

# PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NEWS

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



October 2009

Volume XVI, No 1



Nickel-McClure Mansion Interior, *Photograph: Mark Bellah*



Blanchard City Hall, *Photograph: Reah Gail Broyles*

## Property Update: Promising News for Properties on 2009 Endangered Historic Places List

### **Nickel-McClure Mansion**

Last January, the Nickel-McClure Mansion in Alva was named to Preservation Oklahoma's list of the State's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The mansion is an important piece of Alva's history, but years of vacancy and neglect caused preservationists to fear for its survival.

Shortly after the Endangered List announcement, Mark Bellah, fascinated by the Mansion since childhood, began the process of acquiring the property. After four difficult months, Mr. Bellah closed on the house in July.

"The last four months have been a history lesson for me," he explains. Mr. Bellah plans to dedicate the staircase to previous owners, Mr. Nickel and Dr. Enser, and events from the Mansion's past. Anyone with related information, pictures, or memorabilia can contact him at [markebel@swbell.net](mailto:markebel@swbell.net). Mr. Bellah also plans to share these materials online at [www.alvaokmansion.com](http://www.alvaokmansion.com).

Mr. Bellah is dedicated to restoring the house, and has already begun repairs. "The restoration will be lengthy to say the least," says Bellah, "and I cannot overstate the fact that this will take years to undo all the neglect. It is a truly

grand old place worthy of restoring, and I am very fortunate to have it." For more information, contact Preservation Oklahoma at 405-525-5325, or [preservationok@preservationok.org](mailto:preservationok@preservationok.org), or Mr. Bellah at the email [markebel@swbell.net](mailto:markebel@swbell.net).

### **Blanchard City Hall**

Also on the 2009 Endangered List were historic downtowns statewide, historic cores of their surrounding communities that are often underutilized today. One example is Blanchard City Hall, no longer used by the city. After the city released a bid for the demolition of the building in November, citizens organized. By March 2009 the Blanchard Historical Society formed, obtained the necessary legal standing to take on the property from the City, and began to negotiate to save the building. The group, led by President Gail Broyles, maintained their determination through months of public meetings, and on August 25th signed a lease with the City Council allowing them to restore the building. Immediate concerns include roof repairs and other maintenance, with long-term goals of evaluating the structure and implementing a comprehensive preservation plan. For more information, contact the Blanchard Historical Society at [admin@blanchardhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:admin@blanchardhistoricalsociety.org), or 405-485-9440.

# Preservation Oklahoma's New Executive Director

Preservation Oklahoma's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the organization has a new Executive Director. Katie McLaughlin began her duties with POK on August 10th. She brings a wealth of preservation experience to the position and the board is thrilled to have her leading its programs and projects. Katie grew up in Midwest City and attended the University of Oklahoma where she studied architecture, political science and history, and earned a Bachelor's degree in history. She then relocated to New York City where she completed a Master's degree from Columbia University in historic preservation and her thesis topic covered Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. While at Columbia, Katie was provided the opportunity to study preservation

in diverse places such as Savannah, Georgia; Ellis Island; the Lower East Side of Manhattan; and the countryside of Ireland. Upon completing her Master's program, Katie was employed by the Boston Landmarks Commission for two years before coming to the leadership position at POK.

Katie feels very fortunate to have this opportunity to work in the field of preservation in Oklahoma. She is looking forward to making an impact across the state with the Community Partnership Programs through POK co-sponsored tours and lectures. She also hopes to get started working on the Community Leadership Program which will teach local groups about preservation work—from the legal aspects to the

various preservation partners which work in Oklahoma. Katie will be attending the National Historic Preservation Conference in Nashville in October and is working diligently at establishing relationships within the preservation community across the state. Please feel free to contact the POK office to set up partnership programs in your community by calling 405-525-5325 or visiting POK on the web at [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org). Preservation Oklahoma is your only statewide, non-profit historic preservation organization. Your memberships and support enable POK to continue its efforts to preserve and protect those structures, landscapes, and cultural resources that matter to all of us. Join our network today!

## *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. For step-by-step instructions for subscribing and using the listserve, go to

<http://lists.onenet.net/mailman/listinfo/okshpo>.

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](mailto: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.

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](mailto: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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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

# New SHPO Survey and National Register Projects Get Underway

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and its partners are working on survey and National Register of Historic Places projects funded under the SHPO's FY 2009 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) award from the U. S. Department of the Interior. The identification and registration of archeological and historic resources are objectives of the statewide preservation plan, and the SHPO works to ensure the broadest possible geographic distribution of HPF-assisted projects each year.

FY 2009 projects include one archeological survey, two National Register testing programs for archeological resources, one architectural/historic survey, and several individual property National Register nominations.

First, with Scott W. Hammerstedt and Amanda Regnier as project directors, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) will complete a survey of selected areas in the vicinity of Ewing Chapel Mound along Evansville Creek in Adair County. The Ewing Chapel Mound is a significant prehistoric ceremonial site, in some degree related to the well-known Spiro Mounds some 30+ miles to the south, as well as the nearby Lee Creek and Brackett Mounds. The survey will concentrate on a region of northeastern Oklahoma subject to increased threats from modern day farming and ranching activities and within areas that should yield evidence of prehistoric and historic occupations. The project will increase the area of the state investigated for the presence of archeological resources and identify those eligible for the National Register.

The April and July issues of *Preservation Oklahoma News* included articles about archeological surveys undertaken with FY 2008 HPF assistance. Based on the results of these efforts, several archeological sites will be tested to determine their National Register eligibility.

Three sites (34JF109, 34LV181 & 34LV184) were selected from those reported in *Archeological Survey along the Red River in Jefferson and Love Counties, Oklahoma*. Richard R. Drass of the OAS staff will be the principal investigator for this project.

Leland C. Bement, also of the OAS staff, will direct the testing and preparation of National Register nominations for three archeological sites located in Western Oklahoma. The sites (34EL176, 34EL183 & 34EL191) were selected from those reported in *Archeological Survey in the Red Bed Canyons along the Canadian River, Ellis and Roger Mills Counties, Oklahoma*.

In addition to ensuring geographic distribution of its program assistance, the SHPO carries out projects that extend benefits to all resource types. As part of its architectural/historic survey program, the SHPO has partnered with Oklahoma State University's Department of Geography to complete a thematic survey of historic barns in Southwestern Oklahoma.

Brad Bays, OSU's project director, will locate, identify, and document barns in Southwestern Oklahoma that warrant further study or nomination to the National Register and develop a context in which to evaluate these resources.

The SHPO and its partners are producing several individual National Register nominations. Two of these were funded under the SHPO's small grants program, including one for Mount Saint Mary's High School in Oklahoma City and one for the American Baptist Home Mission House in Tahlequah. Constructed in 1904, Mount Saint Mary's High School is an excellent example of architecture from the Late Victorian Era. The American Baptist Home Mission House is significant for its architectural style and its role in the social history of Tahlequah.

The SHPO is also working with Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. and several of Oklahoma's Certified Local Governments to develop other National Register nominations. These endeavors clearly demonstrate the importance of partnerships in the statewide preservation programs.

For more information about any of these projects and other activities of the SHPO, call 405/521-6249.

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## SHPO Accepting Award Nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Oklahoma Historical Society, is now accepting nominations for its 2010 awards program. Know someone who rehabilitated an important historic building in your community? Protects an important archeological site located on their property? Worked with a dedicated group of volunteers to save an endangered historic landmark? Developed a walking tour brochure for a historic district? These and many more projects and activities contribute to the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage. Help the SHPO recognize the many preservation success stories across the state.

The SHPO's awards program includes the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation and the SHPO's Citation of Merit. The deadline for nominations is 5:00pm, Friday, December 4th, and candidates will be notified in February 2010 about the results of the selection process. The awards will be presented at the banquet during

Oklahoma's 22nd Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in historic downtown Okmulgee (June 9-11, 2010).

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](mailto:bharris@okhistory.org). Or, obtain the information from the SHPO's website at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://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](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).



# 2010 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places Nomination Form

It is time to compile Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2010, 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 November 10, 2010 to Preservation Oklahoma. The Selection Committee will announce the "2010 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List" in January 2010.

## 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?**

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**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 2010:**

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**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](http://www.preservationok.org)**

**Please return this completed form by November 10, 2009 to:**

Preservation Oklahoma Incorporated

405 NW 15th Street

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Questions? Call 405/525-5325 or [preservationok@preservationok.org](mailto:preservationok@preservationok.org)

# Lawton Douglass School Alumni and Officials Celebrate Designation

On August 3, 2009, the Lawton Douglass High School Reunion Committee, the alumni of Douglass High School and the school board of the Lawton Public School District celebrated the school's listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register nomination was prepared by Cynthia Savage of ARCH Consulting for the Oklahoma Centennial Commission. The Keeper of the Register listed the school on the National Register on November 25, 2008. The State Historic Preservation Office presented the certificate denoting the designation at its annual awards banquet held during the statewide preservation conference at Quartz Mountain Resort in June.

During the recognition ceremony held at the John Shoemaker Education Center in Lawton, Mr. Albert Johnson, alumni and last principal of the Lawton Douglass High School, presented a brief history of the school and discussed its importance to the community. Mr. Johnson, who was instrumental in securing the nomination for the school, also acknowledged the efforts of the alumni and the reunion committee in keeping the school's legacy alive. The grandson of William R. Patterson, Douglass High School's first and longest serving principal from 1929 through 1945, provided remarks concerning the school and his family.

The Douglass School served Lawton as a combined elementary, junior and senior high school from 1930 through 1966. It was not the only black school in Lawton but it was the only secondary school that was available to African-American students until after desegregation in the 1950s. While the Lawton public school system readily desegregated as required by law following the landmark decisions of *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the Douglass School remained the dominant education institution for black schoolchildren in Lawton until the early 1960s.

## 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 9th

through Friday, December 11th. 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 2nd. Space is limited for all sessions and will be reserved on a first-come basis.

### **December 9 (10:30am-12:30pm) 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 9 (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 10 (10:30am-4:30pm) The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants**

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. Topics addressed in this day-long workshop include the basic requirements of Section 106, the regulations which govern the process, how to determine National Register eligibility, what constitutes adverse effects, mitigating adverse effects, and streamlining Section 106 review.

### **December 11 (10:30am-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. Simply register for the workshop(s). Certificates of Participation will be mailed the week of December 14th to those who complete the request form at the workshop location. Contact your local AIA chapter to self-report your attendance.

If you may have questions about workshop content, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or [mheisch@okhistory.org](mailto:mheisch@okhistory.org).

To register for any or all of the workshops contact Betty Harris at 405/521-6249 or [bharris@okhistory.org](mailto:bharris@okhistory.org) by 5:00pm, Wednesday, December 2. You may also register online at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshops.php>.

# Documenting Historic Architecture in OKC and Tulsa

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the completion of three important architectural/historic survey projects in September. All three were identified as priorities in the SHPO's FY 2008 annual Historic Preservation Fund grant application to the U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

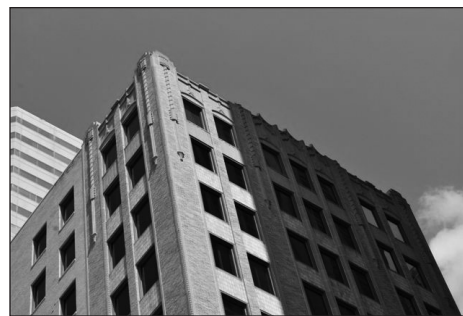
Surveys identify, record, and evaluate resources for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. They form the basis of effective local and statewide preservation programs. The Tulsa Survey project area included the City's central core within the Inner Dispersal Loop (IDL), bounded by I-244, US-412, US-64, and SH-51. Funding for the intensive level survey was from the SHPO's HPF grant (60% of project costs) and nonfederal matching share provided by the City of Tulsa and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (40% of total project costs).

The City of Tulsa contracted with Cathy Ambler, Preservation Consultant and Elizabeth Rosin, Rosin Preservation, LLC, to complete the project. They documented over five hundred individual resources and identified twelve potential historic districts in the IDL.

With its annual grant from the SHPO's Certified Local Governments (CLG) Program, the City of Oklahoma City surveyed a core portion of the City's downtown this summer. The City retained Sally Schwenk Associates, Inc. to carry out the first phase of this multi-year endeavor. Over 200 buildings were recorded during this intensive level survey project.

Finally, with the increasing concern about preservation and redevelopment of recent past resources, the SHPO determined that a survey of Oklahoma City's wealth of Modern architecture was essential. Over the past months, the SHPO staff conducted a reconnaissance level survey of commercial and public buildings constructed between 1945 and 1971. Staff documented approximately 200 resources within the survey area roughly bounded by I-44 to the north and west, I-35 to the east, and I-240 to the south.

Each project resulted in a detailed report, and forms and photographs of each property. The materials are on file with the SHPO and will be added to the SHPO's online database over the next few months. The SHPO, the City of Oklahoma City, and the City of Tulsa look forward to using the survey results



119 N. Robinson Street, Oklahoma City  
*Photograph: OK State Historic Preservation Office*



Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma City  
*Photograph: OK State Historic Preservation Office*

in a number of planning efforts and to nominating many of them to the National Register.

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## Preservation Oklahoma's Community Partnership Program—"This Place Matters" Lecture In Freedom and Tour in Hobart



Bearcat Alley and The Courtyard in downtown Hobart  
*Photograph: Ken Kelsey*

Preservation Oklahoma's Community Partnership Program has been a huge success over the past six months. Last March, the first "This Place Matters" tour was held in Muskogee and in May a "This Place Matters" tour of historic structures was held in Alva. On August 30th, POK co-sponsored a "This Place Matters" lecture with the Freedom Museum. Over sixty participants listened to Dr. K.C. Kraft, State Archaeologist

with USDA-NRCS, and Dr. Bob Brooks, State Archaeologist with the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey. Dr. Kraft and Dr. Brooks presented programs about their agencies and their role in preservation. The Burnham Dig, located about twelve miles northwest of Freedom, was also discussed. The Burnham Dig is one of the most significant findings in the United States and the Freedom Museum houses the Burnham Dig artifacts in a Smithsonian quality exhibit. Participants were given the opportunity to share found artifacts with the two archaeologists at the close of the presentation.

On September 12th, a "This Place Matters" tour in Hobart featured eight historic buildings, including commercial, residential, and civic structures such as the former JC Penney's Building, the Masonic Lodge, and the former Johnny Lemon (now Louis and Gwen Sims) home. The properties illustrated all states of preservation, from carefully restored, to adaptively reused, to works in progress.

Volunteers, under the leadership of Stephen Boyd of Hobart's Main Street program, were stationed at each property and told visitors about the buildings' history and preservation. The tour illustrated the history and development of Hobart, and highlighted the town's commitment to a vital and active downtown. Despite the first big rainstorm in several weeks, participants from the community and as far as El Reno and Bethany attended the event, which concluded with a reception at the First United Methodist Church.

These events brought new faces to the participating communities and also introduced many to the preservation work and mission of POK. POK encourages historical societies, museums, Main Street programs and other civic organizations to contact the office to learn more about opportunities which exist to protect and advocate for historic preservation across the state. Please contact the POK office to visit with Executive Director Katie McLaughlin about partnership programs.



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# Save the Date!

## October 24, 2009

"This Place Matters" Learn about POK  
and more at the Talihina Fall Festival  
Downtown Talihina

Contact Talihina Chamber of Commerce at 918.567.3434  
or Preservation Oklahoma for more information

## November 17-19, 2009

National Preservation Institute Workshop  
"Cultural and Natural Resources:  
An Integrated Management Strategy"  
Oklahoma City

Contact Jere Gibber at 703.765.1000 or [info@npi.org](mailto:info@npi.org)  
for more information.

## November 21, 2009

"This Place Matters Tour" in Durant  
Tours will begin at the Robert L. Williams Public Library

## December 9-11, 2009

SHPO Fall Workshop Series  
Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City  
See p. 6 article for more information.

## January/February 2010

POK's 2010 Endangered Historic Places List  
Announcement Event  
Date and Location TBA

Check POK's calendar at [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org) for updates.

## Join Preservation Oklahoma today

and become a member of the Statewide Preservation Network.

**The mission of Preservation Oklahoma  
is to promote preservation statewide.**

As a member, you become part of a vital network of individuals and organizations working to rebuild communities, strengthen neighborhoods, restore historic properties...*you become part of Oklahoma's future.*

name

address

city | state | zip

phone

email

from (if gift)

- ☐ Victorian \$10,000 or more
- ☐ English Tudor \$1,000 - \$9,999
- ☐ International \$500 - \$999
- ☐ Colonial Revival \$250 - \$499
- ☐ Arts and Crafts \$100 - \$249
- ☐ Vernacular up to \$100

Mail, along with check, to:  
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

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Membership contributions are tax deductible.