

Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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Endangered

Announcing Preservation Oklahoma's
Most Endangered Places 2023

Plus

Okmulgee's Houses of Worship
Threatt Filling Station Work Progresses

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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On the Cover:

Built in 1923, the Larkin Hotel in Blackwell is a 2023 Most Endangered Place. For this year's list, turn to page 4. Photo: Chantry Banks

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Notes from the Road

Welcome to the July 2023 edition of *Preservation Oklahoma News*! You will see a few changes to the newsletter that are mostly design-related; you will continue receiving the same great content you are used to. Like the sites we advocate for, we need a little freshening up every now and then.

A new feature is this column here – Notes from the Road. One of the greatest parts of my job is traveling the state (and beyond), visiting sites and meeting the people working hard to preserve our history. And sometimes my work takes me out of the state and I'm always inspired by the places I visit and my hope is to share those inspirations with you.

The end of April took me out to western Oklahoma for National Historic Marker Day, sponsored by the Pomeroy Foundation. I was able to clean a few markers in my hometown of Hammon and clean the roadside marker my grandparents placed east of town in 1981. It commemorates the site of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Cattle Ranch, a short-lived venture headquartered on the Washita River. I grew up on the site and it is important to maintain the sign in honor of my grandparents.



Roadside Marker for Cheyenne & Arapaho Cattle Ranch, Custer County.

I visited the northwest part of the state in May, visiting Alva and Waynoka. Waynoka has a nice downtown and a wonderfully preserved depot and museum. Next time you visit Little Sahara State Park, make sure to drive into town and explore.

You could easily spend all day in Alva exploring. You don't want to miss the marquee at the Rialto movie theatre. Alva is home to Northwestern Oklahoma State University and is home to several beautiful buildings in a variety of styles. If you love mid-century architecture, the campus library is a can't miss! Stop in Hatfield Park for a picnic and enjoy the history there.

I spent a day at "The Top of Oklahoma" in mid-May. If you don't know, that would be Blackwell, a unique town of eclectic styles of architecture and extremely friendly people. If you visit the area, be sure and check out the police department building, the town library, and the Top of Oklahoma History Museum, housed in the 1912 Electric Park Pavilion. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

Washington, D.C., was on the agenda for June. I was invited to join the National Trust Community Investment Corporation and advocate for a new Historic Tax Credit bill being introduced on Capitol Hill. The bill would increase the HTC percentage and make it easy for nonprofit organizations to utilize Historic Tax Credits. I was able to meet with staff members of all five of our representatives and met with Senator Mullin's staff. It was such a rewarding day and we even got to take a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Capitol. I'm hopeful that our representatives will sign on as cosponsors of the bill.

Our issue this month is packed! We're announcing our Most Endangered Places list for 2023 (page 4) and visiting the historic churches of Okmulgee. We've also got a great update from the Threatt Filling Station in Luther. As always, call or email if you have questions or ideas for future newsletter content. I love hearing from you. Now, hit the road and explore our history!

Chantry

Welcome



11th Street Bridge, Tulsa. Photo: Chantry Banks

Most Endangered Places 2023

Preservation Oklahoma is pleased to announce the 2023 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 the list does not guarantee protection or funding, recognition for these structures may increase restoration efforts and possibly ensure their longevity.

"Fortunately, no structures from our 2022 list have been demolished in the last year," POK Executive Director Chantry Banks said. "Several structures are still in critical condition, including a building being retained for the 2023 list. But a few, like Casa Grande Hotel, the Washington School, and the Apache Museum are on their way to being preserved for future generations. We will continue monitoring the structures from 2022 while advocating for this year's list."

The 2023 list features a diverse list of structures across the state. We've expanded the list to include twelve sites. Some are familiar and beloved buildings and several will be new to readers. You'll see Route 66 landmarks and a beloved amusement ride. From schools to hotels to private residences, the 2023 Most Endangered Places list helps tell a full story of Oklahoma history and the individual and families who helped create it.

POK News Page 4

11th STREET BRIDGE, TULSA

Built in 1917, the old 11th Street Bridge (now the Cyrus Avery Route 66 Memorial Bridge), was the first concrete and steel-reinforced bridge to cross the Arkansas River anywhere in the United States. It has 18 spans and is 1,470.6 feet long. The original balustrades were classical in design and it featured Victorian-era lighting. In 1929 the guardrails and lighting were replaced with Art Deco designs. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 and is considered to be in poor condition.

Cyrus Avery was appointed to the Joint Board on Interstate Highways in 1924. In 1925, that board received approval from the American Association of State Highway Officials for a proposed National Highway System. The first highway as part of this new system was a sweeping highway from Chicago to Santa Monica. Avery convinced the AASHO that the best route for this proposed highway would be through Tulsa via the old 11th Street Bridge.

The historic significance of this bridge makes it a major tourist attraction for the city and state. Rehabilitating the bridge will allow us to preserve history and make the bridge accessible for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, available for popup shops, events, etc. It is currently closed to all motor and pedestrian traffic.

STAR HOUSE, CACHE

Few properties in Oklahoma gather as much interest and curiosity as Quanah Parker's Star House, currently located in Cache. Concerned citizens have nominated the home a total of six times, including this year's nomination. We understand the interest: it is difficult to gain access to the site, it can't be seen from the road, and Parker's legacy as the last great Comanche warrior bring visitors from all over, hoping to see the home.

Star House was built around 1890 on Fort Sill for Quanah Parker and his family. He lived there until his death in 1911 and his daughter purchased the property. It was in danger of being demolished in 1956. Herbert Woesner, Jr., purchased the home and moved it to his amusement park near Cache, Eagle Park. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.



Quanah Parker's Star House, Cache. Photo: Bonnie McKee

The home has deteriorated significantly over the decades, and many were concerned it was near collapse. For the last few years, a small group of people interested in the Quanah Parker's Star House began meeting with the current owners. As a result of those discussions, an oral agreement has been reached and plans are moving forward to secure this treasured structure for a new nonprofit organization. Planning for the full and accurate restoration of Star House includes consultations with an historic architect and an experienced contractor.

Quanah Parker's Historic Star House, Inc. (QPHSH) was incorporated in the State of Oklahoma and was issued an EIN number in 2022. The IRS Form 1023, Application for Recognition Under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, will soon be submitted for approval. Star House will be moved to the front of the property on which it is presently located. This wonderful house where Quanah received numerous people from all walks of life will once again welcome visitors. Star House will be a living museum and educational center that honors Quanah and the Comanche and our shared history.



Isaiah 53 Church, Tulsa. Photo: Chantry Banks

ISAIAH 53 CHURCH, TULSA

A remnant of the past is slowly being encroached upon in south Tulsa, near 81st and Harvard. Founded by Stephen Rentie, Rentie Grove was established on a land allotment for Freedmen from the Muskogee (Creek) Nation after the Civil War. Here, a small farming community thrived. Although never incorporated, Rentie Grove had a post office, two churches, a community school, and a general store with a Masonic Lodge above it.

The small community maintained a presence for decades and the last official resident passed in 1983. Only this church building (the former Baptist Church) and a community cemetery remain. Structurally, the building is in great shape, but the property is for sale. The sale includes the land around the church and a home on the same property built in 1998.

Citizens are concerned that the building could be razed to make way for housing or other development. We hope a buyer pledges to preserve the site as a reminder of this early all-black community in Oklahoma. (cont'd)

LARKIN HOTEL, BLACKWELL

Situated on a prime corner in downtown Blackwell, the Larkin Hotel returns to the Most Endangered Places List after last appearing in 2012. It has faced serious deterioration since that time. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

Built in 1923-1924 by John Larkin and designed by J.M. Fuller, the four-story hotel had 66 rooms, 42 of which had their own attached bathrooms; a dining room that was the hotspot to meet during Blackwell's heyday; and a grand ballroom graced by governors, congressmen and other prominent figures. It anchors the north end of the downtown district. Blackwell was a hub of agriculture, manufacturing, and oil and gas exploration, aided by early railroads providing access to

shipping for the community. Blackwell's population peaked in the 1950s, but as the oil and gas boom went to bust, the town declined rapidly. With few guests to serve, the Larkin has been closed for decades.

As the first four-story building, the first modern hotel in Blackwell and with the involvement of the Commercial Club in its development, the Larkin Hotel represents a unique advancement in Blackwell's community planning and development. Unfortunately, the north side of the hotel is in dire shape. Several of the brick walls have collapsed, leading to an uncertain future the building.



Larkin Hotel, Blackwell. Photo: Chantry Banks

L'OUVERTURE SCHOOL, MCALESTER

L'Ouverture was the school attended by African American students in McAlester beginning in 1908. In 1968, the 115 high school students integrated with McAlester High School. The school sits on a prominent hill in the southeast part of town and features buildings from different eras.

The gymnasium/auditorium was constructed in 1933 by the Civil Works Authority and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. It featured an arched roof and art deco motifs typical of the WPA style of buildings. The gymnasium walls appear solid, but the roof has collapsed in parts over the last few years.



L'Ouverture School, McAlester. Photo: Chantry Banks

The rest of the school was demolished in 1952 and a new, mid-century school took its place. It is a long, L-shaped, red brick building and is directly to the east of the gymnasium. This building featured modern classrooms and a new auditorium. The school was used as an alternative school for several years but has sat vacant for over ten years. Windows have been smashed, graffiti can be found down the halls, and vegetation is finding its way indoors.

There are plans to preserve the building for future generations. Graduates of the class of 1965 purchased the building in 2014 and renamed it L'Ouverture Historical Center. A nonprofit organization is being established by graduates and there are plans to update the National Register listing to include the now-eligible addition.



Bridge No. 18 at Rock Creek, Sapulpa. Photo: Chantry Banks

BRIDGE NO. 18 AT ROCK CREEK, SAPULPA

Constructed in 1924 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, Bridge No. 18 at Rock Creek is an excellent example of a parker through truss bridge on Route 66 in the state. This type of bridge was used extensively along the route during the first part of the 20th Century. It also originally served the Ozark Trail, a network of locally maintained roads and highways.

Rock Creek bridge was bypassed by Route 66 in 1952. The bridge did remain in use until recently. While still structurally sound, it is closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The city of Sapulpa plans to turn the area east of the bridge into a park and use the bridge as a centerpiece, attracting domestic and international travelers.

BRYANT CENTER, OKLAHOMA CITY

Retained from our 2022 list, The Bryant Center was a hub for Oklahoma City's most prominent Black community. Little progress has happened since last year, and Bryant Center has become an unofficial dumping ground. Piles of shingles dot the site, along with graffiti and garbage. Those experiencing homelessness also use the site.

Once housing a bowling alley, a restaurant, and a dining club at its peak, what was formerly known as The Bryant Recreational Center has fallen into a state of disuse since the 1980s.

The goal is to preserve the building for the benefit of the community. There is renewed interest in the property as the historic northeast side of Oklahoma City continues to see development. A new roof is needed but the walls appear to be stable. The community hopes to conduct a structural assessment soon.



Bryant Center, Oklahoma City. Photo: Chantry Banks

ST. JOSEPH'S RECTORY, KREBS

Built in 1905 in the Second Empire style, the rectory at St. Joseph's Catholic Church was the hub of the parish complex and home for the parish priest. It is constructed of sandstone block (painted white) with a pressed tin mansard roof. It is immediately to the south of the red brick, eclectic style church that was built in 1903. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and the rectory is eligible for listing as well.

All activity has moved out of the rectory over the years, and the building is now in need of extensive restorative work. This includes foundation repair, roof restoration, bringing wiring up to code, and plumbing and wall repair. Plans are being made to begin fundraising for the repairs and the parish hopes to apply for a National Fund for Sacred Places grant.

(cont'd)



St. Joseph's Rectory, Krebs. Photo: Chantry Banks



Jewel Theatre, Oklahoma City. Photo: Chantry Banks

JEWEL THEATRE, OKLAHOMA CITY

Constructed in 1931, the Jewel Theater served as one of the few safe havens for Black joy, community, and entertainment in Oklahoma City's public realm during the violent, segregationist era of Jim Crow in the south. Although the theater survived that period, and the city's multiple urban renewal projects that took place in the 1960s through the '80s in the area, the ultimate displacement of thousands of residents and the decline of the neighborhood's conditions created multiple barriers in the theater's ability to remain open. The theater ultimately closed its doors in the late 1970s and is now structurally vulnerable - facing serious disrepair. Current owner Mr. Arthur Hurst purchased it with a promise to the original owner that he would restore it so it can operate in the community as a cultural asset once again.

It is the only building left along that stretch of NE 4th Street in the John F. Kennedy neighborhood. With the restoration and surrounding new development at Page Woodson School, the Jewel Theatre is primed for a comeback. A recent grant from the Mellon Foundation will help with structural stabilization and planning for future uses. It is also part of a Planned Unit Development with the city of Oklahoma City. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.



Skyride, Tulsa. Photo: Chantry Banks

SKYRIDE, TULSA

Built in 1965, the Tulsa Skyride was one of ten remaining Von Roll skyrides in the USA and one of three at a state fair. This detachable gondola skyride was manufactured by Von Roll Ironworks of Bern, Switzerland. The Tulsa Skyride offered a unique experience not duplicated elsewhere in Oklahoma or most neighboring states. It was a family favorite, and the Tulsa State Fair tradition was deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Expo Square planned to demolish the skyride in 2022 without public notification. News of the pending demolition was leaked in May 2022. Public outcry halted the demolition but the skyride remained threatened. Demolition of the towers began earlier this year but halted for a time. Work resumed last week, and it seems all towers have been removed. We have chosen to keep the structure on the list this year in hopes of raising awareness of properties of this type, that often get overlooked in the preservation process.



Peter Conser House, Heavener. Photo: Chantry Banks

PETER CONSER HOUSE, HEAVENER

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, the Peter Conser House has stood on a hill southwest of Heavener since 1894. The site also features the family cemetery (first grave date: 1879) and a side gable barn constructed in 1909.

Peter Conser (1852-1934) had many public duties during his lifetime, including captain of the Lighthouse; representative to the Choctaw Council; and eventually a senator to the Choctaw Council. In addition, Peter ran a large farm, a blacksmith shop, grist mill, and sawmill. He also kept a general store with a post office. His influence was great in the southeastern part of the state.

The home was used as a museum for many years before ownership was returned to the Conser family. It has been closed for several years and has rapidly deteriorated. At some point in the last few years, the home was broken into, and several items were taken. The family cemetery is of utmost importance and further neglect will cause greater harm.



Capitol Hill High School, Oklahoma City. Photo: Chantry Banks

CAPITOL HILL HIGH SCHOOL, OKLAHOMA CITY

School buildings that are still in use are tricky: we will always advocate for what's best for students, but we also want to make sure that due diligence has taken place in regards to a building's viability. While we celebrate the passage of the bond issue for Oklahoma City Public Schools, we are disheartened to see that the Capitol Hill High School building could be demolished to make room for a new structure.

The 1928 building, designed by Solomon Andrew Layton, is representative of many Oklahoma City school buildings constructed to accommodate a growing population during the 1920's boom years. Its design is well detailed Collegiate Gothic. Though the 250K sq. ft. building is structurally sound, the interior does not meet the needs of the modern classroom. The landmark building, located on the historic Grand Boulevard Loop has been deemed eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. We are also monitoring other buildings in the district, including Taft Middle School.

SHPO to Update State Plan

UPDATE

Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan is due for an update! The upcoming state plan will set forth the Oklahoma preservation community's goals and objectives for the next ten years, covering 2025-2034. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is soliciting input for the next state plan, and a questionnaire is available online in English and Spanish. Please visit the link below to answer questions and assist the SHPO in its historic preservation mission. For further information about the update of the state plan, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 405-521-6249.

<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm>



The Threatt Filling Station experienced major exterior progress during two weeks in June.

Top photo: Workers prep the west elevation for painting the mortar lines and foundation.

Middle photo: Workers paint the mortar lines black, which is historical to the building.

Bottom photo: The same wall is shown with freshly painted lines and foundation.

All photos: Lynda Ozan.



Progress at Threatt Filling Station

Members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Hands-On Preservation Experience (HOPE) crew have been in Oklahoma during the month of June to work on the Threatt Filling Station in Luther. The National Trust partnered with the Guthrie Job Corps to get assistance from current students to work at the station.

Over a two-week period, they have cleaned and repainted the sign post, painted the newly installed front doors, painted the mortar joints, and worked to replace stones in the façade and side elevations. Student participants have commented: "It has been a great experience, and I have learned a lot about old buildings," "It's great to be associated with such an important location," and "I hope to work on old buildings when I finish my program."

The Threatt family hopes to have the building open to the public by June of 2024.

About HOPE Crew

Since 2014, HOPE Crew (which stands for Hands-On Preservation Experience) has completed 175 projects and trained more than 802 young people—including veterans—and engaged over 3,750 volunteers in historic preservation trades.

In the years since its founding, HOPE Crew has continued to train young people, while expanding its focus on rebuilding historic trades through research and providing avenues for the use of digital tools to document and preserve historic places.

To enable HOPE Crew to successfully complete rehabilitation projects at historic sites, it is determined if the project could support a large-scale community volunteer effort or paid training opportunity for participants. Both project types leverage the National Trust's broad network of partners and preservation experts to provide preservation guidance and trades expertise.

During paid training projects, a trades professional expert, paid through the project's budget, helps train the crew on techniques like repointing, carpentry, and window restoration.

HOPE Crews continue to preserve historic sites that exemplify to the breadth and depth of America's past. From iconic civil rights monuments and Native American sacred sites to centuries-old cemeteries and battlefields, HOPE Crew offers enriching and tangible opportunities to connect us all to the past.



Spiro Mounds Archaeological Site, Spiro. Photo: Chantry Banks

Virtual Programming for 2023

The State Historic Preservation Office has had a busy 2023 thus far in the form of virtual programming. The attendance has been strong and looks to be just as busy for the remainder of 2023. Anyone can sign up to attend these free learning sessions.

August 2, 2023, 2:00 PM: Dr. Ian Thompson will present on how the Choctaw Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office uses archaeology to benefit tribal initiatives to revitalize traditional arts and foodways.

August 16, 2023, 12:00 PM: Shannon Cowell and Ashleigh Thompson will discuss how to protect archaeological sites and SaveHistory.org.

September 6, 2023, 2:00 PM: Dr. Shawn Lambert will present on the ceramics and community interactions at Spiro.

September 12, 2023, 12:00 PM: The Threatt family will discuss the ongoing project at the Threatt Filling Station located in Luther along Route 66.

October 4, 2023, 2:00 PM: Dr. Richard Drass, Emeritus professor at the University of Oklahoma, will discuss archaeology at early-historic Wichita sites: Bryson-Paddock and Longest.

To register, please use the following link: <https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/events>. Any questions can be directed to Lynda Ozan at lynda.ozan@history.ok.gov or 405-522-4484.

EVENT



First National Center, Oklahoma City. Photo: Chantry Banks

Most Endangered Places Kickoff Event

Plans are being finalized for the Most Endangered Places 2023 Kickoff Event. Join us from 6:00-8:00pm on July 13, 2023. Learn about the history of the list, enjoy complimentary food and drink, and discover how you can help us advocate for our endangered sites across the state.

The event will take place at The First National Center, 120 N. Robinson in Oklahoma City. The First National Center was on POK's very first Most Endangered Places in 1993 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2018. It is also Oklahoma's largest Historic Tax Credit project to date. Space is limited. Tickets are free for Preservation Oklahoma members and \$25 for nonmembers. To reserve your spot or purchase tickets, visit: www.preservationok.org/shop.



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Okmulgee. Photo: Chantry Banks

Sacred Spaces: Exploring Okmulgee's Houses of Worship

Okmulgee was founded after the Civil War in 1868 when the Creek Nation began to restore order to their homeland. The name is a Creek word, *oki mulgi*, meaning "boiling waters," and is taken from a town in their native region, in present Russell County, Alabama. It is home to the Creek Council House, a National Historic Landmark. Okmulgee is home to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex. When the railroad was completed in 1900, the town expanded rapidly. At statehood in 1907, it was designated the county seat of Okmulgee County.

After oil was discovered nearby, the town prospered. With that prosperity, several magnificent church buildings were built near the downtown commercial district. In this issue, we'll explore the history and architecture of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, and Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.

Designed by Monnot and Reid and built in 1927, St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church is one of the most striking examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in the state. Situated on a knoll south of downtown, the white stucco, red clay tile roof, and bell tower can be seen from many points in town. It features arcaded cloisters and a north wing that is now home to church offices and living quarters. A grand staircase leads to the main entry of the church.

Inside, Corinthian columns line the nave and draw the eye up to the arches supporting the wood ceiling. Highly detailed stained glass is found throughout, and the apse features a beautiful altar of marble and stone imported from Tuscany.



First Presbyterian Church, Okmulgee. Photo: Chantry Banks

Greek revival is the style of the First Presbyterian Church, located on South Seminole Avenue. It was built in 1920 of buff colored brick and has heavy ornamentation on the front façade. The stone pediment features a palmette at its highest point and is supported by two Doric columns that flank the

main entry. Other details include a Greek Key motif and more palmettes above the main door. There are four total entrances at the front: three that lead into the main house of worship and one on a side door to a small chapel.

Inside, the fan shaped auditorium faces the central pulpit, behind which four plaster Ionic columns can be seen. Opposite the pulpit is the choir loft. Warmly colored arts and crafts style stained-glass lines the north and south walls of the church. A fellowship hall and offices were added at a later date.



First United Methodist Church, Okmulgee. Photo: Chantry Banks

Up the street from the Presbyterian church and near the county courthouse is First United Methodist Church. The grand, red-bricked and limestone building was built in 1924 and is a prominent building in the downtown area. It was built in the Late Gothic Revival Style and later additions to the property are decidedly mid-century modern. The northeast corner of the building is the main entrance, with a tower and spire. The spire features a copper cross at the top

Inside, a double proscenium arch with plaster accents houses the altar. A gilded plaster border adds decoration to these arches. The chandeliers are original, and the sanctuary retains most of its architectural integrity. In 2014, a platform was built out from the altar to accommodate choir seating and a piano.



First Christian Church, Okmulgee. Photo: Chantry Banks

Catty-corner from the Methodist church and more modest in design is First Christian Church, with a cornerstone laid in 1917. Also built in the Late Gothic Revival style, the church is not individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places but is a contributing structure to the Okmulgee Downtown Historic District (NRHP 1992). It is located at the edge of the district, across the street from the county courthouse. The two-story, red brick church has gabled parapets, limestone caps, and limestone window surrounds. The entry portals have segmental arches, parapets, and limestone niches. A square tower with a crenelated parapet accentuates the main entry portal. The building features many identical stained-glass windows in greens and purples.



Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Okmulgee. Photo: Chantry Banks

The final church we will explore is the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. The original structure was built in 1902 and several additions have taken place over the years. It is known as the oldest church building in Okmulgee. It is a one-story, sandstone Gothic Revival church with a centered, square tower built of wood. The tower has a battlement and Gothic-styled vents. The Gothic windows feature stained glass. Plexiglass has been installed to protect the windows but has clouded to the point where you cannot see the windows from the exterior.

A brick addition with Gothic Revival elements, built in 1918, is located at the rear (east) elevation. Two sandstone additions are located to the side (ca. 1970) and to the rear (ca. 1935) of the building, each constructed of similar sandstone.

For more photos of the churches in this story, visit <https://www.preservationok.org/pok-news-extras>.

Grant Opportunities

Applications for two National Park Service grants are due in July and information is available for the African American Civil Rights Grant Program. Oklahoma Humanities also has several grant applications due in August.

National Park Service's **Underrepresented Communities Grant Program (URC)** works towards diversifying the nominations submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. URC grants are funded by the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) and are administered by the NPS. Projects include surveys and inventories of historic properties associated with communities underrepresented in the National Register, as well as the development of nominations to the National Register for specific sites.

For the first time, nonprofit organizations, with or without 501(c)3 designation, are invited to apply for this grant. Applications are due July 18, 2023. More information can be found here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/underrepresented-community-grants.htm>.

The History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant Program supports the preservation of sites related to the struggle for any or all people to achieve equal rights in America. The History of Equal Rights grants are not limited to any specific group and are intended to include the broadest possible interpretation of equal rights for any American. Grants fund physical preservation work and pre-preservation planning activities.

To access the grant application, visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/history-of-equal-rights.htm>.

The African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grant Program preserves and protects sites associated with the struggle for equality from the transatlantic slave trade forward. Projects are split into two categories: physical "preservation projects" and "history projects." "Preservation" grants are for the repair of historic properties. "History" grants are for more interpretive work, like exhibit design or even historical research. Applications are anticipated Summer of 2023.

More information can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/african-american-civil-rights.htm>.

Oklahoma Humanities' grants encourage cultural programming on the local level across the state. Eligible projects must support OH's mission to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives, and participate knowledgeably in civic life. OH grants can fund a variety of humanities-based projects, including exhibits, panel discussions, preservation of historic collections, festivals, and more.

The grant deadline is August 1, 2023 and more information can be found by visiting: https://www.okhumanities.org/grants?blm_aid=65924.



Women picketing at the White House. Photo: National Park Service

GRANTS

MEMBERSHIP

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.

To join, please visit www.preservationok.org/membership and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices.

