

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

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

January 2006 volume 11 number 6



SHPO Expands Website

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Oklahoma Historical Society is excited to announce the addition of new National Register of Historic Places and Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory information to our website. These additions result from a multi-year partnership project with the Department of Geography, Oklahoma State University and assistance from the Kirkpatrick Family Group. The project is part of the ongoing development of our website to increase public access to information about Oklahoma's historic resources and their preservation.

Are you searching for a photo of an Oklahoma property listed in the National Register? Need a brief statement about why a particular property is listed in the register? Or, do you need to compile a list of everything in a city or county that is recorded at the SHPO? This information and much more is now available with the click of your mouse, and there is no charge for the access. We believe the regular users of the hard copy versions of these materials will find the new online access convenient and easy to use.

Here is how to find the new National Register of Historic Places and Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) Website and the specific information you need.

Just go to www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/shpo/shom.htm and then select either "Programs, then National Register," "Programs, then Section 106," or "Survey/Planning." You will find a selection in each location that links you to the new information.

The National Register section includes an interactive map, photos, brief descriptions, and search options. The Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory section contains more than 42,000 properties recorded through the SHPO's survey and other program activities and offers search options.

As we announced in the last issue of Preservation Oklahoma News, all of the architectural/historic survey reports and all of the historic context documents generated under various SHPO programs are also now available in PDF on our website. These reports include historic context information, lists of properties recorded, assessments of National Register eligibility, and bibliographical information.

We hope you find the website useful. You are always welcome to visit our office to use the hard copy files too. Let us know when we can be of assistance. Call the SHPO at 405/521-6249.



Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker



Cathy Ambler

Tours in Downtown Tulsa and Fairlawn Cemetery

As part of the Most Endangered Historic Places Program, Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office sponsored two walking tours: Downtown Tulsa and Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City. Pointing out important architecture and noting the contributions of Tulsa's citizens, Marilyn Inhofe-Tucker led a group through Downtown Tulsa. Thank you to the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture for co-sponsoring this tour.

Dr. Cathy Ambler's group enjoyed a walk through Fairlawn Cemetery in Oklahoma City. Dr. Ambler outlined the changing concepts of death as evidenced in burial grounds, their locations and the markers used to memorialize the dead. Thank you to the Oklahoma Humanities Council for making this cemetery tour possible.

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

info@preserveok.org

or send by regular mail to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Editors:

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Oklahoma Historic Society
405/522-4484 | www.ok-history-mus.ok.us

Heather Seifert
Executive Director
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
Overholser Mansion
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103
405/525-5325 | www.preserveok.org

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



Wayne Cantwell and his daughter Hannah performed traditional old time and Irish Music at the Overholser Mansion.

Overholser Mansion Participates in Tour

The Overholser Mansion and Preservation Oklahoma were pleased to participate in the annual Heritage Hills Home Tour on September 24 and 25. Proceeds from this event benefit the Heritage Hills Neighborhood Association. Many thanks to the volunteers that helped at the Overholser Mansion during this two-day event.

Chesapeake gives \$10,000 for Economic Study

Preservation Oklahoma is honored to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Chesapeake Energy Corporation. These funds will be used to conduct a study regarding the economic impact of historic preservation in Oklahoma. When completed, this study will serve two purposes: to provide support for local preservation efforts and programs, and possibly more importantly, to serve as a guide to develop public policy related to our state's historic resources. Other organizations assisting with the funding of this study include the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. If you or your organization is interested in helping with the fund raising efforts for this study, please contact Heather Seifert at info@preserveok.org.

National Trust Announces Five Pilot States for Advocacy Capacity Building Project: *Oklahoma, Alabama, Michigan, Montana, and Virginia*

Program designed to help preservation organizations increase advocacy capacity and influence state policy

Washington, D.C. (November 21, 2005) Today, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced that Preservation Oklahoma has been selected to participate in the State Advocacy Capacity Building Pilot, a new National Trust technical assistance and training program. This new program, funded in significant part by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund and the Prince Charitable Trusts, is designed to help statewide preservation organizations increase their advocacy capacity and enhance their ability to influence state decision-makers. Five states were selected for the pilot including Oklahoma, Alabama, Michigan, Montana, and Virginia.

"We hope the work of Preservation Oklahoma through this pilot program will encourage other states across the country to adopt a coordinated and sustained approach to preservation advocacy," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

With decision-making moving increasingly to the state and local arenas, the State Advocacy Capacity Building Pilot Program will help Preservation Oklahoma strengthen an existing coalition of local preservationists and allied organizations to effectively advocate preservation priorities to elected officials. Oklahoma will benefit from this coordinated and sustained approach that will help create economically viable downtowns, encourage reuse of older buildings, and preserve cultural landscapes.

Coming on the heels of successfully lobbying for passage of a state-wide rehabilitation tax credit, Bill Gumerson, president of Preservation Oklahoma announced, "We are honored to be selected by the National Trust. By participating in the pilot program, Preservation Oklahoma hopes to educate all Oklahomans about the importance of protecting their heritage for future generations and to encourage the establishment of a maintenance fund for historic state and county government buildings."

The National Trust has a long history of working towards building an effective preservation movement in the US in all 50 states, territories and the District of Columbia. Since its inception in 1993, the National Trust's Statewide and Local Partners program has encouraged the creation of a staffed preservation organization in over 35 states. For more information about the National Trust's State Advocacy Capacity Building Project, please call the State and Local Policy Office at 202/588-6234 or visit the National Trust's website at www.nationaltrust.org.

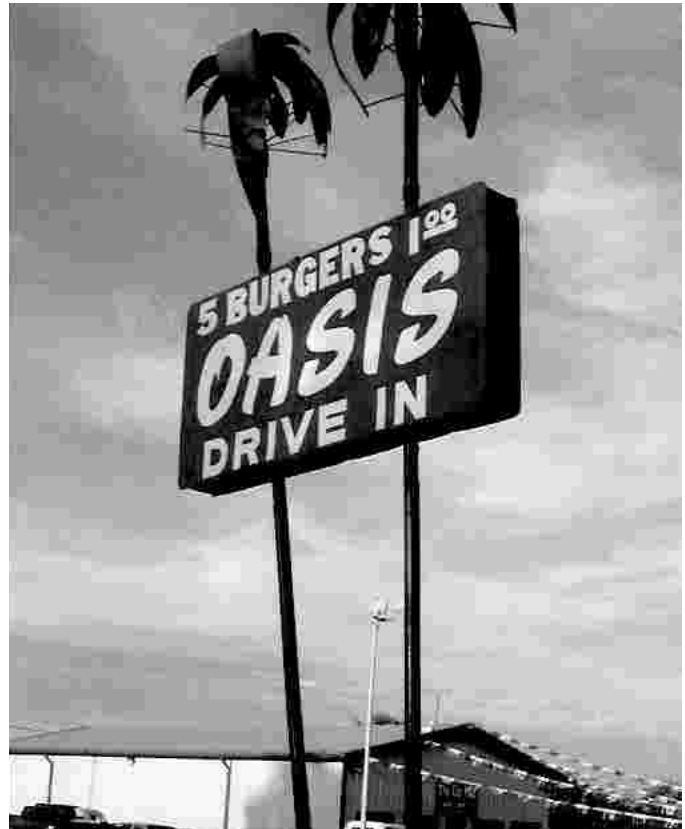
Overholser Celebration: An Historic Success

On September 30, Preservation Oklahoma and the Chafing Dish Society hosted the Centennial Celebration of the Overholser Mansion.

This black tie event was held in honor of Dannie Bea Hightower. We are pleased to report a net profit of \$35,000. The proceeds will benefit the exterior renovation of the Overholser. A special thank you to Judge and Mrs. Richard Bohanan for chairing the event, and to all the volunteers that made this historic event a success.



Mary Ellen and Bill Gumerson at the Overholser Celebration. Photo courtesy of Beau Blackburn.



Oasis Gets Facelift

Preservation El Reno, Inc. received a grant from the National Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to rehabilitate this metal palm tree sign and the existing buildings exterior. Built in the 1950's, the drive-in was known of having served 5-cent burgers and sodas. The site still stands as a prominent landmark at the east entrance of El Reno.

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 2006 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 p.m. on April 3, and the deadline for Round 2 applications is 5:00 p.m. on June 1.

Each grant is limited to \$900.00, and the applicant must provide a non-federal, 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 nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing in the National Register is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, it is one of the most important components of the preservation strategy for any significant property. The designation provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal and state 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 .

Historic Preservation Review Committee's 2006 Schedule

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) is appointed by the Governor to provide advice to the State Historic Preservation Officer about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and other preservation issues. The Committee meets quarterly, and their 2006 schedule is as follows:

Thursday, January 19, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 20, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, July 20, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 19, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.

Each meeting will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Oklahoma History Center 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City. This is the Oklahoma Historical Society's new location just north-east of the State Capitol. The meetings are open to the public, and meeting agendas are provided on the State Historic Preservation Office's website at www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/shpo/shpom.htm under "Events."

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO's programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the National Register and other SHPO programs. Professionals in the fields of history, prehistoric archeology, historic archeology, architecture, and architectural history comprise the Committee. Current Committee membership includes Arn Henderson (Architectural Historian), Chairman; Dr. Stanley Bussey (Prehistoric Archeologist), Vice Chairman; Dr. LeRoy Fischer (Historian); Mr. Harry Simms (Architect) and Towana Spivey (Historical Archeologist).

During each meeting, the Committee hears presentations on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places from SHPO staff and consultants, receives comments from owners of properties proposed for nomination, listens to public comments and concerns, and formulates recommendations to the SHPO about whether or not a property should be nominated to the National Register. The Committee and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of the statewide preservation program.

For further information about the Committee, the National Register, or other SHPO programs, call 405/521-6249 or visit us on the website listed above.

Birnbaum to Keynote 18th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

Mark your calendars for May, 31–June 2, 2006 and plan to attend *Preservation Inside and Out: Oklahoma's 18th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference*. It will be held in Wilburton/Robbers Cave State Park. The location provides the perfect setting for the sessions we have planned and for relaxed interaction among conference participants.

The keynote speaker will be Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative, National Park Service, Washington, D. C. He will discuss the importance of historic landscapes and issues associated with their preservation. Prior to joining NPS in 1992, he spent a decade in private practice with a focus on the preservation of historic landscapes. Representative of his preservation planning projects are the Emerald Necklace Parks, Boston, MA; Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY; Lake Washington Boulevard, Seattle, WA; Albermarle Park, Asheville, NC, and cultural landscape reports for Andrew Jackson Downing's Springside and the Vanderbilt Mansion, both National Historic Landmarks.

Some of Birnbaum's recent NPS projects include the on-line technical series, *Cultural Landscape Currents*, the publication, *Guidelines for the Treatment*

of Cultural Landscapes, and a public-broadcasting quality film, *Connections: Preserving America's Landscape Legacy*, narrated by Angela Lansbury. Other NPS projects include a *Preservation Brief* titled *Protecting Cultural Landscapes* and three national database projects, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography*, *Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography*, and *A National Directory of Landscape Preservation Organizations*.

The conference program will again include three concurrent tracks with an emphasis on landscapes, recreational resources, and community preservation program development. Tours and other special events round out the agenda. Conference cosponsors include the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Wilburton Main Street, Inc.; Robbers Cave State Park; Wilburton Chamber of Commerce; Latimer County Arts Council; Wilburton Round-Up Club; Twentieth Century Club; and Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Watch the April issue of Preservation Oklahoma News, other mailings, and the SHPO's website (www.ok-history.mus.ok.us/shpo/shpom.htm) for full details.



Buildings by ... Joseph Foucart

Joseph Foucart was born on November 14, 1848 in Belgium. Schooled in engineering and architecture in Gaunt, Foucart worked in both disciplines in France and Belgium. He left for the United States in 1888 and came to Oklahoma Territory from Kansas City in June, 1889. Foucart became the premier architect in Guthrie, the capital of the new Territory. He quickly made a reputation in town with his substantial and decorative buildings. Word of his work spread and he soon got commissions outside of Guthrie, including buildings at two of the new colleges. But it is the streets of Guthrie that show his work in its full glory. Nearly a dozen buildings were built following his designs; most of them are still extant. Foucart left Oklahoma around the time of statehood. Little is known of where he went and if he continued his architectural practice elsewhere. He did, however, leave a distinctive imprint on Oklahoma's landscape.



Foucart Building, Guthrie

Built in 1890, this stone building at 115 West Harrison housed Foucart's office in its third floor tower. The elliptical arch windows, balustraded parapet, and quarry-faced sandstone walls give a hint to the decorative touches typical to a Foucart design.



State Capital Publishing Building, Guthrie

One of Foucart's largest commissions, the State Capital Publishing Company building was completed in 1902. The focal point of the building is a four-story corner tower. Each level is carried on chamfered granite columns and the tower is topped with a concave, pyramidal roof. Stone finials pierce the cornice, adding additional visual interest.



Heilman House, Guthrie

One of Foucart's few residential commissions, the 1895 Heilman House, in form, differs little from the typical Queen Anne style house of the era. It has asymmetrical massing and an offset tower; it is the details, though, that mark it as a Foucart design. The house is masonry, with quarry-faced stone on the first floor and brick on the second. The second floor windows have stone lintels. Foucart favored mixed masonry. Two elements of the house are distinctive to Foucart – the Russian dome atop the tower and the round arched window. Foucart carries the arch 270 degrees, well beyond the typical half-circle of most round arches.



First National Bank, Perry

Located on the east side of the courthouse square in Perry, the First National Bank was completed in 1902. The red brick building had stone finials and the distinctive arched window typical to Foucart's work. In the Perry bank, the window has a dressed limestone surround with a projecting sill that gives the window opening a keyhole look.



IOOF Widows & Orphans Home, Checotah

On the north edge of Checotah, the Oklahoma Odd Fellows established a working farm that supported an orphanage. Foucart, a member of the Odd Fellows lodge in Guthrie, was chosen to design the main residential building, completed in 1902. The three story facility is marked by a four story tower centered on the front. The tower is brick with quarry faced sandstone quoins, round arched windows, and square finials at each corner, surrounding the steeply pitched pyramidal roof.



Alston-Bedwell House



Leonard Logan House



Sieber Grocery & Apartment Hotel



Will Rogers Park Gardens & Arboretum



Edwards Heights Historical District



Ardmore Historic Commercial District

New Listings in the National Register

Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian

Two houses, a hotel, a park, and two districts have recently been added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. These resources represent the broad scope of Oklahoma's history and each is an important piece of its respective community's heritage. The newly listed resources are: the Alston-Bedwell House and the Leonard Logan House, both in Tahlequah; the Sieber Grocery & Apartment Hotel, Will Rogers Park Gardens and Arboretum, and the Edwards Heights Historical District, all in Oklahoma City; and, the Ardmore Historic Commercial District (boundary increase and decrease) in Ardmore.

Two houses in Tahlequah, both nominated by the City of Tahlequah, were listed for their importance in the area's history. The Alston-Bedwell House, constructed in 1906, was listed as a significant example of the Free Classic style of architecture in Tahlequah. The original occupant, William Alston,

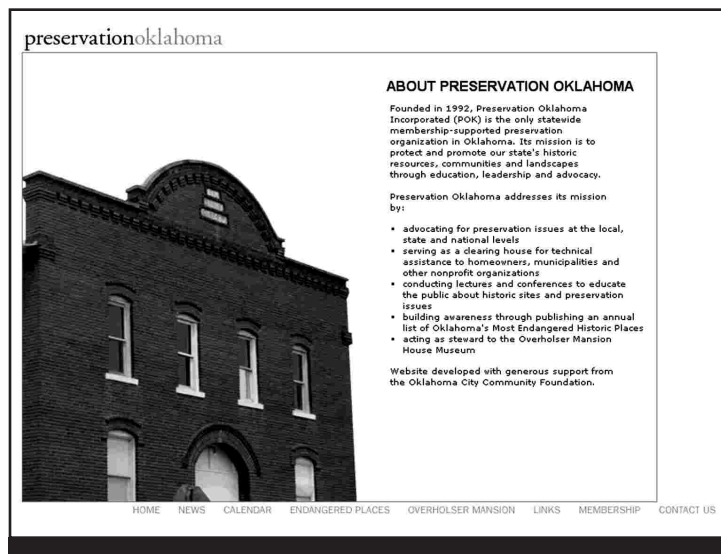
was a carpenter who built this and other houses in the area, as well as churches in other towns. The Leonard Logan House, constructed in 1909, was the home of one of the area's early and most influential educators. Logan taught at the Cherokee Seminaries and at Northeastern Normal College; he was instrumental in creating professional associations for and in furthering the education and training of teachers.

In Oklahoma City, three distinct and varied resources were recently listed. The Edwards Heights Historical District is the first post World War II residential neighborhood in Oklahoma to be recognized by the National Register. Its significance lies in its development as a modern, quality subdivision built by and for African Americans. In a time when segregation of the races was the law, and African Americans were restricted to living in certain parts of the city, usually in inadequate dwellings, quality housing was in short supply. Walter & Frances Edwards, who had constructed a smaller subdivision just before the war, expanded their vision to include larger, more substantial homes, and also included a park, a hospital, a school, and other amenities

that make a community. Another example of community building can be seen in the Sieber Grocery & Apartment Hotel. Robert Sieber began his commercial venture with a grocery and meat processing business. In time, he expanded to include an eight story hotel next door to his grocery and later to a theater down the street. The area was sometimes referred to as the Sieber Village. The Hotel and Grocery buildings, long vacant, will soon be rehabilitated as apartments utilizing the federal and state investment tax credits. The third Oklahoma City property to be listed is Will Rogers Park Gardens and Arboretum. Comprising the north third of Will Rogers Park, the gardens and arboretum are a significant landscape and an important feature in the city's park system. While the park itself dates to just after statehood, it was not fully developed until the 1930s when federal work relief agencies pitched in to create a functional, multi-dimensional park. The gardens and arboretum were intended to be places of beauty and learning, but also to provide materials for other parks and public spaces throughout the city. Incorporated into the landscape is a formal rose garden and a conservatory.

Since 1983 the Ardmore Historic Commercial District has been listed in the National Register. In anticipation of potential benefits, the city elected to update the original nomination to better reflect current conditions. The end result was an expanded boundary for the district and a revised period of significance for the buildings contained within. Since 1983, changes to the original district required that a block of Main Street be deleted from the original boundaries, but that four blocks on Caddo and North Washington streets be added. The result is a more cohesive district that best reflects Ardmore's storied commercial history.

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to share this information with you. The SHPO strives to educate the public about the federal preservation programs, of which the National Register of Historic Places is the centerpiece. For further information on these or any of Oklahoma National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478 (email: jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us).



Community Foundation Funds POK Website

Preservation Oklahoma is pleased to announce it has received a \$2650 grant from the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The grant was used to assist in funding a website which will allow Preservation Oklahoma to increase its statewide outreach.

"We are pleased to have received this grant," says Heather Seifert, Executive Director for Preservation Oklahoma. "Our website will allow us to reach those interested in preservation across the state. Visit the new site at www.preserveok.org. We appreciate the support of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation."

Founded in 1969, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation manages nearly \$480 million in assets and is ranked as one of the largest community foundations in the country. Governed by a 15-member board of trustees, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation's mission is to help donors meet the charitable needs of the community through the development and administration of permanent endowment funds for non-profit organizations, scholarships and other charities. Grants are awarded three times a year to metropolitan area non-profit organizations.

For more information about the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and its Community grants Program, visit www.occf.org.

Two Oklahoma projects receive SAT grants

The National Park Service in partnership with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services recently announced the recipients of its 2005 Save America's Treasures (SAT) grants. SAT makes critical investments in the preservation of our nation's most significant cultural treasures, and two extremely important Oklahoma projects were chosen to receive one of these highly competitive grants.

Grants are awarded for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites. Grant amounts range from \$50,000 to \$1 million to conserve collections, and from \$250,000 to \$1 million for historic property and sites projects. Applicants must provide a dollar-for-dollar non-Federal matching share to receive the grants.

Sixty-one (61) projects in twenty-nine (29) states and the District of Columbia were awarded 2005 SAT grants. States, localities, corporations, foundations, and individuals who value America's heritage have pledged support for these important projects through financial contributions and in-kind services to provide the required non-Federal matching share for their respective projects.

The two Oklahoma projects include:

Vincent Maragliotti Ceilings in the Marland Mansion, City of Ponca City, Ponca City. Entrepreneur E. W. Marland was an Oklahoma governor and the country's largest independent oil producer in the 1920's. His imposing, Italian Renaissance Villa style mansion includes decorative ceilings painted by Italian mural artist Vincent Maragliotti. This grant will support conservation and restoration of several water-damaged ceiling paintings in this National Historic Landmark. Award: \$180,000.

Native American Ledger Art, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman. These ledger books of artwork by members of the Kiowa and Cheyenne Nations depict battles, hunts, ceremonies, rituals, and other aspects of tribal life. This grant will support conservation of these three examples of late 19th-century pictographic art. Award: \$100,000.

Complete guidelines, applications and information, as well as a database of previous SAT awardees, can be found on the National Park Service Web site <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/treasures/index.htm>.

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Join Preservation Oklahoma today

and become a member of the Statewide Preservation Network.

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

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