

# Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

July 1999

Volume 5, number 4

## Fire in Downtown Okmulgee Historic District

On June 10, fire ravaged the historic Key Block (the 300 block of West 7<sup>th</sup> Street) in downtown Okmulgee, gutting a commercial building that is a contributing resource to the downtown National Register district. The adjacent Land and Title Building, which holds records of the historic buildings in the area, received some water damage, but otherwise escaped unharmed. The buildings are in the 300 block of West 7<sup>th</sup> Street roughly one block west of the Orpheum Theatre across from the County Courthouse. The most damaged building is significant for its role in the historical African American business community in Okmulgee.

As this newsletter went to press, investigators believed the fire was deliberately set. *Arson is one of the chief threats to historic resources nationwide.*

"At first, we all felt like crying," said Kendall Mooney of the Okmulgee Main Street Program, "But then our immediate response was, 'What can we do to rebuild - to save the historic buildings?'" Mooney said the property owners hope to rehabilitate the spaces if at all possible.

Photo courtesy of John McConnel, Okmulgee

## OK Landmark Inventory computerization Under Way

The Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)'s collection of information about buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects across Oklahoma. It includes those properties listed on the national Register of Historic Places, those recorded through the SHPO's survey program, those documented under the Section 106 review process, and others recorded by individuals. The OLI includes information on perhaps 50,000 properties (conservative estimate).

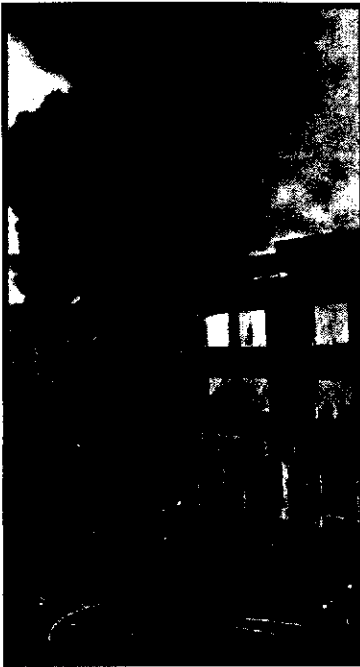
SHPO staffing and funding limitations made accomplishment of the OLI computerization within a reasonable timeframe impossible without partners. Last fall, the SHPO approached Dr. George Carney of Oklahoma State University's Department of Geography about the project and he agreed to undertake the effort. To bridge a gap in the financing for the work, the SHPO applied to the Kirkpatrick Family Fund for assistance and the foundation generously awarded the SHPO its entire request of \$44,000.00, which is 20% of the estimated total project cost. 60% of the project costs will come from the SHPO's federal funds from the U. S. Department of the Interior (Historic Preservation Fund) and OSU will provide the balance.

On January 1, the SHPO and OSU entered into a cooperative agreement for the project's first phase, conversion of the SHPO's survey data already stored on disk to *Access*. The conversion phase is about four months ahead of schedule and, on April 30, Dr. Carney and his team demonstrated the results of their work for the SHPO staff.

Dr. Carney's team is coding and entering data for properties added to the OLI before 1985 and those not submitted to the SHPO on disk, such as properties recorded under the Section 106 review process. The Kirkpatrick Family Fund grant will allow an additional team member for the project's duration. The initial estimated date for project completion is September 30, 2001.

The SHPO believes that all users of the OLI will find the results of this project of tremendous benefit. Initially, researchers will access the database from a terminal in the SHPO. Queries can be made on the basis of each item on the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form. The SHPO is considering provision of access to the OLI through its web site.

Watch *Preservation Oklahoma News* for progress reports on this project.



### What's inside:

- TORNADO DAMAGE TO HISTORIC RESOURCES - PAGE 2
- FIVE PROPERTIES ADDED TO THE MOST ENDANGERED LIST - PAGE 3
- NEW SECTION 106 REBS IN EFFECT
- ARCHAEOLOGISTS WORRIED ABOUT CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD
- BANK OF AGRA WILL LOSE UPPER FLOOR - PAGE 4
- FOUR NEW LISTINGS IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES - PAGE 5
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS SHPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR FY2000 - PAGES 6
- SHIRK AND CITATION OF MERIT AWARDS - PAGE 7

# May Tornadoes damage Historic Buildings

by Jim Gabbert, SHPO staff

The thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged by the tornadoes that swept across Oklahoma this spring included a number of historic resources. Because Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires any project using federal monies or requiring federal licensing to consider National Register eligible or listed properties, the cleanup of storm damage by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers required review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Working with FEMA, staff archaeologist, Marshall Gettys, who heads the Section 106 review and compliance team, and Architectural Historian Jim Gabbert visited the storm-ravaged areas on May 10-12 in order to document the tornadoes' effects on known and potential historic resources. They took black and white photographs of all affected National Register-listed and eligible buildings and some color slides.

In Mulhall, two National Register properties sustained damage. The Oklahoma State Bank, a two-story native stone building constructed in 1908, stands on the west side of town at Main and Baty. It had broken windows and a twisted metal cornice. Its owners plan to repair the damage to the building. The Mulhall United Methodist Church took the heaviest hit, losing its steeple and tower roof and sustaining structural damage to its heavy sandstone walls. The 1894 church building is perched atop a hill on the east side of the small town. It's parishioners will follow the guidelines set forth by the Secretary of the Interior while rehabilitating it.

Between Mulhall's two National Register-listed properties lay a scene of utter devastation. A 1984 architectural survey of the town helped the team determine if any of the dozens of damaged or destroyed buildings might have been eligible for the National Register. A house, located at 405 Baty Street, eligible for its structural merit, sustained minor damage, and the Mulhall State Bank, a single story stone building at the southeast corner of Main and Baty, was destroyed. At Roselawn Cemetery, located just east of Mulhall, headstones lay scattered and broken among the trunks and limbs of the cedar trees that once sheltered the graves.

In Stroud, the Old Stroud School, owned by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, received extensive damage. The building, a 1936 sandstone structure, built by the WPA, had the southern half of its roof peeled off, which lay scattered about the school yard along with remains of the porch. Other roof material collapsed, damaging the interior and exposing it to the rain that followed the wind. The sturdy sandstone walls held fast, showing only minor damage where struck by wind-borne debris. The Turnpike Authority has announced no decision concerning the building's future.

Not so sturdy was the Tanger Outlet Mall, less than a mile east of the Old Stroud School. The metal-skinned and stucco walls of this modern shopping center could not withstand the force of the tornadic winds. The team also photographed the storm's effect on the newer materials of which the Mall was constructed.

Since it was determined that no National Register listed properties lay in the wide swath of destruction across Moore, Del City, and Midwest City, the team simply documented the storm's path and its effects on the existing building stock. Afterward, an agreement was reached with FEMA to allow storm debris clearance without further review by SHPO.



The Old Stroud School was one of the historic resources most damaged by the storms.

The National Park Service recently published *Disaster Management Programs for Historic Sites*, which includes the proceedings of the NPS symposium at the University of California, Berkeley, funded by the FY1995 Cultural Resources Training Initiative. If you are interested in a copy, contact David W. Look, AIA, at (415) 427-1401, or e-mail: [David\\_W\\_Look@nps.gov](mailto:David_W_Look@nps.gov).

Partners for Sacred Places (PSP), the national organization working to help preservationists meet challenges facing historic church buildings, recently announced the publication of *Sacred Places at Risk* and its newly updated *Guide to Raising Money for Your Older Church or Synagogue*, as well as production of a 25-minute video *After Sunday*. Based on PSP's nationally-acclaimed study, *Sacred Places at Risk* is a 48-page publication that provides dramatic new evidence of how congregations with older buildings depend on their properties to house a wide array of programs benefiting the greater community. The book also documents the grave physical condition of these buildings and consequently the potential loss of many community-based programs nationwide. By using new statistics to support what has been known only anecdotally, *Sacred Places at Risk* makes the case for increased public and private support of America's sacred places. The book and video are \$15 each. The Guide is \$50. For a copy of the order form, call Preservation Oklahoma at (405) 232-5747.

# Five Properties added to Most Endangered List

During its annual luncheon and membership meeting on May 7, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. announced its list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties for 1999-00. Four new and one previous entry are on the list of properties representing the many threatened significant historic resources in Oklahoma.

The **El Reno Municipal Swimming Pool Building** in El Reno in Canadian County was built in 1935 and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Built during the Great Depression entirely with local funds, its attractive Moorish style design contained a state-of-the-art facility.

The **Galt-Franklin House** at 400 Country Club Road in Ardmore in Carter County was built in 1915 and listed on the National Register in 1986 as part of a thematic listing of mansions built by Oklahoma oil executives during the oil booms of the early part of this century. It is one of the few examples in southern Oklahoma of this limited and specific set of buildings important to Oklahoma's cultural heritage. The Galt-Franklin House, neglected for years, is up for sale with other items from the estate.

The **Gene Autry Ranch**, also in Carter County, lies between I-35 and the town of Gene Autry just south of Highway 53. In 1939, singing-cowboy film star Autry bought land near the town of Berwin to build his *Flying A Ranch Rodeo*. In 1941, Berwin changed its name to Gene Autry in recognition of the actor's choice of location for his ranch. The rodeo operated until 1946, when Autry sold the ranch and moved back to Studio City, CA. Today, the two stone and wood barns flanking the rodeo ground are nearly all that remains at the site. The buildings are in an advanced state of decay, having lost much of their roofing. The site is eligible for the National Register.

The **Walnut Avenue Bridge** in Oklahoma City, built in 1935, is a viaduct connecting the historic Deep Deuce and Bricktown areas. The City Engineer's office seeks its demolition to make way for an at-grade entrance into Bricktown. This summer, the city council will finally hold a hearing on whether to designate the structure a local landmark. Preservation Oklahoma is working with local preservationists and the local NAACP to convince the city to retain the bridge as part of an overall plan for development sensitive to the historic resources of the Deep Deuce area.

The **Central YMCA Building** in downtown Oklahoma City, built in 1948, is the best of very few examples remaining in Oklahoma City of the International Style of architecture. The eight-story monolithic concrete structure's design incorporates a system of window overhangs and louvers to control natural light and ventilation. The 1995 bombing of the Murrah Building caused extensive damage to the old Central YMCA Building and Preservation Oklahoma included it on the 1996 Most Endangered List. The building was moved to the Watch List in 1997 after its purchase by local business owners, who announced plans to rehabilitate it. This year, it returns to the Most Endangered List due to statements by representatives of the Bombing Memorial Foundation and Mayor Kirk Humphreys that it should be demolished for parking and by the owners that a parking lot might now be an option.

The eight other properties on the Most Endangered List, retained from previous years, are the **Angie Debo House** in Marshall in Logan County, the **Guthrie Fire Department Hose Tower**, the **Lima Rosenwald Town Hall** in Lima in Seminole County, the **McLaughlin Mounds** (Black Middenmound Archaeological Site LT-11) in the vicinity of Red Oak in Latimer County, the **Old Stroud School** in Stroud in Lincoln County, the **Skirvin Hotel** in Oklahoma City, and the **Wheelock Academy and Mission** east of Millerton in McCurtain County.

Since inclusion on last year's Most Endangered List, the **Chandler National Guard Armory** and the **Tulsa National Guard Armory** at the County Fairgrounds have both been saved from demolition.

The **101 Ranch** near Ponca City, the **Epworth University Building** in Oklahoma City, and the **Little Flock Baptist Church** in Nowata County have been added to the Watch List this year. Other properties on the Watch List include: The Agency Jail on the KCA Reservation north of Anadarko in Caddo County; the Beck-Hildebrand Mill, near Colcord in Delaware County; the Boley Historic District in Boley, Okfuskee County; the Cache Creek Mission south of Apache, Caddo County; the Calmez Hotel in Clinton,



The El Reno Municipal Pool Building



The Galt-Franklin House in Ardmore



The Gene Autry Ranch in Carter County



The Walnut Avenue Viaduct in OKC



The Central YMCA Building in OKC

# New Section 106 Regulations in Effect

On June 17, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's revised regulations for the Section 106 review process (36 CFR Part 800) went into effect. The new regulations feature a number of streamlining mechanisms and address changes mandated in the 1992 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act. The new regulations are available on the Council's web site: [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov).

The Council is providing a series of one-day briefings on the new regulations across the nation this summer. The Oklahoma SHPO will provide detailed information about the changes during its December 1 and 2 review and compliance workshops (see Calendar of Upcoming Events in this issue). Due to the anticipated demand for space at these workshops, the SHPO urges interested parties to call (405) 521-6249 now and let staff know if you plan to attend either or both sessions. If there is sufficient demand, extra sessions will be offered.

Major changes in the regulations include:

- Greater deference to federal agency-SHPO decision making (for example, "no adverse effect" findings are no longer forwarded to the Council).
- More focused Council involvement (such as in the bigger issues of federal agency preservation programs and performance).
- Better definition of participants' roles and recognition of the role of applicants.

- Encouragement of early compliance and coordination with other reviews.
- Use of NEPA compliance to meet Section 106 requirements.
- New techniques introduced for dealing with marginal or routine cases.
- Public participation clarified.

The SHPO wants to make the transition period as smooth as possible for everyone involved in the Section 106 process. Please contact Marshall Gettys of the SHPO at (405) 521-6381 if you have any questions.

## Archaeologists warn of Threats to Civil War Battlefield

The Bayou Manard Battlefield in Cherokee County is the general area of a larger skirmish between General Phillips' Union forces and Colonel Stand Watie's Confederate Cherokees on July 27, 1862. Three roads converge on the south side of Bayou Manard and fighting occurred at the junction of the roads. The main road towards Fort Gibson, the branch leading east to Tahlequah, and the branch leading southeast to Park Hill are all traceable on the ground and in aerial photographs of the area. The northern branch leading towards Manard has been obliterated by state highway 62 and a large borrow pit on the highway's north side. The point where the remaining traces of roads converge, south of the highway, is where Union forces moved west along the three branches and encountered the Confederate forces at the junction of the roads. The Confederates were routed and fled west toward Fort Gibson.

Heavy development both east and west of the site has raised concern that the battlefield will soon disappear under new construction. The Manard Bayou Skirmish site is for sale by Century 21 Realty.

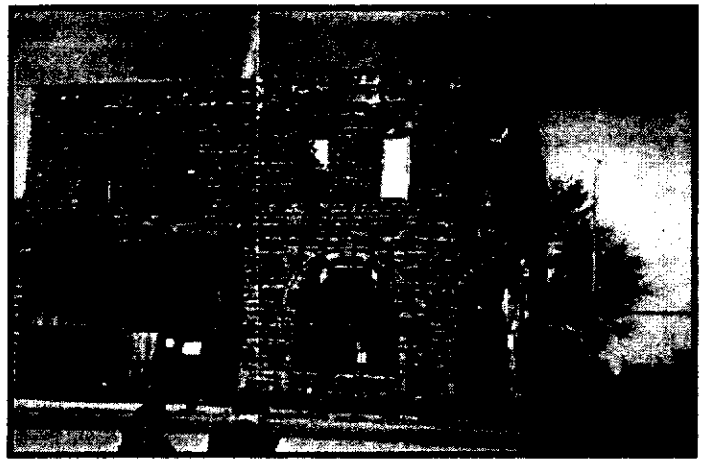


Photo by Sally Ferrell, Chandler

## Agra Bank Building to lose Top Floor

The Agra Historical and Preservation Society met April 26 and decided on demolition of the Agra Bank's top level and possible rehabilitation of the ground level. The native sandstone two-story building was constructed in downtown Agra, Lincoln County, in 1904 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The decision ended hopes that the building might be saved intact. The group has considered using proceeds from sale of the upper floor's stones to finance renovating the lower floor, or possibly using them for a sign in town or for landscaping on school grounds. The upper floor of the deteriorating structure is considered a safety hazard. Board Secretary Eressia Jackson tried to end the meeting on a positive note, saying, "We may not get a historical grant but we know we can't let it deteriorate further and we know we don't want it in someone's ravine."

"Another Luke Robison would have made the difference," said Preservation Oklahoma member Sally Ferrell, who worked with local citizens to try to save the building, referring to the man who led the effort to restore the Arcadia Round Barn.

# Four Properties listed on National Register

by Jill Gray, SHPO staff

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the listing of four Oklahoma properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

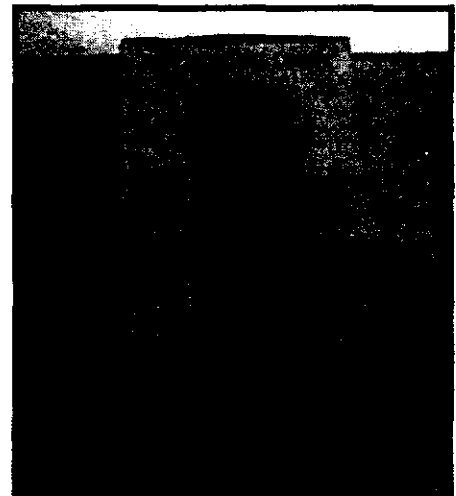
Automobile Alley Historic District is a commercial district located in downtown Oklahoma City. The district includes North Broadway Avenue from N.W. 4<sup>th</sup> to West Park Place. The district is significant for its association with commerce as Oklahoma City's automobile retailing center in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The district also contains an architecturally significant collection of one- and two-story commercial buildings related to the automobile industry. The oldest extant automobile-related building in the district was built in 1911.

Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park is located in Rogers County near the town of Foyil. Begun in 1937 and worked on until 1961, the Park is a collection of 18 resources, with carved art objects made of stone or concrete, reinforced with steel rebar and wood. The Totem Pole Park is significant as the artistic creation of Nathan Edward Galloway, recognized as Oklahoma's premier folk artist and creator of folk art environments. The Park is also significant as the oldest and largest example of a folk art environment within the state of Oklahoma. Even though many of the resources are less than 50 years old, Totem Pole Park was listed under a special consideration due to its exceptional value.



**Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park In Foyil is an unusual new listing in the National Register**

The Merchants Transfer and Storage Building is located in the Bricktown area of Oklahoma City. The building was originally included in the 1983 thematic National Register Nomination, Red Brick Warehouse of Oklahoma City, but was not listed due to owner objection. The current owners requested that the building be listed. Constructed in 1909, it is significant both architecturally and historically. Architecturally, the building represents the last of the red brick structures that once dominated Oklahoma City's skyline. Historically, it is associated with the economic rebirth in Oklahoma City between 1898 and 1930.



**The Page Memorial Library is the only Art Deco Building in Sand Springs**

Located in Sand Springs, the Page Memorial Library was built in 1929-1930, as a gift from the Page family to the people of Sand Springs. Designed by Otis Floyd Johnson, an architect of the Lorado Taft Studio in Chicago, the library is architecturally significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Art Deco style and is the only extant example of that style in Sand Springs. The library is also important for its association with the pattern of public library development and the role of that movement in improving and supporting the out-of-school education of children and adults in Sand Springs.

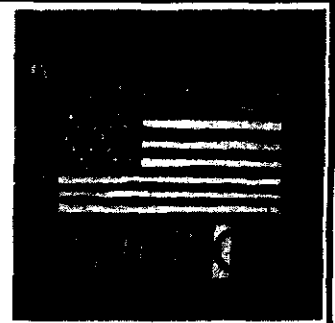
The SHPO continues to work toward its goal of 1,000 Oklahoma listings by the end of the Year 2000. With the addition of these properties, the number of Oklahoma properties listed on the National Register is now 930.

For more information on these properties or the National Register, contact Jill Gray at (405) 521-6387.

Through Save America's Treasures, the national preservation program led by the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, there is now a wonderful opportunity to endow a national fund to provide grants for nonprofits and local governments working on preservation-related activities.

Warner Bros. Records has just released Sing, America: A Celebration of America and Its Music. The album contains many American Classics, including Frank Sinatra's rendition of The House I Live In, Arlo Guthrie's City of New Orleans, the New York Philharmonic with Leonard Bernstein performing Fanfare for the Common Man, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong performing Summertime, and Cher singing The Star-Spangled Banner. The album also features a brand new song, the title track, Sing, America, performed by soprano Denyce Graves.

All net profits from this commemorative CD and cassette will endow this fund, which will be administered by the National Trust. Therefore, the more CD's and cassettes sold, the more dollars will be available for grants to assist local preservation efforts. Purchase your copy at your local music store or find out more at [www.singamerica.com](http://www.singamerica.com).



## Calendar of Upcoming Historic Preservation Events

Unless otherwise noted, all State Historic Preservation Office workshops will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, with no registration fee required. If you desire to attend any of these events but have a disability and need accommodation, please notify the SHPO at least three (3) days before the event. For more information, call (405) 521-6249.

### September

- 10 Public Meeting for the SHPO's FY2000 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30 a.m.)

### October

- 19-24 53rd National Preservation Conference in Washington, D. C.  
For information, call: (202) 588-6100.

### December

- 1 State and Local Governments as Preservation Partners in Oklahoma: the CLG Program (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)  
1 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process/Update on New Regulations (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)  
2 The Section 106 Review Process: What Happens When There is an Effect?/Update on New Regulations (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)  
3 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

### May 2000

- 4-6 Oklahoma's Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, El Reno Registration Fee.  
9-15 National Historic Preservation Week

### June 2000

*The June SHPO workshops will be held at the Stephens County Historical Museum (National Guard Armory), Fuqua Park, U. S. 81 and Beech, Duncan:*

- 21 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)  
21 Determination of Eligibility under Section 106 (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)  
22 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)  
23 Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon)  
23 Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

## SHPO seeks Public Input for FY2000 Program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 a.m., on September 10, in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive comments for development of the Fiscal Year 2000 Historic Preservation Fund application.

The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$550,000 from the U. S. Department of the Interior's FY2000 Historic Preservation Fund. Ten percent of the amount is reserved for pass-through grants to Oklahoma's Certified Local Governments. Over half of the total HPF grant award will be used for subgrants to carry out archaeological and historic resource survey projects, to prepare National Register of Historic Places nomination forms, to develop historic contexts, and to assist Certified Local Governments. The SHPO would appreciate hearing your ideas and suggestions concerning preservation program priorities for the coming federal fiscal year.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the SHPO administers the Oklahoma Federal Historic Preservation Program. In brief, the program's purpose is to encourage preservation of the state's archaeological and historic resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Specific activities directed toward this goal include identification of properties important in archaeology, architecture, culture, and history; evaluation and registration of such properties; formal review of federal and federally assisted projects that could affect archaeological and historic resources; development and implementation of the Historic Preservation Plan; administration of the CLG program and Federal Investment Tax Credits Program for certified historic structures; and public outreach activities.

*Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan* (available from the SHPO at 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107) sets forth statewide goals and objectives for historic preservation. The SHPO will base its FY2000 work program on the *State Plan's* goals and objectives. The SHPO's specific priorities include continuation of the archaeological and historic resources survey program to document property types underrepresented in the state's inventory and to extend survey coverage to previously unstudied areas, preparation of nominations for the National Register, and provision of public outreach and technical assistance programs.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may request and complete a "Project Suggestion Form" and return it to the SHPO by 5:00 p.m., September 10, 1999.

## Have a Super Drugstore Story?

Do you know of historic resources or neighborhoods that are threatened by the construction of a new "super drugstore?" Or has a drugstore chain worked to convert a historic resource into a "super drugstore?" The National Trust for Historic Preservation seeks examples of successful and not-so-successful drugstore stories. Please contact Jeff Tully, Program Associate, Southwest Office at (817) 332-4398, or e-mail: [Jeff\\_Tully@nthp.org](mailto:Jeff_Tully@nthp.org).

# SHPO presents Citation of Merit and Shirk Awards

At the Eleventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in May, the State Historic Preservation Officer awarded its annual Citations of Merit and the Shirk Award for Historic Preservation.

The following agencies, individuals, and organizations were recognized for playing vital roles in the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage through the SHPO's *Citation of Merit*:

- ⇒ *The Amoco-Carver Stadium Renovation Steering Committee* for the rehabilitation of the 1936 WPA Carver Football Stadium in Tulsa.
- ⇒ *The Historic Fort Supply Foundation* for its work to preserve the few remaining resources at the site.
- ⇒ *Doug McGee*, nominated by the Save Our Depot Committee in Guthrie, for his outstanding journalistic efforts with the Guthrie News Leader to help build public support for the effort to save the historic Rock Island Depot.
- ⇒ *Wilma Mascho* for the rehabilitation of the 1930 Hoyt-Hellman House in Chandler, including removal of the aluminum siding that covered the three-story frame house.
- ⇒ *The Oklahoma Archaeological Survey* for its study of the Cooper Site in Woodward County and for the identification of twenty-eight Playa Lake sites in Beaver and Texas counties.
- ⇒ *Tom Parry*, Archaeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Anadarko Area Office for efforts to identify and protect cultural resources on lands within the BIA's jurisdiction.
- ⇒ *Jerry Searcy*, of the FAA office in Oklahoma City, for an exemplary National Register nomination for the Douglas DC-3 Airplane N-34.
- ⇒ *Sonic Industries, Inc.*, for its critical donation of \$75,000, one-half the purchase price for Guthrie's historic Rock Island Depot.
- ⇒ *The Oklahoma Main Street Program, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., the Ardmore Main Street Authority, the City of Ardmore, the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce, the Ardmore Beautification Council, and the Greater Southwest Historical Museum* for cosponsoring the Tenth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.
- ⇒ *Joe Watkins, Ph.D.*, Anadarko Agency Archaeologist, for his cultural resource management activities for the Agency and his efforts in the Section 106 consultation process.
- ⇒ *Juhree Vanderpool*, for her photographic documentation of Newkirk's buildings since 1955, which she donates to Newkirk Main Street.
- ⇒ *The Woodward Arts and Theatre Council* for the rehabilitation of the historic Woodward Arts Theatre in Woodward.

The Oklahoma Historical Society annually presents the *Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation* in recognition of outstanding contributions to preservation with statewide impact. This year's recipient is **Dr. George O. Carney**, professor at the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University for his more than twenty years of service through preservation planning and research projects. Since 1977, Dr. Carney has completed architectural/historic survey, historic context development, and National Register nomination projects for the SHPO. His work exhibits the highest quality scholarship and is critical to the statewide preservation program.

Through the SHPO's survey subgrant program, Dr. Carney and his team of graduate students carry out reconnaissance and intensive level, as well as thematic, architectural/historic survey projects. These studies identify buildings, districts, structures, sites, and objects that may be eligible for the National Register. Just some of the communities Dr. Carney has surveyed include Cherokee, Cleo Springs, Clinton, Cushing, Elk City, Fairfax, Fairview, Helena, Muskogee, Nowata, Ralston, Shwnee, Stillwater, Watonga, Waynoka, and Weatherford.

Dr. Carney is responsible for several special thematic surveys and historic context development projects, including studies of agriculture and the petroleum industry. Under the petroleum industry projects, examples of recorded resources are the Drumright Gasoline Plant and the Wheeler No. 1 Oil Well near Drumright.

Also, Dr. Carney completed studies of Oklahoma's all-Black communities designed to increase the number of minority-related resources in the SHPO's Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. Dr. Carney recorded and prepared successful National Register nominations for the Taft City Hall, Red Bird City Hall, and many others.

Dr. Carney's article "Historic Resources of Oklahoma's All Black Towns: A Preservation Profile" appears in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and is an important contribution to this field of study.

He also served as a consultant for the Oklahoma Department of Tourism's publication *The African American Oklahoma*, a brochure and tour map, which has helped raise the public's awareness about this significant part of our state's heritage. Of Oklahoma's 930 entries in the National Register, Dr. Carney prepared the nominations for 134 of them, including some of the most interesting and unique resources.

Dr. Carney is now directing a special three-year project to complete computerization of the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

**Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
Board of Directors**

Marva Ellard (president)	OKC
Dan McMahan (treasurer)	Altus
Susan Guthrie Dunham (secretary)	OKC
Dave Huey	Tulsa
Phil Kliewer	Cordell
John Mabrey	Okmulgee
Ralph McCalmont	OKC
MaryJo Meacham	Norman
Martin L. J. Newman	Tulsa
Roger Rinehart	El Reno
Sabra Tate	McAlester
Joe Watkins	Anadarko

**Preservation Oklahoma News**  
*Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community*

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

All correspondence, materials, or address changes should be sent to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
P.O. Box 25043  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043

Editors: **Robert K. Erwin**  
*Executive Director*  
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
(405) 232-5747

**Melvina Heisch**  
*Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
(405) 522-4484

The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap 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, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

**Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 25043**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U. S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**  
**Permit Number 2579**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**





P. O. Box 25043  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043  
 (405) 232-5747  
 e-mail us at:  
 robert@preservationoklahoma.org

Preservation Oklahoma's Board Members enjoy the decorations after the annual luncheon (L to R):

Joe Watkins  
 Susan Guthrie Dunham  
 Ralph McCalmont  
 Phil Kliewer  
 Roger Rinehart  
 MaryJo Meacham  
 Marva Ellard



On Friday, May 7, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s membership approved the nomination of one new board member and the renewal of two others for another three-year term. The new board member is Joe Watkins, Archaeologist and Environmental Counsel for the Anadarko Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Watkins holds a Ph.D. in Archaeology from SMU and is 1/2 Choctaw. He has been involved in the statewide preservation community for many years and is interested in assisting with efforts to save the Wheelock Academy. He currently works with seven tribes, but has strong contacts with all federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma.

The two board members approved for renewed terms are Susan Guthrie Dunham and Ralph McCalmont of Oklahoma City.

Dunham is a trustee for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She has chaired the Board of Advisors for the National Trust and served on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

McCalmont is a former trustee of the National Trust and former president of the Oklahoma Historical Society's board of directors.

At its annual meeting, Preservation Oklahoma also expressed thanks and recognition to three retiring board members: Hiram Champlin, Michael Hall, and John Mabrey. Champlin joined the board in 1993 and served as president from 1994 to 1997. Hall joined the board in 1996 and served as president in 1998. Mabrey is a founding board member and served as president, 1992 to 1994, and as treasurer, 1994 to 1997.

## New and Renewed Memberships

## Thank you all for your support!

### Individual/Family - \$25.00:

Sallie Rae Andrews, *Grapevine, TX*  
 M/M M.E. Arnold, Jr., *Tulsa*  
 M/M Dennis Bertholf, *Stillwater*  
 John R. Calhoun, *OKC*  
 John Cary, *Claremore*  
 Emily Dunagin, *McAlester*  
 Wm. and Barbara Dunn, *Stillwater*  
 Anna Eddings, *Hulbert*  
 Pat Ernst, *Drumright*  
 Phillip and Ann Erwin, *Tonkawa*  
 Dr. LeRoy H. Fischer, *Stillwater*

Mary Ann Gaberino, *McAlester*  
 Aulena Gibson, *Lawton*  
 Albert and Nancy Hurley, *Wagoner*  
 J. Brian Kernke, *OKC*  
 Robbie Kienzle, *AIA, Shawnee*  
 Bill Kinkead, *McAlester*  
 Daniel Lawrence, *Norman*  
 P. Blake Martin, *Piedmont*  
 Max Nichols, *OKC*  
 Peggy Green Payne, *OKC*  
 Stacy Reaves, *Kellyville*

Betty Robinson, *Tulsa*  
 Patsy J. Sands, *Enid*  
 Sarah Doan Schmitz, *Tulsa*  
 J. Todd Scott, *OKC*  
 Susan Urbach, *OKC*  
 Paul and Jan Vassar, *Chandler*  
 M/M. Donald C. Whitney, *Edmond*  
 Grant Wilson, *San Francisco, CA*  
 Diane Wolfe, *OKC*

### Organizational - \$50.00:

John Fluitt & Associates, *OKC*  
 F. A. Sewell, III, *Clinton*  
 City of Stigler

### Senior/Student - \$15.00:

Dr. John Carmichael, *Woodward*  
 H. F. Donnelley, *Stillwater*  
 Carol F. King, *Waynoka*  
 Lurline Mabrey, *Okmulgee*

Nella Maude Martin, *Tulsa*  
 Barbara Pool, *Claremore*  
 Arthur Salisbury, *Clinton*  
 Lawrence Shaffer, Jr., *Duncan*

### Sponsor - \$100.00:

Douglas L. Champlin, *Mesa, AZ*  
 Elliott+Associates, *Architects, OKC*  
 Col. M. A. Hagerstrand (Ret.), *Tahlequah*

Michael R. Hall, *Tulsa*  
 Mary Eddy Jones, *OKC*  
 Vanguard Professionals, Inc., *Tulsa*

### Patron - \$250.00:

Marva Ellard, *OKC*  
 Hon. Phil Kliewer, *Cordell*  
 Don and Rita Newman, *Tulsa*  
 Orpheum Theatre, *Okmulgee*  
 Sabra Tate, *McAlester*

### Sustaining - \$500.00:

Susan Guthrie Dunham, *OKC*  
 Ralph McCalmont, *OKC*

### Heritage Club - \$1,000.00:

Martin L. J. Newman, *Tulsa*

## Special Donations

We also want to thank those who donated to our 1999-00 National Trust Challenge Grant Match Fund:

John R. Calhoun, *OKC*  
 Dr. LeRoy Fischer, *Stillwater*  
 Nella Maude Martin, *Tulsa*

# New Owners of OKC Landmark are No Strangers to Historic Preservation

The Art Deco First National Bank Building in Oklahoma City, built in 1931, is a defining feature of the downtown skyline. In 1994, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. included it on the list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties after the building lost its anchor tenant. Since then, it has had several owners and been moved to the organization's Watch List.

This spring, its latest owner, Feed The Children, announced it sold the building to Stratford Business Corporation, based in New Jersey. "The two men who founded Stratford, Joel Hoffman and Mitchell Wolff, have a solid reputation for saving historic buildings," said Paula Hearn, Vice President and General Manager at the First National Center. "One only has to look at their successes elsewhere to be encouraged," said Hearn. "In Detroit, they were responsible for rescuing the Flatiron style First National Building and the elegant Penobscot Building, as well as a landmark building in Albany."

Stratford generally uses no federal dollars or special programs but instead focuses on increased leasing and an incremental approach to reversing the challenges facing historic buildings. "Don't look for any sudden changes," said Wolff. "My partner and I will be very, very careful not to disturb the architectural significance of the building. We both love beautiful architecture and appreciate the character, the attention to detail in design and construction, you find in older buildings."

Wolff said he and his partner learned a great deal working to rehabilitate and lease the Art Deco Penobscot Building in Detroit and will use the same approach with the First National Bank Building. "We've already had our share of arguments with contractors and prospective tenants," said Wolff. "We wanted to restore the office directories in the building and one contractor we spoke with suggested getting rid of the ornate brass frames.

Needless to say, our response was 'Next contractor.' We've had tenants look at the Great Banking Room and suggest putting in a drop ceiling and had to say, 'Are you out of your mind?'"

Wolff said Stratford plans to return the original ceiling style to the shopping arcade on the First National Center's ground floor. He said other work, like HVAC and rewiring, will be done with consideration for tenant comfort rather than expediency. "People like having control over their heating and air conditioning, or being able to open their windows and get fresh air. In most modern buildings, the windows aren't operable and the HVAC is controlled centrally by a computer."

First National operates under a sheaf of variances from the City of Oklahoma City, because it could not lease the space otherwise due to code restrictions. The Board of Appeals, recognizing the landmark's significance to the downtown, allowed the variances with the understanding that all newly leased spaces will have sprinkler systems installed to meet fire codes - in the case of less than half a floor being opened, the individual rooms used and main hallways are sprinkled, and in the case of more than half a floor, the entirety is done.

Since Stratford's acquisition of First National, tenants have noticed some changes: music has returned to the vintage Otis elevators; the lights are now always on in the spectacular lobby and people are encouraged to wander up the stairs and take a look.

Cost estimates to bring the First National Bank Building up to code have generally been over \$20 million. The new owners believe this and other necessary rehabilitation work can be achieved for significantly less by tackling one challenge at a time and finding creative solutions that are sensitive to the building's historic character.



-----  
**Become a member of the statewide  
 historic preservation network . . .**

**JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NOW!**

*Preservation Oklahoma's mission is to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma's historic places.* Our strength lies in the working partnerships we have forged with people throughout Oklahoma. We welcome all people and organizations who care about the preservation of our historic and cultural resources. To join, complete the form below and send with payment to: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., P. O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ From (if gift) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If organizational membership, how many members in your organization? \_\_\_\_\_

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Club: \$1,000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$100.00      | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student: \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$500.00      | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization: \$50.00  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$250.00          | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiv./Family: \$25.00 |  |

*Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership contributions are fully tax deductible.*