

Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

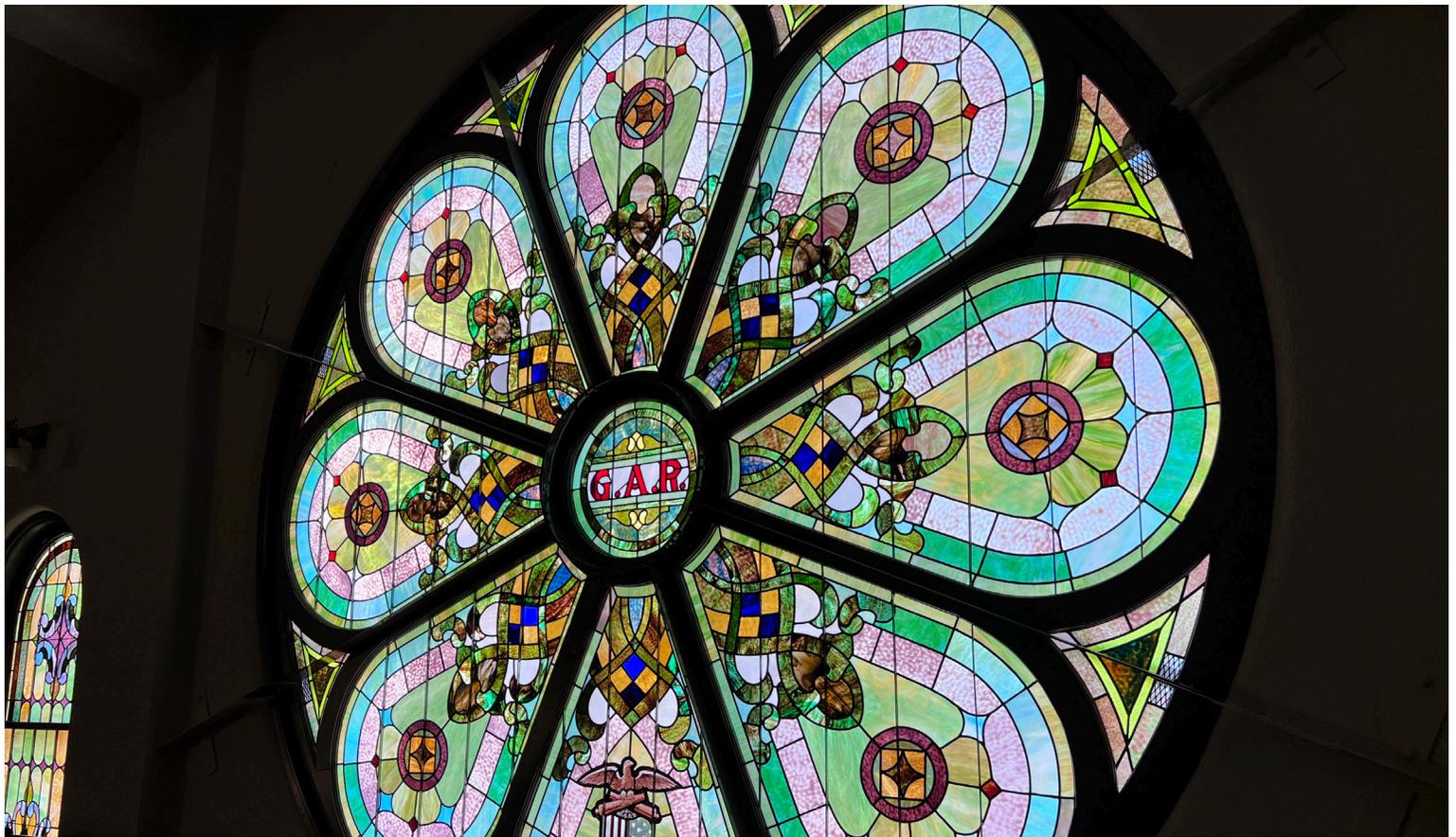
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Preservation
OKLAHOMA 

 Oklahoma
Historical
Society

Sacred Spaces: Exploring Oklahoma's Religious Structures



Rose Window, First United Methodist Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

All communities across our state have at least one thing in common: places of worship. From the smallest town to the largest city, churches and worship centers play a central role in helping tell the history of place and the people who call it home. While we think of the grand deco cathedrals of Tulsa or the mid-century modern churches of Oklahoma City, every church in every town has a wonderful story to tell.

Over the next few newsletters, we will travel across the state and learn about the different types of church buildings that can be found outside of the metropolitan areas. From humble and modest churches to gothic towers reaching toward the sky, we'll take a look inside and out at the places generations of Oklahomans have worshipped.

Our series begins in northwest Oklahoma in the community of Alva. The town of around 5,000 was established as a general land office for the Cherokee Outlet land run in 1893 and the first Baptist sermon was delivered the day after the run. By Thanksgiving of that year, the town had a Union Church building.

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First Presbyterian Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

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.

OK/SHPO Announces 2023 Calendar of Events

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, presents its 2023 calendar of events. There are no registration fees unless noted. **All events will take place virtually, unless otherwise stated.** For more information call 405-521-6249 or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/events. *Note: If you have a disability and need an accommodation, call 405-521-6249 at least two (2) days before the event.*

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES: Many of these programs meet the requirements for HSW hours/State of Oklahoma's Board of Governors of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers, and for PDH hours/Oklahoma State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The SHPO will email certificates of attendance after the event, and participants self-report or document their attendance per policies of the respective boards.

Please check our website for updates: www.okhistory.org/shpo/events.

JANUARY 2023

- 12 SHPO Lunch and Learn, beginning at noon: HPRI and Archaeological Site Survey Forms (Matt Pearce/Kristina Wyckoff)
- 19 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting (1:30pm/Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City; virtually via Teams)

FEBRUARY 2023

- 23 SHPO Lunch and Learn, beginning at noon: Oklahoma Homesteader Project (Dr. Kalenda Eaton)

MARCH 2023

- 9 SHPO Lunch and Learn, beginning at noon: Elmira Sauberan Smyrl, Engineer (Sara Werneke)

APRIL 2023

- 12 Lunch and Learn, beginning at noon: Treasure Lake Job Corps and Tishomingo Fish Hatchery (George MacDonell and Natalie Sanford)
- 20 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting (1:30pm/Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City; virtually via Teams)
- 22 Oklahoma History Symposium: Perspectives in History (Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City)

MAY 2023

Registration for all workshops: www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops

- 8 Working with the National Register of Historic Places (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- 9 How to Research Your "Historic" Property (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- 10 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- 11 Documenting Post-European Contact Archaeological Sites in Oklahoma (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- 16 Tax Incentives Program Overview (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- 17 The Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation (10:00am – 12:00pm)
- 18 The Secretary of Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation (10:00am – 12:00pm)

JULY 2023

- 20 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting (1:30pm/Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City; virtually via Teams)

OCTOBER 2023

- 19 Historic Preservation Review Committee Meeting (1:30pm/Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City; virtually via Teams)

NOVEMBER 2023

Check back mid-summer for Workshop dates/times.

The National Register in Oklahoma: The Year in Review

The past year has seen eleven new properties added to the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's catalog of buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts significance in our past. Listing a property in the National Register can provide a property with recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for preservation. There are currently 1,406 properties in Oklahoma listed in the National Register. A facet of a national historic preservation program established by the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Register serves as a guide for government officials and community members to protect the nation's cultural resources and plan for the future.

We start our "year in review" with the Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery near Red Oak in Latimer County. The homestead includes a one-story log building known today as Edwards Store, a stone-lined well shaft, and cemetery. The log building, built circa 1850 with subsequent additions in 1870 and 1889, is the only existing building in Oklahoma historically associated with the Butterfield Overland Mail Stagecoach Road. This nomination provided much needed context on the Edwards-Hardaway family and their commercial activities within the Choctaw Nation during the late nineteenth century.



Edwards-Hardaway Homestead and Cemetery, Red Oak vicinity, Latimer County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

Three properties exemplify the rapid commercial and social development of central Oklahoma during the early twentieth century. The William L. Bradford Building, a four-story, red brick building in Oklahoma City's former warehouse district (known today as Bricktown) was built in 1909 as an investment property to house a number of companies associated with the commercial and industrial development of downtown Oklahoma City prior to World War II. Less than two miles to the northwest, the construction of First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City in 1929 marked the establishment of a permanent home for a growing congregation.

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William L. Bradford Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

Designed in the Colonial Revival architectural style by the firm Smith and Walker of Boston, Mass., the sanctuary is a prominent landmark in Oklahoma City with its multi-light arched windows, large portico with Doric columns, and prominent copper-clad spire.



First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

Meanwhile, Seminole High School represented central Oklahomans' growing affinity toward Modern architectural styles and desire for improved educational facilities. Designed in the Art Deco style by architect Josephus Overton (J.O.) Parr, the expansive, three-story high school building provided for an expanded curriculum for area students when it opened in 1931, including a junior college.



Seminole High School, Seminole, Seminole County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

Although some properties in Tulsa were previously individually listed in the National Register for their local significance to the Greenwood district, a recent Greenwood Historic District nomination establishes the national significance of the 100 block of North Greenwood Avenue, Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church, the Sam and Lucy Mackey House (presently the Mabel B. Little Heritage House), and Mount Zion Baptist Church. These properties encompass the major property types and architectural styles that were once present within the larger Greenwood community. They represent the development of Greenwood by African Americans under legal segregation and the phenomenal reconstruction of Greenwood following its wholesale destruction during the infamous Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921.



Greenwood Historic District, Tulsa, Tulsa County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office works cooperatively with participating communities in the Certified Local Governments program to nominate local properties to the National Register. The Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Association Building in Enid, built in 1965, was designed by local architect Thomas "Tom" Melvin Rogers. With its flat roof, glass curtain walls, recessed balconies, and concrete panels, the building is an excellent local example of the International architectural style that was popular among banks and other financial institutions during the mid-twentieth century.



Liberty Federal Savings and Loan Association Building, Enid, Garfield County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

Ponca City saw four properties listed in the National Register within the past year; the most of any community. The Ponca City Coca-Cola Bottling Company, constructed in several phases between 1923 and 1956, represents the broad spectrum of secondary industrial operations that supported the local economy. The George and Margaret Miller House and the Clem and Cliff Filling Station, built in 1932 and 1938, respectively, each reflect the continued popularity of Eclectic and Revival architectural styles for residential and commercial properties during the zenith of Ponca City's oil industry. Last, the International-styled WBBZ Radio Station played a significant role in the establishment of Ponca City's severe weather and civil defense warning system during the mid-twentieth century. (continued on next page)

The National Register in Oklahoma: The Year in Review (continued)



Ponca City Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Ponca City, Kay County.
Photo: OK/SHPO.



George and Margaret Miller House, Ponca City, Kay County. Photo: OK/SHPO.



Clem and Cliff Filling Station, Ponca City, Kay County. Photo: OK/SHPO.



WBBZ Radio Station, Ponca City, Kay County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

We conclude our "year in review" by noting the intersection of Modern Movement architecture with the federal and state commitment to construct affordable housing for senior citizens during the late twentieth century. Pioneer Plaza, located at 901 N. Elgin Ave. in Tulsa, was built in 1969 as the first low-income senior housing project undertaken by the Tulsa Housing Authority. Hewgley Terrace, situated at 420 S. Lawton Ave., opened one year later. Together, these buildings provided 350 living units for the elderly in Tulsa. In 1971, the Miami Housing Authority completed Nine Tribes Tower, the city's only high-rise, low-income housing project for senior citizens.



Pioneer Plaza, Tulsa, Tulsa County. Photo: OK/SHPO.



Hewgley Terrace, Tulsa, Tulsa County. Photo: OK/SHPO.



Nine Tribes Tower, Miami, Ottawa County. Photo: OK/SHPO.

Together, these properties represent the growing diversity of architecture and history that merits recognition through the National Register of Historic Places. The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office is responsible for identifying, evaluating, and nominating properties for this special designation. But this work cannot succeed without the help of the public. If you are aware of a property that you think merits listing in the National Register and are interested in preparing a nomination, please contact our office, 405-521-6249.

Historic Preservation Review Committee's 2023 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 2023. 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).



Oklahoma Historical Society

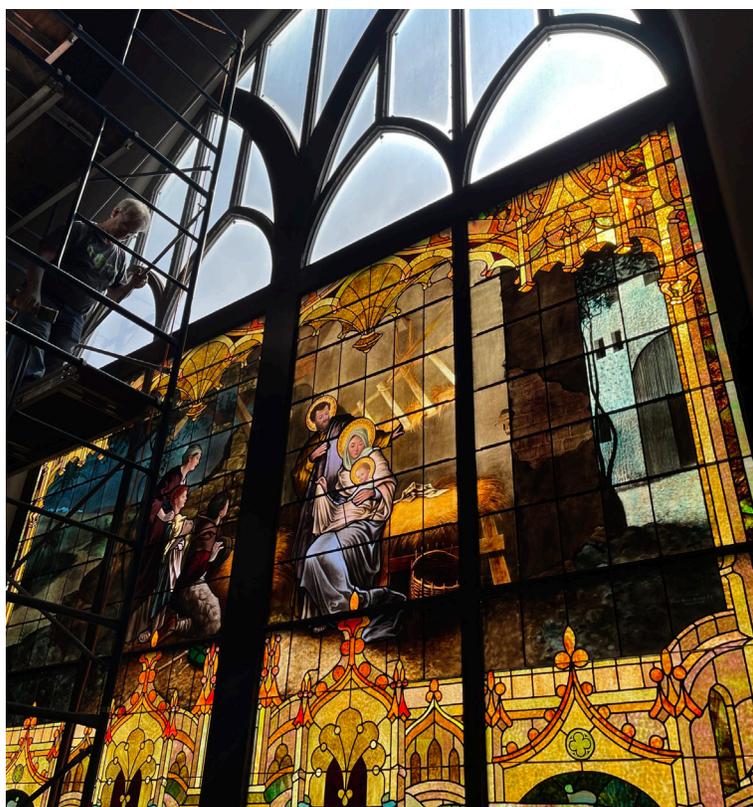
The HPRC's 2023 meetings will begin at 1:30pm on Thursday, January 19, April 20, July 20, and October 19.

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. Additionally, the meetings will also be held via Teams (virtual option). 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 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.

POK Hosts Stained Glass Workshop on January 21



Artistic Glass Studio at work. Photo: Artistic Glass Studio

January 21, 2023 is the scheduled date for Preservation Oklahoma's latest workshop. Stained Glass Preservation and Restoration is a 6-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 be from 10:00am-4:00pm, 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 have worked many large projects across the state, including the recent restoration of our state capitol building. Visit their website for more information and to see photos of their work: www.artisticglassstudio.com.

The workshop will give participants the confidence to protect and preserve stained glass for the next generation. They will also have the opportunity to tour the mansion's collection of stained glass with Tim and possibly even work on a piece of the home's 120-year-old windows. Tickets are \$25 per spot and on sale now and can be purchased at POK's website, www.preservationok.org/shop.

Sacred Spaces (continued)

Today, many of the churches are clustered on or near the aptly named Church Street. Here you will find the First United Methodist Church, The First Baptist Church, and First Presbyterian Church. On College Avenue sit Friends Church and Alva Church of the Nazarene. A few blocks to the west is the campus of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located at the intersection of Church and 12th Streets.

The churches mentioned above represent diverse styles of architecture, notable for a town this size. We'll start with the oldest structure on our list, First United Methodist Church.



First United Methodist Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

Dedicated on May 1, 1910, the First United Methodist Church was designed by John W. Gaddis, an architect from Vincennes, Indiana. The red brick structure is typical of early statehood churches, with a corner bell tower and steep roof line. The church is known for its extensive use of stained glass, including the Grand Army of the Republic windows located on the west wall of the church. The Rose Window (*photo on page 1*) represents the mutual respect held between Alva Methodists and the local chapter of the G.A.R., who met in the basement of the church.

Inside, the congregation fans out from the central pulpit, which is placed on a diagonal. To the left of pulpit is the large pipe organ and a curved balcony allows for more seating. As the church grew, so did the need for more education space. The education building and small chapel were dedicated in 1951.

Directly to the south of First United Methodist is the First Baptist Church. The Baptist church has been a part of Alva since its founding, and they met in the Union Church Building until 1898. That year, trustees purchased the site where some form of the church has been ever since. In 1977, the current auditorium and fellowship hall was completed.



First Baptist Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

In 1949, a three-story educational wing was added, and the 1950 auditorium has been remodeled to create a two-story education wing. All elements now cohesively blend into 1977 addition. The central feature of the church is the pyramid that rises above the sanctuary, giving lift to an otherwise low-profile building. The sanctuary is sparsely adorned, with several stained-glass windows on the west and above the baptistry providing color and light. The pyramid is open on the inside, allowing for nice acoustics in the space.



First Presbyterian Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

No church in Alva represents the Mid-Century Modern aesthetic more than First Presbyterian Church, located one block west of College Avenue on Church Street. The building opened in 1965 and is a beautiful example of churches from this time period. It features an A-frame sanctuary to the west and low-slung offices, fellowship hall, and classrooms to the north and east. A breeze block wall (*photo on page 2*) on the south elevation creates a fully enclosed courtyard, from which a striking bell tower rises. The sanctuary features organ pipes at the front of the room and elegant wood panels cover the ceiling. Mid-mod lighting fixtures feature prominently in the interior design. The pulpit is darkly stained and features a simple silver cross. Contrasting bands of brick create interest on the exterior of the building.

Sacred Spaces (continued)

Rounding out this grouping of churches downtown is the Friends Church and Alva Church of the Nazarene. The Alva Friends Church is part of the Quaker tradition, and their meeting place reflects the simplicity often associated with Quakerism. The Alva Friends, established in 1901, have been meeting at their present location since 1919. The building is unadorned and covered in stucco. It features a high-peaked roof and modest entry. The front façade is symmetrical with an accessible entrance added at an unknown time. The building has been modified over the years, with newer windows and doors installed and updates to the main interior meeting area.



Alva Friends Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

The Church of the Nazarene is another mid-century designed church, just a couple of blocks from First Presbyterian, although its scale is more modest in nature. The design allows for plenty of natural light, with five columns of modern stained glass on the west façade and more windows on both the north and south sides. Classrooms and a fellowship hall are located at the rear of the church building. It features a free-standing brick monolith on which three simplified crosses are placed. A traditional steeple can be found at the front of the church.



Alva Church of the Nazarene, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

The final church we will explore in Alva is the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located west of downtown and near the edge of the city. The building was designed by Charles Lester Monnot and completed in 1936. Monnot designed many Catholic churches in Oklahoma City. It is built of buff brick in a Romanesque Mission style and features a bell tower and red tile roof. Carved stone flanks the simple wooden doors of the entry.

Inside, the main altar and two side altars are made of domestic marble and the sanctuary floor was originally terrazzo but has since been covered in carpet. Heavy oaken beams bracket the ceiling which is comprised of pressed wood. Imported Stations of the Cross line the north and south walls. Recent cosmetic work to the church includes new paint for the walls and decorative flourishes and gold leaf at the altar. This building is certainly worth a visit when you are in the area.

To see more photos of the churches explored in Alva, please visit www.preservationok.org/pok-news-extras.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alva. Photo: Chantry Banks

Upcoming Tulsa Foundation for Architecture Events



University of Tulsa, Tulsa. Photo: TFA

Tulsa Foundation for Architecture invites you to their monthly walking tour. Tulsa has a rich architectural heritage and TFA is passionate about sharing their knowledge with you. Grab your coffee and join in the fun!

Tickets for tours are \$20 for nonmembers and \$15 for members. In order to help cultivate the next generation of architecture lovers, kids 12 and under are always welcome to participate in tours free of charge. Tickets can be purchased at www.tulsaarchitecture.org.

Upcoming tours include:

January 14: Will Rogers High School – A Deco Darling
February 11: Tulsa Underground – The Tunnel Tour
March 11: University of Tulsa – Collegiate Gothic and More
April 8: The Blue Dome District – Brothels and Bootleggers
May 13: Destination Tour – Picturesque Pawhuska

History and Hops Resumes in January



History and Hops is back for 2023! After a terrific launch in 2022, we look forward to what the new year will bring. We are working to bring you an exciting lineup of presenters covering a wide range of topics. Programs this year will include the history of museums in Oklahoma, how the state art collection came to be, and a history of Carnegie libraries in Oklahoma.

Coming up on January 27, we'll host Michael Schwarz of the Abandoned Atlas Foundation. "Crafting the Narrative for Historic Sites" will be the topic of discussion. Michael will talk about the emotional appeal of abandoned properties and how it can help with saving sites. Brews from Stonecloud Brewing will be served.

To purchase tickets, visit www.preservationok.org/shop and are \$5 for nonmembers and free for members.

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 2023 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 \$2,100, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least \$1,400.

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 \$3,500 (federal grant + nonfederal match) is only an estimate of the cost for such projects and that more than the minimum \$1,400 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. You may also contact the SHPO at 405-521-6249.

There's Still Time to Nominate for 2023's Most Endangered Places

It is time to compile Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2023, and we need your input.

Help us identify Oklahoma's threatened historic resources. While the listing does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, the designation has been a powerful tool to help local organizations raise the awareness of their endangered places. Please complete the nomination form and return it by February 1, 2023, to Preservation Oklahoma. The Selection Committee will announce the 2023 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List in spring 2023.

1) Nomination Submitted by:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

2) Endangered Place/Property Nominated:

Name of Endangered Place _____

Address/Location _____

Current Owner _____

Owner's Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

3) Is the current property owner aware of this nomination? Yes _____ No _____

4) The nominated endangered place... (choose one)

_____ is a National Historic Landmark, or contributes to a National Historic Landmark District

_____ is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or contributes to a National Register district

_____ is individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the State Historic Preservation Office, or contributes to a district determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office

_____ is none of the above.

5) The nominated endangered place's current condition is best described as:

_____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor

6) Other than funding for restoration/rehabilitation, what service could be provided that would assist you in preserving this endangered place (please attach additional page if necessary).

7) In 150 words or less, explain why you believe this endangered place should be placed on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2023 (please attach additional page if necessary).

8) Please include at least two color photographs showing the current condition of the nominated place.

Please return this completed form to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

405 NW 15th Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Nomination form is also available online at www.preservationok.org.

Please call 405-525-5325 or email director@preservationok.org with questions.



Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion Updates



Chantry Banks and Lisa Escalon visit Santa. Photo: Connor Newman

On Saturday, December 10, Santa made a stop at the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion for "Breakfast with Santa." Over 100 joined us for a delicious breakfast, a Christmas movie, a fun craft, exotic animals, and of course, a picture or two with Santa Claus!

Many thanks to the families that joined us for a wonderful morning at the mansion. We also thank students from Oklahoma City University's Event Management class for planning the event as their final project for the semester.

Mark your calendars for December 9, 2023, for the next Breakfast with Santa!

The Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion is closed for daily tours until Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Tours are held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 10:00am, noon, and 2:00pm with reservations required.

On Fridays and Saturdays, drop-in tours are available from 10:00am until 3:00pm with no reservation required. Please arrive no later than 2:30pm to guarantee time to tour the home.

To make reservations, call 405-525-5325 or email Lisa@PreservationOK.org. For more information, visit www.OverholserMansion.org.

The mansion is always seeking volunteers to help with tours, the grounds, and general cleaning and upkeep of the home. If interested, please contact Lisa at the above number or email address.



Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City. Photo: OHS.

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 www.preservationok.org/membership and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices.