



Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

October 1995

Volume 2, number 1

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Two Cities Join Certified Local Governments Program

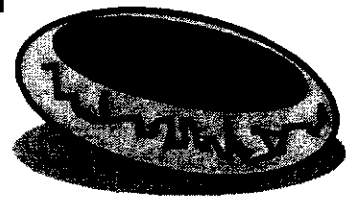
The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce that the cities of Chickasha and Tahlequah have joined Oklahoma's Certified Local Governments (CLG) program. Both cities received final approval in July. In addition to Chickasha and Tahlequah, nine other Oklahoma municipalities participate in the CLG program, including Anadarko, Cordell, Enid, Grandfield, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Ponca City, and Tulsa. Over 1500 cities nationwide have received CLG status.

As a CLG, a city government is eligible to receive federal matching funds through the SHPO from the U. S. Department of the Interior's Historic Preservation Fund. The money is used to help develop and strengthen the local preservation program. Additionally, a CLG plays a direct role in the review of National Register of Historic Places nominations for properties within its jurisdiction, agrees to continue to enforce its local historic preservation zoning ordinance, agrees to work with the SHPO, and assumes certain SHPO responsibilities, such as maintenance of a local survey and inventory program.

To qualify for the CLG program, a local government must enforce a historic preservation zoning ordinance that meets the SHPO's minimum requirements, maintain a qualified local review commission, and agree to carry out other responsibilities delegated to it. The program requirements are detailed in *Certified Local Governments Program for Oklahoma*, available from the SHPO. The SHPO staff will present a special session on the CLG program requirements and benefits on Tuesday, December 5th, from 9:30 a.m. until 12:00 Noon in the Oklahoma Historical Society Auditorium, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City.

City governments across Oklahoma and the nation have found this special program of tremendous benefit as they develop their local programs. CLG's participate as "preservation partners" with federal and state government to protect the nation's heritage. For additional information, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO, at (405) 522-4484.

SHPO Funds Archaeological and Historic Resources Surveys



TWO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS PLANNED

- Marshall Gettys -

Two important archaeological surveys are planned by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the forthcoming year. Funded with a grant from the SHPO and matching funds of the selected research institution, these projects will provide information that can be utilized by the SHPO in the various programs it administers.

Much of the archaeological research in eastern Oklahoma is associated with reservoir construction conducted prior to the creation of the Oklahoma SHPO and its active participation in the environmental review process. One consequence of this situation is that previous research tended to concentrate on the subjects of most interest to the scholars conducting it, typically prehistoric archaeology.

One of the surveys to be conducted in 1996-97 as a joint effort by the SHPO and the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey concerns historic Cherokee homesteads in eastern Oklahoma. The project will be under the supervision of Lois Albert, who has supervised numerous projects sponsored by the SHPO, including several in the Lee Creek Valley in eastern Oklahoma, in northeastern Oklahoma, and in Osage County. Albert will be assisted by Russell Townsend, whose recently accepted Master's thesis focused on Cherokee log cabins.

The second archaeological survey sponsored by the SHPO focuses on the Criner Creek watershed in McClain and Garvin counties in south central Oklahoma. While there has been extensive work in the larger drainage of this portion of the state, surprisingly little research has been conducted in its upper end reaches, including tributaries like Criner Creek. The Museum of the Great Plains will conduct the survey under the supervision of Joseph Anderson and Susan Bearden. Other projects funded by the SHPO completed by Anderson and Bearden include archaeological surveys of areas in Cotton and Caddo counties and the testing of archaeological sites in Caddo County. Emphasizing the prehistoric era when agriculture first became a significant economic factor, this survey will compare sites in this small drainage with known sites on the large regional drainage, the Washita River.

The data gained from these surveys will be integrated into the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan prepared by the SHPO in 1995. In addition, during this field work, surveyors will interview local people interested in the projects, which will help raise understanding of the process of historic preservation at the local level.

SIX NORTHWEST TOWNS TO BE SUBJECT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

- Susan Allen -

Six northwest Oklahoma towns will be the subject of surveys to identify and document buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The city of Woodward will be surveyed by the Department of History at Oklahoma State University. The five smaller towns of Cherokee, Fairview, Waynoka, Cleo Springs, and Helena will be surveyed by the university's Department of Geography. Through the SHPO's subgrant contracting program, sixty percent of the project costs are provided by the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund and OSU will provide the matching 40 percent.

Documentation consists of the completion of the SHPO's Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form and at least two black and white photos. Other goals of the survey include identification of properties that may warrant further study to determine eligibility for the National Register and the identification of areas which contain no historic resources.

The six towns were chosen for the survey to increase the number of documented properties in the northwest region of the state, especially in the smaller towns. Currently, only two properties in Woodward are listed on the National Register. Cherokee has five listed properties, Fairview and Waynoka each have one, and Cleo Springs and Helena have none.

The survey teams will spend a considerable amount of time in each of the towns. Efforts will be made to meet with local groups interested in the projects and to inform the communities of the project's goals. Additional time also will be spent at local historical societies and museums, libraries, and county courthouses conducting research, as well as actual time in the field documenting properties. A final report summarizing each project will be available next fall.

If you have information you would like to share with the survey teams or if you need more information about the surveys, please contact Susan Allen at the SHPO: (405) 521-6387.

First Lady Cathy Keating New Advisor for Oklahoma

First Lady Cathy Keating has filled the position on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Board of Advisors vacated this year by Sally Ferrell of Chandler. Keating has expressed a great deal of interest in historic preservation matters and we look forward to her participation and leadership.

The Trust's governing body consists of a Board of Trustees and a Board of Advisors; there are two advisors for each state in the Union. Until this month, Oklahoma's other advisor was Susan Guthrie Dunham, who served as its chairperson; however, Dunham is leaving the Board of Advisors to become a member of the Board of Trustees, which means Oklahoma will soon have another new advisor for its representation with the National Trust.


Deadlines Announced for 1996 Grant Applications Changes in Three Programs

The Preservation Services Fund, a program that provides seed money for a variety of non-construction projects, had only one funding round this year, with a deadline of October 1st.

The deadline for the first round of funding from the Johanna Favrot Fund, which provides nonprofit organizations, government agencies, for-profit businesses, and individuals with grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 was also October 1st. The deadline for the second distribution will be February 1st, 1996. In the future, there will be only one Favrot round per year, with a deadline of February 1st.

The deadline for the Legacy Preservation Week Grant applications is also February 1st, 1996. These grants range from \$250 to \$1,000 and are available to community organizations interested in partnering with their local military installation to organize events during National Preservation Week.

For more information and for applications for these programs, contact Oklahoma's new regional office at the address or phone number listed in the box to the right.



Oklahoma Assigned to New Trust Regional Office

The Mountains/Plains Regional Office of the National Trust in Denver, Colorado, is passing the baton to Oklahoma's new regional office: the Southwest Field Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

The staff at the Southwest Field Office is directed by Libby Willis and the field representative with whom most of us will become most familiar is Kelly Lally. They have shown great enthusiasm for the addition of Oklahoma to their jurisdiction and look forward to working with us all.

To give them a proper Oklahoma Howdy, contact them at:

**National Trust for Historic Preservation
Southwest Field Office
500 Main Street, Suite 606
Fort Worth, TX 76102
(817) 332-4398**

The Changing Face of the National Trust

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, chartered by Congress in 1949, is a nonprofit organization with over 250,000 members. As a leader in the preservation movement, it is committed to saving America's diverse historic environments and to preserving and revitalizing the livability of historic communities nationwide. It has seven regional offices, owns eighteen historic sites, and works with thousands of local community groups in all fifty states.

In response to the new funding priorities and austerity measures enacted by the current Congress, the National Trust has reduced certain areas of staffing and programs, shifted resources to streamline efforts, and is working toward complete independence from federal funding for its administrative and programming needs.

1996 Preservation Awards Request for Nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) now has applications available for its 1996 awards program. To be considered, complete nomination forms must be received by the SHPO on or before 5:00 p.m., December 15th, 1995. Nominations are sought for:

Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation

The Shirk award is presented to an individual, firm, or organization for outstanding contributions to historic preservation on a statewide basis. The work must be complete at the time the nomination is submitted. Rehabilitation/restoration projects, research projects, educational programs, and many other preservation activities can be the basis for a nomination.

Historic Interiors Preservation Award

The Oklahoma Chapter, American Society of Interior Designers and the SHPO cosponsor this award. Projects will be recognized in two categories, including one for privately funded projects and one for publicly funded projects.

State Historic Preservation Officer's Citation of Merit

Through this program, the SHPO recognizes the efforts of individuals, firms, and organizations across Oklahoma that contribute to the preservation of the state's rich heritage.

The awards will be presented on May 17, 1995, during Oklahoma's Eighth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, which will be held in Duncan.

To request awards nomination information, contact the SHPO at (405) 521-6249 or write to: SHPO, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

Call for 1996 Centennial Farm and Ranch Program Applications

by Cindy Smelker

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting applications for the 1996 Centennial Farm and Ranch Program. The Centennial Farm and Ranch Program is an ongoing program of the Oklahoma Historical Society. The program was established to recognize the important role agriculture has played in the settlement and development of Oklahoma and to honor the contributions made by the state's long-standing farm and ranch families. To qualify, the property must be a working farm/ranch; have a minimum of 40 acres with gross yearly sales of at least \$1,000; have been in the family continuously for at least 100 years; and, the farm/ranch must either be operated by, lived on by, or leased out by a family member over 65 years of age.

Applications can be obtained from the SHPO, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Along with each application, a \$10.00 application fee is required. The deadline for the 1996 program year is March 31, 1996.

In conjunction with the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, there is available the Historic Structures Award. This award recognizes the preservation of historic structures. To qualify, the property must have at least four buildings and/or structures, such as a barn or windmill, that are at least fifty years old and have not been significantly altered. To receive the necessary forms and instructions, please indicate your interest in this program on the back of the Centennial Farm and Ranch application.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Smelker, Centennial Farm and Ranch Program Coordinator, at (405) 522-4478.

Report On Your Accomplishments

From *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan*:

Because Oklahoma's preservation community considers communication a key to the success of historic preservation efforts, the SHPO will issue an annual progress report that will summarize the efforts of all our preservation partners in meeting the goals of the *State Plan*. The report will be issued by December 31st of each year.

Oklahoma's preservation partners are requested to submit brief written reports that summarize their efforts toward completion of a specific goal(s) and objective(s). The SHPO will include information from all summary reports received by September 30th of each year in its annual progress report to the preservation community.

This year, the SHPO can take reports until November 30th.

Family Holds Hope for Historic Mill



The Beck-Hildebrand Mill, located ten miles west of Siloam Springs in Delaware County, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. It is a three-story structure built of choice native pine. Power harnessed from the Flint Creek once ground

virtually all the meal for Delaware County.

According to most accounts, a Frenchman named Jeremiah Towers built the original mill at the site in 1845 and sold it to the Hildebrands in the 1850s. Towers bought the mill's two buhrs, one for corn and one for wheat, from a manufacturer in France.

The mill changed hands several times during the Civil War and is said to have housed Confederate prisoners, causing an outbreak of smallpox in the community. Immediately following the Civil War, the Cherokee Nation used the mill as a voting site. It is also reported to have been a meeting place of the Anti-Horsethief Association.

In 1892, a flood destroyed the original mill building. About 1907, the Becks built the existing three-story structure. The wheat buhr was lost in the flood, but the original buhr for grinding cornmeal was recovered for the new mill, which served as both a flour and saw mill. After 1935, a gasoline engine supplied power for the mill. The flour mill remained in operation until 1943 and the saw mill until 1963.

The Becks have long hoped to rehabilitate the mill. In the 1960s, Kermit Beck considered restoration of the mill with power generated from Flint Creek. Ina Beck has had a dream of seeing the site restored ever since she married into the family.

Time and the elements have taken their toll on the mill, however. Pointing to the rock supports undergirding the structure, Ina's daughter, Sharon Beck, notes that they have shifted and worries that the mill will not survive another rainy season. If the structure is not stabilized soon, she predicts the milling equipment, at the very least, will end up in the creek.

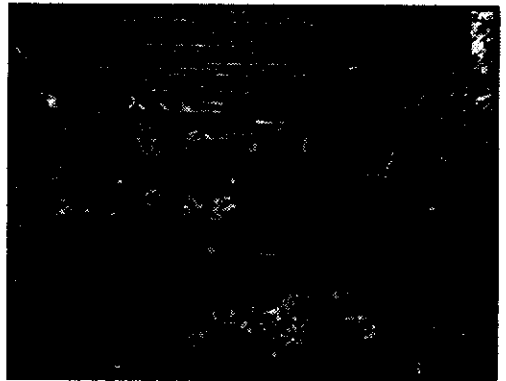
The Becks have renewed enthusiasm and ambitious plans for the old mill. They want to carry out a

museum-quality restoration of the structure and have established a foundation for that purpose. The family envisions the mill as the focal point of a group of educational resources. They consider the mill a significant

example of what the Cherokee people built in a short time following their removal from the Southeast and an important source of pride in their cultural heritage. In addition to its educational value, Beck sees the mill as a true tourist destination. Once the mill is restored, the Becks want to start grinding and selling grain again. Since the site is very accessible, not far from the Cherokee Turnpike, near other important properties like the Saline District Courthouse, and situated less than thirty miles from Tahlequah, the restored mill could contribute greatly to a local heritage tourism industry.

The Beck-Hildebrand Mill is on Preservation Oklahoma's 1995-96 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties, due to its historical significance and extremely tenuous physical condition. The first, critical step must be to stabilize the structure. The State Historic Preservation Office has made an

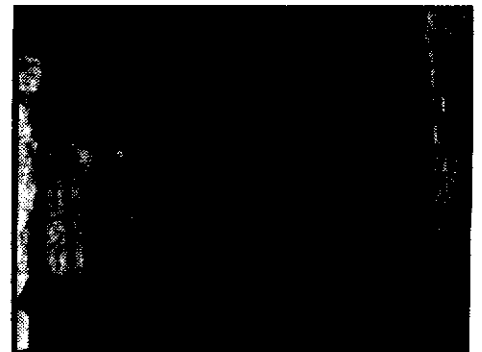
on-site visit to the property and provided advice about stabilization and restoration procedures. The Becks must now consider exactly what level of preservation is feasible for the property and develop a financing strategy to help them realize their dreams. The Beck family certainly exemplifies the important role all Oklahomans play in the preservation of our state's rich heritage.

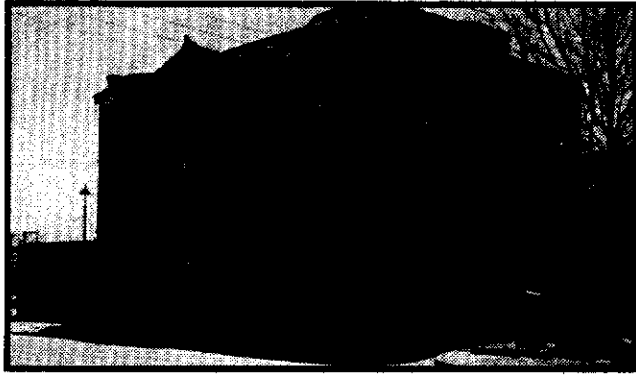


The poor condition of these supports undergirding the structure is considered by the owners to be the greatest threat to the mill.

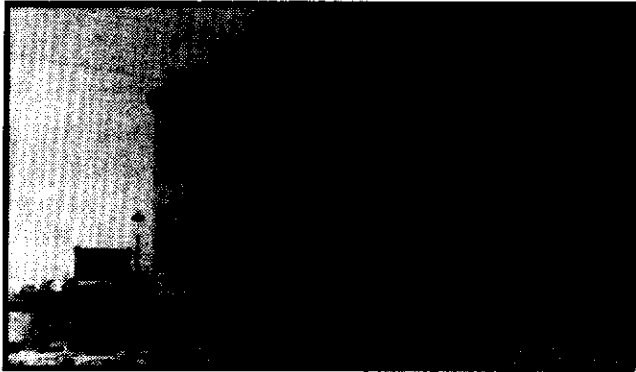


Much of the original equipment, like this lumber saw, is still intact.





The Hotel Marion as it looks today.



Hotel Marion, circa 1900.

OKC Group Planning Hotel Marion Rehab

Three Oklahoma City investors, Denise Armstrong, Stephen Gericke, and Millie Stratton, recently bought the Hotel Marion at Northwest 10th and Broadway Avenue with plans to rehabilitate the building as a bed and breakfast alternative for visiting business people. According to Armstrong, research indicates the Queen Anne style hotel was built around 1904, which would make it one of the few remaining Territorial buildings in downtown Oklahoma City.

The three partners plan a \$1.4 million rehabilitation of the hotel, including restoration of the exterior sign painted on the east brick wall of the three-story building, which reads "Hotel Marion. The nicest small hotel you'll find." They plan to bring the hotel back to luxury standards, with an eclectic range of modern and antique interior furnishings, modems in each room to allow guests to work from the hotel, and a hot tub on the roof. They also plan to turn the basement into a restaurant space.

Habitat for Humanity sold the building to the partners for \$30,000; to date, Gericke estimates they have put \$50,000 into the venture. They plan to seek investors through June of 1996.

Once the rehabilitation is complete, the group plans to emphasize the personal service a smaller hotel can offer its guests: chauffeur services, a doorman to greet guests, and coffee and the newspaper outside their door each morning. Gericke expects that a guest will be able to stay for about \$150 per night.

Armstrong says the group is looking at using the investment tax credit available for certified rehabilitations. The partners consider the architectural character of the building one of its major attracting features.

Chandler Officials Concerned About Historic Brick Streets

The Lincoln County News reported on August 17th that the Chandler City Council is in the process of deciding whether to restore or repave brick streets in the County Seat. City employees dug up a portion of Eighth Street east of Iowa to check for damage to the cement under the bricks, because areas in the cement are collapsing, making the brick streets uneven. The project is a way to determine how much work it would take to repair the brick streets, according to City Manager Perry Beck.

Sally Ferrell, a resident of Chandler and a leader in the historic preservation movement, says she is proud of the fact that the city is, at least, considering repair of the brick streets, when so many communities have simply ripped up the bricks or paved over them. She points to the fact that city officials visited Ponca City and Pauls Valley, where city officials have also grappled with this issue, which shows how seriously Chandler takes the historic preservation aspect of the issue.

Beck says the bricks, by and large, are in good condition, but there is a lot of damage to the 8" concrete slab beneath it. He believes the repair cost estimates of between \$4.25 and \$4.50 per square foot are reliable, given what Chandler officials learned when the portion of Eighth Street was repaired. "This cost is high for street repairs," says Beck, "but you have to remember that, if we do it this way, it will still be there fifty years from now."

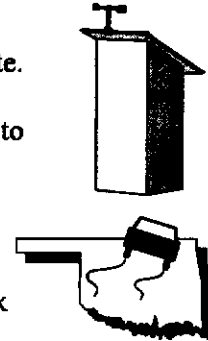
Chandler officials are still debating the issue. They plan to meet with the Lincoln County Historical Society to get its input concerning the matter.

Preservation Community Bulletin Board

NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING?

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is here to chase away your public speaking blues. Our staff is eager to give presentations on historic preservation anywhere in the state. We can tailor the format to your needs, whether it be a rudimentary explanation of the background of historic preservation, or a treatment of some issue near and dear to your heart. And, you get a slide presentation on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties, to boot! It's fun and educational.

All we ask in return is that you supply a carousel slide projector for the presentation and invest in a membership in Preservation Oklahoma. Round up the folks you know should be members, but who just haven't taken the plunge. To book an engagement, call (405) 232-5747.



A Call for Education Professionals:

For FY1995-96, Preservation Oklahoma is working on a heritage education project in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office. As a first step toward education of public school students in the precepts of historic preservation, we will produce a curriculum guide to accompany the Oklahoma Historical Society's video "Oklahoma: a Past Preserved," as well as nine heritage readers to accompany the program. Interested persons with backgrounds in education, particularly those familiar with fourth grade materials, are encouraged to contact us for volunteer work associated with this project. Call Robert K. Erwin at (405) 232-5747.



Begin an adventure into Oklahoma's exciting past . . .

JOIN THE OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Since 1893, the Oklahoma Historical Society has worked to preserve our state's rich heritage through the operation of thirty-two sites and museums, award winning publications, research and genealogical libraries, and historic preservation programs. Membership in OHS entitles you to receive four issues of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, the state's award-winning historical journal, twelve monthly issues of *Mistletoe Leaves*, discounts at OHS museum stores, and invitations to special events. To join, complete the form below, indicating type of membership desired, and send with payment to: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- | | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: | \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired (65+): | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student: | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting: | \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional: | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual): | \$300.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor: | \$500.00 |

Preservation Oklahoma News

Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community



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