

Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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The joint publication of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

Preservation
OKLAHOMA 



Please note: Due to the current COVID-19 situation and numerous closings across the state, this issue of POK News is shorter in length. More news will be available in October. Thank you.

2020 Most Endangered Places List Announced

Preservavaton Oklahoma has announced the 2020 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places.

POK aims to promote the places where Oklahoma history lives by bringing awareness to historic landmarks across the state. Although inclusion on this list does not guarantee protection or funding, recognition for these structures may increase restoration efforts and possibly ensure their longevity.

"Unfortunately, we have lost some unique structures in the last year, including the J Paul Getty Bunker in Tulsa," POK Executive Director Chantry Banks said. "Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places list was created to bring awareness to the importance of protecting our state's historic resources such as these. Our hope is to bring the issue to light so more Oklahomans are educated on what they can do to help advocate for these landmarks."

Each year, POK solicits nominations from the public which are voted on by a group of preservation professionals. An exhibit of the 2020 list, presented by Oklahoma Humanities, is currently on hold, as Preservation Oklahoma finds its footing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



VFW Hall - Locust Grove, Photo: Shaun Perkins

(article continued on page 4)

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Preservation Oklahoma is currently seeking board members from Tulsa and rural areas. If you are interested in serving on the Preservation Oklahoma Board of Directors, please contact Executive Director, Chantry Banks at director@preservationok.org.

Modified tours have resumed at the Henry Overholser Mansion, 405 NW 15th St., Oklahoma city. Please visit OverholserMansion.org for information regarding these tours, or call (405) 525-5325.

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

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This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age 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, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center and State Historic Preservation Office Reopened to the Public

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center reopened to the public on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Its hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The Research Center is located inside the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City.

Due to COVID-19, the Research Center has implemented additional safety measures for the health and wellness of our patrons and staff. At least six feet of social distancing must be maintained in all areas of the Research Center. All research materials utilized by the public will be subject to a 72-hour quarantine after use. OHS staff will wear masks or face shields, and patrons are strongly encouraged to wear masks. If a patron wishes to have one-on-one assistance from OHS staff, a face mask will be required.

Research Center occupancy will be limited to 20 patrons. If there are patrons waiting due to the occupancy restriction, research time will be limited to two hours. For questions about occupancy, please contact the Research Center at 405-522-5225 or research@okhistory.org. Due to space limitations, patrons must make an appointment to view archival materials including manuscript collections, original records, photographs, maps, audio or video. To schedule an appointment, please contact Mallory Covington at mcovington@okhistory.org or 405-522-0876.

For those who are not ready to visit in person, there are many resources that can be accessed from home. Visit www.okhistory.org/research to find out more.

In an effort to assist our researchers, the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center will digitize microfilm from the OHS collection at the reduced price of \$35 per reel, a 30 percent discount. This special price will be available through August 31. Contact Sarah Biller at sbiller@okhistory.org or call 405-522-0868 for more information. Some restrictions may apply.

The Research Center is a division of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs and publications the OHS chronicles the rich history of Oklahoma. For more information about the OHS, please visit www.okhistory.org.

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) also reopened to the public on June 1, 2020. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the front doors opening at 10:00 a.m. The SHPO is located inside the Oklahoma History Center at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive in Oklahoma City on the 2nd floor.

Due to COVID-19, the SHPO has implemented additional safety measures for the health and wellness of our patrons and staff. At least six feet of social distancing must be maintained in all areas of the SHPO suite. All materials utilized by the public will be subject to a 72-hour quarantine after use. SHPO staff will wear masks or face shields, and visitors are strongly encouraged to wear masks. If a patron wishes to have one-on-one assistance from SHPO staff, a face mask will be required.

Due to space limitations, visitors must make an appointment to meet with SHPO staff. See <https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpostaff> for staff contact information. For those who are not ready to visit in person, there are many resources that can be accessed from your home or office. Visit <https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom> to find out more.



Preservation Oklahoma Announces 2020 Most Endangered Places List Continued

Okmulgee Colored Hospital

The 2020 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places include:

VFW Hall - Locust Grove

Built in 1912, the VFW Hall in Locust Grove is the oldest remaining building in the community. It is a vital piece of the history of this town, which has lost too many other historic buildings in recent decades. A recent engineer's report found that the building is sound and worthy of restoration, but if this does not happen, it will probably succumb to the same plight as many other buildings in town that have fallen into disrepair, burned down or were torn down. It is a beautiful and plain prairie-style building that has original wood flooring, casements, doors and transoms in very good condition, in addition to an original tin ceiling that is also in very good condition. This is a piece of living history and our town needs it be preserved so that everyone can continue to experience it.

CCC Structures - Roman Nose State Park

Two areas of interest are listed this year at Roman Nose State Park: The CCC built Group Camp and a pavillion in the Deer Run Area. This group camp was the last facility built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. In the last thirty years, both facilities have been allowed to deteriorate at an unacceptable rate.



CCC Pavillion & Group Camp. Photos: Kyle Bernis



Fort Supply, Photo: Bob Rea

Okmulgee Colored Hospital

The Okmulgee Colored Hospital was built in 1923 and occupied in 1924. It was the first colored hospital to be opened in the state of Oklahoma. The building housed 18-20 beds and living quarters for a staff of 6-7. The hospital remained open until around 1956 when the city opened a ward for black patients in the basement of the city municipal white hospital. In 1984 the building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places described as the "oldest facility of its type in Oklahoma which remains intact." The building has been vacant since the 1990s. The Okmulgee Colored Hospital serves as a monument to past accomplishments by the African American community in the face of enormous adversity. Now vacant, its history has, in the twenty-first century, come full circle. Embraced now by the community of Okmulgee, the building will hopefully become the home of a museum and multi-cultural center promoting better understanding of the community's rich and diverse heritage.

Greater First Baptist Church - Anadarko

The Greater First Baptist Church in Anadarko was one of the first historical black churches in southwest Oklahoma. Located in the original township, the church played a significant role in the social and cultural lives of the Black Community in the heart of Indian Country. The building has significant architectural design because of the use of early vernacular concrete blocks. It is the oldest example of early religious buildings in the area. The building is in need of repair however a recent assessment from an engineer says the structure has the ability to be preserved if steps are taken soon. The exact ownership is unclear but there is support to save the building in the community.

Fort Supply Historic District

The historic site was the bastion of civilization in northwest Oklahoma from 1868-1894. The site includes five buildings including the 1892 brick Guard House, the 1878 frame Commanding Officer's Quarters, the 1882 frame Officers' Quarters, the 1882 picket style log Civilian Employee Quarters, and the 1874 picket log Ordnance Sergeant's

Quarters. Camp Supply was established in late 1868 for the winter campaign against the Plains Indians in western Indian Territory. The military presence was felt for the next twenty-five years as soldiers patrolled the region in an effort to contain the tribes and keep out trespassers. Buffalo hunters, timber and horse thieves, whiskey traders, and boomers were a continual threat to stability in Indian Territory. Troops escorted cattle drives and protected the stage coaches, freight haulers, and travelers as they moved along the trails. Fort Supply was closed in 1894.

Owens School - Tulsa

The second public school to open outside of downtown Tulsa, the four-story Owens School was built in 1909 and honored pioneer merchant Chauncey Owens. Later it was renamed Irving School in honor of writer Washington Irving. The school operated until 1974 and students were reassigned to various schools in the area. The building has served in different functions since then: as an alternative school, the offices of Cowen Construction, and is now owned by Blue Sky Supply Co. The building now sits empty, but it is in fair shape.

Altus Depot - Altus

Built in 1909, this building was known as the "Front Door" to the community during a period of growth for Altus. It is officially known as the Wichita Falls and Northwestern Railroad Passenger Depot. It was built in the Prairie School style and little was altered during the major period of use, 1909-1954. It remained in operation until 1973. The depot was listed in the National Register in 2007.



Altus Depot, Photo: Lynna Wilmes

Article continued on page 6.

Preservation Oklahoma Announces 2020 Most Endangered Places List Continued

French-Parks Home - Tahlequah

Built in the 1880s, The French-Parks Home is one of the few homes remaining from that time period. The home was owned by two historically important families in Tahlequah. The first owner, Robert French, was High Sherriff of the Cherokee Nation and his wife was a member of the prominent Cherokee Johnson Thompson family. The second owner, Jefferson Parks, was an early Oklahoma legislator and county judge. Unique architectural features of the home include granite quoins to strengthen the corners. The two story home also has four five-window bays. It is currently vacant and available for purchase.



French-Parks Home, Photo: Tahlequah Daily Press

Greenwood Chamber Buildings - Tulsa

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre was the worst civic disturbance in American history. Still, the local citizens were able to rebuild with their own money. The insurance policies would not pay claims because it was classified as a riot. Preservation Oklahoma seeks to highlight what Greenwood Chamber buildings were before and after the 18-hour massacre. Today, the Greenwood Chamber Buildings stand proudly in a neighborhood that has faced many obstacles. They stand as a beacon of education and reconciliation.



Greenwood Chamber, Photo: Freeman Culver



Greater First Baptist, Photo: Kenneth Corn

National Park Service Awards \$1.9 Million for the Return of Native American Remains and Sacred Objects

The National Park Service (NPS) announced \$1.9 million in grants to 12 Indian tribes and 18 museums to assist in the consultation, documentation, and repatriation of ancestral remains and cultural items as part of the Native Americans Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Grants to Fund Repatriation

Seven grants will fund the transportation and return of 50 cultural items, more than 24,000 funerary objects and human remains representing 3,483 ancestors. In Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Chickasaw Nation each received a grant to assist in this process.

Grants to Fund Consultation and Documentation

Twenty-four consultation and documentation grants will fund museum and tribal staff travel, consultation meetings, and research, in support of the repatriation process. In Oklahoma the recipients include: Gilcrease Museum Management Trust, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma.

Enacted in 1990, NAGPRA requires museums and Federal agencies to inventory and identify Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections, and to consult with Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations regarding repatriation. Section 10 of the Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to award grants to assist in implementing provisions of the Act. The National NAGPRA Program is administered by the National Park Service.

National Park Service Announces Grants to Preserve African American Civil Rights

The National Park Service (NPS) announced \$14 million in African American Civil Rights Historic Preservation Fund grants to fund 51 projects across 20 states and the District of Columbia to preserve sites and history related to the African American struggle for equality in the 20th century.

The grants are used to fund projects that document, interpret, and preserve sites that tell the stories of the African American experience in the pursuit of civil rights. One project in Oklahoma received a grant from this program. The Greenwood Community Development Corporation received \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of the Greenwood Center Buildings in historic "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa.

Congress appropriated funding for the African American Civil Rights Grants Program in 2019 through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF uses revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars. Grant-supported projects include surveys and documentation, interpretation and education, oral histories, architectural services, historic structure reports, planning, and physical preservation.

For more information about the grants and the African America Civil Rights Grant Program, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/preservation-grants/civil-rights/>. Applications for \$15.5 million in FY2020 funding will be available in the fall of 2020.



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Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

Historic structures, much like photographs and newspapers, tell the story of Oklahoma communities, linking the past to the present. They also provide economically vibrant locations for local businesses and residents. Since 1992, Preservation Oklahoma has worked to protect and preserve these structures through advocacy, education, and programming. By joining our efforts, you are supporting the protection of Oklahoma's unique and diverse history. Your support also assists in the preservation of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion, an Oklahoma City landmark and home of POK's offices.

Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include discounted tickets to POK events, complimentary tours of the Overholser Mansion, and invitations to our annual membership appreciation event.

Membership Levels:

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Student | \$25 |
| Individual | \$50 |
| Family | \$100 |
| Partner | \$500 |

To join, please visit <http://www.preservationok.org/become-a-member.html> and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices!