

# Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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

Preservation  
OKLAHOMA 



## Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past

Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan  
(January 1, 2020–December 31, 2024)

State Historic Preservation Office  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
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### State Historic Preservation Office Plan and Website Update

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the availability of its updated statewide preservation plan, *Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past*. The plan sets forth the goals and objectives for Oklahoma's preservation community from January 1, 2020–December 31, 2024. The update was completed over 12 months with input from preservation professionals and the public and was approved by the National Park Service in August 2019. A list of the goals and objectives will be available online at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan), and the SHPO will be using this list as a way to document completed projects to increase transparency. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the updated state plan, provide your name and complete mailing address to the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or [shpo@okhistory.org](mailto:shpo@okhistory.org).

Additionally, the SHPO website will undergo a transformation in the first part of 2020. With a goal of increasing access to available information for consultants, preservation professionals, and the public, the website will include updated forms, program checklists, preservation videos, and guidelines for all of the SHPO program areas.



**Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated**  
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Preservation Oklahoma is currently seeking board members from the Tulsa and rural areas. If you are interested in serving on the Preservation Oklahoma Board of Directors, please contact the POK office, [info@preservationok.org](mailto:info@preservationok.org).

*Meadow Gold Sign, Tulsa, Photo: POK*

*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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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.

Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.



# The Ritual Landscape of Late Precontact Eastern Oklahoma

## ***The Ritual Landscape of Late Precontact Eastern Oklahoma***

*Archaeology from the WPA Era until Today*

Amanda L. Regnier, Scott W. Hammerstedt, and Sheila Bobalik Savage

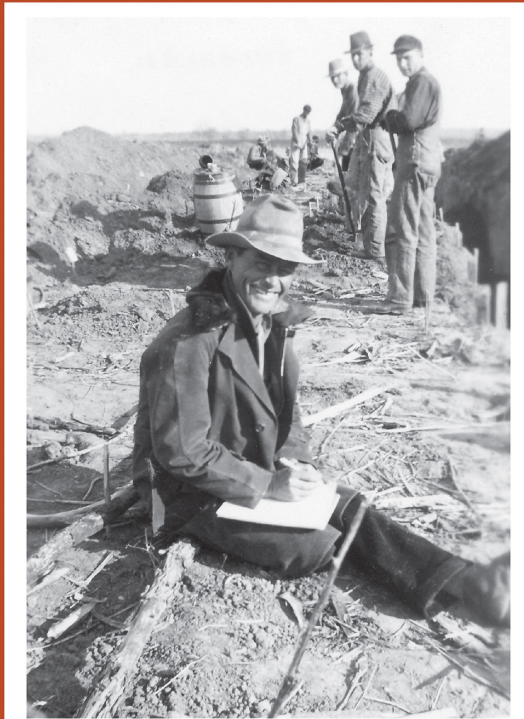
### ***Revisits and updates WPA-funded archaeological research on key Oklahoma mound sites***

As part of Great Depression relief projects started in the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored massive archaeological projects across Oklahoma. The WPA crews excavated eight mound sites and dozens of nonmound residential sites in the Arkansas River Valley that date between AD 1000 and 1450. These sites are considered the westernmost representations of Mississippian culture in the Southeast.

The results of these excavations were documented in field journals and photographs prepared by the field supervisors and submitted in a series of quarterly reports to WPA headquarters. These reports contain a wealth of unpublished information summarizing excavations at the mound sites and residential sites, including mound profiles, burial descriptions, house maps, artifact tables, and artifact sketches. Of the excavated mound sites, results from only one, Spiro, have been extensively studied and synthesized in academic literature. The seven additional WPA-excavated mound sites—Norman, Hughes, Brackett, Eufaula, Skidgel, Reed, and Lillie Creek—are known to archaeologists outside of Oklahoma only as unlabeled points on maps of mound sites in the Southeast.

## THE RITUAL LANDSCAPE OF LATE PRECONTACT EASTERN OKLAHOMA

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE WPA ERA UNTIL TODAY



Amanda L. Regnier, Scott W. Hammerstedt &  
Sheila Bobalik Savage

*The Ritual Landscape of Late Precontact Eastern Oklahoma* curates and contextualizes the results of the WPA excavations, showing how they inform archaeological understanding of Mississippian occupation in the Arkansas Valley. Regnier, Hammerstedt, and Savage also relate the history and experiences of practicing archaeology in the 1930s, incorporating colorful excerpts from field journals of the young, inexperienced archaeologists. Finally, the authors update current knowledge of mound and nonmound sites in the region, providing an excellent example of historical archaeology.

**Amanda L. Regnier** is the director of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey at the University of Oklahoma. She is the author of *Reconstructing Tascalusa's Chiefdom: Pottery Styles and the Social Composition of Late Mississippian Communities along the Alabama River*.

**Scott W. Hammerstedt** is a senior researcher at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey and affiliated faculty in the department of anthropology at the University of Oklahoma. He is also the co-director of the Spiro Landscape Archaeological Project, Le Flore County, Oklahoma.

**Sheila Bobalik Savage** is an affiliated researcher at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

## New Staff at the State Historic Preservation Office



From left, Gunner Harris, Marcus Young, Tifani Darata,  
Photo: SHPO

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to announce that we are fully staffed. In October Tifani Darata and Marcus Young joined us as full-time employees and William Gunner Harris joined the staff as a temporary employee. Those who have visited the Oklahoma History Center will likely recognize Tifani Darata as she greeted you at the front desk upon your arrival at the Center. She accepted the secretary position at the SHPO and will be the first staff member to greet and help you in the office. If you have any general questions, you can reach Tifani at 405-521-6249 or [tdarata@okhistory.org](mailto:tdarata@okhistory.org). Marcus Young is serving as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist and Survey Coordinator. Marcus is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma. Marcus can be reached at 405-522-2713 or [myoung@okhistory.org](mailto:myoung@okhistory.org). Finally, Gunner accepted the position as a temporary hire where he will be serving to digitize records in our office. Gunner is a student at the University of Oklahoma in the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture. You can reach Gunner at [wharris@okhistory.org](mailto:wharris@okhistory.org).

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## Historic Preservation Review Committee's 2020 Meeting Schedule

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is pleased to announce the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee's (HPRC) meeting schedule for calendar year 2020. The governor appoints the members of the HPRC to advise the SHPO about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and other preservation issues. Current HPRC members include Ron Frantz (Architect, Oklahoma City); John Hartley (Prehistoric Archeologist, Norman); Shirley Ballard Nero (Historian, Clearview); Jana Phillips (Architectural Historian, Stillwater); and, Charles Wallis (Historical Archeologist, Norman). The HPRC's 2020 meetings will begin at 1:30 PM on Thursday, January 16, April 16, July 16, and October 15.

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. The meetings are open to the public. The HPRC and SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend. The meeting agendas and NRHP nominations under consideration will be available at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/hprc>.

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.

For information about any of the SHPO's programs, call 405/521-6249 or visit us on the website listed above.



# NRHP Nomination Grant Application 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 2020 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the program. Applications are accepted February 1 through April 30. Each grant is limited to \$1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$700. 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 (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 landscapes 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 obtain an application form go to [www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant). You may also contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249.

## 2020 Oklahoma History Conference

**"Connecting Cultures: Exploring the Three Forks."**

**April 22-24, 2020**

**Sequoyah Lodge at Sequoyah State Park near Wagoner, Oklahoma**

Save the dates, April 22-24, 2020, for the Oklahoma Historical Society's annual Oklahoma History Conference. Join your colleagues in the discussion of collecting, preserving, and sharing the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. The conference will feature plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, and special events.

Concurrent sessions will feature Oklahoma historians, authors, scholars, and museum professionals from around the state and country. Special events include the opening reception, tour options, and an awards luncheon.

More information can be found at <http://www.okhistory.org/conference>. If you have questions contact Larry O'Dell, Director of Special Projects/Development, Oklahoma Historical Society, 405/522-6676 or [lodell@okhistory.org](mailto:lodell@okhistory.org).



*Verdigris River Bridge, 1945, Wagoner County, Photo: Gateway to Oklahoma History, OHS*



*Wilson School*

Wilson School, Oklahoma City, Photo: Eula Hinnen Anthony courtesy of Wilson Arts PTA

## Enactment of the HP Ordinance in 1969 Deterred Inner-City Decay

The HP Ordinance was crafted by the Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Commission, created at the urging Heritage Hills leaders by the City of Oklahoma City and its progressive Mayor, George H. Shirk, long-time president of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The HP Commission and the Oklahoma City Planning Department embarked on a two-year study, which included a housing stock survey of all properties from NW 10th to NW 23rd, Broadway to Classen Blvd.

The result was enactment by the City Council of the HP Ordinance in 1967, and shortly thereafter, creation of the Heritage Hills Preservation District, Oklahoma City's first historic preservation district, which imposed zoning regulations to preserve the unique historic resources of Oklahoma City located in Heritage Hills. While Heritage Hills was the first historic preservation district in the City, other neighborhoods soon took steps to protect the unique historic aspects of their neighborhoods with the creation of other historic preservation districts, thereby preserving inner-city neighborhoods during times of widespread inner-city decay.

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Heritage Hills would not exist today were it not for the efforts of its leaders, past and present, and enactment of the HP Ordinance.

### **An 80-year Effort to Save and Protect Heritage Hills**

Prior to enactment to the HP Ordinance, the historic resources of Oklahoma City had been under attack since the 1930s, marked by a series of battles, some won, some lost. Leaders of Heritage Hills long battled commercial encroachment throughout Heritage Hills, funding and filing successful lawsuits in the District Court and winning in appeals to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. However, intense commercial pressure in the 1960s required a new approach, the enactment of an Historic Preservation Ordinance.

### **Loss of NW 13th and the Homes of City Pioneers Charles Colcord and Anton Classen**

In 1929, there was no commercial property on NW 13th Street from Robinson west to Shartel. It was a residential street showcased by the stately mansions of Charles F. Colcord, the builder of the city's first skyscraper in 1910,



# Enactment of the HP Ordinance in 1969 Deterred Inner-City Decay Continued

now the Colcord Hotel, and Anton B. Classen, namesake of Classen Schools and Classen Blvd.

The Colcord Mansion, with its neighboring residences, was located on the north side of NW 13th between Walker and Hudson Avenues, adjoining what is now the southern boundary of Heritage Hills Preservation District homes on NW 14th.

It is surprising and regrettable that NW 13th became a commercial street at all. It is not a section line road, as are NW 10th and NW 23rd, and it terminates at Western Ave. on the west, but its commercialization occurred before modern understanding of the value of preserving inner city neighborhoods and historic resources.

Standard Life Insurance Company acquired the Colcord Home and other properties along NW 13th and demolished it in the 1960s, constructing the near-windowless office building that exists today, though no longer occupied by Standard Life. This destruction was a catalyst for enactment of the HP Ordinance. The Colcord Home was located immediately to the south and east of the Randolph Home at 436 NW 14th, which is on this year's Historic Homes Tour.

The home of Anton B. Classen was located at 433 NW 13th at the northeast corner of Walker Ave and NW 13th, now the site of a parking lot serving the former Standard Life Building immediately to the south of the west grounds of the Randolph Home.

Today the Randolph Home is a restoration in progress, which would not be occurring were it not for the protection of the HP Ordinance!

## **NW 14th Street Saved**

In the 1960s Standard Life also acquired and converted residences on several blocks of NW 14th to office uses, including the classical Elizabethan mansion at 1414 N. Hudson (slated in 1964 to be demolished and used as a parking lot), the Spanish revival treasure at 1415 N. Hudson and the Neo-classical masterpiece at 500 NW 14th, each ringing with unique stories of famous people who created the colorful history of Oklahoma City.

The efforts of Heritage Hills residents saved NW 14th and saved these stately architectural gems, which have been occupied by generations of family in the ensuing 50 years. Today, the Ordinance protects NW 14th. Were it not for the HP Ordinance, NW 14th would have surely met the fate of NW 13th!

## **NW 16th Street Saved.**

In 1966 the Oklahoma State Highway Department unveiled a plan to construct a wide boulevard along NW 16th Street from Classen Blvd to Broadway, which would provide a north expressway loop around Downtown. This plan would have required the demolition of scores of historical homes in Heritage Hills and Mesta Park, many of Oklahoma City's finest architectural treasures. Moreover, this plan would have divided and created a barrier between Heritage Hills and Mesta Park homes located to the north and south of the roadway. Heritage Hills mobilized and, with the help of Mayor Shirk who recommended creation of an historic presentation ordinance, stopped the plan and saved Heritage Hills and Mesta Park.

## **City's History Preserved for Future Generations in HP Districts by Private Owners**

Historic preservation ordinances protect the fragile historic resources of Oklahoma City, and are places where the history of our city, its leaders, famous and infamous, and its architectural pearls, are preserved for current and future citizens city-wide. These historical treasures are not preserved by the expenditure of city funds. Rather, historical homes are restored and maintained by their private owners, most of whom consider ownership a sacred trust for future generations.

## **Historic Preservation and the Success of Oklahoma City**

The quality and standing of a city, its sense of place, and its quality of life is determined in part by the extent which it preserves and maintains its historical and architectural resources. This urban planning precept was understood by the Heritage Hills leaders and Mayor George Shirk who championed the HP Ordinance, as well as the members of the City Council who enacted the Ordinance 50 years ago. Through their vision we now enjoy not only Heritage Hills and other historic neighborhoods, but also the success of Oklahoma City over this last half century.

## **Historic Preservation as an Economic Development Tool**

Highly recruited employers bringing quality jobs are attracted to a city's quality of life, which is greatly influenced by its preservation of historic and architectural resources. For example, the dilapidated and abandoned warehouse district east of Downtown area was once ripe for the wrecker's ball, but today Bricktown has contributed mightily to the ongoing success of Downtown. Oklahoma City economic development recruiters have long showcased Heritage Hills, other historic neighborhoods

# Enactment of the HP Ordinance in 1969 Deterred Inner-City Decay Continued

and Bricktown to economic development prospects as tangible examples of the vibrancy and quality of life of our City.

## **100th Anniversary of Wilson Elementary Arts Integration School**

A vibrant city and its neighborhoods require quality education. This year's Historic Homes Tour also celebrates the 100th Anniversary of Wilson School at 501 NW 21st, which is a stop on this year's Historic Homes Tour. For 100 years it has educated the children of Heritage Hills and adjoining neighborhoods, in some cases successive generations of Heritage Hills families.

The histories of Wilson, an Oklahoma City public school, and Heritage Hills are intertwined. Playing key roles in this 100th Anniversary Celebration are Heritage Hills residents, including the Presenting Sponsors of the 2019 Historical Homes Tour, Renate and Chuck Wiggins, and also Wilson alum Amy Sergent, who has been a Heritage Hills resident since 1964.

In honor of Wilson, Heritage Hills has solicited sponsorships benefitting the school, most received from Heritage Hills residents, and we are now on track to exceed our \$50,000 goal.

## **Historic Preservation Requires Eternal Vigilance**

In the 50 years since enactment of the HP Ordinance, generation after generation of Heritage Hills residents and leaders, including our current president Bill Carey, have been champions for the cause of historic perseveration. They have argued for upholding the HP Ordinance and the protection of Heritage Hills in the city's consideration of historic applications, public improvement and beatification

plans, and the resolution of controversies.

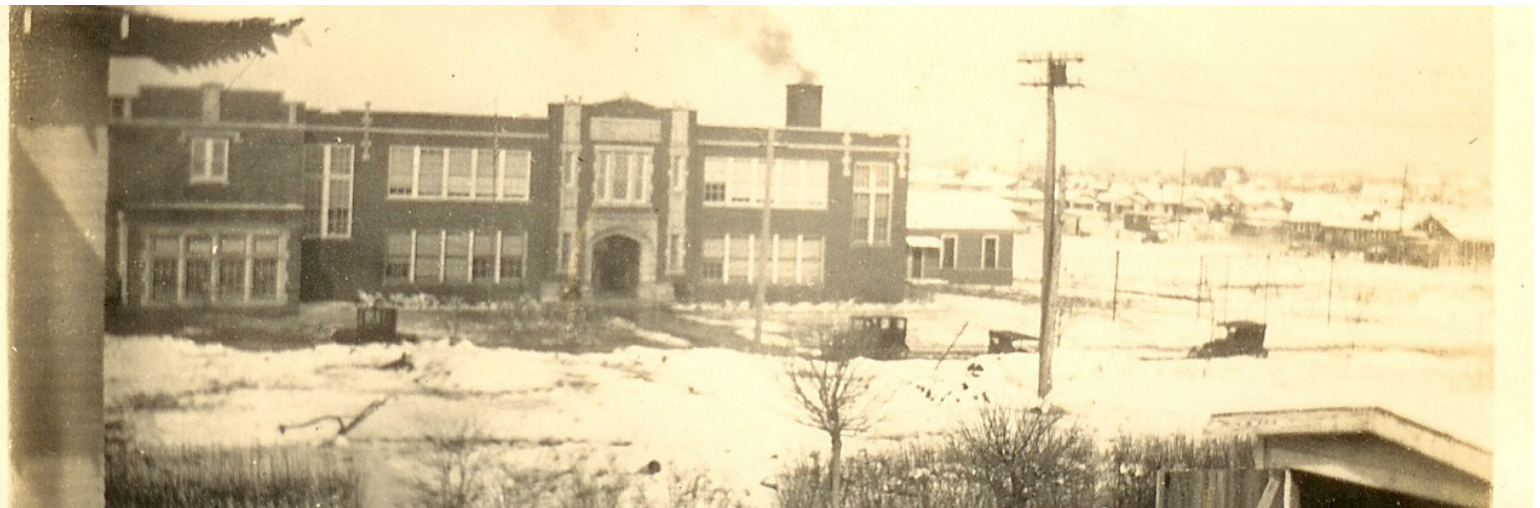
In this pursuit, Heritage Hills has expended hundreds of thousands of dollars for legal fees, traffic studies, public improvement and beautification plans, and for the implementation of these plans. Moreover, Heritage Hills has spent decades advising and counseling homeowners as to historic preservation best-practices and techniques to ensure compliance with the HP Ordinance. In all of this, Heritage Hills has been aided by the professional urban and historic planners of the City's Planning Department, and the dedicated volunteers who have served and are serving as members of the city's Historic Preservation Commission.

Ever mindful of the demolition of the Colcord and Classen Homes and the commercialization of NW 13th, for 50+ years the residents and leaders of Heritage Hills have, through their actions, said 'Never Again', and have pursued a path of eternal vigilance for the preservation of our city's remarkable history and architecture.

The result of this ongoing effort is the Heritage Hills that exists today, preserved and enhanced homes on this year's Historic Homes Tour, and the preservation of Oklahoma City's irreplaceable historical resources located in Heritage Hills, all of which have contributed to the quality of life and extraordinary success of our entire city over this last half century.

*Written by John Michael Williams*

*Co-chair with Kathy Williams of the 2019 Historic Homes Tour*



*Wilson School, Oklahoma City, Photo: Eula Hinnen Anthony courtesy of Wilson Arts PTA*



# OKLAHOMA ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

March 5-7, 2020

**Gilcrease Museum and the  
Helmerich Center for American  
Research**

1400 N Gilcrease Museum Rd, Tulsa, OK 74127



## 3rd Annual Biennial Oklahoma Archaeology Conference

The Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network, or OKPAN, is a program of the University of Oklahoma that serves as your connection to archaeology in the state of Oklahoma. We bridge all of Oklahoma's communities with an interest in the past while promoting education, understanding, and outreach. At our heart, we aspire to promote a respectful exchange among the many stakeholders of Oklahoma's past.

The Oklahoma Archaeology Conference (OAC) is a biennial conference devoted to Oklahoma archaeology and archaeologists. We have enjoyed two conferences in Norman, held in 2016 and 2018, with numerous speakers covering a variety of topics - from Oklahoma archaeology to the work that other Oklahoma archaeologists are doing around the world.

### SAVE THE DATES

The 3rd OAC will be in Tulsa on March 5-7, 2020.  
March 5 evening reception: Gilcrease Museum  
March 6-7 conference: Helmerich Center for American Research

For more information, visit <http://www.ou.edu/okpan/oklahoma-archaeology-conference>.



Details and registration at [www.okpan.org](http://www.okpan.org)  
Photo by Travis Caperton, Pottery by Chase Kahwinhut Earles



Henry Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City,  
Photo: POK

## Henry Overholser Mansion Resumes Daily Tours February 1

The Henry Overholser Mansion is closed for daily tours until Friday, February 1. Tours begin every hour on the hour with the first tour beginning at 10 a.m. and the last tour for the day beginning at 2 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATES

Mysteries of the Mansion tours will resume every third Thursday of the month beginning Thursday, March 19. March through September, experience the Overholser Mansion in a whole new way with extended tours and story time, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.





*Hotel Muskogee, Muskogee, Photo:SHPO*

## New National Register Listings

2019 saw the listing of sixteen properties to the National Register of Historic Places for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

The National Register is a catalog of the buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects significant in our past, and the register is in the foundation for all of the SHPO's programs. Listing in the National Register provides recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation.

For detailed information, contact Sara Werneke, National Register of Historic Places Program Coordinator, at 405-522-4478 or email [swerneke@okhistory.org](mailto:swerneke@okhistory.org).

All of the nominations can be found by visiting: [http://nr2\\_shpo.okstate.edu/](http://nr2_shpo.okstate.edu/).



*First Presbyterian Church, Ponca City, Photo: SHPO*



*Harris Palace Store, Byars, Photo: SHPO*



# New National Register Listings Continued



*Slaughter House, Oklahoma City, Photo: SHPO*

## **2019 National Register of Historic Places listings**

- Sunset-Vogue-Blue Ribbon Apartments Historic District, Lawton, Comanche County
- Enid Downtown Historic District (Update and Boundary Increase), Enid, Garfield County
- First Presbyterian Church, Ponca City, Kay County
- Charlotte Marland House, Ponca City, Kay County
- Ponca City Milling Company Elevator, Ponca City, Kay County
- Ponca City Municipal Airport Hangar, Ponca City, Kay County
- Ponca City Power Plant, Ponca City, Kay County
- Temple Emanuel, Ponca City, Kay County
- Harris Palace Store, Byars, McClain County
- First Church of Christ, Scientist, Muskogee, Muskogee County
- Hotel Muskogee, Muskogee, Muskogee County
- Capitol Hill Commercial Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Dr. W. H. Slaughter House, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Oklahoma City Schools Administration Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Stonegate Elementary School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County



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## Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

Historic structures, much like photographs and newspapers, tell the story of Oklahoma communities, linking the past to the present. They also provide economically vibrant locations for local businesses and residents. Since 1992, Preservation Oklahoma has worked to protect and preserve these structures through advocacy, education, and programming. By joining our efforts, you are supporting the protection of Oklahoma's unique and diverse history. Your support also assists in the preservation of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion, an Oklahoma City landmark and home of POK's offices.

### Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include discounted tickets to POK events, complimentary tours of the Overholser Mansion, and invitations to our annual membership appreciation event.

### Membership Levels:

Student	\$25
Individual	\$50
Family	\$100
Partner	\$500

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!