Sooner Rather Than Later:
Let’s Preserve Oklahoma’s Past

Oklahoma’s Statewide Historic Preservation Plan
(January 1, 2020-December 31, 2024)

State Historic Preservation Office
Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405.521.6249
www.okhistory.org/shpo
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109 properties listed
National Register of Historic Places

278 contributing resources

TAX CREDITS

Certified Projects: 61
- Part I: 110
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SECTION 106

12,941 properties reviewed
44,357 properties included in review

Accomplishments Since 2015
Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program

227 properties added
1,633 properties

30-year total

Citation of Merit
Awarded to
120 projects

Number of National Park Service designated
Tribal Historic Preservation Officers
in Oklahoma

20

$1,334,741 Federal funds awarded
$1,323,992 Matching funds

18 restoration workshops hosted
Executive Summary

The historic and cultural landscape of Oklahoma should never be taken for granted. The physical reminders of the past are not only important, they are irreplaceable. These buildings, sites and monuments were left by earlier generations and carry with them the story of an individual or community’s life and activities. When taken in totality, these places in Oklahoma tell the story of how the state came to be what it is today. Sooner Rather Than Later: Let’s Preserve Oklahoma’s Past (formerly Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan) identifies the goals and priorities for the agencies, organizations and individuals concerned about and responsible for protecting the state’s heritage.

Through a statewide survey (provided in English, Vietnamese and Spanish), public meetings, consultation with the preservation community, work sessions and evaluation of data, the State Historic Preservation Office identified threats to archeological and historic resources and developed goals, objectives and action items to aid in their preservation:

- **Goal #1:** Provide information about Oklahoma’s archeological and historic resources to increase public awareness and foster an effective statewide preservation network.
- **Goal #2:** Continue to strengthen efforts to identify, evaluate, and nominate archeological and historic resources.
- **Goal #3:** Develop and disseminate strategies and incentives for historic preservation.
- **Goal #4:** Incorporate the consideration of archeological and historic resources in public and private sector planning and decision-making processes.

By partnering together to help implement the statewide preservation plan, we can ensure that future generations will have the same opportunity we have today to experience the past and learn from it as well as gain the cultural, educational and economic benefits for the citizens of Oklahoma.
Introduction

Preserving Oklahoma’s archeological and historic resources is the responsibility of everyone in Oklahoma: private citizens, organizations, government agencies, and the business community. The framework for this preservation effort is outlined in the 2020 *Sooner Rather Than Later: Let’s Preserve Oklahoma’s Past* (Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan).

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to produce an updated preservation plan every five years. The National Park Service (NPS) provides guidance in this process. This is the sixth edition of the state plan in this format.

While the document(s) have changed in formatting through the years, the themes remain consistent. The 2020 plan outlines four goals with multiple objectives for each goal along with action items not just for the SHPO but for the overall community of Oklahoma. The plan also includes an overview of threats to archeological and historic resources, a summary of the planning process and results from a statewide survey.

The SHPO sought public and professional input throughout the planning process. The successful implementation of the plan will depend on people working together to ensure that the diverse Oklahoma landscape represents the diverse heritage of the archeological and built environment.
The State Historic Preservation Office and Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

When helping people understand preservation in the state of Oklahoma, one must first understand the language. Terminology has been established through common use but there is still confusion over the exact meaning. The confusion comes from the person using the word: museum staff, tribal members, historians, planners, lawyers and investment brokers. The words preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and recovery have various meanings.

While the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) relies on the Secretary of the Interior for terminology, many outside this profession do not and therefore have confusion over what the SHPO does and for whom. Preservation is the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity and material of an historic property. Restoration is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time. Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions. Recovery is the act or process of obtaining materials or artifacts from a building or site prior to its demolition for new site development, natural disaster or erosional loss.¹

Preservation professionals and laypersons need to be mindful of how they speak. Using the correct terminology lends creditability and authority to those they advocate on behalf of or, those to whom they advocate to. Along with this basic understanding, we need to know why we talk about it at all. Preservation of the built environment in Oklahoma has a long lineage that started with the private citizenry working to save historic properties from destruction which mimics the preservation movement throughout the nation.

Bacone College, Muskogee, Muskogee County
As the first known restoration in the United States is occurring in Newport, Rhode Island in 1827-28 of a local synagogue, Oklahoma is still a land of frontier forts and tribal settlements. The earliest and most famous group of preservationists took up the fight in the mid-1850s to protect and preserve Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. In Oklahoma, this started with Honey Springs Battlefield in Muskogee/McIntosh Counties. In these early examples of preservation, it was the private citizen, not the government, working toward preservation of important sites across America. The early movement of preservation focused on men and military history and, in turn, made these sites shrines to patriotism. It was not until the turn of the nineteenth century that the preservation movement started acknowledging what many considered in the 1800s to be the mundane, less patriotic resources. In Oklahoma that meant the Butterfield Overland mail route, Sequoyah’s Cabin and Spiro Mounds.

Long Branch Creek Bridge, Stillwater, Payne County

During the Great Depression, Oklahoma, along with the rest of the nation, saw a large increase in the documentation of historic buildings along with archeological resources through the New Deal programs. Out of work architects, archeologist, historians, engineers and laborers documented buildings through literature searches, photography, architectural drawings and actual physical work to the buildings. Archeological sites were documented through oral histories, literature searches and physical labor. Up to this point, this was the largest, most productive preservation movement in the state. The work completed through these programs can be found through the Library of Congress.

With the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966, the federal government takes the stance that preservation is important to the American identity. The law states that “the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense or orientation to the American people” and “assist with economic growth and development.” With the passage of the Act, preservation in Oklahoma took a turn from the “great men” history to local history preserved through private and public investment.
Since the passage of the NHPA, preservation in Oklahoma has come in many forms. At the federal government level it has meant the evaluation of historic resources impacted by federally funded, licensed or permitted projects, the results of which could mean avoidance or mitigation of effect to historic resources. At the local level of government it has meant the adoption of local preservation ordinances for the protection of historic resources and participation in the Certified Local Governments program. Within the business community it has meant the use of federal and state tax credits to rehabilitate historic buildings. Within the nonprofit community it has meant raising private funds for the protection and/or restoration of historic house museums, collection of oral histories and advocating for preservation and protection of historic resources throughout the state. Within the educational institutions throughout the state it has meant the participation in research opportunities and the expansion of education related to preservation. To the average citizen it has provided greater opportunities to be involved in the publicly funded projects that impact our state. Finally, to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) it has meant all of the above and more. The NHPA lays out the foundation for the SHPO operations; however, the SHPO is the unifying factor in federal, state and local governments, the business community, the non-profit community, the educational institutions and the citizenry of Oklahoma when it comes to preservation related questions and concerns.

While no one can realistically save every historic building, bridge, barn, or archaeology site in the state, everyone can realistically build a stronger, more effective preservation network that works together to identify those historic resources throughout the state that deserve the best management practices to protect these special places. The future of preservation lies at the local level, at the feet of the local citizenry to advocate for those resources that are important to their community.

Photos L to R: Manitou Jail, Manitou, Tillman County; Woodward Park and Gardens Historic District, Tulsa, Tulsa County; and Pruett House, Stillwater, Payne County
Oklahoma Archeological Survey

The Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) was created by act of Oklahoma State Statute (§74241) 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 advancement 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 the public schools, and lecturing to numerous civic groups across the state;
- Cosponsorship of activities and events that promote Oklahoma archaeology, such as Oklahoma Archaeology Month (with the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network and SHPO);
- 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, non-profits, Tribes, and private citizens to protect archaeological sites from vandalism and indiscriminate looting; and
- Serving as the state’s repository for information on over 25,000 prehistoric and historic archaeological resources across all 77 counties.
About Some of Oklahoma’s Archaeological Resources

As of January 31, 2019, 25,313 archaeological sites have been recorded in Oklahoma (Figure 1). Efforts to digitize site records began in 2009, and have more recently been expanded to include digitization of archaeological surveys (Figure 6). In 2016, with assistance from grants provided by the SHPO and Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet (ODOT), OAS initiated a project to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS) to store and maintain the digital site and survey data, as well as an associated website. This new data system is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

The number of sites recorded across the state have been documented through various efforts, including: professional research since the 1930’s; more than 20,000 archaeological surveys since the enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act; and volunteered reports from landowners and concerned citizens over the past 65 years. Among the 25,313 archaeological resources recorded to date, 7,664 (30.28%) are historic sites, 15,155 (59.87%) are prehistoric sites, and 2,063 (8.15%) contain evidence of both historic and prehistoric occupation.

There is a wide range in the number of sites recorded for Oklahoma’s 77 counties (Figure 1). Alfalfa County has only 33 recorded sites, whereas four counties have more than 1,000: Le Flore with 1,610, McCurtain with 1,224, Osage with 1,363, and Roger Mills with 1,251. 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 (Figure 6). In other words, sites tend to be recorded where people actually look for them.

Archaeological surveys have been conducted in all 77 counties. The image in Figure 6 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 representation of the intesity of efforts to investigate different areas across the state for the presence of archaeological resources. Approximately 5.5% of the total acreage in the state has been surveyed. Archeological investigations have only scratched the surface of the potential archaeological resources yet to be recorded.
Archaeological Sites Recorded in Oklahoma

Figure 1
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.

Nature

Residents of the State of Oklahoma know that tornadoes can strike 365 days a year; hence the phrase “be weather aware.” As such, Oklahoma’s weather poses one of the largest threats to historic resources. Winter ice storms, flooding from torrential rains, and tornadoes destroy historic buildings and archeological sites at an alarming and unpredictable rate.

Earthquakes continue to plague Oklahoma as well. In 2016, Pawnee experienced a 5.8 magnitude earthquake while Cushing experienced a 5.0 magnitude earthquake.iii A historic bank in Pawnee lost its stone exterior while in Cushing the National Register listed Cushing American Legion Building collapsed. Many other buildings in the downtown of Cushing saw historic facades collapse including stone and brick veneers. There is no data on how many historic resources suffered earthquake damage during these two events but with the increase in magnitude in the earthquakes, there is no doubt that it is having a negative impact.
The threat of wildfires is a near constant in Oklahoma. Large expanses of flat land and high winds in the west often lead to multi-day battles for firefighters working for the Oklahoma Forestry Services and local fire stations; in the eastern part of the state, forested areas create a battle of a different kind. In 2018, 748 wildfires damaged 446,162.4 acres, destroying farmland, houses, barns and fencerows. Although the number of fires battled was greater in southeastern Oklahoma, Dewey County experienced the largest wildfire of 2018. Responsible for 286,196 acres of damage, the Rhea Fire threatened 500 residences and 200 other structures, destroying 32 and 15, respectively. The Cole Farm, a 1998 Centennial Farm & Ranch Program award recipient, was one of those 32 residences destroyed in Dewey County. From 2016-2018, there were 3,020 wildfires responsible for over 1.4 million acres of damage.\textsuperscript{iv} (As these totals only reflect wildfires responded to by the Oklahoma Forestry Services and not local fire departments, the numbers could be even higher.)

Wildfires can have varying adverse effects on prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. When the fire comes in direct contact with artifacts and features, the amount of damage depends on whether the artifacts are on the surface, the duration and intensity of the fire, texture and moisture content of the soil, and the material type of the artifacts and ephemeral nature of the features. Most often, wildfires can be an advantage to archaeology because the fire burns combustible undergrowth, exposing previously unknown archaeological sites. Exposed sites, however, are also susceptible to surface erosion and intentional looting. In some cases, archaeological sites are impacted by emergency construction of fire breaks and staging areas used to combat the wildfires. Within the Rhea Wildfire perimeter of Dewey County, there are approximately 77 archaeological sites. In late April 2018, OAS archaeologists conducted area visits to five archaeological sites located within the April 12\textsuperscript{th}-13\textsuperscript{th} and April 18\textsuperscript{th} fire perimeters. Three sites were not affected by the wildfires based on the lack of burned undergrowth. The areas surrounding two more sites were extensively burned and access was not possible. As of February 2019, the extent of damage to the rest of the archaeological sites in the Rhea Fire perimeter is largely unknown.
Oklahoma Wildfires by County (2016-2018)
Data Provided by the Oklahoma Forestry Services

Total Incidents: 3,020
Total Acres: 1,437,039.33

These totals include only those fires reported by the Oklahoma Forestry Services
Energy

Energy development has played a critical role in the history of Oklahoma. The first oil well drilled in Oklahoma dates to 1885 and the drilling continues on into this century. Oil and gas wells drilled on federal or Indian land or where Indian-owned mineral interests are present are subject to Section 106. However, only a fraction of those situations represent drilling activity in Oklahoma. Because most wells are not federal undertakings, no archeological or historic resources surveys are required. As such, it is difficult to assess the damage caused by these activities. Construction of oil and gas pipelines occurs statewide. Again, not all of these construction activities are federal undertakings. If no federal involvement exists, no archeological or historic resources surveys are required. It is difficult to assess the damage to prehistoric and historic resources based on these construction activities.

Renewable energy in Oklahoma presents another challenge. These facilities include ancillary facilities such as access roads, utility lines, support buildings, staging areas for construction and more. These facilities are located on high spots or ridges where the potential for archeological sites and culturally significant sites are high. The height of the wind turbines have a likelihood to impact viewsheds for miles. Wind farms can present a challenge to preserving significant historic and cultural landscapes.

Some wind farms have federal involvement due to the interconnection with existing transmission lines and substations. These are required to comply with Section 106. It is becoming more common however for new wind farms to be privately constructed and connected to non-federal transmission lines therefore not requiring Section 106 compliance. With 3,865 wind turbines in Oklahoma, there is no doubt that they have an impact on historic resources.
Renewable energy and sustainability present both challenges and opportunities for preservation in Oklahoma. Historic preservationists have been arguing the environmental benefits of preservation for decades. Reuse of our existing buildings reduces the amount of demolition and construction waste in landfills, lessens the demand for new energy and conserves the energy originally expended on the buildings.
Laws
The National Register of Historic Places does not protect a historic resource 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 state laws that could aid in the protection of historic resources however the most effective way to protect historic resources is the enactment of local historic preservation zoning ordinances. Thirty-one cities across Oklahoma have adopted preservation ordinances. Unless a city actively enforces their ordinance and extends their protection to all eligible districts and landmarks, even the cities with ordinances will continue to lose their historic resources.

The City of Oklahoma City
Zoning and Planning Code 2010

HANDOUT

Ordinances related to the
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT (HP) and
HISTORIC LANDMARK OVERLAY DISTRICT (HL)

Sections of the Zoning Code contained herein:
ARTICLE III. ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES AND OFFICIALS........................................ 2
§ 59-3300  HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION......................................... 2
ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.................................................. 6
§ 59-4150  PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NOTICES.............................................. 6
§ 59-4250  DISCRETIONARY REVIEW PROCEDURES................................ 6
ARTICLE VII. SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS.................................................. 16
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§ 59-7300. Neighborhood Conservation District.......................................... 22
ARTICLE XII. SITE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS.......................................... 36
§ 59-12200  STANDARDS FOR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND USES..36
§ 59-13100. General provisions........................................................................... 47
§59-13300  HL HISTORIC LANDMARK OVERLAY DISTRICT........................... 48
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Supplemental information referenced in the Zoning Code but not contained herein:
Development
Population shifts in Oklahoma are not a new trend. The economic depression and drought conditions of the 1930s forced people to relocate in search of work. More recently Oklahoma has seen significant population shifts as people move from rural areas into the urban environment. According to the United States Census Bureau, 59% of Oklahomans live in mostly urban areas while 31% live in mostly rural areas.\(^{vi}\)

The shifting population results in consolidation and/or closures of schools and churches. Buildings in small town Main Streets continue to sit vacant. Without an economic use for historic buildings and a population base to support their use, these historic resources are quickly becoming archaeology sites.

With growth in the urban areas, development pressure increases. Historic preservation is not about stopping progress but rather encouraging new uses for existing building stock. It is about using vacant buildings in the downtown core for new development trends rather than sleek big box stores and existing housing stock in historic neighborhoods for the modern family rather than tearing down historic homes for a single mega-house.

These ten buildings were demolished for development in Oklahoma City—from upper left, clockwise: Lunch Box (413 West Sheridan Avenue), Union Bus Station (427 West Sheridan Avenue), Davis Bros. Department Store (412-414 West Main Street), Singer Sewing Machine Company/New Albany Hotel (408-410 West Main Street), Piggly Wiggly No. 1 (416 West Main Street), Oklahoma News Company (407-409 West Sheridan Avenue), Baron's/Kinney's Shoes (400-406 West Main Street), George's Hatters and Cleaners/The Jug (411 West Sheridan Avenue), Motor Hotel (15-19 North Hudson Avenue), and Hotel Black (5 North Hudson Avenue)
**Funding**

Due to the economy of the past decade, government at every level has found it difficult to fund basic programs and services. At the state level, Oklahoma saw a revenue shortfall in fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Revenue shortfalls have resulted in deferred maintenance to many state owned properties. State cuts to the budget affected every agency and the fiscal uncertainty of the state economy will continue to plague historic preservation.

At the federal level the President eliminated funding for Preserve America and Save America’s Treasures (SAT) grant programs in 2011. Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) have found themselves in a difficult funding situation as well. While the number of THPOs has increased, the pool of federal funds to support their funding has not grown with the increase in participation. The THPOs workload continues to increase; in Oklahoma that means work not just within the state boundaries but also work in each tribe’s homelands.

Oklahoma’s preservation advocates have lacked a cohesive message and strategy for conveying the benefits of preservation funding to decision makers. The advocates have done great things when working to protect the state tax credits. Now it is time to tackle funding.

**Education**

The lack of education is multifaceted in Oklahoma. This lack of education starts with community leaders who do not understand what preservation is and how it has been and can continue to be, an economic benefit in their community. It continues with the lack of growth in new leadership. Old time advocates are aging out and new blood is not quickly replacing them. Finally Oklahoma lacks programs for the education of preservation professionals. 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. Multiple universities offer degrees in archaeology which is an asset to Oklahoma with all of the prehistoric and historic sites in the state. Not a single university offers a degree or certificate in historic preservation. Without this degree, CLG participants, Main Street programs and CRM firms will continue to suffer. If Oklahoma cannot develop this specialty, contractors from outside Oklahoma will have to be used and slow down the work flow due to travel and expense.
What the State Historic Preservation Office Does

The principle entity charged with carrying out historic preservation activities in Oklahoma is the Oklahoma Historical Society. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was created in 1967 when Governor Dewey Bartlett appointed George Shirk, president of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors, as Oklahoma’s first State Historic Preservation Officer and assigned the federal preservation program responsibilities to the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Oklahoma Historical Society, including the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, functions under the larger state umbrella of the Department of Commerce.

The principal source of funding for the SHPO is an annual federal grant from the National Park Service with additional support from the state of Oklahoma. Presently the annual budget has remained consistent over the last few years. The budget is approximately $1,219,012. Sixty percent comes from the National Park Service through the Historic Preservation Fund grant with the final forty percent coming from state appropriated funds. The SHPO uses approximately 64.2 percent of its budget for operating and administrative expenses such as salaries, travel, supplies and equipment. The SHPO gives ten percent of its budget annually through the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program. The SHPO uses the remaining 25.8 percent for programs related to surveying of historic properties and preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations.

The SHPO’s main responsibilities include:

- National Register of Historic Places
- Review and Compliance
- Tax Incentives
- Certified Local Governments
- Survey

Additionally, the SHPO participates in:

- Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program
- Public Outreach
National Register of Historic Places
The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of buildings, districts, structures, objects and sites that are significant for their association with history, architecture, engineering, archaeology or culture. In Oklahoma, the SHPO is responsible for administering the National Register program for the National Park Service. The SHPO assists the public and local preservation groups with the National Register application process by providing technical and research information. The SHPO is responsible for processing all nominations for Oklahoma and presenting them for approval to the Historic Preservation Review Committee (appointed by the governor) and the National Park Service.

Currently there are approximately 1,341 National Register of Historic Places listings in Oklahoma. These listings cover 77 counties and range from prehistoric sites to twenty-first century resources. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places can protect a property in limited circumstances (see Review and Compliance). It can also make a property eligible to apply for tax incentives (see Tax Incentives). Listing on the National Register of Historic Places does not provide the state or federal government with the authority to prevent the demolition or alteration of a property by a private landowner. Those restrictions can only be imposed at the local level of government.

Clockwise from upper L: Saints Cyril and Methodius Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church, Hartshorne, Pittsburg County; James Martin Baggs Log Barn, Pickens, Pushmataha County; Lake Ponca Duck Pond Historic District, Ponca City, Kay County; Vannerson Homestead, Erick vicinity, Beckham County; and Park Etude, Norman, Cleveland County
Review and Compliance
Federal laws requires the SHPO to review certain federal activities. This process is known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This includes projects that are funded, licensed or permitted by federal agencies. The SHPO reviews these projects to ensure that historic properties are taken into consideration early in the planning process. In carrying out this role, from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2018, the SHPO reviewed 12,941 federal projects that included 44,357 buildings, structures, objects and sites.

The SHPO balances the needs of federal and state agencies, private landowners, project developers, American Indian tribes, and other stakeholders when facilitating and commenting during the review process. Several major projects currently impacting the state, which continue to consume time and resources of the SHPO staff, include hydrology projects, transportation/road related construction, oil and gas exploration, and wind energy projects. The impact of these large undertakings, along with other large and small projects, will affect the historic and cultural landscape of the state. These are a prime responsibility for the SHPO staff. The SHPO will continue to work openly with our partners in preservation while reviewing and commenting on undertakings and provide meaningful and constructive input throughout the process.

L to R: Central Fire Station, Lawton, Comanche County; KCS Railway Depot, Stilwell, Adair County; Spirit of the American Doughboy Statue, Muskogee, Muskogee County
Tax Incentives
The federal and state governments have established tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic properties. The National Park Service (NPS), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the SHPO jointly administer the federal 20% rehabilitation tax credit program for the rehabilitation of historic buildings in Oklahoma. The program offers a 20% tax credit on the qualified expenditures of a substantial rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. In 2018, 27 new projects were received. Although this program requires an extensive amount of staff time, including the Tax Program Coordinator, the National Register Program Coordinator, the Deputy SHPO and administrative staff, it is a very effective tool in the preservation of historic buildings that are associated with income producing projects. In addition, in 2005 the state amended an existing act to include a state tax credit for all rehabilitation projects that qualified for the federal historic tax credit. The state tax credits are administered through the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Based on federal data available for the National Park Service, in 2017, total rehabilitation costs in Oklahoma equaled $47,300,000.00 with an employment impact of 933 jobs. Cumulatively, from 2013-2017, Oklahoma’s total rehabilitation costs totaled $1,650,300,000.00 with an employment impact of 7,133 jobs. The Historic Tax Credit is designed to preserve and rehabilitate historic buildings. It is also used to promote economic revitalization of older communities in Oklahoma along Main Streets, and in rural areas.

Before and After Photos of Tax Credit Projects
Hotel Dale, Guymon, Texas County and Logan Apartments, Norman, Cleveland County

Hotel Dale, Guymon, before
Hotel Dale, Guymon, after
Logan Apartments, Norman, before
Logan Apartments, Norman, after
Certified Local Governments
Certified Local Governments (CLGs) are those cities that have met the SHPO requirements to become certified and have been approved by the National Park Service (NPS). These requirements include:

- Adopt a local ordinance for the designation and protection of historic properties that meets the minimum requirements of the state procedures
- Enforce its local ordinance for the designation and protection of historic properties
- Establish an adequate and qualified local commission in accordance with its local ordinance and the state procedures
- Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties consistent with that of the SHPO
- Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program including the process of recommending properties for nomination to the NRHP
- Satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to it by the SHPO under the Certification Agreement

Once the local government meets all of these requirements, the SHPO and the local government sign an agreement that is then approved by the NPS. Certified Local Governments are then eligible to apply for funds available through the SHPO for preservation projects in their communities.

Photos from upper left, clockwise: Ardmore Historic Commercial District, Ardmore, Carter County; Anadarko Downtown Historic District, Anadarko, Caddo County; Muskogee Depot and Freight District, Muskogee, Muskogee County; and Miller's Boulevard Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
Twelve local governments are currently certified through the CLG program.

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<thead>
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<th>Anadarko</th>
<th>Grandfield</th>
<th>Oklahoma City</th>
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<td>Ardmore</td>
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As part of the Certified Local Governments requirements, they must seat a historic preservation commission (HPC). These are volunteer boards of the local residents with interest and experience in historic preservation. HPCs in larger communities usually have a staff member who is a city planning employee. They devote part of their time to the HPC. Through CLG grants from the SHPO, CLGs regularly complete projects that help identify, document and protect historic properties.

Multiple historic preservation commissions in Oklahoma have hosted wood window restoration workshops; some communities have hosted them multiple times in one year due to demand. Oklahoma is fortunate to have companies that specialize in wood window restoration. In 2018, the Tulsa Preservation Commission hosted Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) while Norman will be hosting CAMP in 2019. CAMP is a training offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) that trains local preservation programs through education, advocacy and training. However, nearly all active HPCs provide some type of educational outreach to their local residents about historic preservation either through survey work, mailings, news articles or workshops. In addition, HPCs provide local input to state and federal agencies on projects subject to federal preservation reviews (Section 106).

Guthrie Historic District and Guthrie National Historic Landmark District, Guthrie, Logan County
Survey
It is the responsibility of the SHPO to undertake comprehensive surveys of historic properties throughout the state. A statewide survey program provides a permanent record of the state’s historic properties, is a valuable planning tool and provides a source for historic research. Since 2014, the SHPO has assisted with the funding of five thematic surveys and twelve reconnaissance or intensive levels surveys of buildings. Since 2014, the SHPO has also funded nine contracts for survey and/or testing at archeological sites.

There are currently 63,816 records in the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory (OLI). Each record in the inventory provides information on a resources location, features, significance and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey maintains information on over 25,313 prehistoric and historic sites.

*Surveys conducted in Oklahoma through 2018*

*Surveys funded by the SHPO Historic Preservation Fund grant not including archaeological surveys*

Figure 5
Archaeological Surveys Conducted in Oklahoma

Number of Surveys
- 49-200
- 201-400
- 401-600
- 601-800
- 801-3,000

Figure 6
Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program

The Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program, cosponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, was officially announced by Governor Henry Bellmon in 1989. The first application was from H. C. Hitch, Jr., owner of the Hitch Ranch in Texas County. More than 1,600 families have been recognized through the program since then. Although originally created in part as a way to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Land Run of 1889, those who took part in land openings are only a portion of those families who continue to operate farms and ranches for at least a century. American Indian families have occupied land for much longer and other families did not arrive in Oklahoma until after statehood. The families who occupied Indian and Oklahoma territories and the state of Oklahoma came from all over the world: Germany, Russia, the areas of the modern day Czech Republic and Slovakia, Austria, England, and more.

Public Outreach

A critical role of the SHPO is public outreach and education. The SHPO accomplishes this through an annual conference, workshops, publications and training opportunities. The SHPO regularly offers Section 106 training for federal, state and local agencies; tax credit and Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation training for practitioners of preservation; and, training on how to prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination. In 2017 and 2018, the SHPO staff traveled to multiple federal agency offices to provide Section 106 training to the entire staff of the particular agency.

Oklahoma Archeological Survey also plays a critical role in public outreach and education. Through their presentations at public events such as the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Wildlife Expo and the Opt Outside Event at the Myriad Botanical Gardens, the archeologist can answer questions and provided educational opportunities for participants. OAS and the Oklahoma Anthropological Society also coordinate spring and fall digs around the state where educators and students have the opportunity to participate.
**Tribal Historic Preservation Officers**

The 1992 amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) extended the participation in the federal preservation program to tribal governments. The amendment authorized Historic Preservation Fund grant assistance to those tribal governments. This amendment authorized the National Park Service to approve tribes to assume the SHPO duties and responsibilities on tribal lands. Through the NPS approval process, twenty tribal governments in Oklahoma now have Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) status. Each of them has assumed the responsibility for review of federal undertakings pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, archeological and historic resources surveys, nominations of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, preservation planning, and public outreach and education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma</th>
<th>Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma</th>
<th>Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma</th>
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<tr>
<td>Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Miami Tribe of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cherokee Nation</td>
<td>Muscogee (Creek) Nation</td>
<td>Seneca Cayuga Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes</td>
<td>Osage Nation</td>
<td>Thlopthlocco Tribal Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Otoe-Missouria Tribe</td>
<td>Wichita and Affiliated Tribes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citizen Potawatomi Nation</td>
<td>Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma</td>
<td>Wyandotte Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comanche Nation</td>
<td>Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma</td>
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</tbody>
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Those that do not have formal THPO status still play a critical role in federal preservation programs. Under the 1992 amendment to the NHPA, all federal agencies must consult all tribal governments that may have an interest in their federally funded, licensed or permitted action even if the project is not on tribal trust lands.

The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) is a national non-profit membership organization of tribal government officials who implement federal and tribal preservation laws. The NATHPO website provides extensive information on preservation issues of concern. A number of the tribes have established monitoring programs that train tribal members to assist state and federal agencies and private companies in identifying traditional cultural places. The monitors are trained by those with knowledge of traditional ways.
Many tribes have developed educational materials to increase the public's awareness of and respect for the cultural legacies of the tribes. Methods used to educate the public include interpretive centers, museums, cultural programs, publications, television advertisements and social media. These programs provided a tribal perspective that is absent elsewhere.

The SHPO and THPOs must work closely together in Oklahoma to ensure that historic and cultural resources are properly protected and maintained. Many of our recognizable landmarks are considered significant by the American Indians in Oklahoma. Thirty nine tribes call Oklahoma home; they are a key part of Oklahoma history and our future.
How We Can All Help in the Historic Preservation Movement

Every citizen, agency, business, and nonprofit in Oklahoma can help advance the historic preservation movement. Although the State Historic Preservation Office is at the center of historic preservation, it is not the only avenue through which action can be completed. The following objectives and action items are only a small sampling of the ways different entities can help.

The groups listed under Objectives and Action Items are based on the following definitions and not all groups will be represented in every objective:

Citizen: An individual or group of individuals interested in historic preservation
Agency: A government agency, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oklahoma Emergency Management, and others
Business: A privately owned business, whether by an individual or a corporation
Nonprofit: A 501(c)3 with an interest in historic preservation
SHPO: The State Historic Preservation Office

Goal #1: Provide information about Oklahoma’s archeological and historic resources to increase public awareness and foster an effective statewide preservation network.

Goal #2: Continue to strengthen efforts to identify, evaluate, and nominate archeological and historic resources.

Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies and incentives for historic preservation.

Goal #4: Incorporate the consideration of archeological and historic resources in public and private sector planning and decision-making processes.

Depew Route 66 Segment, Depew, Creek County
Objectives and Action Items

Goal #1: Provide information about Oklahoma’s archeological and historic resources to increase public awareness and foster an effective statewide preservation network.

a. Develop and promote curricula to enhance the teaching of Oklahoma history and historic and heritage preservation topics in Oklahoma schools (elementary, secondary, and higher education).

Citizen: Elementary or secondary school classes can “Adopt a Building” to learn more about endangered historic properties in their area.

Agency: Higher education creates a historic preservation certification or degree program.

Business: Businesses who utilized historic tax credits can participate in tours with local schools.

Nonprofit: OKPAN promotes Project Archaeology training for teachers and the Archaeology Skills Workshop series.

SHPO: Promote participation in National History Day, highlighting the historic preservation award.

b. Expand effective working relationships with representatives of the media and increase the use of resources, such as social media, listserves, and print, to transmit information about preservation issues to the public.

Citizen: Follow historic preservation-related organizations (SHPO, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., local historical societies, etc.) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media sites.

Agency: Federal or state agencies invites media staff to the excavation of an archeological site.

Business: Promote the history of their downtown building in publicity.

Nonprofit: Write a series of articles on the how-to of historic preservation.

SHPO: Coordinate with local newspaper columnists for a series of articles on historic preservation.

c. Make information about Oklahoma’s significant historic and archeological resources, including threats to them, widely available.

Citizen: Participate in a “This Place Matters” or “Heart Bomb” campaign.
Agency: Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) creates a website section dedicated to discussing threats to archaeological sites in Oklahoma.

Nonprofit: Oklahoma Public Archeology Network (OKPAN) promotes Oklahoma Archeology Month.

SHPO: Improve access to the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory database online online.

d. Develop programs for government agencies, clubs, nonprofit groups, and other organizations about Oklahoma’s heritage and its preservation.

Citizen: Individuals in a historic neighborhood develop a history of their neighborhood to share with other neighborhood associations, schools, etc.

Agency: Tribal historic preservation offices present at the annual History and Preservation Conference, discussing the challenges of protecting tribal history and traditional cultural properties.

Business: Provide space in their historic building for organizations presenting historic preservation-related programs.

Nonprofit: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. promotes the Most Endangered Places list.

SHPO: Presents biannual workshops to educate the public about historic preservation in Oklahoma.

e. Assist organizations or agencies in preservation advocacy efforts at the national, state, and local level.

Citizen: Become a member in historic preservation-related organizations.

Agency: Local government maintains a list of endangered historic properties in their community.

Business: Notify nonprofit preservation organizations of threats to historic properties or sites.

Nonprofit: Cosponsor an update of the economic impact study.

SHPO: Develop a Historic Preservation 101 website

f. Interpret and strengthen Oklahoma’s heritage through tourism initiatives and through significant properties accessible to the public.

Citizen: Visit a historic home museum or historic state park in the state.

Agency: Provide adequate maintenance to historic sites and encourage the public to visit.
Nonprofit: Local historical society conducts a tour of historic properties and their history in their community.

SHPO: Provide the history of Oklahoma buildings and sites to the Department of Tourism to include on their website.

g. Expand Oklahoma’s network of preservation partners in rural and under-recognized communities and among diverse cultural groups.

Citizen: Prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination for a property or site associated with an under-recognized community.

Agency: University expands curriculum associated with under-recognized communities (African American, women, American Indian, LGBTQ, etc.).

Business: Apply to participate in the Oklahoma Main Street program.

Nonprofit: Local historical society or preservation organization conducts a membership drive.

SHPO: Work with local historical societies to develop various historic tours appropriate for their communities.

h. Consult with tribal governments and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to exchange historic preservation program information and to develop effective working relationships.

Citizen: Notify tribal governments of potential archeological site find.

Agency: Oklahoma Department of Transportation consults with tribal governments about potential highway construction impacts to tribal resources.

Nonprofit: Historic home or local historical society works with tribal governments to promote the cultural history of the property or community.

SHPO: Provide technical assistance to tribal government planning.

i. Continue publication and free distribution of Preservation Oklahoma News, a quarterly publication, and update of the online preservation calendar to share preservation news statewide.

Citizen: Read preservation-related articles and attend presentations or workshops posted on the calendar.

Agency: Federal or state agency provides article on successful mitigation through Section 106.

Business: Contribute an article about a successful historic tax credit project.
Nonprofit: Oklahoma Anthropological Society provides two articles highlighting their fall and spring archaeological digs.

SHPO: Digitizes and makes available all copies of the newsletter.

j. Encourage communities to participate in the Oklahoma Main Street Program and the Certified Local Governments Program.
   Citizen: Attend local government meetings.
   Agency: Consult with local government concerning federal actions.
   Business: Request a training workshop through the Oklahoma Main Street Program.
   Nonprofit: Promote the Oklahoma Main Street Program or Certified Local Governments Program in their local community.
   SHPO: Improve partnership with Oklahoma Main Street Center.

k. Present the Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference in conjunction with the Oklahoma Historical Society and conduct special events-based speaker series.
   Citizen: Attend the Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference.
   Agency: Present a session on historic preservation and the history of their program.
   Business: Provide space for a session location in their historic building.
   Nonprofit: Become a sponsor for the Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference.
   SHPO: Coordinate the conference in conjunction with the Oklahoma Historical Society.

l. Assist in the development, maintenance, and distribution of an online-only toolkit for historic preservation.
   Citizen: Utilize the information available online in preservation-focused rehabilitation projects.
   Agency: Provide updated contact information and program details for an online toolkit.
   Business: Use tools provided to renovate historic building for office space.
   Nonprofit: Host the toolkit online and assist with maintenance of information.
   SHPO: Provide up-to-date historic preservation standards and practices for the online-only toolkit.
Goal #2: Continue to strengthen efforts to identify, evaluate, and nominate archeological and historic resources.

a. Develop and update historic context information for use in identifying and evaluating archeological and historic resources.
   - Citizen: Suggest a survey at the annual SHPO Historic Preservation Fund meeting.
   - Agency: Sponsor the development of a historic context.
   - Business: Shares the history of their historic office building with survey preparer.
   - Nonprofit: Prepare local landmark designation for a building or site determined by the survey results.
   - SHPO: Coordinate with communities to complete surveys, especially for those under-recognized communities.

b. Develop and conduct new surveys and update existing surveys to identify and nominate archeological and historic resources based on the results of SHPO's public process for preparing its annual HPF application.
   - Citizen: Submit ideas for projects at the annual SHPO Historic Preservation Fund meeting.
   - Agency: Conduct a specific theme-based survey in-house.
   - Nonprofit: Cosponsor a survey.
   - SHPO: Develop and maintain mapping data of survey results.

c. Develop thematic surveys associated with under-recognized communities in Oklahoma, including, but not limited to, women, African Americans, American Indians, and the LGBTQ communities.
   - Citizen: Provide details of Rosenwald school locations to the SHPO.
   - Agency: Communicate with under-recognized communities to identify historic resources.
   - Nonprofit: Prepare local landmark designation for a known resource.
   - SHPO: Coordinate with under-recognized communities to complete a survey.

d. Identify and nominate eligible archeological and historic resources to the NRHP.
   - Citizen: Prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination for a hidden treasure in their community.
Agency: Complete a comprehensive list of eligible properties located within their jurisdiction.
Business: Prepare a nomination for the historic building used as business space.
Nonprofit: Write an application for NHL designation of a historic resource.
SHPO: Identify and prioritize areas of cities/regions based on imminence of threat to be surveyed/listed.

e. Designate historic districts and landmarks in accordance with local historic preservation ordinances.
   Citizen: Read the local preservation ordinance.
   Agency: Support the designation of properties at the local level.
   Business: Attend a city council meeting where designation is considered.
   Nonprofit: Write the application for local designation of a resource/district.
   SHPO: Map all local historic districts with overlay zoning for ArcGIS.

f. Provide online access to information about archeological and historic resources for both professional and public use.
   Citizen: Query online for nearby NRHP and surveyed properties to become familiar with the area.
   Agency: Oklahoma Archeological Survey provides access for professionals to mapping data for restricted archaeological sites.
   Business: Looks for information online about historic buildings for potential business locations.
   Nonprofit: Promote historic resources through “What is it, Wednesday?” style series.
   SHPO: Provide surveys and survey data online through the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

g. Maintain online availability of mapping data for above-ground historic resources.
   Citizen: Use online maps to locate historic properties.
   Agency: Provides SHPO with GIS layers for properties under their purview.
   Nonprofit: Locates property by theme online (time period, architect, etc.).
   SHPO: Create and maintain a map of all Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory resources.
Goal #3: Develop and disseminate strategies and incentives for historic preservation.

a. Continue to develop effective working relationships among federal, tribal, state, and local governments and the private sector for the protection of archaeological and historic resources.
   
   **Agency:** Lease office space in a historic property located in downtown.
   
   **Business:** Offer free or affordable space in a historic building for public meetings.
   
   **Nonprofit:** Present workshops on how to identify archaeological sites.
   
   **SHPO:** Work with state and federal agencies to develop plans for historic building preservation following natural disasters.

b. Encourage use of the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.*

   **Citizen:** Repaints historic home rather than use synthetic siding to serve as an example in the neighborhood.
   
   **Agency:** Oklahoma Department of Transportation requests SHPO present a workshop for staff.
   
   **Business:** Present a workshop for Main Street communities on their use of the Standards for restoration.
   
   **Nonprofit:** American Institute of Architects sponsors a workshop for members on rehabilitation standards.
   
   **SHPO:** Develop case studies using Historic Tax Credit projects from Oklahoma.

c. Make information about appropriate preservation techniques and technology widely available.

   **Citizen:** Present information about the restoration of their historic home following the Secretary’s Standards at a neighborhood association meeting.
   
   **Agency:** Partner to host a historic preservation-themed workshop, such as wood window repair.
   
   **Business:** Historic preservation treatment specialists present workshops in partnership with Certified Local Governments.
   
   **Nonprofit:** Provide information on appropriate substitute materials in a written series for online or newsletter publication, such as Preservation Oklahoma News.
   
   **SHPO:** Provide all National Park Service/Technical Preservation Services guidance on the SHPO website for download.
d. Provide information and guidance about the federal and state tax credits for rehabilitation of income-producing properties.

   Citizen: Visit with state and local representatives to discuss tax credit project effects.
   Business: Share experiences of a tax credit project with neighbors and the media.
   Nonprofit: Host a before-and-after workshop on how to complete a tax credit project.
   SHPO: Map all projects in Oklahoma with approved Part 2s and Part 3s.

e. Provide training programs for preservation professionals, including workshops and webinars for contractors, tradespeople, and the non-professional citizen.

   Citizen: Present a workshop entitled “My First Time Tax Credit Project.”
   Agency: Tribal government develops and presents a special program concerning special issues associated with the identification, evaluation and treatment of traditional cultural properties.
   Business: Present a workshop about the problems encountered during a tax credit rehabilitation at the annual History and Preservation Conference.
   Nonprofit: Professional organizations (AIA, Realtors, Appraisers) coordinate with the SHPO to develop a continuing education series.
   SHPO: Record biannual workshops and/or allow for teleconference/remote attendance.

f. Disseminate information about why historic preservation is good for the environment.

   Citizen: Save their home’s historic wood windows – repair not replace!
   Agency: Federal and state agencies maintain buildings to reduce energy loss.
   Business: Waste management prepares an insert with statistics of the percentage of building materials deposited in landfills.
   Nonprofit: Provide statistics of waste produced by demolition of historic properties on their website.
   SHPO: Create case studies using historic tax credit projects with a focus on how the process is good for the environment.
g. Establish a state grants program for preservation.
   Citizen: Expresses support to an elected official for creation of a state grants program.
   Agency: Establish cost estimates for rehabilitation to existing buildings to present to local and state legislators.
   Business: Assist a legislator in writing a bill for a state grants program for preservation.
   Nonprofit: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. identifies pro-preservation legislators and encourages their support of legislation for a state grants program to aid preservation of historic county courthouses.
   SHPO: Gather information about state grants programs across the country for use in designing an Oklahoma program.

h. Advocate for retention of current federal and state tax credit programs for appropriate rehabilitation of historic buildings.
   Citizen: Patronize businesses who have utilized historic tax credits.
   Agency: Hold a public meeting in a finish project space.
   Business: Host tours of completed historic tax credit projects and invite lawmakers.
   Nonprofit: Partner with the SHPO to prepare a historic preservation impact study.
   SHPO: Provide statistics about federal tax credits projects for use by advocates.

i. Participate in the SHPO workshops about the process and standards for certified rehabilitations.
   Citizen: Attend the workshop to learn more about how to use the standards for a property rehabilitation.
   Agency: Provide an opportunity for continuing education units with attendance at a workshop sponsored by the agency.
   Business: Host a workshop in a finished project space to highlight the impact of certified rehabilitations.
   Nonprofit: Promote the continuing education unit availability for workshops on calendar of events.

j. Encourage legislation to establish local financial incentives for commercial district, residential neighborhood, and rural landscape preservation efforts.
   Citizen: Circulate petition to show support for creation of a local incentive program.
   Agency: Local historic preservation commission assists in the drafting of eligibility criteria for the program.
k. Recognize outstanding efforts to preserve archeological and historic resources through awards programs at the state and local levels.

   Citizen: Nominate a person or project for a historic preservation award.

   Agency: City government creates an awards program to recognize historic preservation efforts in their community.

   Business: Sponsor an award for a local preservation project award recipient.

   Nonprofit: Nominate a person, project or organization for a National Trust for Historic Preservation award.

   SHPO: Highlight the work of the preservation community through the continuation of the Citation of Merit Award and the Shirk Award for Historic Preservation.

l. Promote designation of local historic districts and landmarks to protect their historic integrity and to improve and stabilize property values.

   Citizen: Nominate a historic property for local designation.

   Agency: Local historic preservation commission publishes its design guidelines and widely distributes them.

   Business: Write letters of support for local designation.

   SHPO: Showcase and map tax rates in locally designated districts over several years.
Goal #4: Incorporate the consideration of archeological and historic resources in public and private sector planning and decision-making process.

a. Enforce existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations for the protection of archeological and historic resources and provide technical assistance to agency officials and individuals responsible for compliance with those laws and regulations.

   Agency: Oklahoma Archeological Survey assists a pipeline company to reroute construction to avoid a National Register-eligible archaeological site.

   Business: Local contractor helps the owner of a commercial property located in a locally designated historic district acquire replacement windows that satisfy local design guidelines.

   Nonprofit: Create an online toolkit for historic preservation.

   SHPO: SHPO and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey participate in the efforts of other government agencies to ensure appropriate consideration of archaeological and historic resources in their respective long-range planning efforts.

b. Incorporate the preservation of historic districts and landmarks into local government planning efforts.

   Citizen: Participate in area plan studies.

   Agency: Draft design guidelines and distribute them to the local preservation commission.

   Business: Focus on finding an existing historic building for a local office.

   Nonprofit: A local Main Street program requests the city adopt a preservation zoning ordinance to support quality design in revitalization projects.

   SHPO: Provide Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory and National Register data to local governments.

c. Provide training for state and local officials responsible for enforcing laws and regulations that protect archeological and historic resources.

   Agency: Host an annual CAMP to provide training for local historic preservation commission members and city staff.
Business: Local attorney conducts a review of the local preservation zoning ordinance for new commission members.

Nonprofit: Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association sponsors a workshop for city officials concerning local governments’ roles and responsibilities in the enforcement of historic preservation laws.

SHPO: Provide training on location to state and federal agencies about their Section 106 responsibilities.

d. Encourage municipal governments to become Certified Local Governments.

Citizen: Volunteer to serve on a local historic preservation commission.

Agency: Apply to be a Certified Local Government.

Business: Request your local government utilize design guidelines for downtown commercial district.

Nonprofit: Promote establishment of local designation through ordinance required (to participate?) as a Certified Local Government.

SHPO: Provide a pro forma-style document showing what types of projects can be funded through Certified Local Governments funding.

e. Adapt historic buildings and structures for compatible new uses.

Citizen: A member of a county historical society convinces his neighbor to retain a historic building on his property for reuse as a gardening shed.

Agency: State Fire Marshal assists city officials to make modifications to a historic building proposed for use as a community center necessary for code compliance while respecting the building’s historic character.

Business: Local business owner relocates to a building in the historic commercial district and utilizes historic tax credits.

Nonprofit: Local Main Street program convinces a new business to locate in a vacant building in the historic commercial district rather than build a new facility.

SHPO: SHPO assists a property owner to complete the Historic Preservation Certification Application required to qualify for the 20% federal investment tax credit for rehabilitation.
f. Strengthen neighborhood preservation initiatives.
   Citizen: Perform routine maintenance on a historic home and outbuildings.
   Agency: Local government designates a neighborhood as a historic district under its historic preservation zoning ordinance.
   Business: Participate in façade revitalization efforts in your downtown.
   Nonprofit: Neighborhood association sponsors an annual homes tour to build awareness about the significance of the neighborhood.
   SHPO: SHPO works with city governments per the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulations to develop a Programmatic Agreement for its Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs that will be available to home owners in certain older neighborhoods.

g. Increase consideration of historic landscapes in project planning at all levels of government.
   Citizen: Avoids removal of a Depression-era shelter belt during the replacement of fencing around their farmland.
   Agency: Encourage preservation easements on tribal cultural properties, archaeological sites, and landscapes.
   Nonprofit: Land Legacy accepts an easement for protection of historic farmland.
   SHPO: Nominates Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built features of a state park to the National Register of Historic Places.

h. Increase the awareness of economic impacts of historic preservation in Oklahoma through an updated economic impact study.
   Citizen: Donate to a nonprofit sponsoring a historic preservation impact study.
   Agency: Provide local tax data for properties to those conducting a historic preservation impact study.
   Business: Have a grand reopening after rehabilitation to discuss the effects of historic preservation on their business.
   Nonprofit: Sponsor a historic preservation economic impact study.
   SHPO: Provide partial funding for a historic preservation economic impact study.
i. Develop and maintain state and local mechanisms for protection of significant archeological and historic resources following natural or man-made disasters.
   
   Citizen: Interact with Oklahoma Emergency Management system, identifying natural disaster areas.
   
   Agency: Oklahoma Emergency Management promotes programs and applications available for assistance.
   
   Business: Develop an action plan for its historic building or site.
   
   Nonprofit: American Institute of Architects present a workshop on best practices.
   
   SHPO: Create a phone app for guidance to protect a historic resource following a natural disaster.

j. Collect and publicize data about adverse impacts of regulated construction/development activities, including, but not limited to, wind farms, transmission lines, and pipelines, on archeological and historic resources.

   Citizen: Contact media and legislators about the loss of important history on property, such as the Chisholm Trail.
   
   Agency: Be proactive in data collection regarding historic sites and buildings in project areas.
   
   Business: Excavate archaeological sites with qualified staff, interpret data, and store at an appropriate repository.
   
   Nonprofit: Contact media about resources lost due to adverse effects.
   
   SHPO: Map federal projects with adverse effect determinations.
In Conclusion

Today preservation can mean many things to many people. It is a housing issue, a sociological concern, a legal use, a land use issue, etc. Where is the preservation movement going in Oklahoma and what are the future concerns? Since the preservation movement is no longer solely a house museum driven movement but rather an environmental, social, economic and legal issue, how should preservationists be looking at the future?

Oklahoma has become a state focused on how to preserve. We have lost sight of the motives to preserve: what should we preserve and why? Americans in general still think “new” and “bigger” is better. The opportunity is now. Question the idea that what is being built is better than what is already there. Question the idea that new development over existing will improve a community or neighborhood.

In a state the size of Oklahoma, the future of preservation lies at the local level. The success of local preservation efforts stands in relationship to the ability of experts at the state level to sense this eventuality and serve it well. The SHPO can start the dialogue about the importance of the preservation movement but only the local communities can carry the weight of preserving the past for the needs of the future.
Update of the Statewide Preservation Plan - Process and Development

The State Historic Preservation Office staff began the process of updating the Oklahoma statewide preservation plan, renamed *Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past*, in August 2018. On September 14, 2018, the SHPO notified the public in attendance at the Historic Preservation Fund annual meeting that the state plan update questionnaire would be available on November 1, 2018, and would be available for the first time in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. On October 18, 2018, the Deputy SHPO discussed the state plan update with the Historic Preservation Review Committee (HPRC), and on October 24, 2018, it was discussed again with the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC) of the Oklahoma Historical Society’s Board of Directors. Both committees agreed the general population does not understand what the SHPO. Suggestions on threats to historic resources and ideas for action items were offered, and both committees provided comments on both plan drafts.

On November 1, 2018, all versions of the state plan update questionnaire were made available to the general public via the SHPO website, through listserves, social media, and outgoing mail. The Spanish version was distributed at a meeting held to discuss the listing of the Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District. The questionnaire was also sent to all history, archeology, and architecture professors in the state. At our December workshop series, the questionnaire was made available for those in attendance to respond. The SHPO received a total of 44 responses, a nearly 500% increase over the previous state plan update.

The draft was made available online for public comment and to the National Park Service (NPS) on March 1, 2019. A second draft was prepared following the comment period with consideration given to all public comments received. The second draft was made available for public and NPS comment on June 3, 2019. After consideration of all comments received, the state plan was submitted to the NPS for final approval on September 13, 2019. Upon receipt of final NPS approval, the state plan was published in hard copy and provided online by January 1, 2020. [Future dates per plan update schedule]
Survey Responses

The State Historic Preservation Office received 44 responses to the state plan update questionnaire. Responses were received from state, local and tribal government employees, historic property owners, and interested citizens, university students, nonprofit employees, and professionals in the fields of history, architecture, and architectural history.

The answers to many of the questions (survey questions are available at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan) emphasized that Oklahomans are not as familiar with the State Historic Preservation Office and its programs and historic preservation as they could be. Although the National Register of Historic Places and the SHPO itself were ranked the highest for familiarity, additional programs and preservation tools, such as Certified Local Governments, local ordinances, and design guidelines were ranked much lower.

Surprisingly, although most people strongly agreed that historic properties are important to tourism in Oklahoma and in educating both children and adults about our past, quite a few responses showed Oklahomans don’t believe or are neutral to the idea that rehabilitating historic buildings help ease the lack of affordable housing.

Based on the survey results, the SHPO has determined a significant focus for this state plan will be in the education of the public about the purpose of our office and historic preservation in general. This will include what the SHPO does and how they do it, how to participate in historic preservation for citizens to government agencies, and steps one can take to help save a historic resource after a disaster occurs. Education is the preservation community’s best tool for saving our historic resources throughout the nation.
Forty-four individuals replied to the State Plan Update Questionnaire that was available online and through mail.

The breakdown of organizations or groups represented (some listed themselves as representing more than one category):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Represented</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State agency employees</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal government employee</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government employee</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic property owner</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Development district resident</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private citizen</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History enthusiast and/or heritage tourist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative of cultural or ethnic group</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Street organization, member or staff</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local historical society, member or staff</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library, museum or arts organization, member or staff</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educator (any level)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student (K-12)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student (University)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional archaeologist</td>
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<td>Professional historian</td>
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<td>Professional architect, engineer or planner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cemetery advocate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Familiarity with SHPO Programs</td>
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<td>---</td>
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<td>3a</td>
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<td>3j</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>3k</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Somewhat Disagree</th>
<th>Strong Disagree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic properties are important to tourism in Oklahoma</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic preservation contributes to economic development in Oklahoma</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic properties contribute to civic pride and quality of life in Oklahoma</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic preservation is a sustainable activity that benefits the environment</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehabilitating historic buildings helps ease the lack of affordable housing</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic properties are important in educating both children and adults about our past</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>What type of historic preservation workshop or training would you attend?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic building maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic building repair/restoration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy conservation for historic buildings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic preservation laws</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding opportunities for historic properties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster preparedness for historic resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Do’s and Don’ts for historic buildings</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the NRHP and what are its benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heritage tourism</td>
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<td>Oklahoma architectural history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic buildings and the ADA</td>
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<td>Secretary of the Interior’s Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics of historic preservation</td>
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<td>Researching my historic property</td>
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<td>Oklahoma’s archeological history</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (restoring historic railway properties)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Training Preferred</th>
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<tr>
<td>Video/DVD</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands-on Workshop</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Training (webinars)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures/Public Programs</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booklets or brochures</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Top Ten Priority Issues for the Preservation Community in the Next Five Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Increase funding for restoration grants for historic properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Continue surveying and documenting historic properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Increase public awareness of Oklahoma’s historic properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Encourage the adoption of local preservation ordinances to protect historic properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Revise state laws to better protect historic properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Develop and disseminate information about the economic and cultural value of historic preservation in Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Increase access to historic property information through digitization projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Encourage the preservation of government-owned historic properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Provide more information on energy efficient and alternative energy sources for historic buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>Develop information resources and other non-financial support to assist local/private preservation activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top Three Things to Support Better Planning for Historic Resources**

1. More Money
2. Tax Credits
3. Preservation Laws
<table>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-2a</td>
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<td>9-3a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-3b</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-4a</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-4b</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-6a</td>
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<td>No</td>
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Progress and Relevance of Previous State Plan Goals
Were You Aware of the State Plan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Top Three Most Helpful Resources for Addressing Treatment of Historic Resources after Disastrous Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance/protocols for assessing historic/archaeological resources</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact information for technical resource professionals</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact list for preservation architects</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Preservation Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oklahoma Agencies and Organizations:</th>
<th>National Agencies and Organizations:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Archeological Survey</td>
<td>Advisory Council on Historic Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur">http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.achp.gov">http://www.achp.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture</td>
<td>National Alliance of Preservation Commissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.okcarchitecture.com">http://www.okcarchitecture.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.uga.edu/napc">http://www.uga.edu/napc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Department of Transportation</td>
<td>National Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Emergency Management</td>
<td>National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Historical Society</td>
<td>National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma Main Street Center</td>
<td>National Trust for Historic Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.preservationok.org">http://www.preservationok.org</a></td>
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</table>
**National Agencies and Organizations (Cont’d):**

**U. S. Department of the Interior** ([http://www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov))
- National Register of Historic Places
- National Trails-Intermountain Region
- Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program
- Technical Preservation Services
- Tribal Preservation Program

**Local Organizations:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>City of Anadarko</th>
<th>City of Grandfield</th>
<th>City of Oklahoma City</th>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Ardmore</th>
<th>City of Guthrie</th>
<th>City of Ponca City</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Cordell</th>
<th>City of Muskogee</th>
<th>City of Sapulpa</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Enid</th>
<th>City of Norman</th>
<th>City of Tulsa</th>
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</table>
Bibliography


Murray, Tom. Personal Interview by David Chunn. 4 February 2019.


