

# Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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Preservation  
OKLAHOMA 



## University of Central Oklahoma: Modern Architecture on the Historic Campus



*Y-Chapel of Song, UCO. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO*

In Oklahoma, when we think of modern architecture on academic campuses, we quickly think of The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University due to their academic programs in architecture and the high-profile professors who taught there. This thinking does a disservice to the smaller campuses around the state of Oklahoma.

Over the next few newsletters, we will visit smaller campuses and highlight their modern architecture, designed by architects/engineers from Oklahoma with degrees from Oklahoma institutions and/or outside designers with major influences in the state.

Post-World War II in Edmond saw a housing boom similar to the rest of the country. The growth on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) mirrored the City of Edmond. In 1940, Edmond had roughly 4,000 residents and by 1960 had approximately 9,000 residents. By 1970, UCO had 10,600 students representing the largest growth on any campus in the state.

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*University of Central Oklahoma Library. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO*

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Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.



## HPF Project Suggestions for 2022

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$980,000 from the HPF for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

The SHPO's statewide preservation plan, now available for years 2020-2024 at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan), sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are a continuation of the archeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples, and an extension of survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's federal fiscal year activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through the SHPO website (or through hard copy by request). The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year but will only be considered for the next funding cycle which is available (the SHPO is governed by the federal fiscal year which runs from October 1-September 30). Visit the SHPO website at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion>. Contact Lynda Ozan at 405/522-4484 or [lozan@okhistory.org](mailto:lozan@okhistory.org) with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.

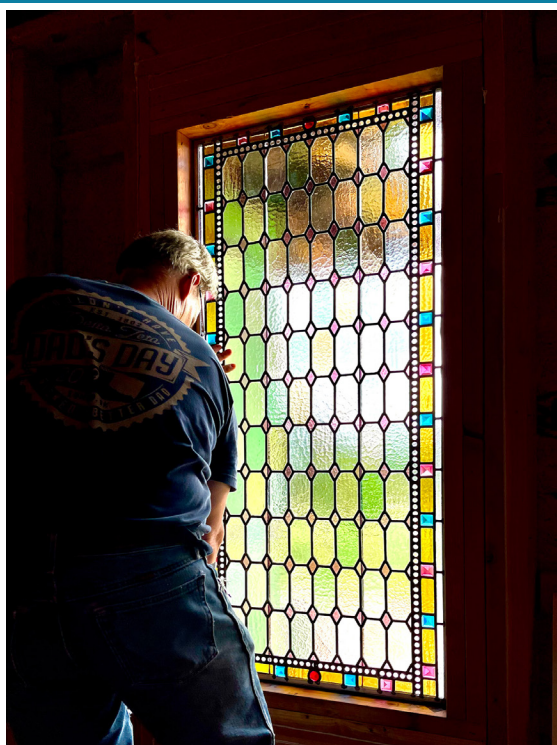


Photo: Artistic Glass Studio

### Save the Date for POK's Spring Workshop: Stained Glass Preservation & Restoration

March 19, 2022 is the scheduled date for Preservation Oklahoma's return to in-person workshops! Stained Glass Preservation and Restoration is a 4-hour workshop and will take place at the Carriage House of the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, 405 NW 15th St., Oklahoma City. The time will from 10am-2pm, with lunch and drinks included.

Get hands-on experience in restoration and preservation of vintage/antique stained glass from Tim Brown of Artistic Glass Studio in Edmond. Tim and his team are some of the leading glass restorers in the state. They are currently working on the restoration of the stained glass of our state capitol building. Visit their website for more information: [artisticglasstudio.com](http://artisticglasstudio.com). The workshop will give the confidence to protect and preserve stained glass for the next generation. Tickets will go on sale soon and can be purchased at POK's website, [www.preservationok.org/shop](http://www.preservationok.org/shop).



## University of Central Oklahoma *(continued)*

Expansion at UCO came at a price. Urban Renewal, a new federal program, allowed residents, the city, and the university to plan together to create a shared vision for the future. As part of the overall plan, additional land was acquired for the expanding university. This land included modest homes with hardwood floors, mature trees, and manicured lawns; this totaled 400+ houses that were destroyed to expand and build for UCO.

Out of the campus expansion, both pre- and post-Urban Renewal, came stunning modern architecture that carries common modern elements and stylistic details to rival any large campus in the state.

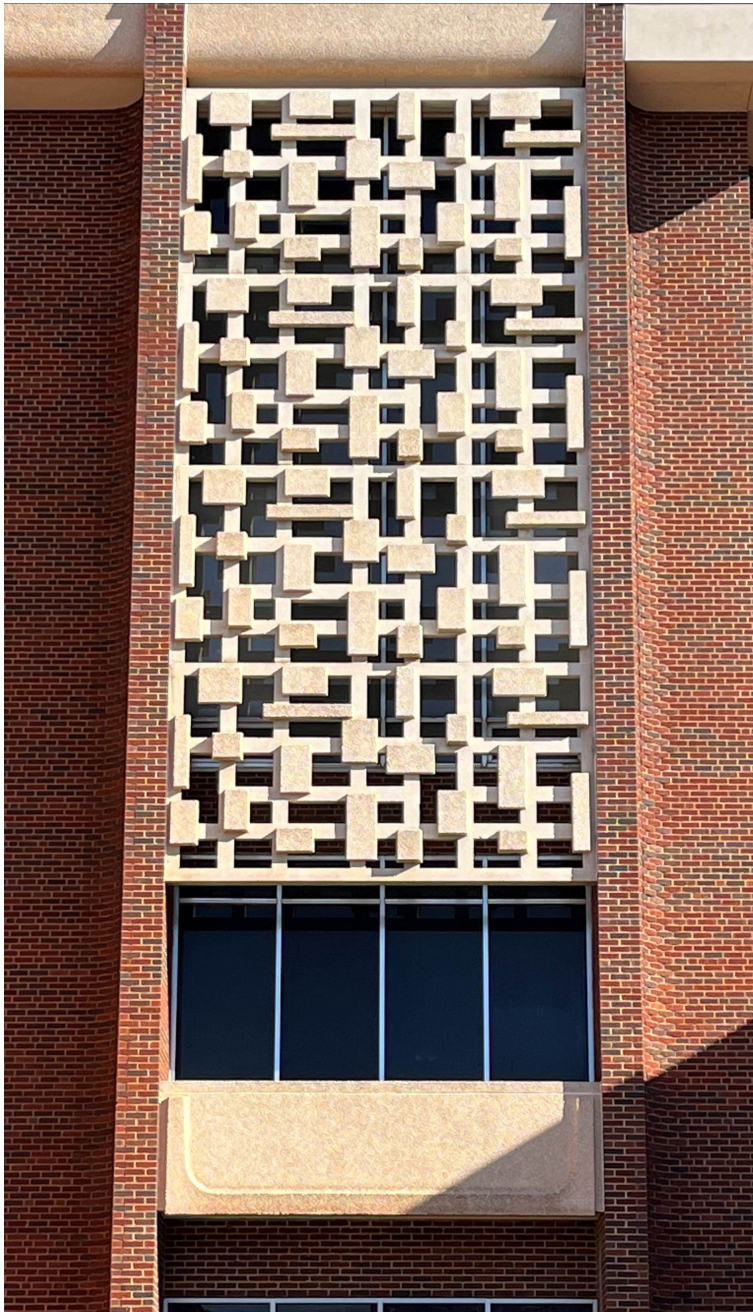


Howell Hall, UCO. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

Common names can be found on UCO's campus in relation to the modern buildings: Gaylord Noftsgger; William Lawrence; Hudgins, Thompson & Bell; Lawrence & Flesher; Lippert Brothers Construction; and Duane Conner/Fred Pojezny.

Stylistically quite simple but impressive when evaluated based on the concept is the Y-Chapel of Song dating to 1949. Duane Conner and Fred Pojezny designed the building based on artwork created by the students in the Art Program at UCO. This modest church was specifically designed around the 15 stained glass windows designed and created by the students. Additional student artwork includes the carved pews and glazed/fired ceramic tiles. Also designed by Conner and Pojezny, the Student Union (currently housing the Art program) was built in 1961. Its exposed structural steel, creating a porte-cochere, large plate glass windows, and concrete block elements truly reflect the modernistic design.

Noftsgger-Lawrence and Lawrence & Flesher designed many buildings during the mid-century expansion period. All of these buildings have common themes: exposed aggregate, linear window hoods; ornamental concrete block; and brick walls. West Hall, designed in 1962 by Noftsgger-Lawrence and Associates, was a women's dormitory and had the first central heat and air on campus; this was considered ultra-modern. They also designed the Liberal Arts building in 1967. Noftsgger-Lawrence and Lawrence & Flesher designed the Hamilton Field House in 1963 (opened in 1965). The Student Center (now the Nigh Center) was designed in 1964 by Noftsgger-Lawrence and Lawrence & Flesher.



Nigh Center, UCO. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

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## Modern Architecture at UCO *(continued)*

Hudgins, Thompson & Bell (HTB) participated in the design of two major buildings on UCO's campus: Chambers Library and the Communications Building. The library has three wings attributed to HTB dating to 1957, 1965, and 1967. The building also features recent additions as well. The modern architecture features heavy vertical elements in exposed aggregate, dark brick to tie in with the other buildings on campus, and recessed windows. The Communications Building was designed in 1956 and much like the other modern architecture buildings on campus features exposed aggregate, dark brick, and heavy vertical elements. This building also features mosaic tile windows.

The next time you are in central Oklahoma, stop by UCO and really look at the buildings. You will be pleasantly surprised at the collection of mid-century modern architecture much of which will feel familiar as the architects that designed for UCO designed mid-century buildings across the state.



College of Business, UCO. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO



Arts Building, UCO. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

## SHPO Announces HPRC's 2022 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 2022. 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 archaeologist, Norman); Shirley Ballard Nero (historian, Clearview); Jana Phillips (architectural historian, Stillwater); and Charles Wallis (historical archaeologist, Norman).

The HPRC's 2022 meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20. The meetings are open to the public and will be held in the LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom at the Oklahoma History Center, located at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the HPRC and the SHPO encourage all interested parties to attend via the virtual meeting option. Meeting agendas, log-in details and NRHP nominations under consideration will be available at <https://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, please call 405/521-6249 or visit [www.okhistory.org/shpo](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo).



# Oklahoma Main Street Center Announces New Network Level

The Oklahoma Main Street Center (OMSC), a division of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, has added another tier to the statewide Main Street program: network community. There are now three levels of participation – network, associate, and fully-designated – under which an Oklahoma town, city or neighborhood district can join the Oklahoma Main Street Program.

## Benefits of the network level include:

- An annual contracted agreement with the Oklahoma Main Street Center
- Learning about the national Main Street Four-Point Approach to historic commercial district revitalization
- National Main Street Center dues paid for one year
- Access to phone consultations with Oklahoma Main Street Center staff
- Access to resources at the state and national level via listservs and other web-based resources
- Invitations to trainings/workshops throughout the state
- Access to Oklahoma Main Street Facebook group
- OMSC identified the need for the new network level after recognizing a gap in some communities' ability to participate in the full Main Street program.

"After more than three decades of revitalizing historic Main Streets in Oklahoma, we know there are many towns and cities that would love the resources provided by Main Street but are not able to do the work of Main Street to its full capacity," said Buffy Hughes, director of the Oklahoma Main Street Program. "These towns and cities may not have the population to pull volunteers from or enough of the historic building stock left to be considered for the fully-designated program. However, there are tools and resources available that could help them have a more successful historic commercial district or increase overall civic pride within their local area."

The network level, like the associate and fully designated levels, will require an application to the Oklahoma Main Street Center to be considered. Applications for the network level will be accepted at any time and reviews of these applications will be held quarterly. The associate and fully-designated program applications are only accepted once a year.

"Oklahoma only gets better if we all thrive," said Hughes. "This new level will hopefully provide access to information and resources that will help more areas around the state."

For more information about the new network level, the tiered program or the Oklahoma Main Street Center, visit [www.okcommerce.gov/mainstreet](http://www.okcommerce.gov/mainstreet) or contact the Oklahoma Main Street team at 405/815-6552.



Stockyards City, an Oklahoma Main Street Community. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK



# Preservation Oklahoma Launches New Speaker Series



Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is pleased to announce the launch of new programming in February 2022. **History and Hops** will be a monthly speaker series featuring preservationists from across the state presenting on an area of specialization or interest. We'll also partner with local breweries (many housed in repurposed historic buildings) to bring tasty brews each month.

The series launches on February 18 with Trait Thompson, Executive Director of Oklahoma Historical Society. He will speak on overseeing the monumental restoration and preservation of the Oklahoma State Capitol building. This first event takes place at the Carriage House of the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, 405 NW 15th St., Oklahoma City. As the series progresses and grows, we hope to travel to all corners of the state. Tickets are free for Preservation Oklahoma members and \$5 for non-members. To purchase, visit [presvationok.org/shop](http://presvationok.org/shop). We look forward to seeing you in February!

## 2022 NRHP 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 (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO has reserved \$10,000 of its FY 2022 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 a 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.



## Grants Now Available: African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund



The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund provides grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000. Last year, more than \$3 million in grants to 40 sites and organizations were awarded from the Alabama African American Civil Rights Consortium in Birmingham to the City of Sacramento in California.

The Action Fund supports projects focused on African American cultural heritage, and can include: Capital Projects, Organizational Capacity Building, Project Planning, and Programming and Interpretation.

There is a two-step process to receive a grant from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. The first step, a Letter of Intent (LOI), must be submitted by Friday, January 14, 2022 at 11:59 PM local time, through our online grants portal. If the LOI is accepted, a full application will be requested of the applicant. Grant awards will be announced in July 2022.

National Trust funding is available exclusively to nonprofits and public agencies, and any applicants who are invited to submit a full application will be required to also be Forum members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation at the Organizational level.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://forum.savingplaces.org/build/funding/grant-seekers/specialprograms/aachactionfund>. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email the National Trust Grants Department at [grants@savingplaces.org](mailto:grants@savingplaces.org).



Henry & Anna Overholser Mansion. Photo: POK  
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### Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion Resumes Daily Tours February 1

The Henry Overholser Mansion is closed for daily tours until Tuesday, February 1. Tours are held every Tuesday - Friday at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm with reservations required.

On Saturdays, drop-in tours are available from 10 am until 3 pm with no reservation required. To make a reservation, call 405/525-5325 or email [Lisa@PreservationOK.org](mailto:Lisa@PreservationOK.org).

## NWOSU Announces New Master of Arts Program



Ryerson Hall, NWOSU, Alva. Photo: NWOSU

Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) in Alva is excited to announce its new Master of Arts program in Heritage Tourism and Conservation. Begun in Fall 2020, this 32-hour program is designed to increase the knowledge base for students already employed in a conservation/tourism-based position and for students who want to work or establish a business within the conservation/tourism industry. The curriculum includes multidisciplinary coursework in the areas of history, sociology, communication, and conservation that culminates in an individualized project in an area of interest to each student. The aim is to prepare students to serve as leaders in existing and emerging areas of conservation/tourism and to make them more valuable and marketable to current and potential employers. For more information, please visit this website, which details the program curriculum: [www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies/heritage-tourism-conservation](http://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies/heritage-tourism-conservation). For additional information concerning NWOSU's graduate programs, please visit [www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies) or contact Melissa Brown, the Graduate Studies Coordinator, at 580/327-8410 or at [mbrown@nwosu.edu](mailto:mbrown@nwosu.edu).

## Preservation Oklahoma Wants to Hear from You!

As we inch ourselves away from the last two years, we are looking forward to hitting the road again, visiting the places where Oklahoma history lives and meeting the people passionate about preservation in our state. And we want to hear from you!

What content would you like to see in Preservation Oklahoma News? We're always looking for ways to bring more preservation news to you, please share any story ideas you have with us. What kind of workshops would you like to see POK present? How do we grow our membership? Are there member benefits you would like us to offer that we haven't in the past? Are there segments of our history that we are overlooking? How do we engage citizens interested in preservation from across the state? These are just a few of the questions we'd love for you to answer.

Chantry Banks, Executive Director, welcomes your feedback. His goal is to create lasting partnerships in every corner of Oklahoma. And he loves to travel! Please reach out to Chantry at [director@preservationok.org](mailto:director@preservationok.org) or give him a call at 405/525-5325.





## Allen's Fillin Station Gets a Fresh Coat



Allen's Fillin' Station, Commerce. Photo: Oklahoma Route 66 Association

When Route 66'ers drive through Commerce, Oklahoma, there are a few things they typically notice. The water tower is white-and-blue pinstripe with a Number 7 on it, in honor of famous former resident Mickey Mantle. The Dairy King, a small restaurant in an old Marathon filling station, is beloved for ice cream cones and long visits with Charles Duboise, who runs the place with his mother.

Across the street from the Dairy King is another little building...or, half building, rather. Allen's Fillin' Station is labeled as a Conoco but has been painted the bright green-and-red colors that Phillips Petroleum made famous back when US Highway 66 was new. Some say it was never a service station. Bobby Allen has a copy of a 1931 lease of the property between the builder, F.D. Mitchell, and the Continental Oil Company. Some records indicate it did serve Phillips gasoline in the late 1930s. What is not in dispute, though, is that the strange little building at the corner of Commerce Avenue and Main Street has served many purposes over the years. It sat empty for quite a few of them.

Bobby Allen and his wife Linda bought the property in the early 2000s and changed the paint from white to its current color scheme. In 2020, Linda sadly passed away; Bobby put the little station up for sale for a time. People kept stopping and taking photos of the old station, even though the paint was peeling and the raw brick was exposed in a few places.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association stepped forward to repaint the building and energize the popular old station. Two summer volunteer dates were rained out, but the third time was the charm. The Association and many volunteers came together with brushes and rollers on October 16th, 2021.

Special thanks to Elijah Redden, Mayor of Commerce, for his invaluable help. Thanks also to the Abandoned Atlas Foundation, who donated to help buy water and supplies for our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this project a success.

## Date Set for Oklahoma History Symposium

Save the Date! April 9, 2022

Presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma History Symposium, "Perspectives in History," will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

This one-day symposium offers scholars, historians, authors, and museum professionals from across the state and country a forum to share their work with history enthusiasts. More information will be available in early 2022.



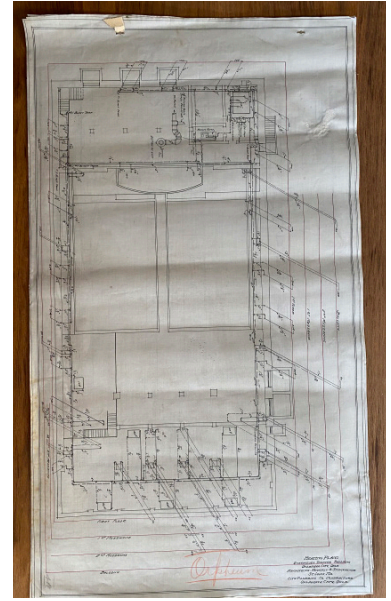
Oklahoma History Center. Photo: The Oklahoman



# Items Donated to the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion

As stewards of the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Preservation Oklahoma takes great pride in maintaining the 119-year-old home and its precious contents. When poring over old photos and scrapbooks, we find ourselves wondering what happened to many of the items we see. We are fortunate that the home is so complete, guests get to see the home almost exactly as Henry and Anna Overholser lived in it, and later, their daughter and son-in-law, Henry Ione and David Jay Perry. Recently, several generous donations have made their way to the home. These items help tell the history of the family, a growing city, and the events that have kept the Overholser buzzing for over a century.

Alan Loeffler has donated a set of blueprints from the heating installation at the Overholser Opera House, which was located on the 200 block of West Grand Avenue (now Sheridan) in Oklahoma City. Mr. Loeffler recently uncovered a treasure trove of blueprints of early Oklahoma City commercial buildings that his grandfather worked on. He has been busy processing the blueprints and returning them to the present-day owners of those buildings. We'll get the blueprints on display soon and we thank Mr. Loeffler for this wonderful donation.



Blueprints. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK



Pewter pitcher and cup. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK

Kristen Josey and Megan Moody, the great-granddaughters of Mr. Ed Overholser, have donated some interesting items belonging to Henry Ione and David Jay Perry, including a pewter pitcher and cup set with Mr. Perry's monogram. Stamped onto the bottom of each cup is "Replica Cromwellian Beaker – Circa 1649" and "Unity Pewter – Made in England." A necklace owned by Henry Ione was also part of the donation. The items are being assessed, cleaned, and recorded and will be on display in the third-floor galleries when the mansion reopens February 1.

Noted Oklahoma City architect, Mike Mahaffey, and his wife, Mary, spruced up our holiday decorating in 2021 with the donation of many hot air balloon-themed ornaments. The ornaments were part of a fundraiser that took place for the mansion in 1981 by the Chafing Dish Society. The original tree was designed by Mrs. Willie Locke and the ornaments were made by members of the Women's Architectural League. Mr. and Mrs. Mahaffey purchased the ornaments at the fundraiser and donated them 40 years later. They looked spectacular in the second-floor sitting room and we look forward to showcasing them for years to come.

We have so much gratitude to Mr. Loeffler, Ms. Josey, Ms. Moody, and Mr. and Mrs. Mahaffey. We thank them for thinking of POK and the Overholser. Be sure to see the items on your next visit.



Second-floor sitting room. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK





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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!