

Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

July 2000

Volume 6, number 4

What's inside:

- SHPO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT FOR FY2001 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - PAGE 2 -
- OLD STROUD SCHOOL ESCAPES DEMOLITION!
• THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL THREATENED AFTER BOND VOTE
• CALMEZ HOTEL FATE UNCERTAIN
• CORDELL FETES GRAND RE-OPENING OF WASHITA THEATER - PAGE 3 -
- FOURTEEN NEW LISTINGS IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER - PAGE 4 -
- MOST ENDANGERED LIST LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES
• SHPO GIVES NATIONAL REGISTER GRANTS
• FIVE NEW COUNTY-WIDE LOAN POOLS - PAGE 5 -
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
• THE FIGHT TO SAVE OKC YMCA BUILDING - PAGE 6 -
- SHIRK AND CITATION OF MERIT AWARDS - PAGE 7 -
- LEONARD BALL, PRESERVATION LEADER, DIES AT 60
• PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA, INC., ELECTS 2000-01 BOARD AND OFFICERS
• JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA TODAY! - INSERT -

Wheelock Academy added to National Most Endangered List

On June 26 at the State Capitol Building, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced the inclusion of Wheelock Academy in McCurtain County on its annual list of America's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places.

"The addition of Wheelock Academy is bittersweet, because it represents the first time in the list's twelve-year history that an historic site from Oklahoma has been added," said Susan Guthrie Dunham, trustee to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a founding board member of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

Preservation Oklahoma nominated Wheelock Academy to the National Trust's Most Endangered List to help generate awareness of its need for immediate stabilization, to facilitate discussion between the Choctaw Nation and potential funding sources, and to help build local support by focusing national attention on it.

Just east of Millerton on Highway 70, Wheelock Academy is one of Oklahoma's eighteen National Historic Landmarks. Originally established as a Presbyterian mission to the Choctaw Nation, Wheelock Academy was the model for national academies among the Five Civilized Tribes before statehood. Several significant buildings still exist at the 45 acre site, which is a National Historic Landmark.

The focal point of the campus is Pushmataha Hall, the old seminary building, which is threatened by the structural failure of the west wall of its north wing. Since 1992, the Department of the Interior has listed Wheelock Academy as a Priority 1 (threatened) on the National Historic Landmark Status Report. When Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., began its annual list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties in 1993, it included Wheelock Academy, which has been on the list every year since. Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties is a joint project between Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office.



A recent celebration at Wheelock included Choctaw dances in front of Pushmataha Hall. (Photo - courtesy of Choctaw Nation)

Wheelock Academy - continued

In 1999, the Choctaw Nation, with assistance from Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., and the Southwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Fort Worth, Texas, successfully nominated Wheelock Academy for official designation under the *Save America's Treasures* program, a private-public partnership between the National Trust and the White House Millennium Council. From that designation, Wheelock Academy was chosen to receive a \$40,000 *Save America's Treasures* Preservation Planning Fund matching grant. These funds are being used to develop a preservation master plan document on six historic structures at Wheelock Academy. The Southwest Office of the National Trust also named Wheelock Academy to the National Park Service's Challenge Cost Share Program, an effort to improve cooperation and collaboration on assistance to National Historic Landmarks between the National Trust and the National Park Service.

On hand to help make the announcement with Dunham were Oklahoma's State Historic Preservation Officer, Dr. Bob Blackburn; Choctaw Nation Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and treasurer Delton Cox; and Preservation Oklahoma executive director Robert K. Erwin.

SHPO seeks Public Input for FY2001 Program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, September 3, 2000, 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 2001 Historic Preservation Fund application.

The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$365,000 from the U. S. Department of the Interior's FY2001 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 HPP 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 your ideas and suggestions about what its FY2001 program priorities should be.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the SHPO administers Oklahoma's 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; administration of the federal investment tax credits program for certified historic structures; and public outreach activities.

Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (2000) is available from the SHPO at 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. It sets forth statewide goals and objectives for historic preservation. The SHPO will base its FY2001 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 mail or fax (405/947-2918) by 5:00 p.m., September 3, 2000.

State and National Legislative Update

GOVERNOR SIGNS HISTORIC COURTHOUSES ACT

According to Oklahoma Centennial Commission director Blake Wade, *House Bill 2113*, the Oklahoma Centennial County Courthouses Preservation Act, which was reported on in the April issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News*, has been passed by the Oklahoma legislature and signed by the governor. "What this act represents is a commitment by the legislature to funding a major preservation program that will impact communities all across the state. It is the first step in an exciting process," said Wade.

TAX CREDIT FOR CERTAIN OKLAHOMA HISTORIC BUILDINGS PASSED

On the last day of its regular session, the Oklahoma Legislature passed *House Bill 2635*, the Oklahoma Community Preservation Act, sponsored by Rep. Russ Roach and Sen. Penny Williams, both of Tulsa. The act will take effect November 1 and provides state tax credits for rehabilitation projects on historic hotel and publishing industry buildings that successfully receive certification for the federal tax credits.

CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT PASSES U. S. HOUSE

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (*Senate Bill 2123*), known as CARA calls for an increase in the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) from its current \$100 million level to its originally promised amount of \$150 million annually. HPF funds the programs of the nation's State Historic Preservation Offices, including surveys, nomination of properties to the National Register, grants to Certified Local Governments, review of federal projects under Section 106, and public outreach and technical assistance programs. These funds directly affect the preservation programs of communities across Oklahoma and the nation. As this newsletter went to press, the Senate had not voted on CARA.

Old Stroud School gets Reprive

In June, the Secretary of Transportation halted demolition plans for the National Register-listed and tornado-damaged Old Stroud School in response to local and county preservationists' pleas for a delay until completion of a structural assessment. Preservation Oklahoma contacted the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southwest Office in Fort Worth, Texas, which paid for an analysis of the building by a structural engineer through the Trust's *Crisis Intervention Fund*.

The report stated that "the sandstone exterior masonry walls are in excellent condition with the mortar joints in very good shape." With roof and gable replacement and restoration of windows and interior elements, the building is definitely salvageable. According to Lincoln County Historical Society president Don Ferrell, the report was provided to Stroud organizations and to the city, and cost estimates for stabilization are being solicited.

As this newsletter went to press, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority informed those working to save the building that it would quick-claim deed the building and land, free and clear, with fencing and space for parking, to an organization interested in preserving it. With no mortgage or lease requirements, the Stroud Historic Neighborhood Association voted on June 29 to receive the property if it passes legal and environmental muster by their attorney. The turnpike authority would like to see substantial improvements to the property within a year of transfer. Faced with these challenges, local preservationists are optimistic. This historic building has gone from a near certainty of destruction to renewed hope, demonstrating the impact of even a small group of committed preservationists.

Thomas High School slated to come Down

In May, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., sent a letter to Thomas officials urging them to reconsider a bond issue that would finance demolition and replacement of the Classical Revival style Thomas High School Building, which was built in 1922. The bond issue that included money for the building's demolition passed, but the bid process for razing it has not yet begun. Local preservationists still think that something can be done to save the building from demolition.

Calmezz Hotel's Fate still Uncertain

Preservationists in Clinton hope developer Wyman Fraley can convince the Clinton City Council his plans for the Calmezz Hotel are a viable alternative to demolition. He was scheduled to meet with them on July 11 to discuss rehabilitation options for the building. In a move reminiscent of the demolition of Belle Isle Power Plant in Oklahoma City, the city wants to take down the Calmezz out of expediency, not because the proposed new construction will require the land upon which it stands. Preservation Oklahoma and the State Historic Preservation Office have both sent letters to the Clinton City Council urging them to reconsider their plans.

Cordell celebrates Rehab of Washita Theater

June 29 saw the grand re-opening of the historic Washita Theater in Cordell, built in 1947. Mayor Phil Kliever, who is a board member of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., and an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, said that the reopening of the theater, which stood vacant for 15 years, is a testament to community perseverance. In 1995, the City of Cordell bought the theater for \$24,000. The rehabilitation effort totaled \$850,000 in hard costs and \$70,000 in soft costs. The city has raised about 40% of the hard costs in grants and donations.

The first film to be shown in the newly reopened theater was *Mission Impossible 2*, "which is kind of the way this project looked three years ago," quipped Kliever. "Thanks to assertive action by the City Council last October and since then, things have fallen into place quicker than we had hoped."

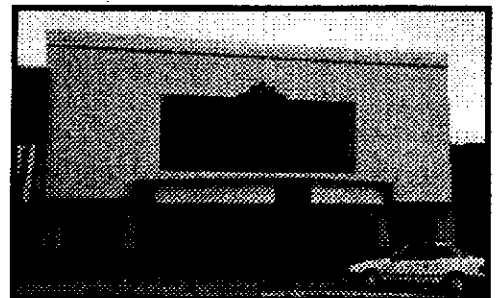
Certified Local Government program funds from the State Historic Preservation Office made possible a 1998 conceptual study of the Washita Theater's rehabilitation developed by *Elliott+Associates, Architects*, of Oklahoma City. The distinctive Art Deco design has been carefully resuscitated by architect Rand Elliott. "Projects like this are the best examples of how effective and powerful historic preservation can be when it's done right," said Elliott. "It clearly has become an economic development tool for the City of Cordell. And good preservation projects add such vitality and renewed interest to a town - providing a sense of place, strengthening economic development, and encouraging tourism. All of these factors combined are what will make the Washita Theater project a success."

Historic preservation is often complicated by the detective work required to piece together evidence of the original character of a building. Fortunately, in the case of the Washita Theater, some of the drawings were still in the HTB archives.

"The most interesting part of a project like this," said Elliott, "is blending the elements of a building that give it historic integrity with the requirements of today's technology, e.g.: THX Sound and state of the art film projection/viewing systems. It's just a classic example of modern ingredients in an historic building and how well that can work."



Thomas High School graces Custer Co., but for how much longer?



The attractive Art Deco lines of Cordell's Washita Theater before neon sign replacement. (Photo - courtesy Elliott+Associates, Architects)

Fourteen New Listings in the National Register

by Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian, OK/SHPO

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has announced the addition of fourteen new properties from Oklahoma to the National Register of Historic Places.

In Pottawatomie County, the ten-story **Aldridge Hotel** in downtown Shawnee, was built in 1928-29 as the Hilton Phillips Hotel and sold to the Aldridge chain in 1930. The 1909 **Barnard Elementary School** in Tecumseh is the county's oldest extant brick school and was nominated as an excellent example of institutional Romanesque Revival architecture.

The **Ardmore Carnegie Library** in Carter County, built in 1905 and altered after storm damage in 1925, is the oldest Carnegie Library in what was formerly Indian Territory. It closed in 1963 and has since housed the Ardmore Garden Club.

Burrus Mills Elevator #4 in Kingfisher County was nominated as a part of a Multiple Property Submission "Grain Storage and Processing Facilities in Western Oklahoma." This simple wood-framed, country elevator is the first property to be listed as part of this multiple property submission.

The **Carl K. Dresser House** in Tulsa was designed by New York architect Albert Joseph Bodker for oilman Carl Dresser. Built in 1919-20, it is an excellent example of Spanish Eclectic architecture, featuring such hallmarks of the style as a tile roof, stucco walls, and differentiated fenestration.



The Carl K. Dresser House in Tulsa

The **El Reno High School** in El Reno, Canadian County, was designed by noted Oklahoma architect Solomon Andrew Layton. The building has served as the city's only high school since 1911. Its matching addition was completed in the 1920s. Its Collegiate Gothic style of architecture is usually found in university buildings; the El Reno High School would not look out of place on the University of Oklahoma's campus.

The **El Reno Municipal Pool Bathhouse** played a significant role in the city's recreational development. The bathhouse and pool were state of the art facilities in 1935 when they were built. The pool is gone but the bathhouse, designed in a restrained interpretation of the Spanish Mission style, remains and, though unused, is structurally sound. The property is an official project of the Save America's Treasures program.

The General Services Administration nominated four federal buildings to the National Register: the **Federal Building and U. S. Courthouse** in Lawton, Comanche County; the **Federal Building and U. S. Courthouse** in McAlester, Pittsburg County; the **United States Post Office and Courthouse** in Muskogee, Muskogee County; and the **United States Post Office and Courthouse** in Tulsa. These buildings often were the only ties between the government in Washington, D. C., and local officials and two also served as mail centers for their cities.

Each was also nominated for its architectural significance to its community. All utilize the Classical Revival architectural style. The Lawton, Muskogee, and Tulsa buildings feature smooth limestone exteriors with impressive colonnades that dominate the facades. The McAlester building is yellow brick and features an arcaded entry at the ground level and in antis Corinthian columns on the main level.



The McAlester Federal Building

The **Sayre Rock Island Depot** in Sayre, Beckham County, was built in 1927 in the center of town in response to citizens' complaints about the previous depot's location west of the city. Built in the Italian Renaissance style, it was one of the finest of its size on the Rock Island line.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Chandler, Lincoln County, might look more at home in the English countryside. This 1899 building is constructed of buttressed stone walls and features a steeply pitched, gabled roof and simple gothic-arched windows. The interior includes original oak benches and pulpit and an interesting open roof truss system. The late Gothic Revival style building is now a Seventh Day Adventist Church.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Chandler

Wintersmith Park Historic District in Ada, Pontotoc County, is significant as an excellent example of the landscape design philosophy of the National Park Service as applied to a local park. Under the direction and guidelines of the National Park Service, a company of the Civilian Conservation Corps created a naturalistic environment for the use of Ada's citizens. Among the many contributing resources in the park are a stone lodge, an amphitheater and numerous stone bridges.

For more information on these or other National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478, or email: jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Preservation Oklahoma continues Lecture Series

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is pleased to announce that its traveling exhibit and lecture series in conjunction with the Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List program is scheduled to continue through February.

Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List is a joint project with the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to the SHPO's support, the 2000 traveling exhibit lecture series received grants from the Newman Family Foundation of Tulsa and the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

The traveling exhibit and lecture series visited Ponca City on July 8 and will visit Guthrie, August 17; Tulsa, September 21; Enid, October 7; Okmulgee, November 4; and Stillwater, December 2. Persons interested in receiving invitations to these event should call Preservation

Oklahoma, Inc., at (405) 232-5747.

In each community, the traveling exhibit will remain on display for several weeks. The kick-off for the 2001 Most Endangered List will be held in Tulsa on January 6, 2001. The final lecture in the current series will be held in Oklahoma City at the State Capitol Building in the restored Senate Chambers on February 3, 2001; afterward, the exhibit will be on display in the Capitol Galleries.

For the latest information on dates, speakers, topics, and venues for the Most Endangered List lecture series, see the Calendar of Events on page six of this newsletter.



SHPO awards National Register Grants

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce its award of five National Register Nomination Grants. Funding for this program is from the SHPO's FY2000 allocation from the U. S. Department of the Interior's Historic Preservation Fund. Each of the recipient organizations was awarded a \$750.00 matching grant and the funds will be used to retain a consultant to prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination. The organizations and their projects are:

Central Park Neighborhood Association – Harding Junior High School, 3333 North Shartel Avenue, Oklahoma City

Latimer County Historical Society – Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 300 West Ada, Wilburton

Oklahoma Archaeological Survey – Ross Cemetery, Park Hill, Cherokee County

Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture – First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1200 North Robinson Avenue, Oklahoma City

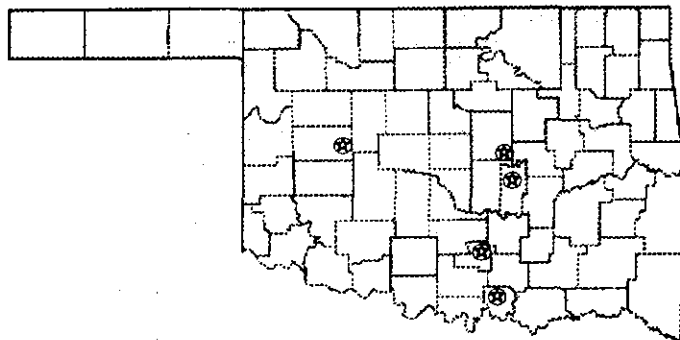
Stratford Historical Restoration Foundation – First National Bank Building, 100 West Main, Stratford, Garvin County

Listing in the National Register provides recognition, limited protection, and other benefits for archaeological and historical resources, and the designation is an important element of a successful preservation effort. The SHPO annually offers these grants to nonprofit organizations and local governments. For information about this program and other SHPO activities, call (405) 521-6249.

Preservation Oklahoma announces creation of Five new Low-Interest Loan Pools

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is pleased to announce the creation of five new county-wide, low-interest loan pools through BancFirst branches in Madill (Marshall Co.), Prague (Lincoln Co.), Seminole (Seminole Co.), Sulphur (Murray Co.), and Weatherford (Custer Co.).

According to Preservation Oklahoma president Ralph McCalmont, these new loan pools resulted from work by the organization's Low Interest and Revolving Loan Fund Development Committee this spring. The objectives of the program are to provide financial incentives for quality work on historic properties, stimulate interest in the economic benefits of preservation to the communities



involved, and improve the appearance of properties to cultivate civic pride in historic resources. "This is a good jump toward our statewide goals," said McCalmont.

Each participating financial institution has designated a limit of \$100,000 for the program to be lent at an annual percentage rate of one point below Prime Rate. The program covers both commercial and residential properties. To be eligible, buildings must be listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, contributing resources in an historic district, or designated as historic by the municipality in which they stand. Loans under the program may be amortized for a maximum of fifteen years, with a maximum of \$15,000 available for any one project. Preservation Oklahoma's Loan Fund Development Committee will be responsible for assuring that any work done on an approved project is consistent with the application and design, as approved. The banks will be responsible for determining credit-worthiness of applicants and for servicing the loans themselves. Applicants will be advised that deviation from the approved plan may disqualify them from receiving the program's special interest rate.

For more information or to request an application, call Preservation Oklahoma at (405) 232-5747.

Calendar of 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.

Each event in the Endangered List Lecture Series will consist of a 6:30 p.m. reception followed by a 7:00 p.m. lecture. For more information, call (405) 232-5747.

- Aug. 17** *Endangered List Lecture Series*: Dr. Bill Bryans on threats to Oklahoma's National Historic Landmarks (*Granary Had One in Guthrie*)
- Sept. 8** Public Meeting for the SHPO's FY2001 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30 a.m.)
- Sept. 21** *Endangered List Lecture Series*: Rex Ball and Blaine Intel on threatened Bruce Goff architecture (Tulsa)
- Oct. 7** *Endangered List Lecture Series*: Jim Gabbert, architectural historian, on the Goltzy Farmers' Exchange Tile Grain Elevator in Alfalfa County (Enid)
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 5** 54th National Preservation Conference in Los Angeles. For information, call (800) 944-6847 or visit www.nationaltrust.org
- Nov. 4** *Endangered List Lecture Series*: Dr. Bill Bryans on the Payne County Courthouse (Stillwater)
- Dec. 2** *Endangered List Lecture Series*: Dr. Paul Lehman on the Beley Historic District National Historic Landmark (Okmulgee)
- Dec. 6** SHPO Workshop - *State and Local Governments as Preservation Partners in Oklahoma: the CLG Program* (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
Guidelines and Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 7** SHPO Workshop - *The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview* (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
The Section 106 Review Process: Assessing and Mitigating Effects (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 8** SHPO Workshop - *Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places* (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- Jan. 6** *2001 Most Endangered List Announcements and Lecture Series*: Fred Wiemer on OK Historic County Courthouses (Tulsa)
- Feb. 3** *Endangered List Lecture Series*: Todd Scott, architect and preservation planner, on threats to OKC properties on the Most Endangered List (OKC)

OKC YMCA Demolition Looms

The plight of Oklahoma City's threatened 1948 YMCA Building, considered one of the best extant examples of the International Style of architecture in the state, has made the pages of national publications, like *Architecture* magazine.

The assessment team that visited the YMCA Building after the 1995 Bombing determined it structurally sound. However, its appearance quickly led to calls for its demolition, possibly for parking for the future memorial. Preservation Oklahoma included it on the 1996 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties.

A December 5, 1999, cover story in the *Oklahoman* reported that a six member panel of local experts had included the YMCA Building on a list of the city's 20 most significant buildings. The panel's lone dissenter was a representative of the Urban Renewal Authority. The Oklahoma City Historical Preservation and Landmarks Commission also asked to designate it a local landmark, but could not because the owner objected.

In February 2000, Preservation Oklahoma returned the building to its Most Endangered List after the Urban Renewal Authority requested proposals for redevelopment of the property. With the official dedication of the Oklahoma City National Memorial approaching, complaints about the building's appearance renewed and local officials again began to discuss demolition for parking. In May, owner Gene Maule sold the building for an undisclosed amount to a group calling itself *Fifth Street Parking Partners*, a name that left no doubt about their intentions. Pre-demolition asbestos removal began in June.

Local preservationists have voiced increasing concern that other, better alternatives to demolition are not being seriously considered. The two reasons publicly given for the demolition of the YMCA Building are that it is an eyesore and the space could better be used to meet parking needs for the area. Haven Mankin, an architect with *Beck Associates*, contends that use of the basement and first two floors as covered parking and rehabilitation of the upper floors for condominiums would address both concerns better than the proposed surface lot. "The Urban Renewal Authority just issued a report calling for more downtown residential space," said Mankin. "It also could provide more and better quality parking and the building, in place, is certainly less of an eyesore than yet another empty lot downtown." Mankin authored a petition to the new owners, signed by 57 local architects, asking them to choose any alternative to demolition. He also met with their attorney and provided detailed information and said he was told "economics is driving the decision to demolish the building."

On June 19, at the urging of architect and commission member Randy Floyd, the Oklahoma City Historical Preservation and Landmarks Commission unanimously approved a resolution she drafted calling upon the Oklahoma City Council to acknowledge a proprietary interest in the urban landscape and empanel a committee for the YMCA Building similar to the *Skirvin Solutions Committee*, which was created to look at options for the Skirvin Hotel, another downtown Oklahoma City landmark. However, Oklahoma City Mayor Kirk Humphreys has said that, because the YMCA Building is privately owned and the proposed demolition and parking lot funded entirely with private money, the city has no reason to intervene.

As *Preservation Oklahoma News* went to press, no application had yet been made for a demolition permit.

State Historic Preservation Officer presents Annual Awards

At the Statewide Preservation Conference in May, 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 **Oklahoma First Lady Cathy Keating**, for demonstrating a commitment to historic preservation and fostering public awareness that preservation benefits us all. Through her book, *Our Governors' Mansions*, the First Lady has become an important ambassador for preservation across the nation. As a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's board of advisors, she supported Oklahoma projects and helped to bring national recognition to the efforts of Oklahoma preservationists. Her tour of Oklahoma's Main Street communities was a public relations success for the statewide preservation movement.



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

- Ardmore Main Street Authority**, for its architectural scavenger hunt questionnaire, which generates enthusiasm for the historic buildings of the city's National Register-listed central business district among grade school children.
- Dr. Mouzon Biggs**, senior minister, and **Roger Cole Coffey, AIA**, chairman of the church building committee, for their work to establish an endowment fund for preservation and continued maintenance, and design and direction of an over \$6 million restoration of the Boston Avenue United Methodist Church National Historic Landmark.
- Butch Bridges**, who spearheaded the project to restore the dome of the Carter County Courthouse to its original 1910 appearance. The project included replicating the cupola, destroyed by a tornado in 1946.
- Canadian County Historical Society**, for ongoing efforts to identify, collect, and maintain for public use archival materials and historic photographs invaluable to preservation efforts in El Reno.
- Citizens for Improvement of Chandler**, for their effort to identify a new use for Chandler's Old Douglass Elementary School and to carry out the building's rehabilitation as the Douglass Community Center.
- The co-sponsors of the Eleventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference:** Oklahoma Main Street Program, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., Woodward Main Street, Inc., Plains Indian and Pioneer Museum, Historic Fort Supply Foundation, Fort Supply Historic Site, Woodward Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Convention Development Committee, Great Plains Preservation and Development Foundation, Woodward Arts and Theatre Council, Inc., McFarland Architects, the Stock Exchange Bank, and MidFirst Bank.
- El Reno Main Street**, for its leadership in local preservation efforts, acting as a catalyst for 57 facade improvement projects in the city's historic commercial center.
- Fort Reno Visitors Center**, for conducting important planning and public programming activities for and with the United States Department of Agriculture at historic Fort Reno.
- Friends of Historic Fort Reno**, for the role they have played as an advocate for preservation of Fort Reno.
- Lincoln County Historical Society**, for its many contributions to the preservation of local history.
- William Alva "Mac" McGalliard**, posthumously, for his preservation role in Ardmore and Carter County during 35 years as a journalist.
- Michael Overall**, staff writer for the *Tulsa World*, for his research and writing about historic preservation, especially for his articles on Oklahoma's native stone buildings and the State Historic Preservation Office.
- Precor Realty Advisors**, for its rehabilitation of the Hudson-Essex Building at 825 North Broadway in Oklahoma City's Automobile Alley Historic District, successfully demonstrating a demand exists for high-quality commercial space in historic buildings in downtown Oklahoma City.
- Preservation El Reno, Inc.**, for its work to clean the exterior and stabilize the "Old" Canadian County Jail and restore the adjacent Stable for use as the group's headquarters.
- Jimmy Earlene Brady Rose**, for single-handedly reviving the moribund Carter County Historical Society, playing a key role in establishing the Greater Southwest Historical Museum housed in the Ardmore Armory, and contributing thousands of volunteer hours and personal financial support for historic preservation in Ardmore and Carter County.
- Arthur Thompson**, for completing a certified rehabilitation of the 1922 Mench Building as the new Stroud Conference Center, **Betty Thompson**, who manages the facility, and **Al Bode**, who ensured compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*.
- Tulsa Hotel Ambassador, L. L. C.**, for its excellent rehabilitation of the 1929 Ambassador Hotel's exterior and interior, including reopening of the "Chalkboard" restaurant, a fixture of the original hotel.
- U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Grazinglands Research Laboratory**, for its efforts to improve stewardship of Fort Reno's historic properties.
- John B. Walton**, the **Tulsa Foundation for Architecture**, and **Tulsa People Magazine**, for the book *One Hundred Historic Tulsa Homes*, which offers glimpses of many of the city's magnificent historic residential properties.
- Penny J. Wells**, for her work to complete a certified rehabilitation project on the Carter-Booker Building in Ardmore's historic downtown commercial district.

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

Ralph McCalmont (president)	OKC
Dan McMahan (vice president)	Altus
Hon. Phil Kliewer (treasurer)	Cordell
Jo Meacham (secretary)	Norman
Susan Guthrie Dunham	OKC
Bill Gumerson	OKC
Dave Huey	Tulsa
Roger Rinehart	El Reno
Sabra Tate	McAlester
Dr. 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

Melvena 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. 20246.

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

In Memory of Leonard F. Ball

Leonard Ball, a founding board member of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., died suddenly on June 5. Ball was an attorney of national prominence, who was particularly proud of the work done by HTB, Inc., the firm his father co-founded, to incorporate what remained of the 1907 Maywood Presbyterian Church at Stiles Circle in Oklahoma City into the new headquarters for the firm. Today, the building houses the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Ball also served on the boards of the 45th Army Infantry Museum and the Oklahoma Historical Society. He requested that memorial donations be sent to Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., P. O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043.

At its annual meeting in May, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., elected its board and officers for 2000-01. Returning for another term are board members Dave Huey (Tulsa) and Phil Kliewer (Cordell). Bill Gumerson (OKC) was also elected as a new member of the board.

The new officers are Ralph McCalmont (OKC), president; Dan McMahan (Altus), vice president; Phil Kliewer (Cordell), treasurer; and Jo Meacham (OKC), secretary. The other members of the board are Susan Guthrie Dunham (OKC), Roger Rinehart (El Reno), Sabra Tate (McAlester), and Dr. Joe Watkins (Anadarko).

Departing from the board are Marva Ellard (OKC) and Martin L. J. Newman (Tulsa), both of whom served the organization as president. Ellard and Newman both plan to remain involved in the work of Preservation Oklahoma.

New and Renewed Memberships

Individual/Family - \$25.00:

John and Mary Athens, *Tulsa*
 Courtney Baugher, *Tulsa*
 Jack and Alicia Dreessen, *OKC*
 R. Eugene Earsom, *OKC*
 Kim Holland East, *Tulsa*
 Anna Eddings, *Hulbert*

Paul and Deborah Fleming, *Tulsa*
 Ron and Mary Frantz, *OKC*
 Bill and Kay Gustafson, *OKC*
 Don Holland, *Tecumseh*
 Johnny G. Hottel, *Moore*
 Ninette Allen-Maples, *Tulsa*

Julia Wheeler Miller, *OKC*
 Catherine O'Connor, *OKC*
 Richard Ryerson, *Alva*
 Grant Wilson, *San Francisco, CA*
 Jonathan Woltz, *Weatherford*

Organizational - \$50.00:

1st Nat'l. Bank of Clinton
 The Bank, N. A., *Ardmore*

Flintco, *Tulsa*
 Tradition Realty, Ltd., *Tulsa*

Tulsa Historical Society

Sponsor - \$100.00:

Elliott+Associates Architects, *OKC*
 Don and Sally Ferrell, *Chandler*
 John Fluitt and Associates, *OKC*
 Adrienne Grimmett, *Pauls Valley*

Mr./Mrs. William V. Hanks, *Tulsa*
 William J. Legg, *OKC*
 McFarland Architects, P. C., *Tulsa*
 Ruth Nelson Family Fdn., *Tulsa*

Peter M. Walter, *Tulsa*

Patron - \$250.00:

Wanda L. Bass, *McAlester*
 Hiram H. Champlin, *Enid*
 Susan Guthrie Dunham, *OKC*

Leslie Hudson, *OKC*
 Citizens Bank and Trust, *Okmulgee*
 John McConnel, *Okmulgee*

Don and Rita Newman, *Tulsa*
 Roger Rinehart, *El Reno*
 Dr. Joe Watkins, *Norman*

Sustaining - \$500.00:

Martin L. J. Newman, *Tulsa*
 Pete and Theo Silas, *Bartlesville*

Heritage Club - \$1,000.00:

Ralph McCalmont, *OKC*

Senior/Student - \$15.00:

Nina Payne, *Cheyenne*
 Sydna L. Porter, *Tulsa*

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 may be tax deductible.