

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

A joint project of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma



October 2008 Volume XV No. 1

Enid Named a *Preserve America* Community



Early 20th Century Downtown Enid

The Enid community was recently honored when First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of the *Preserve America* initiative, designated it as one of the nation's newest *Preserve America* Communities.

"*Preserve America* Communities demonstrate that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with opportunities for learning and enjoyment," Mrs. Bush said. "This community designation program, combined with the *Preserve America* Grant Program, *Preserve America* Presidential Awards, and other federal support, provides strong incentives for continued preservation of our cultural and natural heritage resources. I commend you for your commitment to preserving

an important part of our nation's historic past for visitors, neighbors, and, most importantly, for children."

The City of Enid will receive a certificate of designation signed by Mrs. Bush announcing the City of Enid is now a *Preserve America* Community. Communities designated through the program receive national recognition for their efforts. Benefits include the right to use the *Preserve America* logo on signs and promotional materials; eligibility for *Preserve America* Grants; notification to state tourism offices; and listing in a Web-based directory that showcases Enid's preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations. *Preserve America* Communities are also featured in National Register Travel

Itineraries and in "Teaching With Historic Places" curricular materials created by the National Park Service.

Enid's *Preserve America* Communities application featured rehabilitation of its historic Masonic Temple built by the Garfield County Masons in 1924. Today the magnificent building serves as the Enid Symphony Hall. The individual who had owned the building for several years donated it to the symphony. The Enid Symphony, the City of Enid, Enid residents, 40 local volunteers, and more than 50 artists from around the world recently completed a \$3.2 million renovation project, adapting the building for a theater and event space. Public contributions, corporate sponsorship,

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SHPO Accepting Award Nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Oklahoma Historical Society, is now accepting nominations for its 2009 awards program. Know someone who rehabilitated an important historic building in your community? Worked with a dedicated group of volunteers to save a historic property? Developed a walking tour brochure for a historic district? These and many more projects and activities contribute to the preservation of Oklahoma's archeological and historic properties. Help the SHPO recognize the many preservation success stories across the state.

The SHPO recognizes projects and activities

through the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nominations is 5:00pm, Friday, December 5th, and candidates will be notified in February 2009 about the results of the selection process. The awards will be presented at the banquet during Oklahoma's 21st Annual Statewide Preservation Conference at Quartz Mountain Resort Arts and Conference Center (June 3-5, 2009).

The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation is presented for historic preservation programs or activities that have had statewide impact. The SHPO's

Citation of Merit is awarded for noteworthy accomplishments in historic preservation at the state or local level.

The SHPO will accept nominations in either electronic or hard copy format. To request nomination forms and instructions, contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org. Or, obtain the information from the SHPO's website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm (select "Programs" and then "Awards").

If you have questions about the awards criteria, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org.

Preservation Oklahoma Hosts Reception at National Conference

The 2008 National Preservation Conference is almost here! Tulsa, the site of the nation's premier preservation conference, is one of America's top showcase cities for art deco architecture. Every year, attendees have the opportunity to meet with life-long friends and colleagues who are dedicated to protecting historic resources within their community and meet new partners in the fight for preservation. Come to Tulsa and strengthen your professional network, meet new partners in the fight for preservation, rekindle old friendships, then return home with newfound energy, rededicated to your mission, knowing you have strong allies in the battle to save our heritage.

Upon your arrival, please plan to stop in at Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s "Welcome Reception" the evening of Monday, October 20. The come and go reception will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Remington Room, located on the lobby level in the meeting room area, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Please join us for free hors d'oeuvres and wine as we "kick off" the next four days full

of wonderful opportunities in which we showcase Oklahoma's unique heritage and hospitality. For more information, please contact Sheila Spurgeon, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s Executive Director, by phone at (405) 525-5325 or by email at preservationok@preservationok.org. See you at the Conference!

If you would like to receive email notices regarding preservation related grants, workshops and upcoming events, please forward your email address to: preservationok@preservationok.org

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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and in-kind donations, particularly from artists, made the exemplary local initiative possible. Now the building boasts a symphony hall decorated with three Swarovski chandeliers and seats salvaged from a 1930s theater from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Also renovated was an Egyptian style lobby, and the Eleanor Hoehn Hornbaker Banquet Hall, which are rented for weddings and other events. A virtual tour of the restored rooms can be found on the Enid Symphony's Web site

(<http://enidsymphony.uniqhorns.com>). The City of Enid participates in the State Historic Preservation Office's Certified Local Governments Program and, through this program, the downtown commercial district was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Enid Main Street Program provides vital services and guidance for the revitalization efforts in the district. The Enid community supports the Museum of the Cherokee Strip and many other civic, cultural, and recreational activities.

Enid is the seventh Oklahoma community to receive the *Preserve America* Community designation. Ardmore, Durant, Newkirk, Ponca City, Shawnee, and Tulsa have also received the special recognition.

As funds are made available, *Preserve America* Communities may apply for special grant assistance. Grants are awarded on a competitive, matching fund basis to help communities develop sustainable management strategies and sound business practices for

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Early Enid Residence



Chamber of Commerce Building, Enid



Birds-eye View of Downtown Enid at Turn of the Century

In the Company of Layton: *Architects Practicing in Oklahoma City Around Statehood* – Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian Part Four of Four Part Series

Although a few decades short of Bailey's achievement, D.W.F. Turbyfill also had a distinguished association with the development of Oklahoma City. Turbyfill opened his architectural office in Oklahoma City around 1900. Turbyfill, a native of North Carolina, was a graduate of the St. Louis college. Between 1906 and 1908, Turbyfill formed an alliance with Frederick J. Mohr. Born in Germany, Mohr received his education in Berlin. Before coming to Oklahoma City in late 1905, Mohr practiced architecture in Chicago. Although no buildings were specified, the work of both prior to the partnership was said to have resulted in "...many of the fine public and private buildings in the state." Their work together included numerous important undertakings which required considerable expertise and resulted in buildings of the "...finest taste...". While Mohr does not appear in the Oklahoma City directories after 1906, Turbyfill continued his practice in the city until 1911 when he moved to Chicago. Turbyfill spent much of 1909 designing the Pettie building on West Main Street. Additionally, Turbyfill considered the home of M.L. Turner at the corner of Eleventh Street and Robinson Avenue and the C.O. Russell residence at 624 West Thirteenth as two notable examples of his work in the city through early 1910.¹

Coming to Oklahoma City in April 1902, Charles Lobdell learned the profession through a variety of methods. Before becoming an architect, Lobdell completed an apprenticeship as a carpenter and builder. In this capacity, Lobdell worked in at least three states, Illinois, Nebraska and California. Although "His acknowledged ability and skill as an architect ha(d) been largely self acquired through home study," Lobdell also took a two-year course at Vanderain's Engineering and Architectural School in San Francisco where he began his architectural career. He also practiced in San Jose, California, before moving to Chicago and, then, Oklahoma City. Lobdell designed many buildings in the area, including both the First Methodist

Episcopal churches in Oklahoma City and Edmond, as well as any number of residences. Lobdell's name appeared in the city directories only until 1909.²

A regional architectural firm of note was that of Van Slyke and Woodruff. Clyde H. Woodruff joined Van Slyke's New York City office at an early age to learn the profession. Forming a partnership in 1909 in New York, the firm moved to Oklahoma City in 1910 to design the First Christian Church. In 1912, the firm moved to Fort Worth to construct the First Christian Church there. Remaining in Fort Worth for many years, the firm subsequently also designed the First Christian Church in Tulsa, as well as became the official architects for Texas Christian University.³

William A. Wells, a registered architect in the state of Illinois, was in Oklahoma City before 1901 when he worked as a partner in the firm of Berling, Hoff and Wells. This firm designed the Oklahoma County Courthouse building which stood through the 1930s. In 1906, Wells partnered with A.J. Williams to form the firm of Williams and Wells. The firm continued until 1909 when both entered into separate practices in Oklahoma City. Buildings designed by the firm of Williams and Wells included the Pioneer Telephone Company warehouse, a store and flat building at the corner of Eight and Brusha Streets, and the Sinnopolo and Marre Building which adjoined the opera house. Following the dissolution of the partnership, Wells designed the 12-story, Colcord Building at the corner of Robinson and Grand avenues which cost a staggering \$450,000. He also is credited with the design of the \$225,000 Street Railway building, the \$200,000 Goodholm building and the \$40,000 Kenton building.⁴

There were many other architects practicing their trade in Oklahoma City in the first decade of the twentieth century. Unfortunately, while their buildings may have withstood the passage of time, credit for their work has slipped into the crevices of history.



First Methodist Church, Oklahoma City



First Courthouse, Oklahoma City



Colcord Building, Oklahoma City

¹Ibid., 10 March 1907, 22 April 1910 and 7 June 1936.

²Ibid., 20 September 1903 and 10 March 1907.

³Ibid., 22 April 1907. See also "Book of North and West Texas: A work for Ready Reference," *The Fort Worth Record*, 1920.

⁴Ibid., 29 July 1906, 10 March 1907 and 22 April 1910.

Register now for the SHPO's December Workshops

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the schedule for its annual fall workshop series. Each workshop is devoted to one of the SHPO's federal preservation programs and is designed for preservation professionals, government agency representatives, and concerned citizens. The sessions will be held Wednesday, December 17th through Friday, December

19th. All sessions will be held in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 2401 N. Laird, Oklahoma City (just northeast of the State Capitol). The workshops are free and open to the public, but the SHPO requests that you register by 5:00pm, Wednesday, December 10th. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis. The workshop schedule is as follows:

December 17 (9:30am-12:00noon) Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

In this workshop participants will learn about the federal and state investment tax credits for certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure. A detailed discussion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will guide owners and developers in successfully preparing the information needed for the State Historic Preservation Office to review the project and for the National Park Service to certify it. This session is designed as a stand-alone workshop or as a companion to Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

December 17 (1:30pm-4:30pm) The Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

This half-day workshop is dedicated to a thorough discussion of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Generally referred to as "The Standards," these common sense principles are widely used in the historic preservation field. Whether you are involved

in a rehabilitation project for the 20% federal and 20% state tax credits, planning a rehabilitation project funded with federal assistance, serving on a local historic preservation commission, or just wanting to know the best approach to rehabilitating your historic private home, you will find this session invaluable. It is designed as a stand-alone workshop and as a companion to Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation.

December 18 (9:30am-4:30pm) Working with Section 106: A Workshop for CDBG Applicants and Consultants

(presented jointly with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce)

This new workshop is specifically designed for applicants and consultants involved in projects funded through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides that federal agencies must consider the effect of their undertakings on archeological and historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under the CDBG program, applicants (city, county, or tribal governments)

are considered "federal agencies." Topics addressed in this day-long workshop include the responsibilities of CDBG applicants; the roles of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; the roles of the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; and the roles of tribal governments and others in the review process. Additionally, there will be detailed discussion about how National Register eligibility is determined, how any adverse effects are addressed, and how the review process can be streamlined.

December 19 (9:30am-4:30pm) Working with the National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the foundation of the SHPO's programs, and a basic understanding of the register is essential for those involved in historic preservation at all levels of government and in the private sector. The workshop provides detailed information about the National Register criteria, what listing means, the rights of property owners in the nomination process, tips for preparing successful nominations, and much more.

Registered architects who attend these workshops can qualify for American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) learning units. Contact Catherine Montgomery, Education Committee, AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter, at catherinem@okhistory.org.

If you may have questions about workshop content, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org. To register for any or all of the workshops, contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or bharris@okhistory.org by 5:00pm, Wednesday, December 10.

Subscribe to the Oklahoma SHPO's Listserve

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office invites you to subscribe to its listserve. Get the latest information on a wide range of topics such as availability of grants and share information about your preservation efforts. To subscribe just go to <http://lists.onenet.net/mailman/listin->

[fo/okshpo](http://lists.onenet.net/mailman/listin-fo/okshpo) for step-by-step instructions for subscribing and using the listserve.

Anyone can post a message to the listserve whether or not they are a subscriber. Just send a regular e-mail message to okshpo@lists.onenet.net. That's all there is to it,

and your message reaches everyone on the list. Please remember that you cannot send attachments with your message.

The OKSHPO listserve is an easy way to publicize your preservation-related events. Join us.

2009 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places Nomination Form

It is time to compile Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2009, and we need your input. Help us identify Oklahoma's threatened historic resources.

Since 1993, Preservation Oklahoma has sponsored Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List. It serves as a sample of the thousands of landmarks across Oklahoma in need of our attention. While the listing does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee

funding, the designation has been a powerful tool to help local organizations raise the awareness of their endangered places.

Please complete both pages of this nomination form and return it by October 31, 2008 to Preservation Oklahoma. The Selection Committee will announce the "2009 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List" in January 2009.

1) Nomination Submitted by:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail address _____

2) Endangered Place/Property Nominated:

Endangered Place/Property _____

Address/Location _____

City/Vicinity _____ County _____

Current Owner's Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

3) Is the current property owner aware of this nomination? _____ Yes _____ No



Masonic Lodge, Tonkawa. Endangered 2005



Water Tower, Boley. Endangered 2005



Wheelock Academy, Millerton, Endangered 2007

4) The nominated Endangered Place/Property.....(choose one)

_____ is a National Historic Landmark, or

_____ contributes to a National Historic Landmark district (name of district) _____, or

_____ is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or

_____ contributes to a National Register district (name of district) _____, or

_____ is individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the State Historic Preservation Office, or

_____ contributes to a district determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Office, or

_____ is none of the above.

5) The nominated Endangered Place/Property's current condition is best described as:

_____ good _____ fair _____ poor

6) Other than funding for restoration/rehabilitation, what one service could be provided that would assist you in preserving this endangered place/property?

7) In 150 words or less, explain why you believe this Endangered Place/Property should be placed on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2009:

8) Please include at least two color photographs showing the current condition of the nominated place/property. Slides, jpegs, and/or photographs are acceptable. When appropriate, interior photographs are appreciated. Applications without photographs will be disqualified.

For your convenience, you may also make your nomination by using the nomination form located on the website: www.preservationok.org

Please return this completed form by October 31, 2008 to:

Preservation Oklahoma Incorporated

405 NW 15th Street

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Questions? Call 405/525-5325 or preservationok@preservationok.org

Preservation Oklahoma and Bancfirst Partner to Sponsor Local Planfirst Grants

\$10,000 Total Commitment to Oklahoma Projects with Planfirst Grants

Preservation Oklahoma and BancFirst are pleased to announce the continuation of the PlanFirst grant program for 2008-2009. The program, first launched in 2006, will award a total of \$10,000 to Oklahoma historic preservation projects throughout BancFirst's 47 Oklahoma banking communities.

Focusing on funding the initial planning phase of preservation projects, each of the six grant recipients will receive funding for a conditions assessment, feasibility study and /or master plan.

"The PlanFirst grants will not only enable Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated to increase public awareness of the importance of historic preservation and support and fund projects in communities all across Oklahoma, but also will make a real difference in the landscape of this state," said Sheila Spurgeon, Executive Director, Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated. "We are appreciative to have

been a partner and co-supporter of this initiative in the past, and we look forward to continuing this excellent program. What better way for BancFirst to give back to local communities than through these grants," Spurgeon added.

David Rainbolt, BancFirst Board Chairman, spoke of the bank's commitment to Preservation Oklahoma when he said, "BancFirst has long been dedicated to preserving the historic fabric of our Oklahoma communities. We believe that affording our community's access to The PlanFirst Planning Grants is the best way to encourage thoughtful and articulate historic preservation. These funds will help communities and preservation organizations in the essential step in revitalizing historic properties," Rainbolt said.

Preservation Oklahoma is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and

promote Oklahoma's historic places. Founded in 1992, Preservation Oklahoma Incorporated (POK) is the only statewide, membership-supported preservation organization in Oklahoma. Its mission is to protect and promote our state's historic resources, communities and landscapes through education, leadership and advocacy. To apply for the grant, please complete the application form (found in this newsletter) and return to: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., 405 N.W. 15th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103. For your convenience, an on-line application form is also available on the website at : www.preservationok.org. All applications must be received by December 31, 2008. If you have questions or would like more information, please call 405-525-5325 and ask for Dr. Sheila Spurgeon, or email at preservationok@preservationok.org.

McKibban and McKibban in Muskogee -- Jonita Mullins

Note: Jonita Mullins is the Executive Director of Downtown Muskogee, Inc., the organization which manages Muskogee's Main Street Program. She currently writes a weekly column on area history for the Muskogee Phoenix. With the Phoenix Jonita received the Distinguished Editorial Service Award from the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

Muskogee suffered a great fire in 1899 that devastated much of the original buildings of its downtown area. Following that fire, Muskogee needed to be rebuilt and the owners of the destroyed businesses had vowed to build "bigger and better" than before. The many fine brick buildings that grace Muskogee's downtown today were constructed in the period from 1899 to 1915.

The building boom created a demand for the services of a new architectural firm that had just opened an office in Muskogee. The office of McKibban & McKibban, Architects was located in the Old Homestead Building at the corner of Broadway and Second Streets and this new architectural team was the talk of the town.

McKibban and McKibban had for the previous ten years worked throughout the South, designing both public buildings such as churches and schools and also residences. In the employ of the New York American Missionary Association, they had provided the plans for

the Theological Seminary of Memphis that had been constructed at a cost of \$50,000. They had also designed courthouses in Tennessee and Louisiana.

Elmer McKibban was originally from Kansas City, Missouri, and was the son of a prominent builder. He had attended architectural school in New York where he met his wife Jennie Woodruff in 1889. They married and went into business together as McKibban & McKibban.

Jennie was also an architect and had for a time taught at architectural schools. In fact, Elmer had been one of her students before they were married. A husband and wife architectural team was unusual for that day, and their arrival in the bustling and building city of Muskogee brought them plenty of attention and plenty of business.

One of the buildings they designed in 1899 was for the Maddin Hardware Company. William A. Maddin was a prominent builder in Indian Territory having built the homes of such notable Muskogeeans as Tams Bixby, chairman of the Dawes Commission, and Pleasant Porter, chief of the Creek Nation. Maddin also built schools for the Creek and Seminole Nations and the first federal courthouse in Muskogee.

Out of Maddin's construction business grew several related enterprises including the Maddin

Hardware, Furniture and General Supply Store, the Maddin Lumber Company, the Maddin Planing Mill, and the Maddin Tin and Sheet Metal Plant. It was said that you could contract for your home to be built by Mr. Maddin and completely furnish it from his various stores.

It was the General Supply Store that had burned in the 1899 fire. Maddin turned to McKibban & McKibban for the design of a new store to be built next to his planing mill at the northeast corner of Main and Court Streets. This three-story brick building would not only house the Maddin Hardware Store but would also include space for additional stores and offices.

It was completed in 1900 at a cost of \$40,000 and was considered a very modern and stylish addition to the downtown Muskogee business district. In 1914 the Maddin Building, as it came to be called, was purchased for use as a YMCA. The building still stands today at the corner of Main and Court Streets in Muskogee.

A second building in Muskogee's downtown bears the McKibban name and dates to 1907. The McKibban Building as well as the Maddin Building, is distinct for its beautiful detail that seems to be a signature of a McKibban design.

Preserve America Community Designation Criteria

The *Preserve America* initiative is a White House program to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include: a greater shared knowledge about

the Nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and, support for the economic vitality of our communities.

Designation Criteria

A community will qualify for designation as a *Preserve America* Community if it submits a program application that clearly demonstrates how it meets the following criteria:

- A. The community has supported (within the last three years) a historic or cultural preservation project that promotes heritage tourism or otherwise fosters economic vitality. The project must have involved a public-private partnership between government entities and at least one civic association, non-profit organization, or business enterprise.
- B. The governing body of the community has adopted a resolution indicating its commitment to the preservation of its heritage assets.
- C. The community meets at least five of the criteria outlined below (with at least one from each specified category).

Category 1: Discovering Heritage Through Historic Places

- a. An ongoing, publicly available inventory of historic properties;
- b. A community-supported museum, interpretive facility, archive, or local history records collection (private or public);
- c. Active citizen volunteer involvement, such as a docent or guide program for interpretation of local history and culture, or volunteer participation in improving the condition of heritage assets within the community;
- d. Opportunities for children to learn about local heritage in the schools, through either established curriculum or special outreach activities.

Category 2: Protecting Historic Resources

- a. A local governmental body, such as a board or a commission,

charged with leading historic preservation activities within the community;

- b. An adopted community-wide historic preservation plan that is being implemented;
- c. A historic preservation review ordinance and volunteer or professional staff to implement it.

Category 3: Promoting Historic Assets

- a. A local heritage tourism program or active participation in a regional program, with such promotional material as a walking/driving trail or tour itinerary, map of historic resources, etc.;
- b. A regularly scheduled heritage observance or event;
- c. A historic preservation awards or recognition program.

For additional information about the program and to obtain the application form and detailed instructions, visit www.preserveamerica.gov. For assistance in completing the application, contact Glen Roberson (405/521-6387 or groberson@okhistory.org) or Melvena Heisch (405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org) in the State Historic Preservation Office.

Enid Named a *Preserve America* Community

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the continued preservation and use of their heritage assets. The grants support research, planning, marketing, interpretation, and training efforts.

The *Preserve America* initiative is a White House effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

"Sustainable historic preservation is a wise investment in the future, not a cost for maintaining the past. Communities and the nation receive significant economic, educational, and cultural benefits, including heritage tourism, in return for their preservation efforts," said John L. Nau, III, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which administers *Preserve America* programs for the White House in cooperation with the Department of the Interior.

The White House is working with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Housing and Urban

Development, Interior, and Transportation, the General Services Administration, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to implement *Preserve America*. For more information about the initiative and its programs, visit www.preserveamerica.gov. Representatives of Oklahoma communities should contact Melvena Heisch, State Historic Preservation Office, at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org to discuss the program and application process.

Ceremony Marks Renovations to Old Supreme Court

Reprinted from the Cherokee Phoenix, courtesy of the publisher
By Will Chavez, Staff Writer, September 2008

An Aug. 12 ceremony officially marked the beginning of renovations to the 164-year-old Cherokee National Supreme Court building.

The building, which is located at the intersection of Keetoowah and Water streets and on the southeast corner of the town's square, was built in 1844 by James S. Pierce to house the tribe's Supreme Court. The building later housed the printing press of the Cherokee Advocate, the official publication of the Cherokee Nation and the first newspaper in Oklahoma.

It is the oldest government building in the state and is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

"The Supreme Court Building is our oldest historical monument, and it stands for one of the two driving passions of the Cherokee people – law and education," Principal Chief Chad Smith said. "Restoring our historical landmarks is the foundation of telling the Cherokee story and the mechanism for telling our story is cultural tourism."

Smith said the building has survived many historic episodes, including the American Civil War, allotment of tribal lands and the relocation of Cherokee citizens. He said this "precious" Cherokee symbol should be preserved for future generations.

Mike Abernathie, vice president of Sikes Abernathie Architects, the company that will renovate the building, said care would be taken to restore the building's details to 1875 before a fire destroyed the building's interior. It was rebuilt shortly after utilizing the surviving walls.

"We determined 1875 as a point of significance, so we want to bring it back to that point," he said.

Abernathie said the renovations would include restoring the masonry of the building, replacing the windows with 18th century-style windows and shutters, putting a wooden fence around the building, restoring two chimneys and making the building handicap accessible.

"There are no more important pieces of architecture in Tahlequah than those created by the Cherokee Nation. We welcome the renovation, and we celebrate it," said Tahlequah Mayor Ken Purdy.

The two-story brick courthouse first opened its doors in 1844. The Supreme and District courts held sessions in the building. The building was also the only Cherokee government facility to survive the American Civil War. Fire razed the inside of the building while it housed the Cherokee Advocate in February 1875, destroying the printing office and equipment.



Principal Chief Chad Smith addresses the Tribal Council and Cherokee citizens next to the Cherokee National Supreme Court building during a ceremony to officially commemorate the beginning of renovations to the 164-year-old building. (Photo by Will Chavez)

In 1911, the building was sold to the state as the federal government attempted to dissolve the CN. It was used as office space by Cherokee County until the CN regained ownership in 1979.

Restoration of the Supreme Court is slated for completion in July 2009 when it will become an operational museum with pre-statehood era photographs and artifacts. The building's restoration is the first of several renovation and restoration projects planned by the CN's Cherokee Culture and Tourism Department, which Cherokee Nation Enterprises funds and operates.

Free CN History Tour Being Offered

The Cherokee Culture and Tourism Department is offering free tours during September to showcase its new Cherokee Nation history tour.

People interested in learning more about the tribe's historic sites and history may request tours of area historic sites such as the Cherokee Courthouse in downtown Tahlequah, the Murrell Home at Park Hill, Seminary Hall at Northeastern State University, and the Saline Courthouse in Mayes County. Each tour is limited to 15

people and can be arranged to depart from a community.

The tours are to provide citizens the opportunity to experience what the CCTD will offer visitors interested in Cherokee heritage, as well as promote CN awareness.

In September, tours will be given on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week plus one Saturday. A tour guide will provide information on the sites and

to guide people through them. Tours will depart at 8 a.m. from a community and return by 6 p.m. An authentic Cherokee lunch will be offered, and drinks and snacks will be provided on the shuttle.

The CCTD will officially begin hosting paid tours of the tribe's historic sites in October. To request a cultural tour, contact Ben Elder at (918) 384-5853 or ben.elder@cnent.com. For more information about the CCTD, go to CherokeeTourismOK.com.

Wallis and Dodd Present Lectures

This summer, two lectures in the series of "Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places 2008" were presented. The 15th Annual Most Endangered Historic Places list, released in January 2008, contains 12 sites, ranging from archaeological sites and cemeteries to Route 66 motels from Sayre to Miami, Okla. The lecture was held July 22, 2008, in Claremore, Oklahoma, at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, in the movie theater.

Best selling author Michael Wallis enthralled the audience with his storytelling that took listeners on a journey down a nostalgic road of endangered Route 66 Motels. According to Wallis, his parents had hoped he'd be a minister when he grew up. In his own way, the best-selling author and award-winning reporter has become a minister of sorts – a "missionary of preservation". "We can't save them all," Wallis has said. "But, we can save examples. And that's what we're doing from the different incarnations." Not only has Wallis published sixteen books, including *Route 66: The Mother Road*, the book credited with sparking the resurgence

of interest in the historic highway, but he also gained international notoriety as the voice of the sheriff in the movie, *Cars*. The audience was moved by the stories about these one-of-a-kind, charming motels that bring to mind summer vacations of days gone by. Preservation Oklahoma Board Vice President Lisa Melchior said, "Just the structures themselves, the signs, all of that is part of an era that is close to being lost along Route 66."

A second lecture was presented on August 9, 2008, at the Santa Fe (Waynoka) Depot and Harvey House against an authentic backdrop of trains rolling down the track. Larry D. Dodd talked about the key role the Santa Fe played in encouraging travel and settlement in the Southwest by promoting a "romantic" image of the area through the art, architecture and culture of the Mexicans and American Indians of the Southwest. The event included a tour of the historic Waynoka Station complex, where legendary celebrities such as Lionel Barrymore, Will Rogers, Charles and Ann Lindbergh, Ernie Pyle, and many other well-

known people of "days gone by" enjoyed the hospitality of Waynoka's Harvey House.

Dodd started his railroad career in 1968 and held positions in Operations, Communications and Information Systems in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas. He has worked in many of the depots of Oklahoma. He also serves as vice president for The Oklahoma Railway Museum and does other volunteer work for that organization. He was among the last operators on the Plains Division of Santa Fe to be qualified as a Morse Code operator.

Lectures planned for fall 2008 include *Historic Masonic Lodges and Designs by Layton*. A calendar of events can be found on the Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. website: www.preservationok.org. For more information, contact Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated at 405-525-5325 or email preservationok@preservationok.org.

BOO-ODDLES of Fun!

Celebrate Halloween at the historic Overholser Mansion's Boo-oodles of Fun! Children of all ages will enjoy playing Victorian games, story-telling, historic re-enactors, pumpkin decorating, Halloween crafts, a costume parade through the mansion - and of course ... treats! Pumpkin decorating and crafts will begin promptly at 3:30 at the Carriage House. The costume parade through the mansion will begin at 4:00 p.m. immediately followed by storytelling and games. Boo-oodles of Fun will be a "spooktacular" time for the whole family.

Friday October 31, 2008

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Overholser Mansion

405 NW 15th Street

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Tickets: \$3 advanced reservations; \$5 at the door

Parents accompanying a child are admitted free.

For reservations and information:

405/528-8485 or overholsermansion@preservationok.org



Henry Ione Overholser, age 6, in costume. 1912

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