

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

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



Shawnee's streetscape project is just one activity of the community's downtown revitalization effort for which they received the "Preserve America Community" designation.



Shawnee Designated Oklahoma's First "Preserve America" Community

Shawnee was honored last month when Mrs. Laura Bush designated it among the Nation's newest communities and the first Oklahoma community to receive this special recognition.

"'Preserve America' communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This new community designation program, combined with the 'Preserve America' Presidential Awards and Federal support, provides strong incentives for continued preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend you for your commitment to preserving an important part of our Nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and, most

importantly, for children."

The "Preserve America" initiative is a new White House effort 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.

Shawnee's "Preserve America" Communities application featured the revitalization of its downtown, including rehabilitation work, educational programs, and heritage tourism initiatives,

as justification for the designation. The revitalization effort began in 1989 when Shawnee was selected as an Oklahoma Main Street project. Since that time over \$10 million of public/private monies have been invested in the revitalization area.

Shawnee volunteers, with input from the State Historic Preservation Office, completed the successful National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Bell Street Historic District to help facilitate the revitalization effort. Projects in the district include completion of the \$1.2 million streetscape project, Phase I of a proposed \$10 million streetscape project that encompasses downtown Shawnee's main arteries.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Main Street and the National Register of Historic Places: A Tool for Success

By Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian, State Historic Preservation Office

One of the chief precepts of the Main Street program is to promote economic success through historic preservation. By attracting investment into historic commercial centers and by marketing an area's historic authenticity, Main Street programs strive to create vibrant, economically viable downtowns that retain the distinctive, historic character that makes each a unique destination. The National Register of Historic Places can be and is a valuable tool for Main Street organizations to use.

The National Register is a program of the federal government. Created by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, the National Register is a compendium of buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that demonstrate significance in some aspect of our history. Resources nominated to the National Register must be authentic; they must have historic integrity. They are carefully documented and their significance is substantiated. Research has shown that tourists and visitors prefer authenticity, and resources listed in the National Register are, based on substantial documentation, authentic.

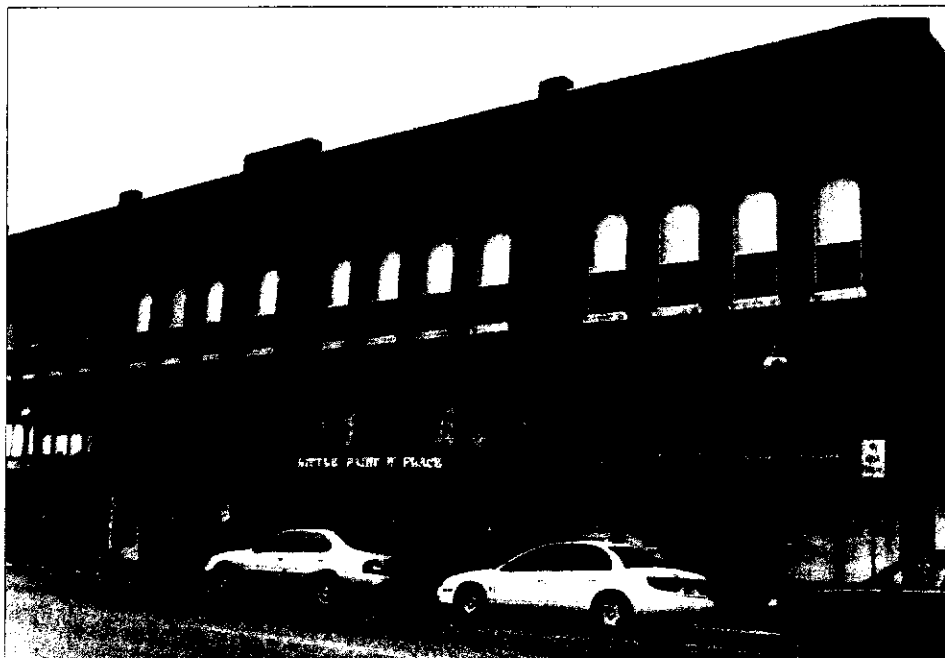
There are thirteen communities that participate in the Oklahoma Main Street program that have National Register listed commercial districts. These are Ardmore, Checotah, Cordell, Newkirk, Okmulgee, Pauls Valley, Perkins, Perry, Sapulpa, Sayre, Shawnee, Sulphur, and the Stockyards City program in Oklahoma City. Interest in designating all or parts of Main Street commercial downtowns has picked up recently. Nominations for



Hassen Building in the Historic Downtown Sulphur Commercial District

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Carter/Booker Block in the Ardmore Historic Commercial District



National Register Nomination Grants Available from the SHPO

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces 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 has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2005 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U. S. Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for award in two grant rounds with any funds remaining from Round 1 carried over for Round 2. Applications and detailed instructions will be available from the SHPO on February 1. The deadline for Round 1

applications is 5:00 pm on April 1, and the deadline for Round 2 applications is 5:00 pm on June 1.

Each grant is limited to \$900.00, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$600.00. Grant recipients will use the funds to retain an appropriately qualified professional to complete preparation of an individual property nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the catalogue of our nations 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 steps in any preservation process.

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 or further information about the National Register, contact the SHPO at (405)521-6249 or visit our website at www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/shpo/shpom.htm.

Main Street

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downtown Hobart and an expansion of the Ardmore district are in process at this time, and six of the aforementioned districts have been listed in the last four years.

One of the tools available to owners of income producing properties that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places is the 20% federal investment tax credit that applies to the rehabilitation of historic buildings. The rehabilitation of buildings that are individually eligible or listed, or listed as part of a National Register district can qualify for the tax credit. This is often a prime motivating factor in investing in historic downtowns.

Nineteen applications for tax credits have been received from these towns in the last 10 years, sixteen of these in the last 5 years.

Another tool that Main Street communities can use is the very designation itself. "National Register of Historic Places" can be a stamp of approval for a building or a district. When used in advertising, brochures, websites or other media, the National Register moniker can help bring extra attention to a place. Again, it illustrates the authentic nature of the historic resource. The nomination documentation contains historic information that can be used not only in promotional literature, but in educational literature as well. The nomination materials are excellent sources of information for walking or driving tours, for researchers interested in local history, or even for individual property owners who wish to showcase the history of their buildings.

National Register listing is a process of documentation. The end result is an acknowledgment that a resource demonstrates significance in some aspect of our history. How the listing is used is up to property owners, Main Street organizations, and city leaders. It can mean little more than a plaque on the wall or it can be a tool for the future.

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Mark Your Calendar for the 2005 Statewide Preservation Conference

In a departure from our traditional schedule, Oklahoma's 17th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held June 8-10, 2005. We believe the move to June will make it easier for more Oklahoma preservationists to attend. So, mark your calendars now and plan to join us in downtown Stillwater.

"Making the Grade in Preservation:" Oklahoma's 17th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference is your continuing education opportunity, and you must not fail to attend. The program features three concurrent sessions with Track A: "Historic Preservation on Campus," including presentations about college and university campus buildings, public schools, and much more (such as presentations from each of the U. S. service academies); Track B: "Community Revitalization Workbook," featuring sessions about tax credits and the economic benefits of historic preservation (Don Rypkema, Place Economics is just one of the speakers in this track); and Track C: "Preservation Cliff Notes,"

providing the basic information you need to build a successful local preservation program (for example, which agencies and organizations to contact). Tours of Stillwater's historic places and many other special events are planned.

Just one of these special events is the keynote session. Heather MacIntosh,

President, Preservation Action will deliver the keynote address on the topic "Making the Grade in Preservation: Channeling Passion into Positive Action." MacIntosh, who created and led advocacy efforts while working for Historic Seattle began her duties with

See Conference, page 5



Old Central, Oklahoma State University Campus

Oklahoma's Outdoor Sculpture Update

The Oklahoma Museums Association would like to update its files on outdoor sculpture in Oklahoma. Members may remember that from 1994 to 1996 OMA and many volunteers surveyed the entire state and found 300 outdoor works of art as part of the national Save Our Sculpture (SOS!) program. We are now interested in hearing about statues and other works of art that have been placed in communities since 1996. If you know of an outdoor work of art placed in your community since 1996, please send the information to:

Oklahoma Museums Association
Attn: Cherie Cook
2100 NE 52nd Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
email: ccook@okmuseums.org

- 1) Name of Sculpture (if known)
- 2) Artist (if known)
- 3) Location (city, plus street address or intersection)



"Spirit of the American Soldier." A rare E.M. Viquesney bronze located in Hobart. Circa 1925

Calendar of Events

UNVEILING OF 2005 OKLAHOMA'S MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

January 31, 7 pm
Mayo Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Information: (405)525-5325
Free. Open to the Public.

HISTORIC PLANTS AND LANDSCAPES OF OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma's Endangered Historic
Places Program
Presented by Brian Dougherty
February 17, 7pm
Will Rogers Park, Oklahoma City
Information: (405)525-5325
Free. Open to the Public.

CHILOCCO: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Oklahoma's Endangered Historic
Places Program
Presented by Donna Flood
March 10, 7pm
Newkirk, Oklahoma
Free. Open to the Public.

THE SECTION 106 REVIEW PROCESS: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

SHPO Workshop
May 11, 9:30 am-12:00 noon
Norma Sparks Warren
Memorial Library
210 North Willow, Pauls Valley

Register by May 4: (405)521-6249 or
sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us
Free. Limited Space Available.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER SECTION 106

SHPO Workshop
May 11, 1:30 pm-5 pm
Norma Sparks Warren
Memorial Library
210 North Willow, Pauls Valley

Register by May 4: (405)521-6249 or
sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us
Free. Limited Space Available.

WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

SHPO Workshop
May 12, 9:30 am -5 pm
Norma Sparks Warren
Memorial Library
210 North Willow, Pauls Valley

Register by May 4: (405)521-6249 or
sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us
Free. Limited Space Available.

FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES FOR REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

SHPO Workshop
May 13, 9:30 am -12 noon
Norma Sparks Warren
Memorial Library
210 North Willow, Pauls Valley

Register by May 4: (405)521-6249 or
sjotley@ok-history.mus.ok.us
Free. Limited Space Available.

GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

SHPO Workshop
May 13, 1:30 pm - 5 pm
Norma Sparks Warren
Memorial Library
210 North Willow, Pauls Valley

Register by May 4: (405)521-6249 or
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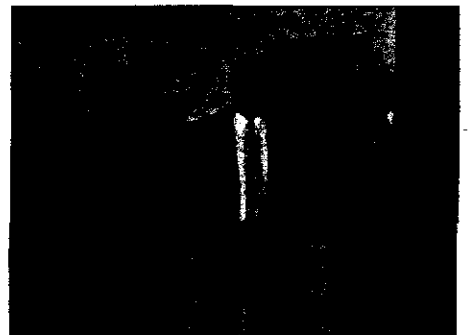
Conference

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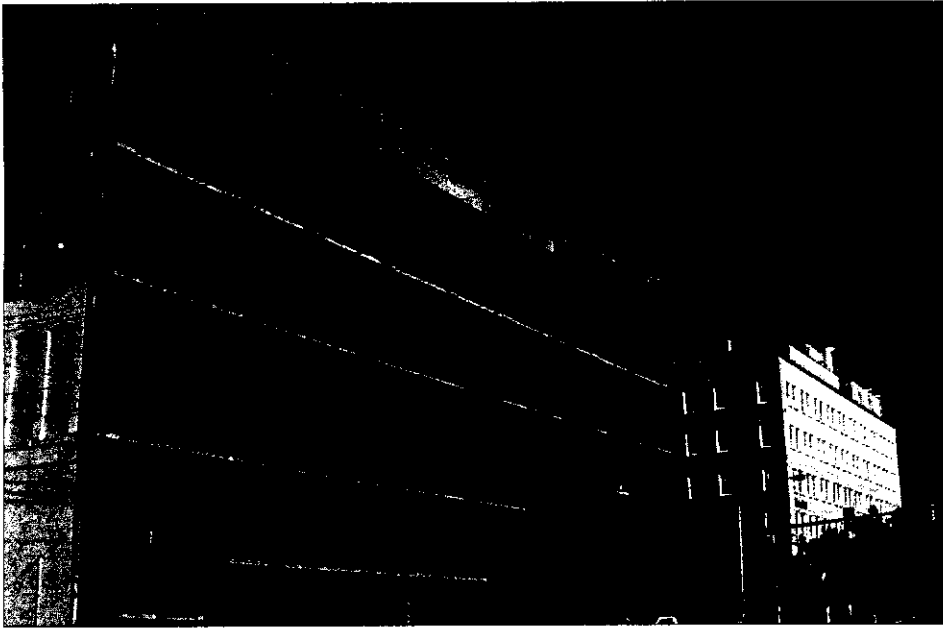
Preservation Action in September. Preservation Action is the 30 year-old national lobbying organization instrumental in advocating for improved preservation legislation and incentives at the national level.

MacIntosh, a dynamic speaker, is skilled in preservation advocacy and public policy issues. At Historic Seattle, she developed a large advocacy network, coordinated community preservation action, developed relationships with elected officials and the media and launched an award-winning online newsletter. She holds an M.A. in the history of architecture with certification in historic preservation from the University of Virginia School of Architecture, an M.A. in art history from Williams College and a B.A. with honors in art history from the University of North Carolina.

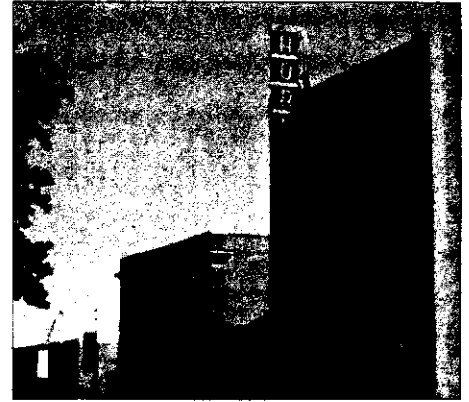
Cosponsors for the 2005 conference include the State Historic Preservation Office; Oklahoma Main Street Center; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Downtown Stillwater; and Stillwater Convention and Visitors Bureau. Watch your mailbox and the April issue of "Preservation Oklahoma News" for conference details. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO at (405)522-4484 or mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us.



Brenda Granger, Michael Cassity and Heather Seifert attend on "Oklahoma's Most Endangered" program at the Edmond Historical Society and Museum.



Bell Street Historic District in Downtown Shawnee.



“Preserve America”

continued from page 1

The streetscape project was funded by city sales tax revenue and a Tea-21 federal grant from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation with design input from Downtown Shawnee, Inc. The project was completed in June 2004 and included the replacement of sidewalks, intersections, streetlights and the addition of green spaces which compliment the historic properties lining the brick street. The project will enhance the two rehabilitation projects for the 20% federal investment tax credit currently underway in the district.

In 2004, Shawnee hosted “Windows of Opportunity for Preservation:” Oklahoma’s 16th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference. Joining the State Historic Preservation Office, the Oklahoma Main Street Center and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. as conference cosponsors were Downtown Shawnee, Inc., the Society for Revitalization of Downtown Shawnee, Inc., the Shawnee Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Fe Depot Museum, and the Mabee Gerrer Museum of Art. Many other local agencies and organizations, including the City of Shawnee, the Pioneer Library System and

the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, helped organize and implement this three day event. The conference had an estimated 5.35% economic impact on the City of Shawnee’s economy.

Conference participants experienced the Downtown Shawnee Walking Tour, organized and implemented by the Historical Society of Potawatomi County. The guided tour encompasses twenty-seven historic properties. In addition, Shawnee’s Stained Glass Tour, developed by the Convention and Visitors Bureau, was a conference highlight. Both of these tours are available year round as a part of Shawnee’s Heritage Tourism Campaign.

Clearly, the strong public/private partnerships formed to revitalize downtown Shawnee are impacting the City’s overall economy while fostering the preservation of the community’s heritage. The “Preserve America” Community designation was designed to recognize exactly the community-wide support of and participation in the preservation of local heritage described in Shawnee’s application.

Communities designated through the program 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; and listing in a Web-based directory to showcase preservation efforts and highlight heritage tourism destinations. The Bush Administration is also seeking grant support for the program through the annual budget process.

John L. Nau, III, chairman of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), said, “There are significant economic, educational, and cultural benefits that historic preservation, through efforts such as heritage tourism, bring to a community. Sustainable preservation is not a cost for maintaining the past, it is an investment in building the future. You have shown that your community is a national leader in this trend and have created a powerful positive example for others.”

The ACHP partners with the Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies to administer the “Preserve America” Community program on behalf of the Office of the First Lady. For more information and updates on the initiative, please visit <http://www.PreserveAmerica.gov>. SHPO’s across the nation assist communities in their respective states as they prepare their applications for the designation, and Melvena Heisch of the Oklahoma SHPO invites communities to contact her at (405) 522-4484 or mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us to discuss their applications.



The Overholser Mansion was honored to be a part of the 38th Annual Heritage Hills Historic Homes Tour, held on October 16 and 17. Pictured left to right: Teresa Black, Nancy and James Singleterry played the mountain dulcimer and banjo for visitors touring the Overholser during the Home Tour. Nearly 1,800 visitors participated in the weekend festivities.

Celebrate National Preservation Month 2005

The National Trust has formally designated the month of May as Preservation Month. Due to its overwhelming popularity, the Trust has expanded Preservation Week into a month-long celebration to provide an extended opportunity for local communities to honor and celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of the country's communities and states.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. and the State Historic Preservation Office encourage local preservation leaders across Oklahoma to participate in this national observance. We will help spread the word about your National Preservation Month events. Just e-mail notices to Melvena Heisch atmheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us, and she will distribute them through the SHPO's listserve.

If your community does not already have a regular preservation event in May, this would be a good time to start the tradition. Events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fundraising events, educational programs and heritage travel opportunities are just a few suggestions.

For more information visit the National Trust's website at:
<http://www.nationaltrust.org/preservationmonth/promoting.html>

Upcoming Grants

Ruth and Allen Mayo Fund for Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

This fund provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 (typically from \$1,000 to \$1,500) for preservation planning and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as preservation education activities to educate the public. The next application deadline is February 1, 2005.

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation

This fund provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for projects that contribute to the preservation or the recapture of an authentic sense of place. Individuals and for-profit businesses may apply only if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. Funds may be used for professional advice, conferences, workshops and education programs. This grant is nationally competitive with one deadline per year, February 1, 2005.

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors

This fund provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Individuals and for-profit businesses may apply only if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. Funds may be used for professional expertise, print and video communications materials, and education programs. This grant is nationally competitive with one deadline per year, February 1, 2005.

Please contact the National Trust regional office serving Oklahoma at swro@nthp.org or (817)332-4398 for more information about Preservation Services Fund grant requirements, applications and deadlines.

**PRESERVATION
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**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
STATEWIDE PRESERVATION NETWORK.
JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA TODAY.**

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

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- Associate – \$100- \$249
- Friend – up to \$100

Mail, along with check, to:
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405 Northwest Fifteenth Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

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