Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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The joint publication of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.





National Trust Awards Grant for Star House Assessment

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) has awarded a grant to Preservation Oklahoma for the development of a conditions assessment and stabilization plan for the Quanah Parker Star House. This \$5,000 grant, generously matched with local support, was allocated from the Ruth and Allen Mayo Fund for Historic Preservation in Oklahoma.

Barrett Williamson, President of Preservation Oklahoma Board of Directors, stated: "We are delighted and honored to have been selected for this grant. We also applaud the efforts of the Cache community in providing the invaluable local support needed to complete this worthwhile endeavor. This is an important first step in preserving an Oklahoma treasure."

Preservation Oklahoma has selected Rick Lueb, AIA, of TAP Architecture in Oklahoma City to develop the conditions assessment and stabilization plan. Lueb has extensive background in historic restoration, including overseeing the renovation project of Old Central at Oklahoma State University.

Constructed in 1890, the Quanah Parker Star House is located in Cache and has been included on POK's annual list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places. A group of local citizens recently formed to help preserve this historic structure, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

Updates will be provided in future editions of Preservation Oklahoma News.





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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Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.

Fresh from the Carriage House

POK 20/20

On November 14, Preservation Oklahoma hosted its second annual POK 20/20 event at the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa.

"This was a great opportunity for people to learn more about Preservation Oklahoma, as well as the important role of historic preservation," said Barrett Williamson, Preservation Oklahoma President. "By having the event in the Woody Guthrie Center, guests had the opportunity to see a preservation success story first hand."

Preservation Oklahoma also presented awards to individuals who have had a successful impact on local preservation efforts. Martin L J Newman received POK's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for his tireless dedication to the preservation community. Amanda J. DeCort, Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Tulsa, received the Preservation Oklahoma Young Leadership Award.

The event was generously sponsored by Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism; Citizen's Security Bank/ John & Terry Mabrey; Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Sikes Abernathie, Architects, P.C.; Tulsa Foundation for Architecture; Tulsa Arts & Humanities Council; Giraourd Vines; and Jay & Valerie Hannah



POK Board Member Susan Atkinson (r) presents the POK Young Leadership Award to Amanda DeCort (l). Photo: Sierra George



POK Board President Barrett Williamson (r) presents the POK Lifetime Achievement Award to Martin Newman (l). Photo: Sierra George

Thank you, POK Members!

Without the generous support of our members, we would not be able to achieve our goals of protecting and preserving Oklahoma's historic landmarks. Thank you to the following individuals who have recently joined our cause.

Institutional

Pride in McAlester, Inc.

Victorian Mansion

Howard Berry Jim Carrington

Bungalow

Lona Barrick Jeremy Bjorle Fran Roach

Sod House

JoAnna Blackstock
Cherie Cook
Dr. Bill Corbett
Kathryn Draper
Ron and Mary Frantz
Shane Hood
David Pettyjohn & Geoff Parks

POK and SHPO Present CAMP

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. and the State Historic Preservation Office are pleased to cosponsor a special feature at the 2014 statewide preservation conference in Norman. Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP), an intensive one-and-a-half-day training opportunity for design review commission members, local government staff, and others, will be offered in conference Track C (see 2014 Statewide Preservation Conference in Norman in this issue) on Wednesday afternoon (June 4) and all day Thursday (June 5).

CAMP is the well-known program of the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). Four of their faculty members will provide presentations designed to increase the understanding of how local historic preservation ordinances work and their benefits to local preservation initiatives. Specific topics to be addressed include legal issues (authority to enforce local preservation zoning, property rights issues, economic hardship concerns, etc.); design review standards (including hands-on design review exercise); commission procedures and ethics; identifying and designating local districts and landmarks; and generating public support for historic preservation. Each workshop participant will receive a notebook containing the extensive course materials.

NAPC is the national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting local historic preservation commissions and the historic resources they help protect. The NAPC office is located in Athens, Georgia. Their faculty includes some of the nation's leading preservation professionals in the fields of architecture, planning, and law.

While many Oklahoma communities have historic preservation ordinances in place, some of them are not adequately or appropriately enforced. CAMP is a unique opportunity for those communities struggling to enforce their local ordinance and for those who are working to strengthen their already effective programs. For further information, contact David Pettyjohn at 405/525-5325 or david@preservationok.org; or Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org.



SHPO Seeks Comments on State Plan

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) invites you to comment on the preliminary draft of *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan 2015*. The State Plan highlights Oklahoma's archeological and historic resources, discusses threats to them, provides a vision for the future of the statewide historic preservation program, and includes the goals and objectives for implementing this vision over the next five years. The preliminary draft will be available for comment on January 15, 2014. View it at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm (see Draft 2015 State Plan in PDF) or request a hard copy from the SHPO. All comments received by 5:00pm, Tuesday, April 15, 2014, will be considered as the SHPO develops the second draft of the document.

The preliminary draft reflects input from federal, tribal, state, and local governments; nonprofit organizations; preservation professionals; the business and development community; and individual citizens. The SHPO received these views through a survey (distributed at the 2013 statewide preservation conference and made available online), a public meeting, three roundtable discussion sessions, and the October 2013 meetings of the Historic Preservation Review Committee and the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors, Historic Preservation Committee.

We greatly appreciate the time and thoughtful participation of everyone who has helped with our process so far. The response to our requests for input was extraordinary, and we have made every effort to incorporate as many of the ideas presented as possible. We sincerely want the State Plan to accurately reflect the goals of Oklahoma's entire preservation community, and we look forward to hearing from you by April 15th. The second draft will be made available for comment in May. If you may have any questions or wish to request a hard copy of the preliminary draft State Plan, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, State Historic Preservation Office at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org.



Start packing your book bags and plan to enroll for historic preservation summer school in Norman on the University of Oklahoma campus.

The three courses of study include:

TRACK A: Academic Pursuits, which focuses on Norman's and the state's architectural legacy; research collections and tools for historic preservation; and a half-day visit to the Oklahoma Archeological Survey to tour the archeological laboratories and learn about current field work, research projects, and cooperative efforts with the SHPO and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Cultural Resource Program.

TRACK B: Back to Basics, which includes an introduction to the National Register of Historic Places and the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standards; rehabilitation project case studies of all sizes; and highlights of how the arts and historic preservation combine to promote community revitalization.

TRACK C: Comprehensive Community Preservation, which features two workshops. First is the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's one-and-a-half-day Community Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP) for design review commissions and local government staff (see "POK and SHPO Present CAMP" in this issue). Second is a half-day workshop about heritage areas and corridors and how they support economic development and heritage tourism, presented by Elizabeth Watson, Heritage Strategies LLC.

Special events include the opening reception on Main

Street in historic downtown Norman; local tours; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s annual meeting and luncheon; the State Historic Preservation Office's annual awards banquet; and the Plenary Session, featuring Linda Caldwell, Executive Director, Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, who will deliver a lively discussion about how small towns can realize economic benefits and strengthen rural heritage tourism programs through spin-off from nearby, larger cities.

Conference cosponsors include State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture and Institute for Quality Communities; Campus Corner Merchants Association; City of Norman; Cleveland County Historical Society; Norman Arts Council; Norman Chamber of Commerce; Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau; Norman Downtowners; and Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

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.facebook.com/okshpo; 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 Umit Hope Mander, Associate Director, Institute for Quality Communities, College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma (405/325-2434 or umander@ou.edu).

Learning More About...

Spiro

By Catharine Wood Historical Archeologist



It's been approximately thirty years since archaeological excavations have been conducted at Spiro Mounds Archaeological Site. Spiro is located in southeastern Oklahoma, on the Arkansas River in LeFlore County and is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the US and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969.

Spiro was occupied perhaps as early as AD 800 and most heavily occupied between AD 1200-1450, during which over a dozen earthen mounds were built. Although the investigation of those mounds at the site in the 1930s brought the site to international attention and archaeological investigations in 1979-82 uncovered structures on top of low earthen rises that archaeologists call house mounds, little is known about the number, size or nature of typical dwellings at Spiro other than some poorly documented houses uncovered during the 1930s. The most prominent of the mounds at the site is known as the Craig Mound which contained a one-of-a-kind ritual display known as the Great Mortuary. The Great Mortuary is famous for the largest accumulation of exotic and prestige goods anywhere in North America. Spiro is considered a sacred site to the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma.

In October 2013, excavations were conducted at Spiro, which were prompted by a recent near-surface geophysical survey that was conducted at the site by personnel from the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey (OAS), Department of Anthropology at the University of Oklahoma, and personnel from the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. The survey identified over 60 evenly-spaced circular anomalies that are consistent in size and shape with prehistoric houses. From this survey it was discovered that within the vicinity of Craig Mound that at least four of these probable houses have been cut in half by a creek and thus the integrity of these probable houses was being lost to erosion of the creek bank during high flow events.

The Spiro site is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Caddo Nation and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, it was determined that the erosion from the creek represented an adverse effect to these potentially significant features at the Spiro site.



Archaeologists digging excavation units. Photo: Scott Hammerstedt



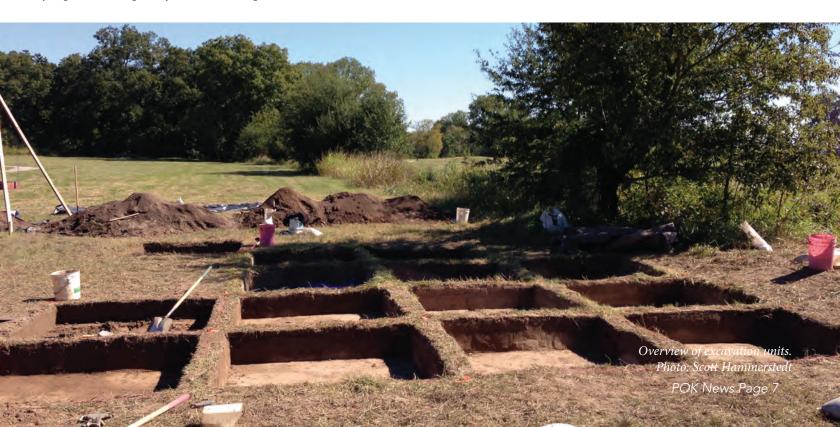
Scott Hammerstedt of OAS securing pin flags in post holes to outline structure "2013.1" that was identified from the excavation units. Photo: Catharine Wood

The consulting parties agreed to resolve these adverse effects through salvage excavation of the features that were being impacted by the creek. Tulsa District and SHPO agreed that it was advisable to accomplish the resolution of these adverse affects in compliance with Section 106 through the development and execution of a Memorandum of Agreement, in which it was understood that the ultimate destruction of these features through excavation would not only remove any concerns about the future loss of the information they contain but that it may also reveal significant information about prehistoric residential life at Spiro and allow for better management of the site of which the benefits gained would offset the loss of these features.

During three weeks in October, fourteen excavation units were opened and one structure was identified and designated as 2013.1. The structure is small, measuring just four to four and half meters across with two center posts. Based upon the archaeological excavations it is now being questioned if these circular features may not represent houses as initially thought but instead may represent temporary/seasonal camp sites.

According to Dr. Scott Hammerstedt, archaeologist with OAS, very few artifacts were found and although lab analysis is ongoing, the lithic tools that were recovered are expedient and made from local river gravels and the majority of the pottery sherds that were recovered have been identified as grog-tempered and classified as Williams Plain type. However, no datable material has been found as yet and as Dr. Hammerstedt remarked, "all signs point towards it being a short-term building" and further, "based on the combined geophysical and archaeological data, it appears that these circular features may represent ephemeral, contemporaneous structures and if 2013.1 is typical, they are haphazardly built and contain few artifacts or other refuse of daily life."

More excavation work is anticipated to occur during 2014 that will hopefully resolve the question of these circular features at the Spiro Mounds Archaeological Site.



NRHP Nomination Grants Available

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 (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2014 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the US 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 NRHP. Applicants must be aware that \$1,700.00 (federal grant + nonfederal match) is only an estimate of the cost for such projects and that more than the minimum \$700 nonfederal match may be necessary to cover the consultant fee. Consultants must consider the nature of the property proposed for nomination and many other factors as they develop their fee proposals.

The NRHP is the catalogue of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and land-scapes important in our past. While listing is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, the NRHP status of a property is often critical to the strategy for its preservation. The NRHP 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 a NRHP 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. Information about the SHPO and its programs, including the NRHP, is available at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm.

HPRC's 2014 Meeting Schedule Announced

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee's (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2014. The HPRC (state review board) is appointed by the Governor to provide advice to the SHPO about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and other preservation issues. Current HPRC members include William P. Corbett (Historian, Tahlequah); Ron Frantz (Architect, Oklahoma City); John D. Hartley (Prehistoric Archeologist, Norman); Arn Henderson (Architectural Historian, Norman) ; and Charles S. Wallis (Historical Archeologist, Norman). The HPRC's 2014 meetings will begin at 1:30pm on Thursday, January 16, April 17, July 17, and October 16.

The meetings will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society's LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, Oklahoma History Center (third floor), 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, and they are open to the public. The HPRC and the SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend, and meeting agendas and NRHP nominations under consideration at the respective meeting will be provided on the SHPO's website at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm.

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO's programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the NRHP and other SHPO programs. During each meeting, the HPRC hears presentations on NRHP nominations 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. The HPRC and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of Oklahoma's preservation program.



Cherokee Nation officials have finished the next phase of their preservation efforts at the Saline District Courthouse by restoring the roof. It is the last remaining district courthouse of nine built by the tribe in the 1880s.

The restoration included a new roof structure with new decking and historically appropriate shingles. The work will help structurally support the building, as well as prevent any moisture from destroying the historic materials within the structure.

"This project is vitally important to the Cherokee Nation and its preservation of history," said Principal Chief Bill John Baker. "It is one of the few remaining buildings that illustrates that Cherokee people have a distinct government with laws and order. This building is a symbol of our sovereignty."

This effort is the latest of several focused on preserving the site. The tribe has worked with the Saline Preservation Association to restore the porch and chimneys, conduct lead-based paint abatement and completely restore the springhouse.

"We are always grateful for the Cherokee Nation's support," said Lisa Melchior, president of the Saline Preservation Association. "The new roof will help the structure keep its form, preserve history for future generations and allow us to continue telling the story of the Saline District."

To ensure its legacy, the Saline Preservation Association was created as a nonprofit in 2003. The Cherokee Nation and Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism Group provide assistance and direction in the preservation projects.



Above: Saline Courthouse today. Photo: Lisa Melchior Left: Saline Courthouse during restoration. Photo: Lisa Melchior

The Mansion Minute

2013 Heritage Hills Home Tour

The Overholser Mansion served as center stage for the 2013 Heritage Hills Home Tour during the first weekend of November. Ingrid's Catering offered a full menu of delicious items in the Carriage House. Attendees were also greeted by volunteers and staff in period costume as they toured the mansion.

A special attraction this year was the addition of a fashion exhibit throughout the mansion's first floor. Designed by students and faculty at Oklahoma State University, the exhibit featured dresses from the 1920s. The dresses were on loan from the collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society, the owner of the Overholser Mansion.

Preservation Oklahoma is honored to be a part of this yearly tour that highlights the historic importance of the Heritage Hills neighborhood.





OVM Museum Coordinator Lisa Escalon welcomes visitors to the mansion. Photo: David Pettyjohn



Maggie Russell (l), great-grandaughter of Henry Overholser, and Marsha Funk (r), Chair of the Heritage Hills Home Tour. Photo: David Pettyjohn

Fashion exhibit at the Overholser Mansion. Photo: Sierra George.

SHPO/OAS GUIDANCE FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORTS

The State Historic Preservation Office and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey are pleased to announce that Fact Sheet No. 16 Guidelines for Developing Archaeological Survey Reports in Oklahoma and Report Components is now available online at: http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/factsheets/fs16archreports.pdf.

In Oklahoma, archaeological studies are conducted by a diverse group of Cultural Resource Management (CRM) professionals for a wide range of projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. These studies generate archaeological reports that are submitted to the SHPO and OAS for review. The intent of these guidelines is to streamline the review process by providing an outline of the organization and content for archaeological reports that will allow for an accurate and prompt review by both agencies.

Additional information about the Section 106 review process is found at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/section106.htm.

A Tale of Two Structures

At the end of October, I had the pleasure of attending my first National Preservation Conference in Indianapolis. The sessions were insightful, the host city was outstanding, and the plenaries were inspirational. The conference also featured "conversation starters" that encouraged participants to ponder the challenges and opportunities facing the preservation movement. One focused on the role of personal history in determining the efforts to preserve a structure. Part of the discussion focused on the simple fact that a structure can be important to a small group or an entire community and how do we, as preservationists, determine which one to save.

That question weighed heavily on my mind throughout the conference and even more so as I stopped on my drive home to visit two influential structures of my past - one a National Historic Landmark and the other a nondescript three bedroom house.

Built in 1799, the Church of the Holy Family in Cahokia, Illinois, is one of the community's historic landmarks. Constructed of black walnut timbers in the traditional French Co Ionial "poteaux-sur-solle" (post-on-sill) vertical-log construction style, the structure is only one of five built in this style that still exist in North America (Source: NRHP).

As I stood there and admired the architectural features of the church and marveled at its history, my mind also focused on something more personal. Standing on the east side of the church, I remembered the photo of my extended family taken along that wall after my great-grandmother's funeral. As I stood to its southwest, I was treated to the perspective used by my grandfather as he painted it in 1968. That painting hung over the table that held my favorite set of Lincoln Logs that I ran to on each visit as a child. Today, that painting hangs in my dining room.

Driving less than a mile east of the church, I stopped to visit a simple home among a row of other simple homes. It doesn't stand out, has no distinctive features, but to me it has a significant history - it was the home of my grand-parents. As I viewed it across the street, I didn't see the new siding and windows or the roof that needed repairing - instead I saw the front window under which my dad and his dad used to talk. I saw the porch, albeit much smaller than I remembered, where my grandmother used to sit on her glider as she snapped beans.



Church of the Holy Family. Photo: D. Pettyjohn



The Roberts' Home. Photo: D. Pettyjohn

I realized that I couldn't personally determine which one was more "worthy." The log church and the small house are remarkably different, yet equally important, to me. As I continued my drive west, I was thankful that I had the opportunity to visit these markers of my past.

That is the awesome power of preservation - each building holds a memory, each structure tells a story. I reconnected with a few of mine on a drive home.

Where do you find yours?







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Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

By becoming a member of Preservation Oklahoma, a 501(c)3 organization, you are demonstrating your commitment to historic preservation in our state and your willingness to get involved in the critical issues of preserving Oklahoma's heritage for future generations. Each member increases the strength, power, and presence in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national level. Your membership is greatly appreciated and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership Benefits

In addition to being a part of Oklahoma's preservation community, members of Preservation Oklahoma receive newsletters and email updates on preservation news and issues, invitations to members-only events, free admission to tours and programming throughout the year, and much more!

Membership Levels:

Sod House: \$25 Individual \$75 Family Bungalow: \$100 Individual \$300 Family Victorian Mansion: \$500 Individual \$1,500 Family

Corporate, Institution, and Senior/Student Levels are also available.

To join, please visit http://www.preservationok.org/become-a-member.html and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices!