



# OKLAHOMA NEWS



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## Gold Dome named to National Trust's '11 Most Endangered Historic Places' for 2002

The morning of Thursday, June 6, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced the Citizens State Bank Building, "Gold Dome Bank" was on its 2002 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places."

Wheelock Academy became the first Oklahoma property to be included on this national list in 2000; the gold dome becomes the second Oklahoma property in 2002. The listing will draw national attention to local Oklahoma City citizen preservation efforts and the unique structure that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

On June 6 National Trust President Richard Moe made the announcement of the list in Washington, D.C. "All across this country, people are finding creative solutions that spur economic development and commerce while preserving historic structures with character," said Moe. "It's senseless to destroy one of the city's most recognizable landmarks and replace it with an urban strip mall."

In interviews after the announcement, Moe also responded to questions regarding the significance of the gold dome and its importance to the community.

Shortly after the national announcement, an event was held on the corner of NW 23 and Classen adjacent to the gold dome. Daniel Carey, Director of the Trust's Southwest Office, made the announcement and additional speakers included Trust Advisor Martin Newman; City Council Member Amy Brooks; Central Oklahoma AIA President Lisa Chronister; State Representative Debbie Blackburn; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. Director Trent Margrif; and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, historian, and Route 66 authority Michael Wallis.

Wallis spoke on the history and uniqueness of Route 66 and the gold dome as part of its cultural heritage tourism and attraction to visitors from all over the world.

The future of the dome remains undetermined.

The Oklahoma City Board of Adjustment has not had quorum to decide the appeals of Bank One to overturn the decision of the Urban Design Commission to not grant demolition or new construction of a Walgreen's and typical branch bank building on the site. All items being appealed by Bank One were continued by the Board of Adjustment until its July 18 meeting.

The gold dome was placed on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List in January. The group Citizens for the Golden Dome deserves the greatest credit in making sure this preservation battle has continued to this point. Citizen protest continues in front of the dome every Monday from 4:30 to 5:30, and will continue until the dome is saved.

For more information: [www.savethedome.net](http://www.savethedome.net)

For other endangered sites in Oklahoma:  
[www.preservationoklahoma.org](http://www.preservationoklahoma.org)



# Other National Trust endangered listings

In addition to the Gold Dome bank, the following properties are also on the 2002 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places": St. Elizabeth's Hospital, *Washington, DC*; Chesapeake Bay Skipjack Fleet, *MD*; Pompey's Pillar, *Yellowstone County, MT*; Guthrie Theater, *Minneapolis*; Hackensack Water Works, *Oradell, NJ*; Kw'st'an sacred sites at Indian Pass, *Imperial County, CA*; Missouri River Valley Cultural & Sacred Sites, *MT, ND, SD*; Historic Bridges of *Indiana*; Rosenwald Schools, *Southern U.S.*; teardowns in historic neighborhoods, *statewide*.

Of additional interest in Oklahoma are teardowns and Rosenwald schools. While not a rampant problem in the larger cities of Tulsa and

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma historic neighborhoods are falling prey to the epidemic of older homes being purchased, demolished and replaced by residences that destroy the historic fabric of communities. Between 1913 and 1932, the Rosenwald Fund founded by Chicago philanthropist Julius Rosenwald helped build more than 5,300 schools for African-Americans, but today many of these landmarks have disappeared or are falling to ruin. Of the nearly 200 that once existed in Oklahoma, only a handful remain on the landscape today including the Rosenwald Town Hall in Lima, on the Watch List of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties.

Of additional interest in Oklahoma are teardowns and Rosenwald Schools.

## Look for the List

The History Channel® will feature the complete National Trust list on Saturday, July 6, at 9 p.m. CST in a one-hour documentary special titled "America's Most Endangered." In addition, *The Atlantic Monthly* will present a special feature insert,

sponsored by Shell Oil Company, on the list in their July/August issue.

For more information: <http://www.nthp.org/11Most/2002/index.html>

## Trust wins National Humanities Medal for preservation leadership

History was made when President George W. Bush awarded the prestigious National Humanities Medal to the National Trust. It was the first time that an organization, rather than an individual, has been honored for its work to broaden Americans' engagement with the humanities and thus help preserve and expand Americans' access to important historic resources.

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust, said, "We accepted the Humanities Medal on behalf of all the thousands of American preservationists, both volunteers and professionals, who have made preservation a relevant and effective movement in America today."

The National Humanities Medal, first inaugurated in 1988 as the Charles Frankel Prize, honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the Nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened citizens' engagement with the humani-

ties. Each year, the National Council on the Arts and the National Council on the Humanities seek nominations and provide recommendations to the President, who then selects the recipients.

Moe said that through its many programs and partnerships, the National Trust is successfully building an awareness of the importance of preservation. "Especially since the awful events of 9-11, I believe that the American people are even more attuned to the need to save our historic and cultural places," he said.

The National Trust is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Its Washington, DC, headquarters staff, six regional offices and 21 historic sites work with the Trust's quarter million members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states.

Through its programs & partnerships, the Trust is successfully building awareness of importance of preservation.

# 2

# State Historic Preservation Office presents annual awards

**T**hanks to all the co-sponsors, speakers, and volunteers of this past conference in Durant, it was an overwhelming success. Great sessions once again.

Each year the SHPO expresses its appreciation to its many preservation partners across Oklahoma through presentation of Citations of Merit. The projects and contributions that foster the preservation of our state's rich heritage range from major rehabilitation efforts under the federal tax credit program to maintenance of historic government-owned buildings to the educational programs of local preservation agencies and organizations to individual research efforts.

Here are recent winners that were recognized at the Awards Banquet at Oklahoma's 14th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Durant:

- **City of Ardmore.** Working closely with the Ardmore Main Street Authority, the city used a grant from the SHPO's CLG program to produce a walking tour brochure that highlights historic properties for tourism.

- **Judi A. Elmore.** Recognized for her contributions in establishing reinvestment confidence in downtown Ardmore. In two years, 28 downtown buildings underwent rehabilitation work of \$2.7 million.

- **Sally Gray.** As an Ardmore historian, she conducts dedicated research and collects information for various programs and publications, such efforts are key to a successful local community preservation program.

- **Mr. Hugh Fortenberry.** Presented posthumously, he was dedicated to the community and carried out many thorough local history research projects invaluable to Durant and Durant Main Street.

- **Marcine Moore Fritz.** Fritz and her late husband, Duane, restored their house, built around 1905, and donated it to the Durant Historical Society/Three Valley Museum, soon to carry out its major expansion.

- **L. David Norris.** Dr. Norris has authored several regional history books, served as Durant mayor, and is on the Durant City Council and is recognized for his scholarly endeavors to document local history.

- **Co-Sponsors of Oklahoma's 13th Annual State Preservation Conference** held in May 2001 in Enid with the conference theme of "Preservation: Whose Job Is It?," joining the SHPO were the Oklahoma Main Street Center, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., Main Street Enid, Inc., and the City of Enid.

- **City of Enid.** Recognized for the results of their 2001 CLG grant project, publication of a downtown walking tour brochure that increases awareness of the downtown's heritage and development.

- **Louis Coleman.** Long-time Idabel resident recognized for the role he plays in the preservation

of southeastern Oklahoma's many historic properties as advocate, researcher, and preservation leader.

- **Southridge Apartments, Inc; Little Dixie Community Action Agency; Blackledge & Assoc. Architects.** All three organizations were involved with the exemplary rehabilitation of Idabel's historic Rouleau Hotel that was devastated by fire and facing demolition. With federal funds from the CDBG program and the 20% federal investment tax credit as incentives, a certified rehabilitation of the hotel was completed as housing for senior citizens. The SHPO has submitted this project for national recognition of Section 106.

- **General Services Administration & C.H. Guernsey and Company** for sensitive rehabilitation work on the Federal Courthouse in Lawton. Several features such as windows were upgraded while maintaining the historic character of the property. This project has also been submitted for national publication.

- **Wynona C. Brooks, Jack W. Brooks, Randall E. McMillin.** Through their efforts the Charles G. Jones Farmstead was listed on the National Register and completed a certified rehabilitation of the property.

- **BMI Systems, Inc. & Elliott and Associates Architects.** The rehabilitation of the Vesper Building, located in Oklahoma City's Automobile Alley Historic District, an exemplary federal tax credit project.

- **Bret Carter.** His leadership in the Ponca City Landmark Conservancy has made this local organization a model for such groups across the state, he has been instrumental in raising local preservation awareness.

- **MetroPlains Properties, Inc. & Sikes Abernathie Architects, P.C.** for the certified rehabilitation of the Berryhill Building in Sapulpa using the federal investment tax credit for desirable senior housing.

- **Brad Bays.** Dr. Bays of OSU's Dept. of Geography has worked on several survey projects under subgrant contracts with the SHPO to identify and evaluate historic properties across Oklahoma.

- **Alyson Greiner.** Dr. Greiner of OSU's Dept. of Geography has been an active participant in efforts to document historic properties statewide and provided important resources in furthering the SHPO's mission.

- **Liz Medley.** She conducted extensive research in the Chapman-Barnard Ranch in Osage County, in the heart of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, and establishing its significance for National Register listing.

- **Kenny Rowley.** As a member of the City of Tulsa staff, he has recorded 385 Tulsa properties to obtain the SHPO's opinion on National Register eligibility with exemplary work and constant cooperation.

# Oklahoma adds 7 properties to National Register

by Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian, SHPO

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce new additions to the National Register of Historic places. With the addition of seven diverse properties, the total number of National Register listings from the state of Oklahoma has risen to 995. Ranging from a Civil War-era Cherokee cemetery to the house of a noted Oklahoma artist, constructed in the 1950s, a wide spectrum of properties is represented in this most recent list.

The J.W. Danner House in Sayre is a distinctive and prototypical concrete block house. Utilizing unique, triangular blocks, the Danner House was constructed around 1905 and served as an influence on other local concrete buildings.

The Ross Cemetery, located near Park Hill in Cherokee County, is the final resting place of John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from the time of removal until the end of the Civil War. A number of Ross's descendants along with other prominent Cherokee leaders are also interred in the cemetery.

John Frank, founder of Frankoma Pottery, teamed with noted architect Bruce Goff to design the Frank House in Sapulpa. Completed in 1957 and



Rock Island Railroad Depot, Waurika, OK.

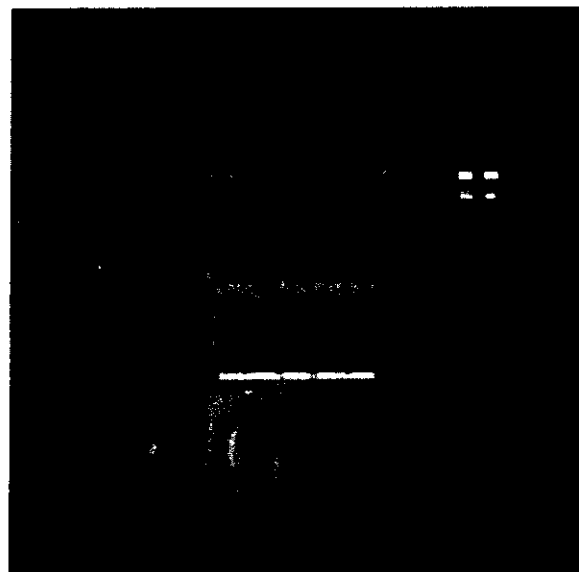
incorporating natural materials and a unique open concept, the house reflects the life's work of John Frank and the artistic vision of Bruce Goff.

Two properties in Waurika were noted for their architectural and historical significance to the Jefferson County community. The First Presbyterian Church, built in 1909, is noted for its striking architectural design, combining the Prairie style with more traditional ecclesiastical forms. The Rock Island Passenger Station, now utilized as a library, reflects a time when Waurika was a division point on the Rock Island line.

The Hightower Building, located in downtown Oklahoma City, is listed on the National Register as an excellent surviving example of an early skyscraper utilizing a Classical vocabulary. A survivor of the wholesale destruction of Main Street by Urban Renewal, the 1929 Hawk & Parr-designed building occupies a prominent position in the fabric of Oklahoma City's urban core.

Harding Junior High School was designed by the noted architect Solomon Andrew Layton and constructed in 1924. It reflects the rapid growth of Oklahoma City and new trends in educational philosophy. The school remains an anchor in the Central Park neighborhood.

For more information on these and other National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert at the State Historic Preservation Office, (405) 522-4478 or e-mail at: [jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us](mailto:jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us).



Harding Junior High School, Oklahoma City

- The J.W. Danner House, Sayre
- The Ross Cemetery, Park Hill
- The Frank House, Sapulpa
- The First Presbyterian Church, Waurika
- The Rock Island Passenger Station, Waurika
- The Hightower Building, Oklahoma City
- Harding Junior High School, Oklahoma City

# Surface Transportation Policy Project

Ten years ago ISTEA began to transform the way America thinks of transportation. From simply moving vehicles to providing greater access to place to a new focus on managing and maintaining our built transportation system. Performance is now also measured by how transportation can improve health, wealth and community quality of life. Balance, choice and system integration are now all mainstream goals of transportation service delivery.

The goal of the Surface Transportation Policy Project is to ensure that transportation policy and investments help conserve energy, protect environmental and aesthetic quality, strengthen the economy, promote social equity, and make communities more livable. They emphasize the needs of people, rather than vehicles, in assuring

access to jobs, services, and recreational opportunities.

Key to this mission is the Alliance for a New Transportation Charter Leaders are called on, along with organizations, governments, businesses, and individuals from across the nation to use the power of America's transportation investments to reaffirm and strengthen these principles and to address the remaining obstacles and impediments to the achievement of these outcomes.

Please go to the following Web sites for more information:

[www.transact.org](http://www.transact.org)

[www.tea3.org](http://www.tea3.org)

[www.antic.net](http://www.antic.net)

## Are you a member of an historic church?

Partners for Sacred Places is the only national, non-sectarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to the sound stewardship and active community use of America's older religious properties. Partners provides assistance to the people who care for religious properties and promotes a greater understanding of how these places sustain communities.

Programs of this organization include:

- **The Information Clearinghouse.** A unique national resource providing critical information on a broad range of topics related to the care and use of older sacred places, it currently includes more than 8,000 books, articles, reports, brochures, case study examples, and video and audiotapes in 250 different subject categories. An online version is available at [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org)

- **Sacred Places Tool Kit.** A set of workbooks, case studies, historic timelines, audio and videotapes, and a web-based program. These resources can be used by congregations to more effectively tell their stories of community service and to find new partners and resources to sustain their programs and care for their aging buildings. This kit helps congregations determine their own "public value" as a resource to their communities and then communicate that value to funders, policymakers and other partners.

These resources include the following publications: *Open the Doors, See All the People: A Guide to Serving Families in Sacred Places; The Complete Guide to Capital Campaigns; and Sacred Places in Transition.*

- **Advocacy Initiatives:** *Sacred Places at Risk* was a landmark study that documented for the first time the pattern and intensity of community service programs housed in

aging buildings and shapes outreach work. "Ten Sacred Places to Save" is a new national list to spotlight historic houses of worship with capital repair needs beyond the means of their congregations, endangering both the buildings and the vital community programs they house.

- Momentum is growing for the 2002 Sacred Trusts Conference that will be October 24-26, at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

- If you are a historic church in Oklahoma that needs assistance or are looking for church preservation specific professionals please consider this organization: Partners for Sacred Places, 1700 Sansom Street, 10th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103 (215) 567-3234 [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org), [partners@sacredplaces.org](mailto:partners@sacredplaces.org) Please also consider membership if interested!

- **Managing Repair & Restoration Projects:** A congregation's how-to guide is now available from the New York Landmarks Conservancy. For more information call (212) 995-5260 or go to [www.nylandmarks.org](http://www.nylandmarks.org)



First Presbyterian Church, Waurika, OK

## New & Renewed Memberships

### \$ 15 – Senior/Student

Lynn Musslewhite, *Lawton*  
Charles Scott, *Guthrie*  
Carol King, *Waynoka*  
Jeanne Reed, *Poteau*  
Barbara Pool, *Claremore*  
Pendleton Woods, *Oklahoma City*  
Nella Martin, *Tulsa*  
Denzil Garrison, *Bartlesville*  
William Legg, *Oklahoma City*

### \$25 – Individual/Family

Mark Felton, *Oklahoma City*  
Jeanette Sias, *Edmond*  
Sarah Doan Schmitz, *Tulsa*  
Susan Hill, *Ponca City*  
Robert Jones, *Tulsa*  
Pam & Paul Bell, *Edmond*  
CLS & Associates, *Oklahoma City*  
Geoffrey Parks, *Oklahoma City*  
Cathy Ambler, *Tulsa*  
Elliott & Grayce Doane, *Oklahoma City*  
Gerald Stamper, *Tulsa*  
William & Barbara Dunn, *Stillwater*  
American Lung Association of Oklahoma, *Tulsa*  
John Cary, *Claremore*  
Steve Vogt, *Tulsa*  
Jay Watters, *Norman*  
Michael Cassity, *Broken Arrow*  
John Fleming, *Oklahoma City*  
Brenda Johnston, *Oklahoma City*  
Howard & Sue Bowen, *Watonga*  
Jack & Alicia Dreessen, *Oklahoma City*  
Anna Eddings, *Norman* (and an additional \$75 for the statewides initiative)  
Trent Margrif, *Oklahoma City* (and an additional \$75 for the statewides initiative)  
Danny Theisen, *Oklahoma City*

### \$50 – Organization

National Trust in memoriam of Bill Hightower  
Bartlesville Area History Museum, *Bartlesville*  
LMMArchitects, *Tulsa*  
Beck Associates Architects, *Oklahoma City*  
Maple Grove Cemetery Association, *Seminole*  
David & Stacy Bayles, *Tulsa*  
AIA Eastern Oklahoma, *Tulsa*

### \$100 – Sponsor

Interior Designers Supply, Inc., *Oklahoma City*  
Jim & Ruth Anne Brown, *Oklahoma City*  
Donald & Sally Ferrell, *Chandler*  
Mickey & Kym Thompson  
Donald & Rita Newman, *Tulsa*

### \$250 – Patron

Julie Miner, *Tulsa*  
Barrett L. Williamson, *Norman*

### \$500

C.J. & M. Theodosea Silas, *Bartlesville*

Thank you also to those that purchased past endangered exhibit panels at the statewide conference Wayne Reid (3), John & Melvena Heisch, Dr. Bill Bryans, Bret Carter, Charles Wallis, Susan Kline



# The Trust for Public Land in Oklahoma

**T**he Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to improve the quality of life in our communities and to protect our natural and historic resources for future generations.

For more than 30 years, the Trust for Public Land has been bridging the needs of landowners, community groups, and government agencies to protect land for public use. They offer assistance and strategies to identify, fund, and protect important landscapes – often through purchasing land for eventual public ownership.

Before the Trust for Public Land opened their Oklahoma state office in late 2000, they conducted an extensive examination of land conservation needs and opportunities across the state. This survey guided the formation of a strategic plan, which describes four conservation initiatives for implementation during the next five years: Oklahoma Green Cities, Farm and Ranch Preservation, Ozark Watershed Protection, and State and Federal Lands Enhancement.

The Oklahoma Green Cities Initiative was identified as the highest priority for investment among these important programs. The Trust for Public Land intends to ensure that growth in our metropolitan areas is matched by commensurate park and trail development, thereby improving the quality of life in our cities and helping ensure continued economic growth and prosperity.

There can be no question that the preservation of green space is directly tied to the preservation of

our historic built environment and controlling rampant urban sprawl.

The Trust for Public Land is assisting in the development of the Osage Trail, a 34-mile rail-to-trail conversion that will extend from downtown Tulsa north to Birch Lake in Osage County. They are helping the city of Norman create a park on the city's west side where development pressure is strong. They are exploring opportunities for parks in downtown Tulsa and in coming years will focus on the Oklahoma City metro area as well.

**If you have any suggestions for parks or trails in your community, please contact the Trust for Public Land.** They are happy to explore any and all ideas, large or small. Their Oklahoma State Office is located in Tulsa and can be reached at (918) 481-7092.

To find out more about the ways you can help conserve land for people or obtain copies of *Inside City Parks* or *The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space* please visit [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

Nationally, voters approved 137 local ballot measures for land conservation last year, committing almost \$1.7 billion in funding for parks and open space, according to the Land Trust Alliance and the Trust for Public Land. Since 1998, voters have given their support to more than \$19 billion in openspace funding, passing 529 referenda.

<http://www.pnnonline.org/law/land012502.asp>

## 6 miles added to Osage Trail

**T**he Trust for Public Land has conveyed over six miles of railroad right-of-way to the Tulsa County Parks Department, which will preserve the corridor as a scenic, recreational trail.

TPL recently acquired the segment of the inactive Osage shortline railroad corridor from the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad (SK&O), of Pittsburg, KS. This project is the second phase in a 34-mile rail-to-trail conversion, connecting downtown Tulsa to Birch Lake, in Osage County. Last March, TPL conveyed the first four miles of the corridor to the City of Tulsa, which has begun trail development.

"We're excited to continue the good work we began last year, and again, we're very grateful to the South Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad for its generosity and support of the project," said Robert Gregory, TPL's state director.

In 2000, the SK&O petitioned the federal government to abandon the line, which has been inactive for over three years. TPL worked closely with the Indian Nation Council of Governments (INCOG) to explore the feasibility of preserving the corridor as a scenic trail, and to gauge public support for the effort. After several meetings and tours of the line, TPL petitioned the federal Surface

Transportation Board for permission to negotiate a useful alternative to abandonment. The government granted TPL's request in November 2000.

The railroad company recently salvaged its rails and ties, leaving the ballast as a foundation for the trail.

The Osage railroad corridor, part of the old Midland Valley line, is an important component of the Tulsa Metro Trails Master Plan, which anticipates over 300 miles of trails and greenways. TPL Project Manager, Jack Blair, said that the Osage Prairie Trail project is intended to "replicate the tremendous success of similar rail-to-trail projects across the country," such as the 225-mile Katy Trail that crosses rural Missouri, and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail, connecting Washington, DC, to rural Virginia. "These projects were met with early skepticism, but have become very popular with locals and visitors alike."

Although the Osage Prairie Trail will be smaller in scale than these examples, Blair predicts similar success. "The trail will be a source of pride for the communities along the line, such as Sperry, Skiatook, Avant and Barnsdall." "First and foremost, it has to be an amenity for the people living along the route."

6

# Historic American Landscapes Survey

Over 20 years in the making, October 25, 2000, was a monumental day in the field of landscape preservation. On that day the National Park Service permanently established the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), as a sister program to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER).

HALS is intended to document significant historic landscapes throughout the United States via narrative history, drawing, and photographs. While HALS is the first permanent federal program to focus on historic landscape documentation, it is worth noting that local, state, and federal examples of landscape documentation already exist across the country.

Documentation of historic landscapes through research, photography and drawings is crucial to their preservation. Over 1 million acres of farmland are lost to sprawl each year; the rolling splendor of scenic parkways are disturbed by road widening projects, modernization and redevelopment

threaten to undermine historic industrial landscapes; alteration and updating of urban centers impacts the master works of landscape architects from the late-1800s to today; and neighborhood parks and estate landscapes are impacted by incompatible development. The collective story of these places needs to be captured and documented for future generations.

HALS will document the dynamics of landscapes, as HABS/HAER has documented unique buildings and engineering structures and systems.

The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) has truly championed the development of HALS. ASLA is in search of information about any landscape survey work that has occurred since the early 1900s throughout the United States. If you have any information concerning work in your state or region, please contact Cari Groecheus, ASLA HALS Subcommittee Co-Chair at [cgoetcheus@cheerful.com](mailto:cgoetcheus@cheerful.com) or 202/343-8148. Further information on HALS can be found at [www.crnp.gov/habs/haer/habs/hals.htm](http://www.crnp.gov/habs/haer/habs/hals.htm)

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## *U.S. Supreme Court decision on planning*

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Taboe Sierra Preservation Council, Inc. v. Taboe Regional Planning Agency* represents a landmark in takings and planning law. In a 6-3 decision supporting the planning agency, the Court recognized that appropriately drafted moratoria can be an essential part of the planning process and acknowledged that planning benefits landowners, the environment and citizens alike.

This decision strongly reaffirmed the importance of planning as part of the democratic process of shaping communities and regions in our country. This decision is important to all Americans who want to live in communities and regions where they can enjoy economic vitality, environmental quality and social equity. The public benefits because the Court encourages a thoughtful, deliberative planning process that includes them.

Property owners also benefit because the court upholds processes that result in a fair playing field for all, where the community's values and goals are clearly stated, where public investments in infrastructure are wisely and efficiently made in accordance with those goals, and where development can proceed in a timely manner with more certainty about its surrounding context.

As the ripple effects of the Court's decision

spread through the country, the American Planning Association will continue to work with elected officials and engaged citizens in the private and non-profit sectors to promote and open and democratic planning process that safeguards the rights of all citizens.

For more information please go to [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org) The Oklahoma Chapter can be reached at [www.okplanning.org](http://www.okplanning.org)

"Creating the Future Downtown" will be held September 9-10 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. This is an intensive, two-day workshop designed for those who are serious about the revitalization and economic renaissance of their downtowns. Highlighting national case studies and successful local efforts being used to revitalize downtowns across the country, this course demonstrates a proven, step-by-step approach to revising the heart of your community.

The Oklahoma Chapter Conference, with the Oklahoma Municipal League, will take place September 18-20 in Tulsa. The 2002 OML/MESO Annual Conference and Exposition is scheduled at the Tulsa Convention Center with the theme for this year's Conference and Exposition: "Highways to Cyberways."

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## Preservation Oklahoma recognizes ...

The following founding and participating board members in its 10-year history as an organization.

Thank you for your efforts to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma's historic places. Leonard Ball, Cheryl Buckles, Hiram Champlin,

Marva Ellard, Robert K. Erwin, Bill Gumerson, Michael Hall, Dave Huey, Susan Guthrie Dunham, Hon. Phil Kliewer, John Mabrey, Ralph McCalmont, Dan McMahan, Jo Meacham, Martin L. J. Newman, Pat Ringrose, Roger Rinehart, Sabra Tate, Dr. Joe Watkins, and Barrett Williamson.

# 7

# Okmulgee winner of 2002 Great American Main Street Award

The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced that Okmulgee, OK, has earned a 2002 Great American Main Street Award. The award recognizes the nation's best efforts in downtown revitalization through historic preservation. The award was presented at the opening session of the National Trust's 2002 National Town Meeting on Main Street in Fort Worth this past April.

Like many Oklahoma cities, the downturn in the oil business in the early 1980s had a devastating impact on the Okmulgee community. Loss of major industries, strip malls, and a major fire in the central business district made Okmulgee a relative ghost town.

To fight back, Okmulgee became one of the first cities in Oklahoma to start a Main Street rehabilitation project. This revitalization was the work of passionate citizens, merchant groups, and city officials who came together to restore the Creek Council House on the Downtown Square, a National Historic Landmark, which today showcases Muscogee Creek art and history.

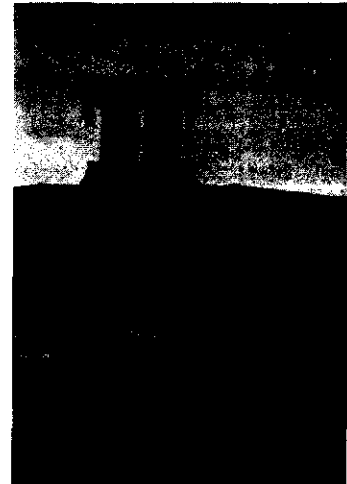
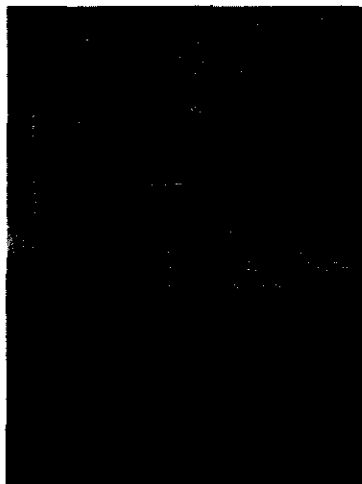
With over 300 rehabilitation projects completed and ground-floor retail occupancy at 85%, property rates have doubled.

"Okmulgee's revitalization proves that Main Street can not only compete with big-box retail, it can also change an entire community," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust, which works to save diverse historic places and revitalize communities. "By attacking their economic problems head-on, the people of Okmulgee honored their city's past and gave it a future. We are proud to honor Okmulgee with one of this year's Great American Main Street Awards and congratulate the town's leaders for their perseverance and excellence in revitalizing their commercial district."

Other 2002 Great American Main Street Award winners are: Cedar Falls, IA; Milford, NH; Staunton, VA; and La Crosse, WI.

Okmulgee, El Reno, and Perkins were all finalists for this year's awards. Newkirk, Cordell, and Enid are past Great American Main Street Award winners in Oklahoma.

**Okmulgee's revitalization process proves that Main Street can change an entire community.**



## Fire damages hotel in Ponca City

Fire early on Tuesday, May 21, heavily damaged a historic downtown hotel building in Ponca City that also was involved in a fire about 18 months ago.

The Plaza Hotel structure was damaged Oct. 9, 2000. It housed a resale shop at that time. The building was unoccupied when another fire occurred on May 21 that perhaps permanently damaged the structure.

The building is likely eligible for inclusion with much of the commercial downtown of Ponca City on the National Register as a contributing resource. Just two weeks ago, the Ponca City Landmark Conservancy listed the Plaza Hotel on their Endangered Historic Buildings list because it had played a role in local history that was not recog-

nized and because it was clearly endangered due to neglect. The Landmark also recognized that the restoration of the building was not likely because of the poor economy of downtown.

The Adam Rooming House and the nearby Robin Hood Flour Mill are also on the Endangered list. There was no damage to two nearby landmarks, the Robin Hood Flour Mill and the old Santa Fe Railroad depot.

"As long as we have no comprehensive revitalization efforts for downtown, we will continue to have destructive fires and the possibility for loss of life," said Bret Carter, a member of the Ponca City Landmark Conservancy. "Downtown is an economic engine that is being allowed to slowly self-destruct."

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# Hands-on preservation

The Heritage Conservation Network is a nonprofit organization promoting conservation of historic architecture and sites around the globe through hands-on workshops. Each project aims to increase awareness of the site's historic significance and to stimulate interest in and knowledge of appropriate conservation techniques, contributing to the site's long-term preservation.

Through their workshops, Heritage Conservation Network is developing a collection of conservation specialists capable of providing technical assistance to heritage conservation projects worldwide. The preservation of cultural heritage furthers community identity and pride, a sense of ongoing history that gives meaning to who we are today, and an appreciation of varying cultures.

The Heritage Conservation Network organizes hands-on building and site conservation workshops staffed by volunteer participants. They strive to provide a series of workshops that offer a variety of cultures, locations, and building types. The focus is on vernacular structures and smaller monuments that are often overlooked.

Priority is given to projects that need the assistance of volunteers to lower the costs of

preservation work, which otherwise may not be able to proceed. Working with adobe, stone, wood, and other materials, workshop participants learn building and site conservation skills while providing much needed work at significant historic sites. This cooperative effort among participants, preservation experts, and the local community results in the successful preservation of valuable architectural heritage.

**Volunteer participants are the strength of this program.** An interest in architectural or site conservation is all that is needed to join a workshop. All levels of experience are welcome.

The 2002 Workshop schedule includes sites in New Mexico, Iowa, New Jersey, Alabama, and Wyoming. Workshop details and registration information are available on the Web at [www.heritageconservation.net/workshops.htm](http://www.heritageconservation.net/workshops.htm) or at [info@heritageconservation.net](mailto:info@heritageconservation.net). You can also suggest a workshop. **If you know of an historic structure or site in Oklahoma that could benefit from this network of professionals and volunteers, send the details and they will consider it for a future workshop site.** Heritage Conservation Network, 1557 North Street, Boulder, CO 80304 (303) 444-0128.

## Appraising historic properties

Because historic properties are so significant to our culture, while at the same time functioning as real estate, they present an uncommon challenge to property appraisers.

Appraisers in accordance with traditional doctrine of concepts and principles have long valued real estate and the cultural weight borne by historic properties adds a set of challenges to this traditional doctrine.

Learn more about the appraisal process for historic properties, including tips for finding a qualified appraiser, basic valuation principles, the valuation process, appraising easements and more.

*"Appraising Historic Properties"* was written by Judith Reynolds, MAI, who has specialized over a 25-year career in the appraisal of historic properties and preservation and conservation easements. This and many other important historic preservation publications are available from Preservation Books. Order today at [www.preservationbooks.org](http://www.preservationbooks.org) or call the National Trust at (202) 588-6296. When ordering books from the National Trust, also remember that the Southwest Office in Ft. Worth can immediately assist you at (817) 332-4398 or [Megan\\_Brown@nthp.org](mailto:Megan_Brown@nthp.org)

## Did you nominate a property to Oklahoma's "Most Endangered List"?

If so, please contact Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. to provide more information and indicate the current condition of the property.

Regardless if your nomination was this last year or ten years ago we are trying to compile more information on all historic properties that were nominated by citizens in the past. This information will be used to gauge historic preservation in

Oklahoma in the past 10 years and helps us understand what more can be done.

Please contact Trent Margrif with any information you may have on the current situation of past nominated properties to Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List; (405) 232-5747; [info@preservationoklahoma.org](mailto:info@preservationoklahoma.org)

# UPCOMING

Please check out the Web site of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. at [www.preservationoklahoma.org](http://www.preservationoklahoma.org). This Web site was made possible in part by a grant from the Kirkpatrick Foundation and the reduced rates of Charity Advantage, at [www.charityadvantage.com](http://www.charityadvantage.com) if your nonprofit is interested in a quality Web site and operation at reduced cost.

As time permits, more features and articles will be placed on the site but for right now you can utilize it to get updates on future scheduled events on our most endangered lecture series. At the time of this printing, the schedule remains as follows:

## SHPO ACTIVITIES

### JUNE

**26** (9:30-12) SHPO, *The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction & Overview*  
(1:30-5) SHPO, *Determination of Eligibility under Section 106*

**27** (9:30-5) SHPO, *Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places*

**28** (9:30-12) SHPO, *Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*

**29** (1:30-5) SHPO, *Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*

**Location:** Exchange Bank & Trust, Horizon Room, 6th & Delaware, Perry, OK

Program will also be offered Dec. 4-6, 2002, at the Shepherd Mall in Oklahoma City

Program will also be offered June 25-27, 2003, at the Checotah Public Library in Checotah

#### Note to Architects

Registered architects will earn American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) Learning Unit Hours (LU Hours) for attending these programs. Many of the sessions meet the AIA/CES Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) criteria. Contact the SHPO at (405) 522-4479 or [catherinem@ok-history.mus.ok.us](mailto:catherinem@ok-history.mus.ok.us) if you have questions about AIA/CES credits.

### SEPTEMBER

**6** Public meeting for the SHPO's FY 2003 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30 a.m.)  
Location: Shepherd Mall Activity Center, Suite 65, NW 23 & Villa, Oklahoma City

### MAY, 2003

**15-17** Oklahoma's 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Miami, OK

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# UPCOMING

## JULY

**8** *Preservation El Reno meeting and presentation by Trent Margrif on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. 7:00 p.m., 300 S. Evans, El Reno; (405) 232-5747*

**11-12** *The Essentials of OSHA Compliance, 2002; Best Western, Oklahoma City, www.natsem.com or 1 (800) 258-7246*

**29-1** *The 2002 State Energy Program/Rebuild America conference will be held at the Inter-Continental Hotel in New Orleans, www.2002conference.org*

## AUGUST

**1-4** *National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, Forum 2002, San Antonio; for more information: www.arches.uga.edu/~npsc, npsc@uga.edu (706) 542-0169*

**16-18** *National Conference on Battlefield Preservation, Crown Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY, (202) 523-0010 or kristen\_stevens @nps.gov*

## SEPTEMBER

**18-20** *Oklahoma Museums Association Annual Fall Conference Beavers Bend State Park, Idabel/Broken Bow, www.okmuseums.org*

**25-28** *American Association for State and Local History, annual conference, Portland, Oregon www.aaslh.org*

## OCTOBER

**8 - 13** *National Preservation Conference, Cleveland, Ohio, www.nthp.org, conference@nthp.org or (800) 944-6847*

**16 -18** *Trail of Tears Association Conference, Ft. Smith, AR*

**24-27** *The American Cultural Resources Association's Annual Conference Savannah, Georgia www.acra-crm.org*

## NOVEMBER

**13-15** *7th Annual Brownfields conference, Charlotte, North Carolina www.brownfields2002.com*

## June, 2003

**21-26** *5th World Archeological Congress, Washington, D.C. www.american.edu/wac5*

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# SHPO seeks public input for FY 2003 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 6, in the Shepherd Mall Activity Center, Shepherd Mall, Suite 65, NW 23 & Villa, Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for the development of the Fiscal Year 2003 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) application.

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

The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$675,000 from the United States Department of the Interior's FY 2003 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 Oklahoma's past. Accordingly, the SHPO will appreciate your ideas and suggestions about what its FY 2003 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 2003 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**. Contact [mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us](mailto:mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us) or **(405) 521-6249**



*The Frank House in Sapulpa, OK. Designed by John Frank, founder of Frankoma Pottery, and noted architect, Bruce Goff.*

# 2002 National Preservation Conference

**T**his year, the conference will be held in Cleveland October 8-13 with the theme of "Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside."

Join the National Trust at the National Preservation Conference to explore how we can revitalize our cities, preserve our suburbs and protect our countryside by promoting smart growth initiatives, conserving open space, and encouraging financial incentives.

Experience firsthand Cleveland's exciting renaissance through more than 50 challenging educational sessions, more than 30 interactive field sessions to sites in Cleveland and Northeastern Ohio,

lectures, tours, and other special events. Visit the Restoration & Renovation Exhibition and Conference held in conjunction with the National Preservation Conference this year, <http://www.restorationandrenovation.com/>.

Request registration information today from the National Trust for Historic Preservation at (800) 944 6847, [www.nthp.org](http://www.nthp.org), [conference@nthp.org](mailto:conference@nthp.org). Remember, conference registrations received before July 31, 2002, qualify for discounted registration rates, so request your Preliminary Program today!

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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## *A word on membership/Statewide Initiatives*

**T**his newsletter is mailed to nearly 4,000 addresses; however *less than 200 Oklahoma citizens are annual paying members of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.* Your membership is critical to continuing our programs and becoming an official statewide partner with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

We are in our final year of this program whose main goals are to strengthen organizational capacity, board and membership development, and create a formalized strategy for fund-raising. Please

consider contributing to this important cause.

**If there is a red mark on your label on the front cover of this newsletter then you are currently a member and we thank you for your support. Please consider an additional donation as part of the Statewides Initiative. If there is no red mark you currently are not an annual paying member. Please consider filling out this form and returning with check to Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. Thank you.**

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 financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 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, DC 20240.



## Become a Member of the Statewide Preservation Network

Preservation Oklahoma is seeking to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma's historic resources by providing a statewide network of working professionals and citizens who share a common interest in preserving Oklahoma's historic resources. For more information about this program, contact the State Historic Preservation Officer at (405) 522-4484.

Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

From (if gift)  \$50  \$25  \$15

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Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
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## City Council votes to purchase Skirvin Hotel

Annually included on Oklahoma's "Most Endangered Historic Properties," the Skirvin Hotel will have a new owner to assist in its redevelopment, Oklahoma City.

At the end of April, Oklahoma City council members voted unanimously to spend up to \$2.875 million to buy the National Register listed hotel and beloved local landmark. The city plans to purchase the hotel with federal grant money to play a greater role in its future redevelopment, the city does not plan to operate the Skirvin. A string of private owners had various plans for the hotel that were not implemented.

Oklahoma City will prepare requests for proposals for contractors to renovate the hotel and close the purchasing deal soon.

A committee appointed by the mayor and city council in 1999, the Skirvin Solutions Committee, recommended that the Skirvin be redeveloped for its designed use as a hotel. The committee sighted a lack of hotel rooms in downtown Oklahoma City and the historic hotel could be utilized for conventions and to support tourism.

Limited retail development would also be possible in the building.

The cost to complete renovation at this time, 2000, was estimated at \$31.5 million. This would include replacing the roof, asbestos removal, and the replacement of all interior plumbing, electrical, mechanical, heating, and cooling systems.

The success of the MAPS program and the city's recent designation as an Empowerment Zone by the Department of Housing and Urban Development were a factor in this recent decision.

The Skirvin Solutions Committee also suggested greater city involvement in the redevelopment of the Skirvin but it is unclear if this will happen beyond the initial purchase.

Oklahoma City mayor Kirk Humphreys stated, "We can do nothing, which is unacceptable. Tear it down, which is unacceptable. And third, we can get it fixed up. There are some people who would say 'tear it down.' I disagree. We have torn down enough of our buildings."



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