

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

NHPA
CELEBRATING
40
YEARS
*** OF ***
PRESERVATION



April 2006 Volume XII, No. 3



Franklin Hall, Goodwell

Oklahoma's 2006 Most Endangered Places Unveiled

Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office unveiled the 2006 Most Endangered Historic Places list on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 in a ceremony held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Approximately 125 people attended from all over the state.

This annual list is just a sample of the thousands of landmarks across Oklahoma in need of our attention and protection. This designation has been a powerful tool for raising awareness, and rallying resources. The 2006 list includes:

• **Archaeological Sites, Statewide**

Oklahoma's archaeological resources embody a rich heritage of human experiences and cultural identities. They tell us about people from the past and establish important connections to the present. These sites are threatened by vandalism and looting.

• **Bank of Maramec, Maramec**

Over the years, this structure has been home to several occupants, including the original bank and a US Post Office, which also sold over-the-counter medications and was called the P.O./Pill Shop. The bank is threatened by demolition.

• **Watertower, Boley**

Boley was established in 1903 as a settlement where African-Americans could escape oppression and govern themselves. This water tower is threatened due to a lack of maintenance.

• **Chilocco, Kay County**

Chilocco was an Indian boarding school established to educate children of the nomadic tribes of western Oklahoma. The school grew from one building in 1884 to 35 buildings in 1907. The school is now abandoned and threatened by neglect.

UPDATE: ConocoPhillips, Inc. has contributed \$3000 to the National Chilocco Alumni Association to construct a fence to enclose the cemetery located on the school grounds. Due to years of neglect, only one of the hundreds of graves in the cemetery remains marked. The alumni association intends to have a fence installed during the summer of 2006.

• **Cross S Ranch, Olustee vicinity**

Built of locally quarried limestone by two itinerant Swedes, this property was home to L.Z. Eddleman family. This two story home became the center of area social activities. This property is threatened due to its isolated location.

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Pearl Sale Raises Money for the Overholser

Many thanks to Judy Fox-Goodrich, Buzz Goodrich, and Cecilia and Rick Lane of Fox Lane for sponsoring "Anna's Pearls" show and fund raiser on February 7th at the Overholser Carriage House. Over \$1200 was raised to benefit the Overholser Mansion.

Just in time for Mothers Day and Graduation, Fox Lane will hold another pearl sale on May 8th from 11am to 7pm. And again, a portion of the proceeds will go toward the Overholser Mansion.

Come browse through strands of fresh-water pearls, to fabulous Tahitian pearls the color of candlelight. There is something for everyone: necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and much more.

For more information, call 405/525-5325 or info@preserveok.org



Meg Salyer, Dannie Bea Hightower and Raina Pelofsky enjoy "Anna's Pearls."

Bartlesville: Named Distinctive Destination

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named Bartlesville to its 2006 list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Bartlesville was selected from 93 nominated destinations in 39 states. This honor is the second for Oklahoma. Guthrie was selected in 1994.

Bartlesville joins the following destinations on the 2006 list:

Arrow Rock, Missouri; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Lewes, Delaware; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Monterey, California; Palm Springs, California; Phillipsburg, Montana; Prescott, Arizona; Saranac Lake, New York; Waimea, Kaua'i, Hawaii; West Chester, Pennsylvania.

For more information, please visit www.nationaltrust.org

If you would like to receive email notices regarding preservation related grants, workshops and upcoming events, please forward your email address to:
info@preserveok.org



SAVED WPA Fountain, Mangum

Restoration of the four granite fountains on the courthouse square is complete. The fountains were created from a design by J. R. Willis, civil engineer, and built by the WPA. The fountains had been inoperable for many years before this collaboration of City, County and Mangum Main Street made their renovation a reality.

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

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Statewide Preservation Conference Coming Soon

Just a reminder that May 31 - June 2 are the dates for Preservation Inside and Out: Oklahoma's 18th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

It will be held in Wilburton/Robbers Cave State Park with registration at the Park's Belle Starr View Lodge, 2500 Park Cabin Road.

It's the perfect setting for relaxed interaction among conference participants. So, plan to wear your jeans and walking shoes and get in the spirit of this year's program.

The agenda features three concurrent tracks with an emphasis on historic landscapes, recreational resources, heritage tourism, and community preservation program development. Tours and other special events round out the agenda.

Over fifty speakers from Oklahoma and across the country will participate, and some of the program highlights include:

Parks, Politics, and the People: A National Overview of the CCC/NPS State Park Collaboration (Wednesday, May 31 in Track A): James W. Steely, Senior Historical Consultant, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Phoenix, AZ, will deliver this

highly illustrated presentation based on his recent book.

Developing a Comprehensive Fundraising Strategy (Thursday, June 1 in Track B): Sheri Stuart, Program Officer, National Trust Main Street Center, Burien, WA, will conduct this half-day workshop on one of the most critical issues facing local preservation efforts. The Oklahoma Main Street Center is responsible for making this special session possible.

Keynote Session (Thursday, June 1): Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., will deliver the keynote address entitled **Change, Continuity and Civic Ambition: Preserving America's Cultural Landscapes.**

Advocacy Workshop for Historic Preservation Leaders (Thursday, June 1 in Track B): Emily Wadhams, Vice President for Public Policy, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D. C., will conduct this workshop designed to help preservation leaders increase their capacity to work effectively

with elected officials.

Also, she will be Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s annual luncheon speaker that day.

Effective Design Review in Local Historic Districts

(Friday, June 2 in Track B): Jack Williams, Hoshide Williams Architects, Seattle, WA, representing the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, will conduct a half-day workshop on design review issues facing local historic district commissions and city staff, including district designations, consistent application of design guidelines, and much more.

That afternoon he will facilitate a roundtable discussion of specific design review cases that have come before local commissions. Bring your own examples and plan to participate in the exchange.



Charles A. Birnbaum,
Keynote Speaker

SHPO Announces May Workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce its May workshop series.

The sessions will be held May 10-12 in the Bartlett-Carnegie Public Library, 27 West Dewey, Sapulpa, OK.

The workshops are free and open to the public, but we ask that you register by 5:00 pm, Wednesday, May 3. To register contact Shea Otley at 405/521-6249 or sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Registered architects who attend these workshops can earn American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning unit hours. Many of the sessions meet the AIA/CES Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) criteria. For further details about the credits, contact Catherine Montgomery, Historic Preservation Architect, at 405/522-4479 or catherinem@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

If you have questions about any of the workshops, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

May Workshop Schedule

May 10 (9:30am-12:00noon)

The Section 106 Review Process:
Introduction and Overview

May 10 (1:30pm-5:00pm)

Determination of Eligibility under Section 106

May 11 (9:30am-12:00noon)

Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating
Historic Buildings

May 11 (1:30pm-5:00pm)

Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

May 12 (9:30am-5:00pm)

Working with the National Register of
Historic Places

NHPA Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The National Historic Preservation Act turns forty in October 2006, and preservationists across the country will focus special attention on the many ways it has fostered the identification and treatment of the buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects significant in our past.

Federal, state, tribal, and local governments all rely on the Act as the foundation for their preservation programs.

For example, the Act established the National Register of Historic Places, State Historic Preservation Offices, the Historic Preservation Fund, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and, in subsequent amendments, the Certified Local Governments Program and Tribal Historic Preservation Program.

It is particularly appropriate at this time to reflect on the purpose of the Act and to consider its impact on preservation efforts across Oklahoma. The Act states:

Section 1 (16 U.S.C. 470) Purpose of the Act

(b) The Congress finds and declares that (1) the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage;

(2) the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and



heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans; (5) in the face of ever-increasing extensions of urban centers, highways, and residential, commercial, and industrial developments, the present governmental and nongovernmental historic preservation programs and activities are inadequate to insure future generations a genuine opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the rich heritage of our Nation; (6) the increased knowledge of our historic resources, the establishment of better means of identifying and administering

development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people; (3) historic properties significant to the Nation's heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency; (4) the preservation of this irreplaceable

them, and the encouragement of their preservation will improve the planning and execution of Federal and federally assisted projects and will assist economic growth and development; and (7) although the major burdens of historic preservation have been borne and major efforts initiated by private agencies and individuals, and both should continue to play a vital role, it is nevertheless necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to accelerate its historic preservation programs and activities, to give maximum encouragement to agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means, and to assist State and local governments and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities.

Watch Preservation Oklahoma News and other preservation publications throughout the year for information about accomplishments under the Act.

Also, visit the special website established by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers to celebrate the anniversary at www.nhpa40.org.

National Register Nomination Grants, Round 2

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reminds readers about its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations.

The SHPO reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2006 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior for award in two grant rounds.

Applications and detailed instructions are available from the SHPO.

The deadline for Round 2 applications is 5:00pm on June 1. Each grant is limited to \$900.00, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$600.00.

Grant recipients will use the funds to retain an appropriately qualified professional to complete preparation of an individual

property nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the catalogue of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past.

While listing in the National Register is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, it is one of the most important components of the preservation strategy for any significant property.

The designation provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal and state tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded.

To obtain a National Register Nomination Grant Application or further information about the National Register, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or visit our website at www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/shpo/shpom/htm
Go to programs and follow the menu to the National Register.

5 Buildings by Harold Gimeno

- Jim Gabbert
Architectural Historian, SHPO

Harold Gimeno was the son of a noted artist, Patricio Gimeno.

Patricio was a professor at the University

of Oklahoma and collaborated as a designer on many of Harold's creations. Educated in music and mathematics at the University of Oklahoma, Harold Gimeno obtained a Masters in Architectural Engineering from Harvard. He returned to Norman to establish his practice around 1925. His works reflect a predilection for designs that reflect his Spanish heritage. Spanish Renaissance and Spanish Colonial Revivals mark the bulk of his work, but he also worked in other popular styles of the 1920s. Throughout his career, Gimeno designed churches, commercial buildings, houses, and even a theater.



Beta Theta Pi House
Norman

Completed in 1929 after two years of construction, this fraternity house was designed in the Renaissance Revival style. Clad in smooth dressed limestone, the three story building is dominated by a full height, rounded portico capped with six large stone urns. The first floor windows are topped by round arched panels featuring cartouches.



Patricio Gimeno House
Norman

Harold Gimeno designed at least nine houses in Norman; one of the most impressive is the house designed for his parents, Patricio and Margaret. The 1927 Spanish Colonial Revival style house juxtaposes rough textured stucco walls with finely molded window and door surrounds. Patricio Gimeno added his own artistry to many of the interior finishes.



Sooner Theater
Norman

The Sooner Theater is another collaborative effort by the Gimenos. Completed in 1929, the Sooner is an atmospheric theater, one that carries its design motif from outside to inside, giving the customer an experience beyond the featured show. The interior features original artwork by Patricio Gimeno on the ceiling beams and wall panels.



Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, Chickasha

The 1926 Holy Name Catholic Church is viewed by some as Harold Gimeno's most beautiful design. The basilica-type church is noted for its beautiful rose window and its sixty foot tall gothic bell tower. Constructed of red brick with limestone highlights, the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church marks Gimeno's largest commission.



Smith & Kernke Funeral Home
Oklahoma City

In 1939, Harold Gimeno designed a new building for Smith & Kernke Funeral Directors. He used a restrained Spanish Colonial Revival design. The smooth, stark white stucco walls are highlighted by a series of round arch windows along the side walls and a large window set on the front, or streetside, façade.

Volunteers Review New Orleans Demolitions

- John R. Calhoun
Planner, City of Oklahoma City

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's February newsletter on hurricane recovery includes: "At the invitation of the City of New Orleans and FEMA, the National Trust and the PRC [Preservation Resource Center] were recently asked to participate in the federally mandated review of demolitions planned of historic structures in the city of New Orleans. As a first step in the process, the National Trust and the PRC used expert volunteers to provide second assessments."

For a week in January, I joined two volunteers from Tennessee, with local volunteers and staff members, to document over 100 properties proposed for demolition within flooded areas of the National Register and local historic districts. We took photos and filled out documentation forms on the exterior condition of each property.

Our conclusion was that over 80% should not be demolished. Most appeared to be structurally sound, or had minor structural problems. Most of the rest had collapsed, or had significant structural damage pre-dating the storms. A few had shifted off their piers and sunk, twisted.

Contrary to common impressions, the Lower 9th Ward was not totally wiped out. About 20% of the city did not flood; these higher elevation areas included most of the French Quarter, the Garden District, and the Audubon Park area. We spent about half our time there, in the Holy Cross His-



toric District, located on high ground next to the Mississippi River, and away from the breaks in the Industrial Canal. Almost all those houses are quite salvageable, and many people were working on them, even though they were allowed to be there only

during the day.

We indeed contributed to the city's recovery. It will take the combined efforts of governments, private organizations, and hundreds of thousands of residents and owners to return the city to full vitality.

The Archeological Conservancy in Oklahoma

- Amy Espinoza-Ar

The Archaeological Conservancy is a national non-profit organization that acquires and protects significant archaeological sites located on private land. We acquired our first property in 1980. In 2005 we celebrated a milestone, 25 years of acquiring and protecting significant archaeological sites on private land. In those 25 years we have accumulated some impressive numbers: 300 sites in 39 states, 24,000 members, 5 regional offices

with a combined national staff of 15. Our staff works closely with landowners, local experts and state archaeologists to develop regional priority lists of sites that are in need of protection and stabilization.

Preserving the past...for the future is our mission. We have protected a wide range of sites, from the earliest human campsites to Civil War battlefields and forts. The Conservancy's properties are available for professional research, public tours, and private ceremonies of the descendent communities. The Conservancy works

with landowners, state agencies, federal agencies, and tribes to develop management strategies to ensure site integrity, security, and research potential. Research conducted on our preserves must follow the guidelines and accepted practices of conservation archaeology. We encourage professional research with an emphasis on non-invasive techniques. One goal in the preservation of these sites is to give advancing and changing technologies of archaeological fieldwork places to test and

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Oklahoma's 2006 Most Endangered Places

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• **Downtown Tulsa**

From its Art Deco buildings to its pedestrian friendly storefronts, Historic Downtown Tulsa is both a reflection of its community's history and of its growth. Downtown Tulsa is threatened due to demolition and subsequent development.

• **Former Pawnee Indian Health Center, Pawnee**

The former Pawnee Indian Health Center was constructed to administer to the health and welfare of several American Indian tribes. The Center is threatened by demolition because of the completion of a replacement facility.

• **Franklin Hall, Goodwell**

The oldest building on the Oklahoma Panhandle State University campus, this dormitory was built by area residents as a community project. Franklin Hall lacks the funds for renovation.

• **Masonic Lodge #157, Tonkawa**

This Masonic Temple and its members played an important role in the history of Tonkawa. In 1905, the members helped lay the cornerstone of the Northern Oklahoma College. This 18,000 square foot temple contains original furnishings, complete with a 184 light ceiling. A lack of maintenance threatens this community landmark.

• **Mid-Century Architecture, Statewide**

From the glass walled office buildings, to the geodesic domes, to the everyday split level, 20th century architecture represents the achievements of our recent history. This portion of our architectural history is often overlooked and undervalued.

• **Route 66, from Miami to Sayre**

Oklahoma has nearly 400 miles of Route 66, more miles of original road than any other state. This American legend, its towns and attractions, however, are vanishing due to the construction of new, adjacent highways.

• **Stag Bar, Ardmore**

The Stag Bar is the oldest remaining building in Ardmore. Its rich past speaks to the history of a resilient business which catered to a colorful assortment of Ardmore citizens and visitors. This downtown building is quickly deteriorating.

• **Wheelock Academy, Millerton**

Wheelock Academy was founded shortly after the forced migration known as the Trail of Tears. Here, two New England missionaries developed a sophisticated educational program. Years of weather damage threaten this National Landmark.

The Archeological Conservancy

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develop new field methods, and to push the envelope of research questions at sites with intact deposits. Another purpose of preservation is to give the descendent communities an active role in the management strategies of ancestral lands and access to places of sacred and historical importance.

To date we have acquired three sites in Oklahoma; the Grobin Davis Mound Complex, the Alford Mound Site, and the

Burnham Site. The Grobin Davis Complex is the largest and best preserved prehistoric Caddoan civic-religious center in the Little River Basin. Radiocarbon dates range between A.D. 1280-A.D. 1400. The Alford Mound Site is a Fourche Maline habitation site along the Fourche Maline Creek near Red Oak and dates to a period between 250 B.C. and A.D. 100. The Burnham site is near the Kansas-Oklahoma border near Freedom. Tools from this site have been dated to roughly 40,000 B.P., making them some of the oldest man-made objects known to date.

Along with the Roy Alford family, The Conservancy is a proud recipient of the State Historic Preservation Officer's Citation of Merit for 2006. We are

grateful for the support we receive from all the archaeologists at the universities, survey stations, and state agencies in Oklahoma and look forward to the award banquet to celebrate our success with everyone who contributed to our efforts. In addition we have had the opportunity to work with some fantastic landowners whose commitment to archaeological preservation is the foundation of our work. We look forward to future collaborations with the professional and avocational experts and citizens of Oklahoma to protect and preserve even more of the state's unique prehistory and to sharing more about our work in our presentation at Oklahoma's 18th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference on May 31.



SAT Grant Aids Fort Reno

Historic Fort Reno, Inc. received a 2004 Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant from the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for restoration of several buildings in the nationally significant Fort Reno Historic District. The exterior restoration of the Officers Duplex (Building 6) was the first of the projects undertaken and was completed in February 2006.

Miller Architects, Inc. of Oklahoma City designed the restoration project, and the work was executed by R. D. Sumner, Inc., of El Reno. Project work included installation of a new roof, foundation stabilization, restoration of eaves and doors, replication of several historic windows, re-screening the front porch, replacement of about 25% of the historic wood siding, painting, adding copper guttering and downspouts, and hazardous

materials abatement.

Since 1948, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has had management responsibility for the 6,740 acres of land and facilities that were once the property of the U.S. Army and carried out important research on grazing lands. With the demands of their scientific mission and limited budget, USDA could not restore many of the historic military buildings and make them available to the public. The agency encouraged formation of Historic Fort Reno, Inc. which was incorporated in 2000 as a non-profit (501c3) corporation. Its purposes are to increase awareness of Fort Reno's significance, conduct educational events to interpret the fort's history, operate the Fort Reno Visitors Center, and secure funding for the preservation of the remaining buildings associated with the

historic military post.

The USDA/Historic Fort Reno, Inc. is another excellent example of a public/private partnership working to preserve Oklahoma's heritage. USDA funded rehabilitation of the historic building that houses the Fort Reno Visitors Center and provides other financial assistance. The agency has authorized the nonprofit to raise funding and help manage the Fort Reno Historic District, a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Fort Reno, Inc. has identified the Commander's Quarters as its next priority. The organization is engaged in fundraising activities to generate the required nonfederal match so it can utilize the remaining amount of the SAT grant.

For more information about the organization and its work visit www.fortreno.org.