



Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

October 1996

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National Historic Preservation Act's 30th Year Celebrated This Month

by Cynthia Smelker and Jill Marsh
State Historic Preservation Office

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) became federal law on October 15, 1966. The legislation was passed in response to increasing damage to prehistoric and historic resources caused by urban growth. While Congress amended the act in 1976, 1980, and 1992, the basic core of this landmark legislation remains the same. Among several key elements, the NHPA provided for the creation of the National Register of Historic Places and of State Historic Preservation Offices throughout the nation.

Over the past thirty years, both of these major provisions have undergone a number of changes. The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), always a part of the Oklahoma Historical Society, became a separate division of the Society in 1975. Since the initial founding of the division with a two-person staff, the office has grown to include a total of eight permanent staff members. Included on the staff are a professionally qualified historian, historical archaeologist, architect, architectural historian, and research assistant. Together the staff implements a number of federal programs at the state level. These include the Section 106 Review, planning, survey, and National Register programs. All of these programs provide for the documentation of historic and archaeological resources across the state.

The basis for all of these programs and the NHPA is the National Register of Historic Places. The Register is the national inventory of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture on the local, state, or national level.

When the NHPA passed in 1966, twelve Oklahoma properties were immediately listed on the National Register as they were National Historic Landmarks. Among these are Forts Gibson, Sill, and Washita; Wheelock Academy and Mission; Cherokee National Capitol; Creek National Capitol; Washita Battlefield; Deer Creek Archaeological Site; and, Sequoyah's Cabin.

Since 1966, the number of Oklahoma properties listed on the National Register has grown to nearly nine hundred. This number, however, does not

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Preservation Act turns 30 - continued:

represent the total number of Oklahoma resources listed. Currently in Oklahoma, there are about thirty-four historic districts listed on the National Register, containing hundreds of sites, buildings, and structures. The majority of these districts are residential neighborhoods and downtown commercial areas. The number of resources within each district varies from few, such as the three buildings in the Maney Historic District in Oklahoma City (NR 1979), to a profusion of resources, such as the 2,000-plus buildings in the Guthrie Historic District (NR 1974). Currently, district nominations in Oklahoma City for the Edwards Historic District and Shepherd Neighborhood Historic District, and in Tulsa for the Swan Lake Historic District, are in various stages of the National Registration process.

While districts hold the record for volume of resources, the majority of National Register nominations are for individual properties. These range from the classic, such as the E. W. Marland Mansion in Ponca City (NR 1973), to the unusual, like the Public Water Trough in Geary (NR 1989). Most recently, the Angie Debo House in Marshall, the Sumner School in Noble County, and the Noble Hotel in Watonga were individually listed on the National Register.

Individual nominations for properties which have a common theme also constitute a significant number of listings. Themes which have been examined in Oklahoma resulting in multiple listings on the National Register include the Works Progress Administration, county courthouses, grain elevators, energy-related resources, and Route 66. In conjunction with the Route 66 multiple property nomination, twenty individual resources associated with the historic highway were listed on the National Register in 1995, with four additional properties now pending. Among these are the Miami Original Nine-Foot Section of Route 66 Roadbed outside of Miami and the Magnolia Service Station in Texola.

The National Register, of course, does not focus only on buildings and structures. Archaeological sites are another important resource type frequently listed on the National Register. Since 1966, when the Stamper and Deer Creek sites were listed, seventy archaeological sites have been placed on the National Register. Because of the vulnerability of these irreplaceable sites, the NHPA provides critical documentary protection. While the majority of National Register information is part of the public record available at the Oklahoma SHPO, the location, character, and ownership of archaeological sites are restricted from public access.

As we observe the 30th anniversary of the NHPA, the Oklahoma SHPO continues to implement the programs provided for in this landmark legislation. If you would like further information about these programs, please contact our office at (405) 521-6249.

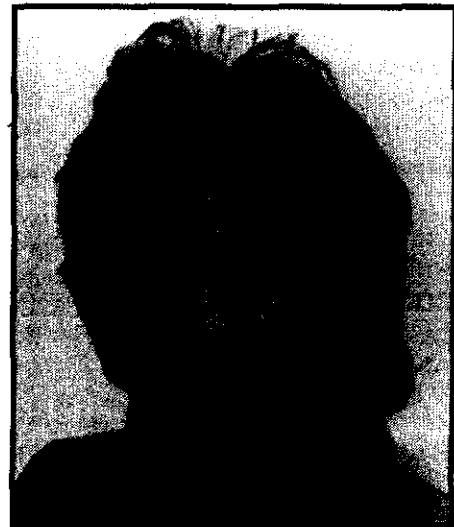
OK Main Street gets new Director, moves Offices

Melody Kellogg, formerly assistant director of the Oklahoma Main Street Program, has been named as the new director. Susie Clinard directed the program during its first ten years and left for another position out of state this summer.

Kellogg has worked in the program nearly nine years and has a masters degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

From October 17 through November 1, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and the state offices of the Oklahoma Main Street Program will move to their new location at 900 North Stiles in Oklahoma City. The mailing address for Main Street will remain P. O. Box 26980, Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0980. The phone numbers for Main Street will change slightly. The new prefix for each will be 815.

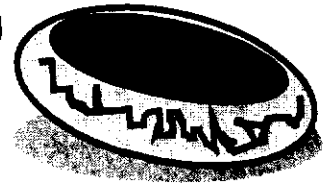
Melody Kellogg, Director:	(405) 815-5133
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New Main Street Director, Melody Kellogg

Cherokee Archaeology: the Northeast Oklahoma Archaeological Survey

by Lois Albert



Like many areas of the world, much of Oklahoma contains buried evidence of the prehistoric and historic past. Undetected beneath our feet, these remnants of the past are often destroyed before we learn about them or from them. Although rich in these sites, northeastern Oklahoma has few recorded and fewer yet intensively studied. Previous projects in the area indicated that few site locations where people lived and worked were recorded from the period just after the removal, although archival records were available. A pedestrian archaeological survey focusing on Cherokee sites in Cherokee, Adair, and Delaware counties was planned for the fall of 1995.

The survey project was cosponsored by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. Partial funding came from the SHPO's FY1995 Historic Preservation Fund Grant (U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service). The Survey provided the matching share and carried out the work.

During October, November, and December, principal investigator Lois Albert and her assistant, Russell Townsend, recorded seventy-two sites including some which figured prominently in Cherokee history. Archival research led to the areas in which the work was concentrated. The project team selected and surveyed areas around Park Hill in Cherokee County, between Watts and Westville in Adair County, around Beatty's and Cloud's creeks (tributaries of Spavinaw Creek) in Delaware County, and a small area near Oaks in Delaware County.

Some original Cherokee settlers' descendants still live in the Park Hill area. With their help and interest, it proved especially productive. These descendants and other local residents remembered

the locations of some early homesteads. Although little remained on the surface but a few artifacts, foundations and other features were mapped and documented. Locations documented in this way included Rose Cottage, the home of John Ross, the Jane Ross Nave home (daughter of John Ross), the 1852 Mission Church, and Sehon Chapel. The project team learned of other unrecorded sites, but was unable to record them due to a lack of time. A possible Dalton age site on the uplands was among the prehistoric sites recorded, but most such sites lacked time-diagnostic artifacts.

In Adair County, several early settlement period occupations were recorded, including Jesse Bushyhead's home, the Baptist Mission Church, the Baptist Mission Cemetery, Goingsnake's grave, the first location of Fort Wayne, a possible stage station, and an early farmstead. As near Park Hill, local residents were very helpful in locating cultural resources, including a number of later historic sites, prehistoric sites, and rock shelters. At one site, a Calf Creek point indicated a Middle Archaic occupation. Still blessed with cold clear springs with good flow, the area has obviously been a good place to live for thousands of years.

In Delaware County, cooperation from local residents and landowners helped to find and document the second location of Fort Wayne, a trading post, an early 19th Century farmstead and cemetery, several rock shelters, and other prehistoric and historic sites. As with the Adair County area, clear cold springs apparently acted as a resource that attracted settlement over the years.

Although much remains to be done in northeastern Oklahoma, the most recent survey project can only be termed a success; it added much to the available knowledge of an area with relatively few known sites.

New Hope for Endangered Route 66 Bridge

by Melvena Heisch, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

The opening of the single span, through-truss Neosho River Bridge on Route 66 in 1937 marked the completion of paving the last segment of the federal highway in Oklahoma. Recently, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) constructed a new bridge to serve modern traffic needs and now the historic bridge does not carry vernacular traffic.

On February 1, 1996, ODOT suspended plans to demolish the Neosho River Bridge for six months to provide a chance for another public or private entity to develop a plan for assuming maintenance responsibilities and liability for the structure. To help call attention to the need for a new owner of the bridge, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., included the Neosho River Bridge on its 1996 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties (see July 1996 issue of *Preservation Oklahoma News*).

As the six month period drew to a close and with local organizational difficulties plaguing bridge advocates, there was little hope the bridge could be saved. However, the Oklahoma Historical Society offered to assume ownership of and liability for the bridge pending the willingness of local groups to provide maintenance and access. ODOT immediately extended the deadline for a formal plan for the bridge to December 31, 1996.

"An important element of the Society's mission is the preservation of historic properties, but we cannot do this job alone," said Bob L. Blackburn, Deputy Executive Director of the Society. "We are working through several of our programs to preserve the Route 66 legacy and the Neosho River Bridge presents an important opportunity to protect a tangible part of the road."

"The Cherokee Nation, the Ottawa County Route 66 Association, and others are extremely interested in working out a plan to ensure the Neosho River Bridge is preserved," said State Representative Larry Roberts, "and, with ODOT's extension of time and the Oklahoma Historical Society's assistance, I am looking forward to the results of a meeting we plan to hold in the next few weeks."

Advisory Council moves Regional Office

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Western Office of Review has moved its office. The new address and telephone number are:

12136 West Bayaud Avenue, Suite 330
Lakewood, CO 80226
(303) 969-5110

The Advisory Council is an independent federal agency that acts as major policy advisor to the government concerning historic preservation. The council's twenty members include the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture; four other federal agency heads designated by the President; the Architect of the Capitol; four members of the general public, one Native American or Native Hawaiian, four historic preservation experts, and one governor and one mayor, all appointed by the President; the chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and, the president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

The Advisory Council reports to the President and Congress on the effectiveness of federal, state, and local programs that carry out the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act; provides advice, technical assistance, or testimony on legislative proposals to Congress; carries out Section 106 Review; consults with agencies engaged in the formulation of procedures and programs which might impact historic resources; and, undertakes special studies to topics of critical interest to preservationists.

State Historic Preservation Office seeks Award Nominees

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requests nominations for the 1997 recipients of the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and for the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nomination is December 31, 1996. The awards will be presented in May of 1997 during the ninth annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Clinton.

The Shirk Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the furtherance of historic preservation on a statewide level. Individuals, organizations, business firms, and government agencies are all eligible. Recent recipients include the Kirkpatrick Foundation, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Main Street Program, Sally Ferrell, and Arn Henderson.

The SHPO's Citation of Merit is presented to individuals, organizations, government agencies, and business firms for important historic preservation efforts, including research, publication, public programming, restoration/rehabilitation, planning, leadership, and other endeavors.

Awards nomination forms and criteria are available from the SHPO, Oklahoma Historical Society, 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. You may fax your request to (405) 947-2918.

Fort Reno may come off Most Endangered List

Dr. Jerry Quisenberry, director of the United States Department of Agriculture's research station at Fort Reno, spoke at a September 9 meeting of Preservation El Reno, Inc. At the meeting, Quisenberry announced the U.S.D.A. has agreed to allow Preservation El Reno to establish a visitor information center at the site by coordinating volunteers from local historic interest groups. The local volunteers will run the center and provide historical information about Fort Reno to visitors to the site.

The U.S.D.A. has agreed to allow Preservation El Reno use of Building #6, which is located on the east end of the fort parade grounds, and the roadways nearby for parking as designated by the laboratory director. The historic fort chapel will also be open to tourists. Preservation El Reno will be allowed use of Building #6 rent-free and utilities for the information center and maintenance of the grounds surrounding it will be provided by the U.S.D.A. In return, volunteers at the new information center will refer all research related interests or questions to the grazing land research laboratory. They will also do initial cleanup of the building and the surrounding area.

Initial visitor access for those interested in touring Fort Reno will be restricted to the information center, chapel, and cemetery. The U.S.D.A. has asked Preservation El Reno to obtain approval from the Agricultural Research Station and the State Historic Preservation Officer before making improvements to ensure regulatory compliance.

Preservation El Reno has formed a separate subcommittee to look into the logistics of creating a visitor information center at Fort Reno. Preliminary plans include joining with other local nonprofits for the volunteer effort.

This offer by U.S.D.A. for use of structures on-site at Fort Reno by local preservationists is a significant step toward making this historic site more accessible to the public. "We hope it will ultimately result in the beginning of significant restoration projects at the fort," said Roger Rinehart, former president of Preservation El Reno.

Fort Reno has been on Preservation Oklahoma's list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties since 1993. Should current efforts by U.S.D.A. and local preservationists go forward, Preservation Oklahoma plans to drop Fort Reno from the list. "This looks like a public-private partnership success story in the making," said Preservation Oklahoma president Hiram H. Champlin of Enid. "We applaud the local efforts to counter threats to this important historic resource."

Fort Reno was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to present its 1996/97 series of special events. All sessions other than the annual statewide preservation conference will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City. Other than the statewide conference, no fee is required for any of these events. If you desire to attend any of these events but have a disability and need accommodation, please notify the SHPO at least three (3) days before the event. For more information, call the SHPO staff at (405) 521-6249.

December 1996

- 4 State and Local Governments as Preservation Partners in Oklahoma: the CLG Program (9:30 a.m. - Noon)
- 4 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (1:30 - 4:30 p.m.)
- 5 The Section 106 Review Process: What Happens When There is an Effect? (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- 6 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

May 1997

- 8-10 Oklahoma's ninth annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Clinton (Registration Fee)

June 1997

- 25 Architectural/Historic Resources Survey: the Basics (9:30 a.m. - Noon)
- 25 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (1:30 - 5:00 p.m.)
- 26 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- 27 Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30 a.m. - Noon)
- 27 Documenting Historic Properties: the HABS/HAER Programs (1:30 - 5:00 p.m.)

A Preservation Success Story: Pawhuska's Constantine Center

From time to time, *Preservation Oklahoma News* highlights successful examples for groups or individuals working on projects that may be similar in nature.

The rehabilitation of the Constantine Center in Pawhuska began in earnest on a bitterly cold January day in 1986. A small group met to remove the alterations from the front of the old theatre in order for it to be a contributing resource in the Pawhuska Historic District National Register nomination.

The group discovered part of the original cornice still in place when they removed the marquee. They also found a third front door frame intact and the imprint of original wall decorations when the metal showbill display cases were removed from the facade.

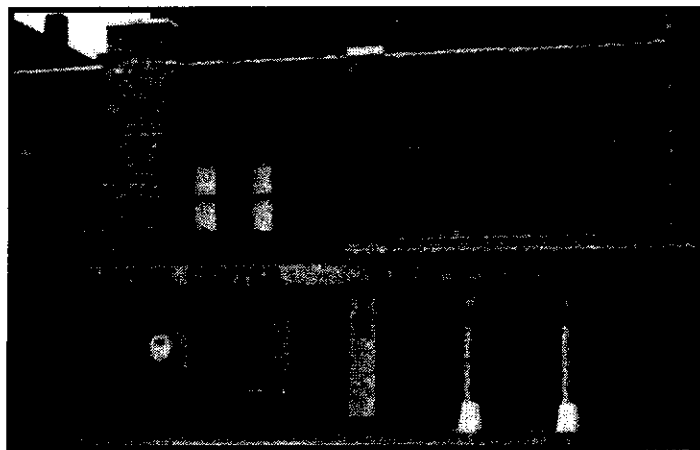
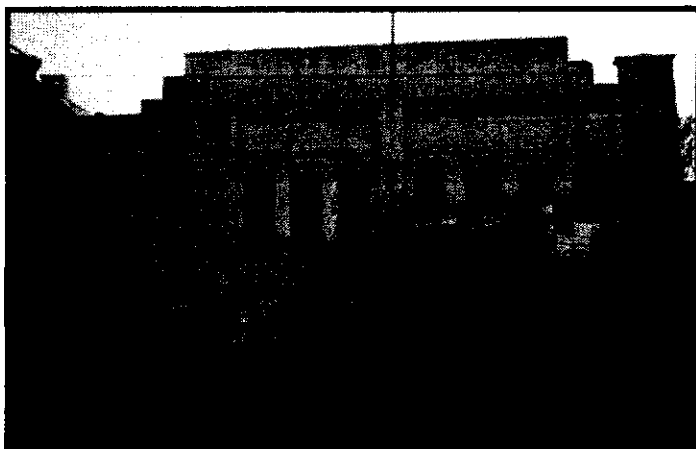
The nonprofit organization Pawhuska Downtown Preservation and Revitalization entered into a contract with the Pawhuska High School's 1986-87 Vocational Class and, through the efforts of these students, the project made a great deal of progress. Since then, new electrical wiring and plumbing have been installed, the stage curtains and roof replaced, and an air conditioning and heating system added, among other improvements.

Sixteen trustees, approved by the Pawhuska City Council, run and maintain the Constantine Center. The nonprofit Constantine Arts Council organizes community functions at the center for Pawhuska and nearby towns. Programs and events held at the Constantine have included productions by the Tulsa Opera, gospel singing, children's theatre, big band concerts, town meetings, and graduations.

If you have any questions about this project, write Janet Holcombe at Constantine Center, P. O. Box 667, Pawhuska, OK 74056.

Pictured below:

The Constantine after alterations and years of neglect (left) and as it appears today after rehabilitation by local volunteers (right)



Preservation Community Bulletin Board

The second Window Conference for Historic Buildings will be held in Washington, D.C., February 19-21, 1997. It will cover a variety of topics related to that ever sticky issue of window repair and replacement in historic structures. For more information, call (202) 343-9578.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) would like to thank the following for sending maps in response to the Preservation Oklahoma News request for maps to replace the ones lost in the April 19, 1995, bombing:

- Ada Area Chamber of Commerce (Ada and Pontotoc Co.)*
- Ardmore Main Street (Ardmore and Carter Co.)*
- Chickasha Chamber of Commerce (Chickasha and Grady Co.)*
- El Reno Chamber of Commerce (El Reno)*
- Jerry and Elaine Butler (Purcell)*
- Gene Ricker (Stillwater)*
- Stilwell Chamber of Commerce (Stilwell)*

Also received was a map of Hennessey and Kingfisher County for which the donor was not recorded.

The SHPO still needs county, city, and town maps. If you have a map of your county, city, or town, please send it to the SHPO, Shepherd Mall, 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107, attention Cindy Smelker. Thank you for your help.

FCC Restricts Local Curbs on Antennas and Satellite Dishes

The communications law passed by Congress earlier this year has led to new rules by the Federal Communications Commission that reduce the power of local municipalities to regulate the placement of television reception equipment on private property. However, exceptions included in the new guidelines provide that rules "governing certain historical districts, including restrictions meant to maintain a 'unique historical environment,'" are exempt from the new legislation.

Stockyards City Main Street starts new Project

The Stockyards City Main Street Program plans to spruce up the streetscape of the area with brick pavers to replace concrete sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, landscaping, and trash receptacles. For more information, contact Melissa at Stockyards City Main Street: (405) 235-7267.

Have an item for our bulletin board? News, upcoming events, concerns? Call us at (405) 232-5747.

Become a member of the statewide historic preservation network . . .



JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA!

Preservation Oklahoma's mission is to foster the preservation of historic buildings and sites in Oklahoma through advocacy, education, and technical and financial assistance within a statewide network. To join, complete the form below, indicating type of membership desired, and send with payment to: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., P. O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family: \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Club: \$1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner: \$30.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$250.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization: \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$500.00 | |

Preservation Oklahoma News

Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community



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