

# Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

October 2020  
Volume XXVII, Issue 1

*The joint publication of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.*

Preservation  
OKLAHOMA 



## Archaeology in the Black Mesa Region of the Oklahoma Panhandle

In order to fulfill the responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) utilizes a statewide preservation plan entitled, *Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past*. The plan details the goals and objectives for the preservation of Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources.

These goals and objectives are assisted by the National Park Service (NPS) through the allocation of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) that was established in 1977. The HPF is the funding source for the preservation awards to SHPOs, Tribes, local governments and nonprofits. The funding is provided by the Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues, not tax dollars. The HPF uses revenues of a non-renewable resource to benefit the preservation of other irreplaceable resources. The SHPO uses a portion of the HPF allocation to support statewide survey projects that identify historic resources, assess eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and facilitate cultural resource management decisions.

*Article Continues on Page 6*



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Preservation Oklahoma is currently seeking board members from the Tulsa and rural areas. If you are interested in serving on the Preservation Oklahoma Board of Directors, please contact Executive Director, Chantry Banks, [director@preservationok.org](mailto:director@preservationok.org).

*Fort Supply Historic District, Photo: POK*

*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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The activity that is the subject of this newsletter has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age 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, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.



## Scary Tales return to the Overholser Mansion!

Scary Tales will take place weekends in October, beginning October 9th. Visitors will hear the spooky stories of Oklahoma history and get a rare glimpse inside the Overholser Mansion after dark. The tours begin promptly at 7pm and attendees will meet in the Carriage House.

Tickets for the tour will go on sale October 1. Visit the Preservation Oklahoma or Henry Overholser Mansion Facebook pages for more information and for a link to purchase tickets. There is also a special discount code for POK Members. To become a POK member, visit [www.preservationok.org/membership](http://www.preservationok.org/membership).

## POK Seeking Nominations for 2021 Most Endangered Places

It is time to compile Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places List for 2021, and we need your input.

Help us identify Oklahoma's threatened historic resources. 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 the nomination form (on page 11 or at [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org)) and return it by December 15, 2020, to Preservation Oklahoma. The Selection Committee will announce the 2021 Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places List in early 2021.



**See form on Page 11 for submission requirements,  
or visit the POK website, [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org).**

# Learn the Language through Social Media



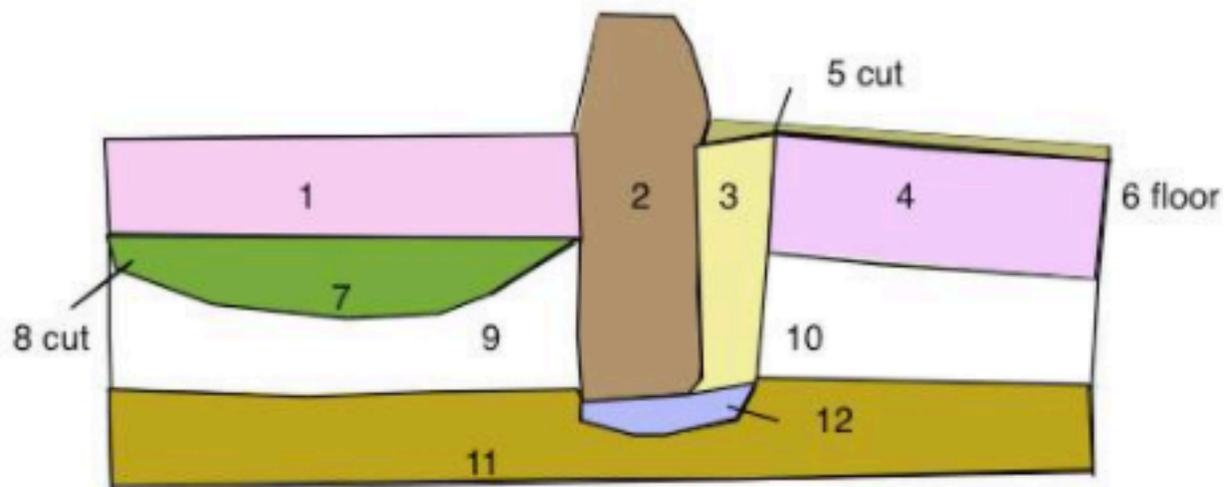
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office

August 25 at 8:00 AM · 🌐

...

Harris Matrix – Invented in 1973 by Dr. Edward C. Harris as a way to simplify the representation of the stratigraphy at an archaeological site. In addition to traditional cross section drawings, Harris proposed that archaeologists create a flow chart (Harris Matrix) of a site to record the order in which layers and features occurred.

(Photo courtesy of Wikipedia)



The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO) had no idea in the fall of 2019 how important their social media posts would become in 2020. If you follow the OK/SHPO on social media, for the past few years, posts have focused on the National Register of Historic Places, Tax Credits and Survey data. In the fall of 2019, the OK/SHPO decided to focus on the language of historic preservation (archeology and architecture) and the impact has been outstanding.

For 2020 staff is providing definitions for terms related to archeology and architecture and providing photograph examples of each term. If you are just joining us now, we have gone through the alphabet once and are working our way back through it a second time. Because of the implications of COVID-19, children, college students, and adults are looking for ways to extend their education and occupy their time. Our social media posts have reached billions (statistics bare the truth) of people. The staff wants to thank you for your interest and use of our information. Keep an eye out every Tuesday and Thursday for new words and definitions. Soon you, too, will sound like a preservationist!

# The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre and the Renewed Search for Victims' Graves

With its forthcoming centennial, the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre has been the subject of renewed attention from those seeking to increase awareness of this horrible chapter in Oklahoma's history and those still pursuing resolution for as-yet unanswered questions, such as where many of the victims were buried in the days following the atrocity. The search for mass graves of Massacre victims was initiated by the 1921 Tulsa Race Riot Commission, which was established by act of the State legislature in 1997. That investigation identified several possible burial locations but stopped short of conducting excavations to confirm or deny if that was indeed the case. More recently, the City of Tulsa re-opened the investigation in 2018 to pick up where the previous effort left off. The City assembled three teams to assist with this process, including the: Public Oversight Committee; Historical Context and Narrative Committee; and Physical Investigation Committee (PIC).

The PIC consists of an interdisciplinary team of researchers including historians, archaeologists, and physical and forensic anthropologists from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS), Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), and the Universities of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Michigan, and Florida—including some who were part of the earlier investigation. This latest effort to locate mass graves began with geophysical survey of several possible sites by OAS in 2019. Among the findings of that survey was a large anomaly in a portion of Oaklawn Cemetery referred to as the Sexton Area. The size, shape, orientation, and location of the anomaly appeared to be consistent with a possible mass grave. The PIC prepared a plan to conduct limited excavations within the anomaly and presented it to the City and the Public Oversight Committee, who approved the plan on February 3, 2020.

In the first-ever effort to break ground to find a mass grave associated with the 1921 Massacre, the PIC implemented its excavation plan with City support from July 13-22, 2020. The excavations were monitored by representatives from the Public Oversight Committee, the Muscogee Creek Nation, and members of the Media. Unfortunately, the intensive fieldwork did not identify any indication of human remains. Having ruled out the potential for a mass grave in association with the geophysical anomaly in the Sexton area, the PIC is now turning its attention to other locations. They expect to propose plans for those additional excavations as part of the September meeting of the Public Oversight Committee. Future updates on this ongoing effort will be provided as the investigation unfolds.



*Photo: City of Tulsa*

Above: Archaeologist Dr. Greg Maggard monitors as trackhoe operator Chris Stotts breaks ground in the Sexton Area at Oaklawn Cemetery in the first-ever excavation in the search for victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Members of the media observe from a safe distance in the background.



*Photo: Angela Berg*

Right: Public Oversight Committee member and Massacre descendant Kavin Ross (above) observes as Brenda Alford (Chair, Public Oversight Committee and Descendant) assists with the extraction of a deep soil core as part of the excavations in the Sexton Area at Oaklawn Cemetery.

# Archaeology in the Black Mesa Region of the Oklahoma Panhandle Continued



Projects from the 2019-2020 HPF cycle included archaeological test excavations in the Black Mesa Region in the far western Oklahoma Panhandle that encompasses portions of New Mexico and Colorado. The archaeological test excavations were conducted to assess the NRHP eligibility of three archaeological sites: 34CI521, Gaylers Hilltop Site; 34CI523: Scissortail 2; and 34CI528: Golden Eagle Rock Shelter. The work was conducted by University of Oklahoma students under the direction of Dr. Leland Bement, Archaeologist with the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS).

**34CI521, Gaylers Hilltop Site:** consisted of three temporally discrete occupations. The first occupation was identified by the presence of cord-marked ceramics, quartzite arrow point tips and a four-beveled Alibates knife dating to 1224-1468 AD. The second occupation from 1412-1468 AD was identified by the presence of several circular rock alignments that may represent tipi rings and the third occupation from 1810-1926 was identified by a rock enclosure that may indicate activities related to the sheep herding industry.

**34CI523, Scissortail 2:** this site is in the vicinity of 34CI521, and consists of a series of multiple rock clusters bordering both sides of an arroyo complex leading to an upland terminus just below the margin of the Cimarron River basin and the High Plains. The configuration of the rocks suggests that they were stacked one upon the other forming a three-tiered cairn. The site may represent a driving lane for hunting bison or deer. Similar rock formations of cairns have been documented on the northern Plains for bison hunting drive lanes and in the central Plains for pronghorn antelope drive lanes. The cairn dates AD 1225-1279 and is contemporaneous with the first occupation of 34CI521 (AD 1224-1468).

**34CI528, Golden Eagle Shelter** is a small rock shelter. The back wall of the shelter exhibits grooves and designs of unknown prehistoric age and early European-American graffiti. Artifacts recovered from excavation and the use of water flotation of soil samples include lithic debitage with Alibates chert sourced from north of Amarillo and local cherts from the gravel deposits along the Cimarron River as well as the recovery of a Dakota quartzite corner notched arrow point. Faunal remains consisted of deer, gopher, and rabbit, of which a bead made from rabbit bone was found. In addition, freshwater mussel shells and fragments were found. The mussel shell was identified as "sand shell mussel" that is a common species in the Cimarron River drainage. The mussel was used for food but the excavation also recovered worked shell that included a broken disc bead, a disc bead blank, and edge-ground shell triangles. However, the most important discovery was the charred plant remains of two corn cupules and a very small corncob fragment. The radiocarbon date of the corncob is AD 1045-1213 and represents the earliest dated presence of cultivated corn in Oklahoma.

As noted by Dr. Bement, "only a small number of archaeological studies have been undertaken in the Black Mesa region and the current understanding of the history of this area remains very much incomplete." This project could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of private landowners. Dr. Bement and OAS staff have endeavored to build important relationships with landowners that has been a great benefit to the mission of the SHPO in pursuing the goal of recording the diverse heritage of Oklahoma and adding to the continually evolving story of the human experience.

*Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past*  
<https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan>

# New National Register Listings

So far, the end of 2019 and through August 2020 has seen the listing of eleven properties to the National Register of Historic Places for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

The National Register is a catalog of the buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects significant in our past, and the register is the foundation for all of the SHPO's programs. Listing in the National Register provides recognition, limited protection and, in some cases, financial incentives for these important properties. The SHPO identifies, evaluates, and nominates properties for this special designation.

For detailed information, contact Sara Werneke, National Register of Historic Places Program Coordinator, at 405-522-4478 or email [swerneke@okhistory.org](mailto:swerneke@okhistory.org).

All of the nominations can be found by visiting: [http://nr2\\_shpo.okstate.edu/](http://nr2_shpo.okstate.edu/)

## 2019-2020 National Register of Historic Places listings

- Holy City of the Wichitas Historic District, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Comanche County
- Cleary, Jack and Helen, House, Ponca City, Kay County
- Marland Estate, Inc. Gatehouse, Ponca City, Kay County
- Founders' Place Historic District, Muskogee, Muskogee County
- Capitol Hill General Hospital, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Harmony School, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Iroquois Apartments, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- Oklahoma National Guard Armory, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- State Highway Department Testing Laboratory, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County
- State National Bank Building, Shawnee, Pottawatomie County
- Fire Station No. 13, Tulsa, Tulsa County



*Harmony School, Oklahoma City*



*State Highway Dept. Testing Lab, Oklahoma City*



*Iroquois Apartments, Oklahoma City*



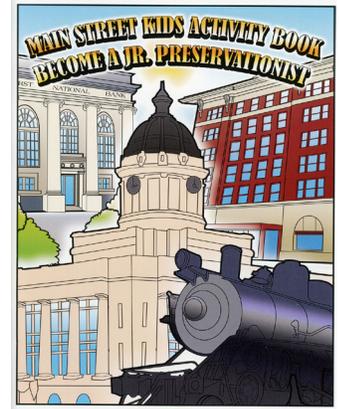
*Holy City, Wichita Mountains NWR*



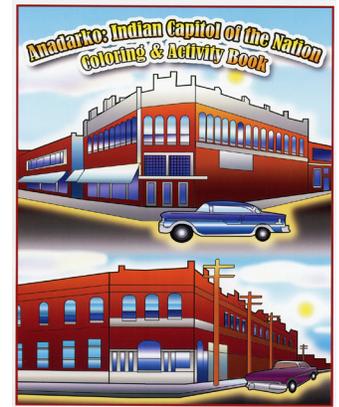
*National Guard Armory, Oklahoma City*

# Preservation Coloring Books Available in Two Oklahoma Communities

Take a stroll down the main streets of Ardmore and Anadarko and learn about their rich history with the help of their newest publications, *Main Street Kids Activity Book – Become a Jr. Preservationist* and *Anadarko: Indian Capitol of the Nation Coloring and Activity Book*. The project was a product of the annual Certified Local Governments (CLG) Historic Preservation Fund allocations from the State Historic Preservation Office for the cities of Ardmore and Anadarko. Jessica Scott, coordinator of the Ardmore CLG Program, spearheaded this project which not only gives kids of all ages a small glimpse into the history of Ardmore and its Main Street but also the fun of different activities, such as word searches, crosswords, and even drawing; Kenneth Corn, City Manager of Anadarko, spearheaded the project in Anadarko with a focus on many of the city's National Register-listed properties.



One of the important things all preservationists know is that without sparking the interest of our youth, the future of preservation is not a guarantee. These activity books (and Ardmore's Jr. Preservationist badge) are a fun way to get everyone interested in the preservation of our cities and towns. The State Historic Preservation Office, which oversees the CLG program, is hopeful that more of the state's CLG participants (and new CLGs in the future) will use these great examples and create some active history for kids in their communities. To learn more about the activity books or to receive a copy, contact Jessica Scott at [jscott@ardmorecity.org](mailto:jscott@ardmorecity.org) and Kenneth Corn at [kcorn@cityofanadarko.org](mailto:kcorn@cityofanadarko.org).



To learn more about Oklahoma's Certified Local Governments program, contact Shea Otley at [sjotley@okhistory.org](mailto:sjotley@okhistory.org).

## Upcoming Events Highlight Tulsa Architecture

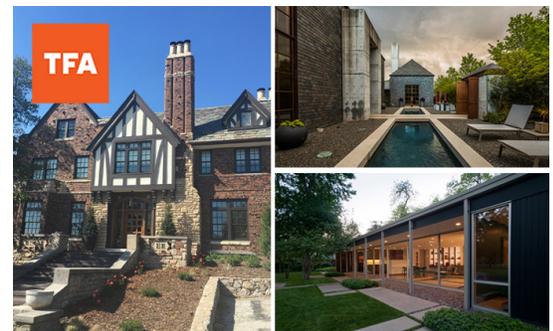
Several upcoming events offered by Tulsa Foundation for Architecture will highlight public and private spaces throughout the city.

**Rescued! Art Deco Fire Stations** Saturday, October 3 -10:30am  
Marty Newman and Shane Hood will lead an in-depth tour of two incredible fire-related buildings: Fire Station No.13 and the Fire Alarm Building.

These are virtual tours, but you can watch from wherever you are, on whatever device you want.

**TFA Presents: Members' Open House** Thursday, November 5  
Every year Tulsa Foundation for Architecture holds a Members' Only open house event at a different premier Tulsa residence. Members will enjoy drinks, hors-d'oeuvres, live music and conversation. This is your opportunity to get inside one of Tulsa's most elite residences.

**DWELL in the IDL: Downtown Living Tour 2020** Monday, November 9  
IT'S BACK! Tulsa Foundation for Architecture is excited to give Tulsans a first-hand look at downtown residential spaces with this year's DWELL in the IDL Tour. The tour will showcase over a dozen beautiful properties, including private apartments, available units, and new construction. This is your once-a-year opportunity to get a peek inside the best places to live downtown. For more information, visit [www.tulsaarchitecture.org](http://www.tulsaarchitecture.org)



# Fort Supply Historic Site Offers In-Depth Look at Military Life on the Plains

Camp Supply was established in late 1868 for General Sheridan's winter campaign against the Southern Plains Indians. From here Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and the U.S. Army Seventh Cavalry headed south and destroyed the camp of Cheyenne Peace Chief Black Kettle on November 27, 1868. It was renamed Fort Supply in 1878 and closed as a fort in 1894. It reopened in 1908 as Western Oklahoma Hospital as the state's first mental hospital and has functioned as a correctional center since 1988. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and is one of Preservation Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places for 2020.

The Friends of Historic Fort Supply maintain and give tours of four remaining structures and a replica of the 1869 stockade. The structures are:

- 1892 Guard House – the only brick building erected by the Army at Fort Supply
- 1878 Commanding Officer's Quarters – a traditional wood frame building facing the parade grounds
- 1882 Officer's Quarters – a two-story duplex building also facing the parade grounds
- 1882 Civilian Employee Quarters – a rare example of picket style vertical log construction

The Friends of Historic Fort Supply offer regular tours during the summer months and gives tours during the fall and winter with a reservation by calling 580-766-3767.

## Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) has opened applications for the 2020/2021 grant cycle of the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Grant Program. This grants-in-aid program sets aside \$500,000 to award grants ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 to municipal, county or tribal governments and not-for-profit historical organizations, as well as the support groups for these entities. All not-for-profit applicants must be registered with the Oklahoma Secretary of State. The grants will be specific to four categories: collections, exhibits, programs, and capacity building. The online application process opened Friday, September 11, 2020, and will close Friday, October 30, 2020, at 5 p.m. For applicants wishing to receive optional draft application feedback, draft applications will be due October 2, 2020. Award announcements will be made in late January 2021.

All applicant organizations must have a strategic plan for your organization to be eligible. If your organization does not have a strategic plan, the only project you may apply for is the development of a strategic plan.

### Program Timeline

- Friday, September 11, 2020, at 8 a.m. – Online application opens
- Friday, October 2, 2020, at 5 p.m. – Optional draft applications due
- Friday, October 30, 2020, at 5 p.m. – Final applications are due; applications must be submitted via the online platform
- November 3–December 15, 2020 – OHS Staff Committee reviews applications
- December 15, 2020 – OHS Staff Committee provides OHS Board Subcommittee with recommendations/rankings
- December 15, 2020–January 22, 2021 – OHS Board Subcommittee reviews applications and OHS Staff Committee rankings/recommendations
- January 27, 2021 – OHS Board Subcommittee makes a final recommendation to OHS Board of Directors for approval
- January 28, 2021 – Recipients and applicants are notified of the board's decision via email
- February 15, 2021 – Contracts are initiated

For more information or questions, please contact Grants Administrator Nicole Harvey at 405-522-5202 or [grants@okhistory.org](mailto:grants@okhistory.org).



Celebrate the power of place, virtually, at PastForward Online 2020. Join more than a thousand preservationists and preservation lovers at the nation’s premier online conference for those who work to save, sustain, and interpret historic places.

You’ll hear from expert speakers who will provide practical, relevant information to meet your evolving needs in the pandemic and post-pandemic periods. Featuring the themes Resilience and Relevance, PastForward Online 2020 will feature more than 32 sessions on topics such as racial justice and equity, dealing with the effects of the pandemic, climate change, the challenges facing America’s main streets, and many more. You’ll be inspired to think through what these changes mean for you as an individual, and for organizations.

From virtual Town Hall meetings to happy hour events, you’ll have the chance to connect with others on topics that matter to you. Advocates and architects, city planners and historic site directors, students and elected officials, commissioners and Main Street directors—if you have a role in preserving the places that made America and sustain its people, you’ll find a home at PastForward Online 2020.

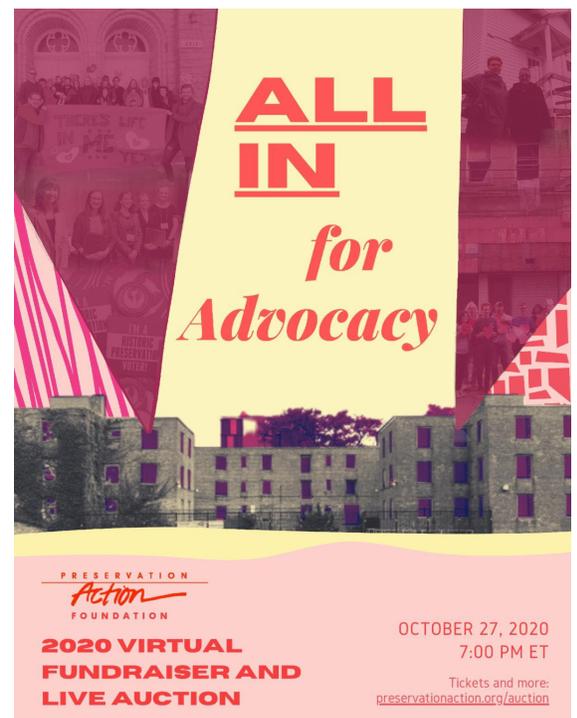
To make the conference as accessible as possible, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has lowered registration rates dramatically. Register for the conference, and you’ll also get online access to session recordings for a full 12 months after the conference. To register, visit [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org).

## Preservation Action Foundation’s Annual Fundraiser and Auction Returns October 27th During the PastForward Conference

Preservation Action Foundation is going virtual for their 2020 party and auction. Join them for **“All in for Advocacy: Virtual Fundraiser and Auction”**, as they commit to being all in for our built, cultural, and environmental heritage - no matter the circumstances. There will be a series of events surrounding an online silent auction from *October 19th to November 9th*, with the keystone event and live auction on *October 27th from 6-7pm CT*.

The virtual event will feature exciting success stories about preservation across the country, celebrate preservation advocacy heroes, and honor the elected officials that contributed to an incredibly successful year in Congress. The hour will be filled with compelling preservation stories, cameo appearances of preservation celebrities, and, of course, an opportunity for attendees to purchase a wonderful array of one of a kind preservation tours and experiences, educational opportunities, and unique gift items at the live online auction - all for a great cause.

The event will help to close out the first day of **PastForward 2020**, the virtual National Preservation Conference. For more information, visit [www.preservationaction.org](http://www.preservationaction.org).



# 2021 Most Endangered Places Submission Form

1) Nomination Submitted by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

2) Endangered Place/Property Nominated:

Name of Endangered Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Location \_\_\_\_\_

Current Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ is a National Historic Landmark, or contributes to a National Historic Landmark District

\_\_\_\_\_ is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or contributes to a National Register district

\_\_\_\_\_ is individually eligible for listing in 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

\_\_\_\_\_ is none of the above.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_\_\_ Poor

6) Other than funding for restoration/rehabilitation, what service could be provided that would assist you in preserving this endangered place (please attach additional page if necessary).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) In 150 words or less, explain why you believe this endangered place should be placed on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Places List for 2021 (please attach additional page if necessary).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8) Please include at least two color photographs showing the current condition of the nominated place.

Please return this completed form to:

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.,

405 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73103.

Nomination form is also available online at [www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org).



Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.  
The Henry Overholser Mansion  
405 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

405.525.5325  
[www.preservationok.org](http://www.preservationok.org)

Non Profit Organization  
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## Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

Historic structures, much like photographs and newspapers, tell the story of Oklahoma communities, linking the past to the present. They also provide economically vibrant locations for local businesses and residents. Since 1992, Preservation Oklahoma has worked to protect and preserve these structures through advocacy, education, and programming. By joining our efforts, you are supporting the protection of Oklahoma's unique and diverse history. Your support also assists in the preservation of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion, an Oklahoma City landmark and home of POK's offices.

### Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include discounted tickets to POK events, complimentary tours of the Overholser Mansion, and invitations to our annual membership appreciation event.

### Membership Levels:

Student	\$25
Individual	\$50
Family	\$100
Partner	\$500

To join, please visit <http://www.preservationok.org/become-a-member.html> and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices!