

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS



Preservation
OKLAHOMA

January 2013 Volume XIX, No 2

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

2013 STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE IN PERRY

Save the dates, June 5-7, 2013, for *Our Sense of Place: Oklahoma's 25th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference* in Perry, "Queen City" of the Cherokee Outlet. The surrounding rich agricultural land, the Perry Courthouse Square Historic District (including only six buildings constructed after 1940), the Noble County Courthouse, and Perry Lake Park are just some of the assets that contribute to the town's character and that illustrate this year's conference theme.

The three concurrent tracks of sessions will focus on the buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes that provide a sense of orientation and a sense of place to Oklahomans. **TRACK A: Homes and Hometowns** features the neighborhoods, individual houses, commercial buildings, sacred places, and other properties that define the unique character of our communities. **TRACK B: Technologies and Techniques** explores how preservationists use current technology and preservation techniques to share information, adapt historic buildings for new uses, and protect all types of properties for future generations. **TRACK C: Landmarks and Landscapes** examines the vernacular and designed landscapes and the icons that connect Oklahomans to the places they call home.



Volunteers working on the façade of the Order of the Odd Fellows Building. Photo: Main Street of Perry



Noble County Courthouse. Photo: Main Street of Perry

Special events include the opening reception in the courthouse square; local tours; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s annual meeting and luncheon; and the State Historic Preservation Office's annual awards banquet.

Conference cosponsors include the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society; the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Main Street of Perry; Cherokee Strip Museum; the City of Perry; and Civic Organization Cooperative Effort.

Full conference program and registration information will be available in late April. Follow conference developments on:

<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm>;
<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/conference.htm>;
<http://www.twitter.com/okshpo>; and
<http://www.okpreservationconference.wordpress.com>.

If you may have questions, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, (405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org) or Staci Bolay, Executive Director, Main Street of Perry, (580/336-1212 or staci.bolay@perrymainstreet.com).

POK 20/20 A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Dear Preservationists,

On November 8, 2012, Preservation Oklahoma celebrated its 20th anniversary by hosting two exciting and successful events—a symposium that explored issues facing the preservation community and a party that celebrated Preservation Oklahoma's first twenty years.

Oklahoma's Cultural Fabric: Using Preservation to Grow and Sustain our Communities and Heritage featured panels discussing the role of preservation in community revitalization efforts; the education of preservation leaders; the importance of historic schools; and historic preservation from a tribal perspective.

That evening, POK hosted *20/20: Two Decades of Preservation Oklahoma*. Over the course of the evening, guests were treated to the premiere of POK@20, a film that explores POK's first two decades and its important role today. The evening also featured a presentation by best-selling author and Route 66 expert Michael Wallis. Founding POK Board Members were honored and



Kristen Vails receives the POK Young Leadership Award from Barrett Williamson, POK President

Kristen Vails, Executive Director of the Plaza District Association, received the inaugural Preservation Oklahoma Young Leadership Award. We are especially grateful for the generous support of our sponsors for these events: Kirkpatrick Foundation, BancFirst, B C Clark, COOP Ale Works, and the Spirit Shop.

As we look ahead to POK's future, now is the time to join our organization. Your membership can help us make our next two decades even more successful!

Together in Preservation,

Barrett Williamson
President, POK Board of Directors

20 // 20
TWO DECADES OF PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA

SHPO ANNOUNCES HPRC'S 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee's (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2013. The HPRC (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. Meetings will begin at 1:30pm on Thursday, January 17, April 25, July 18, and October 17. Meeting agendas and National Register nominations under consideration at the respective meeting will be provided on the SHPO's website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm>.

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

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The activity that is the subject of 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.

This 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.

OKLAHOMA'S ROUTE 66 MOBILE TOUR

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the availability of *Oklahoma's Historic Route 66 Mobile Tour*. It is part of our ongoing effort to share information about the state's heritage and its preservation through current technology.

Designated in 1926, the 2,400 miles of Route 66 linked rural communities to urban ones, permitting an unprecedented flow of ideas and economic growth across the country. It saw the migration of Dust Bowl refugees; World War II troop movement; the advent of car culture and automobile tourism; and it facilitated large-scale settlement of the west. The highway has come to symbolize the spirit and freedom of America and the pursuit of the American Dream. The "Mother Road" gained legendary status through song, film, television, books, and personal experiences, and represents an important chapter in American history.

In 1985, Route 66 was decommissioned as a federal highway, but Oklahomans continue to celebrate the road and its landmarks. Through the SHPO's programs, dozens of Route 66 roadbed segments, bridges, service stations, motels, cafes, and related landmarks are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many

of them continue to serve travelers, while others are vacant for now, rapidly deteriorating, or already lost to us. There are many ongoing efforts to protect our state's Route 66 legacy and share it with visitors from around the world. Our mobile tour is designed to enhance these efforts by explaining the significance of each of these places. Museums that tell the Route 66 story are also featured in the tour.

To access the tour as you drive the historic highway or as you relax at home, just call 405/415-0626, listen to the brief introduction and instructions, and enter the stop numbers (1-72) using your telephone keypad. You then hear or read the text captioned name, location, and brief narrative for each stop. To move to another stop, enter the number when prompted at the end of a stop narrative. The list of stops is provided in a brochure available at museums and other locations along the tour route or from the SHPO. Also, the list and map of the stops are found at www.okhistory.org/route66mobiletour. If you are using a smart phone, you can link to more about each stop in particular and about Historic Route 66 in general. The tour is made available through the services of OnCell Systems, Inc.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ON SHPO'S WEBSITE UPDATED

To assist federal agencies and others in contacting tribal governments, the Oklahoma SHPO has updated its website to include the complete list of Oklahoma's thirty-eight federally recognized tribes; contact information for the fourteen Tribal Historic Preservation Offices designated under Section 101(d)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); links to tribal websites; contact information for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) tribal program; and contact information for the National Park Service Tribal Historic Preservation Programs and a link to their new resources for tribes. Finally, the link to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) website which provides guidance to assist its applicants to consult with the appropriate tribes.

This section of the SHPO's website is found at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/tribal106.htm>.

It is the federal agency's responsibility to identify and consult with the appropriate tribal governments under Section 106 of the NHPA early in the planning of federal undertakings.

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA SPOTLIGHT: LISA ESCALON

For years, visitors to the Overholser Mansion have been greeted by the welcoming smile and enthusiastic personality of Museum Coordinator Lisa Escalon. She has given countless tours, educating guests from around the world about the importance of this historic structure and its connection to Oklahoma City's history. Lisa has also used these tours to emphasize the value of historic preservation by using the mansion as an example.

Lisa's connection with the Overholser Mansion goes back nearly two decades. Shortly after moving into the Mesta Park neighborhood with her family in 1993, Lisa had her very first tour of the mansion. She immediately fell in love with the house and its history and wanted to do more to help share its importance with others. To achieve that goal, Lisa became a docent. It was this level of dedication that led to her hiring as Overholser Mansion Museum Coordinator in July 2008. Lisa has cultivated the annual Concert on the Lawn into one of the mansion's most popular events and has also provided oversight for three phases of restoration work for the mansion. The restoration is scheduled to be complete sometime in the late spring of 2013, just in time to celebrate the mansion's 110th anniversary.

OKLAHOMA'S HISTORIC BRIDGES

OFTEN A MARKETABLE ASSET

Scott Sundermeyer, RPA

Assistant Director, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Cultural Resources Program

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Cultural Resources Program (ODOT-CRP) conducts cultural resources surveys, performs National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluations, and mitigates adverse effects to historic properties for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) undertakings. These undertakings range from roadway striping and resurfacing, to widening and new construction, to bridge maintenance and replacement. Of the many resources that ODOT routinely encounters during cultural resources investigations, bridges are by far the most frequently encountered NRHP-eligible property.

The goals of ODOT and many State DOTs, to provide a safe and effective transportation network to the public, can conflict with preservation goals and statutes codified in federal regulations such as the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act.

Through federal regulation outlined in the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP), the Secretary of Transportation works with

States to encourage the retention, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and future study of historic bridges. In the context of the HBRRP, historic bridges are defined as those resources that are eligible for inclusion or are listed on the NRHP. To this effect, and in accordance with the HBRRP, states are required to complete an inventory of all bridges on and off Federal-aid highways to determine the historic significance of the bridges. ODOT completed one such study for truss and arch bridges in 1993. This study was subsequently updated in 2007 and contains a list of all identified truss and arch bridges in the state and the NRHP eligibility of each structure. Most of these resources date from the very early 20th century to the 1950s. ODOT is currently completing NRHP evaluations for Depression-era Works Program bridges from 1933-1945 in Oklahoma.

Bridges are products of their time and unfortunately are often unable to handle the traffic counts, speeds, or loads of today's vehicles. In accordance with Section 4 (f) of the USDOT Act, when historic bridges are proposed for replacement ODOT completes a thorough analysis of each historic bridge to determine whether



County Road 3011 Pony Truss
Bridge over Coon Creek, Osage
County

*Photo: Oklahoma Department of
Transportation, Cultural Resources
Program*

**Carpenter's Bluff Bridge over Red River,
Bryan County**

*Photo: Oklahoma Department
of Transportation, Cultural Resources Program*



the bridge is a candidate for retention or rehabilitation. In many cases the structure is unable to be rehabilitated to acceptable safety standards, or a rehabilitation attempt would alter the bridge to such a degree that it would lose the characteristics that made the bridge eligible for the NRHP. In these cases where the historic bridge must be removed, and in accordance with the HBRRP, ODOT makes a due diligent effort to preserve the bridge by making it available for donation to a State, locality, or responsible private entity – sometimes referred to as “marketing” the bridge. Should a bridge be successfully marketed, the accepting party enters into an agreement with ODOT to maintain the bridge and the features that make it historically significant and assume all future legal and financial responsibility for the bridge.

Marketable bridges are often limited to smaller trusses, such as the pony truss carrying County Road 3011 over Coon Creek in Osage County, which are historically known to have been moved or transported to other locations. For instance, the LeFlore County Pennsylvania petit truss bridge carrying County Road 4812 over the Poteau River was constructed over a waterway near Hodgen in 1910 and moved to its current location in 1935. The Cumberland Cut mixed truss bridge in Bryan County, which carried SH-199 over the Washita River near Fort Washita is constructed of three separate truss types, all likely derived from separate sources.

In order to effectively reach an audience for these bridges, ODOT first markets the bridge locally through newspapers in neighboring communities. If this effort is unsuccessful, ODOT will market the bridge statewide by placing notices in larger statewide newspapers. In addition, marketable historic bridges are included on a

website maintained by ODOT and linked on the ODOT-CRP website for historic bridges. Each of the bridges listed on the Adopt-a-Bridge site is available for donation.

In many instances, such as with the Carpenter's Bluff bridge over the Red River near Hendrix, which also includes an attached wagon bridge, the marketing effort is successful in simply leaving the bridge in place. In these cases, the County or State will construct a new bridge on an offset alignment, remove traffic from the historic bridge, and leave the historic bridge in place. The recipient will enter into the agreement with ODOT for preservation of the historic features of the bridge. On the State Highway system, ODOT has retained several historic bridges through offset alignments, including the Cumberland Cut bridge, the truss bridge carrying SH-101 over Lee Creek in Sequoyah County, and the historic Route 66 truss carrying US-60 over Little Cabin Creek in Craig County.

When bridges are replaced, removed from the transportation system, or moved to a new location, ODOT completes documentation of the structure. The documentation includes a narrative of the bridge type, history of the bridge, original plans of the bridge (if available), and photographic documentation. ODOT compiles this information into a report format and submits to the State Historic Preservation Office. As public outreach, ODOT posts a digital document on the ODOT-CRP website. Please visit the site at www.odotculturalresources.info/historic-bridges.html

PRESERVATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Register Nomination Grants Available from 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 2013 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 5:00pm on April 1, and the deadline for Round 2 applications is 5:00pm on June 3.

Each grant is limited to \$1,000.00, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700.00. Grant recipients will use the grant funds and nonfederal match to retain an appropriately qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package 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 submit your National Register Nomination Grant application online or obtain an application form, just go to www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant.htm. You may also contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249.

BancFirst and POK offer PlanFirst Grants



Do you have an upcoming preservation project? You need to Plan First! Preservation Oklahoma and BancFirst offer PlanFirst grants to assist with planning for a preservation project. The grants are for a maximum of \$1,500 in matching funds and assist with preparatory work such as feasibility studies, Historic Structures Reports, architect's drawings, etc. – all the “homework” that needs to be done before any good preservation project is undertaken! To learn more or to request an application, contact Preservation Oklahoma at 405/525-5325 or at preservationok@preservationok.org.

Route 66 Corridor Cost-Share Grants

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program provides funding assistance in the form of cost-share grants, to support the preservation of the most significant and representative historic Route 66 buildings, structures, road segments, and cultural landscapes in the eight states through which the route passes. Assistance is also provided to support research, planning, oral history, and education outreach projects related to the preservation of Route 66.

Program cost-share grant funds are provided through congressional appropriations, which are determined each new fiscal year. Project eligibility criteria requires a minimum 50% (1:1) cost-share match provided by the applicant. All preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation projects are required to conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Applications will be accepted between now and March 29, 2013. More information is available at: www.cr.nps.gov/rt66/grnts

HONEY SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR NHL STATUS

Oklahoma's Honey Springs Battlefield, located in McIntosh and Muskogee Counties, is under consideration by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar for designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Only twenty-one Oklahoma properties currently have this special designation, and NHL status can be a critical factor in the preservation of these nationally significant places.

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) owns the majority of the property included in the nomination and is currently building a new interpretive center at the site with the support of the Friends of Honey Springs and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program. The Battle of Honey Springs was the largest engagement of the American Civil War fought in Indian Territory, and it had far-reaching impacts on Indian Territory, American national development, and the future State of Oklahoma. The commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the battle will take place this summer.

Bob L. Blackburn, OHS Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer; Lynda Ozan, SHPO National Register Coordinator; and Mary Jane Warde, Historian, attended the November 7-8 meeting of the Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board in Washington, D. C., to present the Honey Springs nomination and address questions from the Committee. The



Honey Springs Battlefield Site Photo: SHPO

Landmarks Committee recommended approval of the nomination to the Advisory Board, which considered it on November 28-29 and recommended that Secretary Salazar designate Honey Springs as an NHL. We await his decision as this issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News* goes to press. For more information about the NHL program and the Honey Springs nomination, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/Fall2012Noms.html>

POK, SHPO TO HOST WORKSHOPS IN EL RENO AND BLACKWELL

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office are pleased to announce the locations for their annual workshops.

The first workshop, *Making the Most of the Mother Road: How to Care for (and Benefit from) Your Route 66 Resources*, will take place on Friday, April 5, in El Reno. While the focus is on Route 66 communities, anyone interested is welcome to attend!

Route 66 is a national treasure, and an important asset to the many communities it touches across the state. This workshop will focus on tools and resources for the preservation, revitalization, and promotion of Route 66 resources and communities. Many useful programs specifically focus on the preservation of the character of this historic road across the country, and this workshop will help communities and individuals tap into those programs. It will also introduce other non-Route 66 specific resources for individual property owners, groups, and communities to utilize as they care for their historic places.

The *Preservation Workshop* will take place on Friday, April 26, in Blackwell. This workshop will focus on tools and resources for the preservation, revitalization, and promotion of historic resources and communities. Many useful programs specifically focus on the preservation of the character of historic places, and this workshop will help communities and individuals tap into those programs. It will also introduce other non-preservation specific resources for individual property owners, groups, and communities to utilize as they care for, revitalize, and promote their historic sites.

For more information about how to register for the workshops, please contact Preservation Oklahoma at 405/525-5325, email preservationok@preservationok.org, or visit www.preservationok.org.



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Save the Date!

(More information on all events located inside)

January 17, 2013
Oklahoma Historic Preservation
Review Committee Meeting, OKC

April 5, 2013
Route 66 Workshop, El Reno

April 26, 2013
Preservation Workshop, Blackwell

June 5-7, 2013
*Our Sense of Place: Oklahoma's 25th Annual
Statewide Preservation Conference*
Perry

JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA

and become a member of the Statewide Preservation Network

The mission of Preservation Oklahoma is to promote preservation statewide. 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 a part of Oklahoma's future.*

Name

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City, State, Zip

Phone

E-mail

From (if gift)

☐ Check here to receive all future correspondence via email.

Mail, along with check to: Preservation Oklahoma, 405 NW 15th Street, OKC, OK 73103
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Membership dues are tax deductible.

Individual

- ☐ Sod House—\$25
- ☐ Bungalow—\$100
- ☐ Victorian Mansion—\$500

Family

- ☐ Sod House—\$75
- ☐ Bungalow—\$300
- ☐ Victorian Mansion—\$1500

Corporate

- ☐ Sod House—\$500
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- ☐ Victorian Mansion—\$2500
- ☐ POK Partner—\$5,000 and above

- Student/Senior**
☐ \$15.00

Institutional Membership

Contact Preservation Oklahoma for rates and benefits.

Visit www.preservationok.org for more information about membership benefits and other opportunities to become involved.