

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS



July 2006 Volume XII, No. 4



Oklahoma History Center

SHPO MOVES

On Wednesday, June 28th, the State Historic Preservation Office opened the doors to its new space in the Oklahoma History Center just northeast of the State Capitol. The staff is pleased to rejoin the other divisions of the Oklahoma Historical Society and looks forward to serving Oklahoma's preservation community from its new address. We hope you will visit us at your first opportunity.

Severe space limitations for the Society's programs resulted in the SHPO's move from the Wiley Post Historical Building to the Journal Record Building in downtown Oklahoma City in October 1991. When the Journal Record Building was almost destroyed as a result of the bombing of the Murrah Building, the SHPO relocated to space in Shepherd Mall. Completion of the OHC makes it possible for the Society to have all of its central operations under one roof once again.

Contact SHPO staff from 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday through Friday as indicated below. Public access to the SHPO's office is from 9:00am until 5:00pm.

**State Historic Preservation Office
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma History Center**
2401 N. Laird Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914
405/521-6249
NEW FAX 405/522-0816
<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm>

Staff members have new e-mail addresses but their direct telephone numbers did not change:

Jim Gabbert
Architectural Historian/
National Register Program Coordinator
405/522-4478
Email: jgabbert@okhistory.org

Betty Harris
Administrative Technician
405/522-0820
Email: bharris@okhistory.org

Melvena Heisch
Deputy SHPO
405/522-4484
Email: mheisch@okhistory.org

Pam McCarty
Administrative Officer/
Section 106 Program
Technical Services Coordinator
405/521-6386
Email: pmccarty@okhistory.org

Stan Mayer
HPF Grants Manager
405/522-4485
Email: smayer@okhistory.org

Catherine Montgomery, AIA
Historic Preservation Architect
405/522-4479
Email: catherinem@okhistory.org

Shea Otley
Secretary and Receptionist
405/521-6249
Email: sjotley@okhistory.org

Glen Roberson
Certified Local Governments
Program Coordinator
405/521-6387
Email: groberson@okhistory.org

Charles Wallis
Historical Archeologist/
Section 106 Program Coordinator
405/521-6381
Email: cwallis@okhistory.org

Recent Listings in the National Register

-Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

The most recent Oklahoma listings in the National Register of Historic Places cover the state from east to west and represent the Territorial era up through post World War II. Included are recreational and entertainment venues, early homes, historic African American resources and commercial and residential districts. The newly listed properties are:

Ardmore Historic Commercial District (Boundary Increase).

A resurvey and reevaluation of the 1983 Ardmore Historic Commercial District resulted in the addition of nearly twenty-five more commercial buildings extending up Washington and Caddo Streets. The current district boundaries now better reflect the historic commercial development of Ardmore. Consultants Cynthia Savage and Cathy Ambler revised and updated the history of the entire district, with the result being an expanded boundary and an expanded period of significance. The district is listed for its significance in Commerce and Architecture.

Ardmore Municipal Auditorium.

Built in 1941 by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), this building, now called Heritage Hall, is a striking example of the Art Moderne style of architecture. Architect J. B. White incorporated the rounded corners, horizontal emphasis, and casement windows of this style into one of the largest public works projects in Ardmore's history. The nomination was prepared by Cynthia Savage of ARCH Consulting.

Hardy Murphy Coliseum.

This Ardmore landmark was begun as a WPA project in 1941, but the material and manpower shortages of World War II delayed its completion until 1949. Located at the fairgrounds southeast of downtown, this red stone building is noted for its unusual Art Moderne styling using rustic materials. Architects J. B. White & Son drew from their design of the Ardmore Auditorium with the rounded corners and horizontal emphasis. The striking use of quarry faced red sandstone as the primary wall material contrasts nicely with the smooth concrete upper walls of the arched roof. Once housing the Gene Autry Rodeo, the coliseum was renamed after local rodeo hero Hardy Murphy in the 1950s. The nomination was prepared by Cynthia Savage of ARCH Consultants.

Verden Separate School.

Now located on the east side of Chickasha, this tiny, wood-frame one room school was the separate, or segregated, school for the town of Verden. Saved from destruction by Loretta Y. Jackson, this is the only one room separate school extant in Grady County. The school opened around 1920 to serve the African American community around Verden. It drew students from both Grady and Caddo Counties. In 1936, the bulk of the students were incorpo-



Ardmore Historic Commercial District



Ardmore Municipal Auditorium.



Hardy Murphy Coliseum.



Verden Separate School.

rated into the Chickasha separate school district. It is fitting that the school followed its former students nearly seventy years later. The nomination was prepared by Jim Gabbert of the SHPO.

W. C. Baker House.

Identified as the best example of an airplane bungalow in Altus, the Baker House is a fine example of the Craftsman style of architecture applied to a distinctive house form. Distinguished by low pitched, wide-eaved rooflines, the airplane bungalow has a second story room. This room, typically a bedroom, serves as the "cockpit" of the airplane. This is an adaptation to the warmer southern climates, as the room usually has ranks of windows on all four sides, allowing the capture of any available breeze. The W. C. Baker house was completed in 1917 for a prominent Altus lawyer. The nomination was completed by M. Brett Baker, the owner of the house.

continued on page 6

If you would like to receive
email notices regarding
preservation related grants,
workshops and upcoming events,
please forward your
email address to:
info@preserveok.org

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Co-Editor

Heather Seifert
Executive Director
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
Overholser Mansion
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
405/525-5325
www.preserveok.org

Co-Editor

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer
Oklahoma Historical Society
405/522-4484
www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

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

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
info@preserveok.org

Preservation Oklahoma Board of Directors

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SHPO Awards 2006 Citations of Merit



Arn Henderson, Rene Spineto & Bob Blackburn

The State Historic Preservation Office annually presents the Citation of Merit to individuals, organizations, firms, and government agencies in recognition of their many contributions to the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage. These accomplishments may be in the areas of archeological site preservation, leadership, planning, publications, public programming, research, or restoration/rehabilitation. Projects and activities having positive impacts at the local, state, or national level are deserving of the recognition. The 2006 Citations of Merit were presented during the statewide preservation conference awards banquet on Thursday, June 1st at Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton. The banquet was a highlight of the successful event which attracted about 200 people from across the state. The Citation of Merit recipients include:

Western Trail Historical Society, Altus

For work as the friends group for the Oklahoma Historical Society's Museum of the Western Prairie and for preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the Olustee Public Park and Library and the Cross S Ranch Headquarters.

Don Coffin, Guthrie

For his many years of service in the revitalization of the Guthrie Historic District, including service in numerous local preservation and civic organizations and rehabilitation of his own commercial building on Harrison Avenue.

Sally Ferrell, Chandler

For her acquisition and rehabilitation of an abandoned 1903 territorial commercial building on Chandler's main street, (Manvel Avenue) and Route 66.

City of Muskogee

For preparation of the successful National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Kendall Place Historic District, a project carried out under the SHPO's Certified Local Governments program.

Southeastern Foundation, Durant

For their efforts to rehabilitate the historic Massey Building which is located in downtown Durant and is Durant Main Street's logo.

Oklahoma Sports Museum, Guthrie

For its decision to locate in a prominent building in the heart of the Guthrie Historic District

and for contributing to the community's overall heritage tourism efforts.

Ron and Mary Frantz, Oklahoma City

For rehabilitation of their 1921 house on Northwest 21st Street in Oklahoma City's National Register listed Gatewood East Historic District.

Charles Scott, Guthrie

For his many contributions to the preservation of Guthrie's rich architectural legacy, such as his eight years of service on the Guthrie Historic District Commission.

General Services Administration and the U. S. District Court, Muskogee

For rehabilitation of the National Register-listed U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse in Muskogee.

ERC Development Group and The Hill Firm

For the certified rehabilitation of Shawnee's Aldridge Hotel for senior housing.

Rene Spineto, Guthrie

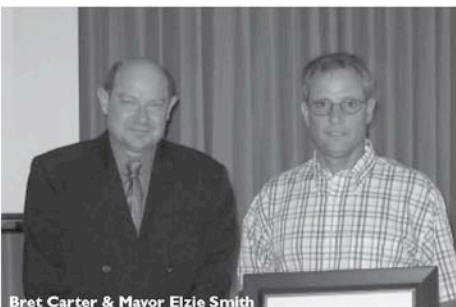
For her service as Guthrie's city planner and work with the Guthrie Historic Preservation Commission and property owners throughout the historic district to insure that this nationally significant collection of resources is protected and maintained for a variety of modern uses.

continued on page 7

Loafman and Smith Receive 2006 Preservation Award



Bret Carter & Gail Loafman



Bret Carter & Mayor Elzie Smith

Preservation Oklahoma announced the 2006 Preservation Oklahoma Award recipients at their annual meeting held on June 1 in Wilburton, Oklahoma. These annual awards are given under the categories of "Public Leadership" and "Advocacy." We applaud the work of these individuals whose tenacity, courage and determination are the backbone of successful preservation projects across Oklahoma. **The "2006 Preservation Oklahoma Awards" were given to:**

Gail Loafman "Advocacy"

In recognition for her exceptional advocacy efforts, outstanding fund raising abilities and unequalled perseverance in the rescue, rehabilitation and preservation of the W.T. Foreman House in Duncan, Oklahoma.

Mayor Elzie Smith "Public Leadership"

In recognition of his exceptional public leader-

ship efforts in raising community awareness and support for the rehabilitation of the Pawnee Bath House in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Preservation Oklahoma also recognized **Bill Gumerson** for his years of service as president of Preservation Oklahoma.

During his watch, he was able to secure new offices for Preservation Oklahoma at the Overholser Mansion, used his contacts to help navigate the past two legislative sessions, and single handedly raised over \$100,000 for the organization.

With Bill at the helm, Preservation Oklahoma has charted a new course.



Bill Gumerson

SHPO Seeks Public Input for FY 2007 Program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 am, on Friday, September 8, 2006, in the Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 2401 N. Laird Avenue (just northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for the development of the Fiscal Year 2007 Historic Preservation Fund application. The SHPO expects to receive approximately \$630,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior's FY 2007 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out its programs and operations. Ten percent of the award is reserved for pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

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; evaluation and registration of significant properties; formal review of federal and federally assisted projects that could affect archeological and historic resources; development and implementation of the statewide historic preservation plan; administration of the CLG program; administration of the federal (and new state) investment tax credit program for certified historic structures; and public outreach activities.

Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (2005) [available from the SHPO or at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm] sets forth the goals and objectives for historic preservation efforts in the state, including the SHPO's programs listed above. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are continuation of the archeologi-

cal 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 nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, and provision of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your comments will help the SHPO determine its specific projects and activities for FY 2007 to address these priorities.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may complete the SHPO's "Project Suggestion Form" and return it by 5:00 pm, Friday, September 8, 2006. Just call the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or send an e-mail message to Shea Otley at sjotley@okhistory.org to have the form sent to you. You may also obtain it at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm (select "Events").

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006/2007

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to present its 2006/2007 series of special events. The location of each event or series is given below, and there are no registration fees unless noted. If you have questions, call 405/521-6249. Note: If you have a disability and need an accommodation, please call 405/522-4484 at least two (2) days before the event.

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's Historic Preservation Architect at 405/522-4479 or catherinem@okhistory.org if you have questions about AIA/CES credits.

SEPTEMBER 2006

- 8 Public Meeting for the SHPO's FY 2007 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30am)

Location: Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 2401 N. Laird (immediately northeast of the State Capitol), Okla. City

DECEMBER 2006

- 6 Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30am-12:00noon)
- 6 Guidelines and Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30pm - 4:30pm)
- 7 The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants (9:30am - 4:30pm)
- 8 Working with the National Register of Historic Places (9:30am - 4:30pm)
Location: Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 2401 N. Laird (immediately northeast of the State Capitol), Okla. City

MAY 2007

- 9 The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview (9:30am - 12:00pm)
- 9 Determination of Eligibility under Section 106 (1:30pm - 5:00pm)
- 10 Working with the National Register of Historic Places (9:30am - 5:00pm)
- 11 Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30am - 12:00pm)
- 11 Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30pm - 5:00pm)
Location: Carnegie Hall, 215 West Broadway, Elk City, OK

JUNE 2007

- 6-8 Oklahoma's 19th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Guthrie
Details available late April/
Registration Fee

5 Buildings by John Duncan Forsyth

-Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

John Duncan Forsyth was born in 1887, to an Italian mother and a Scots father. He was raised in a small town outside of Edinburgh, Scotland, and, he studied art at the Royal Academy of Arts in Edinburgh

and at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. It was apparent that although a competent artist, he had the talent for design necessary to be an accomplished architect. He apprenticed in Edinburgh, then moved in 1908 to the United States, where he worked in numerous offices, including that of John Russell Pope, designer of the Jefferson Memorial. A stint in the British Royal Flying Corps in World War I preceded a move to Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1921, where he partnered with John McDonnell in the new boom town. In Tulsa, Forsyth made his name, designing fine homes, commercial buildings, and disparate other projects across the state. His career was interrupted by a stint in the US Navy's Sea Bees during World War II and a move to California that kept him away from the state until the 1950s, when he returned to practice in Tulsa until his death in 1963.



**Will Rogers Memorial
Claremore**

World famous humorist Will Rogers died tragically at the peak of his career. The state of Oklahoma, wishing to honor its famous son, appropriated \$200,000 for the creation of a memorial to the noted cowboy philosopher. Forsyth created a stone masterpiece atop a hill overlooking Claremore, the town of Rogers' childhood. The museum and memorial has expanded since 1938, but the grounds remain true to Forsyth's vision.



**Marland Mansion
Ponca City**

E. W. Marland earned and lost fortunes in the oil business. He commissioned John Duncan Forsyth to design a grand mansion on an estate outside of Ponca City. Modeled on an Italian villa, the three story mansion overlooked majestic gardens. Interior finished ranged from chinoiserie to Old World European. The native stone building and grounds are now owned by the City of Ponca City.



**Lamerton House
Enid**

The 1930 house constructed for William and Grace Lamerton was the flagship for a residential development by Lamerton. Duncan designed a grand Tudor Revival style house for his client. Its wide, sweeping slate roof is pierced with small wall dormers and a large, gabled, stone entry pavilion. The brick walls contrast nicely with the stone accents and drop wing.



**Pensacola Dam
Langley**

Completed in 1940, the Pensacola Dam is the longest multiple arch dam in the world. John Duncan Forsyth is the architect of record for the project; he did not design the dam itself, but added the architectural touches that define it as an Art Deco structure. He designed the powerhouse as well. The railing and walkways of the dam and the powerhouse utilize the Deco subtype often referred to as PWA Deco, fitting in that the Public Works Administration was a major source of funds for the dam project.



**Jane Addams Hall
Chickasha**

Located on the campus of the Oklahoma College for Women (Now University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma). Jane Addams Hall was also funded by the PWA. Built over the 1938-39 winter, the cream colored, brick dormitory is two stories in height and has a U-shaped footprint. In designing a building for the College, Forsyth became one of a collection of prominent Oklahoma architects who designed buildings on the campus.

2006 Session Busy for Preservationists

-Heather Seifert, Executive Director, Oklahoma Preservation

This legislative session was a busy one for preservationists across Oklahoma. Two bills (House Bill 2559 authored by Peters/Crain and Senate Bill 1324 authored by Peters/Crain) were put before our state legislators that could have undermined Oklahoma's historic districts. But HB 2559 died in committee, and SB 1324 failed in a vote of 42 to 3 on the Senate floor.

Preservation Oklahoma followed these bills for weeks. We sounded the alarm and thankfully, so many of you responded. Simply, these bills were successfully defeated because of a grassroots effort in Oklahoma's preservation community. **You** made the difference. It was **your** ability to communicate the concerns to **your** state representatives. **Your** ability to explain how these bills could affect the historic districts in your communities. **Your** ability to pass the information on to other preservationists that would be concerned and interested in helping.

It is impossible to know exactly who made telephone calls to Senators, or how many emails were sent to State Representatives. What is clear is the tremendous impact we can make on public policy when we work together.

Next year's legislative session will probably be riddled with similar anti-historic preservation legislation. If you care about your community, the State Legislature deserves as much attention as City Hall. We encourage you to get involved and get "connected" to Preservation Oklahoma through email. Forward your email address to info@preserveok.org and receive email alerts regarding upcoming state legislative issues.

A recap of the bills we followed this past legislative session:

HB 2559 would have allowed a property owner on the "fringe" of an historic district to "opt out" of the district if the property was

considered non-contributing, not individually significant and/or not an integral part of the identity of the district. Preservationists were concerned that this bill would have allowed property owners and developers to destroy properties at will, eventually eroding intact historic districts.

SBI 324 would allow the Board of Adjustment to "Hear and decide proposals for accessory elements associated with an allowed building use, where appropriate general performance and design standards have been established which promote greater economic value..." This bill would have taken fences, landscaping, driveways, parking pads and perhaps even carports and garages away from Historic Preservation Commission review and place them directly in front of the Board of Adjustment.

Additional language in the SB 1324 would have forced appeals to a lengthy and expensive litigation process in the court system.

Recent Listings in the National Register



W.C. Baker House.



Olustee Public Library & Park.



Cross S Ranch Headquarters.



Kendall Place Historic District.



L'Ouverture Gymnasium.

continued from page 2

Olustee Public Library & Park.

The New State Womens Club was instrumental in obtaining a park and a library for the Jackson County town of Olustee. Founded just before statehood, the civic and social club operated a lending library for many years, usually out of donated space. In the 1920s, they helped lead the city to acquire land for a park and then landscaped it. In the 1930s, they spearheaded an effort to get WPA funding for a new library. Completed in the park in 1936, the library was staffed by club members for the next forty years. The nomination was sponsored by the

Western Trail Historical Society and completed by Cynthia Savage of ARCH Consultants.

Cross S Ranch Headquarters.

This stone house, located near Olustee, represents one of the most successful ranching operations in Old Greer County. Begun in 1880 by the Edelman brothers, the Cross S Ranch began as a free range cattle operation and evolved through the years into a horse ranch and a successful farm. Always at the center was this two-story ranch house, a silent sentinel on the landscape of Jackson County. The nomination was sponsored by the Western Trail Historical Society and was prepared by Michael Cassity, PhD.

Kendall Place Historic District.

This residential neighborhood east of downtown Muskogee was platted on the land once occupied by Kendall College. Kendall Boulevard, with its landscaped median, is the main axis of the neighborhood. The streets are lined primarily with two story houses that represent

the popular architectural styles of the early 20th Century. From Queen Anne to Craftsman to Colonial Revival, the district reads like a style book of domestic architecture. The district has been locally designated by the City of Muskogee, who sponsored the nomination. The documentation was prepared by Historic Preservation Services.

L'Ouverture Gymnasium.

Constructed over the winter of 1933-34, L'Ouverture Gymnasium served the separate school of McAlester. A native stone structure, the gym was built under the auspices of the Civil Works Authority and the Emergency Work Relief Program, both early New Deal programs. It is a rare example of new construction by programs typically devoted to small-scale projects. The work presaged the massive construction programs of the WPA a year later. The nomination was sponsored by the L'Ouverture Alumni of Oklahoma City and was prepared by Cynthia Savage of ARCH Consultants.

Preservation Oklahoma receives grant for the Overholser Mansion

Preservation Oklahoma was awarded a \$3700 grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from its Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors. The seed grant funds will be used to hire a consultant to produce an interior assessment of the Overholser Mansion. The mansion's original lavish furnishings and fixtures, ornate painted canvas walls, stained glass and period Wilton carpets are important to the home's overall historic value. The Overholser Mansion is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society, and managed by Preservation Oklahoma.

In announcing the grant, National Trust President, Richard Moe said, "With these start-up dollars, Preservation Oklahoma joins the hundreds of other communities and organizations across the country actively ensuring that

America's architectural and cultural heritage is preserved."

In 1997 the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors was established in honor of his wife by a generous gift from George P. Mitchell of Houston and Galveston, Texas. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors provides assistance in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. The National Trust for Historic Preservation distributes total grants of \$50,000 annually from the Mitchell Fund. Once a year, Mitchell Fund grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 are awarded to nonprofit groups and public agencies. Grants must be matched at least dollar-for-dollar with public or private funds.



Overholser Mansion



Detail of Overholser's Ornate Painted Walls

SHPO Awards 2006 Citations of Merit



Arn Henderson, Tish Callahan for the City of Muskogee, & Bob Blackburn

continued from page 3

Kent Schell, Tulsa

For his service as Tulsa's city planner, including staff assistance to the Tulsa Preservation Commission and development of the local preservation program through his research efforts and leadership.

The Roy Alford Family of Red Oak and the Archeological Conservancy

For their cooperative efforts to preserve Archeological Site 34LT11 (the Alford Mound formerly known as the McCutchan-McLaugh-

lin site) along the banks of Fourche Maline Creek, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Local Cosponsors of Oklahoma's 17th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Stillwater

Downtown Stillwater, the Payne County Historical Society, Sheerar Museum, Stillwater Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Stillwater Community Center for their hard work and hospitality that led to the success of the 2005 statewide preservation conference.

Three Oklahoma Tribes Receive Preservation Grants

In April the National Park Service announced the award of \$678,300 from the Historic Preservation Fund to Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations pursuant to provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Department of the Interior's FY 2006 appropriation. The National Park Service received fifty-three (53) applications, and nineteen of them were funded including three from Oklahoma tribes.

Federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaskan Native groups, and Native Hawaiian Organizations were invited to submit grant applications for historic and cultural preservation projects. Eligible grant activities included: (1) locating and identifying cultural resources, (2) preserving a historic property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, (3) comprehensive

preservation planning, (4) oral history and documenting cultural traditions, and (5) education and training for building a historic preservation program.

The three grants awarded to Oklahoma tribes are as follows:

Caddo Nation of Oklahoma

Finding 19th Century Caddo Communities in Indian Territory

This project proposes to research, locate and document three important locations, Longhat's Camp, George Washington's Camp and the route taken by the Caddo people from Texas to Indian Territory (Oklahoma), that are culturally significant to the history of the Caddo people.

Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma ***Preservation of the Peoria Indian Schoolhouse***

Phase I

This project proposes to complete Phase I of the restoration of the Peoria Indian Schoolhouse which includes the demolition of the 1977 west addition, replacing exterior doors and windows, and repairing and painting exterior siding and trim.

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Seminole Code Talker and Other Histories of the Oklahoma Seminoles

This project proposes to document eight elders' knowledge of the tribal lifeways, history, stories, and songs of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

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Preservation Oklahoma Holds Lectures in Newkirk & Tonkawa

"Most Endangered Historic Places Lectures" were held in Newkirk and in Tonkawa. In May, the lecture in Newkirk was entitled, "Education in the Oklahoma Frontier" and was hosted by the Newkirk Main Street Office. Funding for the speaker, Dennis Peterson, was sponsored by the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

In June, the lecture in Tonkawa was entitled, "Historic Traditions in Masonic Buildings." The speakers included Robert Davis from the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple and Bret Carter, Preservation Oklahoma Board Member. The Ponca City Living Artists also participated in the event by holding an art show and sale. A portion of their proceeds will benefit the Tonkawa Masonic Lodge No. 157 - the site and host of this evening's lecture.

These lectures are co-sponsored by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma and are part of the "Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places" program. If you are interested in hosting a lecture in your community, please contact Preservation Oklahoma at: info@preserveok.org



Robert Davis is from the Guthrie Scottish Rite Temple