



OKLAHOMA NEWS



www.preservationoklahoma.org

www.ok-history.mus.ok.us

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Cities, suburbs & countryside

Whether you live in a city, a suburb, or the countryside, you must not miss Oklahoma's 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

The program features topics such as preserving the recent past, restoration techniques and sources of information, community revitalization assistance programs, rehabilitation case studies, and rural conservation efforts. Concurrent session themes include "Preserving the Recent Past," "Preservation Resources and Recourses," and "Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside."

Events include a downtown walking tour including the Coleman, the city's local main history, Route 66, local Native American heritage, and a longer scenic tour including the Splitlog Church.

There will also be receptions and opportunities to attend the Annual Awards Banquet and Preservation Oklahoma's Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Join us May 8-10, 2003, in Miami, OK. You will find the preservation help, information, and networking opportunities you are looking for.

Conference sponsors include the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma Main Street Center; Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Miami Main Street, Inc.; City of Miami; Friends of the Coleman; Miami Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau; Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College; and the Ottawa County Historical Society.

In addition to an increased number of special guest speakers from across the country, featured

speakers include Doug Loescher, and Carol D. Shull.

Doug Loescher, Assistant Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center will deliver the conference keynote address at 1:45 pm, Friday, May 9. His presentation, *Five Powerful Trends for Main Street*, will highlight the latest information about revitalizing your downtown or commercial centers and neighborhoods. He has been active and pioneered innovative efforts in the fields of urban planning, historic preservation, commercial district revitalization and nonprofit organizational development for the past 20 years.

Carol D. Shull, Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey for the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. She will present *What the National Register Means in the 21st Century* during the annual awards banquet at 7:00 pm on Friday, May 9. She began her career with the National Park Service in 1972 and has worked, written, and lectured extensively in historic preservation since that time.

Full conference registration and program details will be mailed in late March. Be sure to register early. Deadline for registration is May 2, 2003, and please note that all fees increase for registrations postmarked after the deadline. If you have questions contact Melvena Heisch at (405) 522-4484 or mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us or Fay Culver at 918/542-1590 or miamims@onetel.net.

The growing Oklahoma preservation community looks forward to seeing you there.

ATTENTION ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS

Architects and planners who attend Oklahoma's 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference qualify for continuing education credits. Just register for the conference. Special forms to document your attendance will be provided at the conference. Registered architects will earn American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/ CES) Learning Unit Hours (LU Hours) for their attendance. Many of the sessions meet the AIA/ CES Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) criteria. Contact Catherine Montgomery Historic Preservation Architect, SHPO, at 405/522-4479 or catherinem@ok-history.mus.ok.us if you have questions about AIA/CES credits. Planners who attend the conference will earn American Planning Association Continuing Education Credits (CES) at the rate of 8.0 hours for each full day attended and 3.5 hours for the Saturday morning sessions.

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., 120 N. Robinson, Suite 1408, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

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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 financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1972, 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, DC 20240.

HB 1507 and funding for museums, sites and courthouses

The Oklahoma Historical Society was given a \$323,000 budget cut on July 1, 2002, that has been compounded by the two revenue shortfalls, adding another \$650,000 to this cut. This represents more than 10% of their operational budget. The next crisis will be the new budget, expected to be severe cuts in funding ranging from 10-20%.

House Bill 1597 would levy an additional 10 cent fee per \$500 when Oklahomans file warranty deed records. The total amount raised, estimated to be \$1.8 million a year, would be split – half to the restoration of historic county courthouses and half to Oklahoma Historical Society museums and

sites.

So far, the bill has advanced through the Natural Resources Subcommittee and the full Appropriation and Budget Committee with "due pass." It now goes to the full House floor. If approved there, the process starts again in the Senate.

Passage of this bill would lessen the effect of cuts to the Oklahoma Historical Society and possibly create a new source of funding for rehabilitation and improvements to several county courthouses statewide. Hopefully the political support for HB 1597 will continue. We will keep you informed in the next newsletter.

Grants for National Register nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that applications are available for its annual National Register Nominations Grants Program. The deadline is June 2. This is an excellent opportunity to increase National Register listings in Oklahoma, especially in those counties with less than five listings mentioned in the previous newsletter.

The grant funds are from the SHPOs FY 2003 Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior and are for the purpose of retaining a professionally qualified consultant to prepare individual property nominations to the National Register of Historic

Places. The maximum grant amount is \$750.

Applicants must provide a cash match from a non-federal source. The required match for a \$750 grant is \$500. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and local or state government agencies.

To obtain an application contact Shea Otley at (405) 521-6249 or sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us. The application is also available on the SHPO's section of the Oklahoma Historical Society's Web site. Go to www.ok-history.mus.ok.us and click on "Preservation" and then "National Register of Historic Places."

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity.

SHPO offers June workshops

The State Historic Preservation Office will present its workshop series in Checotah June 25-27. Sessions will be held at the Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library, 626 W. Gentry.

Presentations will include the Section 106 Review Process, the National Register of Historic Places, and federal incentives and guidelines for the rehabilitation of historic properties.

There is no registration fee but space is limited and the deadline for registration is 5 pm,

Friday, June 20. To register please call the SHPO at (405) 521-6249 or sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us. Registered architects can qualify for AIA/CES continuing education units for attending these workshops.

If you have any questions about this opportunity, contact Catherine Montgomery at the SHPO at (405) 522-4479 or catherinem@ok-history.mus.ok.us

Oklahoma's built environment

The annual meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society will take place April 24-26, 2003, in Guthrie.

The theme of this year's conference relates to historic preservation and is titled "Tips to Temples: The Built Environment and Oklahomans' Sense of Place." Scheduled lectures and events will take place at the Territorial Inn, State Capital Publishing Museum, Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, and Oklahoma Territorial Museum. A very diverse group of speakers and subjects are

planned for this exciting conference.

Available local tours will include Outlaw/Law Enforcement and historic homes, in addition to "A Capital Feast," silent book auction, exhibit area, luncheon, and awards banquet.

The pre-registration deadline is April 16, 2003. For a schedule of speaker topics, events, and registration please view the March 2003 issue of *Mistletoe Leaves* or contact the Oklahoma Historical Society at (405) 522-5242.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION PROCESS FOR SHPO'S LISTSERVE

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office invites you to subscribe to its listserv. Get the latest information on a wide range of topics such as availability of grants, or share information about your preservation efforts. A new subscription process is now in operation. <http://lists.onenet.net/mailman/listinfo/okshpo> for step-by-step instructions for subscribing and using the listserv.

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Route 66 grant opportunities

Begun in 1926, the 2,400 miles of Route 66 through rural and urban communities connected the country by linking Chicago with Los Angeles. Its national and international travelers have been many and it represents an important part of our shared heritage. In Oklahoma nearly 400 miles stretch from Quapaw to Exola, more Route 66 highway than any other state.

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act was detailed in the January 2002 issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News*. One component is cost-share grants to successful applicants for the preservation and restoration of the most significant and representative properties dating from the route's period of outstanding historical significance, 1926 through 1970.

This grant program is currently accepting applications for the 2003 cycle. The deadline for submission of applications is May 2, 2003. Project eligibility criteria will require a minimum 50% cost-share match provided by the applicant. Applications may be requested at IM_Rt66@nps.gov, or (505) 988-6701 or online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/rt66/grnts/index.htm>

Examples of past projects include State Historic Preservation Office funding to update and

expand an inventory survey of extant historic properties associated with Route 66. The project includes the preparation of National Register nominations for select properties, and the development of a historic context statement. Funds were also used to document and map Route 66 roadbeds, and develop priorities and methodologies for the management and treatment of historic roadbed segments in partnership with the Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

Funding was awarded to the Rock Cafe in Stroud through a matching sub-grant, used for rehabilitation efforts including a neon sign, masonry, windows, and interior improvements. The cafe was built in 1939 and listed on the National Register in 2001, and is open for business.

Last year, a smaller grant was awarded and matched by the property owner for a restoration feasibility and cost estimate study for the 1930s Phillips Gas Station in Chandler. The station originally opened in 1930, and operated as a gas station until 1992.

Don't forget that one day of the upcoming conference in Miami will focus on Route 66 resources and their preservation, including a presentation on this program!

This grant program is currently accepting applications for the 2003 cycle. The deadline for submission of applications is May 2, 2003.



The Coleman Theatre in Miami, OK.

Hampton Inns help with clean-up

In August 2002, volunteers from Tulsa-area Hampton Inns and the Oklahoma Route 66 Association participated in cleaning up the Blue Whale of Catoosa and installing a marker on the site.

The 80-foot attraction sits on the edge of a swimming pond and small park off of Route 66.

Volunteers washed the whale, supplied the surrounding area with new plumbing, new paint, and new landscaping.

To learn more about the "Explore the Highway with Hampton, Save a Landmark" program go to <http://www.hamptoninn.com/en/hp/promotions/explorehighway/>

Oklahoma Route 66 Association

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is a non-profit group of volunteers dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Route 66. The Association produces at least one cruise a year along the Mother Road, quarterly newsletter, and Route 66 trip guide. Success stories, Web links, and additional history and information can be found at www.oklahomaroute66.com *Check it out!*

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UPCOMING

The planned schedule for **Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties slide presentation lectures and exhibit** are as follows. Please check the Web site or call (405) 232-5747 for updates.

- **July 17, noon, Oklahoma City, Ralph Ellison Library.** Cynthia Savage will speak on the "Rosenwald Fund in Oklahoma." Eastside Capitol Gateway Main Street co-sponsor.
- **August 18, 7:00 pm, Blackwell, Chamber of Commerce.** Dr. Bill Corbett will present "Stalag Sooner: WWII POW Camps in Oklahoma." Blackwell Chamber of Commerce co-sponsor.
- **September 15, 7:00 pm, Duncan, location to be determined.** Megan Brown will speak on "Communities & Historic Preservation." Main Street Duncan, Inc. co-sponsor.
- **October 16, 7:00 pm, Cherokee, Senior Citizens Building.** Arn Henderson will present on "Rural Preservation." Cherokee Main Street co-sponsor.
- **November 17, 7:00 pm, Clinton, Route 66 Museum.** Dr. Michael Cassity will present on "Route 66 in Western Oklahoma." Route 66 Museum co-sponsor.
- **December 15, 7:00 pm, Broken Bow, Public Library.** Dr. Cathy Ambler will present on "Community History & Identity." Main Street Broken Bow co-sponsor.

Oklahoma's most endangered historic properties unveiled

In an event at the Church at Edmond recently, the 2003 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties was unveiled. The list is a joint project between Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., and the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

Five new properties were added to the list and six retained from the previous year.

Properties retained from previous years include the Galt-Franklin House in Ardmore; Wheelock Academy near Millerton; Oklahoma's county courthouses statewide; and the Lake Wister Archeological District.

Despite improvements in the preservation outlook for the "gold dome" in Oklahoma City and Lucile's in Hydro, these properties were also kept until more information on their future use is confirmed.

New to the list is the Hopewell Baptist Church in Edmond; Friends Church in Cherokee; and the WPA Armory in Claremore.

The Saline District Courthouse near Rose and the Rosenwald Hall in Lima are also considered new properties added to the list, although they have been on and off the "watch list" during the past decade.

The Bruce Goff-designed former Hopewell Baptist Church was recently added to the National Register and the current congregation has begun a large fund-raising effort for its future rehabilitation. Go to <http://www.goff-hopewell.com> for more information.

The Friends Church in Cherokee will be abandoned by its congregation for a modern

facility. Its unique construction and intact stained glass windows make it a desirable property for sale, hopefully avoiding future demolition.

The WPA-built Armory in Claremore is threatened with an exchange by the city to a local bank whose plans include demolition for a parking lot, although it is structurally sound and currently in use.

The Saline District Courthouse of the Cherokee Nation is threatened with vandalism, fire, and general deterioration. Its attractive location makes the potential for heritage tourism desired.

Rosenwald Hall in Lima is the best remaining example of the nearly 200 Rosenwald Schools once standing in Oklahoma, local community efforts hope to be assisted by this unique history.

The endangered list is determined largely from citizen nomination; the next forms for the 2004 list will be available in the October 2003 issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News*.

Several properties nominated recently made the watch list maintained by Preservation Oklahoma as well, including the Ritz Theatre in Shawnee; Old North Tower in Edmond; St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Krebs; and the WPA-built Gate School.

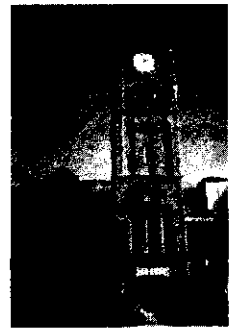
For a complete list of properties on the watch list, more information on the endangered list, and to keep informed on monthly events concerning the exhibit and lecture series go to www.preservationoklahoma.org or call (405) 232-5747.



The Greer County Courthouse in Mangum



Rosenwald Hall in Lima



Old North Tower, Edmond

Endangered properties update

Several listings were removed from the endangered list due to their improved preservation situation and outlook; these successes were highlighted in the January 2003 newsletter.

While no properties on the most endangered list faced demolition this past year, three other buildings were lost recently, including Claude's grocery store in downtown Hominy.

Located in a downtown brick commercial property, this building was burned by firefighters to make room for a parking lot that will serve the new grocery store nearby. Gone in the blaze are two Native American-themed murals painted by Cha Tullis. This is not the first time some of this art has been lost due to the destruction of historic buildings.

Arson is suspected in the gutting of the 1900s

stone and brick two-story Huber Hotel in Apache early in the year.

Also, the Board of Atoka County Commissioners approved the demolition of the WPA-built and National Register-listed Community Building in Atoka. The stone structure was torn down despite local citizen efforts to reach an alternative. The property was being used as a Sheriff's office until its demolition and was structurally sound, but was removed for a modern prison facility near the courthouse.

Of the eleven properties in Atoka on the National Register, four have been demolished, including the Old Atoka County Courthouse.

If you know of an endangered historic property please contact Preservation Oklahoma for directions of assistance.

The National Park Service in Oklahoma

The National Park Service (NPS) is a unit of the Department of the Interior. It is charged with the protection and interpretation of some of our nation's most important natural, cultural, and historical sites.

Among the many programs administered by the NPS in Oklahoma are three sites that demonstrate the range of properties that the Park Service maintains: Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the Washita Battlefield Site, and the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Water has always been the attraction at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA). Fearing that local springs near Sulphur might suffer from uncontrolled use, in 1902, the Chickasaw Nation worked with the federal government to protect the springs from encroachment and development. Shortly after, the area was named Platt National Park in honor of Senator Orville Platt.

During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) implemented a landscape master plan, building pavilions and camping amenities, laying out roads and trails, and planting half a million trees and shrubs. In 1976 Platt National Park was combined with Arbuckle Recreation Area and additional lands to create a new National Recreation Area and renamed in honor of the land's longtime inhabitants: the Chickasaws.

Whatever its form, water continues to be the attraction here through springs, streams, and lakes. In addition to recreation, wildlife, and the Travertine Nature Center, there is also historic interest in the park. Much of the CCC-built infrastructure remains, giving Oklahoma one of the best collections of "Park Rustic" style resources in the country. Recently, the offices of the CNRA moved into downtown Sulphur.

The Chickasaw National Recreation Area is one of the oldest NPS units and is one of the most heavily visited parks for its size. The park is currently revising its general management plan for long-term goals and direction.

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site protects and interprets the site of the Southern Cheyenne village of Chief Black Kettle that was attacked by the 7th U.S. Cavalry under Lt. Col. George A. Custer just before dawn on November 27, 1868. The controversial strike was hailed at the time by the military and many civilians as a significant victory aimed at reducing Indian raids on frontier settlements. Washita remains controversial because many Indians and whites labeled Custer's attack a massacre. Black Kettle is still honored as a prominent leader who never ceased striving for peace even though it cost him his life.

This battlefield, located near Cheyenne in Roger Mills County, became a National Historic Landmark in 1966 and a National Historic Site in 1996. The Black Kettle Museum which serves as a visitors center in Cheyenne recently reopened and implementation of a completed master plan will begin in coming years.

The Oklahoma City National Memorial honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all that were changed forever on April 19, 1995. The Memorial

encompasses 3.3 acres in downtown Oklahoma City on the site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The Gates of Time, Reflecting Pool, a Children's Area, memorial fence, and the "Survivor Tree" are some of the features of remembrance found here.

The National Memorial Center and the Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism are additional components. The Memorial Center museum charges an admission and is separate from NPS funding but worth experiencing.

In addition to these sites, the Park Service's Long Distance Trails office oversees a number of other programs that touch Oklahoma. The Trail of Tears and Santa Fe Trail were declared National Historic Trails in 1987 and the Historic Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act was signed into law in 1999.

The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail commemorates the removal of the Cherokee and the paths that 17 Cherokee detachments followed westward. Today the trail encompasses about 2,200 miles of land and water routes, and traverses portions of nine states, ending in Oklahoma. NPS, in partnership with other federal agencies, state and local agencies, non-profit organizations, and private landowners, administers the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The Trail of Tears Association is a major partner with the National Park Service. The association is a national organization dedicated to the preservation, public awareness, and appreciation of the Trail of Tears.

The Cherokee National Museum in Tahlequah has a modern, interactive, and very well done exhibit recently completed with NPS funding and assistance interpreting this chapter in history. <http://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm>

The Santa Fe National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service in partnership with other federal, state, and local agencies; non-profit organizations; and private landowners in five states. The Santa Fe Trail Association is a major partner with the National Park Service. The association is a national organization dedicated to the preservation, public awareness, and appreciation of the Santa Fe Trail.

The Cimarron Route goes through portions of Cimarron County with local and state historical markers identifying portions of the trail. <http://www.nps.gov/safe/index.htm>

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, Oklahoma is traversed by more miles of historic Route 66 than any other state. NPS has provided funding for a number of studies that highlight the cultural and historical elements of this storied road.

There are also several National Park Service sites bordering Oklahoma including Fort Smith National Historic Site in Arkansas, and the George Washington Carver National Monument, Pea Ridge National Military Park, and the Capulin Volcano National Monument all within an hour's drive of various Oklahoma state lines. Please consult the map at <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/parksearch/state/usamap.cfm> to "Experience Your America."

EVENTS

APRIL

- 14-16 National Preservation Institute, Section 106: An Introduction, Austin, TX (703) 765-0100 www.npi.org
- 24-26 6th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium, Annapolis, MD; "Managing Conflict & Conservation in Historic Cities: Integrating Conservation with Tourism, Development & Politics." <http://www.icomos.org/usicomos/>
- 24-26 Oklahoma Historical Society annual meeting, Guthrie Masonic Temple Center, (405) 521-2491

MAY

- 8-10 Oklahoma's 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Miami, OK (form will be mailed soon)

JUNE

- 21-26 Fifth World Archeological Congress, Washington, DC, www.american.edu/wac5
- 25-27 State Historic Preservation Office Workshops, Checotah, OK. Call (405) 521-6249 to register.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

- 30-5 National Preservation Conference, Denver, CO (800) 944-6847 www.nthpconference.org
This will be the closest this premiere conference will be to Oklahoma in several years. Please contact Preservation Oklahoma if you plan on attending.

Recent Donations

\$ 15 Senior/Student

Kathleen Settle, *Muskogee*
Nedra Jones, *OKC*
Don Odom, *Guthrie*

\$ 25 Individual/Family

John & Melvena Heisch, *OKC*
Donald & Roberta Whitney, *Edmond*
Mr. and Mrs. Eckroat, *Jones (2 years)*
Richard & Katie Ryan, *Frederick*
Eugene Earsom, *OKC*
Carmen Buller, *McAlester*
Albert & Nancy Hurley, *Wagoner*
Larry Brown, *Albuquerque, NM*
Adrienne Grimmitt, *Pauls Valley (2 years)*
Linda Stinnett, *OKC*
Allen County Public Library, *Fort Wayne, IN*
Don Dycus, *Norman*
Sandra Melson, *OKC*
Caroline Patton, *Stillwater*
Claude & Edna Havens, *Bartlesville*
Elizabeth Durkee, *Ponca City*

\$ 50 Organization

John McConnel, *Green Country Theatres, Inc., Okmulgee*
Okmulgee Main Street Program, *Okmulgee*
Williams Company Foundation, *Tulsa (employer matching grant)*
Circle Cinema, *Tulsa*
Oolagah Historical Society, *Oolagah*
Founders' Place Historical District, Inc., *Muskogee*
Society for Revitalization of Downtown *Shawnee, Shawnee*
Vivid Peevey, *Cleveland*
Karen Collier, *OKC*

\$100 Sponsor

Phil Kliewer, *Cordell*
John Yoeckel, *OKC*
City of Pawnee, *Pawnee*
Harold Hite, *OKC*
Schwerdt Design Group, Inc., *OKC*
Richard & Ann Crump, *Miami*
Paul Meyer Architects, *OKC*

\$ 250 Patron

Dave Huey, *Tulsa*

**Have you renewed
your membership
for 2003?**

Please do so upon first mailed notice.

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Great American House awards

It's time to enter your home renovation or addition in the 2003 Great American House Awards, presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Old-House Journal.

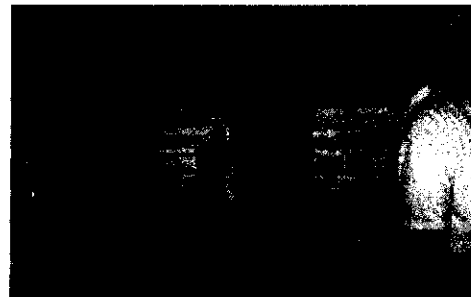
Established in 1989, the contest honors homeowners and professionals for their dedication to the ideals of preservation, as well as for their commitment to excellence in rehabilitating old houses. There are various award categories and numerous reasons for entering.

Deadline is May 30, 2003. More information and entry forms can be found at www.oldhousejournal.com or by calling 1 (800) 315-6847.

Also, don't forget that the next National Preservation Conference is in Denver Sept. 30-Oct. 5, 2003. This is the closest this conference has been and will be to Oklahoma in several years so mark your calendar now. Pre-registration forms

and more information will be available in June.

The theme will be "New Frontiers in Preservation." To request more information, please go to <http://www.nthpconference.org/>, conference@nthp.org or 1 (800) 944-6847.



"Preserving Memory" exhibit

The efforts of Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS!) continue. "Preserving Memory: America's Monumental Legacy" is a traveling exhibition that features public sculpture and monuments. It is currently scheduled for 42 venues all over the country through 2004, including Cleveland, Austin, Atlanta, and Cherokee, OK.

Beginning May 3 a portion of the exhibit will be on display at the Alfalfa County Courthouse for roughly a month. Intended for visitors of all ages, the exhibit forwards discussion on American commemoration through sculpture and steps for this preservation. The sculpture of a WWI doughboy in Cherokee was unusual with its detail but not the ravages of weather and time many of these properties face. The Alfalfa County Courthouse Improvement and Preservation Committee raised money and public awareness throughout the assessment and conservation process for a rededication ceremony on Veterans Day, 2002.



The sculpture was gently washed and the original left hand and rifle were reattached, the granite was cleaned and a final hot wax coating applied as protectant for the bronze.

Go see the restored sculpture and exhibit for yourself. SOS! is one of many programs found at www.heritagepreservation.org

Friends Church in Cherokee, OK is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Oklahoma Museums Association active

The Oklahoma Museums Association is one of the most active state museum associations in the country and one of only eight with full-time paid staff. OMA has over 380 individual, institutional and corporate members. Its offices are located at the Kirkpatrick Science and Air Space Museum at Omniplex in Oklahoma City.

Among other funding sources, membership is crucial and provides various benefits whether individual, institutional, or corporate.

The next annual fall conference of the Oklahoma Museums Association will be in Duncan, September 17-19, 2003. This offers a great opportunity to network with other museum professionals, attend educational sessions, and locate additional assistance.

The Association also has information on training workshops, job announcements, and membership directory among additional resources. Go to www.okmuseums.org for more information and get your museum involved in the statewide community if they are not already.

If you have already had "Oklahoma's Most Endangered Properties" exhibit and lecture series in your community, the range and variety of traveling exhibits offered through the Oklahoma Museums Association is amazing. These exhibits are extremely well done and thought provoking, and an excellent tool to forward discussion on our shared Oklahoma heritage, history, and historic preservation and its relevance to your specific location. Go to www.okmuseums.org/exhi.html

"Preserve America" initiative

On March 3 First Lady Laura Bush announced a new historic preservation initiative during a speech at the National Association of Counties legislative conference.

The initiative, called "Preserve America," will encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's natural and cultural heritage. Preserve America includes awards to individuals and communities to acknowledge exemplary accomplishments in preserving cultural and natural assets.

The announcement includes the unveiling of an Executive Order reinforcing and strengthening federal agency requirements to be good stewards of historic assets, with an emphasis on adaptive use and participation in heritage tourism.

The solid support of the First Lady in this effort is an exciting development for the preservation movement. Hopefully, her commitment will provide continued visibility for cultural heritage issues. www.preserveamerica.gov

Endowment heading toward goal

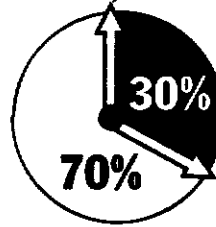
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is nearly a third of the way towards its goal of raising \$10,000 by October 1, 2003 to begin an endowment with the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. We would like to say "thank you" to all who have contributed thus far (at right) and encourage others to do so as well.

The endowment was further explained in the previous newsletter issue. Remember that your contribution is doubled – thanks to a generous donation by the Kirkpatrick Family Fund to begin this designated endowment fund.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Southwest Office, recently donated in honor of Preservation Oklahoma's Field Service to Oklahomans. An endowment fund would allow us to continue this valuable work across the state with a stable secure funding source.

Please contact Preservation Oklahoma for more information or mail your fully tax-deductible contribution made payable to: OKC Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1146, OKC, OK, 73101-1446 with "Preservation Oklahoma Endowment" written in the memo line.

Oct. 1, 2003



The time is now!

Contributions to the Endowment Fund

- \$1000 National Trust for Historic Preservation, Southwest Office
- \$500 Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Sias
- \$250 Mr. Phil Kliewer
- \$250 Kim & Suzette Hatfield
- \$100 Ms. Mary W. Athens
- \$100 Elliott + Associates Architects on behalf of Rand Elliott
- \$100 Mr. Jerry L. Worster
- \$100 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ferrell in memory of Susan Ferrell
- \$100 Ms. Anna Eddings
- \$100 Mr. Konrad Keesee, Keesee & Co., Inc.
- \$100 Beth Tolbert
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Pawnee, Tahlequah added to Oklahoma Main Street Program

Pawnee is home to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, The Pawnee Nation, the Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum and the county seat of Pawnee County, all of which contribute to the community's stable economy. Ignited by previous successes and awards, Pawnee completed DesignWorks, an intense workshop that provides communities an opportunity to learn about the importance of design in the appearance of their towns.

Since then, Pawnee has raised funds to refurbish the local WPA bathhouse, upgraded railroad crossings, repaved 14 blocks with 25 more blocks scheduled to be repaved this summer, and built a new skate park on a vacant lot in the downtown area. Pawnee has shown it has a diverse group of interested and active citizens who want to see the community continue to improve and experience managed growth.

Previously a participating community from 1986 to 1989, Tahlequah's downtown merchants and property owners, the City of Tahlequah and the Cherokee Nation, all have a renewed dedication to the importance of a strong central business district and believe now is the time to rejoin the program. Tahlequah Team 2000 was created by people from business, civic, education, religious and government groups, to plan the long-term health of the downtown area, ready to adhere to the Four-Point Main Street Approach.

Historically, Northeastern State University and the Cherokee Nation have been responsible for the majority of Tahlequah's job creation and economic impact. There has been a strong growth in the retail, health and medical service sectors along with real estate, financial services, and recreational opportunities and tourism.

Secretary of Commerce and Tourism Kathryn Taylor announced that Pawnee and Tahlequah have been named as Oklahoma's 2003 Main Street Communities. The Oklahoma Main Street program is a comprehensive revitalization program that provides communities with tools to improve their historic central and neighborhood business district areas. In praising the results of the program, Taylor said the approach creates a "total image" for a business district.

"As the Oklahoma Main Street Program begins its 18th year of success, to date, it has generated over \$345 million in public and private investment, created more than 8,000 new jobs and helped in the development of more than 2,500 new or expanded small businesses," said Taylor. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce operates the program.

Oklahoma Main Street Center State Director Linda Stinnett said the newly designated Main Street communities will receive technical and design assistance from the Oklahoma Main Street Center staff. "Pawnee and Tahlequah will also receive leadership training for their program managers and boards of directors, as well as training in organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring," said Stinnett. Each community is responsible for raising its own operating budget.

For more information about the Oklahoma Main Street Program, please contact the Oklahoma Main Street Center at (405) 815-5171 or go to www.oklahomamainstreet.org.



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