



PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS



January 1995

Volume 1, number 2

What's inside:

National Trust President to Keynote Statewide Preservation Conference

Richard (Dick) Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will deliver the keynote address at Oklahoma's seventh annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. Moe's participation will provide a very special opportunity for Oklahoma's preservation community. As one of the nation's most prominent preservation leaders, he will share his vision for historic preservation in the revitalization of our communities.

The conference will be held May 11-13 in Oklahoma City. Cosponsors for this year's conference include the State Historic Preservation Office, the Oklahoma Main Street Program, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., the City of Oklahoma City Planning Department, the Oklahoma Heritage Association, and the Stockyard City Main Street Program.

Moe has indicated an interest in getting as broad a view of the preservation movement in Oklahoma as possible during his visit to the state. We will publish a full itinerary of his planned activities in the April issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News*.

Mark your calendars for the conference and watch the mail in the coming weeks for more conference details.

Four New Oklahoma Listings in the National Register

by Susan Allen

Tonkawa's First Presbyterian Church was built in 1905 with a rear extension added a few years later. The one story, weatherboard church features a bell tower with steeple and large, leaded, stained-glass windows on three elevations. It is the best surviving example of the once common style of church in north central Oklahoma.

The Walter J. and Frances W. Edwards House (c. 1941-42) in Oklahoma City is significant as one of the earliest constructed in Hassman Heights, the city's first housing development for African-Americans. As the flagship house in the development, the vernacular Tudor Revival style house is associated with the struggle of the city's minority community to obtain adequate housing in a segregated society. The Edwardses, who developed Hassman Heights, were pioneer entrepreneurs and philanthropists.

The Morris House in Langston is the only remaining building from its territorial period. Built in 1904, the concrete block National Folk Front Gable building was a boarding house for students and faculty of Oklahoma's Colored Agricultural and Normal University.

The Guthrie Armory, constructed (1935-37) by the Works Progress Administration, is significant for the economic impact the project had on the community during the Depression and for its military significance as the home of a Medical Detachment, Special Troops, 45th Infantry Division. The one-story stone building features details that suggest an Art Deco influence and is an outstanding local example of WPA work. It is the 20th armory to be listed during 1994, but the only one containing the site of the stone quarry used in its construction.

For more information, contact Susan Allen at the State Historic Preservation Office.

Statewide Preservation Plan

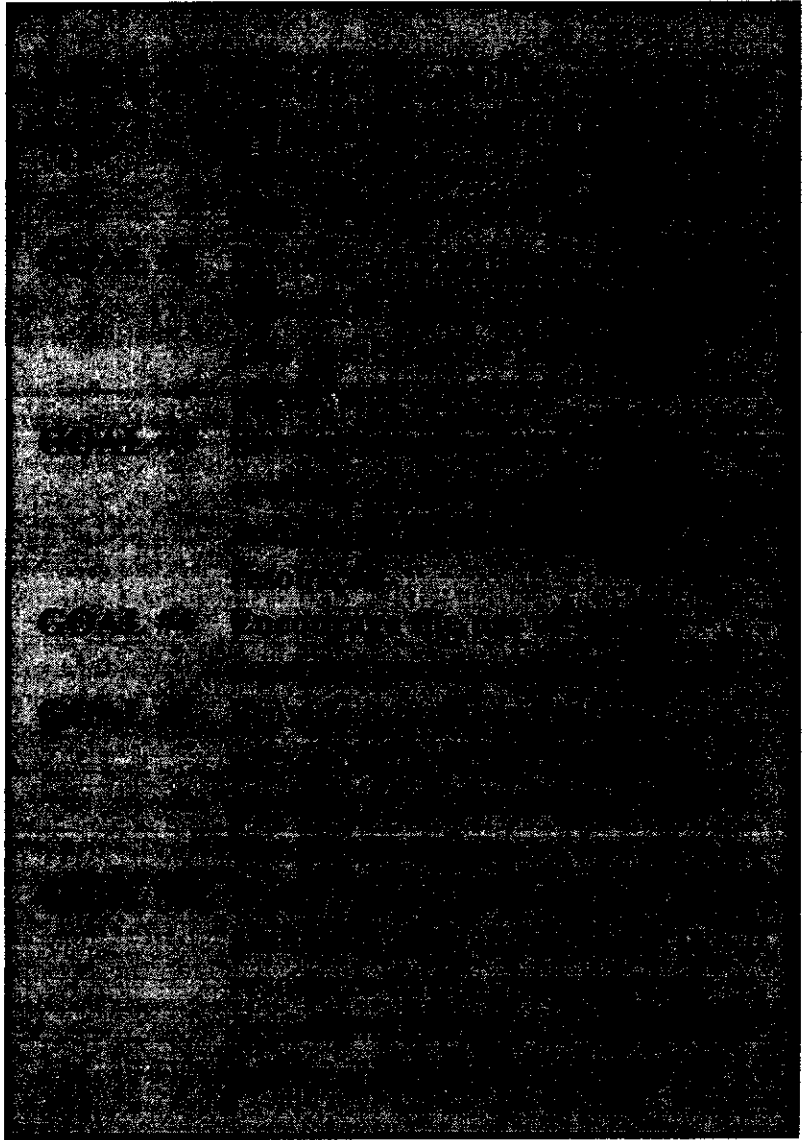
The Details:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the completion of *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan*. The state plan represents a year-long effort by Oklahoma's preservation community. The state plan's goals and objectives provide a framework for the further development of public and private sector preservation programs. The state plan includes six broad goals agreed upon by the statewide community (see inset).

The state plan presents specific objectives for meeting these goals and includes suggestions on how government agencies, organizations, and individuals can participate in accomplishing them. Working together, we can ensure that Oklahoma's rich heritage is preserved for future generations.

The state plan also includes information about representative archaeological and historic resources, threats to them, federal and state laws that relate to them, and other sources of information.

To reserve your copy of *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan*, write to the SHPO at 621 North Robinson Avenue, Suite 375, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.



Centennial Farm and Ranch Program Applications Available

Applications for the 1995 Centennial Farm and Ranch Program will be accepted through March 31. The program recognizes Oklahoma farms and ranches which have been in the same family continuously for at least 100 years. In addition to the time minimum, the property must be a working farm or ranch with a minimum of 40 acres, have gross yearly sales of at least \$1,000, and must be operated or lived on by a family member, or leased out by a family member over 65 years of age. Additionally, an Historic Structures Award is available for eligible applicants with at least four standing structures that are a minimum of 50 years old and have not been significantly altered. For more information or an application, contact Cindy Smelker at the State Historic Preservation Office, (405) 521-6249.

Historic Bed and Breakfast Inns

Oklahoma's Newest Preservation Movement



by

MaryJo Meacham
Preservation Consultant



All over Oklahoma, historic houses are being rehabilitated to establish bed and breakfast inns. Over the past six years, the Oklahoma Bed and Breakfast industry has grown dramatically and to a current level of almost fifty sites. Although bed and breakfast inns are located in houses of all ages, the majority are in historically significant buildings. From Poteau, where the former home of Senator Robert S. Kerr is now the ten room Kerr Country Mansion, to Checotah, where Sharp House, once a rooming house for female teachers, is located, Oklahomans and visitors to the state can stay in antique filled rooms and wake up to Oklahoma style breakfasts.

The bed and breakfast tradition comes from Europe; however, over the past fifteen years, the industry has grown to include 20,000 inns across the United States. Ranging from one guest room to inns with up to twenty units, the wide variety of architectural styles, locations, and amenities is what attracts visitors. Although a recent trend in Oklahoma, it is quickly catching on and is a wonderful opportunity to showcase individual houses as well as the neighborhoods, cities, small towns, or countrysides in which they are located. Here is a sampling:

Checotah - *The Sharp House.*

Edmond - *The Arcadian Inn.* Once a one-story house, the first story is now the second floor of this three-story Victorian house built in 1908.

Grove - *The Oak Tree Bed and Breakfast.*

Guthrie - Located thirty miles north of Oklahoma City, Guthrie has a growing bed and breakfast community.

From downtown to uptown, accommodations are available. The rehabilitated *Harrison House* is Oklahoma's largest bed and breakfast. This three-story brick building is downtown, next door to the historic Pollard Theatre.

Keota - *The Overstreet-Kerr Living History Farm.* This is a two-story pioneer home.

Lawton - *The Quinette House.* Built in 1905.

Muskogee - *The Graham-Carroll House.*

Norman - *Holmberg House Bed and Breakfast.* Built in 1914 across the street from the University of Oklahoma by one of the university's first professors, Holmberg House has now been meticulously restored and is a step back in time.

Oklahoma City

The Grandison. This historic inn is a Prairie style

residence with five guest rooms, built 1912-14. Close to Bricktown, Interstate 35, the state fairgrounds, and downtown, the Grandison has hosted visitors from almost every state and many foreign countries.

Willow Way Bed and Breakfast. Built in the late 1920s, Willow Way is an English Tudor residence located near Remington Park and the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Ponca City - *The Davernathy Inn.* Built by one of Oklahoma's famous oil barons, the Davernathy has been completely restored to its Victorian splendor and is filled with antiques from the early part of this century.

Poteau - *The Kerr Country Mansion.*

Stillwater - *Thomasville.* The home of Stillwater's first mayor, Thomasville is also a restored Victorian house furnished with early 1900's antiques.

Stroud - *The Stroud House.* Built in 1900.

Sulphur - *The Artesian.* Built in 1904.

Tulsa - *The Lantern Inn.* An Old English style guest cottage, located in Brookside.

Wilburton - *The Dome House.* Built in 1908, Dome House has a turret with a sitting room, where guests can enjoy a view of the beautiful Kiamichi Mountains.

This is not intended to be a comprehensive listing of historic bed and breakfast opportunities in Oklahoma, but rather to entice the curious to learn more about this new and exciting travel and preservation movement in our state. For more information, please contact the Oklahoma Bed and Breakfast Association at 1-800-676-5522 or (405) 748-0451. Brochures are available.

Creative Solutions to ADA Compliance

Real and perceived conflicts between historic preservation and Public Law 101-336, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

by Roger Barton, AIA

The civil rights legislation known to most of us as "the ADA" was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George Bush, inspiring an almost unanimous rush for legal advice by the design, preservation, business, and real estate communities. Since the law is not a building code, but rather a civil rights law, it is enforced not by inspection but by litigation. The continuing flux and development of the law's interpretation by the courts and responsible agencies also tends to make nervous those with substantial exposure to public liability. Since its signing, the ADA has

particularly concerned the preservation community. Many members frequently feel torn between the desire for the protection of an historic site and the need to provide a means for all to otherwise participate in historic sites. An attempt to reconcile these aims often finds they are not mutually incompatible. The ADA (as currently written and interpreted) mandates the wholesale installation of automatic doors, and the like

Until recently, the chauvinistic attitude of legitimate users of buildings (and landscapes), and the full use of all limbs and senses in planning and building. Most do not consider persons with physical disabilities in design and planning, because the majority; it is perhaps significant that the number of persons with physical disabilities grew in direct proportion to the population. Therefore, few historic sites are accessible to users with physical disabilities. Most of us now recognize that the effect on one's need and right to participate in society as fully as possible and that society has a strong obligation to remove barriers to such participation.

The ADA does not mandate the destruction of historicity in order to accommodate any and all persons with disabilities. It does require reasonable accommodation, in all existing business and public venues, of users who may be, or become, disabled. Granted, the phrase "reasonable

accommodation" is subjective, open to different interpretations by different courts; however, such accommodation may be achieved by subtle means, often not requiring extensive or structural solutions. If structural additions or changes represent the only means of physically accommodating persons with disabilities, the site *may* be exempted when the change(s) would destroy or damage the historicity of the site or would impose an undue financial burden (a determination made by the attorney general). The ADA exempts religious

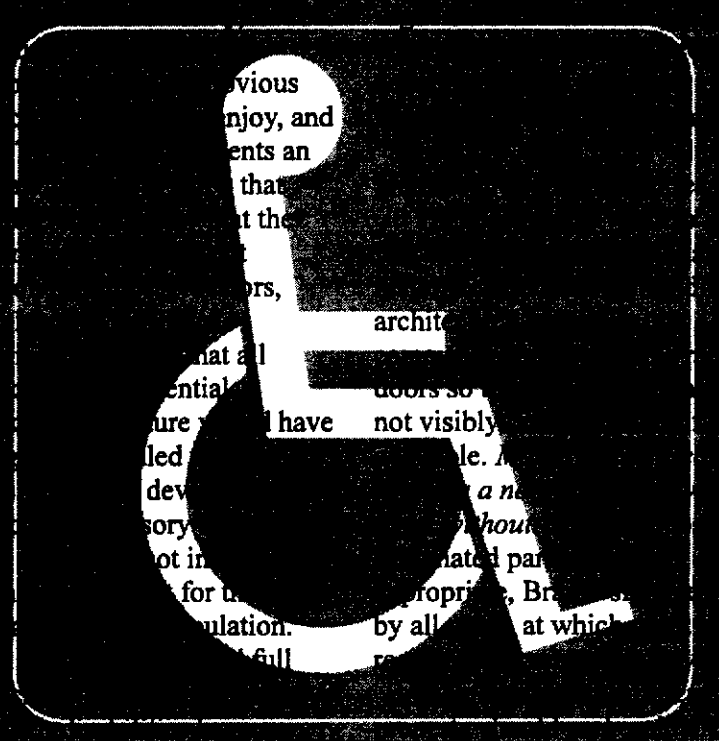
clubs (Title III, Sec. 307), and is intended to be on the cutting edge of providing persons with disabilities with equal opportunity provisions, and accommodations are not feasible for historic sites.

To meet the ADA requirements without destroying the historicity of the building or site. Some may be able to do so. A good designer can conceal or integrate ramps, elevators, and automatic doors so that the integrity of the building or site is maintained. The space and budget are often the limiting factors.

Compliance with the ADA does not mean that persons with disabilities by themselves can use a building. Systems as curb ramps, new thresholds, and, where necessary, will permit access to the site. The clerk, docent, guide, or interpreter as necessary.

the owner of an historic building should consult with a qualified design or legal professional (or both), as well as the State Historic Preservation Office, before proceeding with alterations.

Roger Barton is an architect with HTB, Inc. From 1990 through 1992, he was with Ratzlaff Architects, Inc., of Pocatello, Idaho, where he helped various small towns and counties in southeast Idaho to bring their government buildings, many of which were of historic interest, into compliance with the ADA in order to qualify for Community Development Block Grants.



Applications are available for Preservation Week grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation as part of its Department of Defense Legacy Project. These grants, of \$250-\$1,000, are intended to create community partnerships between DoD installations and state and local preservation organizations and other community groups. The deadline is February 1. For more information, contact the National Trust, Mountains/Plains Regional Office, Legacy Coordinator: (303) 623-1504.



Woodward Preservationists Making Headway

Foundation Tackles City's Only National Register Site as First Project

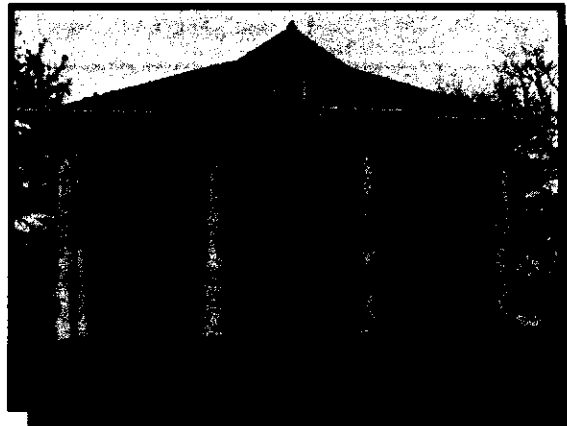
Linda Smithton and Nancy Orr are two names the residents of Woodward associate with historic preservation. Smithton and Orr are self-taught preservationists. They have attended workshops and seminars, studied texts, and spoken with anyone they thought might help further their local preservation work. Smithton is a member of Preservation Oklahoma's statewide network of committed local preservationists. In 1993, the two women joined with other local preservationists to form the Great Plains Preservation and Development Foundation.

The foundation's goal is "to serve as the motivation, inspiration, and determination for those who want to preserve historic assets with present-day function in mind." It exists to support a variety of projects of benefit to the area, including education, support for the arts, help for the aged, recognition and promotion of the area's heritage, and restoration of historically significant architecture throughout northwest Oklahoma.

The foundation's first project is the rehabilitation of the Stine-Bradbury House, the only structure in the city of Woodward listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Built by local banker L. L. Stine in 1918, this unique neoclassical house survived the 1947 tornado that flattened most of the city. Although it was the residence of some of Woodward's most colorful historic figures, the Stine-Bradbury house fell into disrepair in the 1980's.

The members of the Great Plains Preservation and

Development Foundation have committed themselves to following correct procedures for the rehabilitation of historic buildings to keep from compromising the historic and architectural integrity of the house. As rooms are finished, paintings by Bertha Stine and the portrait of L. L. Stine, which once hung throughout the house, will be returned, thanks to their donation to the foundation by the Stines' granddaughter. Smithton and Orr have also committed themselves to a task of Herculean proportions: the estimated cost of the entire project is over \$800,000.



The Stine-Bradbury House in Woodward

Apart from individual contributions, they have received a \$20,000 grant from the Sarkeys Foundation. However, as is the case with most local preservation, the Great Plains Preservation and Development Foundation is taking some creative approaches to financing the project. It has applied for a federal ISTEAF funds. Smithton notes that Woodward was historically the transportation hub for northwest Oklahoma, the house is listed in the National Register, and it is already on the Main Street Historic Woodward Walking Tour.

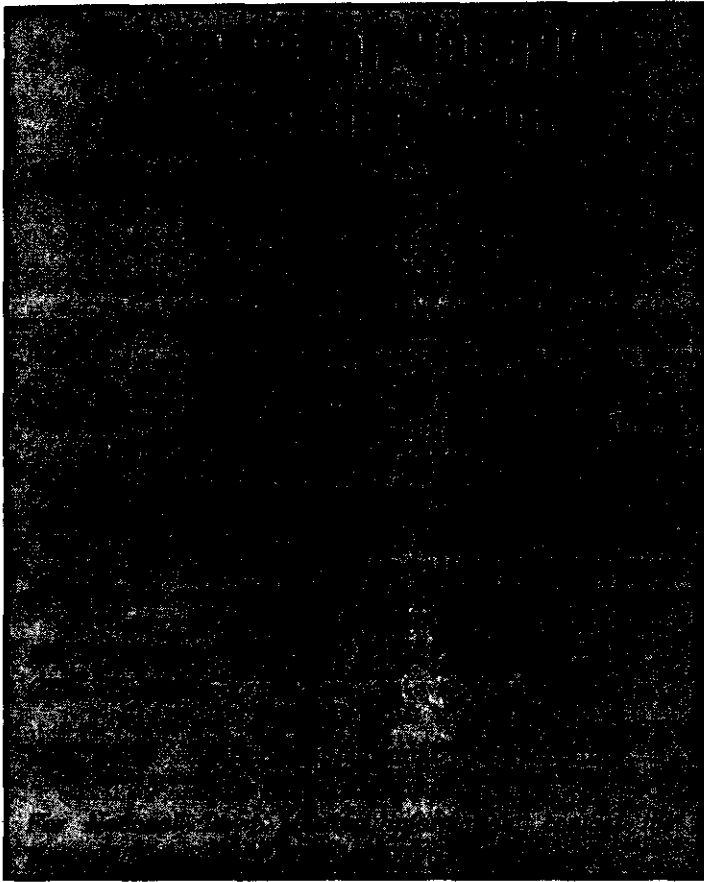
The project received a Preservation Services Fund grant from the National Trust for planning the project, which will turn the old residence into a multi-use facility, with space for offices and for events and receptions.

To contact the Great Plains Preservation and Development Foundation, write to 1001 Tenth Street, Woodward, OK 73801, or call (405) 256-5104.

Main Street Program Manager Sees Progress In Preservation Ethic

According to Beverly White-Holloway, program manager for Woodward Main Street, the community has inadvertently preserved many historically important properties, but is only now putting the name "historic preservation" to what has been and what should be done. The Woodward Arts Theatre and Cultural Center has been restored to its original 1920's architectural splendor. Built by the Terry brothers to expand their movie theater enterprise, the Woodward Arts Theatre also includes a full proscenium stage, orchestra pit, and dressing rooms for actors, because the man who bankrolled the venture, J.O. Selman, considered talking pictures a fad and wanted the investment to remain sound when Vaudeville made its comeback. Jack Luthie, who organized Woodward citizens to rehabilitate the theatre is delighted to relate this tale in full to visitors and often will offer an impromptu tour of the facility.

The real victory of the Woodward Arts Theatre, however, lies not in the pride of those who care for the building or organize the forty some odd events held there annually, but in the community-wide recognition and support for the project. When Luthie organized to restore the theatre, the response by the community was immediate and somewhat surprising. People donated money, time, and labor; excitement over the project proved infectious. Consequently, people throughout Woodward now consider the Woodward Arts Theatre to be their theatre.



Matching Grants Available for Register Nominations

On February 1, applications for National Register Nomination Grants will be available from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). These \$500 matching grants are used to assist in preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations for individual buildings, structures, sites, or objects. Applicants must provide the nonfederal matching share on a 50/50 basis.

The SHPO has set aside \$10,000 for this program from its 1995 Historic Preservation Fund Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior and will conduct two (2) application rounds. Deadlines for these are 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 3, and 5:00 p.m., Thursday, June 1. Applications to prepare nominations for properties associated with minority cultural, agricultural, or energy development will be given priority.

The National Register is the catalog of our nation's significant archaeological and historic resources worthy of preservation. Listing in the register provides recognition of the property's importance, *limited protection*, and *possible eligibility for federal investment tax credits*. There are approximately 850 Oklahoma properties included in the National Register.

For more information, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, at (405) 521-6249.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. - Have Slides, Will Travel!

Most of us belong to at least one civic organization (the Kiwanis, the Lions, the Rotarians, etc.) and whenever our names are chosen to find a speaker, we wring our hands and think, "What's to become of me?"

Well, weep no more! Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is here to chase away your public speaking blues. Our staff is eager to give presentations on historic preservation anywhere in the state. We can tailor the format to your needs, whether it be a rudimentary explanation of the background of historic preservation, or a treatment of some issue near and dear to your heart. And, you get an *Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties* slide show.

All we ask is that you supply a carousel slide projector for the presentation and invest in a membership in Preservation Oklahoma. Round up the folks you know should be members, but who just haven't taken the plunge. To book an engagement, call Robert K. Erwin at (405) 232-5747.



Assistance for the Design Aspects of Your Project

Does the image of your town need help? Do people have ideas but don't know what to do next? For minimal costs (1 night's lodging and 2 days of meals), DesignWorks brings a team of four or five design professionals to your town. The team selects a project, schematically designs it, gives a public presentation, and leaves the town with a written report, superb video, and a community design book. For more information, contact Fred Schmidt, DesignWorks Coordinator, at (405) 840-2931.

For less than 10 cents a page, the Oklahoma Design Guidelines book gives practical information for restoring old buildings. With many illustrations, one can determine the age and style of a building, recognize significant architectural details, and learn the best ways to repair brick, roofs, and windows, as well as find sources for more information. To order this 106-page book for \$10.00, call the Oklahoma Main Street Program, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, at (405) 841-5115.

Preservation Community Bulletin Board

Oklahoma Projects Receive Preservation Services Fund Grants

In November, the Rogers County Historical Society received \$2,500 and the Washita County Commission received \$3,000 from National Trust funds donated by the Kirkpatrick Foundation specifically for Oklahoma *Preservation Services Fund* projects. These grants will match local funds to hire an architectural consultant to assess the condition of the Will Rogers Hotel and to hire an historic preservation architect to prepare a restoration plan for the Washita County Courthouse.

Illegal Artifacts Dig Brings 6-Month Term

Randall Leon Craig, the first person prosecuted in Oklahoma under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1978 (an event reported in the last issue of Preservation Oklahoma News), has been sentenced to six months in a federal halfway house. Craig was prosecuted for causing over \$40,000 in damage to an archaeological site near Wister Lake in September.

In Memoriam

The preservation community mourns the passing of Wanda Whitt Moore, a dedicated preservation leader in Claremore, who died in October. Moore served for six years as the president of the Rogers County Historical Society and it was her persistence and motivation of others that is generally credited with the rescue of the historically important Will Rogers Hotel.

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The Oklahoma Museums Association needs volunteers in all Oklahoma counties to help locate and survey contemporary and traditional outdoor sculpture, folk art, and specially commissioned cemetery works. Volunteer commitment to *Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS!)* is approx. 20 hours total. Interested parties should contact Cherie Cook, OK Museums Assn., Kirkpatrick Center, 2100 N.E. 52nd St., OKC, OK 73111, or at (405) 424-7757.

Have an item for our bulletin board? News, upcoming events, concerns? Call us at (405) 232-5747.

The architecture firm of Glover-Smith-Bode, Inc., has received a General Services Administration Design Award for work on the Old Post Office/Courthouse renovation project in Oklahoma City. The award jury was assembled by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Join the statewide network of preservationists working to make a difference in Oklahoma!
Join Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

Just fill out this information and send it to P.O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125 along with a check for your membership type payable to Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

Your Name: Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Your Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Please Specify Membership Type:

Individual/Family: \$15.00

Corporate: \$100.00

Organizational: \$45.00

Patron: \$250.00

Heritage Club: \$1,000.00

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

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The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior.

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

All correspondence, materials, or address changes should be sent to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 25043
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043

Editors: **Robert K. Erwin**
Executive Director
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
(405) 232-5747

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Oklahoma Historical Society
(405) 521-6249

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
P.O. Box 25043
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043

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