



Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

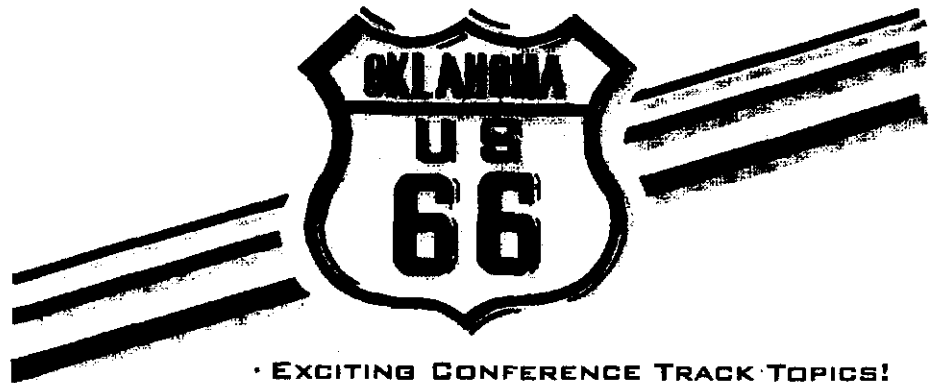
April 1997

Volume 3, number 3

What's inside:

- THE LOWDOWN ON THE STATEWIDE CONFERENCE
- PAGE 2 -
- ROGERS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REHABILITATING NAMESAKE'S HOTEL
- PAGE 3 -
- NEW LISTINGS IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
- SHPD SETS GOAL FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS
- NATIONAL REGISTER HANDBOOK AVAILABLE
- NOMINATION GRANTS -- ROUND II
- PAGES 4 & 5 -
- HISTORIC BRIDGE TO BE DEMOLISHED
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- PAGE 6 -
- BULLETIN BOARD
- PAGE 7 -

Statewide Preservation Conference: May 8-10 in Clinton



- EXCITING CONFERENCE TRACK TOPICS!
- TOURS AND WORKSHOPS!
- LUNCHEONS, BANQUETS, AND RECEPTIONS!
- CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR REALTORS AND ARCHITECTS!
- REGISTRATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS!
- AND MUCH MORE!

Oklahoma's ninth annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held May 8th-10th in Clinton. Joining the **Oklahoma Historical Society** as this year's cosponsors are the **Oklahoma Main Street Program**; **Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.**; the **City of Clinton**; the **Clinton Chamber of Commerce**; and the **Oklahoma Route 66 Museum**. Just head out on historic Route 66 (or any alternate route, such as I-40) and join preservationists from across the state in Clinton.

The three conference tracks will be:

- "Roads, Rails and Trails"
- "Landmark Preservation"
- "Preservation Begins at Home"

Speakers from across Oklahoma and the nation will share important information about financial incentives, heritage tourism development, preservation advocacy, and preservation methods.

See page two for more details!

Plan to Attend these Special Conference Events:

We hope you will be in Clinton to help us kick off National Historic Preservation Week in Oklahoma. Conference highlights will include:

May 8th:

Historic Washita County Tour. This half-day bus tour will stop in Cordell for lunch and a guided walking tour of the Courthouse Square Historic District to see the results of Main Street, the City of New Cordell's Certified Local Government program, ISTEAs funding, and private investment. Then the tour will continue to Colony and Corn with special narration by Oklahoma Historical Society board president Marvin E. Kroeker about the region's Native American and Mennonite influences.

Opening Reception. This event will be held at the Route 66 Museum and participants will have the opportunity to tour this new facility, as well as meet friends and colleagues.

May 9th:

Preservation Advocacy Workshop. Presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this half-day workshop will help preservationists learn how to ensure their concerns are addressed in local policy decision making. In short, learn how to make friends and get what you want.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s Annual Luncheon. Oklahoma's statewide nonprofit historic preservation group will hold its annual meeting and report on its challenges and successes. The highlight of the event will be the slide show unveiling this year's list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties.

Keynote Session. The keynote address by Arthur J. Krim, a scholar of historic Route 66, will feature a slide presentation with rare images of the highway. The session will be held in the Southwest Playhouse, an adaptive reuse project.

Annual Awards Banquet and Reception. The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer's Citations of Merit will be presented. Special guest speaker James Massey will present, "You Didn't Know the House You Grew Up in is Historic?"

May 10th:

Heritage Tourism Workshop. This Saturday morning workshop is specially designed for small towns. Learn how to identify your community's important assets and how to market them in a successful heritage tourism program. Jacqueline Cotter-Evans of QUIE, Inc., will lead the session. QUIE, Inc. is a nationally recognized firm and has specialized in tourism, economic development, and community revitalization for over 30 years.

Architects, Planners, and Realtors offered Continuing Education Credits

Architects, realtors, and planners who attend Oklahoma's ninth annual Statewide Preservation Conference can earn continuing education credits. Members of the American Institute of Architects will earn AIA/CES learning units. Planners will receive American Institute of Certified Planners' professional development hours. Realtors can satisfy Oklahoma Real Estate Commission continuing education units requirements.

Presentations on such topics as the federal investment tax credits, financing rehabilitation projects, and Preservation Oklahoma's revolving loan program will be of particular interest to architects, realtors, and planners.

For further details about these opportunities, contact Melvena Heisch at (405) 522-4484.

Scholarships Available to Oklahoma College Students

The cosponsors of Oklahoma's ninth annual Statewide Preservation Conference are pleased to offer scholarships for this special two-and-a-half day program. Eligible recipients are full time students enrolled in Oklahoma colleges and universities for the Fall 1997 semester. Eligible students must be pursuing degrees in a preservation-related field, including, but not limited to, anthropology, archaeology, architectural history, art history, geography, history, landscape architecture, law, and planning. Twenty scholarships are available on a first-come basis. Each award covers the \$25.00 registration fee for the conference. Contact Melvena Heisch at (405) 522-4484 for an application form and further details.

Rogers County Historical Society begins Rehabilitation of Hotel Will Rogers in Claremore

The Hotel Will Rogers was dedicated on February 7, 1930. Built to capitalize on the natural mineral springs and their reputed therapeutic advantages, the hotel offered excellent service and baths in "radium water." Analysis showed the greenish-black, pungent water contained 13 minerals, including sulphur, salt, and iron. Will Rogers joked that the water would "cure you of everything but being a Democrat."

The fireproof concrete and steel structure and its furnishings cost \$321,000 to construct. During World War II, it was designated as a bomb shelter. The interior's Spanish decor was chosen for its resemblance to features found in Will Rogers' home in Santa Monica. The six-story hotel contained 78 rooms and seven apartments.

In January 1994, the Rogers County Historical Society purchased the historic Hotel Will Rogers for \$1.00 to save it from demolition. They then tackled a multi-million dollar rehabilitation of the building with imagination and tenacity. Since the Society believed its resources could not cover the entire project, they sought a preservation partner for the project and entered into partnerships with MetroPlains Development, Inc., of St. Paul, Minnesota, and with the Wa-Ro-Ma Community Action Agency.

Last year, the price-tag for rehabilitating the hotel was projected at over \$2.5 million, about \$250,000 more than had been raised for the project. Since work had to begin by January of 1997 or the project would lose the funds already committed, the Society made an appeal for donations from private individuals and organizations, which brought in an additional

\$200,000. With this successful fundraising record, the Society was willing to sign a note to raise the remaining funds.



The Will Rogers Hotel in Claremore - from a 1980's Advertisement

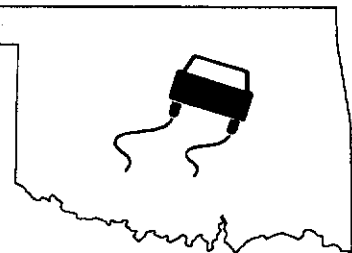
The rehabilitation of the Hotel will convert the upper floors to 38 apartments for senior citizens; the Wa-Ro-Ma Community Action Agency will office on the first and third floors; three of the famous mineral water tubs will be preserved on the sixth floor; and, the lobby and ballroom will be open to the public. Other plans for the lobby area include a Route 66 exhibit, a Visitors Information Center, and, if funds are raised for it, a bronze statue of Will Rogers. Once its rehabilitation is completed, the building will reopen as the Will Rogers Center.

For more information, contact Rogers County Historical Society and Preservation Oklahoma member Barbara Pool at (918) 341-5630.

Need a Speaker for Your Next Meeting?



Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., can solve your guest speaker woes. Set up a presentation for your local preservation group or civic organization's next meeting. Preservation Oklahoma's staff can tailor the talk to fit your program's time constraints and to address the issues of most concern to your group; it can be as general as an overview of the historic preservation network in Oklahoma, or discussion of a specific topic like the National Register or Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List. Call (405) 232-5747 for more information.



Seven Oklahoma Properties Listed in the National Register

by Cynthia Savage

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the listing of seven Oklahoma properties on the National Register of Historic Places. These include an armory and school gymnasium constructed during the Great Depression by the Works Progress Administration (WPA); three properties (a motel, service station, and bridge) associated with historic Route 66 in Tulsa; and two bridges spanning the Red River.

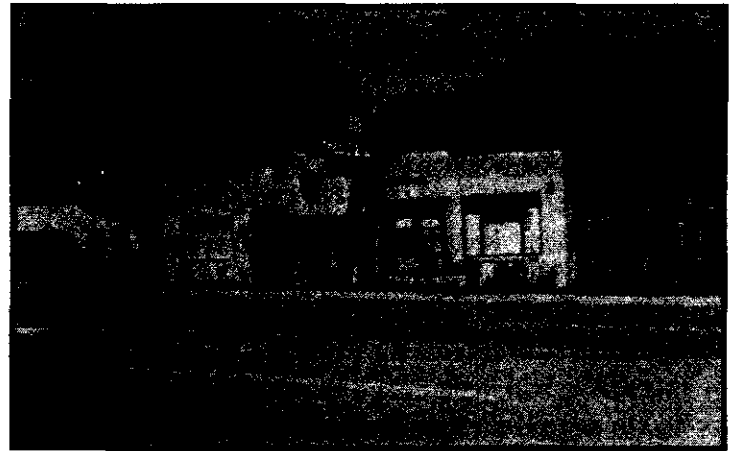
The Duncan Armory in Duncan was constructed from 1935-37 by the WPA. The project brought \$60,000 into the local economy by employing an average of forty-five skilled and unskilled workers for over sixteen months. Originally built to house Service Battery F, 158th Field Artillery of the 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National Guard, the building currently functions as the Stephens County Historical Museum. Beyond the immediate impact the armory had on the local economy, the armory is also historically significant for its role in American military readiness for World War II. The armory also possesses architectural significance as an outstanding example of the WPA's construction philosophy of emphasizing function over form. The addition of the Duncan Armory brings the number of Oklahoma armories listed on the National Register to thirty-six.

Located in Pocasset, Grady County, the Pocasset Gymnasium is the other WPA-related resource recently listed on the National Register. The gymnasium was constructed relatively late in the WPA program, being built in 1940-41. The WPA program was initiated in 1935 and ceased activities in 1943. The gymnasium is historically significant for its association with the WPA and the education of the area youth. Critically, the WPA did not neglect the non-academic side of the American educational experience in their construction projects. Many local athletic fields and gymnasiums across the state, such as the Pocasset Gymnasium, were constructed by the WPA. The Pocasset Gymnasium is also architecturally significant as an excellent

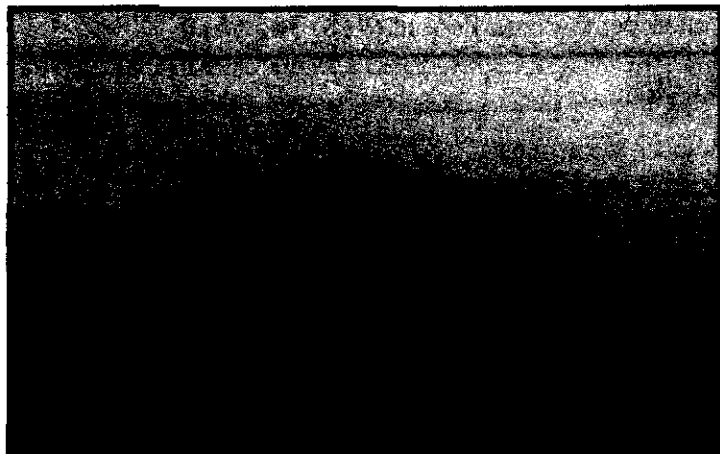
example of the combination of a Moderne influence on a WPA Standardized style building.

The Sinclair Service Station on Route 66 in Tulsa was built in 1929. Located in the then-outskirts of Tulsa, the station is historically significant for its close commercial association with the Route. The building is further architecturally significant as an example of the popular Spanish Eclectic style of architecture which was used on the Route throughout the Southwest. The station is representative of a transitional time when service stations were outgrowing the original house design yet the *streamlined, modern look had not been accepted.*

The 66 Motel, also in Tulsa, was constructed in about 1933. The motel represents one of the most important property types associated with Route 66. The traditional wayside inn was virtually replaced by the success of the railroad in the late 19th century, but highways brought the institution back with the development of motels. The architectural style of the 66 Motel is significant as an example of a simplified version of the Modernistic movement, which was popular from 1920 to 1940.

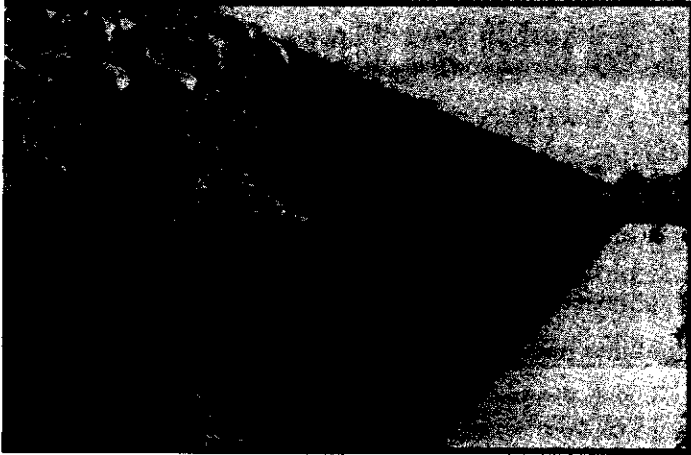


66 Motel in Tulsa on historic Route 66



WPA-era Pocasset Gymnasium in Grady County

Another Tulsa property, the 11th Street Arkansas River Bridge is one of three bridges in Oklahoma listed on the National Register due to association with Route 66. The 11th Street Bridge pre-dates Route 66 by nearly ten years, being constructed in 1916-17. When Route 66 was designated as a U.S. Highway in 1926, the 11th Street Arkansas River Bridge became an official part of the highway. The bridge is significant as the first major multi-span concrete bridge in Oklahoma and for its role in transportation as a major bridge in Tulsa on Route 66. Constructed by the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company, it was altered in 1929 when the original guardrails were replaced with ornate guardrails with an Art Deco zigurat motif. Although no longer in use, the 11th Street Bridge retains a high degree of its engineering and historic integrity.



11th Street Arkansas River Bridge on Route 66 in Tulsa

State Highway 78 Bridge at the Red River and State Highway 79 Bridge at the Red River both span the river between Texas and Oklahoma. The nominations were prepared by the Texas Historical Commission as part of their multiple property nomination concerning Historic Bridges of Texas, 1866-1945. Because the bridges are located in both states and jointly owned by the states, the properties are listed in both Oklahoma and Texas.

State Highway 78 Bridge at the Red River is located in the vicinity of Achille. Constructed in 1937-38 with emergency relief funds, the bridge is significant due to its association with the federal work relief program during the depression. It is also significant for its engineering as an example of a bridge with K-truss through spans and camelback pony spans.

Located in the vicinity of Waurika, State Highway 79 Bridge at the Red River was built in 1939 to replace a toll bridge and provide a more direct route between Wichita Falls, Texas, and Waurika, Oklahoma. The bridge was listed in the National Register due to its engineering significance as a camelback pony truss bridge and for its role in facilitating major economic development in the region.

For more information on these listings, or the National Register of Historic Places, contact the SHPO at (405) 521-6249.

SHPO sets Goal of 1,000 by 2000

As of December 31, 1996, 897 buildings, districts, structures, sites, and objects across Oklahoma were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)'s survey program continually identifies additional properties worthy of this special recognition. Documenting properties for the National Register is one way of preserving information about all aspects of Oklahoma's development and the many cultures that contributed to its growth.

To emphasize the National Register's importance in the statewide preservation program, the SHPO has set a goal of 1,000 National Register entries for Oklahoma by December 31, 2000. The SHPO is calling on its many preservation partners to help reach this goal. For details about preparing National Register nominations, contact Cindy Savage at (405) 522-4478.

National Register Handbook Now Available from SHPO

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the newly revised edition of its National Register Handbook is now available. The publication contains a listing of Oklahoma's 897 National Register entries through December 31, 1996. Also, it contains the National Register criteria, details about the nomination process, and information about what National Register listing means.

To obtain your free copy of Oklahoma's National Register Handbook, contact the SHPO, 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. You may place your order by telephone at (405) 521-6249 or FAX (405) 947-2918.

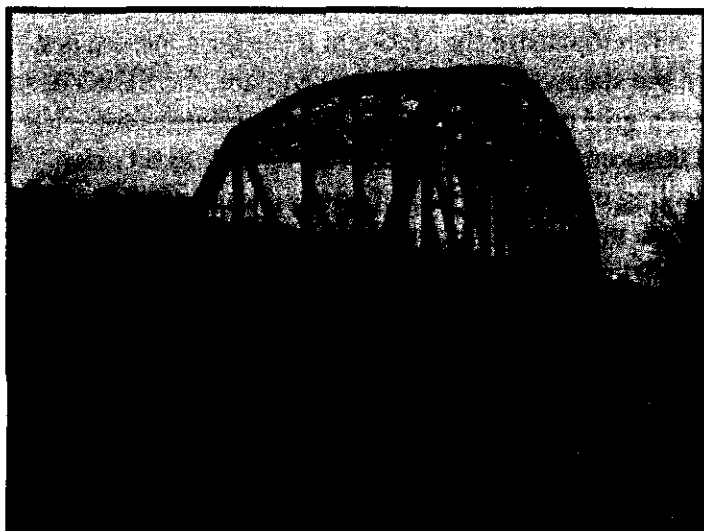
Round II of National Register Nomination Grants Available

The SHPO is offering \$500 matching grants to local governments, Tribal governments, and nonprofits to assist in preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations. The deadline for admission of applications for Round II of the grants program is June 2, 1997.

To obtain an application form and program details, contact the State Historic Preservation Office, 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. You may phone your request to (405) 521-6249, or FAX it to (405) 947-2918.

Bridge on Most Endangered List will be Demolished

Last year, the Neosho River Bridge on Route 66 near Miami was included in Preservation Oklahoma's list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. The bridge is a significant Route 66 landmark, because its opening in 1937 marked the completion of the last link in the paving of the national highway in Oklahoma, which has more miles of Route 66 than any other state, and because it is one of the longest single span truss bridges in the state.



The Neosho River Bridge was the last link in the paving of historic Route 66 in Oklahoma

In response to concern raised by historic preservationists and Route 66 devotees, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) suspended demolition plans to allow advocates for the landmark to find another "private or public group or individual that is willing to assume all maintenance and liability responsibilities for the bridge." Although Mayor Louis Mathia expressed interest in the bridge, the Miami city council opposed ownership, citing liability considerations. Then, the Oklahoma Historical Society offered to assume ownership and liability for the Neosho River Bridge if a local group could be persuaded to assume responsibility for maintenance. Since no local entity from the Miami area came forward to enter into such an arrangement by the time ODOT's deadline passed, preparations have proceeded for demolition.

ODOT, which received the 1995 Shirk Award for Historic Preservation from the Oklahoma Historical

Society, State Historic Preservation Office for producing a statewide survey of historic bridges, has documented the bridge with both full design plans and large format photographs. Now, according to ODOT archaeologist John Hartley, its demolition date is up to the contractor. "It is scheduled for demolition as soon as the new bridge is ready for traffic," said Hartley.

Hartley noted that it is difficult to convince local groups to take on bridges as projects, since their size can raise worries about the ability to provide adequate maintenance.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to present its 1997 series of special events. The June workshops will be held in Tulsa at the Tulsa Urban Development Department located in the Hartford Building at 110 South Hartford Avenue. The workshops will be held in Conference Room A. No fee is required for the workshops, but there is a registration fee for the Statewide Preservation Conference. If you desire to attend any of these events but have a disability and need accommodation, please notify the SHPO at least three (3) days before the event. For more information, call the SHPO staff at (405) 521-6249.

May 1997

8-10 Oklahoma's ninth annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Clinton (Registration Fee)

June 1997

- 25 Architectural/Historic Resources Survey: the Basics (9:30 a.m. - Noon)
- 25 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (1:30 - 5:00 p.m.)
- 26 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- 27 Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30 a.m. - Noon)
- 27 Documenting Historic Properties: the HABS/HAER Programs (1:30 - 5:00 p.m.)

Preservation Community Bulletin Board

Federal Preservation Case Law Report Available

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has announced the publication of *Federal Historic Preservation Case Law, 1966-1996: Thirty Years of the National Historic Preservation Act* as the centerpiece of its commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The report's introductory essay explains the current status of federal historic preservation law, describes the provisions of major preservation authorities, and discusses procedural issues in litigating preservation cases. It continues with 135 chronologically arranged digests of cases decided in federal court since 1966. Extensive footnotes, tables, and a comprehensive subject index enhance the book's value as a reference tool. Single copies are available from the Council at no charge as long as supplies last. Please write: Publications Coordinator, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 809, Washington, D.C. 20004, or e-mail emoss@achp.gov.

Historic Landscape Preservation Workshops

Historic Landscape Preservation Workshops sponsored by the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training will be presented May 1-2 in Omaha, Nebraska (402/221-3373) and June 26-27 in Salt Lake City, Utah (415/663-8522, ext. 245).

Copies of Statewide Preservation Plan still Available

Free copies of the State Historic Preservation Office's Statewide Preservation Plan are still available. This is a valuable tool for those interested in assessing how they or their organization can join effectively in the statewide efforts to promote historic preservation. Call (405) 521-6249.

Have an item for our bulletin board? News, upcoming events, concerns? Call us at (405) 232-5747.

Become a member of the statewide historic preservation network . . .



JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA!

Preservation Oklahoma's mission is to foster the preservation of historic buildings and sites in Oklahoma through advocacy, education, and technical and financial assistance within a statewide network. To join, complete the form below, indicating type of membership desired, and send with payment to: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., P. O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family: \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Club: \$1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner: \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$250.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization: \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$500.00 | |

Preservation Oklahoma News

Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community



The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Preservation Oklahoma News, the newsletter of Oklahoma's historic preservation community, is published quarterly as a joint project of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. and the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

All correspondence, materials, or address changes should be sent to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 25043
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043

Editors: **Robert K. Erwin**
Executive Director
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
(405) 232-5747

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Oklahoma Historical Society
(405) 522-4484

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 25043
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
Permit Number 2579

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., would like to thank Western Farmers Electric Cooperative in Anadarko for its kind donation of the printing of this publication.