Preservation Oklahoma announced the 2019 list of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Places at a public unveiling event on Monday, March 4, at the newly-renovated Carriage House at the Overholser Mansion.

POK aims to promote the places where Oklahoma history lives by bringing awareness to historic landmarks across the state. Although inclusion on this list does not guarantee protection or funding, recognition for these structures may increase restoration efforts and possibly ensure their longevity.

“The past year has proved to be a difficult time for Oklahoma’s historical structures with the loss of Founder’s Bank, the fire and partial loss of Brookshire Motel in Tulsa and the uncertain future of the First Christian Church,” POK Executive Director Cayla Lewis said. “Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Places list was created to bring awareness to the importance of protecting our state’s historic resources such as these. Our hope is to bring the issue to light so more Oklahomans are educated on what they can do to help advocate for these landmarks.”

Each year, POK solicits nominations from the public which are voted on by a group of preservation professionals. An exhibit of the 2019 list, presented by Oklahoma Humanities and generously funded by the Kirkpatrick Foundation and the Cherokee Nation, will travel throughout the state to continue the discussion of preserving historic buildings.

Tonkawa Bathhouse, Photo: Evelyn Coyle

(article continued on page 4)
Preservation Oklahoma News
The activity that is the subject of this newsletter has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

The program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.

POK News Page 2
The 2019 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places include:

Brookshire Motel, Tulsa

The Brookshire Motel is a shining example of the roadside motels popular along Route 66, built in the 1940s, during the Mother Road's early heyday. Route 66 Motels were listed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Most Endangered Places list in 2007, and Preservation Oklahoma's list in 2008 as fewer and fewer historic lodging options remain on Route 66. Many have suffered abandonment and lack of maintenance. Brookshire Motel recently caught fire in February 2019, burning the main building but leaving the cottages and neon sign. It is currently under threat of being demolished if repairs are not made.

Mid-Century Modern Architecture, statewide

First Christian Church, Oklahoma City: The First Christian Church Historic District is an architecturally significant district in Oklahoma City with its organic form, sculpted shape and the extensive use of concrete and masonry. It is an excellent example of the Modern movement including specifically the Neo-Expressionist design of the main building. Designed by R. Duane Conner, Fred Pojezny and William Fearnow of Oklahoma City, the buildings are a representation of form and functionality. The entire property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, not just for its architectural styles, but also for the role it played in the large Oklahoma City community at the time of the Murrah Bombing.

The property itself is a landmark on the Oklahoma City landscape; people orient themselves in Oklahoma City by this iconic building. Adjacent to a major highway, buffered on either side by historic districts and along a major thoroughfare through the neighborhood, it is likely that this property could be demolished for housing development. First Christian Church was also listed on the 2017 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places list.

Fire Station #10, Oklahoma City: Fire Station #10 was designed by local architect, Tom Rogers, a student of Bruce Goff's at OU who returned to his hometown and ultimately designed some of Enid's most distinctive mid-century modern architecture. Located on the outskirts of downtown, the VFW building features a thin-shell concrete dome with a band of windows between the base and the domed portion of the building. It was constructed for $140,000 and opened to great fanfare in 1956, but today the windows have been painted, the building sits vacant, and its future is uncertain.

J Paul Getty Bunker, Tulsa: This home, known as the Getty Bunker, was built in 1942 and used by the infamous J. Paul Getty when he took over Spartan aircraft company during WW II. Built in an art deco style, it is known as the Bunker because it was built with 12-inch thick reinforced concrete to ease Getty’s paranoia. The Bunker is deteriorating due to neglect. It sits on land previously owned by the Crane Carrier Company and was reportedly used for storage. It now stands at risk of demolition due to liability and lack of use, as a new company has purchased the property. If this building is not saved it will be gone forever. The ‘Getty Bunker’ was also listed in 2014’s Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Places list.

Esquire Theatre, Hobart: The Esquire Theatre, formerly Kiowa Theater, in Hobart has been closed for several years and is in disrepair. The community hopes for renovation.

Esquire Theater, Photo: Okie Mod Squad

VFW #2270, Oklahom City: VFW #2270 lodge in Enid was designed by local architect, Tom Rogers, a student of Bruce Goff's at OU who returned to his hometown and ultimately designed some of Enid's most distinctive mid-century modern architecture. Located on the outskirts of downtown, the VFW building features a thin-shell concrete dome with a band of windows between the base and the domed portion of the building. It was constructed for $140,000 and opened to great fanfare in 1956, but today the windows have been painted, the building sits vacant, and its future is uncertain.

Okla Theater, McAlester: Support has been led by the community to raise funds for the theater's renovation. Most recently in 2014, Okla Theater was awarded $200,000 from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality for asbestos abatement.

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Archaeological sites under threat by unregulated development, statewide

Archaeological sites consist of the material remnants of past activities left behind by people who have occupied the area we now call Oklahoma for more than 12,000 years. These sites are often hidden from view below ground, yet they contain evidence that informs our understanding of the daily lives of the people who created them and represent the cultural heritage of their descendants.

More than 25,000 sites have been documented in all 77 counties across the state, representing a wide diversity of precontact and historic-period cultural groups of the distant and more recent past. Some of these sites are available for public visits and appreciation, like Spiro in Le Flore County, but most sites are located on private property and are generally not protected by historic preservation laws.

In the face of regulated development that is subject to compliance with historic preservation laws, significant archaeological sites may be preserved in place or thoroughly documented before they are destroyed so that at least their information is retained. But in circumstances where such laws do not apply, archaeological resources may be destroyed without anyone even knowing they were there or documenting what they contained.

It is for this reason that we highlight the threats posed by unregulated development to the preservation of non-renewable archaeological resources in Oklahoma.

Article continued on page 6.
Preservation Oklahoma Announces 2019 Most Endangered Places List Continued

Luster Mansion, Oklahoma City

The modified Italianate Luster Mansion was built in 1926 by S.D. Lyons and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The estate was built by one of the city’s most prominent businessmen and has been kept in the family ever since. Also known as the Melvin Luster House, the estate serves as a reminder of the wealthy black upper-class in the heart of Deep Deuce in Oklahoma City. Much of the interior is still intact but has been vacant for the last several years and is currently available for purchase.

RJ Edwards House, Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma Commissioners of Land Office has developed a multi-use plan for a parcel of land in Oklahoma City near the State Capitol, causing threat to the property where the RJ Edwards House is located. The RJ Edwards House was built in a Spanish-colonial style more than 4,000 square feet in size in the 1930s. It was also home to the Red Ridge Museum of Art in the 1960s and 1970s. It has been neglected and vandalized throughout the years but still appears structurally sound with many of the original features and wonderful use of wood on the ceiling, walls and staircase intact.

Tay-Lo-Rest House, Langston

Tay-Lo-Rest House was the home of James Taylor, the first agent of the Langston University. The facility was the first home built in Langston, Oklahoma’s only historically black university. It was built by the labor of students with quarried stones from Red Ridge and is now an empty shell with the fireplace and staircase intact.

Griffin-Goodner Grocery Warehouse, Tulsa

The historic Griffin-Goodner Grocery Warehouse was constructed in 1925 on the historic KATY Railroad, whose tracks ran next to the building. This large, two-story warehouse occupies the southwest corner of the intersection of North Detroit Avenue and East Cameron Street in Tulsa’s Historic Brady District and is listed as a contributing resource in the National Register of Historic Places. It is also notable for being home to the first new commercial business in the district in many years when Spaghetti Warehouse opened in this building in 1992. The building is significant due to its role in the development of a lively arts and entertainment district. It contributes to the historic fabric of the Brady Historic District and today’s vibrant downtown Tulsa Arts District. Adaptive reuse is preferred and demolition should be discouraged.

Tonkawa Bathhouse, Tonkawa

2019 marks the 84th anniversary of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) legislation, and today many of the structures constructed during this time have fallen into disrepair. The Tonkawa Bathhouse was built in the late 1930s as a WPA project and consists of the main bathhouse and swimming pool. The swimming pool is no longer operable, but the bathhouse remains in good condition, however vacant for several years. The City of Tonkawa is hopeful for its use again, but demolition is always a possibility with vacant buildings.

Edwards Store, Red Oak

The Edwards Store, established in 1850, is one of the few remaining original structures that were stage stops on the Butterfield Overland mail and stage line from St. Louis to San Francisco from 1858 to 1861. Stage passengers were served meals at this location. Thomas Edwards established the trading post on the Fort Smith-Boggy Depot Road and it later became the original post office and site of the town of Red Oak. The structure is of “dog trot” design typical of the 19th century and built from hewn logs. Edwards Store is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Edwards Store was on the Most Endangered Places list in 2013 and 2018.

Preservation Oklahoma is hosting four interactive workshops led by Oklahoma Archeological Survey in 2019. The workshops will be held from 11am to 2pm, with the discussion of prehistory and what to do if you have found a site beginning at 1pm. The first workshop was held in Alva at the Graceful Arts Gallery on March 30. These free workshops will be presented by research faculty from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) at the University of Oklahoma. Workshops will contain activities for all ages and are open to the public. OAS will have a simulated archaeological dig, hands-on activities with Oklahoma artifacts, and a chance to try out reconstructing pottery for children. For adults, there will be a chance to identify any artifacts brought in as well as a brief presentation on precontact Oklahoma and what someone should do if they find an archaeological site.

In addition to the workshops, Preservation Oklahoma will also be displaying its 2019 Most Endangered Places traveling exhibit. This annual list of historic properties serves to spread awareness and will travel throughout the state to continue the discussion of preserving historic buildings.

The program is funded in part by Oklahoma Humanities (OH) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent those of OH or NEH.

Save the date for workshops coming near you!
May 18 - OKC, Henry Overholser Mansion
July 27 - Claremore, Claremore Museum of History
October 26 - Norman, The Moore-Lindsay Historic House Museum

For more information about Preservation Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Places List, visit our website, https://www.preservationok.org/most-endangered-places.

This year, the 2019 Most Endangered Places list includes historic structures or categories that face uncertain fates for a variety of reasons. Please help Preservation Oklahoma advocate to save these historic icons so that we can preserve the unique buildings that enrich Oklahoma’s vast architectural landscape.

To sign a letter of support for the structures listed, visit https://www.preservationok.org/advocate.

#PastToTheFuture @PreservationOK
In honor of the 100th anniversary of women in Oklahoma receiving the right to vote in late 1918, the 2019 Oklahoma History and Preservation Conference theme is Women Who Built History. If you are “building preservation minded” come hear sessions on first time tax credit users, challenging rehabilitation projects, an award winning rehabilitation project, and school renovation projects. Special sessions will feature a tour of downtown Chickasha, student projects evaluating parking issues, building reuse issues and interior design issues revolving around historic spaces.

Mark your calendar for April 24-26, 2019, to join us at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. Conference sponsors include the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office; Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Main Street Center; and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

More information about the schedule of events can be found at https://www.okhistory.org/about/conference.

On-line registration can be found at https://www.okhistory.org/register.

If you have questions, contact Lynda Ozan, Deputy SHPO, (405/522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org) or Larry O’Dell, Director of Special Projects/Development, Oklahoma Historical Society (405/522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org).

State Plan Update

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reminds you that comments on the preliminary draft of Sooner Rather Than Later: Let’s Preserve Oklahoma’s Past, Oklahoma’s statewide historic preservation plan, are due no later than May 3, 2019. This update to the state plan focuses on what the State Historic Preservation Office role is in historic preservation and sets out goals, objectives and action items for the next five years, not just for the SHPO but for everyone in Oklahoma. The preliminary draft is available for comment at https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm or in hard copy upon request from the SHPO. All comments received by 5:00pm, May 3, 2019, will be considered as the SHPO develops the second draft of the plan. Emailed comments are preferred but submissions via USPS are also acceptable.

To submit your comments or ask questions about the state plan content, please contact Lynda Ozan, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at 405/522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org.

To request a hard copy of the preliminary draft state plan, please contact Shea Otley, Certified Local Governments Coordinator, at 405/522-4485 or jotley@okhistory.org.
In January 2019, Preservation Oklahoma Inc. voted in three new board members and is currently accepting nominations from Tulsa and rural areas.

**New Board Members Include:**
- Chad Huntington, Bricktown Water Taxi Oklahoma City
- Carissa Stevens, Scout Studios Oklahoma City
- Brad Wilson, St. Francis of the Woods Coyle

We thank them for their board service and are excited to have them join the POK team!

For more information on joining the POK Board of Directors, contact Cayla Lewis, director@preservationok.org.
Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

Historic structures, much like photographs and newspapers, tell the story of Oklahoma communities, linking the past to the present. They also provide economically vibrant locations for local businesses and residents. Since 1992, Preservation Oklahoma has worked to protect and preserve these structures through advocacy, education, and programming. By joining our efforts, you are supporting the protection of Oklahoma's unique and diverse history. Your support also assists in the preservation of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion, an Oklahoma City landmark and home of POK's offices.

Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include discounted tickets to POK events, complimentary tours of the Overholser Mansion, and invitations to our annual membership appreciation event.

Membership Levels:

- Student $25
- Individual $50
- Family $100
- Partner $500

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!