

Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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Preservation
OKLAHOMA 



Consolidation Issue Still Alive

*Dr. Bob Blackburn, Director, Oklahoma Historical Society
and State Historic Preservation Officer*

As many of you may have heard, House Bill 3028 has died in the House of Representatives for lack of a hearing. My best guess is that the bill to consolidate the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) into a super tourism agency is unlikely to be heard this session, but I expect it to resurface within the near future.

We have learned several lessons from this surprise proposal. One, we can never take for granted that everyone recognizes the importance of history or appreciates our success in developing an entrepreneurial business plan to replace the steady erosion of state financial support. And two, those who suggested the abolishment of the OHS membership and OHS Board of Directors underestimated the deep reservoir of support we have built up through partnerships, service, and good work.

In many ways, the people have spoken through letters, emails, phone calls, and action. I have been talking to both leaders and members of both the House and Senate and I have yet to find anyone who thinks the abolishment of the OHS as an independent organization is a good idea.

Over the coming weeks and months, this issue could be resurrected. We need to keep the conversation alive and be prepared for quick action. As you circulate through your communities and talk to your elected officials, I have attached a few talking points you can share. If passed, the language of H.B. 3028 would:

- *eliminate the OHS membership and direct citizen involvement in governance
- *reduce the OHS Board of Directors from a governing body with a comprehensive planning process to an advisory panel with no real policy-making authority
- *transfer all funds, including a \$3.9 million endowment, to the Tourism Department
- *transfer title of all collections, library materials, and historical properties acquired over the past 120 years to the Tourism Department
- *make the executive and deputy directors of the OHS appointees of the Tourism director
- *by virtue of eliminating membership, reduce non-appropriated income by a minimum of \$800,000 the first year

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Mummers Theater/Stage Center. Photo by Corey Gaffer.

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Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.

Fresh from the Carriage House



Gravestone Workshop

May 7-8, 2014

Tahlequah Cemetery



On May 7-8, 2014 Preservation Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism, and The Saline Preservation Association will host a hands-on workshop on gravestone and cemetery monument conservation. Jonathan Appell, a member of the Preservation Trades Network, will lead hands-on, interactive training for participants, covering topics including how to re-set stones, repair fragmented stones, appropriate repair materials, use of infill material, and methods for re-pointing and cleaning masonry. Mr. Appell is a professional gravestone and masonry conservation specialist with expertise in cemetery preservation planning. He has performed gravestone preservation and planning projects on many historically significant cemeteries throughout the United States, including Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.; The Granary in Boston, MA; Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Tarrytown, NY; The First Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Greensboro, NC; and The New Haven Crypt in New Haven, CT.

The two-day workshop will be held in the Tahlequah area. Participants may attend one or both days, but space is limited. Please contact Preservation Oklahoma at 405.525.5325 or visit www.preservationok.org for more information and to register for the workshop; space and supplies are limited.

Preservation Award Nominations

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 2014 Preservation Award recipients and would like to solicit your assistance. Help us identify candidates whose work in historic preservation is noteworthy!

Four awards will be given: Rural Private Sector, Rural Public Sector, Urban Private Sector, Urban Public Sector. Nomination forms are available online at www.preservationok.org or by calling 405.525.5325. Nominations are due by May 15.

The Preservation Awards will be presented at Preservation Oklahoma's Annual Luncheon held at the Statewide Preservation Conference in Norman on June 6, 2014.

SHPO May Workshops

Guymon Public Library

May 7-9, 2014



Guymon Public Library. Photo: Cindy Weaver

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to announce its May workshop series. The sessions will be held May 7-9, 2014, at the Guymon Public Library Conference Room, 1718 N. Oklahoma, Guymon. Proceeding north on Main Street (Hwy 64), turn left onto 24th (Tiger Blvd) and continue to Oklahoma; turn left onto Oklahoma and proceed 0.2 mile to the library (on your right).

The workshops are free and open to the public, but we ask that you register by 5:00 pm, Wednesday, May 2. Space is limited and will be available on a first-come basis. To register, contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org. You may also register online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.php.

Design professionals who attend the workshops will qualify for HSW hours needed to fulfill requirements of the State of Oklahoma's Board of Governors of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. A certificate of attendance will be mailed to participants after the workshops. Self report your attendance to the board.

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

Workshop Schedule and Descriptions:

May 7 (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 7 (1:30pm-4:30pm) - 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.

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May 8 (9:30am-4:30pm) - 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 9 (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.

*Texas County Courthouse, Guymon.
Photo: Guymon Main Street*

May 9 (1:30pm-4:30pm) – 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 rehabilitate 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 Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.



Reminder: SHPO Seeks Comments on State Plan

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reminds you that comments on the preliminary draft of *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan 2015* are due April 15, 2014. The State Plan highlights Oklahoma's archeological and historic resources, discusses threats to them, provides a vision for the future of the statewide historic preservation program, and includes the goals and objectives for implementing this vision from January 2015 through December 2019. The preliminary draft is now available for comment at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm> (see Draft 2015 State Plan in PDF) or request a hard copy from the SHPO. All comments received by 5:00pm, Tuesday, April 15, 2014, will be considered as the SHPO develops the second draft of the document. Emailed comments are preferred, but submission via regular mail is also acceptable (see below).

To submit your comments (email preferred), ask questions, or request a hard copy of the preliminary draft State Plan, contact:

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Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
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Historic Preservation ABCs:

*Oklahoma's 26th Annual Statewide
Preservation Conference*

University of Oklahoma, Norman

June 4-6, 2014

Bizzell Memorial Library. Photo: Melissa Caperton

Full program and registration details for *Historic Preservation ABCs: Oklahoma's 26th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference* will be available in late April. The conference will be held June 4-6 in Norman on the University of Oklahoma campus. Over forty speakers from Oklahoma and across the country will participate through lectures, roundtables, tours, and special workshops. Three of these special events and speakers are featured below.

Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP)



Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. and the State Historic Preservation Office are cosponsors of the Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP), a special feature of this year's conference. The intensive one-and-a-half-day training opportunity for design review commission members, local government staff, and others is a program of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). NAPC faculty will provide presentations designed to increase the understanding of how local historic preservation ordinances work and their benefits to local preservation initiatives. Specific topics to be addressed include legal issues (authority to enforce local preservation zoning, property rights issues, economic hardship concerns, etc.); design review standards; commission procedures and ethics; identifying and designating local districts and landmarks; and generating public support for historic preservation. Each workshop participant will receive a notebook containing the extensive course materials. NAPC is the national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local historic preservation commissions and the historic resources they help protect. Their faculty includes some of the nation's leading preservation professionals in the fields of architecture, planning, and law. CAMP begins on **Wednesday afternoon, June 4, and concludes at 5:00pm on Thursday, June 5.**

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Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Workshop

Drawing on her extensive experience of planning for heritage areas, preservation planner Elizabeth Watson will offer ideas for broadening any community's historic preservation agenda in a two-part workshop on Friday morning, June 6. *Encouraging Historic Preservation through Heritage Tourism* (Session 1) and *Encouraging Historic Preservation through Presenting your Community's Stories* (Session 2) are designed as either stand-alone or companion sessions. Heritage tourism is the tourism business generated by those who are traveling for pleasure to visit a historic site, museum, or historic community. Heritage tourists stay longer and spend more money than other tourists, and they expect a quality visitor experience. The heritage area concept provides a framework for sharing the history and culture of a geographic region. These sessions introduce the heritage area approach, highlight case studies, and provide an opportunity for participants to consider how Oklahoma communities can benefit from similar initiatives. Elizabeth Watson, AICP, Principal, Heritage Strategies, LLC, will present this half-day workshop on **Friday morning, June 6**.

Elizabeth Watson has served nonprofit and governmental clients as a consultant and facilitator for more than twenty years. She most enjoys working with others on her passion, preserving environmentally and historically significant places, historic sites, and traditional communities through strategic planning and innovative programs. She has worked on many heritage areas, scenic byways, greenways, and other projects that combine regional planning with community education and resource conservation initiatives. A former nonprofit executive and state official as well as independent planner, she understands the complexities of cross-jurisdictional collaboration, public-private partnership, and multi-level governmental cooperation. She frequently advises nonprofit organizations on enhancing their capabilities to participate in such alliances through strategic planning, board development, fundraising, and civic engagement. Elizabeth holds a B.A. degree in history from Wake Forest University and a master's degree in regional planning from Pennsylvania State University.

Preservation: A Bridge to Saving America's Rural Places

The conference will conclude with the Plenary Session on **Friday afternoon, June 6**. The Oklahoma Main Street Center sponsors the featured speaker, Linda Caldwell, who will present *Preservation: A Bridge to Saving America's Rural Places*.

Linda Caldwell is the founder and former Executive Director for the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association (TOHA), a program that began in 1990 as a pilot project for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Heritage Tourism Initiative." Today, TOHA is a national model for successful cultural tourism. Its mission is to promote and preserve the natural and cultural resources of McMinn, Monroe, and Polk counties through cultural tourism.

Linda has over thirty years' experience working in the non-profit sector on cultural tourism, community arts, rural economic development, and preservation. Prior to her work with TOHA, she served for eleven years as Director for the Etowah Arts Commission. In 2001 TOHA formed the Old Line Railroad Coalition to successfully save an 1890 railroad from abandonment. The railroad is now owned by TOHA and Linda serves as the administrator. Most recently Linda managed a project to document the emigration route taken through the Tennessee Overhill by Cherokee citizens who were rounded up in western North Carolina and moved to Fort Cass in Tennessee before immigrating to Oklahoma.

Questions? Contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org. Also, see the conference blog at <http://okpreservationconference.wordpress.com>, and the SHPO's website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/conference.htm>.

NRHP Nomination Grants Round II

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is now accepting applications for Round 2 of its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2014 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior for these grants. The deadline for Round 2 applications is 5:00pm, Tuesday, June 3.

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 an individual property nomination for the NRHP.

The NRHP is the catalogue of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes. While listing in the NRHP 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 an NRHP nomination grant application, just go to www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm. You may also obtain the application from the SHPO by calling 405/521-6249.

DESIGN PROFESSIONAL CREDITS & STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014 STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is pleased to announce special opportunities for design professionals and for Oklahoma college and university students planning to attend *Historic Preservation ABCs: Oklahoma's 26th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference*. It will be held June 4-6, 2014, in Norman on the University of Oklahoma campus (full registration and program details available in late April).

Design professionals who attend the conference will qualify for HSW hours needed to fulfill requirements of the State of Oklahoma's Board of Governors of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. Simply register for the conference and sign in at the SHPO's table in the registration area. There are no additional fees for this service. A certificate of attendance will be mailed to participants after the conference. Self report your attendance to the board. If you have questions, contact Melvena Heisch as indicated below.

Oklahoma college and university students are eligible for scholarships to attend the conference. We encourage students pursuing degrees in history, architecture, archeology, and other historic preservation-related fields to attend the conference to learn about career opportunities as well as historic preservation issues and techniques. We are offering twenty (20) scholarships on a first-come basis to those who qualify. The scholarship covers the conference registration fee, and the application deadline is 5:00pm, Friday, May 9. For details and an application form contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org, or visit the SHPO's website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/conference.htm.

SHPO SEEKS COMMENTS ON CLG PROGRAM REVISIONS

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (NHPA) [16USC 470 et seq.]. The CLG program assists local governments that adopt and enforce historic preservation ordinances to strengthen their preservation programs. The SHPO is updating its state procedures for the program and requests comments from local governments, historic preservation professionals, and the public on the revisions by Monday, June 2, 2014.

The NHPA provides for partnerships among federal, tribal, state, and local governments to identify, evaluate, and protect the buildings, structures, districts, sites, objects, and landscapes significant in the nation's history. Since passage of the NHPA, the National Park Service (NPS) and SHPOs have worked together to carry out the national preservation programs. The 1980 amendments to the NHPA formally included local governments in the partnership through the CLG Program. It increases public awareness of a community's valuable archeological and historic resources, improves management of them, and integrates preservation concerns into local planning processes. Additionally, CLGs have a formal role in the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), receive matching funds from the SHPO's annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from NPS, and may assume other SHPO duties.

Acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), NPS establishes the policies and procedures for this national program, as well as the standards and guidelines that allow SHPOs to develop CLG programs suitable to their respective states. The Secretary approved the SHPO's Certified Local Governments Program for Oklahoma (state procedures) in 1985 and its 2000 revision. The state procedures set forth the process for the certification of local governments in Oklahoma, for distribution of the HPF to CLGs, and for the overall administration of the program.

The revised state procedures provide expanded language to better describe the CLG program. Substantive revisions to the training and orientation requirements for the SHPO and CLGs, the process for decertifying CLGs, and the process for allocating the HPF to CLGs are presented in the draft. No changes to the eligibility requirements or to the minimum requirements for local ordinances are proposed. The draft revised state procedures and the current version are available at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/clg.htm>, and both documents can be requested from the SHPO in hard copy at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org.

The SHPO invites written comments (email preferred) by 5:00 pm, Monday, June 2, 2014. Submit them to:

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The Overholser Mansion as Verb



Just as nouns and verbs are both needed to make a complete sentence, both the noun and the verb aspects of historic buildings are needed to describe their full significance. Preservationists need to recognize that the preservation of historic buildings should include not only the physical structure but also the history of the place. Only in this way does a historic building maintain its full meaning.

Norman Tyler
Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice

One of the great things about an older home is learning some of its secrets - catching a glimpse of the lives of those who occupied the space before you. These markers can appear in everyday life - a scratch on a wooden floor, a previous paint color, or a photo unearthed in the local paper. Sometimes, they arrive in the most unexpected places.

Recently, we were treated to perhaps the most intimate glimpse into the lives of the family that built the structure that POK calls home - a glimpse over a hundred years in the making.

On April 22, 1913, a group of leading Oklahoma City citizens gathered in the basement of the First Lutheran Church to bury the Century Chest - a time capsule full of letters, photos, and other

items. The next day, an article in the *Daily Oklahoman* asked: What will be the thoughts of the descendants of those who buried the century chest...what emotions will stir their breasts when the voices of their ancestors vibrate down a century of time...?

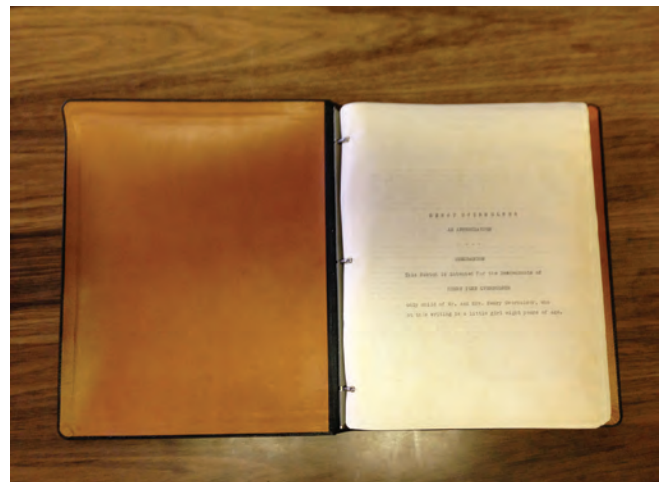
On April 22, 2013, Oklahoma City residents gathered once again to witness what treasures were placed in the chest. Among the items unearthed was a package wrapped in simple brown paper and a note that read: "Mr. and Mrs. Henry Overholser. For the descendants of their daughter, Henry lone Overholser." Henry lone was 8 years old when Henry and Anna placed the package in the Century Chest. Henry lone grew up, married David J. Perry in 1926, and died in 1959 with no descendants.

On January 30, representatives of groups responsible for the preservation of the mansion gathered in the foyer to hear the voices of Anna and Henry "vibrate down a century of time." What we opened was remarkable—a perfectly preserved leather bound notebook full of photos and family history. As we turned each page, more information was discovered—a detailed biography of Henry Overholser, photos of the home that had never been seen, and a copy of a 99-year lease to a plot in downtown Oklahoma City.

The notebook is now in the hands of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and it will be included in the upcoming exhibit on the Century Chest scheduled to open April 22, 2014. (Chad Williams, OHS Research Director, will present an overview of the 1913 Century Chest on the morning of June 5, 2014, at the Statewide Preservation Conference in Norman.) In the meantime, we have a scan of the items that will allow us to further explore the history of the mansion and provide visitors with an even clearer view of its first occupants. Eventually, the notebook will be returned to the location where it was first compiled 111 years ago.

For over a decade, Preservation Oklahoma has worked to provide a complete experience of the Overholser Mansion. We have focused on the Overholser's "noun" aspects by overseeing an extensive restoration of its exterior as well as the "verb" aspects by sharing its history to visitors from all over the world.

On January 30, we were fortunate enough to add more information to the latter.



The 1913 Overholser Notebook. Photo: D. Pettyjohn



Photo of Henry Ione (l) and Anna (r) Overholser. Photo: Sierra George

David Pettyjohn (l), POK Executive Director; Lisa Escalon (c), OVM Museum Coordinator; and Barrett Williamson (r), POK President, display the notebook. Photo: Sierra George.





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Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

By becoming a member of Preservation Oklahoma, a 501(c)3 organization, you are demonstrating your commitment to historic preservation in our state and your willingness to get involved in the critical issues of preserving Oklahoma's heritage for future generations. Each member increases the strength, power, and presence in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national level. Your membership is greatly appreciated and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership Benefits

In addition to being a part of Oklahoma's preservation community, members of Preservation Oklahoma receive newsletters and email updates on preservation news and issues, invitations to members-only events, free admission to tours and programming throughout the year, and much more!

Membership Levels:

Sod House:	\$25 Individual	\$75 Family
Bungalow:	\$100 Individual	\$300 Family
Victorian Mansion:	\$500 Individual	\$1,500 Family

Corporate, Institution, and Senior/Student Levels are also available.

To join, please visit <http://www.preservationok.org/become-a-member.html> and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices!