



Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

October 1998

Volume 5, number 1

What's inside:

- CABIN MOVING IN WYNNEWOOD
- PAGE 2 -
- BALLROOM RESTORATION IN SAPULPA
- PAGE 3 -
- OKLAHOMA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
- REPORT PUBLISHED ON THREATS TO NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS
- PAGE 4 -
- NEW LISTINGS IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
- PAGE 5 -
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- SHPO WORKSHOP INFORMATION
- PAGES 6 -
- BULLETIN BOARD
- YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN PRESERVATION OKLA.!
- PAGE 7 -

Nominations sought for Annual Preservation Awards

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requests nominations for the 1998 recipients of the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and for the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nomination is December 31, 1998. The awards will be presented in May of 1999 during the eleventh annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Woodward.

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. Previous recipients include the General Services Administration, the Department of the Army and Ft. Sill, the Kirkpatrick Foundation, the Oklahoma Archaeological 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, business firms, and government agencies for important historic preservation efforts, including research, publications, 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, or by e-mail to cmurrell@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Need a Speaker for your next Meeting?



Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., can solve your guest speaker woes. Set up a presentation for your group or civic organization's next meeting. We can provide programs on a variety of topics, including slide presentations on the National Register of Historic Places, HUD 203(k) House Rehabilitation - a case study, and Preservation Oklahoma's premiere program: *Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List*.

For more information, call (405) 232-5747.

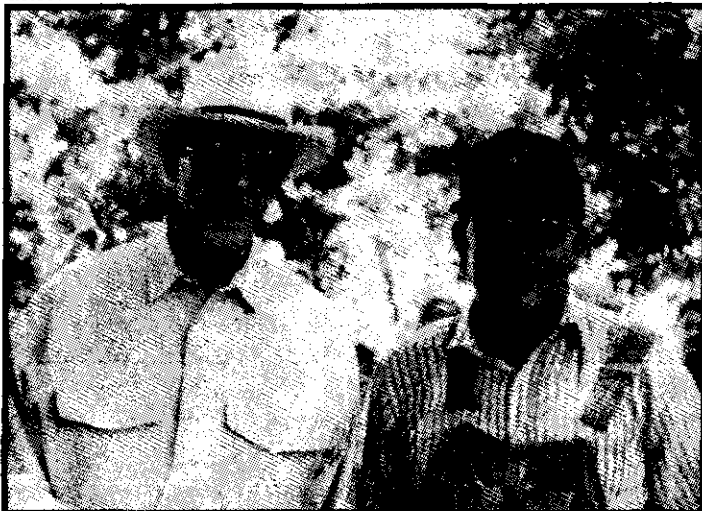
Cabin Moving in Wynnewood

by Marshall Gettys, SHPO staff

The talk was about the lack of rain, poor crops, dry pastures and the price of beef, much as you would expect at any rural gathering in Oklahoma. The horse drawn wagons stood parked in the shade while those who had arrived with them set to work. About noon the host provided a hearty meal for the neighbors that participated in the day's labor and by 1:30 p.m., before the real heat of the day, friends and neighbors returned home, their task completed. Add the use of lowboy trailers pulled by pickups and you have not a turn of the century, 19th to 20th, house-raising, but rather a turn of the century, 20th to 21st, house-moving near Wynnewood, Oklahoma.

Sometime shortly before 7:00 a.m. on July 25, the carefully tagged and labeled logs that formed the 96 year old house began to be removed and stacked on the wagons for transportation to the home of Cletus Dixon. As soon as the horse drawn wagons were loaded, they departed for Wynnewood. Following a route away from the main roads and with a scheduled rest stop at the halfway point, they arrived at their destination in the late morning. The horse drawn wagons were followed by the modern transport with all of the logs loaded by 9:30 a.m. At the storage site, logs from the modern transport were quickly unloaded, permitting a well-deserved break before the arrival of the slower moving horse-drawn wagons. By noon, most of the logs were stacked on racks, where they will remain until the cabin is reassembled.

The move attracted people other than just Mr. Dixon's hard-working neighbors. Also there were representatives of the press and descendants of the original occupants, including Mr. Weldon Carmichael of Oklahoma City. Mr. Carmichael, grandson of the builder, provided answers to questions about life in the cabin that only someone who had lived there could. He identified an aboveground cistern and provided information on how the family utilized the attic.



Weldon Carmichael (left) and Cletus Dixon (right) take a break during the dismantling process. The log cabin, built by Mr. Carmichael's grandfather, will be rebuilt by Mr. Dixon.



Almost halfway to Wynnewood, mules pull wagons filled with logs from the dismantled cabin.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)'s involvement with the project began several months ago when it was contacted by Mr. Dixon about recommendations for moving the building. This author visited the site and was surprised to find the near complete remains of a fine and unusual three-pen cabin. Jill Gray, also of the SHPO staff, accompanied me on a second, longer, but equally hot, day spent measuring and photographing the cabin with the assistance of Mr. Dixon. The cabin was well made and, though lacking a roof, seemed in good condition.

Work with this cabin was part of the SHPO's ongoing program to document Oklahoma log cabins. A once common resource, log cabins are fast disappearing from Oklahoma's cultural landscape. SHPO documentation consists of completing an information form, photographing the buildings, plotting the site location on a standard United States Geological Survey Map, and completing measured drawings. After the field form has been transcribed and filed, copies of the information are made available to interested parties. Mr. Dixon received a copy of the form completed by the SHPO staff as well as copies of the measured drawings. The drawings will allow the cabin to be reconstructed accurately with each pen in proper relation to the others.

Although the SHPO staff documented this cabin, forms and detailed instructions are available to anyone who would like to document a log cabin of which they are aware or in which they have a special interest. For details, contact Marshall Gettys (405) 521-6381, or visit the SHPO at 2704 Villa Prom, Shepherd Mall, Oklahoma City.

Collins Building Ballroom restored in Sapulpa

by Mendy Overby, Sapulpa Main Street

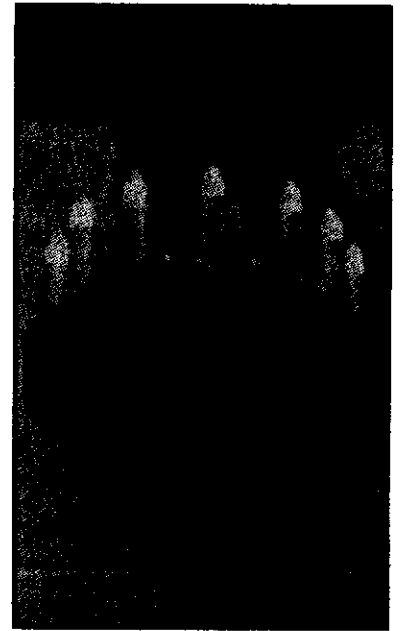
Built as the Masonic Temple in 1925, the Collins building in Sapulpa is named after the family who owned Liberty Glass Company, which bought the building in 1945 and converted it to administrative office space. Until last July, the ballroom in the building had not hosted an event in over 50 years. Indeed, until last January, it was used for storage, full of dusty boxes, broken chairs, and slats of wood. The lead glass window was boarded up against the threat of vandalism, hidden from public view. Still, the ballroom retained enough vestigial grandeur to inspire Sapulpa leaders Guy Berry (C.O.O. of American National Bank), Creek County Commissioner Dana Hudgins, and Sapulpa Main Street board member Pete Galbraith to work with Sapulpa Main Street to restore it.

In 1989, the Creek County Industrial Authority paid \$218,000 for the Collins Building and donated it to the County. In 1993, the county commissioners created the Creek County Expansion Commission to "prepare and present a comprehensive plan" for providing office space using available resources, which included the Collins Building. Since then, \$400,000 in private funds has gone into renovation work on the historic building, which now provides staff office space for the county commissioners, clerk, treasurer, and assessor.

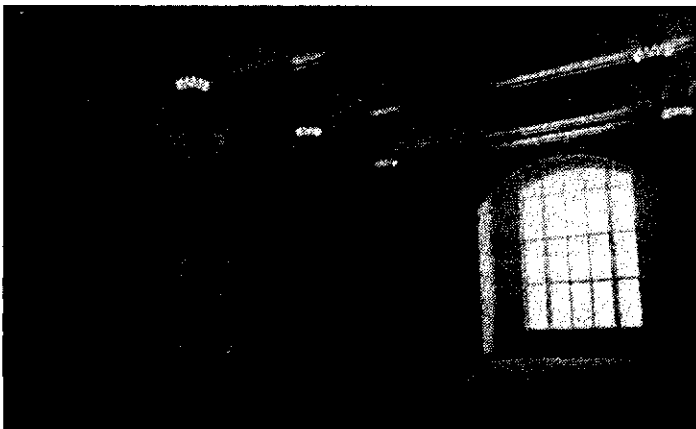
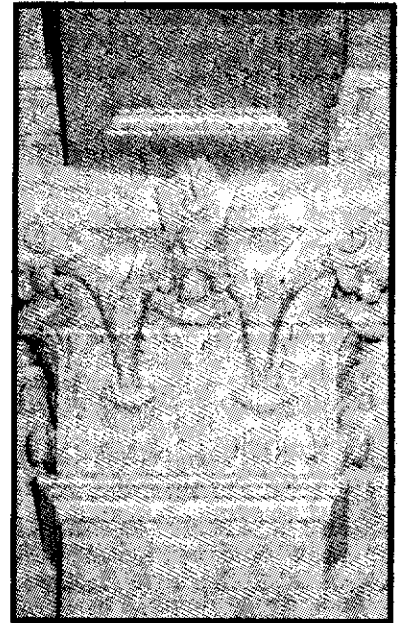
Not considered a priority when work on the building began, the ballroom eventually captured the imagination of community leaders and underwent a sensitive restoration costing \$80,000, which came from numerous donors, including substantial gifts from the Bartlett Foundation and the Collins Foundation. The first official event in the reopened ballroom on July 23 had over 200 attendees, who were addressed by Lt. Governor Mary Fallon.

Since the renovation of the Collins Building and the ballroom's restoration, the County Expansion Committee has targeted the Creek County Courthouse for improvements.

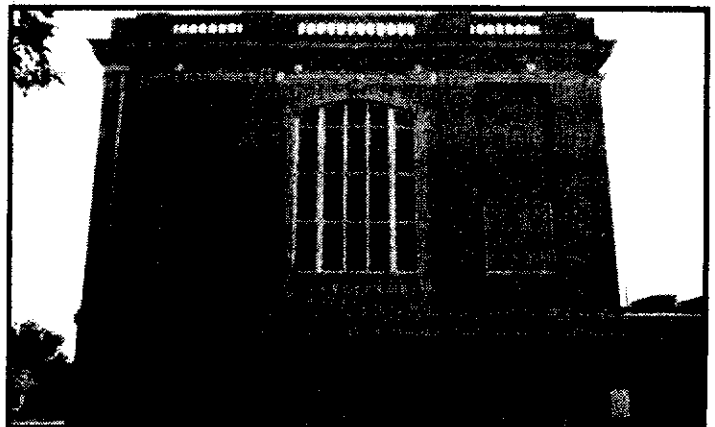
One of many colorful light fixtures brought back to its original charm during the restoration.



A detail of the restored plaster work in the ballroom.



The restored ballroom now bears little resemblance to the dark, junk-filled storage room it had become after years of neglect and disuse.



This photograph of the Collins Building shows the ballroom's prominent, arched window from the exterior.

Oklahoma's National Historic Landmarks

by Melvena Thurman Heisch, Deputy SHPO

Of the 919 Oklahoma properties currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, sixteen are National Historic Landmarks (NHL). An NHL is an "historic property evaluated and found to be significant at the national level and designated as such by the Secretary of the Interior." The NHL designation process is completely separate from the nomination process for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Historic Landmarks Survey, National Park Service (NPS), identifies by theme the properties that will be considered for this special status. The nominations are reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, a committee of scholars and other citizens. While the

board makes recommendations for the designation of NHLs to the Secretary of the Interior, the final decision for designation rests with the Secretary.

If a federal undertaking may impact an NHL, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must have the opportunity to comment on the project. Additional protection for NHLs is provided through the Secretary's annual report to Congress on threats to their integrity. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and others are asked to help gather the information for this report. The NPS also extends special technical assistance programs to the owners of NHLs, such as a recent special workshop.

Oklahoma's sixteen NHLs are:

Boley Historic District – roughly bounded by Seward Ave., Walnut and Cedar streets, and the southern city limits in Boley, Okfuskee County.
Camp Nichols – Wheelless vicinity, Cimarron County
Cherokee National Capitol – downtown Tahlequah, Cherokee County
Creek National Capitol – 6th and Grand, Okmulgee, Okmulgee County
Deer Creek Site – Newkirk vicinity, Kay County
Fort Gibson – Lee and Ash streets, Fort Gibson, Muskogee County
Fort Sill – roughly the Old Post Quadrangle and surrounding area, Fort Sill, Comanche County
Fort Washita – southwest of Nida on OK 199, Bryan County

Marland (E. W.) Mansion – Monument Road, Ponca City, Kay County
McLemore Site – Colony vicinity, Washita County
Murrell House – four miles south of Tahlequah, Park Hill, Cherokee County
101 Ranch – twelve miles southwest of Ponca City, Kay County
Sequoyah's Cabin – OK 101, Akins vicinity, Sequoyah County
Stamper Site – Optima vicinity, Texas County
Washita Battlefield – northwest of Cheyenne, Roger Mills County
Wheelock Academy – east of Millerton, McCurtain County

The SHPO is pleased to announce the National Park System Advisory Board's landmark committee will review two additional Oklahoma properties for NHL status at its October meeting. The two are: Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa and Guthrie's Historic central business district. NPS contracted with the SHPO to prepare the Boston Avenue Methodist Church nomination under its architecture theme study. The City of Guthrie, as part of its work in the Certified Local Governments Program, retained a consultant to prepare the NHL nomination for its commercial district under the settlement theme study. The Oklahoma Historical Society will soon begin work on an NHL nomination for the Honey Springs Battlefield near Checotah in McIntosh County.

For additional information, contact the SHPO at (405) 521-6249.

Threatened National Historic Landmarks

Established in 1935 by the U.S. Congress, the National Historic Landmarks program identifies and protects places of national significance. In 1997, 17% of America's NHLs were identified as damaged or threatened. Fact sheets on properties listed in the Secretary of the Interior's *Report to the 105th Congress on Threatened NHLs* are available on the internet at <http://www2.cr.nps.gov>. This report is particularly important as the President's FY1999 Budget Request proposes a \$2.7 million grants program specifically targeted to stabilize and restore these endangered nationally significant properties.

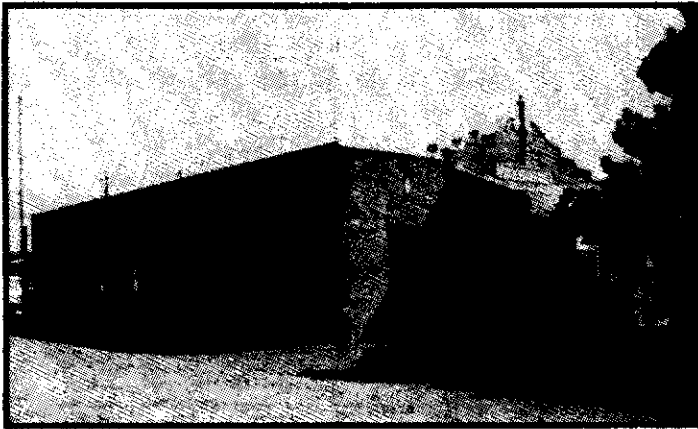
At risk NHLs in Oklahoma include the 101 Ranch, Ft. Gibson, and the Wheelock Academy. The Landmarks Watch List includes the Boley Historic District, the Marland Mansion, and the Washita Battlefield.

Of the sixteen NHLs in Oklahoma, four have been or are currently included on Preservation Oklahoma's list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. These four properties are the 101 Ranch, the Boley Historic District, the Washita Battlefield, and the Wheelock Academy.

Five Properties listed on National Register

by Cynthia Savage, SHPO staff

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the listing of five Oklahoma properties on the National Register of Historic Places. The five properties are the Prague City Hall and Jail, Checotah City Hall, Okemah Armory, Wolverine Oil Company Drayage Barn, and the Norton-Johnson Buick Company building.



The Prague City Hall and Jail

The Prague City Hall and Jail was listed on the National Register for its association with the Public Works Administration and as the seat of government for the city of Prague. The building was constructed in 1936 under a grant from the New Deal-era Public Works Administration (PWA) program. The PWA differed from other New Deal programs in that it was intended to stimulate private industry by making grants and loans to public bodies for the hiring of architects, contractors, and laborers to construct useful public works. In Oklahoma, the PWA undertook 302 projects with non-federal partners at a total estimated cost of just under \$52 million. Beyond stimulating the area industry and economy, the construction of buildings like the Prague City Hall and Jail also facilitated the workings of numerous town governments across the state and nation. The improved facilities centralized the seat of city government and allowed for an expansion of city records and services. The Prague City Hall and Jail is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of a Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style public building in Prague.

The Checotah City hall, located in Checotah, McIntosh County, was built in 1916. The building is significant within the local context of politics/government. The Checotah City hall was the first city hall building in Checotah. Thus, its construction allowed for the consolidation of city services and administration that previously had been located in separate, often inadequate leased facilities. In addition to providing the community with city office space and a public meeting room, the Checotah City Hall also functioned as the town's library, fire station, police station, and jail. Utilizing a matching grant from the SHPO, the Checotah Main Street program retained the services of Karen Bode to prepare the nomination.

Located in Okfuskee County, the Okemah Armory was built between 1935-37 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The building is historically significant for its association with the

WPA, which bolstered the local, state, and national economies during the Great Depression. Additionally, the armory is significant for its role in the military preparedness of the Oklahoma National Guard, specifically Company D, 180th Infantry of the 45th Infantry Division. Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of a WPA Standardized style building. The materials and workmanship evident in the building's masonry reflect both the goals of the WPA Building Program in Oklahoma and the practical considerations of using unskilled labor to construct large public buildings.

The Wolverine Oil Company Drayage Barn is significant as the only remaining oil company-built drayage facility in southeastern Osage County. During the early years of oil field exploration, horses and mules were used to transport heavy oil field equipment over the rugged terrain of Osage County. It was not until after World War I that mechanized transportation became more commonplace in the oil fields. However, as evidenced by the construction of the Wolverine Oil Company Drayage Barn in 1923, horses and mules continued to be an important means of transportation for the oil industry in Osage County through the 1920s. The barn is located at Wolco, an abandoned oil camp and gasoline plant maintained by the Wolverine Oil Company from 1910 through the 1930s.

The Norton-Johnson Buick Company building was listed on the National Register as the best remaining example of a large, brick, multi-story Art Deco commercial building in the Oklahoma City downtown area. The building was constructed in 1930 when the Norton-Johnson Buick Company outgrew their 1926 building at 1101 North Broadway. Although there are other Art Deco buildings in the downtown area, they differ from the Norton-Johnson Buick Company building in terms of size, building material, and decorative detail. The building was recently rehabilitated utilizing the Investment Tax Credit program and now functions as the Garage Loft Apartments.

The SHPO continues to work toward its goal of 1,000 listings by the year 2000. With the addition of these properties, the number of Oklahoma properties listed on the National Register now equals 919.

For more information on these properties or the National Register of Historic Places, please contact Cindy Savage at (405) 522-4478.



The Wolverine Oil Company Drayage Barn is in the vicinity of Avant in Osage County

Calendar of Upcoming Historic Preservation Events

Unless otherwise noted, all State Historic Preservation Office workshops will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, with no registration fee required. 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 (405) 521-6249.

September

- 11 Public Meeting for the SHPO's FY1999 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30 a.m.)
- 11 Updating the Statewide Preservation Plan: a public forum (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

October

- 20-25 52nd National Preservation Conference in Savannah, Georgia
For information, call: (202) 588-6100.

December

- 2 State and Local Governments as Preservation Partners in Oklahoma: the CLG Program (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
- 2 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- 3 The Section 106 Review Process: what happens when there is an effect? (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- 4 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

May

- 6-8 Oklahoma's Eleventh Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Woodward Registration Fee.
- 9-15 National Historic Preservation Week

June

The June SHPO workshops will be held at the Hospitality and Training Center, Kiamichi Park, five miles east of Hugo on US-70:

- 23 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon)
- 23 Determination of Eligibility under Section 106 (1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- 24 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- 25 Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon)
- 25 Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Helpful Websites for the Preservationist

compiled by Eva Osborne, AIA, SHPO staff

The national Park Service has undergone a reorganization over the last several years. As a result, the Technical Preservation Services (TPS) is now one of four branches in its Heritage Preservation Services (HPS) program. You can access the HPS home page at the following address: <http://www2.cr.nps.gov/>

TPS is responsible for the Historic Preservation Tax Incentives, technical information and training on the preservation of cultural resources, and training and education. They have developed several helpful sites dealing with their most requested information. The Preservation Briefs series has been reformatted without photographs; the Historic Preservation Certification application has been transferred to a system that allows the application to be downloaded and completed on the applicant's computer; and Tax Act Status reports for individual projects can be accessed with the appropriate Social Security or Tax ID number. This information can be accessed at the following addresses:

Preservation Briefs:

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>

Historic Preservation Certification Applications:

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/hpcappl.htm>

Tax Act Status:

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/taxact-db/>

SHPO Workshops scheduled

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will present its fall workshop series December 2 - 4. All sessions will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. Registration is free.

The workshops are designed for community preservation leaders, preservation professionals, and government agency representatives. The workshops will cover the SHPO's Certified Local Governments program, the Section 106 Review program, and the National Register of Historic Places.

For specific workshop schedule information, see calendar inset, this page.

Because space is limited, you should contact the SHPO by telephone (405) 521-6249, by fax (405) 947-2918, or by e-mail:

cmurrell@ok-history.mus.ok.us by 5:00 p.m., November 25, to reserve a seat.

PRESERVATION COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) is pleased to announce two grant programs: the SOS! 2000 Assessment Awards and the SOS! 2000 Treatment Awards, sponsored by Target Stores and the National Endowment for the Arts. The awards fund the professional condition assessment and the conservation treatment of deteriorating sculptures. State and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations are eligible. To receive a Treatment Award, needy sculptures must have received a professional condition assessment, so the two grant programs complement each other as the first and second steps in the treatment process. Parties interested in 2000 Assessment Awards or 2000 Treatment Awards information or applications should call Daria Gasparini (888) 767-7285 or write to Save Outdoor Sculpture!, 1730 K Street N.W., Suite 566, Washington, D.C. 20006. The Treatment Awards deadline for Oklahoma is July 30, 1999. SOS! is a project of Heritage Preservation and Smithsonian National Museum of Art.

Heritage Preservation and the National Park Service have just published *Caring for Your Historic House*, with a foreword by Hillary Rodham Clinton. This comprehensive illustrated guide focuses on the importance of maintenance in preserving historic houses.

Heritage Preservation has also published *Caring for Your Collections*, a clear, informative guide to conservation and preventive maintenance of a wide variety of collectible artworks, objects, and more, for the private collector.

Both books are available in hardcover for \$39.95 and paperback for \$24.50. To order, call (202) 634-1422.

The American Academy in Rome is the foremost American overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the fine arts and the humanities. Rome Prize fellowships are available annually for stipends ranging from \$9,000 to \$17,800, covering six months to two years living and studying in Rome. Fellowships are available for a variety of disciplines, including archaeology, architecture, conservation, historic preservation, interior design, landscape architecture, urban design, and urban planning. Both pre- and post-doctoral fellowships are available for the study of archaeology. For application guidelines and further information, please contact the Programs Department, American Academy in Rome, 7 East 60 Street, New York, NY 10022-1001, or call (212) 751-7200. Please state specific field of interest when requesting information. Applications may also be downloaded through the Academy's website at: www.aaarome.org.

McGraw-Hill now offers a book entitled, *The Powers of Preservation: New Life for Historic Structures*, by Arthur Cotton Moore, FAIA. "Drawing upon his more than three decades of professional experience and his vast portfolio of large-scale rehabilitation projects, Moore shows how preservation – by embracing a wider range of building types and an attitude that permits creative reuse – can remedy the visual chaos and economic divestment that characterize our cities." Available in bookstores in hardcover: \$49.95.



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

JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NOW!

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 and send with payment to: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., P. O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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

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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 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or handicap 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, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Preservation Oklahoma News
Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community

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e-mail us at:

robert@preservationoklahoma.org

Please donate to POK's 1998-99 National Trust Challenge Grant Match

Thanks to the financial support of our membership and a year of preparation work by the board of directors, Preservation Oklahoma will soon receive from the National Trust for Historic Preservation the first installment of a four year challenge grant intended to strengthen the capacity of our statewide preservation organization. Two immediate goals set by the board for use of this funding are to hire contract employees to work specifically on strengthening Preservation Oklahoma's Heritage Education and the Revolving Loan Fund Development programs.

Please make a donation to our 1998-99 Challenge Grant Match fund by sending your check marked "Challenge Match" to the address on the left.

Current 1998-99 Challenge Grant Donors:

Dr. George Carney, *Stillwater*
Evelyn K. Davis, *OKC*
Don and Sally Ferrell, *Chandler*
Leslie and Cliff Hudson, *OKC*
Joyce O'Donnell, *Bartlesville*
Rev. Donald P. Owens, *Norman*
Mark and Johnna Thurston, *Tulsa*
Elizabeth M. Tolbert, *OKC*
Manhattan Construction Co., Tulsa

New and Renewed Memberships

Thank you all for your support!

Individual/Family - \$15.00:

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Rex M. Ball, *Tulsa*
Mr. and Mrs. David Bayles, *Tulsa*
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