

# PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

*A joint project of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma*



April 2009    Volume XV    No. 3



Buffalo Skull in Undisclosed Location, Statewide  
Photograph: Oklahoma SHPO



Archaeological Site Artifact, Statewide  
Photograph: Scott Lancaster, Museum of the Red River



Kerfoot Building, El Reno  
Photograph: Astrid Lee



Blanchard City Hall, Blanchard  
Photograph: Reah Gail Broyles

## Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2009 Announced

On February 18, 2009, Preservation Oklahoma announced the 16th Annual Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places at the historic First United Methodist Church in Guthrie. Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places list is just a sample of landmarks across Oklahoma in desperate need of attention and funding.

This annual list was established as a way to bring public attention to Oklahoma's rich and diverse historic resources. Although the list does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, the designation serves as an alarm to raise awareness of the serious threats facing Oklahoma's historic places. The list is a powerful tool for rallying resources to save these endangered places.

The 2009 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places list includes:

### **Archeological Sites** *Statewide*

Oklahoma's archeological 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 artifacts can be found

everywhere, from a backyard to a freshly plowed field, making them particularly vulnerable to looters.

### **Historic Downtowns** *Statewide*

Oklahoma historic downtowns are threatened by abandonment, neglect, and vandalism. Examples of threatened places in Oklahoma downtowns include the historic City Hall, Blanchard; and the Wright Building and Kerfoot Building, El Reno.

### **Historic Grain Elevators** *Statewide*

The wonderful historic grain elevators are symbols of the agricultural economy so important in Oklahoma. They have intriguing vernacular architecture with a charm that is somewhat magical and so much a part of the agricultural culture of Oklahoma. These structures are being lost to neglect and demolition.

### **Mid-Century Modern Architecture** *Statewide*

*Mid-Century Modern* architecture is a term used to describe post-war

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## Oklahoma's 21st Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

Reaching the Summit: Oklahoma's 21st Annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held June 3-5, 2009, and full registration details will be available in the next few weeks. Plan to join us at Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center for the event. The location provides the perfect opportunity for learning about

the landscape and heritage of southwest Oklahoma, as well as national, state, and local preservation mountains to climb and how to conquer them.

The conference program features three concurrent tracks of sessions including:  
**TRACK A: Preservation Base Camp,**

**TRACK B: Preservationscape,** and  
**TRACK C: Peak Performance in Preservation.** Special events include half-day tours to Altus, Hobart, Mangum, and Sayre; the opening reception; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s annual meeting and luncheon; and the SHPO's annual awards banquet. *Continued on Page 4*

# Still Time to Comment on the Preliminary Draft of the Statewide Preservation Plan

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office invites you to review and comment on the preliminary draft of *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (2010)*. It is now available on the SHPO's website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm> (see Draft 2010 State Plan in PDF) or in hard copy upon request (see contact information below). The SHPO will consider all comments received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, as we develop the second draft of the document.

The preliminary draft reflects the input provided to the SHPO from a variety of sources, including a needs assessment, public meeting, roundtable discussion among public agency representatives and preservation professionals, the Historic Preservation Review Committee, and the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors Historic Preservation Committee. We hope that you will continue your participation in the process by sharing your thoughts and suggestions with us. As mentioned above, we will consider your comments as we develop the second draft which will be available in early June 2009. Once comments are received and considered on the

second draft and National Park Service final approval is received, we will publish the updated State Plan and make it widely available by January 1, 2010. The new edition of the State Plan will be in effect through December 2014.

We greatly appreciate the time and thoughtful participation of everyone who has helped with our process so far. The response to our requests for input was extraordinary, and we have made every effort to incorporate as many of the ideas presented as possible. We sincerely want the State Plan to accurately reflect the goals of Oklahoma's entire preservation community, and we look forward to hearing from you by April 15th.

If you may have any questions or wish to request a hard copy of the preliminary draft State Plan, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914, or at [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org) or 405/522-4484.

## National Register Nomination Grants Round 2 Deadline Reminder

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting applications for 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 2009 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 5:00 p.m. on June 1.

Each grant is limited to \$1,000.00 and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700.00. 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 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 and instructions, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or visit our website at: [www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm).

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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# Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2009 Announced

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structures built from about 1945 to 1965. Examples of mid-century modern architecture include the YMCA Downtown Tulsa and the Ponca Savings and Loan building in Tulsa.

## Midtown Tulsa *Tulsa*

"McMansions." "Trophy Homes." "Plywood Palaces." Whatever the name, these "super-sized" new homes are replacing the historic homes of Midtown Tulsa. This national trend, combined with commercial encroachment on Midtown's fringes, threatens the character of this neighborhood.

## Nickel Home *Alva*

Gracing the top of Locust Street in Alva, the Nickel-McClure Mansion was first known as "Buena Vista" and truly deserves the title. After sitting vacant for several years the original clay tile roof leaked causing water damage throughout much of the home.

## Places of Worship *Statewide*

Faced with declining membership and dwindling revenue, churches across our state are being forced to make a difficult decision: Do they abandon their historic sanctuaries for uninspiring metal buildings on the

outskirts of town or do they simply close their doors?

## Route 66 Resources *Statewide*

Mom-and-pop motor courts, tourist cabins, restaurants and neon signs are all part of the legacy of the Route 66 structures that sprang up in the 1920s. Today, many have gone out of business and suffer the indignity of abandonment.

## Rural Cemeteries *Statewide*

Throughout Oklahoma cemetery grave markers line up gently rolling hillsides or open prairies,

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Historic Grain Elevator, Northwestern Oklahoma  
Photograph: Susie Koontz



Historic Grain Elevator, Ingersoll  
Photograph: Susie Koontz



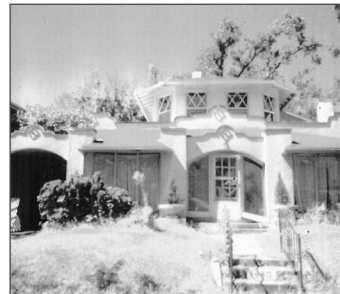
Salvation Army Building, Oklahoma City  
Photograph: Lynda B. Schwan



Ponca Savings and Loan, Tulsa  
Photograph: Cathy Ambler



Mid-town Empty Lot resulting from "Tear Down", Tulsa  
Photograph: Cherie Cook



Mid-town Home, Tulsa  
Photograph: Connie Desai



Nickel Mansion Entry, Alva  
Photograph: Brad Wilson



Nickel Mansion Exterior, Alva  
Photograph: Brad Wilson



First United Methodist Church, Guthrie  
Photograph: Jimalea Patterson



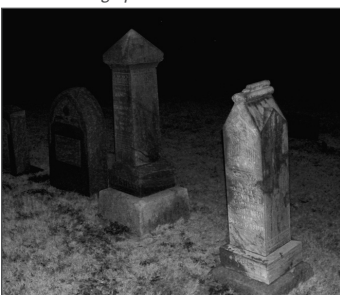
First Baptist Church, Hunter  
Photograph: Brandi Molloy



Route 66 Gas Station, East of Arcadia  
Photograph: Brad Wilson



Carlyle Motel, Oklahoma City  
Photograph: Heather Seifert



Rural Cemetery, Statewide  
Photograph: Brad Wilson



Rural Cemetery, Statewide  
Photograph: Brad Wilson



Lewis Ross/Cherokee Asylum Orphan Springhouse Interior, Salina  
Photograph: Lisa Melchior



Lewis Ross/Cherokee Asylum Orphan Springhouse, Salina  
Photograph: Lisa Melchior

# Oklahoma's 21st Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

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Following are our special guest speakers for this year's conference:

**Karen Bode Baxter**, Preservation Consultant, St. Louis, MO, will discuss the use of rehabilitation tax credits in neighborhood revitalization efforts in St. Louis.

**Nancy Brown**, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., presenting with Reid Nelson, will discuss issues related to cultural landscapes with an emphasis on tribal heritage.

**Ken Culp, III**, Volunteerism Specialist for 4-H Youth Development, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, will conduct two sessions, including one on recruiting volunteers in small towns and one on recruiting male volunteers. Additionally, he will provide Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s luncheon speech, talking about understanding multi-generational volunteers. (See <http://okpreservationconference.wordpress.com/> for more details.)

**Carol J. Dyson**, Architect, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Springfield, IL, will also provide two presentations, including a discussion about "modernizing" architecture of the recent past, and the

second session will be devoted to the rehabilitation of commercial storefronts from the Mid-Century period.

**Susan Allen Kline**, Historic Preservation Consultant, Fort Worth, TX, in a session about early twentieth-century designed landscapes, will share a presentation about the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and its Tulsa connection.

**Jim Lindberg**, Director of Preservation Initiatives, Mountains/Plains Regional Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Denver, CO, will talk about the NTHP's rural preservation and Barn Again! programs.

**Paul R. Lusignan**, Historian, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C., will share the latest information about documenting and evaluating historic properties from the Cold War.

**Reid Nelson**, Director, Federal Agency Programs, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., will join Nancy Brown in the session on cultural landscapes and will also provide the conference keynote address, entitled *Reaching the Summit: The Future of Our National Historic Preservation Programs*, on Wednesday evening. (See <http://okpreservationconference.wordpress.com/> for more details.)

**Beth Wiedower**, Director, Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage Development Initiative, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Helena, AR, will share the challenges and successes of the NTHP's rural preservation initiative she directs in Helena, a small Arkansas delta community.

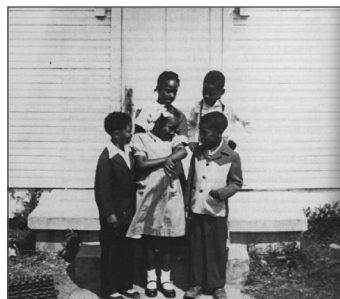
Conference cosponsors include the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society; the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Altus Main Street; Hobart Main Street, Inc.; Mangum Main Street Program; Sayre Main Street Program; and Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center.

Watch your mail the first week of May for the conference registration brochure. Also, visit the SHPO's website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/conference> and the conference blog at <http://okpreservationevents.wordpress.com>.

In the meantime, if you may have questions, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO (405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org)) or Amy Jo Cobb, Main Street Altus (580/482-2277 or [mainstreetaltus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mainstreetaltus@sbcglobal.net)).



Separate Schools, Statewide  
Photograph: the Oklahoma Historical Society



Separate Schools, Statewide  
Photograph: the Oklahoma Historical Society



Tulsa Club Building, Tulsa  
Photograph: Cathy Ambler



Tulsa Club Building, Tulsa  
Photograph: Cathy Ambler

## Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places for 2009 Announced

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serving as a reminder of the pioneers who settled in Oklahoma. Some markers are obscured by brush and grass while others are askew, fallen, vandalized, or otherwise neglected.

### Ross/Cherokee Orphan Asylum Spring House Salina

The Spring House is one of the oldest extant properties in Oklahoma and is important for

its association with Lewis Ross, a prominent Cherokee. The Ross House was destroyed by fire in 1903, but the spring house remained. It was listed on the National Register 8/18/1983.

### Separate Schools Statewide

Oklahoma's 1907 constitution was the only one in the union with a mandate that black and white children must attend separate (racially segregated) school facilities, a situa-

tion that endured unchanged for nearly half a century. Neglect and vandalism have put these schools in danger of destruction.

### Tulsa Club Tulsa

Bruce Goff designed this eleven story building. It was a joint effort between the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and the Tulsa Club. The club had a gymnasium and barber shop. The building has sat empty for years with little or no maintenance.



# Places to Watch



**Boley Historic District**, Boley, Oklahoma  
*Photo provided by Heather Seifert*

Established in 1903 as a settlement where African-Americans could escape oppression and govern themselves, Boley continues to preserve the legacy of the economic and political freedom achieved by its early pioneers. Its downtown historic district lacks the economic reinvestment needed for it to flourish.



**Chilocco Indian School**, Kay County  
*Photo provided by Bret Carter*

Chilocco Indian School 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 offered both academic and vocational instruction. A new use must be found for the campus to be saved.



**Wheelock Academy**, Millerton vicinity  
*Photo provided by the Oklahoma Historical Society*

Wheelock Academy was founded in 1832, shortly after the forced migration known as the Trail of Tears. Alfred and Harriet Wright, New England missionaries, made their way west with the Choctaws. Together they developed a sophisticated educational program at Wheelock. Lack of funding and deterioration threaten this national landmark.

# Success in Progress



**Fogg-Lassen House Exterior**, El Reno.

## **Fogg-Lassen House**, El Reno

In January 2007 the Judge Harry L. Fogg Residence was included on the list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places. The home had been remodeled between 1901-1904 for Judge H.L. Fogg. Due to high utility costs, renovation expenses and lack of qualified tradesmen, the formerly resplendent Classical Revival style house, located on South Hoff in El Reno, faced an uncertain future. Previous owners had started remodeling the house but apparently were unable to complete the restoration. The home

was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 4, 2008. Fortunately, Jim and Charlotte Murphy purchased the home, which had been in Charlotte's family, and are lovingly restoring the home to its former glory.

## **Santa Fe Depot**, Tonkawa

Tracks were laid to bring the Santa Fe Railroad to Tonkawa in 1899. In 1922 the Three Sands Oil Field was discovered south of Tonkawa and another freight room was added to the depot to receive equipment and



**Santa Fe Depot**, Tonkawa

supplies for the oil field developers. In 1943 a prisoner of war camp was built just north of Tonkawa with building supplies arriving by rail. German POWs arrived by rail and also left by rail when WWII was over in 1945 and the camp was closed. The Santa Fe Trailways Bus Line started service to Tonkawa in 1945.

The Santa Fe abandoned the railroad service to Tonkawa about 1971, but made the depot available to the Tonkawa Historical Society for a museum. Committees were formed in April 2008 to renovate the dilapidated

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# Route 66 Trip Itinerary

Route 66 crosses the heart of America, demonstrating the delights and realities of a wide cross section of American culture along the way. Created in 1926, the 2,400-mile ribbon of highway from Chicago to Los Angeles linked rural communities to urban ones, permitting an unprecedented flow of ideas and economic growth across the country. It saw the migration of Dust Bowl refugees; World War II troop movement; the advent of car culture and automobile tourism; and it facilitated large-scale settlement of the west. For many people in America and throughout the world, the highway has come to symbolize the spirit and freedom of America and the pursuit of the American Dream. Although decommissioned in 1985, it gained legendary status through song, film, television, books, and personal experiences, and represents an important chapter in American history. Historic Route 66 represents a very significant part of Oklahoma's heritage and draws thousands of tourists to the state every year.

Now you can use the National Park Service's Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary Series to learn from and plan trips to thousands of special places, such as those associated with Historic Route 66 included in the National Register of Historic Places. The itineraries promote history, heritage tourism, and historic preservation. The NPS administers the program in partnership with

the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and many other preservation organizations. An itinerary for Historic Route 66 will be available in April/May 2009. Be sure to visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel/index.htm> this spring.

Each itinerary includes a brief essay or essays providing the context needed to understand the theme of the itinerary and from 30 to 100 individual historic places. Each itinerary also features maps, descriptions and photographs of the historic places, information on planning visits, a recommended bibliography for further reading, and links to the websites of places highlighted in the itineraries and of related tourism and historic preservation organizations.

For more information visit the National Park Service's Historic Route 66 Corridor Preservation Programs website at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/rt66>. Also view the Oklahoma SHPO's Route 66 survey results at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm> (select "Survey/Planning" and then "Thematic Surveys").

For National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documents related to Route 66 resources visit <http://www.nps.gov/nrcover.htm>. To learn about Oklahoma's Route 66 properties on the National Register, go to <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nationalregister>.

## Success in Progress

*Continued from Page 5*

depot. Fundraisers were organized and repairs began in July 2008 with all volunteer workers. The depot was scraped and sanded, emergency repair work done and the grounds were cleaned. The roof was replaced by a paid professional. Broken windows were replaced and the exterior was painted with donated paint. This restoration is an excellent example of how local efforts can transform an endangered historic place.

### **Santa Fe Depot, Waynoka**

The Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House in Waynoka are great examples of preservation in our state. Both were built in 1910 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After the Waynoka Historical Society acquired both buildings, the Harvey House was restored at a cost exceeding \$1,000,000 and much work has been done on the Santa Fe Depot. Federal transportation funds exceeding \$1,000,000; \$400,000 from the Oklahoma Centennial Commission



Santa Fe Depot, Waynoka Photograph: Sandie Olson

and the Oklahoma legislature; another \$500,000 or more in Waynoka Historical Society funds; and the approval of the

State Historic Preservation Office, have made the preservation project at Waynoka Station possible.



# This Place Matters Tour of Homes and Places

Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated is pleased to announce the first annual series of "This Place Matters Tours of Homes and Places". The inaugural tour was held March 28, 2009, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The second tour scheduled this spring will be Alva, Oklahoma, on May 2, 2009.

Muskogee's This Place Matters Historic Homes and Buildings Tour was sponsored by Downtown Muskogee, Incorporated, an Oklahoma Main Street program, and focused on recognizing the importance of place. The tour called attention to the need to save important places in the Muskogee community that speak about the history, culture, and sense of identity. The tour included private homes, commercial Bed and Breakfast Inns, and downtown commercial buildings. The eight homes and buildings on this tour were not all in pristine condition. Some buildings were lovingly maintained over the years and have developed a rich sense of place and purpose. Others have recently undergone extensive rehabilitation to bring new life to an empty and abandoned space while some are in need of tender, loving care – and a lot of hard work – to bring them back to their former glory.

The second tour is a collaborative effort of the Cherokee Strip Museum in Alva and Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated. The tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. on May 2, 2009, at the home of Northwestern Oklahoma State University's President which is located on the north side of campus facing Highway 64. Participants may receive map booklets and tour tickets at the President's Home. The tour will include an exterior viewing of Science Hall (Fine Arts Building) on the Northwestern Campus which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is NWOSU's oldest building. Also on the tour are several homes built before and immediately following statehood. These include: the First United Methodist Church; the Branson Building; which is now home



Runnymede Cultural Center, Alva



Runnymede Colony, Alva

to Alva Vision Clinic; the Runnymede Hotel which now serves as a Cultural Arts Center for downtown Alva; and an exterior viewing of the Nickel Home-McClure Mansion. The Nickel Home-McClure Mansion was listed as one of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places for 2009. The tour will conclude at the Cherokee Strip Museum which is housed in the old hospital building on the west side of Alva. A reception will be offered to all tour participants at the end of the

day. For more information contact Dr. Kay Decker at 580-327-7649 or by mail at [kldecker@nwosu.edu](mailto:kldecker@nwosu.edu) or Dr. Sheila Barnes at the Preservation Oklahoma office by email at [preservationok@preservationok.org](mailto:preservationok@preservationok.org) or call 405-525-5325.

Advance tickets are \$15.00 per person and at the door the price will be \$18.00 per person. Proceeds will benefit the Cherokee Strip Museum and Preservation Oklahoma.

# Documenting Oklahoma's Archeology (*Part 2*)

By Charles S. Wallis (Part 1 appeared in January 2009 Issue)

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As detailed in Part 1 of this article, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS), University of Oklahoma recently partnered to complete two important archeological survey projects. The project discussed in Part 1 concerned the survey of Red Bed Canyons in Ellis and Roger Mills counties under the direction of Dr. Leland C. Bement.

The second survey was conducted along the Red River in Jefferson and Love counties. Dr. Richard Drass, Staff Archeologist with the OAS was the project director, and the purpose of the survey was to determine if there are similar age archeological sites in the region comparable in scope and time of occupation with that of the Longest site (34JF1), a fortified Taovayas village attacked by the Spanish in 1759 (Drass and Clanahan 2008). The location is sometimes referred to as the "Spanish Fort" site even though the village was that of an early historic Wichita occupation, not Anglo. Although the focus of the survey was the early Historic contact period, sites dating from other times were not excluded.

The survey area was divided into four zones, representing diverse settings. Zones 1 and 2 extended both upriver and downriver of the Longest site. Zone 3 included an area upriver

in eastern Jefferson County along Beaver Creek. This zone was selected to sample a major tributary with the Red River. Zone 4 was downriver, but in a similar setting as for the Longest site.

Although no additional eighteenth century Wichita sites were documented during the latest investigations, 39 sites and a number of isolated finds dating from other times were recorded. Artifacts documenting past prehistoric occupations dating from Paleo-Indian through Plains Village times, as well as during the Historic Period were found. Most sites visited, however, didn't yield diagnostic artifacts; again a factor of past collecting activities. This fact by itself points out the value of visiting with local collectors to record their collections, something we encourage and actually stipulate as one of the conditions in the project agreement with OAS. As a consequence, several local collectors were contacted during this project that had over the years amassed sizeable collections of artifacts from the Longest site. These collections were photographed for the record.

Even with historical data suggesting that a village may have been in use on the south side of the Red River in what is now Texas, directly opposite the Longest site at the time

the Spanish attacked the fortified Wichita village, it is of note that no additional sites or villages dating from this period were documented during the current fieldwork. This indicates that the Wichita by this time had abandoned the practice of a dispersed hamlet settlement pattern, something often demonstrated for the preceding late Prehistoric farming communities. This change is probably a direct result of Osage attacks when the Wichita were residing in similar fortified villages along the Arkansas River in Kay County, as well as their anticipation of attacks by others once they relocated further south along the Red River during the late-eighteenth century.

Several large Plains Village age sites with components tentatively relating to the Henrietta complex were documented during the most recent investigations. Additional work at these sites may be forthcoming. If subsequent work proves they retain integrity, they will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The SHPO greatly appreciates the work of OAS to identify, evaluate, and protect Oklahoma's rich archeological legacy and their many cooperative projects undertaken with us.

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## New Oklahoma National Register Listings

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that five new properties from Oklahoma have been added to the National Register of Historic Places as of February 23, 2009. The National Register is the nation's official list of places significant in our history. The new listings from Oklahoma include two schools and three Lustron houses. Additional documentation was also approved for the Frank and Jane Phillips House in Bartlesville and the Swan Lake Historic District in Tulsa.

Northside and Parkside Elementary Schools in Blackwell, Kay County, were constructed in 1956 and 1955 respectively. The schools were designed by the famed architectural firm of Caudill, Rowlett, Scott and Associates. The schools are an excellent example of Modern architectural style in Oklahoma. Cynthia Savage prepared the nominations on behalf of Preservation Oklahoma.

Because of its low-maintenance materials and its modern styling, the Lustron House attracted significant attention from the government, the public, and the media as an attractive and affordable solution to the post-World War II housing crisis. Unlike its prefabricated

predecessors, the modern conveniences and more traditional architectural styling of the Lustron allowed it to achieve marketplace success far beyond that of earlier metal prefabs. This single story rectangular home featured a low-pitched gabled roof and a recessed front porch, similar to that of other traditional homes of the period. Ahead of its time in terms of design, the plan for this 1,000 square foot home emphasized openness and utilized built-ins to maximize space in almost every room. It featured an exterior and interior skin of enameled steel panels bolted to a structural steel frame and a concrete slab foundation. The three newly listed Lustron Houses include: the Josephine Reifsnnyder Lustron House in Stillwater, the Christian K. Usher Lustron House in Cushing, and the Lustron House at 1554 SW Rogers in Bartlesville.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for those places significant in Oklahoma's history. For more information on these or other National Register properties, contact Lynda Schwan at (405) 522-4478 or email: [lschwan@okhistory.org](mailto:lschwan@okhistory.org).



# Oklahoma City Designated *Preserve America* Community

Oklahoma City was recently designated as Oklahoma's eighth *Preserve America* Community. The city will now benefit from this special White House initiative. The State Historic Preservation Office extends special congratulations to everyone involved in achieving the recognition.

The *Preserve America* initiative is a White House program to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include: a greater shared knowledge about the Nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and, support for the economic vitality of our communities.

To establish its eligibility for the special status, Oklahoma City featured the rehabilitation of the landmark Skirvin Hotel in its *Preserve America* Community application. The hotel closed in 1988 and remained vacant and deteriorating until the City of Oklahoma City stepped up to facilitate its preservation. The City formed Skirvin Solutions, purchased the building with Community Development Block Grant Funds, and entered into a contract with Skirvin Partners LLC to redevelop the hotel. The \$55 million project benefited the community in many ways, including the generation of more than 400 construction

jobs; the creation of approximately 170 permanent hotel jobs (FTEs); the elimination of an example of blight; the addition of 225 hotel rooms two blocks from the convention center; increased tourism and convention business; the preservation of one of the most historically significant structures in the state; increased ad valorem and sales tax revenues; improved property values; and direct and indirect impact on the state and local economy. Because the project involved federal and state rehabilitation tax credits, the developers and their architects, Kahler Slater, Inc., worked closely with the Oklahoma SHPO and the National Park Service to insure the work would meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the resulting rehabilitated property retains its historic integrity for generations to come. The Skirvin reopened for business on February 26, 2007, right on schedule.

Oklahoma City joins Ardmore, Durant, Enid, Newkirk, Ponca City, Shawnee, Tulsa and other *Preserve America* Communities to receive national recognition for their efforts. Other benefits include appropriate use of the *Preserve America* logo on signs and promotional materials; notification to media, state tourism offices, and visitor bureaus; listing in a Web-based directory to showcase preservation efforts and highlight heritage tourism destinations; and eligibility for grant assistance when funding is appropriated.



Skirvin Hotel Photograph courtesy of the State Historic Preservation Office



Skirvin Hotel Lobby Photograph courtesy of the State Historic Preservation Office

For information about how your community can apply for this special recognition or for assistance with your application, contact Glen Roberson at 405/521-6381 or [groberson@okhistory.org](mailto:groberson@okhistory.org) or Melvena Heisch at [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org). The *Preserve America* Communities application and other program information is available at [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov).

## Thank You!

We appreciate your 2008 - 2009 Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. membership:

### Victorian

Cliff and Leslie Hudson, Oklahoma City

### English Tudor

Suzette Hatfield, Oklahoma City  
Julie Miner, Tulsa

### International

Kay Decker, Alva  
Lisa Melchior, Pryor

### Colonial Revival

Pete and Jane Holcomb, Oklahoma City  
National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Central Town, Okla. City

### Arts and Crafts

Cathy Ambler, Tulsa  
Mary Athens, Tulsa  
Sheila Barnes, Ponca City  
Bill Bleakley, Oklahoma City  
Karen Bode Baxter, St. Louis, MO  
Anna Marie Eddings, Norman

### Sally and Don Ferrell, Chandler

Steve and Lynn Garman, Oklahoma City  
Melinda Irwin, Oklahoma City  
Brenda Johnston, Oklahoma City  
Kim Jones, Tulsa  
Ken Kelsey, Ringwood  
Phil and Millie Kliever, Cordell  
Ann Lancaster, Tahlequah  
Peter Noonan, St. Louis, MO  
Sandra Olson, Waynoka  
Tom and Fran Roach, Oklahoma City  
Charles Weiner, Durant

### Vernacular

Wayland and Jane Bowser, Norman  
Gail and Frank Broyles, Blanchard  
Bill and Mary Bryans, Stillwater  
Paul and Paula Carpenter, Frederick  
Jim Carrington, Tulsa  
Bret and Michelle Carter, Ponca City  
Courtney Cochran, Oklahoma City  
Sally Heard Davies, Tulsa  
T.A. and Rita Dearmon, Oklahoma City

### Delta Lambda Delta Alumnae

Chapter of Alpha Chi Omega, Ponca City  
Gary and Francys Derrick, Oklahoma City  
Jayne Detten, Ponca City  
Karen Dye, Newkirk  
Lisa Escalon, Oklahoma City  
Bud Green, Nicoma Park  
Jennifer Greenwell, Claremore  
David Harp, Tulsa  
Samantha Hoag, Waco, Texas  
Ruth Ives, Tulsa  
Susie Koontz, Cherokee  
Tori LeDue, Oklahoma City  
Sarah Ann-Helena Webb, Norman  
DeeAnn Paisley, Tulsa  
Scott Perkins, Bartlesville  
Sydna L. Porter, Tulsa  
LTC. Walter Price, Stillwater  
Charles Scott, Tulsa  
Gregory Thompson, Claremore  
C. Craig Williams, Lawton  
Brad Wilson, Norman

# A Special Invitation!

**Dear Fellow Preservationists,**

On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Preservation Oklahoma, I would like to extend a personal invitation to each of you to join us at our upcoming Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Our annual meeting is held in conjunction with the Statewide Preservation Conference each year and this year we will meet at Quartz Mountain Lodge. Our speaker this year, Dr. Ken Culp, will share his research and experience about attracting volunteers of all ages to your organization. His presentation will provide insight to staff and board members of museums, historical societies, or other venues which rely heavily on volunteers to maintain their organization.

Also, Preservation Oklahoma has had an especially productive year and we will share a few of our highlights with you during the luncheon meeting. We will recognize our Preservation Partners from across the state with awards for their contributions to the field. I hope to see you at Quartz Mountain in June and encourage you to contact our office if you need additional information or assistance. Again, I appreciate all that each of you do to protect our special places across the state! Please look for our booth when you arrive for the conference. We will be sharing our Annual Report and other materials with conference attendees this year. For those of you who are students in the field of historic preservation, please contact us as well as the State Historic Preservation Office for scholarship assistance to the conference. Preservation Oklahoma will waive luncheon costs at our annual meeting for students in the field of preservation.

Respectfully,

**Kay Decker, Ed.D.**

President, Board of Director, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

## Preservation Awards 2009

Preservation projects happen ONLY because of the efforts of local citizens across our state. Preservation Oklahoma would like to applaud the work of these individuals and groups whose tenacity, courage and determination are the backbone of successful preservation projects across Oklahoma. We are eager to compile our 2009 Preservation Awards recipients and would like to solicit your assistance. Help us identify candidates whose work in historic preservation is noteworthy by returning the completed form below.

Two awards will be given:

- 1) The Award for PUBLIC LEADERSHIP.
- 2) The Award for ADVOCACY.

**The Preservation Awards will be presented at Preservation Oklahoma's Annual Luncheon held at the Statewide Preservation Conference at Quartz Mountain on June 4th, 2009.**

Name of Candidate (Individual or Group): \_\_\_\_\_

Award Category (Public Leadership or Advocacy): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Telephone and Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person/group nominating candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's telephone and email: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate piece of paper, in 150 words or less, please describe why you believe this candidate should receive this award. Feel free to attach additional sheets of paper and letters of recommendation.**

Please return this form to:

**Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.**

405 NW 15th

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

For more information, contact Dr. Sheila Barnes, Executive Director, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. at [preservationok@preservationok.org](mailto:preservationok@preservationok.org)

## Deadline May 1, 2009



# SHPO Announces May Workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce its May workshop series. The sessions will be held May 13-15 in the Student Center Building (Ranger Room, ground floor), Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Blvd., Alva, OK (visitor parking lot north of Herod Hall/Administration Building).

The workshops are free and open to the public, but we ask that you register by 5:00pm, Wednesday, May 6. To register and inquire about lodging, contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or [bharris@okhistory.org](mailto:bharris@okhistory.org). You may also

register online at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.php](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.php).

Registered architects who attend these workshops can earn American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning unit hours. Contact your local AIA chapter to self-report your attendance.

If you have questions about any of the workshops, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).

## Workshop Schedule and Descriptions

### **May 13 (9:30am-12:00noon)**

#### **The Section 106 Review Process:**

##### **Introduction and Overview**

The half-day workshop provides the basics about Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and how the process works in Oklahoma. Specific topics include who is responsible for Section 106 compliance, when does Section 106 apply, what is the State Historic Preservation Office's role in the process, what other agencies are involved, what is a historic property, and what happens when a project will affect a historic property. The workshop is designed as a stand-alone session and as a companion to Determination of Eligibility under Section 106. Participants should also consider attending The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

### **May 13 (1:30pm-5:00pm)**

#### **Determination of Eligibility under Section 106**

The session provides a step-by-step description of how to document standing structures for the State Historic Preservation Office's review. Specific topics include a discussion of the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation, how to complete the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form, photograph requirements, what a determination of eligibility means, how

differences of opinion about eligibility are resolved, and when consultants may be helpful to agencies in preparing documentation for the Section 106 process. The session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview. Participants should also consider attending The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

### **May 14 (9:30am-5:00pm)**

#### **Working with the National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO's programs, and a basic understanding of the register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. The workshop provides detailed information about the National Register criteria, what listing means, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more.

### **May 15 (9:30am-12:00noon)**

#### **Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings**

In this workshop participants will learn about the federal and state investment tax credits for certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. A detailed

discussion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will guide owners and developers in successfully preparing the information needed for the State Historic Preservation Office to review the project and for the National Park Service to certify it. This session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to the Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

### **May 15 (1:30pm-5:00pm)**

#### **The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings**

The half-day workshop features a thorough discussion of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Generally referred to as The Standards, these commonsense principles are widely used in the historic preservation field. Whether you are involved in a rehabilitation project for the 20% federal and 20% state tax credits, planning a rehabilitation project funded with federal assistance, serving on a local historic preservation commission, or just wanting to know the best approach to rehabilitating your historic private home, you will find this session invaluable. It is designed as a stand-alone workshop and as a companion to Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation.

**preservationoklahoma**  
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

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# Save the Date!

This Place Matters Tours of Homes and Places  
Alva, Oklahoma

The tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. on May 2, 2009  
Advance tickets are \$15.00 per person and at the door the  
price will be \$18.00 per person.

For more information, please contact  
Dr. Kay Decker at 580-327-7649 or by email  
at [kldecker@nwsu.edu](mailto:kldecker@nwsu.edu) or  
Dr. Sheila Barnes by email  
at [preservationok@preservationok.org](mailto:preservationok@preservationok.org).

## Join Preservation Oklahoma today

and become a member of the Statewide Preservation Network.

Preservation Oklahoma's goal is to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma's historic places through advocacy, education and leadership. As a member, you become part of a vital network of individuals and organizations working to rebuild communities, strengthen neighborhoods, restore historic properties...*you become part of Oklahoma's future.*

name

address

city | state | zip

phone

email

from (if gift)

- ☐ Victorian \$10,000 or more
- ☐ English Tudor \$1,000 - \$9,999
- ☐ International \$500 - \$999
- ☐ Colonial Revival \$250 - \$499
- ☐ Arts and Crafts \$100 - \$249
- ☐ Vernacular up to \$100

Mail, along with check, to:  
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
Membership contributions are tax deductible.