



OKLAHOMA NEWS



Vol. 7, No. 4

July 2001

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The Ugly, Bad and Good

As you read this article, know that another historic property in Oklahoma no longer exists.

Demolition began on the former YMCA building on June 12. On May 21 the attorneys for the Oklahoma City residential group "Friends of the Former YMCA," determined to save the building, filed a motion to dismiss their appeal. Showing strong economic feasibility as well as a lack of future legal funding led to the decision.

Future rehabilitation of the structure at one time hoped to include a combined retail, parking and loft living space. However, no interested party stepped forward and the support of the city was not there. The Central YMCA building joins the Steele, Court, and Braniff buildings in Tulsa on Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s list of endangered properties recently demolished in favor of a surface parking lot.

Here is a brief history on the recent threats to the structure and efforts to save the former YMCA building.

Shortly after the 1995 federal building bombing, the YMCA building was vacated but still structurally sound. Its aesthetic appearance was poor due to shattered windows and broken glass and it was sold for \$40,000.

Ownership had changed hands and with plans for a future National Memorial site, parking was always discussed and reached a conclusion five years later after the Urban Renewal Authority requested proposals for redevelopment of the property.

The building was sold to *Fifth Street Parking Partners* and pre-demolition asbestos removal

began a year ago.

The Oklahoma City Historical Preservation & Landmarks Commission approved a resolution calling for the Oklahoma City Council to acknowledge a proprietary interest in the YMCA building in relation to the urban landscape and as a downtown Oklahoma City landmark.

The Oklahoma City mayor disagreed and believed the city had no reason to intervene with this privately-funded action of a parking lot. The Oklahoma City Urban Design Commission previously denied now *Parking Partners, LLC*, owners of the building, a demolition permit because their ordinance protects existing

architecture by allowing demolition only when it can be proven there is viable economic alternative.

Since the owners refused to lower their inflated asking price of \$4.2 million the term "economic feasibility" was harmed.

The Oklahoma City Board of Adjustment voted to overturn the decision by the Urban Design Commission and this move prompted the "Friends of The Former YMCA" appeal

in Oklahoma County District Court. Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., received funding for a YMCA Legal Defense Fund for the legal fees in the Plaintiff's Appeal filed February 2, 2001, against the Oklahoma City Board of Adjustment and their decision to grant the Certificate of Approval allowing *Parking Partners, LLC* to demolish the former YMCA building and replace it with a surface parking lot.



Demolition began June 12 on the YMCA building in favor of a parking lot.

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The downtown YMCA joins other historic buildings demolished in favor of a parking lot.

It must be stressed that historic preservation begins at the local level.

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The Ugly, Bad and Good (cont. from pg. 1)

If anything can be gained from this tragedy, perhaps it is that a concerned group of citizens did rise up and provide the financial resources necessary to attempt the preservation of the building. The term "economic feasibility" also needs to be defined and shown realistically for future property sites in the city fairly by both sides of an issue.

It is doubtful that a more substantial action could have occurred as all plausible options were looked into. The financial resources raised for the YMCA Legal Defense Fund went well over \$20,000 and there has not been a stronger financial support on any "threat of demolition" situation in the history of this state, to the knowledge of Melvena Heisch, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

The decision to demolish the building in favor of a parking lot is an ugly one. It is a disservice to every citizen of the city, state, and nation. Oklahoma City must learn that it can't keep destroying its past, and all citizens can do their part and voice their concern to force this realization.

Let's give thanks to those organizations and individuals that contributed to the YMCA Legal Defense Fund, many who were also listed as Plaintiffs, and the legal defense that it supported:

The Hefner Company, Inc.; Historical Preservation, Inc.; Lou Ann Batey; Rita Benischek; Bob and Debbie Blackburn; Amy Brooks; Evelyn K. Davis; Jerry Dickson; Gene and Saen Gibson; Pete Holcomb; Leslie Hudson; Francy Lanius; L. Whit Marks.

Also Randy Marks; Ralph McCalmont; Martin Newman; D. Allen Paine; Raina Pelofsky; Dana Powell; Route 66, Inc.; Travis Selvy; Michael D. Smith; Sue Moss Sullivan; Charles Wiggin; and John Yoeckel.

The legal defense team included Sandra Benischek; Michael D. McMahan; Michael Minnis; Roland Tague; and Phil Issacs.

The bad news is that the list of endangered properties across the state continues to grow. Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., became involved with the small Oklahoma community of Nash in regards to their corner commercial bank building. Constructed in 1910, the building is structurally sound and not a safety hazard.

The city originally voted to demolish the building but after an initial presentation by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., it was clear that overwhelming community support existed for its preservation. Letters from Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., Todd Scott of the Oklahoma Main Street Program, Department of Commerce, and Catherine Montgomery of the State Historic Preservation Office were sent to Nash in hopes that they would reconsider their decision.

In addition, the annual conference in Enid allowed a team of architects to survey the property and give recommendations to the citizens

concerned. It was determined that the roof was the main concern and in need of immediate repair and that the building was certainly salvageable.

Through a community-signed petition and presence, the town board of trustees agreed to allow a six-month extension on the property for improvement to take place. Nash has secured a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office for preparation in National Register listing and work has begun on the roof.

This was a bad situation turned better, but complete success will still take greater local effort and commitment. There are many community members who still strongly favor demolition of the historic bank building, this demonstrates that much education still is necessary towards citizens regarding the facts and myths concerning the preservation of historic properties in the state.

While not endangered, the future of the following property has moved from bad to good. The old Meyers Mansion was for sale by owners anxious to settle the estate and has recently been purchased. It is unknown if the new owner will keep the historic integrity of the property or has future plans for restoration, but at least is content with its current condition and there is no threat of demolition.

This elegant Southern-style Classical Revival Mansion is located in historic Ft. Towson, OK, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Willie Green, a full-blood Choctaw who was a merchant and banker in Ft. Towson, built the home in 1903. The home was built as a wedding gift for his bride.

The home qualifies for federal tax credits if used as a business and is quite spacious on the interior. The foundation appears solid, there is a new roof, and the residence is perfectly livable for a new owner. Hopefully the future historic integrity of this property is in good hands.

Finally some truly good news. Demolition of



The Meyers Mansion, located in Ft. Towson, was built in 1903 as a wedding gift to a bride and continues to be a livable property.

The Moss School Gymnasium will not take place and this was a successful effort that began with concerned citizens. It must be stressed that historic preservation begins at the local level for

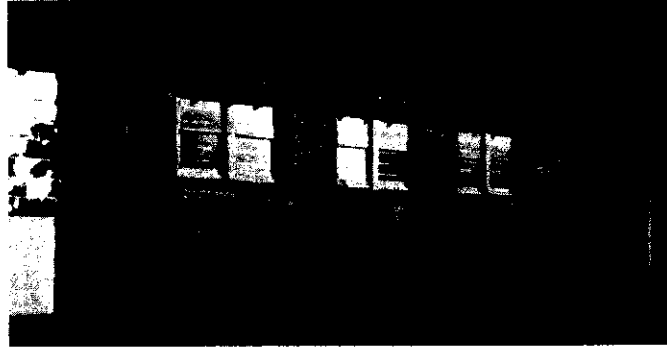
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The Ugly, Bad and Good

(cont. from pg. 2)

effectiveness in retaining the heritage and accompanying memories of our shared history.

On April 3, the results of the Moss vote were 207 "yes" and 195 "no" for the \$500,000 bond to build a new multipurpose educational facility. This result was well short of the 60 percent approval



The Moss School District is working with an architect to give the gym building a new front entry, preserving the historical significance while making it functional as a school building.

required for this measure to pass and displayed greater support against the bond than when it was originally voted on in September 2000.

Supporters to prevent demolition of the gym waited patiently at the Hughes County Courthouse to catch all the results from the bond issue. They had placed several signs Monday night throughout

the county, but by Tuesday morning all but two of the signs were missing or destroyed. This local group went door to door in sharing the reasoning for their wishes to retain the historic structure on the landscape and collected comments and opinions of previous alumnus of the Moss School.

There were many cherished memories citizens had regarding the gym and it was this emotional attachment that perhaps swayed the citizens of Holdenville and the slogan "Preserving Our Memories" was effective. Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., assisted in utilizing advertising, design personnel, and resources at BancFirst to provide an effective brochure that stated the reasons to keep this National Register listed property on the landscape and briefly show an adequate sketch for new construction compatible with existing historic.

Currently, the Moss School District is working with a qualified architect on this project for a future agreement to be reached. Persistence paid off in this effort and while this is a victory, it is a small and temporary one until plans for new construction are compatible with the preservation of the historic Moss School Gymnasium in the future.

Enid 2001 Great American Main Street Awards Winner

For the third year in a row an Oklahoma community has been recognized as a Great American Main Street Award winner. Joining the recognition of Cordell in 1999 and Newkirk in 2000, Enid has received the award for 2001.

Prior to 1978, downtown Enid prospered with busy retail shops and professional offices. But as in most American cities, downtown Enid "modernized" its buildings in an effort to compete with new shopping centers. Most of downtown's historic facades disappeared under aluminum lipcovers. The collapse of agricultural and oil industries, combined with the development of a hopping mall on the west side of town, spurred retailers and professionals to leave downtown Enid en masse.

Starting with streetscapes and slipcover removals, Main Street Enid began its downtown revitalization in 1994 in improving appearance. The design committee created a program through which volunteers removed aluminum from a building at no charge to the property owner; a local contractor donated the equipment and provided the training. The Main Street promotion committee organized a full calendar of special events and retail promotions to show residents

that downtown was not dead. The "Enid Lights Up the Plains Festival" brought thousands of people downtown on the Friday night after Thanksgiving to enjoy carriage rides, live entertainment, and a spectacular fireworks display. Main Street Enid turned a former grocery warehouse into Adventure Quest, the nation's largest outdoor learning playground and hands-on arts and science learning center. Twelve thousand volunteers worked to create what is now Oklahoma's most popular children's destination. Several "white elephant" buildings have been revitalized.

The most dramatic project, Symphony Hall, is located in the historic Masonic Temple whose two performance halls and elaborate Egyptian-style lobby had been vacant for 40 years. The Enid Symphony raised more than \$1 million for the renovation of their new performing arts center. Other examples include a former Sears building that was purchased and remodeled by the city to serve as a Senior Community Center, and a former Newman's Department Store which now houses the largest furniture store in Enid.

Another popular project that has brought the
continued on page 4

Moss school district voted to "preserve their memories" on April 3, saving yet another historic Oklahoma building.

Joining the recognition of Cordell in 1999 and Newkirk in 2000, Enid has received the award for 2001.

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Main Street Enid has transformed the central business district into the community's cultural, historical and recreational center.

Though it has maintained its historical and structural integrity, the C.M.E. Chapel still stands vacant and deteriorating.

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Enid's Main Street Award
(cont. from pg.31)

community together and boosted the economy is the David Allen Memorial Ballpark. Built with private funds donated to Main Street Enid by a local family, it resembles a ballpark from the 1930s with spectacular results. In addition to baseball games, this unique setting has also welcomed outdoor concerts, weddings, and has spurred private development in the surrounding area.

Main Street Enid has been an economic boon for downtown. Enid proudly boasts 34 facade renovations since 1994, representing more than \$300,000 in new investment. More than 600 new

jobs have been created while 56 businesses have either opened or expanded into additional space. Investment from public and private sectors totals \$14 million. Main Street Enid has transformed the central business district into the community's cultural, historical and recreational center. New restaurants, restored building facades, exciting retail and numerous additional attractions have made downtown Enid once again bustle with enthusiasm and economic prosperity.

Congratulations to Main Street Enid and its national recognition on a job well done. What a wonderful location for Oklahoma's 13th annual statewide historic preservation conference.

(Most of this article was condensed from *Main Street News*, April 2001.)

Ponca City Landmark Conservancy Announces 2001 Endangered Sites

Since 1998, the Ponca City Landmark Conservancy has listed its historic Endangered Sites in the vicinity. The purpose of the list is to call attention to the specific sites and educate the public on the rich architectural heritage of Ponca City.

Sites listed are considered extremely significant for their local history as well, and are often endangered by neglect, imminent demolition, or other threats. Listing does not necessarily mean that there are preservation opportunities for a specific property, but in the past it has prodded other individuals and groups into action to save or maintain the site. The Santa Fe Depot, first listed as an endangered site in 1999, is in the process of being donated to the Ponca City Landmark Conservancy for preservation.

This year, additions include the C.M.E. Chapel on South 12th. This property is also on "Oklahoma's most endangered properties" statewide list run by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. This structure is significant for its cultural associations with the African-American community of Ponca City and the "Dixie Hill" area in an era of racial segregation.

The church is of fieldstone construction and has amazing stained glass windows. Though it has maintained its historical and structural integrity, the C.M.E. Chapel still stands vacant and deteriorating. **The structure is for sale, please notify the Conservancy if interested for the appropriate contact.**

The other addition to the 2001 list is the historic "Coca-Cola" advertisement on the north side of 204 S. 2nd.

The sign was uncovered when fire destroyed the nearby Black Building in 2000. Painted upon brick it dates to circa 1920

Here is a summation of the properties and



Ponca City's C.M.E. Chapel on South 12th is also on "Oklahoma's most endangered properties"

initial listing on the Historic Endangered Sites:

1998: Rock Island Depot, South 3rd; Historic Street Lights, throughout town; Adam Rooming House, South 1st; Historic Brick Streets, throughout town; Rock Island Lumber Co. Building, South 1st; Robin Hood Floor Mill, West Central; McKinley School, South 6th.

1999: DeRoberts/Calkins Building, West Grand; Santa Fe Depot, West Oklahoma

2000: Historic Stone Barn, Lake Road; Shornden Grain Elevator, North 1st.

2001: C.M.E. Chapel, South 12th; Coca-Cola sign, South 2nd.

Currently the brick streets of Ponca City are the most threatened. If any reader has helpful information on the preservation of brick streets, knows of an expert on brick street construction, repair, and restoration, or can address the aspect of brick streets in residential neighborhoods as a street calming technique please contact the Conservancy immediately.

The Ponca City Landmark Conservancy is entirely funded by donations and memberships. Please send your support to P.O. Box 1062, Ponca City, OK 74602 or contact Bret Carter at bretac@swbell.net

13th Annual Conference a Success

Oklahoma's 13th annual statewide preservation conference was a success with well over 200 in attendance. The caliber of the speakers was first class and the Track sessions were well presented, entertaining, and informative. Personally, as new Executive Director this event was my highlight in the state thus far as I met and talked with several preservation individuals and organizations across the state in hopes of future partnership. It was great to hear their concerns, opinions, and preservation projects taking place in local communities. The featured speaking events of Ron Frantz and Donovan Rypkema also were well attended. Frantz spoke of whose job preservation is and the many individuals and organizations that must become involved. He also displayed unique and personal slides and conducted an inventive preservation from A to Z format regarding Oklahoma.

Rypkema spoke on the economics of historic preservation and gave solid facts and figures to support his. The great labor intensity of rehabilitation over new construction, small business incubation, and downtown revitalization all make for greater economic impact in a community through historic preservation. Rypkema stated that the battle is lost in preservation when it becomes and is seen as a joke in certain situations. He also saw crucial roles for preservation in the 21st century including globalization but avoiding a global culture, community building, supply shortages for new growth, and fiscal responsibility.

Hearing these highlighted speakers was a rare treat and all conference presenters gave informative examples of preservation efforts. Thanks also to the local Enid volunteers, organizers, and historic homeowners that assured a well-presented, interesting and attended conference.

Save Outdoor Sculpture!

Save Outdoor Sculpture is a joint project of Heritage Preservation and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Spring 2001 newsletter of this program indicates that another 17 sculptures have received SOS! Conservation Treatment Awards including two winners in Oklahoma.



"Tribute to Range Riders" by Constance Whitney Warren stands at the south entry of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The "Spirit of the American Doughboy" by E.M. Visquesney was constructed in the 1920s in Cherokee, OK, and "Tribute to Range Riders" by Constance Warren in Oklahoma City. Located at the south entry plaza of the Oklahoma State Capitol building, "Tribute to Range Riders" was donated to the state in 1929 by an American-born sculptor working in Paris, Constance Whitney Warren. This bronze sculpture depicts a cowboy on a rearing horse, the subject used most often in the sculptor's works.

Will Rogers was scheduled to assist Gov. W.J. Holloway with the unveiling in a 1930 ceremony. However, Rogers was unable to attend and Holloway's term ended before the ceremony could be rescheduled. The next governor, William Murray, ordered the tarpaulin covering the undedicated statue to be padlocked, and a misunderstanding ensued between Rogers and the governor.

Despite the bronze plaque on the sculpture claiming his attendance at the dedication in 1930, Will Rogers died in 1936 without dedicating the statue, and the sculpture was not officially unveiled until 1957, during Oklahoma's Semi-Centennial celebration.

The sculpture is now one of the most recognizable icons of Oklahoma City. Check out www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/SOS/so_smain.html for more information on SOS.

The caliber of the speakers was first class and the track sessions were well presented, entertaining, and informative.

Despite its inscription, Will Rogers did not attend the dedication of "Tribute to Range Riders."

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State Preservation Office Presents Annual Awards

Twenty-eight citations were presented to recognize those who play vital roles in preserving Oklahoma's heritage and historic properties.

At the State Preservation Conference at Enid in May, the Oklahoma Historical Society annually presents their Citation of Merit Awards. The following agencies, individuals, and organizations were recognized for playing vital roles in the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage and historic properties through the SHPO's Citation of Merit:

• **City of Ardmore** for two important projects under the CLG grants program, design guidelines for the Ardmore Historic Commercial District and a city-adopted preservation plan that sets clear goals and objectives for the preservation of Ardmore's heritage.

• **Ardmore Main Street Authority** for establishing financial incentives to preserve and revitalize the historic shopping core of the city, private reinvestment in downtown buildings in excess of \$22 million and a less than 5% vacancy rate

• **Honorable D.W. Boyd**, Newkirk, for his work to preserve the Kay County Courthouse. He obtained a small grant through a local foundation and the Newkirk Community Historical Society to retain a consultant for the appropriate rehabilitation of the building.

• **Dr. Albert C. Caywood**, Ardmore, for acquiring the former Indian Territory Federal Courthouse and completing its sensitive rehabilitation. The building is once more a focal point of downtown Ardmore thanks to this "community action preservationist."

• **Chandler First United Methodist Church members** for their successful \$40,000 restoration of the church's 1918 historic stained glass windows and publication of an outstanding booklet about the project which documents the windows in detail.

• **The co-sponsors of Oklahoma's 12th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference:** Oklahoma Main Street Program; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; El Reno Main Street; Preservation El Reno, Inc.; Redlands Community College; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Fort Reno Visitors Center; El Reno Convention and Visitors Bureau; El Reno Chamber of Commerce; City of El Reno; and Canadian County Historical Society. Congratulations to all who made this a successful event in El Reno.

•• **Tom and Nancy Dunlap**, Ardmore, for recently completing the rehabilitation of their third-generation, family-owned building in the downtown commercial district. "For enjoyment of tomorrow's citizens, take care of yesterday's treasures today" is their motto.

•• **City of Enid** for its ongoing efforts to develop and strengthen its local historic preservation programs. The city has worked with

the SHPO the past 16 years as the first CLG with many positive results, that will expand with continued future partnership.

• **Enid-Phillips Symphony Association** for their outstanding \$2.2 million project for rehabilitation of the Enid Symphony Center's Symphony Hall, Egyptian Lobby, and Eleanor Hornbaker Banquet Hall in the Knox/Second Masonic Lodge.

• **Robert K. Erwin**, Oklahoma City, for his tireless efforts as Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., over the past six years. He has advanced the organization in developing its programs and becoming an important statewide preservation advocate.

• **George Ghata and Roger Rhinehart**, El Reno, for their sensitive rehabilitation of the façade of the Kraft & Newell Building/Rock Island Block in downtown El Reno. The Ghatas and Rhineharts share ownership of the building and its rehabilitation project.

• **City of Guthrie** for their efforts under the CLG program in updating information on each building within the Guthrie Historic District for entry in the SHPO's database format. In addition to developing design guidelines and updating the local preservation zoning ordinance.

• **Les Hall**, Oklahoma City, for his long advocacy for preservation in Oklahoma and a valued friend of the SHPO on many projects across the state. Les will retire from the Oklahoma Main Street Program on July 1, 2001, and will be greatly missed; best wishes!

•• **Thomas Harris**, Ardmore, for the economic revitalization of Ardmore's historic automobile dealership area through preservation. He acquired and rehabilitated a total of seven buildings and personally financed a one-block streetscape improvement project.

•• **Don Holland**, Tecumseh, for preparing the National Register nomination for the Barnard Elementary School Building in Tecumseh. It is the oldest school building in Pottawatomie County that continues to serve as a school and is Tecumseh's heritage preserved.

•• **Bill Humphery**, Enid, for his efforts to save important elements of the early history of Enid and the surrounding area at Humphrey Village. A church, school, original Land Office, and other buildings are preserved there, avoiding previous threats of demolition.

•• **Ludwig Isenberg**, Ardmore, for his pen and ink drawings and color renderings of historic buildings in Ardmore and south central Oklahoma. An architect, his drawings depict buildings no longer standing and provide the only visual reminder of some properties.

•• **Noel and Glenda Mann**, Ardmore, for their careful rehabilitation of One West Main in



Ardmore's National Register commercial district. The second and third floors of the structure were rehabilitated and again provide quality space for a new use.

- **City of New Cordell** for initial CLG planning grant and eventual rehabilitation of the Washita Theater. A positive role in community revitalization through historic preservation by the local government, the historic theater now boasts a state-of-the-art sound system

- **City of Norman** for identifying four important publicly owned buildings and retaining a consultant to prepare National Register nominations for them. Materials have also been developed for free distribution to increase public awareness of Norman's heritage.

- **Jim Ross**, Arcadia, for his strong advocacy of historic Route 66 preservation and the well researched National Register nomination for the Arcadia Route 66 roadbed, an original section of the historic highway in Oklahoma County.

- **Jerry and Gayle Rowell**, Duncan, for their efforts to generate the National Register nomination for the Britain-Garvin House and its painstaking rehabilitation. They own and live in this Prairie School house. Private citizens carry out the preservation work majority.

- **Todd Scott**, Oklahoma City, for his invaluable service to Oklahoma communities through his work as Oklahoma Main Street architect. His advocacy for important preservation issues also is appreciated and his willingness to

step forward and provide a voice.

- **Lee and Mary Stidham**, Checotah, for their second certified rehabilitation project on the Kniseley & Long Building built in 1910, a contributing resource to the Checotah business district and listed on the National Register, and their many other contributions to the area.

- **Stratford Historic Restoration Association** for its dedication to preservation of Stratford's First National Bank Building, a focal point of this small Garvin County community. After National Register approval and restoration it will house a museum.

- **Stroud Historic Neighborhood Association** for the purchase and relocation of the small historic frame house built in 1898 by Lucas Stroud, son of the town's founder. The association has repaired the house with careful concern for its historic character.

- **Three Rivers Museum of Muskogee, Inc.**, for the purchase of the Midland Valley Railroad Depot in Muskogee and its rehabilitation using ISTEAF funds. The board of director's efforts preserved this important historic building for use as a regional museum.

- **The Honorable Thomas Walker**, Ardmore, for increasing public awareness of his community's rich heritage through development of a downtown Ardmore walking tour, and as an active participant in numerous local and regional organizations.

Congratulations to State Historical Society award winners!

2001 National Park Partnership Award Winner in Oklahoma

On April 24, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation presented the 2001 National Park Partnership Awards honoring outstanding public private partnerships that furthered the mission of the National Park Service. The awards are given annually in four categories, including historic preservation. This year's winner was the Washita Battlefield NHS and partners for The Cheyenne Heritage Trail. Congratulations to all involved. (www.nps.gov/waba/index.html)

More than 80 new highway signs now guide travelers through the history of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche and Plains Apache tribes in western Oklahoma. The newly-dedicated Cheyenne Heritage Trail covers 412 miles, and includes stops at the Cheyenne Cultural Center and Mohawk Trading Post in Clinton; Black Kettle Museum, Coyote Hills Guest Ranch and the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in the Cheyenne area; Fort Supply and the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in Woodward; Roman Nose Resort and State Park near Watonga; and Fort Reno at El Reno.

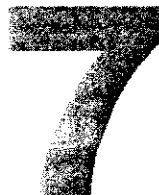
Cheyenne historical attraction operators partnered with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to develop the trail, and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has now manufactured and installed the trail markers along the route. Organizers are currently developing an audio cassette-guided tour. Motorcoach tours can schedule two- to three-day trips along the trail with step-on guides to provide historical narratives, video, music and interpretation.

For more information about this, contact (405) 521-2406, or to receive the Cheyenne Heritage Trail brochure call (800) 652-6552 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cheyenne historical attraction operators partnered with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to develop The Cheyenne Heritage Trail.

Please read!

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., has changed its address! While this was stated in the April 2001 issue we are still only receiving about 25 percent of our normal mail load. If you are receiving this newsletter please change our address on your mailing list to: **Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., 120 N. Robinson, Suite 1408, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.**



UPCOMING

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is still working on identifying dates, times, and locations for its Endangered List Lecture Series and Traveling Exhibit. If you know of an interested speaker or topic, or would be willing to provide a location for these events please contact Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., at (405) 232-5747 or preservationok@intcon.net

SEPTEMBER

14 Public Meeting for the SHPO's FY 2002 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application
10:30 a.m. at the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building (second floor), 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City

OCTOBER

16-21 National Preservation Conference 2001, National Trust for Historic Preservation
In Providence, Rhode Island.
www.nthp.org

DECEMBER

5-7 State and Local Governments as Preservation Partners in Oklahoma: The CLG Program Guidelines & Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings The Section 106 Review Process: What it is & How it Works Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places
Session run by the SHPO at the Wiley Post Historical Building, Third Floor Classroom, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City

APRIL

7-10 2002 National Town Meeting on Main Street, National Main Street Center
In Fort Worth, TX, National Trust for Historic Preservation

MAY

16-18 Oklahoma's Fourteenth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference
In Durant, OK

JUNE

26-28 The Section 106 Review Process, Determination of Eligibility under Section 106, Introduction to the National Register, Federal Tax Incentives, and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings
State Historic Preservation Office workshop will take place in Perry, OK.

SHPO Seeks Public Input for FY 2002 Program

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) public meeting at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, September 14, in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for the development of the Fiscal Year 2002 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) application.

Many may wonder how the HPF is used; read on.

The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$565,000 from the United States Department of the Interior's FY 2002 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out Oklahoma's statewide preservation program. Ten percent of the amount is reserved for pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Over half of Oklahoma's total HPF allocation will be used for subgrants to complete archeological and historic/architectural resource survey projects, to prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations, and to continue public outreach and education programs, such as the annual statewide preservation conference.

Your citizen input will help shape the future of Oklahomas past. Accordingly, the SHPO will appreciate your ideas and suggestions about what its FY 2002 program priorities will be.

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the SHPO has responsibility for administration of the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. In brief, the purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. Specific activities directed toward this goal include identification of properties important in history, architecture, culture, and archeology (survey and inventory); evaluation and registration of

significant properties (determination of National Register eligibility and nomination); formal review of federal and federally assisted projects that could affect archeological and historic resources (Section 106 review process); development and implementation of the statewide historic preservation plan; administration of the CLG program; administration of the federal investment tax credit program for rehabilitation of certified historic structures; and public outreach activities. Here is further information of the goals and priorities of the SHPO.

Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (2000) sets forth the goals and objectives for historic preservation in the state. This document is available to anyone interested and can be obtained by contacting the SHPO. The SHPO will base its FY 2002 program on the *State Plan's* goals and objectives. The SHPO's specific priorities include continuation of the archeological and historic/architectural resources survey program to document property types under represented in the state's inventory and to extend survey coverage to previously unstudied areas, preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations, and provision of public outreach and technical assistance programs. So please come and share your thoughts regarding the future of historic preservation in Oklahoma.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may complete a "Project Suggestion Form" available from the SHPO, and return it to the SHPO at: State Historic Preservation Office, 2704 Villa Prom, Shepherd Mall, Oklahoma City, OK 73107-2441 or by fax at (405) 947-2918.

As a citizen of Oklahoma, please plan on attending this important event to share your ideas and suggestions for the future.

Guthrie's 1895 J.C. Wicks Building Guttled in December Fire

Fire struck downtown Guthrie for the third time in less than two years and took the roof, interior walls and contents but left the side walls and part of the floor of the Wicks building. Water and smoke damage closed businesses in the adjoining Goodrich (1893) and Bierer (1896) buildings as well.

Owner Ludd Lentz's decision to rebuild the property was not difficult. He stated, "The east half of the Wicks building, where our family business was located at the time of the fire, was purchased by my grandfather in 1947" and added, "We have always been proud to be part of Guthrie's Historic District." Lentz is no stranger to preservation having served the Guthrie Historic District Commission since 1978 and participating in the downtown's first initial project. Lentz also bought the west half of the Wicks building where the fire started and actual renovation started in June. Repair of damaged masonry walls is now underway and the façade is hoped to be restored to its original 1895 appearance.

Look for detailed information on this project in the October issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News*.

State Preservation Office Funds Archeological Surveys

by Charles S. Wallis, Jr.
SHPO Archeologist

The State Historic Preservation Office is responsible for carrying out a comprehensive survey program to identify buildings, structures, districts, sites, and objects and record and evaluate them.

This year the SHPO awarded three subgrants to the Oklahoma Archeological Survey to identify prehistoric archeological resources. Results of these projects are vital to the SHPO, the OAS, other agencies, scholars, and concerned citizens as the information is used in planning federal and other construction projects, increases the database of Oklahoma's prehistoric resources, and provides an opportunity to learn more about those people who first lived in Oklahoma.

"Archeological Survey of Canyons in the Cimarron River Drainage of Harper and Woods Counties, Oklahoma," under the direction of Leland Bement with the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, was one of four surveys approved for FY2001. Dr. Bement will be undertaking an intense survey of the equivalent of a four square mile region within Harper and Woods counties. Understanding how prehistoric groups utilized the rugged terrain of the Cimarron Canyon setting and water resources of the region will be addressed.

Second is "An Archaeological Survey of the Canadian River Basin from Rosedale to Minco: Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, and McClain Counties, Oklahoma." The principal investigator is Dr. Robert Brooks, state archeologist with the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

The rapid economic development of central Oklahoma necessitates the need to have a better understanding of the types of archeological sites

that can be expected to occur within the Canadian River corridor south of the metroplex. A sample survey of the 72 miles of alluvial valley extending from Minco in Grady County to Rosedale in Cleveland County is proposed. Intense survey of select locations along the river amounting to the equivalent of 4 square miles is to be completed.

Finally, "Proposal for an Archeological Survey of the Canadian River Basin in West Central Oklahoma," directed by Dr. Richard Drass with the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, will also emphasize select areas of the Canadian River Basin covering a stretch extending through Dewey, Custer, and Blaine counties. Work will concentrate along the Deer Creek Valley, a region known to contain numerous sites dating from the Paleo-Indian times through the Protohistoric period; or the time leading up to historic contact. The sample will amount to an area equivalent to 4 square miles.

Public involvement is also part of the survey program. Landowners in the various areas to be surveyed will be contacted to gain access to selected survey locations. Furthermore, efforts will be made to document artifacts collected over the years by private collectors in the regions under study.

The proposals will begin sometime in September of this year and conclude with final reports by the end of August 2002. Although locating prehistoric sites is the primary emphases of these projects, identification and evaluation of historic projects, identification and evaluation of these projects, identification and evaluation of these projects will also occur. Information gathered during these surveys will contribute to the eligibility of sites for the National Register.

Four Grant Applications Accepted

Each year, the State Historic Preservation Office sets aside a sum of money from the Historic Preservation Fund to offer as grants for the preparation of National Register nominations. These grants are used by eligible nonprofits, tribes, or local governmental units to help defray the cost of hiring a professional consultant to prepare individual property nominations.

The monies are in the form of matching grants on a 60/40 cost share basis. The SHPO provided \$750 to be matched by the local sponsor.

For the upcoming year, the SHPO is pleased to announce the following four grant applications have been accepted:

- Lincoln County Historical Society – nomination for the St. Paul's Baptist Church near Meeker.
- City of Waurika – nomination for the First Presbyterian Church in Waurika.
- Rogers County Historical Society – nomination for the building at 417 W. Will Rogers in Claremore.
- New Nashville Preservation Historical Society – nomination for the Bank of Nashville in Nash.

The next round of National Register grants will be available starting February 1, 2002. For information on this program, call either Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478 (jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us) or Stan Mayer at (405) 522-4485.

New and Renewed Memberships

Senior/Student – \$15.00

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Nine New Listings in the National Register

by Jim Gabbert
SHPO Architectural Historian

These nine properties bring us closer to our new goal of having 1001 listings in the National Register by the end of the year 2001.

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that nine new properties from Oklahoma have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. These nine properties contribute to the SHPO's new goal of having 1001 listings by the end of the year 2001. The addition of the nine properties brings the current total to 980.

The new listings include two historic districts and individual properties that represent a variety of historic themes significant in Oklahoma's history.

Two properties designed by renowned Oklahoma architect Bruce Goff were added to the Register. The Riverside Studio in Tulsa and the H.E. Ledbetter House in Norman both represent the maturation of Goff's design philosophy.

The Riverside Studio was constructed in 1928 and shows the influence of both the Art Deco and International styles. The Ledbetter House, constructed in 1948, shows the evolution of Goff's "organic" philosophy of design. Arn Henderson, professor of architecture at the University of Oklahoma, nominated both of these properties.

The two districts that were recently listed include the White City Historic District in Tulsa and the Historic Downtown Sulphur Commercial District.

White City is a residential neighborhood, formerly on the outskirts of the east side of Tulsa. Planned just before the Depression, it was not fully developed until the years surrounding World War II. It reflects the changing trends and tastes in residential design from the 1920s to the late 1940s. The nomination for the White City district was prepared by public historian Cindy Savage, contracted by the City of Tulsa's Urban Development department as part of that city's Certified Local Government program.

Sulphur is located on the north edge of Chickasaw National Recreational Area, formerly Platt National Park. The Historic Downtown Sulphur Commercial District represents the third and final incarnation of the town, which was forced to move twice to accommodate the park. The district centers on Muskogee Street, and features many of the most important buildings representing the early and continued development of the town. Cindy Bissett, of the Sulphur Main Street program prepared the nomination.

In Garvin County, the First National Bank Building in Stratford was listed for its architectural significance. Constructed in 1907, it is an excellent example of late Victorian commercial architecture. Most striking is the bell-cast dome atop the corner tower. The Stratford Historical Restoration Association, who hired public

historian Cindy Savage to prepare the nomination, is rehabilitating the building.

Located in Stroud, Lincoln County, the Rock Cafe was listed as a part of the continuing effort to recognize significant resources along historic Route 66. Built in 1939, this cafe has continually served patrons along the "mother road" for 62 years. Its guest register includes visitors from every corner of the world. Dawn Welch, owner of the Rock Cafe, prepared the nomination.

The Oklahoma Odd Fellows Home at Checotah was listed in the National Register for its significant role in social and educational history. It is also recognized for being the work of one of Oklahoma's master architects, Joseph Foucart. Foucart was responsible for many of downtown Guthrie's distinctive buildings, and his influence and design ethic is evident in this 1902 building in Checotah. Dr. Glen Vaughn-Roberson of the State Historic Preservation Office prepared the nomination.

The Charles G. Jones Farmstead, located just outside of Jones, in Oklahoma County, was listed for its association with Charles G. Jones. Jones was a significant figure in territorial and state politics. He was responsible for bringing the Santa Fe Railroad to Oklahoma City; he platted a number of towns, including Mustang; he served as mayor of Oklahoma City three times; he helped create the State Fair; and, he served in both the territorial and state legislatures. Randall McMillin prepared the nomination.

The "Y" Chapel of Song, located on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, was listed in the National Register for its significance in art. The building, built in 1949, was designed by architects Conner and Pojezny to showcase the magnificent student-designed and constructed stained glass windows. Commemorating the songs sung by members of the YWCA and YMCA, the windows were designed and pieced together by students during World War II. Students and faculty of the college also carved pews and fashioned other artistic elements for the chapel. The "Y" Chapel of Song was nominated by the Edmond Historical Society, with Bruce Love preparing the nomination.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for those places significant in Oklahoma's history. These nine properties bring us closer to our new goal of having 1001 listings in the National Register by the end of the year 2001.

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

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Intertribal Wordpath Society

Too often we think that historic preservation strictly concerns the built environment and do not realize the wealth of cultural historic resources in danger of being lost. The Native American Language Act of 1990 enunciated the policy of the United States government to "preserve, protect, and promote the right and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop" Native American languages.

The Intertribal Wordpath Society is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote the teaching, awareness, use, and status of Oklahoma Indian languages. This governmental/nonprofit relationship is not unlike the relationship between statewide non-profits for historic preservation and State Historic Preservation Offices. Oklahoma is home to many languages; but the oldest are endangered; they range from Modoc with no remaining speakers to Cherokee with several thousand; all are in a declining state of use, being crowded out of existence by English.

Like endangered historic properties, languages are in danger of extinction and once they are lost they can never be accurately recreated. When languages die, the associated culture and history, and part of Indian identity are lost as well. When historic Oklahoma properties are demolished; the culture, heritage, and history of this state is lost and past, current, and future state citizens are done a disservice. It is hard to say how many historic properties Oklahoma has already lost, but one-third of Oklahoma's Indian languages are already gone.

The Intertribal Wordpath Society assists the preservation of Oklahoma's native languages through fundraising, exhibits and educational programs, and many other workshops and demonstrations. Their Wordpath television show can be seen on Channel 28 in Norman and Chickasha Mondays at 5:30 and Wednesdays at 7:00. The Wordpath show is in urgent need of new crewmembers and if you are a Norman resident who can assist in volunteering please let them know, no experience is required. To find out more information on the Intertribal Wordpath Society or to become a member please contact them at ToWordpath@aol.com or visit www.ahalenia.com/iws or you may contact them by phone at (405) 447-6103 and mailing address is Intertribal Wordpath Society, 1506 Barkley St., Norman, OK, 73071.

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., 120 N. Robinson, Suite 1408, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

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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.

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Become a Member of the Statewide Preservation Network

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., 120 N. Robinson, Suite 1408, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

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Preserving the Spirit of Place

The National Preservation Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will take place this year October 16-21, 2001 in Providence, Rhode Island.

Preliminary programs for the conference are now available as is early discounted conference registration. Please contact the Trust at 1-800-944-6847 or at www.nthp.org or e-mail: conference@nthp.org

Join the National Trust to explore how preservationists can preserve the spirit of place by fostering urban revitalization, encouraging tax

credits, promoting smart growth initiatives, and by conserving open space.

This year's program will include more than 50 educational sessions, more than 30 field sessions to sites in Providence and surrounding areas, lectures, house tours, and other special events! This program also meets AIA/CEC criteria for Quality Levels I and II and is eligible for AICP CPDP credit.

Please contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation for more information.

Please read!

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., has changed its address! While this was stated in the April 2001 issue we are still only receiving about 25 percent of our normal mail load. If you are receiving this newsletter please change our address on your mailing list to: **Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., 120 N. Robinson, Suite 1408, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.**



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