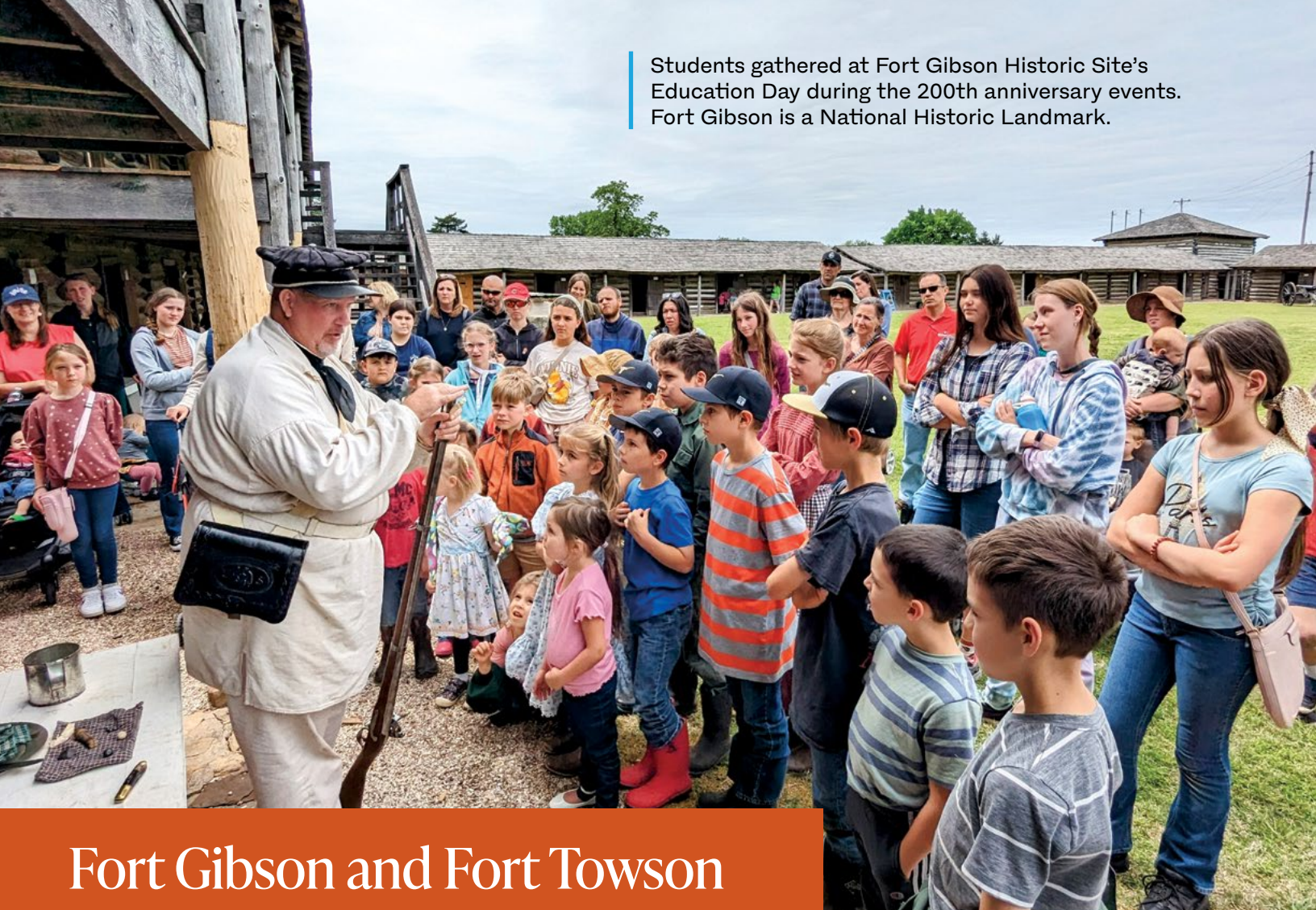


Take a trip on the Mother Road to visit the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton.



The 1900 Sneed Cabin is now open at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid.

Students gathered at Fort Gibson Historic Site's Education Day during the 200th anniversary events. Fort Gibson is a National Historic Landmark.



Fort Gibson and Fort Towson Mark 200 Years

The town of Fort Gibson marked the April anniversary with a community parade leading to Fort Gibson Historic Site, where visitors were immersed in the past through living history and education stations across the 80-acre site. Demonstrations explored the lives of 1830s soldiers and civilians, 19th-century gardening, encampments, weaponry, cooking, women in the military, and traveling merchants. Guests visited the bakehouse and sutler store, and enjoyed Neosho River walking tours, which included a replica 19th-century keelboat at the riverside.

The first US military post in present-day Oklahoma, Fort Gibson was established in 1824 to facilitate westward expansion and the removal of tribal nations to Indian Territory. Built at the Arkansas, Verdigris, and Neosho (Grand Rivers) convergence, the fort was vital to river navigation. It also served as an outpost on the Texas Road, connecting settled Missouri with Mexico and as a starting point for military expeditions exploring the West.

Fort Towson Historic Site's 200th anniversary commemoration recognized the soldiers who manned the fort while celebrating the tremendous contributions of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people. At the events in May, guests found a glimpse of outpost life 200 years ago, including the infantry, artillery, topographical engineers, First Regiment Choctaw Mounted Rifles, dragoons, laundresses, officer's wives, livestock care, period clothing, and music.

Fort Towson played a role in multiple chapters of our state's history. When the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations were forcibly removed to Indian Territory, the fort served as a point of dispersal upon their arrival. In the 1830s, many passed through the post on their way to settle in the Republic of Texas, and the site was a key staging area for US troops during the Mexican-American War. During the Civil War, the outpost was occupied by Confederate forces operating in Indian Territory.

Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum Welcomes Dexter and Dallas

A young team of Belgian draft horses arrived at the Pawnee Bill Ranch in January 2024. Once trained and fully acclimated to the ranch, Dexter and Dallas will pull the stagecoach and Conestoga wagon and aid with ranch work. The ranch had been without a team since beloved Clydesdales JR and Spirit passed a few years ago. The addition of Dexter and Dallas was made possible by generous donations, including a significant gift from Janis Blanton.



“May and Gordon William Lillie (Pawnee Bill) sought to share Oklahoma and Western history with their Wild West Show. That same storytelling can still be seen today at the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum. Thousands of tourists and schoolchildren continue to learn about our history at the ranch, and the draft horses are part of that storytelling. They can showcase plowing or pulling wagons and a stagecoach. I was happy to make a donation for the draft horses in order to play a small part in making sure that the next generation of visitors can remember and learn from the past.”

—Janis Blanton

Will Rogers Memorial Museum

In Claremore, more than 500 young learners took part in Will Rogers Memorial Museum’s spring break activities. They were treated to a rare behind-the-scenes tour, the annual paper airplane competition, and demonstrations of blacksmithing, dyeing, lacemaking, and quilting. Hands-on historians led candle dipping, trick roping, corn grinding, and butter churning.

This summer, the museum’s Buckaroo Bart reached more than 2,500 students and parents in his statewide library tour. Back at the museum, a record 160 campers joined in nature walks, stickball, Cherokee storytelling, and stagecoach rides at the 10th annual Wild West Kid’s Camp.

Visitors under 17 enjoyed free admission during Spring Break thanks to a donation from Win and Kay Ingersoll.



Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center Fieldwork and Excavations

In May and June of 2024, students and staff from the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey excavated at Spiro Mounds, offering visitors the unique opportunity to observe fieldwork and learn about archaeology. Excavations focused on areas of interest identified by previous studies, with the goal of learning more about daily lives of ancient inhabitants and providing insights into Spiro's history and culture.

Operating under a US Army Corps of Engineers permit and special authorization from the Caddo Nation and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, this work demonstrates a commitment to preserving and understanding the region's cultural heritage.



Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center illuminates the vast trade networks, political structure, and sophisticated culture of the prehistoric Spiro people.

It is the only Native American archaeological site open to the public in Oklahoma.



Two OHS Museums Celebrate 50 Years

Museum of the Western Prairie

In May 2024, the Museum of the Western Prairie in Altus (pictured above) celebrated 50 years of collecting, preserving, and sharing the heritage of southwest Oklahoma.

Museum visitors delve into the region's history, encountering exhibits about Native Americans, frontier soldiers, cowboys, and homesteaders. On the museum grounds stands the 1891 two-story Cross S Ranch headquarters and the Criswell half-dugout, once home to Davis and Sarah Criswell and their three children.

Oklahoma Territorial Museum and Carnegie Library

In 1972, Guthrie's historic 1902 Carnegie Library faced demolition until Frank Pfeiffer sought to preserve the structure with the addition of a museum. Thanks to Pfeiffer's efforts, the state's first Carnegie Library was saved, and the museum opened on November 16, 1973.

Inside the museum, visitors learn of hardships faced by homesteaders following the land run, and galleries tell the story of railroads, outlaws and lawmen, the statehood movement, and Oklahoma's first state capital.



Experiences to Remember

One-Room Schoolhouses

At the Cherokee Strip Museum in Perry, students experience class in a historic 1895 one-room schoolhouse. Furnished with the original cast-iron stove and wooden two-seater desks, Rose Hill School (pictured above) offers third and fourth-grade students the chance to immerse themselves in a 1910 school environment.

A schoolmarm leads lessons in cursive and arithmetic, and the young scholars write with chalk on slate boards, study their McGuffey's readers, do chores, and play traditional games.

In Enid, the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center gives students the experience of stepping into a 1910 classroom setting for an unforgettable day at Turkey Creek School. Built in 1896, the school is also a popular stop for groups touring the center and historic structures in its Humphrey Heritage Village.



1,774
STUDENTS
ATTENDED
A DAY AT ROSE
HILL SCHOOL

394
STUDENTS
ATTENDED
TURKEY CREEK
SCHOOL

Students connect with the past at the Cherokee Strip Museum's Rose Hill School.



State Historic Preservation Office

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) works with citizens and groups throughout the state to identify, evaluate, and protect Oklahoma’s diverse range of historic, architectural, and archaeological resources.

7,793

PROPERTIES EVALUATED
in FY2024 for the presence of significant archaeological and/or historic resources

3,750

CONSULTATIONS
and technical assistance requests answered

New SHPO State Plan Under Development

The SHPO is required, under agreement with the National Park Service, to develop a statewide preservation plan, separate from the OHS planning document, to address how we will accomplish the SHPO goals and objectives over the course of five to ten years.

The SHPO is currently operating under the five-year 2020 Preservation Plan, but an update is in the works. The new ten-year plan will be available to the public on January 1, 2025. In April 2023, the SHPO started developing the new plan. It included two questionnaires, attending many public events to seek input, and development of the initial draft. The final draft was made available for public comment on August 5, 2024.

Above: St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Okarche was added to the National Register of Historic Places in FY2024.

Certified Local Governments

CLGs that enforce historic preservation ordinances and meet SHPO requirements are delegated certain responsibilities. These communities receive federal matching funds for the development of their local preservation program, and participate in the National Register of Historic Places nomination process.

- City of Anadarko
- City of Ardmore
- City of Cordell
- City of Enid
- City of Grandfield
- City of Guthrie
- City of Muskogee
- City of Norman
- City of Oklahoma City
- City of Ponca City
- City of Sapulpa
- City of Tulsa

Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program

For 35 years, the Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program has recognized Oklahoma families who have continuously occupied their land and carried out farming or ranching operations for at least 100 years.

28 PROPERTIES ADDED IN FY2024

1,884 TOTAL PROPERTIES

NEWLY ADDED

Stowe-Lyon Centennial Farm 34140, Mannford



Section 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act stipulates that federal agencies must consider the effects of their undertakings on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO assists federal agencies or their recipients of funding, license, or permits to determine if significant archaeological or historic resources are located within the project area and, if so, whether the undertaking will impact those properties.

3,246 SECTION 106 PROJECTS REVIEWED

Survey

The SHPO funds and coordinates surveys to identify historic, architectural, and archaeological resources throughout the state. Recently, the SHPO staff completed an intensive-level architectural survey of northeast Okmulgee, a historically African American neighborhood. The survey was initiated by a citizen within the community who also assisted with the survey work. **To read the final product, please visit okhistory.org/okmulgee-survey.**

Tax Credits

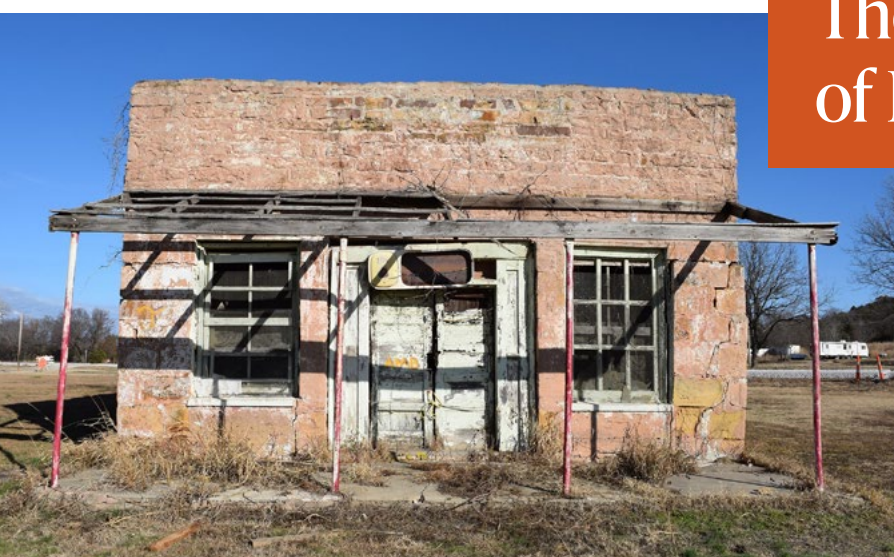
State and federal tax incentives are available for the rehabilitation of historic and older buildings. These special benefits encourage revitalization of historic districts and individual structures. The SHPO is the initial point of contact for applicants and participates in the review of proposed rehabilitation projects.

37 HISTORIC TAX CREDIT PROJECTS REVIEWED





The National Register of Historic Places



RECENT ADDITIONS

Designed by architect Bruce Goff, the John and Hazel Adams House (top) in Vinita was constructed in 1961. The 12-sided home's stunning interior features a central public area surrounded by private spaces.

The Abe Lincoln Trading Company (above) served as the main office for the Lincoln Townsite Company, which planned and developed the All-Black town of Clearview. The trading company provided essential goods and building materials, and played a crucial role in the town's establishment and growth.

The National Register is a catalog of the buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects significant in our past. Listing in the National Register provides recognition, limited protection, and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation.

1,423

OKLAHOMA LISTINGS ARE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program

The Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program provides funding to historical organizations as well as local and tribal governments.

Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 are used to strengthen collections care, create inspiring exhibits, and develop meaningful programs and initiatives that protect and share our heritage.

Empowering Communities

\$520,000 FY2024 FUNDING
TO 37 GRANTEES IN 31 COMMUNITIES

Since 2020, this grant program has funded more than 200 projects and awarded over \$2.4 million in grants to Oklahoma organizations.



FUNDING IMPACT

The Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka created a permanent collections gallery and an education space.



FUNDING IMPACT

Restoration work continues at the historic Edwards Store/Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery in Red Oak.



FUNDING IMPACT

Landmark for All Generations, Inc. in Okmulgee works to preserve the artifacts and history of the former Okmulgee Colored Hospital building.

“ I have recently contributed to the Oklahoma History Center (OHC) to support their research efforts. I have recognized the important role they play in discovering and making available the rich heritage of this state. My search of my ancestors, some of whom came here during the 1893 land run, met up with the resources of the OHC. The online access tools allow me to better understand what life was like in rural Oklahoma in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Contributing to this effort has left me feeling a part of preserving the history of Oklahoma for many generations to come.”

—John Crain, donor

Reflections from Our Donors

“ When I moved to Oklahoma 40 years ago, joining OHS to learn about Oklahoma was a no-brainer. We quickly found arriving a day early to events around the state allowed us to visit and enjoy sites and museums, e.g., the Sod House, Forts Supply, Washita, and Towson, and the Tom Mix Museum. I joined the tatting group at Kingfisher’s Chisholm Trail, and soon took classes in basket and straw weaving; last year I finally got into their quilt square class. I also attend classes and the annual History Symposium at the Oklahoma History Center. Members-only exhibit openings are extra-special—I have a favorite photo of us posing as rock and rollers, and my husband got out the tux for *Oklahoma Goes to the Movies*.

Now a widow, I still enjoy the openings, organ performances, and strolling through a gallery now and then, all at the exceptional Oklahoma History Center. Last year our walking club used Enid’s Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center for the starting point of a town walk. My membership in OHS has enhanced my knowledge and enjoyment of my adopted state, and I feel appreciated when I communicate with the staff.”

—Barbara J. Klein, donor and member

We extend our sincere gratitude to those who support our mission and donate to the OHS.

Your generous financial support allows us to create dynamic exhibits, offer valuable resources for educators, care for and grow our collections, and offer exciting programs for learners of all ages.

“ Philip and I moved to Oklahoma from Pennsylvania as newlyweds in 1974. He came here as a fellow at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center for two years in Dr. Fletcher Taylor’s lab. Well, two years went by, and 34 years later, I retired. It finally dawned on me that perhaps we weren’t moving back to Pennsylvania, and I needed something to do. I attended an event at the Oklahoma History Center and a friend of mine suggested that I might like to volunteer there. I like history, so I thought that perhaps it was time to learn more about Oklahoma. I have not regretted the decision. We like being able to support the mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Every now and then, though, I remind Philip that two years are up.

Oklahoma is our home. We raised our children here and we now have grandchildren growing up here.

—Carol Comp, donor and volunteer

Thank you to our supporters.

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Contributor \$1,000+

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okhistory.org



Oklahoma Historical Society

800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-2491

ON THE COVER

Front: Historic sod house at the
Sod House Museum near Allene
Above: The barracks at Fort Gibson
Historic Site in Fort Gibson