

the chronicles OF OKLAHOMA



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CONTENTS

The Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma

By LeRoy H. Fischer

Historic preservation began in Oklahoma as a result of public interest in historic and prehistoric sites. Systematic identification of historic sites in Oklahoma began in earnest in the 1920s and continues today. LeRoy H. Fischer describes the early days of historic preservation in Oklahoma, chronicling the time before the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and a few years after its passage. This article first appeared in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 57, no. 1 (Spring 1979). **260**

Development of the Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma, 1966–2016

By Melvena Thurman Heisch and Glen R. Roberson

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Melvena Thurman Heisch and Glen R. Roberson continue the story of historic preservation in Oklahoma. The authors discuss not only the programs administered by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office to fulfill the mandates set forth in the act, but also the work of American Indian tribes and preservation organizations. **278**

The Legacy of Oklahoma Architecture

By Lynda Schwan Ozan

Oklahoma architecture reflects both the aesthetic tastes and pragmatism of Oklahomans. The environment, technology, and culture have influenced architectural design since the first shelters were built in present-day Oklahoma. Lynda Schwan Ozan illustrates the importance of Oklahoma's architectural legacy through examples of buildings and structures saved for future generations, the impact of prominent architects, and cases of structures threatened or lost. **310**

The National Historic Preservation Act and its Impact on Oklahoma Archaeology After Fifty Years

By Robert L. Brooks

The idea of preserving and documenting archaeological sites was established long before the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as the destruction and looting of significant sites led interested parties to call for their protection. Robert L. Brooks assesses the impact of the 1966 act on the field of archaeology, noting both its successes and the dilemmas that have arisen from its passage. **326**

Cultural Diversity and Historic Preservation in Oklahoma*By Cynthia Savage and Susan Allen Kline*

Historic preservation can play a large role in the creation and perpetuation of identity. As the population of Oklahoma becomes more diverse, the properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places reflect the cultures, ethnicities, and organizations represented in the state. Cynthia Savage and Susan Allen Kline show how the variety of properties associated with different groups of people intersect to showcase the unique cultural identity of the state of Oklahoma.

350

FOR THE RECORD**369**

Minutes of the OHS Quarterly Board Meeting, April 27, 2016
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Membership, April 28, 2016
Minutes of the OHS Special Board Meeting, April 28, 2016
Minutes of the OHS Special Board Meeting, June 15, 2016
New Members and Twenty-Year Members, April–May–June 2016

COVER design by Preston Ware.

Front cover: Wiley Post Building, the former home of the Oklahoma Historical Society and now the Oklahoma Judicial Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma; barn, Balko vicinity, Beaver County, Oklahoma; Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma; Boston Avenue Methodist Church, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. Back cover: Wiley Post Building; Route 66 bridge in Canadian County, Oklahoma; Cooper Bison Kill site, Fort Supply vicinity, Harper County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

The Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma



*By LeRoy H. Fischer**

In Oklahoma, as elsewhere, historic preservation began with human interest in both prehistoric and historic sites. Perhaps the earliest such indication was in the site of the Civil War Battle of Honey Springs, the Gettysburg of Indian Territory, located about seventeen miles south of Muskogee, often walked, rode horseback or drove carriages through the area by way of the Texas Road, which ran lengthwise through the center of the battleground. They sought out familiar natural features, viewed trees shattered by the Federal cannonade, and enjoyed the scenic beauty of prairie and dense forest enroute to Honey Springs Station, originally a stage stop and provision point on the Texas Road. Honey Springs was usually the focal point of these excursions, and picnics were sometimes held near the clear-flowing waters of the spring area or the ruins of the stone building purportedly used by the Confederate forces to house their powder. In later years, visits to the battlefield area continued with increasing frequency despite the closing of the Texas Road with the coming of

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

United States Highway 69. The well-known Oklahoma historians, Dr. and Mrs. Grant Foreman of Muskogee, for example, sought out the battle site several times during the 1920s and 1930s.¹

It was Joseph B. Thoburn during his career on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma from 1913 to 1917, who in modern times was the first person to become interested in Oklahoma's prehistoric sites. In the summer of 1916, Thoburn explored Big Mouth Cavern near Grove, Oklahoma, in Delaware County with a group of University of Oklahoma students. The archaeological dig continued for several weeks inside the cave and yielded bones and teeth of game animals, shells of mollusks, pieces of pottery, arrowheads, needles, awls and shuttles. The situation became complex when about two dozen local citizens congregated at the site of the dig and demanded to see the gold-filled teeth they had heard about. This resulted from a legend of the area that told of Spanish gold being buried near Big Mouth Cavern. To counteract the gold rumor, the young men on the dig spread a rumor that the cave was haunted by the awful Hecome-hicome monster which they said lurked deep within Big Mouth Cavern. The monster was reported to make ear-piercing screams and wails late each afternoon. The following Sunday afternoon large numbers of people gathered at the mouth of the cave to hear the monster. Inside the cave was John Joseph Mathews, one of the young men on the dig and a part-Osage Indian who later distinguished himself as an able writer and historian. First he played a flute some distance in the cave and then concluded with a variety of groans, wails and cries which crescendoed near the mouth of the cave. Then the other young men on the dig screamed at the top of their lungs, "It's the Hecome-hicome! He's coming out!" The visitors fled in terror, while the archaeological party acted its role of also fleeing. In the future the Thoburn party worked undisturbed.²

Although Thoburn pioneered in Oklahoma's archaeology, he likewise pioneered in the history of the state, his subject of primary interest. He carefully placed history in its geographic context, thus relating it closely to sites. His most important historical writings were his four comprehensive histories of Oklahoma. The first two were planned as school textbooks. The first edition of the textbooks appeared in 1908. Although Thoburn considered the book hastily done with numerous mistakes, it provided the basic outline for his remaining survey books on Oklahoma history. In 1914 he brought out a second edition, utilizing new materials and correcting mistakes.³

Thoburn in 1916 produced a multi-volume massive survey study of Oklahoma history. The first two volumes of the set contain history, and the remaining three volumes consist of biographies of subscribers. The two history volumes are based almost exclusively on primary research

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Left: George H. Shirk, president of the Oklahoma Historical Society for nearly twenty years, spent much of his life identifying, exploring, researching, and writing about Oklahoma's historic sites (12962, George Shirk Collection, OHS).

Right: Joseph B. Thoburn, pioneer Oklahoma historian and archaeologist, wrote many site oriented articles and books (3732, W. P. Campbell Collection, OHS).

materials because there were few secondary research materials to use. In 1929 he collaborated with Muriel H. Wright, the future editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, in revising the multi-volume 1916 study. The set contains four volumes—two history, two biography. The two history volumes are characterized by more subject-matter footnotes, much historic site orientation, massive amounts of information and a relatively readable style. During his historical career between 1907 and 1940, Thoburn published many articles in *Sturm's Oklahoma Magazine*, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and in Oklahoma and Kansas newspapers. His articles dealt with military affairs, Indians and biography. He believed that history should be both accurate and readable.⁴

Although Thoburn did more than anyone to establish a broad base of interest in Oklahoma's historic and prehistoric sites, others were soon to follow. Grant Foreman's many books on Oklahoma are site oriented, especially *Down the Texas Road*, *Fort Gibson*, *Muskogee* and his collegiate textbook, *A History of Oklahoma*. Angie Debo published two site-related books, *Prairie City* and *Tulsa*. In addition, Arrell Morgan Gibson's *Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries*, *The Chickasaws* and *Wilderness Bonanza: The Tri-State District of Missouri, Kansas, and*

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT



Left: Grant Foreman, a prominent Oklahoma historian, wrote many site oriented books on the state's heritage (7367, Grant Foreman Collection, OHS).

*Right: Muriel H. Wright, long-time editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, promoted and personally engaged in extensive Oklahoma historic site research and publishing (20262.1357.1, Richard Lee and Hillerman Collection, OHS).*

Oklahoma are also heavily site dominated. Kent Ruth's *Window on the Past* and *Oklahoma Travel Handbook* are significant site studies. Likewise, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, in continuous publication since 1921, has regularly brought out many site-related articles. Thus the public of Oklahoma has had wide exposure to the significance of its historic sites over many years.⁵

As early as the 1920s, systematic identification and study of Oklahoma's prehistoric and historic sites began. This also was an important step in the development of historic preservation in Oklahoma. Leading this effort was Muriel H. Wright. Her interest in historic sites began as a child and adolescent when she visited such locations as Boggy Depot accompanied by her parents; climbed Mount Scott with her uncle, Frank Wright; and traveled a section of the Butterfield Overland Mail Route with another uncle, James B. Wright. Her first historic site article titled "Old Boggy Depot" was published in *The Daily Oklahoman* in 1922 and, after further research and revision, appeared in the March, 1927, number of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. In the summer of 1930, with J. Y. Bryce, a former administrative secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and his wife, she made a six-week tour

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Above: Example of cast aluminum marker located in Kingfisher (Museums and Sites Division, OHS).



Right: A typical granite monolith marker. This marker is located in front of the Prague Historical Museum in Prague, Oklahoma (Museums and Sites Division, OHS).

of eastern and southeastern Oklahoma for the purpose of identifying, photographing, mapping and temporarily marking the historic sites of the area.⁶

Also in 1930, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe P. Conkling, Miss Wright searched out all twelve station sites in Oklahoma on the Butterfield Overland Mail Route first operated in 1858; this information was subsequently published in Conkling's book on the Butterfield Overland Mail and was used for the Butterfield Overland Mail onsite marker program of the Oklahoma Historical Society at the time of the Butterfield centennial in 1958. Throughout her lifetime, Miss Wright continued vigorously to seek out, identify, research and write about the historic sites of Oklahoma.⁷

At about the same time that Miss Wright began to give her attention to the prehistoric and historic sites of Oklahoma, Dr. and Mrs. Grant Foreman explored and identified innumerable prehistoric and historic sites of eastern and northeastern Oklahoma. Soon the Anthropology Department and later the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey of the University of Oklahoma began to give special attention to prehistoric archaeological sites. These were of but passing interest to Miss Wright and the Foremans. With the close of World War II, George H. Shirk of Oklahoma City developed a deep interest in identifying and exploring historic sites in the state, an avocation he followed until his death in

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

1977. Together with Miss Wright and the Foremans, he contributed a number of historic site articles to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

Of major importance also in the development of historic preservation in Oklahoma is the historic site marker program of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Previous to the beginning of the program in 1949, there were perhaps not more than twenty-five permanent historical markers erected primarily by civic groups throughout the state. The state historic site marker program had its inception when a twenty-two year old legislator, John E. Wagner of Chandler, then a law student at the University of Oklahoma, introduced the idea to Charles Evans, the administrative secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Wagner related to Evans his highly favorable reaction to the new historical markers he viewed as he traveled through New Mexico and other western states enroute to California. "He believed that if the Oklahoma Historical Society would permit him and at the same time join him in this movement," Evans related, "he would frame and introduce a bill for \$10,000 for the erection of as many markers of permanent kind as this money would buy." It was agreed also at the meeting that the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors would approve the locations of the markers and the inscriptions on the markers. The legislation emerged as House Bill 267 of the Twenty-second Oklahoma State Legislature in 1949, with \$5,000 appropriated for each year of the 1949–1951 biennium. A popular bill with both Republicans and Democrats, it passed the houses of the legislature without noteworthy opposition and immediately was signed into law by Governor Roy J. Turner. A Historical Marker Committee then was appointed by the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society composed of William S. Key, Charles Evans, George H. Shirk, Grant Foreman, Edward E. Dale and Muriel H. Wright to take charge of the work.⁸

The Oklahoma State Highway Department agreed to erect the markers and to maintain them if located on state highway right-of-way. Miss Wright carried on the basic research for inscriptions on the historical markers. The work of writing the inscriptions was divided equally between Miss Wright and Shirk, then recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society. Following approval by the Historical Marker Committee, the inscriptions were sent to the Sewah Studios of Marietta, Ohio, for casting. Each marker was cast of aluminum and is 40 by 42 inches in size, weighs about 200 pounds and has the inscription on both sides showing as silver against a green enamel background. The central design of the Oklahoma State Flag appears at the top of the markers. Across the bottom of the markers, the date of erection and the names of the Oklahoma Historical Society

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Fullerton Dam, west of Altus in Jackson County, was constructed for irrigation uses near the turn of the twentieth century (Museum of the Western Prairie, OHS).



and the Oklahoma State Highway Commission appear. Most of the markers contain a directional line under the caption giving the air-line distance from the markers located on highways to the historic sites. Where directional lines do not appear, the marker is on the historic site or the site is mentioned in the inscription. Each marker is mounted on a steel post about five feet in height.⁹

Precisely 100 historical markers were erected statewide in Oklahoma as a result of the \$10,000 appropriated for the purpose by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1949. Most of the markers were placed along highways at turnout points so as to provide minimal danger to traffic, but a few were placed at or on historic sites. Following the erection of the initial markers provided by state funds, individuals and groups were encouraged to finance privately the erection of additional markers where needed. It was the decision of the Oklahoma Historical Society that the markers be of the same design, that the society write the inscriptions, superintend placements and make the marker purchases with private funds. According to Charles Evans, the administrative secretary of the Oklahoma Historical Society at the time, the initial marker effort in Oklahoma “stirred the whole state and made it, perhaps, more historically conscious than it had ever been.”¹⁰

Through 1977 ninety-three historical markers of the same design as those placed 1949 and 1950 by the Oklahoma Historical Society were erected under the supervision of the society with private funds. With increased speed of traffic on the highways, roadside markers were becoming more of a traffic hazard, and thus the program did not thrive. Meanwhile, to cope with the problem, the Oklahoma Historical Society encouraged the erection under its supervision of large onsite granite monolith markers, sometimes privately financed and sometimes subsidized in part by the Oklahoma Historical Society. Through 1977 thirty-four of these markers were located. Meantime, another marker need

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

developed in Oklahoma with the construction of turnpikes and interstate highways. Again the Oklahoma Historical Society filled the need by developing roadside sign-type historical markers containing brief inscriptions that could be read at high vehicular speeds. Several of these have been erected. Soon after the original marker program of the Oklahoma Historical Society was developed, the organization worked out a design for small onsite markers and began the program. These markers consist of a small bronze plaque mounted on a concrete pedestal about two feet in height. Through 1977 sixty-five of these markers were erected. In the years since 1950, several local historical societies in Oklahoma have placed historical markers and the statewide Oklahoma Heritage Association began a historical marker program in 1975.¹¹

The initial research work required for the historical marker programs of the Oklahoma Historical Society suggested a need for a systematic statewide survey of historic sites. This came less than a decade later in 1957 when the Oklahoma Historical Society was assigned the work of acquiring, maintaining, cataloging, marking and preserving the historic sites of the state by House Bill 573 of the Twenty-sixth Oklahoma State Legislature. In response to this mandate, William S. Key, President of the Oklahoma Historical Society, appointed the Oklahoma Historic Sites Committee, chaired by George H. Shirk, to conduct a historic sites survey. Thus another major step was accomplished for historic preservation. In 1958, when Shirk became president of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Dr. James D. Morrison, a professor of history at Southeastern Oklahoma State College, became chairman of the committee.

Most of the research for the historic sites survey rested with Muriel H. Wright, then the associate editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. She prepared a preliminary list of 512 historic sites for additions and modifications by the committee. The list as it finally came from the committee in 1958 contained 557 historic sites arranged by counties in alphabetical order. The brief site listings provided the name of the location, geographic orientation, sometimes even the land-call legal description and often a key date. When this list was published in the autumn, 1958, number of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, and then republished as a reprint pamphlet, this was the extent of the work of the committee. The committee at the time anticipated further study on legal descriptions, easements and historical significance of the sites. "There will also be a study of the sites to be acquired by the Oklahoma Historical Society," the committee promised, "and the needs for their preservation." Although no further action was taken by the

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Left: *The last Cherokee National Capitol, completed about 1872, is in Tahlequah (2393, Grant Foreman Collection, OHS).*

Right: *An 1891 business structure in the Guthrie Historic Preservation District, presently restored and occupied by the Guthrie News Leader (OKSHPO, OHS).*

committee, the completion of the basic sites survey produced among many historically minded people an appreciation for the first time of the magnitude and significance of Oklahoma's historic sites.¹²

Following the initial historic sites survey of the Oklahoma Historical Society, interest continued over the years in Oklahoma in historic sites study and identification. The prime movers continued to be Muriel H. Wright and George H. Shirk. In the same year that the initial historic sites survey appeared in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Wright and Shirk compiled and edited a booklet titled *Mark of Heritage: Oklahoma Historical Markers*. This publication listed 131 historic sites, described the location of the historical markers, gave the inscription on each marker, supplied many photographs and contained additional information on each historic site. A new edition of this publication was brought out in 1976 when Kenny A. Franks, the director of publications of the Oklahoma Historical Society, joined Wright and Shirk in producing a revised and updated *Mark of Heritage*. This book lists and illustrates 166 roadside markers, 30 granite markers, 57 onsite markers, all erected by the Oklahoma Historical Society, and 12 historic sites and 6 museums owned and operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society.¹³

Three specialized historic site surveys of Oklahoma have materialized. In 1966 Muriel H. Wright and LeRoy Fischer cooperated in preparing "Civil War Sites in Oklahoma" which appeared first in the summer, 1966, number of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and then as a booklet. Eighty-six historic sites concerning the Civil War in Oklahoma are listed; of these, twenty-nine are combat locations,

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

while fifty-seven are war related. Whenever possible, the exact land-call legal description is given, together with the nearest highway and proximity of the site to it. The Civil War significance of each location is provided, and material is presented on the non-combat, war-related sites before and after the conflict, thus giving the essential historical setting. In 1967 the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council, the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the School of Architecture of Oklahoma State University cooperated to produce a specialized historic sites survey booklet titled *Oklahoma Landmarks: A Selection of Noteworthy Structures*. For the first time, historic architectural sites in Oklahoma were selected and studied. The booklet lists seventy-seven structures, provides a photograph of each and gives locations and descriptions.

Another new dimension appeared in 1974 with the publication of *An Inventory of Historic Engineering Sites in Oklahoma*, the work of Duane S. Ellifritt of the College of Engineering of Oklahoma State University. The project was underwritten by the Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service with the assistance of the Oklahoma Historical Society and Oklahoma State University. The existing historic structures of the state's transportation systems, commerce and industry, water supply and surveying are recorded, described and evaluated in detail. The sites are listed in three priority groupings. In another specialized site category, prehistoric archaeological surveys of Oklahoma are not published because of the vulnerability of prehistoric archaeological sites to vandalism. Approximately 5,000 prehistoric archaeological sites in the state are identified and in the records of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey of the University of Oklahoma.¹⁴

Federal interest in state historic and prehistoric sites dates from the Antiquities Act of 1906, but not until the initiation of the Historic American Building Survey in 1933 and the National Historic Landmarks Program in 1960 did serious survey work commence in the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Then, in 1969 the Historic American Engineering Record was established under the direction of the National Park Service. In the main, sites in Oklahoma on these lists were designated without suggestion or urging by the Oklahoma Historical Society and were part of a larger program of national heritage themes worked out by the National Park Service. Under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, historic sites selected for these programs are listed automatically on the National Register of Historic Places.¹⁵

Oklahoma ranks well as of February, 1978, in the National Historic Landmarks Program with sixteen historic sites meeting the

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

The Heilman House, designed by Joseph Foucart, a noted French architect, is a residential structure in the Guthrie Historic Preservation District (OKSHPO, OHS).



stringent criteria of national significance. They are Fort Washita in Bryan County; the Murrell Home and the Cherokee National Capitol in Cherokee County; Camp Nichols in Cimarron County; Fort Sill in Comanche County; the Deer Creek Archaeological Site and the 101 Ranch in Kay County; Wheelock Academy in McCurtain County; Fort Gibson in Muskogee County; Boley Historic District in Okfuskee County; the Creek National Capitol in Okmulgee County; Washita Battlefield in Roger Mills County; Sequoyah's Cabin and the Parris Mound in Sequoyah County; the Stamper Archaeological Site in Texas County; and the McLemore Archaeological Site in Washita County. The Historic American Building Survey as of February, 1978, lists two sites in Oklahoma; they are the Guthrie Historic District in Logan County and Fort Gibson in Muskogee County. The Historic American Engineering Record as of February, 1978, also lists two sites in Oklahoma: they are the Fullerton Dam in Jackson County and the Jenson Railroad Tunnel in Le Flore County. With increasing study in Oklahoma of its building and engineering historic sites, and greater emphases in the Washington offices concerned, more designations of national significance in these areas will likely be forthcoming for Oklahoma.¹⁶

When the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established the National Register of Historic Places, and Executive Order 11593 of May 31, 1971, which specified that the "Federal Government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the nation," became operational, historic site identification, study and preservation in Oklahoma and throughout the nation experienced dynamic renewal. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places brings eligibility to private and local public property for federal grants-in-aid consideration for historic preservation through state programs. The National Register also provides protection of historic sites through comment by

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

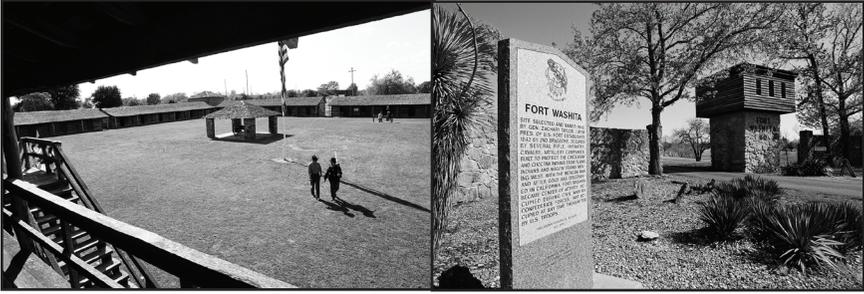


The Murrell Home, the finest antebellum house remaining in Oklahoma, was erected in 1844 and is at historic Park Hill in Cherokee County (Museums and Sites Division, OHS).

the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally financed, assisted, or licensed undertakings on historic properties. Thus, the federal government now provides substantial assistance to Oklahoma and the other states for the development of historic preservation in its varied aspects.¹⁷

The substantial historic preservation efforts of Joseph B. Thoburn, Muriel H. Wright, George H. Shirk and the Oklahoma Historical Society began to pay off when Shirk was appointed the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, under authority of the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966, by Governor Dewey F. Bartlett in February, 1967. Governor David Hall removed Shirk and named Donald G. Coffin of Guthrie to the post in August, 1974. Governor David L. Boren reappointed Shirk as Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer in January, 1975, and he continued in that capacity until his death in March, 1977. Governor Boren designated Dr. Harry L. Deupree, a doctor of medicine of Oklahoma City, for the post in April, 1977. The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer has not worked for compensation since the creation of the post in 1967. During the first years of work of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, a full-time office staff did not exist, but in November, 1975, Howard L. Meredith became full-time Director of Historic Preservation for the Oklahoma Historical Society and for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, with an office in the Oklahoma Historical Society Building in Oklahoma City. Working fulltime also in the office is Melvena K. Thurman, an architectural historian; Bill E. Peavler, AIA, an architect; and archaeologist Richard Drass. Part-time staff members are archaeologists Donald G. Wyckoff, Larry Neal, and Lois Sanders, and Kent Ruth, a field deputy. Present members of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Review Commission are Guy W. Logsdon, chairman, LeRoy H. Fischer, Robert E. Bell, James L. Loftis, Roy P. Stewart, Frederick A. Olds, and Gerald Galm. A ten-member Advisory Committee to the commission is chaired by Fischer.¹⁸

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Left: The Fort Gibson stockade as it presently appears. The reconstruction dates from the 1930s and is in the town of Fort Gibson.

Right: Historic Fort Washita, established in 1843, is in Bryan County.

Largely through the personal work of George H. Shirk, the first Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, planning and initial developmental efforts commenced in Oklahoma under authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A few historic sites were nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and Shirk personally prepared the text for the first *Oklahoma Statewide Historic Sites Survey and Preservation Plan*, published in 1970 and submitted for approval to the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. The inventory lists 220 historic and prehistoric sites and locations in Oklahoma by three methods: (1) alphabetical, (2) by county and (3) by theme. Initially, 125 of the sites were proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The book also contains a comprehensive historic sites plan for Oklahoma which categorizes the locations into four groupings: (1) sites where acquisition is desirable at once, (2) sites where acquisition is desirable on a long-range basis, (3) sites where preservation is planned through cooperative agreement with other governmental agencies and persons and (4) sites where no further action is planned. Elaborate descriptions explain the significance of each site. Additionally, the volume contains thirty-seven photographic illustrations and a foldout locations map and picture collage. Kent Ruth edited, assembled and collated the study; Paul LeFebvre prepared the graphics and took charge of reproduction. The plan soon won the praise of the National Park Service.¹⁹

The creation of the first Oklahoma comprehensive historic sites and preservation plan was basically the work, both in concept and content, of George H. Shirk. He drew upon his vast, first-hand knowledge of Oklahoma history and his hopes for historic site development to compose the basic framework of the survey and plan. Over the years he

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

personally visited many times each of the 220 sites listed in the book. When the comprehensive historic sites survey and preservation plan was needed, he took several weeks from his law practice to work full-time at writing it. Periodically, new editions of the survey and plan have appeared, but the basic content and organization continues to be his work.²⁰

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer and the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Commission supervise a variety of prehistoric and historic site survey and preservation activities. Of much importance is the research, survey and writing needed to submit worthy state prehistoric and historic site applications to the office of the Secretary of the Interior for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. By February, 1978, 169 prehistoric and historic sites in 57 of Oklahoma's 77 counties were on the National Register of Historic Places. Currently, contracts for site submission work are being conducted for the office of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer by the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State University. Federal matching grants-in-aid for public and private historic site development are another concern of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer. A number of matching grants have already been made for Oklahoma historic sites on the National Register of Historic Places and with increases in federal funding, the program is growing. During the federal fiscal year of 1977, work was carried out with grant money on twelve projects and completed on five. From the beginning of the federal grant program through the federal fiscal year of 1978, Oklahoma received \$924,768.86, from a low of \$82,082 in fiscal 1973, the first year of the program, to a high of \$382,000 in fiscal 1978. Oklahoma's federal fund expenditures for historic preservation were interrupted by the removal of George H. Shirk as the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer for an interim period in 1974 during the Governor David Hall administration. Other work of the office of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer and the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Commission includes the compilation and publication of the annual preservation plan and occasional pamphlets designed to explain and encourage historic preservation, including a bi-monthly brochure titled *Outlook in Historic Conservation*. Additionally, the office maintains a continuing inventory of historic sites and each year conducts many review and compliance activities.²¹

In Oklahoma the development of historic sites falls primarily on the state. Two state departments, the Oklahoma Historical Society through its Historic Sites Division, and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department through its Parks Division, have developed most historic sites. The preservation programs utilizing historians,

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

archaeologists, planners, engineers, and architects in addition to state and federal monies. Although the Oklahoma Historical Society had its beginnings in 1893 and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department origins extend back only to 1931, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department was the first to develop a number of historic sites. Likely the first was the reconstruction of the Fort Gibson stockade in the 1930s; soon came the restoration of the Murrell Home at historic Park Hill. Not until House Bill 573 of the Twenty-sixth Oklahoma State Legislature became law in 1957 was the Oklahoma Historical Society in a legal status to acquire and develop historic sites. Beginning in the middle 1960s, numerous historic sites and museums were acquired and developed by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The historic sites usually came as gifts, and the museums were developed through legislative appropriations or acquired by transfer from the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. At the close of 1977, the Oklahoma Historical Society had twelve staffed historic sites open to the public, two of which contain museums. The Oklahoma Historical Society also had seven staffed museums under its supervision. In addition, the Oklahoma Historical Society has jurisdiction over about sixty non-staffed historic sites. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department at the close of 1977 had seven staffed museums and nine staffed historic sites under its jurisdiction. Five non-staffed historic sites are also its responsibility. Thus, jurisdiction of state controlled historic sites and museums is shared by the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, with the major responsibility for historic sites in the hands of the Oklahoma Historical Society.²²

Historic preservation in Oklahoma thus has a rich and varied heritage. The state has a sound foundation upon which to develop its historic site resources. Public interest in Oklahoma in historic preservation, almost a century old, seems as deeply rooted in the state's culture as the unique nature of its historic sites. The Oklahoma State Legislature, judging from its increasing appropriations each year for the development of historic sites, appears to be responding to strong and persistent public sentiment in support of historic preservation. All indications are that the federal government will continue with ever-increasing annual matching appropriations for the development of Oklahoma's historic sites. Debt-free Oklahoma is fiscally and culturally ready to meet the federal preservation challenge. No other state is better prepared by virtue of its historic preservation background and sound financing to lead the nation in developing its historic site heritage.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

Endnotes

* LeRoy H. Fischer became a professor of history at Oklahoma State University in 1946, where he taught for thirty-eight years and retired as the Oppenheim Professor of History. He served on the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors from 1966 to 2009, and the OHS inducted him into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame in 1995. He championed the preservation of Old Central on the Oklahoma State University campus and the Honey Springs Battlefield near Checotah, and was a member of the Historic Preservation Review Committee from 1978 to 2008. The author, coauthor, or editor of eight books and more than seventy articles on Oklahoma history, Fischer devoted his career to preserving and sharing Oklahoma history. The board room at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City is named in his honor. Fischer passed away in 2014 at the age of ninety-six. This article first appeared in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 57, no. 1 (Spring 1979): 3–25. The text and citations appear as it did in the original publication, excepting the use of endnotes instead of footnotes and some photograph substitutions.

¹ Unidentified Newspaper Clipping, Battle of Honey Springs Folder, Grant Foreman Collection, Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Interview, Mrs. Grant Foreman, July 17, 1963; LeRoy H. Fischer, “The Honey Springs National Battlefield Park Movement,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XLVII, No. 1 (Spring, 1969), p. 515.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION MOVEMENT

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Development of the Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma, 1966–2016



*By Melvena Thurman Heisch and
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The phrase “historic preservation” brings different images to mind for different individuals. It is best described as a process for the protection of the important buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects associated with all the people who have impacted a particular place or called it home. A wide range of activities, including identification, restoration, rehabilitation, acquisition, archaeological investigations, education, and others, result in historic preservation. Government agencies, the business community, nonprofit organizations, and individual citizens share responsibilities for the preservation of Oklahoma’s heritage. When a community’s historic properties are protected and used appropriately, the results are economic, social, and educational benefits for all of its citizens.

Honey Springs Battlefield was designated Oklahoma’s twenty-second National Historic Landmark (NHL) on February 27, 2013.¹ The battle occurred on July 17, 1863, and it was the largest engagement

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

of the American Civil War in Indian Territory. Shortly after the war ended, people began visiting the site to remember and commemorate the sacrifices made there, laying the foundation for historic preservation in present-day Oklahoma.² Over the next one hundred years pioneer historians, archaeologists, and avocationalists built on that foundation through their research, publications, efforts to mark historic sites, and other activities. During the following fifty years (1966–2016), federal legislation and national programs and trends strengthened, supported, and influenced the development of Oklahoma’s historic preservation movement.

Established in 1893, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) immediately began the collection and preservation of artifacts and documents, and its efforts rapidly expanded after statehood in 1907. In 1936 the OHS acquired its first historic property, Sequoyah’s Cabin, and the identification and preservation of historic properties became a part of the OHS mission. For example, the OHS established its roadside historic markers program with a legislative appropriation of \$10,000 in 1949. With a committee of distinguished historians, George H. Shirk and Muriel H. Wright located the sites and wrote the text for the program’s first one hundred markers.³

In 1957 another legislative appropriation to the OHS funded identification of historic properties and development of recommendations for their acquisition and preservation. Working with the Oklahoma Historic Sites Committee, Shirk and Wright completed field and archival research and reported their efforts, listing 557 historic properties. Their findings were published in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* in 1958.⁴

As the OHS identified and evaluated historic properties, the University of Oklahoma focused on the state’s prehistory. Beginning in 1913, Joseph B. Thoburn, a professor of history, pioneered the study of Oklahoma prehistory, working closely with Muriel Wright.⁵ Under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), scholarly study of Oklahoma’s archaeological sites and artifacts advanced. In 1936 the university partnered with state and private agencies to conduct these investigations. Kenneth Orr analyzed artifacts collected from Spiro Mounds during the WPA excavations and published the results. In 1943 Orr became the first curator of archaeology for the university’s natural history museum. Robert E. Bell succeeded Orr in the position in 1947. Bell’s many important contributions to the field included establishment of the Oklahoma River Basin Surveys Project in 1962 and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) in 1970.⁶

By the mid-1960s a body of scholarly work existed that documented archaeological and historic properties across Oklahoma. However,

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Reenactment at Honey Springs Battlefield, Rentiesville vicinity, McIntosh County, Oklahoma (Museums and Sites Division, OHS).

there was no mechanism for their protection other than acquisition. Archaeological and historic resources were destroyed as construction of the interstate highway system, urban renewal programs, and other public and private development boomed. A similar situation existed nationwide, but things were about to change.⁷

Shortly after taking office, President John F. Kennedy visited the National Trust for Historic Preservation's (NTHP) Decatur House. First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy led the successful effort to protect the other nineteenth-century houses on LaFayette Square scheduled for demolition to make way for the new Executive Office Building. The General Services Administration modified their plans for the building and left the houses in place. These actions signaled a shift in federal policy that strengthened historic preservation across the nation.⁸

At the direction of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Rains Committee studied preservation efforts in Europe and published its findings and recommendations in 1966 in *With Heritage So Rich*. Due to advocacy efforts by the committee, the NTHP, and the National Park Service (NPS), Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). President Johnson signed the measure into law on October 15, 1966. The president considered it an example of "creative federalism."⁹

The NHPA states that "the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage" and that "the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people." Further, the law stated

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

that preservation of historic resources is in the public interest and that improved identification and administration of these resources will foster historic preservation, improve the planning of federal undertakings, and “assist economic growth and development.”¹⁰ With passage of the NHPA, historic preservation efforts in Oklahoma broadened from protection of single landmark buildings through government grants to revitalization of historic commercial districts and residential neighborhoods through public and private investment.

Under the NHPA each state’s governor appointed a State Liaison Officer, soon renamed State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).¹¹ In February 1967 Governor Dewey Bartlett appointed George H. Shirk, Oklahoma City attorney and president of the OHS Board of Directors, as Oklahoma’s first SHPO and assigned the federal preservation program responsibilities to the OHS.¹²

The NHPA authorized the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), and in 1969 the NPS began to award HPF matching grants to the states. Oklahoma’s first HPF grant totaled \$1,002 (twenty-third among the states), and the second award in 1970 was \$7,186 (thirty-second among the states).¹³ With these matching funds, Shirk developed the state’s first historic preservation plan and began preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). He retained Kent Ruth, newspaper columnist and author of books about historic places in Oklahoma, to assist with the nominations.

Through the mid-1980s, the HPF allocations varied widely. Oklahoma received \$382,000 (forty-ninth among the states) in 1978, but was given \$515,280 (thirteenth among the states) in 1984. Oklahoma ranked twenty-eighth in HPF awards from 1989 through 2000. After minor fluctuations in 2001 and 2002, the state’s HPF allocation stabilized, and it ranked twenty-sixth among the states from 2003 (\$595,992) through 2016 (\$830,450).¹⁴

In 1974 Governor David Hall named Donald G. Coffin as the state’s second SHPO. Governor David Boren reappointed Shirk, who served as SHPO until his death in 1977. Governor Boren named Harry L. Deupree, an OHS board member, to follow Shirk as SHPO.¹⁵ During this time period, the SHPOs allocated much of the HPF for preservation of individual historic properties. The SHPO submitted the plans and specifications for each project to the NPS for approval. By 1973 the NPS recognized three preservation treatments: stabilization, restoration, and reconstruction. Under certain circumstances, the NPS considered adaptive reuse to satisfy requirements of the restoration category.¹⁶

Until 1976 Oklahoma’s HPF allocation funded restoration and reconstruction activities for OHS-managed historic properties. Restora-

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

tion work at the Co-operative Publishing Company Building (Guthrie), the Henry Overholser Mansion (Oklahoma City), and Old Central (Oklahoma State University campus, Stillwater), and reconstruction of the South Barracks at Fort Washita (Durant vicinity) were accomplished with the federal matching grants.¹⁷

Interest in and the definition of historic preservation was expanding. In March 1976 the NPS issued standards for four additional preservation treatments, including acquisition, protection, preservation, and rehabilitation.¹⁸ Use of Oklahoma's HPF in the late 1970s reflected the changing attitudes about the meaning of historic preservation and recognized the importance of partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

The SHPO awarded matching grants to the 101 Ranch Foundation for acquisition of land at the 101 Ranch (Marland vicinity) and assisted the OHS Historic Sites Division to acquire land at the Honey Springs Battlefield (Rentiesville vicinity). These projects helped preserve and protect the sites for interpretation to the public.¹⁹

Several restoration grants were awarded for non-OHS properties. The Lawton Heritage Association received assistance for the Mattie Beal House, and the City of Ponca City used an HPF grant for the E. W. Marland Mansion.²⁰

Additionally, the federal funds helped make possible new uses for historic buildings, and the new standards for rehabilitation guided the project work. The City of Lawton adapted the Carnegie Library for a town hall and matched the SHPO's HPF grant with a Community Development Block Grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Oklahoma City Junior League used an HPF grant to rehabilitate the historic Oklahoma County Home for Girls (Blinn House) for their offices and meeting space.²¹

As the 1970s drew to a close, historic preservation was no longer just about saving a few landmark buildings through government grants. The NPS and SHPOs focused on other NHPA programs and developed partnerships with public and private entities to further their historic preservation goals. The Oklahoma SHPO staff expanded to satisfy requirements of the federal programs and to serve the growing statewide preservation community. Professionals were needed to carry out the comprehensive archaeological and historic survey program, extend NRHP designation to the full range of archaeological and historic resources, develop the statewide preservation plan, assist federal agencies in complying with Section 106 of the NHPA, and conduct public outreach activities.

Initially, the OHS Historic Sites Division managed the state's participation in the federal preservation program. In November 1975 the

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION



Marland Mansion, Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma (20596.54R, Oklahoma Historical Society Photograph Collection, OHS).

SHPO became a separate division of the OHS. Howard L. Meredith directed the new division, and Melvena (Thurman) Heisch joined the staff in January 1976. The SHPO entered into cooperative agreements for professional services with the Oklahoma Archeological Survey and the Oklahoma State University Department of History to complete surveys and prepare NRHP nominations for archaeological and historic resources.²²

Passage of the Oklahoma State Register of Historic Places Act in 1980 formalized the SHPO's organizational structure, which remains in place in 2016. Under the law, the governor appoints the OHS executive director as the SHPO. The act officially established the state review board required under the NHPA as the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee and provides for gubernatorial appointment of its members.²³ The act also established the State Register of Historic Places to include all properties listed in or nominated to the NRHP and those properties approved specifically for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places. The State Register designation provides recognition of historic properties, but no protective features nor financial incentives were authorized. Finally, the act transferred the authority for issuing permits for archaeological investigations to the OAS from the University of Oklahoma's Department of Anthropology.²⁴

In August 1979 Governor George Nigh named OHS executive director H. Glenn Jordan as the first SHPO appointed under the new state law. C. Earle Metcalf became SHPO in April 1981, and when Metcalf retired in 1987, J. Blake Wade served as interim SHPO until David L. Salay became the OHS executive director in September 1988, and Governor Henry Bellmon named him SHPO. Then, in January 1990, Governor David Walters appointed J. Blake Wade, the new head of the OHS, as the SHPO. He served in the position until August 1999,

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

when he resigned to head the Oklahoma Centennial Commission. Bob L. Blackburn became the next executive director of the OHS and has served governors Frank Keating, Brad Henry, and Mary Fallin as SHPO.²⁵ These individuals and their staffs led the development of the statewide historic preservation program.

Gradually, the SHPO staff was expanded to meet NHPA responsibilities and the increased workload. As of 2016 six professionals and four support staff members manage the federal preservation program for the SHPO. SHPO staff is responsible for archaeological and architectural historic survey, preparation of NRHP nominations, Section 106 review, the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program, guidance to applicants for preservation tax incentives, statewide preservation planning, and public outreach and technical assistance.²⁶ The SHPO partners with public and nonprofit entities to carry out specific projects under these programs.

The NPS developed the standards for the identification and evaluation of archaeological and historic resources, including qualification standards for professionals completing project work. Following these standards, each SHPO established a statewide inventory and adds to it through their comprehensive survey programs. Federal agencies also undertake survey work as part of their NHPA responsibilities. Local governments and others document archaeological and historic resources, often due to participation in NHPA programs. SHPOs add the information received from all sources to their inventories. The Oklahoma SHPO worked closely with OAS, Oklahoma State University's Departments of Geography and History, local governments, and others to increase the number of archaeological sites recorded in the OAS files and to expand the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI).

In 1970 the OAS was established at the University of Oklahoma.²⁷ Its mission, as set forth in the legislation, is "to conduct basic research on the prehistoric and early historic archaeological record; to work with the citizens of the state to preserve sites valued for cultural heritage; and to promote public awareness of prehistory and early history by publishing and lecturing on research findings."²⁸

The SHPO and the OAS work through cooperative agreements to identify and evaluate archaeological sites for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. They give priority to areas for which there are few recorded sites or where development pressures may threaten sites. For example, by the mid-1970s only three archaeological sites in the Oklahoma Panhandle were listed. These included Stamper Archaeological Site (Optima vicinity), Old Hardesty Archaeological Site (Hardesty vicinity), and Sharps Creek Crossing Archaeological

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

Site (Turpin vicinity). As a result of the SHPO and OAS partnership, twelve additional sites in Beaver, Cimarron, and Texas Counties were included in the NRHP by 1978. By 2016 ninety archaeological sites across the state were listed in the NRHP.²⁹

As of 2016, approximately 5 percent of Oklahoma's land area had been surveyed for archaeological sites, and twenty-five thousand sites were recorded in the Oklahoma Archeological Survey Information System (OASIS), the OAS site files.³⁰ More than forty HPF-assisted archaeological survey projects, completed from 1975 to 2016, accounted for much of the work. The number of recorded sites in each of Oklahoma's counties varies widely. Counties with the fewest recorded sites are Alfalfa (32) and Okmulgee (37). Counties with the most recorded sites are Le Flore (1,587), Osage (1,306), Roger Mills (1,274), and McCurtain (1,108).³¹

Examples of SHPO and OAS cooperative projects include archaeological investigations of the Fourche Maline Valley South of Red Oak (1979); Quartermaster Creek in western Oklahoma (1984); the Wolf Creek drainage in Ellis County (1989); Paleoindian bison hunting along the Beaver River in Harper County (1999); the Canadian River Valley in central Oklahoma (2002); Walnut Creek in McCurtain County (2005); Greer, Jackson, and Kiowa Counties (2005); Evansville Creek in Adair County (2009); and Bois d'Arc Creek in Kay County (2013).³²

Under federal program requirements, the SHPO developed a context-based statewide preservation plan in the early 1980s. Contexts, which are frameworks for evaluating the significance of archaeological and historic resources, are based on a geographic area, time period, and theme. The contexts for Oklahoma's archaeological resources were based on *Oklahoma Archeology: A 1981 Perspective of the State's Archeological Resources, Their Significance, Their Problems, and Some Proposed Solutions*.³³ The series of contexts developed formed the prehistoric component of the statewide preservation plan and aid in decisions about where archaeological site surveys occur.³⁴

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider how their federally funded, licensed, or permitted actions may affect archaeological and historic resources. Agencies consult the SHPO, the OAS, and others to determine if there are known historic properties within their project's area of potential effect or if survey work is needed. Federal undertakings, such as highway construction and water and sewer line projects, result in identification of archaeological resources for addition to OASIS. Other actions require federal licenses or permits, including construction of interstate natural gas pipelines and erection of cellular communication towers. These projects also are

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Cooper Bison Kill Site, Fort Supply vicinity, Harper County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).



subject to the Section 106 review process and lead to the documentation of archaeological sites.

Section 106 requires consideration of architectural/historic resources in addition to archaeological sites. Federal agencies and others consult the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory for information about buildings, structures, districts, and objects. Agencies document previously unrecorded standing structures for the SHPO's evaluation and addition to the OLI.

The 1958 report of the Oklahoma Historic Sites Committee formed the basis for the OLI. Initially, the inventory was published as part of the statewide preservation plan. However, the NPS eliminated the requirement because SHPO inventories grew rapidly and constantly, and their publication became infeasible. The Oklahoma SHPO published its inventory for the last time in 1976. By 2016 the OLI contained more than fifty-six thousand entries.³⁵

Since the mid-1970s, the SHPO has partnered with the Department of History and Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University to prepare NRHP nominations, complete architectural/historic survey projects, and maintain the collected information online. The SHPO also has supported architectural/historic survey projects through the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program since 1984. The contexts developed for the historic period as part of the statewide preservation plan guide these survey efforts, and the information collected is recorded in the OLI.³⁶

A few examples demonstrate the use of the historic contexts in architectural/historic surveys and the comprehensive nature of the work through time. The SHPO's thematic survey of Oklahoma's Works Progress Administration (WPA) resources was completed between 1984 and 1987 in partnership with OSU's Department of History. Hundreds of public buildings, recreational facilities, water quality improvements, and cemetery improvements were documented and added to the OLI. The SHPO continues nomination of WPA resources to the NRHP, and

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

125 were listed by 2016. The Hugo Armory and Hugo Public Library (Choctaw County), Pocasset Gymnasium (Grady County), Medford Bathhouse and Swimming Pool (Grant County), Newkirk Water Purification Plant (Kay County), Harmon Athletic Field (Okmulgee County), and Woodward Crystal Beach Park (Woodward County) are among the WPA resources listed in the NRHP.³⁷

The SHPO and OSU's Department of Geography undertook a five-year project to document historic barns statewide. At least ten barns in each of Oklahoma's seventy-seven counties were recorded for a total of 966 additions to the OLI. The project report detailed the history and geographical patterns of barn types, functions, and architectural forms. The historic barns survey, combined with material gathered through the Oklahoma Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, provides an important collection of information about the state's rural heritage.³⁸

Protection of mid-twentieth-century resources emerged as a nationwide preservation issue in the late 1990s. The SHPO knew there was an abundance of architecture of the period in Oklahoma and undertook a survey of Modern architecture in Oklahoma City. The reconnaissance level survey concerned commercial and public buildings constructed between 1945 and 1971. The survey area was roughly bounded by I-44 to the north and west, I-35 to the east, and I-240 to the south. Approximately two hundred buildings were recorded in the OLI.³⁹

While some surveys were thematic, others concerned all property types within a specific geographical area. For example, in 2009 the SHPO and the City of Tulsa conducted an intensive level survey of Tulsa's central core, an area bounded by I-244, US-412, US-64, and SH-51. More than five hundred individual properties were documented, and twelve historic districts were identified. The survey results increased information in the OLI and encouraged downtown property owners to consider redevelopment of historic buildings instead of demolition and new construction.⁴⁰

Federal and state agencies, in addition to the SHPO and the OAS, add archaeological and historic resource data to the OLI and OASIS. The US Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and others produce information from surveys of construction project locations. Approximately three thousand projects from these and other agencies were submitted to the SHPO for review each year from 2005 through 2015, and about 2,500 properties were added to the OLI each year.⁴¹

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation documents archaeological and historic resources across the state as they plan construction projects funded with assistance from the Federal Highway Adminis-

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Hugo Armory, Hugo, Choctaw County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

tration. Thousands of bridges on the state highway system have been recorded.⁴² From 2007 through 2015, the agency completed a special study of Depression-era bridges.⁴³ These studies increase the efficiency of the Section 106 process for road and bridge projects and ensure that the state's transportation heritage is documented.

In 1992 the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD) partnered with the SHPO to study the ten state parks constructed under the federal relief programs of the 1930s. The project purpose was, in part, to enhance the OTRD's ability to receive federal funds and meet Section 106 requirements.⁴⁴ Based on the project, Robbers Cave State Park and Lake Murray State Park were listed in the NRHP.⁴⁵

Listing in or eligibility for the NRHP is key to historic preservation initiatives across the nation. The status recognizes a property's significance, provides limited protection, qualifies owners for grant assistance when funding is available, and in certain circumstances, qualifies owners for tax incentives. Anyone can propose an NRHP nomination and, initially, eligible properties were entered in the NRHP even if the owner objected. However, the 1980 amendments to the NHPA gave private owners the right to prevent listing through their objection. Few owners had exercised the option by 2016.⁴⁶

By January 1, 2016, 1,282 Oklahoma buildings, districts, structures, sites, and objects were included in the NRHP. Some listings, particularly districts, include multiple resources, each benefiting from the designation. Thirteen Oklahoma properties were listed in the NRHP by the end of the 1960s, 285 were added in the 1970s, 488 in the 1980s, 160 in the 1990s, 238 in the 2000s, and 96 since 2010.⁴⁷

While the SHPO has the authority to nominate properties to the NRHP and the SHPO staff generates nominations, anyone can

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION



A Route 66 bridge entering Canadian County (OKSHPO, OHS).

propose a nomination for the SHPO's consideration. For example, Dale and Norma Anderson produced the 1993 nomination for their house in Duncan, historically known as the H. C. Crislip House.⁴⁸ Others require NRHP listing to qualify for federal and state rehabilitation tax incentives. For this reason, Rosin Preservation, LLC, produced nominations for the Cherokee Terrace Apartments and Clay Hall, both located in Enid.⁴⁹ Regardless of why a nomination is prepared, it serves as permanent documentation of the property, a level of preservation.

The NPS and the SHPOs were not alone in the protection of the nation's heritage. During the late 1970s other agencies and organizations began to see potential in historic preservation as a community revitalization tool.⁵⁰ These changing attitudes were expressed in Oklahoma as local leaders, government officials, and professionals presented and participated in public discussions and other events.

For example, the SHPO and the Pauls Valley Historical Society co-sponsored one of Oklahoma's first community preservation events. On June 2, 1978, they presented the Historic Preservation Conference in Pauls Valley. The program explored the significance of the downtown commercial district and the importance of preserving its character-defining, historic brick streets.⁵¹ The broad community interest in historic preservation led to the SHPO's nomination of the Pauls Valley Historic District to the NRHP, and it was listed on February 1, 1979, for both its historic and architectural significance.⁵²

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Action Conference occurred April 15–17, 1979, in Guthrie. Sponsors included the City of Guthrie, the Logan County Historical Society, the Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, and the SHPO, indicating that the public and private sectors were coming together to protect the historic character of a community and revitalize the local economy through historic preservation.⁵³

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

As Guthrie leaders were realizing that there was an opportunity to improve the local economy through heritage preservation, they learned about the National Trust for Historic Preservation's new program known as Main Street, which focused on the revitalization of commercial districts through historic preservation. Because the Main Street program had not come to Oklahoma, the Logan County Historical Society hired professional staff and worked with the City of Guthrie to improve the infrastructure in the historic commercial district through the federal Urban Development Action Grant program. Street, sidewalk, and other improvements encouraged private property owners to invest in historic commercial buildings, such as the Victor Block and the Eager & Hirzel Building (Harrison House). The new federal rehabilitation tax credits provided further incentives for redevelopment.⁵⁴

Before long, public officials and business leaders from Guthrie and other communities decided that Oklahoma should join the Main Street program. In 1985 the Oklahoma Legislature appropriated funding to the Department of Economic and Community Affairs (later reorganized as the Oklahoma Department of Commerce) for the Oklahoma Main Street program. At the time, Main Street focused on mid-sized towns, those between five thousand and fifty thousand in population. In 1986 Alva, Anadarko, Duncan, Okmulgee, and Tahlequah were selected as Oklahoma's first Main Street towns. Each community formed a nonprofit organization and employed a project director to manage its local program. Memberships in the local Main Street organization, corporate contributions, and city funding supported their operations.⁵⁵

In 1992 Main Street expanded to include a small towns program for communities with populations less than five thousand people and an urban program for project areas located in cities with more than fifty thousand in population. Oklahoma was the second state, following Iowa's example, to have a small town component, and Newkirk, Nowata, and Purcell were its first participants.

The urban program promoted redevelopment in areas such as Oklahoma City's Stockyards City and Tulsa's Kendall-Whittier District. Oklahoma was the third state to institute an urban program. To help communities qualify for Main Street, a preparatory program was introduced in 2013, and Frederick and Yukon were the first to participate.⁵⁶

Since its establishment, the Oklahoma Main Street program has worked with the SHPO to revitalize local economies and preserve historic properties. Vacant and deteriorating buildings are found in most downtowns, and Main Street managers work to recruit businesses to occupy them and to encourage their rehabilitation. Listing in the NRHP raises awareness of a building's importance to the community and, in certain

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION



H. C. Crislip House, Duncan, Stephens County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

circumstances, positions the owner to qualify for financial incentives. Therefore, the SHPO's NHPA programs support Main Street. Through SHPO staff efforts, the CLG program, and the Section 106 process, thirty districts in Main Street communities are listed in the NRHP. The Florence Hospital in Cordell and the Wells Building in Sapulpa are examples of buildings located in NRHP districts in Main Street towns; both buildings were rehabilitated under the federal and state tax credit programs and contribute to revitalized commercial centers.⁵⁷

The NHPA states that private investment in preservation efforts should be encouraged, but until 1976 the federal tax code favored new construction. The Council on Environmental Quality and the NPS began a study in 1970 to determine what changes could be made in the code to stimulate historic building rehabilitation. The resulting federal legislation has had a significant impact on historic preservation nationwide.⁵⁸

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 allowed developers of historic buildings rehabilitated for income-producing purposes to use an accelerated depreciation schedule. To qualify for the incentive, developers had to meet requirements of both the Internal Revenue Service and the US Department of the Interior's National Park Service. A certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure was required for eligibility for the incentive, and the NPS, with the assistance of the SHPO, carried out the certification process. Over the next ten years, a series of tax code revisions provided income tax credits for historic building rehabilitation. While the value of the credit and limits on its use changed from 1978 through 1986, the certification process remains the same.⁵⁹

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Pauls Valley Historic District, Pauls Valley, Garvin County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).



Despite the federal Historic Tax Credits (HTC), few certified rehabilitation projects were completed in Oklahoma from 1976 through 2006, due in part to downturns in the state's economy in the mid-1980s and the slow recovery. A few historic buildings did benefit, including Oklahoma City's Central High School, Guthrie's Victor Block and Eager & Hirzel Buildings (Harrison House), and Claremore's Will Rogers Hotel.⁶⁰

However, the Oklahoma Legislature adopted two measures that have stimulated rehabilitation of historic buildings. First, the Local Development Act was adopted in 1992 and encouraged rehabilitation of historic hotels and newspaper plants. It enabled local governments to offer certain tax exemptions and other incentives to encourage revitalization efforts. Rehabilitation of hotels or newspaper plants listed in or nominated to the NRHP qualified for the incentives when the rehabilitation work met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The very narrow definition of which historic buildings could qualify for the incentives severely limited its effectiveness.⁶¹

In 2005, however, the Local Development Act was amended to provide state tax credits for all rehabilitation projects that qualified for the federal HTC. Taxpayers who qualify for either the 20 percent or the 10 percent federal credit automatically qualify for an equal amount of state tax credit.⁶² Despite state legislation that resulted in a deferral of the state credits for the period from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012, and other efforts to reduce or eliminate the state tax credits, developers continued to invest in historic buildings.⁶³ The number of federal HTC projects increased annually after adoption of the state credits. In 2015 thirty-four historic building rehabilitation projects were submitted to the SHPO for review.⁶⁴

"The 2009 Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation in Oklahoma" examined the direct and indirect impacts of historic preservation

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

activities in the state for the year 2007 and concluded that they totaled \$357 million for the period. Rehabilitation accounted for \$125 million of that total. The rehabilitation tax credits were key to the financial feasibility of redevelopment efforts across Oklahoma. These projects created jobs in the construction industry and in the businesses that occupied the rehabilitated buildings, as well as stimulated redevelopment of neighboring properties.⁶⁵

To qualify as a certified rehabilitation, the building must be listed in the NRHP, either individually or as part of a district (certified historic structure), and the project work must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. First issued in 1977 and updated several times through 2013, these standards also became the primary guidance for other preservation programs, such as local design review in Oklahoma communities enforcing local preservation ordinances.⁶⁶

Two Oklahoma landmark hotels that sat vacant and deteriorating for years demonstrate the importance of the tax incentives in Oklahoma's historic preservation movement. Oklahoma City's Skirvin Hotel and Tulsa's Mayo Hotel are among the dozens of buildings statewide that benefited from the tax incentives and contributed to their respective community's revitalization.

The Skirvin Hotel at 1 Park Avenue in Oklahoma City was listed in the NRHP on October 10, 1979. Despite efforts to keep it in service, the hotel declined, and it closed in 1988. There was concern that the building might be demolished. The City of Oklahoma City acquired the hotel and devised a plan to find a developer. Through a request for proposals, the city selected Skirvin Partners LLC, Marcus Hotels and Resorts of Milwaukee, and Hilton as the developers. Project work began in the fall of 2005, and included exterior rehabilitation, building systems upgrades, and complete interior rehabilitation, with special attention to the historic Venetian and Continental Rooms. During a public ceremony, the Skirvin Hilton Hotel opened on February 26, 2007. As the redevelopment agreement required, Skirvin Partners LLC donated a façade easement for the hotel to the city on September 9, 2014, ensuring preservation of the building's exterior in perpetuity.⁶⁷

Downtown Tulsa's landmark Mayo Hotel at 115 West Fifth Street also benefited from the federal and state rehabilitation tax credits. The 1925 hotel was listed in the NRHP on June 27, 1980, and closed that same year. It sat vacant for thirty years. As Oklahoma City preservationists worried about the Skirvin's future, Tulsans had the same concerns about the Mayo. Both hotels were listed in Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s Most Endangered Historic Places list. Finally, in 2001 the Snyder family purchased the building and began its rehabilitation in

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

2008. Financing from the City of Tulsa's Vision 2025 and federal and state rehabilitation tax credits aided the Mayo's redevelopment as a boutique hotel and loft apartments. Among other things, project work included restoration of the terrazzo and marble floors and refurbishment of the hotel's grand staircase, Crystal Ballroom, and the neon sign atop the hotel. Tulsans celebrated the Mayo's reopening in a ceremony on December 3, 2010.⁶⁸

Amendments to the NHPA in 1980 and 1992 expanded participation in the federal preservation program. Through the changes, local governments and tribal governments formally joined the federal-state preservation partnership.

First, the 1980 amendments established the Certified Local Governments program. It addressed the concerns of mayors about their limited role in the NHPA programs, especially in the NRHP nomination process. Under NPS regulations, each SHPO developed procedures for implementing the CLG program in their respective states. To become a CLG in Oklahoma, a municipality must enforce an appropriate local preservation zoning ordinance, have an adequate and qualified local preservation commission, and satisfy provisions of a written agreement between the city and the SHPO. Once designated a CLG, the city participates in the NRHP nomination process, qualifies for matching funds from the SHPO's annual HPF allocation, and may assume other SHPO duties.⁶⁹

Local historic preservation ordinances, used in cities like Charleston, South Carolina, and New Orleans, Louisiana, since the 1930s, authorize local governments to designate landmarks and historic districts and to review proposed exterior modifications, new construction, and demolitions that affect designated historic properties. Oklahoma City adopted the first preservation ordinance in Oklahoma, and dozens of other Oklahoma municipalities had adopted their own versions by 2016.⁷⁰

Loss of an important local landmark often stimulates adoption of a preservation ordinance, and the City of Oklahoma City enacted its ordinance soon after demolition of the Charles Colcord Mansion on Northwest Thirteenth Street for construction of an office building. The Colcord Mansion was on the south edge of the Heritage Hills neighborhood, just north of downtown. The neighborhood was home to prominent local business and political leaders and contained hundreds of two- and three-story houses designed in a variety of architectural styles popular in the early twentieth century. Concern about further commercial encroachment into the area stirred residents to petition the city government to protect the neighborhood, and the city desig-

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION



*Will Rogers Hotel,
Claremore, Rogers
County, Oklahoma
(OKSHPO, OHS).*

nated the Heritage Hills Historic and Architectural District upon passage of the new preservation ordinance in 1969.⁷¹ By 2016 the City of Oklahoma City had designated nine historic districts and employed a professional staff to administer the design review process under the Historical Preservation and Landmark Commission.⁷²

Other Oklahoma municipalities followed Oklahoma City's example. The City of Guthrie adopted its preservation ordinance in 1978, and the City of Fort Gibson enacted its ordinance in 1983. However, no other cities in the state took formal steps to protect their historic properties until creation of the CLG program.⁷³

The secretary of the interior approved the Oklahoma SHPO's CLG program in 1985. As of 2016 Anadarko, Ardmore, Cordell, Enid, Grandfield, Guthrie, Muskogee, Norman, Oklahoma City, Okmulgee, Ponca City, Sapulpa, and Tulsa have CLG status. With CLG funding from the SHPO, cities completed projects that strengthened their local preservation programs and benefited property owners. For example, the City of Guthrie revised its local ordinance and developed design guidelines tailored to its historic properties. Enid prepared NRHP nominations for the downtown commercial district, terminal grain elevators, and other properties. Ardmore and Okmulgee produced videos to highlight community heritage and inform the public about tax credits and other preservation tools. Norman and Oklahoma City carried out several architectural/historic survey projects, and Tulsa developed its local preservation plan and a website. Anadarko, Cordell, Grandfield, Muskogee, Ponca City, and Sapulpa all produced NRHP nominations.⁷⁴

The 1992 amendments to the NHPA extended formal participation in the federal preservation program to tribal governments and authorized HPF grant assistance to them. The amendments authorized the NPS to approve tribes to assume SHPO duties and responsibilities on tribal lands. Through an application process, tribes demonstrated that they had a duly appointed Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Above: Skirvin Hilton Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, present day (OKSHPO, OHS).



Right: Mayo Hotel, Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma (20882, Oklahoma Historical Society Photograph Collection, OHS).

to administer programs and that the tribe had the capacity to carry out the responsibilities it proposed to assume. With the exceptions of the CLG program and the evaluation of rehabilitation tax credit projects, tribes decide which of the other SHPO programs they would assume.⁷⁵

Initially, the NPS determined that Oklahoma tribes were ineligible for formal THPO status because there were no reservations in the state. However, the Caddo Nation pursued the issue, and the NPS ultimately decided that Oklahoma tribes could assume SHPO functions on lands held in trust for the tribe.⁷⁶ By March 2016 nineteen Oklahoma tribal governments had formal THPOs, including the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Caddo Tribe, Cherokee Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Comanche Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Osage Nation, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Ponca Nation, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and Wyandotte Nation. Each of them assumed responsibility for review of federal undertakings pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA, archaeological and historic resources surveys, nomination of properties to the NRHP, preservation planning, and public outreach and education.⁷⁷

Although half of Oklahoma's tribal governments lack formal THPO status, they all play a critical role in federal preservation programs. Under the 1992 amendments, federal agencies must consult all tribal governments that may have an interest in the location of a federally

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

funded, licensed, or permitted construction project, even if the project does not occur on tribal trust lands. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's (ACHP) regulations outlined the consultation process.⁷⁸

The importance of tribal input about the impacts of federal projects on historic properties was demonstrated during planning of a project at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 2008 the Comanche Nation considered the proposed construction of a forty-three-thousand-square-foot facility at Fort Sill to have an adverse effect on Medicine Bluffs. Their objection to the project as stated in the court order read, "The building site is directly south of Medicine Bluffs (sometimes referred to herein as the 'Bluffs'), a natural landform which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Sites [*sic*] since 1974 because of its historical importance, its role in the founding of Fort Sill, and its religious and cultural significance to Native Americans." The Comanches asserted, in part, that Fort Sill violated the NHPA "based on the contention that Defendants failed to make a reasonable and good faith effort to consult with the Comanche Nation to identify and resolve any adverse effects on Medicine Bluffs resulting from construction of the TSC." When the court ruled in favor of the Comanche Nation, Fort Sill canceled the project and found another location for the facility.⁷⁹

Whether they have formal THPO programs or not, tribal governments preserve and share their heritage in a variety of ways. For example, several tribes have preserved historic buildings. Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism rehabilitated Oklahoma's oldest government building, the Cherokee National Supreme Court Building, which also housed the *Cherokee Advocate*, and reopened it as a museum. Also, the Cherokee Nation and the Saline Preservation Association partnered in the Saline Courthouse Stabilization and Springhouse Restoration projects. The courthouse was built in 1884 and is the only survivor of the nine rural Cherokee courthouses.⁸⁰

The Peoria Indian School, located east of Miami, was constructed in 1872. The school and the Peoria Indian Cemetery are the only documented historic resources associated with the Peorias remaining in the United States. The tribe again owns the building and undertook a four-phase restoration through a Tribal Preservation Program Grant from the NPS. The Pawnee Nation rehabilitated three buildings in the Pawnee Agency and Boarding School Historic District. Two of the buildings now serve the new Pawnee Nation College as classrooms, meeting space, and offices, and the third building now serves as the tribe's community health center.⁸¹

Tribes preserve their heritage through other methods too. The Cheyenne and Arapaho THPO initiated an inventory of historic

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

resources significant to them and located in the nine Oklahoma counties comprising the area they were assigned in the nineteenth century. The Choctaw Nation and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation each manage a cemetery identification and preservation program and lead efforts to clean away debris and repair fencing and other features. Like many other tribes, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma maintains a Tribal Register of Historic Places. Thlopthlocco Tribal Town shared information about tribal heritage through the local schools. Tribal representatives consider teaching their languages as one of their most important heritage preservation accomplishments.⁸²

In addition to the NHPA programs, several special federal initiatives from the late 1990s through 2016 supported historic preservation activities nationwide, and Oklahoma benefited from each program. Save America's Treasures (SAT) was established under President Bill Clinton's administration, and the program funded restoration and preservation work on nationally significant historic structures and objects. SAT grants supported restoration of decorative plaster ceilings in the E. W. Marland Mansion in Ponca City, rehabilitation of buildings in the Fort Reno Historic District near El Reno, and restoration work at the Cherokee National Capitol in Tahlequah.⁸³ Also, OHS received SAT assistance for preservation work at Fort Gibson Historic Site (Fort Gibson), Fort Washita Historic Site (Durant vicinity), Frank Phillips Home (Bartlesville), Fred Drummond Home (Hominy), Henry Overholser Mansion (Oklahoma City), and Pawnee Bill Ranch (Pawnee).⁸⁴

By Executive Order on March 3, 2003, President George W. Bush authorized the Preserve America Program. It stated, "It is the policy of the Federal Government to provide leadership in preserving America's heritage by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of the historic properties owned by the Federal Government, and by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of historic properties." Preserve America encouraged partnerships among public agencies and the private sector. The new program encouraged development of heritage tourism initiatives to further historic preservation. To accomplish these goals, a Preserve America grants program and a Preserve America community program were created.⁸⁵

The SHPO, in partnership with OSU's Department of Geography, received a Preserve America grant in October 2008 for the first phase of a project to digitize locational information for OLI entries. The Preserve America grant expedited the work for the counties along the Oklahoma City to Tulsa corridor. Through use of the Historic Preser-

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

vation Fund, the SHPO and OSU completed the project in the remaining counties. Online access to the OLI database, enhanced with digital location information, increased consideration of architectural/historic resources in planning efforts statewide.⁸⁶

Several Oklahoma communities received Preserve America community status. Each community completed a program application that featured a special project related to historic preservation and economic revitalization and that demonstrated the community's commitment to protection of heritage assets and promotion of tourism. By 2015 Oklahoma's Preserve America communities included Ardmore, Durant, Enid, Muskogee, Newkirk, Oklahoma City, Ponca City, Shawnee, and Tulsa. They received national recognition for their local preservation programs and resources for tourism promotion.⁸⁷

The SAT and Preserve America programs gained popularity among preservation leaders, and they sought legislative authorization for both programs. In 2009 President Barack Obama signed the authorizing legislation. However, permanent funding was not included, and as federal budget deficits grew, funding for both SAT and Preserve America grants ceased.⁸⁸

Other federal preservation initiatives focused on a specific historical theme and assisted Oklahoma preservation efforts. For example, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) program provided grants from the HPF for restoration of NRHP properties on the campuses of institutions related to the theme. Langston University Cottage Row Historic District was listed in the NRHP in 1999 as the result of a SHPO staff project. The district is situated in the southwest corner of the campus, and the houses originally served as faculty living quarters. In 2012 the university rehabilitated the houses for a variety of administrative functions with an HBCU matching grant from the NPS.⁸⁹

Also, the American Battlefield Protection Program, launched in 1990, was important to the protection of several significant sites in Oklahoma. It provided multiple grants for preservation efforts at Honey Springs Battlefield. Between 1991 and 2015, projects were funded to develop a Battlefield Protection Study, to complete title searches and appraisals for land identified as a preservation priority in the study, to complete an archaeological reconnaissance of the battlefield, to acquire land, and to produce a tour map that included Honey Springs. OHS secured additional federal funding for preservation and interpretation efforts at the battlefield from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's allocation under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Land along the historic Texas Road was acquired for interpretive

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

purposes. An access road and walking trails for the battlefield, and a bridge across Elk Creek also were constructed. Additionally, in 2011 the program provided grant assistance for purchase of 86.5 acres of Cabin Creek Battlefield, another important Civil War battle site in Indian Territory.⁹⁰

Of particular importance to Oklahoma was creation of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 1999. The federal legislation charged the NPS with identifying and addressing the preservation needs of the historic highway. In addition to technical assistance and other guidance, the program provided cost-share grants for restoration of significant historic properties, research activities, and preservation planning.⁹¹

Oklahomans have a strong connection to Route 66, and many agencies, organizations, and individuals work to protect its legacy. The Oklahoma SHPO began the identification and evaluation of historic Route 66-related resources in 1984 through a partnership with OSU's Department of History. The SHPO continued preparation of NRHP nominations for resources documented in the survey through an arrangement with OU's College of Architecture. With a 2002 matching grant from the Route 66 corridor Preservation Program, the SHPO increased the number of Route 66 properties documented in the OLI. By 2016 sixty-five roadbed segments, bridges, service stations, motels, and other properties associated with Oklahoma's portion of the historic highway were listed in the NRHP and shared with heritage travelers in a self-guided tour on the SHPO's website.⁹²

The NPS cost-share grants aided more than a dozen Route 66 preservation projects in Oklahoma from 2001 through 2016. They included rehabilitation of Tulsa's Vickery Phillips 66 Service Station, the Circle Theatre, and the Meadow Gold sign; restoration of the Parker Through Truss Bridge No. 18 at Rock Creek near Sapulpa; rehabilitation of the Rock Café in Stroud; restoration work at the Arcadia Round Barn; and restoration of Oklahoma City's Tower Theater neon sign.⁹³

In addition to saving these local icons, the projects supported the state's heritage tourism industry. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department promoted Historic Route 66 as one of the state's major tourism destinations. Heritage travelers expect an authentic experience and tend to stay longer and spend more money. The efforts of the NPS, the SHPO, local governments, and private property owners ensured the authenticity of the historic highway was preserved for tourists to enjoy.⁹⁴

As Oklahoma's preservation movement matured in the late 1980s, local leaders and professionals realized that government agencies

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION



Medicine Bluffs on Medicine Creek, Fort Sill, Comanche County, Oklahoma, c. 1900 (19383.128.6, Frederick S. Barde Collection, OHS).

could and should only do so much. They came together and unveiled Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. (POK), a statewide nonprofit organization during the 1992 Annual Statewide Preservation Conference in Tulsa. In addition to increasing public awareness about important historic places and threats to them, POK's mission includes advocacy for public policy favorable to historic preservation. POK accomplishes its mission through a variety of activities that complement and supplement the work of public agencies.⁹⁵

POK established its annual Most Endangered Historic Places program to focus attention on endangered landmarks like the Skirvin Hotel, the Mayo Hotel, and Oklahoma City's Citizens State Bank, also known as the Gold Dome, at Northwest Twenty-Third and Classen, as well as archaeological sites and commercial districts in small towns. Also, they participate in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's This Place Matters program. Working with local cosponsors, as in Boley and Newkirk, POK organizes tours of important historic properties in the community and presents programs about the benefits of historic preservation to community revitalization.

POK cosponsors two other statewide public outreach programs. It is a cosponsor of the Annual Statewide Preservation Conference and assists the SHPO to provide special conference sessions, such as the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP). The intensive training for local government staff and officials responsible for enforcing local historic preservation ordinances was included in the 2014 statewide conference agenda. Also, since 1993 POK and the SHPO have partnered to publish *Preservation Oklahoma News*, a free, quarterly newsletter.

In 2005 POK led the successful statewide advocacy campaign for expansion of the state rehabilitation tax credits program to include any building that qualified for the federal preservation tax incentives. The organization again lobbied the state legislature to prevent a moratorium on the state credits in 2010.⁹⁶

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Peoria Indian School, Miami vicinity, Ottawa County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).



In 2009 POK, in partnership with the SHPO, the City of Oklahoma City, and others, released the study of preservation's economic impacts in Oklahoma. POK retained the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers to complete the research and generate the report. It provided critical information for the 2010 efforts to retain the rehabilitation tax credits and is widely used to demonstrate that historic preservation is a powerful economic development tool.⁹⁷

In October 2008 the NTHP held its annual National Historic Preservation Conference in Tulsa. It was the first time the event had been held in Oklahoma, and it provided preservation leaders from across the country an opportunity to learn about the state and its historic preservation programs. In May 2010 the NTHP's National Main Street Center held its National Town Meeting in Oklahoma for the second time. It was held in Tulsa in 1992; the 2010 event took place in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Main Street Center of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce hosted both events. They provided opportunities to highlight the impacts of historic preservation on economic development and community revitalization across the state.

While national conferences gave Oklahoma preservation leaders an opportunity to share their accomplishments with colleagues from across the nation, the annual statewide preservation conference is the forum for all Oklahoma preservationists to learn from each other, to highlight successes, and consider preservation challenges in their communities. The annual conference began in 1989 in Guthrie and has been held in twenty-three different locations, returning twice to Enid, Guthrie, Norman, Okmulgee, and Ponca City. The SHPO is the lead sponsor, and the Oklahoma Main Street Center and POK are annual cosponsors. Local organizations from the host communities make continuation of the event possible.⁹⁸

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION



Above: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s Most Endangered Places exhibit, on display at the Dale Hotel, Guymon (OKSHPO, OHS).

From 1966 to 2016, federal, tribal, state, and local governments, the business and development community, preservation professionals, and individual citizens advanced historic preservation in Oklahoma. With the work of scholars and avocationalists of the previous one hundred years as the foundation, the state's preservation community implemented the programs established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and subsequent amendments. The NHPA provided the structure and funding for identification of archaeological and historic resources, nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, development of preservation planning initiatives, consideration of historic properties in the planning of federal construction projects, treatment of historic properties, participation of tribal and local governments, and expansion of outreach and educational programs. During the fifty years since passage of the NHPA, other federal legislation and national trends also influenced the protection of Oklahoma's heritage. Historic preservation is no longer just about saving individual buildings with government grants or responding to the next crisis. Its social and economic benefits to Oklahoma are well documented. Historic preservation is now a powerful economic and community revitalization tool for the state's urban and rural areas alike, and its impact will continue to increase in the coming decades.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Endnotes

* Melvena Thurman Heisch is Oklahoma's deputy state historic preservation officer and directs the daily operations of the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office, which is responsible for administering the federal historic preservation programs for the State of Oklahoma. She is a native Oklahoman and holds a BA in social science education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and an MA in history from Oklahoma State University. Her professional affiliations include service on the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Board of Directors; the Federal Advisory Council for the National Park Service's Historic Route 66 Corridor Preservation program; and the Preserve America Summit, Security Issues and Historic Preservation Panel. She is the recipient of several awards, including the Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award, State Historic Preservation Office category; the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Honor Award; and the Friend of Main Street Award. Glen R. Roberson recently retired from the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, where he oversaw the Certified Local Governments program and the Centennial Farm and Ranch program.

¹ "Oklahoma's National Historic Landmarks," in Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, "Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan January 2015–December 2019" (Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2015), 23, www.okhistory.org/shpo/plan2015web.pdf; "Honey Springs Battlefield Designated NHL," *Preservation Oklahoma News* 19, no. 3 (April 2013): 1.

² Leroy H. Fischer, "The Honey Springs National Battlefield Park," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 47, no. 1 (Spring 1969): 515.

³ Leroy H. Fischer, "The Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 57, no. 1 (Spring 1979), 14.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 13.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 3.

⁶ "History of the Archaeology Collections," Sam Noble Museum, accessed July 24, 2015, www.samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/collections-and-research/archaeology/history-of-the-archaeology-collections/.

⁷ James A. Glass, "Fifty Years of the National Historic Preservation Act," *History News* 69, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 14.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Public Law 89-665, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as Amended, 89th Cong. 1st sess. (16 USC 479), accessed December 22, 2015, www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-80/pdf/STATUTE-80-Pg915.pdf.

¹¹ Glass, "Fifty Years of the National Historic Preservation Act," 15.

¹² Fischer, "The Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma," 19.

¹³ Megan Brown, "State Grant Apportionment History December 2014.xls," email message to Shea J. Otley, December 8, 2014, Melvena Heisch and Shea J. Otley email files, OKSHPO.

¹⁴ Apportionment to State Historic Preservation Offices, FY 2016 Annual Grant (P16AF00046) File, Historic Preservation Fund Grants Administrative Files, OKSHPO.

¹⁵ Fischer, "The Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma," 19.

¹⁶ "A History of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings," US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, accessed September 25, 2015, www.nps.gov/tps/standards/history-of-standards.htm (hereafter cited as "A History of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards"). The terms used to describe the treatment of historic properties are defined as follows: restoration is the act or process of accurately re-creating the form and details of a property and its setting as

DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by replacement of missing earlier work; reconstruction is the act or process of reproducing by new construction the exact form and detail of a vanished building, structure, or object, or a part thereof, as it appeared at a specific period of time; rehabilitation (sometimes called adaptive reuse) is the act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration that makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values.

¹⁷ “Historic Preservation Fund, A&D Grants for Ft. Washita, Overholser Mansion, Old Central, Cooperative Publishing Company,” memorandum by Melvena Heisch to Earl Metcalf, Covenant Monitoring Files, State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, OK (hereafter cited as OKSHPO).

¹⁸ “A History of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards.”

¹⁹ “Warranty Deed 101,” site visitation record, Covenant Monitoring Files, OKSHPO.

²⁰ “Mattie Beal House and E. W. Marland Mansion,” Covenant Monitoring Files, OKSHPO.

²¹ “Lawton Carnegie Library and Oklahoma County Home for Girls (Blinn House)” Covenant Monitoring Files, OKSHPO.

²² Fischer, “The Historic Preservation Movement in Oklahoma,” 22.

²³ Oklahoma State Legislature, “Oklahoma Historical Societies and Associations,” Title 53, 35–36, www.oklegislature.gov/osStatuesTitle.aspx.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ “Bob Blackburn,” Subject Files, OKSHPO.

²⁶ From 1975 through 2015, the staff of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office included: architects Bill E. Peavler, Dennis Hairston, Eva Osborne, Catherine Montgomery, and Harry Simms; architectural historians Melvena (Thurman) Heisch, Sandra Stratton, John Hill, Marsha Weisiger, Susan (Allen) Kline, Cynthia (Smelker) Savage, James Gabbert, and Lynda (Schwan) Ozan; historic archaeologists J. Marshall Gettys, Charles S. Wallis, Timothy Baugh, and Catharine Wood; and historians Howard L. Meredith, Steve Day, Jill (Marsh) Gray, Glen R. Roberson, Allison (Marshaus) Archambo, and Stephanie Ballard.

²⁷ Oklahoma State Legislature, “State Government,” Title 74, 341–42, www.oklegislature.gov/osStatuesTitle.aspx.

²⁸ Robert Brooks “Oklahoma Archeological Survey,” The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture, accessed July 21, 2015, www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=OK014.

²⁹ Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, *Oklahoma’s National Register Handbook*, accessed August 28, 2015, www.okhistory.org/shpo/NRHANDBK.htm.

³⁰ Proposal for Public Archeology Program, 2015–2016, May 22, 2015, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, File #15-101 Public Archeology Program, Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant Files, OKSHPO.

³¹ Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, *Tomorrow’s Legacy*, 11.

³² “List of Historic Preservation Fund-Supported Archeological Surveys,” accessed September 15, 2015, www.okhistory.org/shpo/archeosurveys.htm.

³³ Don G. Wyckoff and Robert L. Brooks, *Oklahoma Archeology: A 1981 Perspective of the State’s Archeological Resources, Their Significance, Their Problems, and Some Proposed Solutions*, Archeological Resources Report 16 Norman: Oklahoma Archeological Survey, 1983), 3.

³⁴ Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, “Prehistoric Contexts,” *Oklahoma’s Comprehensive Preservation Planning Process, Prehistoric Component*, 3, accessed January 5, 2016, www.okhistory.org/shpo/contexts/Introduction.pdf.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

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DEVELOPMENT OF PRESERVATION

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The Legacy of Oklahoma Architecture



*By Lynda Schwan Ozan**

Generations of Oklahomans have studied properties throughout the state connected to trends, events, or individuals significant in American history. Evaluation of the built environment has been occurring since the passage of the Historic Sites Act in 1935. It took the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966 for Oklahoma to have the full mechanism in place to do this for the entire state.

Despite the passage of the Historic Sites Act, Americans were still arguing over what terms to use for architectural styles, such as Craftsman versus Bungalow, and what historic themes were appropriate, such as the Gilded Age and Populism. Under the National Park Service's leadership, efforts were made to categorize building styles and typologies. The ultimate goal was to identify representative styles for all periods up to the 1930s.¹

The frenzy created throughout the country with the passage of the NHPA in 1966 helped to stimulate a preservation movement in Okla-

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

homa that recognized the architectural legacy of the state as well as the role the state would play in future architectural influence and design. The legislation directed the secretary of the interior to create a list of the sites and properties of the past worth keeping called the National Register of Historic Places. Shortly after the US Congress passed the legislation, properties within Oklahoma were added to this important list, starting recognition within the state and the nation of what Oklahoma had to offer in the realm of architectural style and design.

Even before statehood, environment, technology, and culture came together to shape the first shelters and ceremonial centers in what would become Oklahoma. After the passage of the NHPA, these were some of the first things recognized for their importance. Built environments, such as the Cherokee National Capitol, the Creek National Capitol, and Sequoyah's Cabin, are a select few of the first buildings to be recognized as historically important in Oklahoma. Across the outstretched land of Oklahoma, there was evidence of earlier communities such as the Deer Creek Archaeological Site, Stamper Archaeological Site, and Spiro Mound Group.² While these domiciles and structures may not be fully understood, they are some of the earliest pieces of Oklahoma's built environment. These built environments may no longer be extant, but they laid the groundwork for what would come in the following years.

Early settlers in Oklahoma generally built on the basis of tradition, using materials at hand in response to local environmental conditions. However, when the railroad came to Oklahoma that tradition quickly evolved in favor of building more in accordance with the rest of the country. It was during the settlement of Oklahoma that steel was produced in mass quantities and that the telephone, typewriter, mimeograph, escalator, and incandescent light bulbs were developed. Within just a few short years, these innovations became the basics of America's urban culture. Ultimately these advances made it possible for the development of tall, self-contained skyscrapers.³

Early settlements in Oklahoma predating statehood typically were comprised of wooden, two-story commercial buildings. Most of these resources were identified as "falsefront." As the name implies, the building had a front-facing wall that extended above the roof of the building. This created a parapet that gave the building a more impressive façade. Falsefront, or boomtown fronts as they are sometimes referenced, were common even after the arrival of commercially produced steel in Oklahoma from the east. Within a few days of arriving in Oklahoma after the Land Run of 1889, Henry Overholser erected six such commercial buildings on Grand (now

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Perryman Ranch Headquarters, Duke vicinity, Jackson County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS)



Sheridan) Avenue in Oklahoma City.⁴ These initial buildings, which were common in settlement towns, were simple wooden structures with very little detail: large expansive glass on the first floor, hung windows on the second floor, and a gable roof concealed by a false front on the façade.

The next logical step in architecture in Oklahoma, pre- and post-statehood, was the construction of masonry buildings. Locally quarried materials and brick were the obvious materials of choice. It was a paradoxical time in Oklahoma architectural history. While Oklahoma was a frontier area still suffering through the settlement pains of land openings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, construction in Oklahoma also was evolving with the rest of the country. It is at this point that architects, designers, and builders could more clearly express the structural and functional realities of the building through the development of mass produced steel framing.⁵

The basic technology of steel frame construction had been worked out in the commercial buildings of Chicago and New York City. There, the designers and architects tested out size, dimensions, and modern conveniences. They did this through a variety of architectural styles, expressions, forms, and functions. It was in these environments that engineers and architects learned the importance of steel cross bracing for wind loads, a detail that would be important to Oklahoma architectural development. At the turn of the century across the country, including Oklahoma, there was a drive to create a standardized construction methodology for commercial buildings. This was done through comprehensive designs on a grand scale but specifically included machine prefabricated materials.⁶

As with all architecture and engineering resources, one style or type of resource does not develop in a vacuum. As many were focusing on the development of steel frame construction, others were planning

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY



*Joyce House, Snyder vicinity,
Kiowa County, Oklahoma (OK-
SHPO, OHS).*

urban environments that flourished with a monumental grandeur that had never been approached previously. The City Beautiful Movement created a moral and civic imperative among urban populations; the promotion of a harmonious social order was intended to improve the quality of life for urban dwellers. It fell out of favor in other states as early as the late 1910s but stayed an active part of community development in Oklahoma through the 1930s.⁷

As people first settled in Oklahoma Territory, they initially took a laissez-faire approach to development and settlement that quickly evolved into specifically planned communities. It is at this same time that modern architectural styles that ultimately had a large impact on Oklahoma were developing across America: Shingle, Commercial, Beaux Arts and Prairie. Upon entry into World War I, then World War II, architecture and development changed in Oklahoma.⁸

By the end of the twentieth century, construction methodology became more focused on ecology, energy conservation, and sustainable development. This building evolution included housing near the work environment (less usage of automobiles) and passive solar building designs (windows, walls, and floors made to collect, store, and distribute energy) for energy conservation. These overarching concerns continue into the twenty-first century in Oklahoma and provide opportunities for Oklahoma-based designers to improve upon an already diversified landscape.⁹

Architecture is the art or practice of designing and building structures, especially habitable ones.¹⁰ In the truest sense, natural forces make the most demands on a building, from gravitational pull to intense winds and general weather patterns. Oklahoma's architectural legacy takes these design issues into account. With the limitations put on design by nature, Oklahomans have created masterpieces on the landscape; most that are practical for everyday use and some that are

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

A fine Oklahoma example of Queen Anne can be seen in the Governor Douglas Johnston House in the vicinity of Emet. It was designed by architect W. A. Waltham in 1895 and features an irregular roofline, large wraparound porch, decorative spindles, and ornamental balustrade (OKSHPO, OHS).



true works of art. While Oklahoma was not perceived as a center of architectural development like Chicago or New York City, influential architects throughout history have designed important buildings in the state and influenced other architects through their designs.

With the opening of Oklahoma Territory for non-American Indian settlement in the late 1800s, the common architectural design trends tended to be from the Victorian era: Queen Anne, Shingle, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Folk Victorian. During this period, the rapid growth in Oklahoma, both from the land runs and the newly constructed railroads, led to a dramatic change on the Oklahoma landscape. Newly developed balloon framing allowed for irregular floor plans, massive overhangs, and the departure from the box-like shape in both residential and commercial development. It was at this time that mass production of architectural details began: doors, windows, roofing, siding, and decorative details. Designs from the Victorian era reflect these changes with their extensive use of ornate details that were previously restricted to the wealthy.¹¹

Unlike the Victorian-era styles, Eclectic styles stressed a pure copy of European styles. In Oklahoma, these styles last into the middle of the twentieth century. These European imitations were a result of the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893, which emphasized historical precedents seen around the Court of Honor.¹² These imitations were made easier to design and construct as inexpensive veneer applications were perfected during this period, making these styles more affordable.

English styles from this period in Oklahoma are identified as Colonial Revival, which was the most dominant style in domestic designs throughout Oklahoma; Neoclassical, a popular style for both commercial and residential designs; and Tudor, a style used for large portions of suburban development in Oklahoma. Colonial Revival details include symmetry in features such as doors and windows, an

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY



The Santa Fe Depot, designed by architect Charles Whittlesey, in downtown Shawnee epitomizes the Richardsonian Romanesque style (OKSHPO, OHS).

accentuated front entry with sidelights and designed with the side gable as the prominent elevation. Neoclassical design is defined by the classical columns, a balanced façade, and full-height porches on domestic examples. High style domestic examples can be found in the Frank Murray Home in Erin Springs and William Skelly House in Tulsa. Nondomestic examples can be found on the Murray and Okfuskee County Courthouses. Tudor style is reserved for housing in Oklahoma and is identified by its faux half-timbering. Many fine examples of this style can be found in the Swan Lake Historic District in Tulsa.¹³

While French-inspired architecture became common across the country, it was never as popular in Oklahoma as the other Mediterranean and Spanish-influenced styles. Mission was popularized by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroads in Oklahoma and in house plans popularized by Sears, Roebuck and Company. The Mission style is identified by its mission-shaped dormer and the red clay tile roof. The Spanish Revival style typically has a clay tile roof as well, but also includes stucco walls and walled courtyards. Both of these styles can be found throughout residential areas in Oklahoma.

Architecture's departure from early academic or eclectic styles is embodied in the Modern style, which can be further broken into three Modern time frames: early, mid and mainstream. From the early 1900s through the present day, Modern style architecture found its home in Oklahoma and was clearly promoted and refined by Oklahoma's trained and practicing architects. From Frank Lloyd Wright and Bruce Goff to John Johansen and the firm of Murray Jones Murray, Oklahoma's landscape is still dominated by avant-garde architecture.

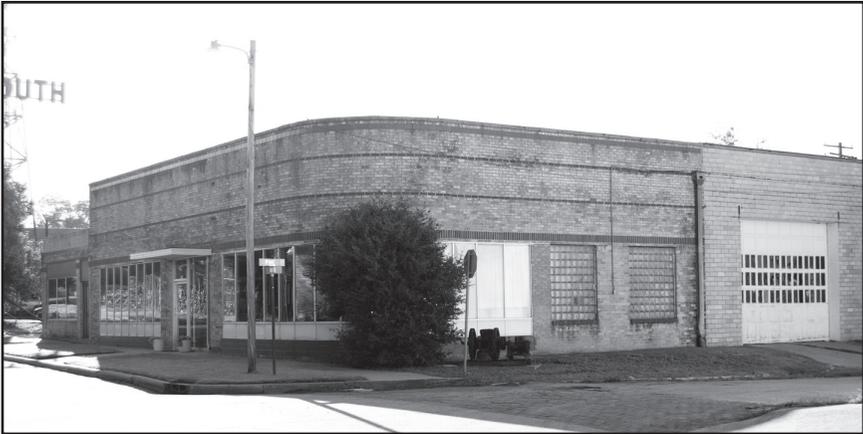
THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



La Quinta, designed by Edward Buehler Delk as a private residence, now serves as Bartlesville Wesleyan College and is an outstanding example of the Spanish Revival style in Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

Early Modern style architecture includes Prairie, Craftsman, Art Deco, and Art Moderne. Prairie style is the most American of architectural styles. Identified by its low pitched roof, one-story wings, porte cocheres, and horizontal details, the style was popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright in his early works. Many historic districts in Oklahoma have examples of this style: Buena Vista Park in Tulsa, Kenwood Historic District in Enid, and DeBarr Historic District in Norman. Craftsman was the dominant style for smaller houses built at this time. Much like the Prairie style, the craftsman has a low pitched roof but includes exposed rafter tails and has squat tapered columns on the porch. This style was popularized by the magazines *Ladies Home Journal*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Western Architect*, and *The Architect*. Craftsman style houses can be found in practically every community in the state. Finally, Early Modern style includes Art Deco and Art Moderne. Art Moderne is easily identified by its smooth wall surfaces and curved detailing. It is found equally on residential and commercial properties. Art Deco is identified by the geometric decorations, stylized floral and animal ornamentation, and reeding details. Tulsa has the largest collection of Art Deco buildings, so many that it has an international reputation for the collection.

With the onset of World War I, US manufacturing companies found a booming business opportunity. Producing war materials for the Allies meant expanding manufacturing facilities and, ultimately, an expansion in the housing market. The interwar period saw a mass exodus of the well-to-do from cities to the suburbs. This first started along the commuter rail system, but once the automobile took over



Beard Motor Company in Bristow is a commercial example of the Art Moderne style (OKSHPO, OHS).

as the favorite mode of transportation, suburban development in Oklahoma reshaped the cities. What had once been the privilege of the rich now became reality for thousands of Oklahomans. However, with the entry into World War II, nonmilitary building and design came to a halt in Oklahoma. The war imposed a building hiatus unlike anything Oklahoma had ever seen. Because of the drought in building materials and manpower, architects, designers, and builders were forced to maximize materials and eliminate ornamentation. The shift in building and design went to industrial areas where housing was needed. When World War II ended, architect-designed building in Oklahoma boomed in an effort to meet soaring demands for new buildings, houses, and businesses.¹⁴

Mid-Modern style includes Minimal Traditional, Ranch, and Split Level. Minimal Traditional houses were a response to challenging times in Oklahoma. The Great Depression nearly shut down home construction, as banks were going under and farms were failing. The Minimal Traditional style was just that: minimal details, minimal size, and minimal roof features. This style also worked well as Oklahoma geared up for the war effort; it was a common style for housing developments that supported war industries. Ranch style houses, such as those found in Ranch Acres in Tulsa, started replacing the Minimal Traditional house by the 1950s. Common features of the Ranch include a broad, one-story plan, an off-center entry, and a large picture window. This style became popular in Oklahoma as the automobile began to be the dominant form of transportation. Split Levels were a play on the Ranch house of Oklahoma, sometimes referred to as a Ranch

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA



Art Deco examples found throughout Tulsa (OKSHPO, OHS).

house on steroids. As its name implies, the house has multiple levels but traditionally is a Ranch style with a partial basement or partial second floor.¹⁵

Mainstream Modern has the most architectural subcategories found in the state. These include International, Contemporary, Shed, Organic, A-Frame, New Formalism, Brutalism, and Postmodern. Phillip Johnson identified the characteristics of international style in his book *The International Style* as volume, regularity, and avoidance of ornamentation.¹⁶ Stylistically International is a boxed-shaped building with corner windows and steel framing. The style is applied to both residential buildings, such as the Bassett House in Cushing and the Robert Lawton Jones House in Tulsa, as well as commercial buildings, such as the Fidelity National Building in Oklahoma City. Contemporary styling can be found on both residential and nonresidential buildings. In either case, the buildings are one-story with low pitched or flat roofs, windows just under the eaves, and an obscured entrance. The best examples can be found in the community of Blackwell in their four former elementary schools designed by Caudill, Rowlett, and Scott. Shed style is commonly used on single- and multifamily buildings. Shed architecture is characterized by the angular roof, juxtaposed shapes, and large massing. Similar to the Shed is the A-Frame. As its name implies, it resembles an “A,” very angular and obvious. Both of these styles are found throughout Oklahoma. New Formalism is an updated version of classical forms of

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

architecture. It is very symmetrical with slender columns. Entrances are hidden behind the columns like a screen. This is common on houses and commercial buildings in Oklahoma. Brutalism, as its name implies, is hard and direct. While this style is rarely used in the state, it includes leaving exposed building materials visible. It is more common in civic buildings than in residential application. Postmodern in Oklahoma is found in residential developments from the 1960s to the present day. It is typically a historically oriented design with modern materials and forms. Many times it will be more than one historic design on a single building.

When it comes to the Modern styles in Oklahoma, the most influential style deserves special attention. The Organic style is found throughout communities across the state and its most well-known proponent was Bruce Goff. Organic architecture is a style that reflects nature; it responds to the environment without imposing itself on the environment. Goff began teaching at the University of Oklahoma at a time of accelerated growth in higher education and prosperity in Oklahoma. While teaching, he also provided designs for clients that addressed client needs, site issues, structural form, and creative materials. In organic architecture, there is a clear sense of geometry that organizes the interior plan. Major spaces are an open plan with visual extensions into contiguous spaces. Major spaces have built-in furniture, conversational areas, natural light provided by skylights or clerestory windows, and a structural expression. Goff had a captive audience in the students who attended the University of Oklahoma during his tenure from 1942–55 and many, such as Herb Greene, went on to have prolific careers like their professor. Organic architecture was popular in housing, but many commercial designs are found from Woodward to Cushing.¹⁷

Architecture represents the fine art of compromise, the balance between the needs of the client and the architect's personal design principles. Oklahoma architecture represents the need to build pragmatically while still realizing the design ideal. The early, primitive environment of Oklahoma has evolved through time to a landscape of traditional and experimental architectural styles and design.

The influence of the architecture programs at the institutions for higher education in Oklahoma cannot be denied. Oklahoma A&M College (OAMC, now Oklahoma State University or OSU) hired its first architecture professor in 1908. W. A. Etherton from the University of Illinois started teaching classes in the Department of Architectural Engineering in 1909. The University of Oklahoma (OU) started an interior design program in 1916 and then created an architecture

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

program in the College of Engineering in 1926. Both universities have educated some of the finest architectural minds in Oklahoma.¹⁸

By 1909 Oklahoma A&M College was offering a four-year bachelor of science degree in architectural engineering that offered classes in construction, planning of a building, history of architecture, and plumbing. By 1915 a separate curriculum in architecture was established, also in a four-year program. During the 1929–30 academic year, the program evolved to a five-year program to meet the demands of the rising student population and to conform to the standards indicated in the curriculum of other progressive programs.¹⁹ The capabilities and importance of OAMC's architecture program was recognized in the 1950s when it twice received the University Medal of the Societe des Architects Diplomes par le Gouvernement from the Beaux-Arts Societies of New York and Paris as the most outstanding architectural school in the nation. Twice during this same period, a student from the school also was recognized by the same organization as the top student nationally.²⁰ At this point, OAMC had gained a reputation for turning out top architects whose experience by graduation allowed them to easily transition into the professional field.

At the University of Oklahoma, what started as an interior focus on buildings in 1916 evolved over the next seventy-five years to become a major discipline on the campus involving five programs: architecture, construction science, interior design, landscape architecture, and regional and city planning.²¹ The programs at OU have always emphasized individuality and creativity in design, which is reflected in the buildings constructed on the Oklahoma landscape by graduates of the program.

The influence of both OAMC and the OU can be seen not only through their extensive lists of alumni, but also in the buildings constructed on the Oklahoma landscape. While this is not an exhaustive list and in no particular order, it is intended as a small sample of the architects who graduated from each program and made an impact on Oklahoma.

Oklahoma A&M College (Oklahoma State University)

- William Caudill graduated in 1937 and his firm designed the four mid-century modern schools in Blackwell.²²
- David Murray graduated in 1942 and his firm designed the Tulsa Civic Center and Robert Lawton Jones house in Tulsa.²³
- Ralph M. Ball graduated in 1931 and his firm designed the United Founders Tower.²⁴
- Fred Pojezny aided in the design of the First Christian Church (Northwest Thirty-Sixth and Walker) in Oklahoma City and the Y Chapel of Song on the University of Central Oklahoma campus in Edmond.²⁵

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY

University of Oklahoma

- Robert Roloff designed the Citizens Bank Tower, Leadership Square, and the Sequoyah and Will Rogers office buildings in Oklahoma City.²⁶
- Bill Howard designed the P.R.O.S./Jim Thorpe Association building on Lincoln Boulevard and the Sunbeam Family Center in Oklahoma City.²⁷
- Blaine Imel designed the Gillespie Drilling Company and Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cushing as well as the Osher House in Tulsa.²⁸
- Bob Bowlby, upon graduation in 1956, worked with Bruce Goff on house designs throughout Oklahoma and received his first private commission for Founder's National Bank in Oklahoma City that opened in 1964.²⁹
- Herb Greene designed the Joyce Residence and the Roosevelt Granite Company office in Snyder as well as the Cunningham House in Oklahoma City.³⁰

Both Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma are important educational institutions in Oklahoma that continue to offer diversified architecture and engineering programs. Their programs not only promote the preservation and restoration of historic buildings, but also new designs that will continue to be important on the Oklahoma landscape for years to come.

The impact of outside influences has been great in Oklahoma. The employment of both nationally and internationally famous architects to design some of the most recognizable architecture in the state reflects the nature of the economic boom cycle in Oklahoma. Frank Lloyd Wright, the most famous of American architects, designed and had constructed three extant buildings in Oklahoma: the Price Tower and Harold Price Jr. House, both in Bartlesville, and Westhope in Tulsa. Wright changed the way Americans built and lived in buildings. He emphasized the connection with the total environment including the topography, surrounding buildings, and nature. Pietro Belluschi, a European immigrant, was a major figure in American architecture during the twentieth century who utilized traditional building materials with a modernist approach. In Oklahoma, his work includes the Kerr-McGee Tower and the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel in Oklahoma City, as well as the addition to Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa.³¹ John Johansen's works demonstrate intense creativity, innovative designs, and experimentation. Trained at Harvard, Johansen brought to Oklahoma a new type of architecture that challenged traditional

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

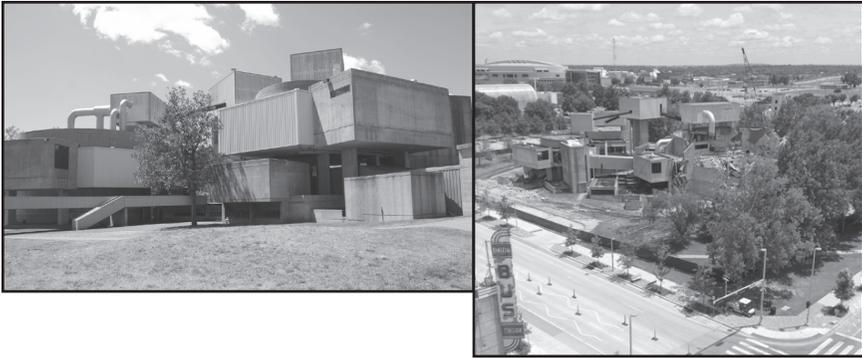
design. Of the Mummer's Theater in Oklahoma City, Johansen said, "My purpose was to excite, intrigue, tempt, and entrap."³² Mummer's Theater created a stir in the public regarding its design, showing that Johansen achieved his goal. Those architects referenced are not an exhaustive list, they are but a small sample of architects who made an impact on Oklahoma.³³

Finally, the legacy of Oklahoma architecture would be incomplete without a discussion of I. M. Pei, a both nationally and internationally famous architect. While he did not design a single building in Oklahoma, his influence is still felt in the state. Pei crafted an urban redevelopment plan for downtown Oklahoma City in the 1960s and 1970s. In his plan, he called for the demolition of "antiquated" buildings in favor of new parking, retail development, and new offices, to name but a few items from his plan.³⁴ New city plans, zoning, and ordinances have since been enacted in Oklahoma City, but the loss of historic buildings downtown as a result of the Pei Plan still causes emotions to run high, even today when redevelopment is discussed at the local level.³⁵

The loss of Oklahoma's architectural legacy is grand in scale. One could point fingers at federal agencies, state agencies, or local authorities but in reality, the blame for the loss of the historic fabric also is shouldered by the citizens of Oklahoma. From the mid-1950s through the 1970s, the state saw a loss of many important buildings for a variety of reasons. Redevelopment resulted in the loss of the Criterion Theater, Baum Building, Hales Building, and the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City; large residential sections in both Lawton and Edmond were demolished; and a twenty-two-acre area of downtown McAlester was considered blight.³⁶ Although Oklahoma was barely a half-century old, this loss of historic buildings and districts was devastating.

While local legislation, ordinances, and zoning continue to play a role in saving historic buildings throughout the state, the 2000s have seen the continued demolition and neglect of important buildings. Redevelopment impacted buildings such as the Skelly Building and Tulsa Auto Club in downtown Tulsa in 2005. Blackwell witnessed the demolition of Northside Elementary School. In Enid, a historic home in the Waverly Historic District was demolished for a church. In Oklahoma City, the Mummer's Theater, recognized both nationally and internationally, was demolished in 2014 for future development, but the land still sits vacant. In 2014 the Blair Mansion in Tulsa was demolished for the construction of a sixty-six-acre park. Also in 2014 the Eugene Bavinger House designed by Bruce Goff was demolished by the owner. Nine of the oldest commercial buildings on one block in

ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY



Stage Center, previously known as Mummer's Theater, was demolished in 2014 (OKSHPO, OHS).

Oklahoma City also were demolished in 2015 for future development. The battle over what should be saved and what can be lost will be an ongoing struggle in Oklahoma.³⁷

The “Oklahoma Standard,” the idea of people coming together to help and make a difference, is one that provides hope to future generations of Oklahomans. For all that is lost, many important architectural icons have been saved. Thanks to positive redevelopment, architectural gems such as the Hotel Marion and the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City, the Bristow Firestone Service Station in Bristow, the Logan Apartments in Norman, Clay Hall in Enid, and the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa have been preserved for future generations to use, admire, and appreciate. Oklahoma is a place of great architectural variety. From the urban centers to the rural farming communities, Oklahoma is rich in architectural style.

Unfortunately, the architectural legacy for Oklahoma is that threats to historic buildings are real and ongoing. Iconic buildings continue to be threatened with demolition. Demolition permits filed for the Gold Dome in Oklahoma City continue to plague the building’s preservation. Dilapidated structure status and an unwilling owner of the Walcourt in Oklahoma City put preservationists on alert. The benign neglect of Quanah Parker’s Star House has people throughout the state scrambling to find ways to save the building from collapse.³⁸

In 2016 we stand at the edge of fifty years of historic preservation throughout the country thanks to the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Oklahomans have seen more than one hundred years of building and preservation on this great landscape and stand ready to face a new, unclear, and challenging future—a future of working to save the architectural legacy of the rich Oklahoma landscape.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Endnotes

* Lynda Schwan Ozan is the architectural historian and National Register program coordinator for the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. An Ohio native, Lynda has degrees in both history and historic preservation, and brings more than twenty years of preservation experience to the State of Oklahoma. Ozan's research interests span architectural and cultural history and colonial America. She has conducted research in the area of westward expansion settlement patterns, indentured servitude, and modern architectural styles. She is the author of many National Register of Historic Places nominations, articles, and journal publications, and most recently a context for post-World War II housing from 1946–76 in Oklahoma.

¹ Barry Mackintosh, *The National Park System Advisory Board: A Short History* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1999), 7–12.

² Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, "Properties on the National Register of Historic Places in Oklahoma by County," accessed February 18, 2015, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/allsites.htm.

³ Matthew Josephson, *Edison: A Biography* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1959); Louis Hacker, *The World of Andrew Carnegie, 1865–1901* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1968); George Strakosch, *Vertical Transportation: Elevators and Escalators* (New York: Wiley, 1968).

⁴ Bob L. Blackburn, *Heart of the Promised Land, Oklahoma County: An Illustrated History* (Woodland Hills, CA: Windsor Publications, 1982), 68–69.

⁵ Leland Roth, *A Concise History of American Architecture* (New York: Harper and Row, 1979), 173–84.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 172–89.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 216–17.

⁸ Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, accessed January 19, 2016, ok_shpo.okstate.edu.

⁹ Lynda Ozan, "Historic Context for Modern Architecture in Oklahoma: Housing from 1946–1976," 2014, www.okhistory.org/shpo/thematic/modernarchitecture.pdf.

¹⁰ To learn more about architectural styles, resources such as Roth's *A Concise History of American Architecture* and Virginia Savage McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984) are excellent sources; *Webster's II New College Dictionary* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1995), s.v. "architecture."

¹¹ Queen Anne was a style popular from the later 1880s through the early 1920s. It is identified by pattern shingles, bay or box windows, and other devices to avoid a smooth wall surface; a full width or wrap-around porch; and an irregular shape. Shingle style, popular from the later 1880s through the early 1920s, is characterized by its use of shingles as both wall and roof cladding. It also has an irregular plan and a steeply pitched roof. Richardsonian Romanesque has heavy, rounded topped arches, entry porches, and doorways. The buildings are constructed of rough-faced stone and were constructed between 1880 and roughly 1915. Folk Victorian is a simple building with cut scrollwork and a small porch with spindles. These buildings were common in Oklahoma through the 1920s.

¹² Roth, *A Concise History*, 212–15. The Court of Honor is the location of an official event, in this case, the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

¹³ Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

¹⁴ Ozan, "Historic Context for Modern Architecture in Oklahoma."

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Philip Johnson, *The International Style* (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1997).

¹⁷ Steve Rice, *The University of Oklahoma College of Architecture: Building for the Future* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Printing Services, 2013).

¹⁸ Randy Seitsinger, ed., *One Hundred Years of Architectural Education 1909–2009: Oklahoma Agriculture and Mechanical College, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University School of Architecture* (Stillwater: Oklahoma State University School of Architecture, 2009), 3–6.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Ibid., 36–38.

²¹ Rice, *The University of Oklahoma College of Architecture*, 3–11.

²² Seitsinger, ed., *One Hundred Years of Architectural Education*, 184.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ National Register of Historic Places, First Christian Church Historic District, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #11000081, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=11000081; National Register of Historic Places, The “Y” Chapel of Song, Edmond, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #01000657, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=01000657.

²⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Citizens Bank Tower, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #09000978, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=09000978; Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, “Oklahoma Landmark Inventory Database,” accessed November 4, 2015, oli_shpo.okstate.edu.

²⁷ Lynne Rostochil, “Emotion, Truth, Life, Spirit: Bill Howard and His Architecture,” OkieModSquad, accessed November 4, 2015, okcmod.com/?p=1012.

²⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Gillespie Drilling Company Building, Cushing, Payne County, Oklahoma, National Register #12001039, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=12001039. Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, “Oklahoma Landmark Inventory Database.”

²⁹ Herb Greene, “Robert A. Bowlby,” accessed November 4, 2015 www.herbgreene.org/GREENE%20IMAGES/Architecture/BUILT%20WORK/CONTEMPORARIES/BOWLBY.htm.

³⁰ Herb Greene, *Building to Last* (New York: Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1981); Herb Greene, *Mind and Image: An Essay on Art and Architecture* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1976).

³¹ Meredith L. Clausen, *Pietro Belluschi: Modern American Architect* (Boston: MIT Press, 1994), 410–24.

³² “Mummers Theater (The Stage Center Theater) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,” John M. Johansen: A Life of Insights and Innovations in Modern Architecture, accessed November 4, 2015, johnmjohansen.com/Mummers-Theater.html.

³³ Other important architects include Solomon Andrew Layton, Joseph Foucart, and the partnership of J. W. Hawk and J. O. Parr. To read more about these architects see Robert L. Williams, “Necrologies: Solomon Andrew Layton, 1864–1943,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 22, no. 1 (Spring 1944): 122–23; Louis Cozby, “Joseph Pierre Foucart: Man of Art and Mystery,” *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 80, no. 4 (Winter 2002–03): 436–45; Arn Henderson, “Foucart, Joseph Pierre,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, accessed January 11, 2016, www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=FO053; Mary Jo Nelson, “Layton, Solomon Andrew,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=LA036; National Register of Historic Places, Oklahoma College for Women Historic District, Chickasha, Grady County, National Register #01000950, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=01000950; and, Bob Blackburn, et al., *The Physical Legacy: Buildings of Oklahoma County, 1889–1931* (Oklahoma City: Southwestern Heritage Press for the Oklahoma County Historical Society, 1980).

³⁴ Bryan Dean, “Former Oklahoma City Mayor Patience Latting dies at age 94” *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), December 30, 2012; Steve Lackmeyer and Jack Money, *OKC: Second Time Around* (Oklahoma City: Full Circle Press, 2006), 5–9.

³⁵ Article III 59-3300, Chapter 59, Zoning and Planning Code, Municipal Code, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

³⁶ Ozan, *Historic Context for Modern Architecture in Oklahoma*.

³⁷ Each location referenced participates in the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office’s Certified Local Governments program. As such, they track demolitions of historic properties. Each city provided examples of recent demolitions of historic resources.

³⁸ Details provided by the City of Oklahoma City Planning Department, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

The National Historic Preservation Act and its Impact on Oklahoma Archaeology After Fifty Years



*By Robert L. Brooks**

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) cannot be viewed without considering the political, economic, and social context of the 1960s. It was neither the beginning of the archaeological preservation movement, nor its culmination. This article assesses the impact of the passage of the NHPA on archaeology and archaeologists in Oklahoma. There are many positive effects that are directly or indirectly attributable to its passage. But, it would be remiss not to also discuss some of the areas where it has inadvertently created dilemmas in Oklahoma archaeology, and perhaps elsewhere as well.

The National Historic Preservation Act was passed in 1966 after a brief but intense legislative initiative by the National Trust and preservationists, notably Lady Bird Johnson. Its passage took place during a revolutionary period in American history. The decade of the 1960s was noted for radical changes in how everything from education to the environment were perceived. This ferment brought about numerous laws ranging from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the National Environmental

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Policy Act of 1969. At societal levels, these new policies forced changes in teaching philosophies, and the flight of middle and upper income whites to the suburbs contributed to the urban renewal programs of the Kennedy Administration. Archaeology was not immune to radical change. Lewis Binford and his cohorts aggressively sought a more scientific approach to archaeological research, creating a "processual archaeology" that advocated more stringent research methods, more structured field procedures, and improved laboratory techniques.¹

However, as noted above, preservation initiatives that were responsible for passage of the act had been building in archaeology for more than one hundred years. For example, the Great Serpent Mound in southern Ohio was purchased in 1886 by Frederic Ward Putnam of the Peabody Museum at Harvard and a group of women in Boston because of Putnam's concern about the destruction of many of the mounds in the Midwest.² Serpent Mound was subsequently donated to the Ohio Historical Society and is now a National Historic Landmark. The rampant looting of Pueblo sites in the Southwest during the late 1800s resulted in large tracts of land containing major Pueblo sites being set aside as public lands to aid in preserving these places. The nation's first antiquities legislation, the 1906 Antiquities Act, also was passed in direct response to site vandalism in the Southwest.³

In Oklahoma, looting of Spiro Mounds in the 1930s sparked similar outrage and prompted the state to pass one of the earlier state antiquities acts in 1935.⁴ The intent was to prevent the destruction and systematic looting of sites. It was fortunate that Works Progress Administration (WPA) archaeologists were able to mediate some of the damage done to Spiro Mounds by controlled excavations at the site from 1936 to 1942. The Great Depression also resulted in the salvage of archaeological data at other Oklahoma sites that would have been otherwise lost. One of the challenges of the WPA was to find a means to employ men in rural settings. It was somewhat inadvertent that archaeology became one of the principle means of creating jobs for unemployed rural workers.⁵ In Oklahoma, 134 sites received some level of excavation with hundreds of additional sites recorded, mainly in Delaware, Le Flore, and Bryan Counties.⁶ Excavation at many of these sites was significant due to their presence within future lake locations, such as Grand Lake of the Cherokees, Lake Wister, and Lake Texoma. Perhaps coincidentally, the knowledge held at these sites was saved from impending inundation.

Although WPA archaeologists excavated numerous sites in Oklahoma, few were analyzed and the results published during this time. Additionally, the WPA archaeology program was brought to a close by

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

World War II, so it is difficult to assess what the future would have held for the program. However, it resulted in the recovery of an immense material record from many sites that were destined for destruction by lake construction. This material record would serve as an invaluable database for future generations of archaeologists.

One underappreciated portion of Roosevelt's legislative package was passage of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. This legislation authorized the National Park Service to locate, record, acquire, preserve, mark, and commemorate places of "national significance."⁷ The National Park Service marginally responded to most of these directives, emphasizing the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior's role in historic preservation. Many of the directives would reappear in the language of the National Historic Preservation Act some thirty years later.

Following World War II, there was another massive public works program. Often overlooked in discussing the aftermath of World War II was the return of millions of men from Europe and the Pacific theater to a country transitioning from a wartime economy to one of peacetime manufacturing. The construction of large-scale lake projects throughout the United States for water supply, flood control, and recreation helped to absorb some of this labor pool. Many of these lake projects involved excavation of soon-to-be inundated archaeological sites. These activities in the Great Plains and Southeast became known as the River Basin Salvage Program. The effort and funds expended on archaeology were unprecedented, with \$1.5 million being appropriated annually.⁸ The volume of work also brought about creation of the Reservoir Salvage Act in 1960. Work performed under this act would continue beyond passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Between 1947 and 1975, the locations of some thirty lakes in Oklahoma were examined for archaeological sites with major excavations conducted within most of these.⁹

This abbreviated history demonstrates that events prior to the National Historic Preservation Act played a significant role in bringing about its passage. The work that took place under the Works Progress Administration as well as the River Basin Salvage Program identified numerous significant archaeological sites that would have been lost without some intervention on the part of the federal government. Although preservation archaeologist and former Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Tom King has stressed that archaeology was not the driving force behind the National Historic Preservation Act, concern about the continued loss of archaeological sites and the prehistoric record certainly played a role in gaining support for the proposed legislation.¹⁰

Within the context of this earlier work, what was the status of archaeology in Oklahoma at the time of the NHPA? From the above,

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

we know that hundreds of sites were excavated and numerous others were recorded but not investigated. Prior to the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, there were 2,918 recorded sites in Oklahoma. While WPA archaeologists recorded hundreds, River Basin Survey archaeologists found most of those recorded in the 1950s and early 1960s. There was a centralized registry of sites maintained by the Stovall Museum of Science and History at the University of Oklahoma under the direction of Dr. Robert E. Bell. Oklahoma was also one of the earlier states with a State Antiquities Act that provided some protection for archaeological sites.¹¹

The events leading up to the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, the structure of the law, and outlined responsibilities of federal agencies are discussed elsewhere in this volume. This article is a look at the consequences of the act, both its accomplishments and its failings. This section addresses the significant contributions or changes in archaeology resulting from the first law making federal agencies responsible for the effect of their actions on historic and archaeological resources on the landscape.

One of the many important provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act was the requirement for each state to establish a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to aid federal agencies in meeting their responsibilities under the new law. The SHPO also was charged with other duties. These duties included, among others, inventorying the state for archaeological and architectural resources, nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and maintaining an inventory of historic and archaeological resources. National Park Service standards and guidelines for the program specified composition of the staff that assists the State Historic Preservation Officer in their decision-making. SHPO staffs included an architect, an architectural historian, a historian, a historic archaeologist, and a prehistoric archaeologist. The latter two of these staff positions would be beneficial in ensuring that the full extent of Oklahoma's archaeological record would be addressed under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act.¹²

In response to passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, the state of Oklahoma also created a separate state agency to aid in broadly meeting Oklahoma's preservation needs. The Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) was established in 1970 and charged with conducting basic research on Oklahoma's prehistory and early history, working with citizens of the state in preserving significant sites, and disseminating information about Oklahoma's prehistoric and early historic cultural heritage.¹³ The enabling legislation also specified that the OAS was to be housed at the University of Oklahoma. There

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

was no budget line item included in the provisions of the legislation, thus funding of the OAS became the responsibility of the University of Oklahoma. The absence of a dedicated budget line item would prove to be a significant issue in future years.¹⁴

A state archaeologist, a full-time assistant, and half-time secretary initially staffed the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. In the first decade after its establishment OAS personnel traveled widely across Oklahoma documenting sites, assisting federal agencies in their treatment of prehistoric and historic sites, and working with local communities and individual property owners on identification and preservation of significant archaeological sites. The archaeological site files previously held by the Stovall Museum were transferred to the OAS as the centralized repository.

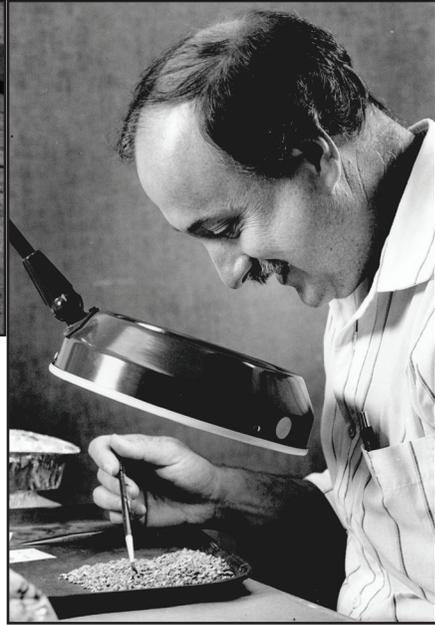
In 1978 the Oklahoma legislature substantially increased the budget of the OAS, permitting the hiring of additional archaeological and support staff. By the early 1980s, the staff included the state archaeologist, an ethnoarchaeologist, five additional archaeologists, and four support staff. In 1981 Don Wyckoff, who had served as state archaeologist since the OAS's creation, was elevated to the position of director and a new state archaeologist, Robert Brooks, was hired. This composition remained until the mid-1990s when Don Wyckoff left to take on the responsibilities of curator of archaeology at Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (now the Sam Noble Museum). With Don Wyckoff's departure and ongoing budget reductions, the OAS consolidated the positions of director and state archaeologist and eliminated two of the support positions. The new organizational structure had three divisions: organized research, regulatory review, and public outreach.

The organized research division contributed significantly to our knowledge concerning the prehistory and early history of Oklahoma. These researchers have recorded thousands of archaeological sites and produced hundreds of publications on the results of their work. The regulatory review division has been working under a memorandum of understanding with the State Historic Preservation Office since 1987. Through this agreement the OAS served as the prehistoric (and sometimes historic) archaeological experts for the SHPO. Since the late 1970s the program has reviewed more than one hundred thousand undertakings, provided recommendations on the need for field inspections, National Register evaluation testing, and data recovery efforts. By the end of 2015, more than eighteen thousand reports of field inspections had been reviewed. The state archaeologist also assists in the development of programmatic agreements and conducts workshops on Section 106 responsibilities. The outreach division has presented thou-

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY



Above: Don Wyckoff's lecture at the University of Oklahoma dig on the Reed Goodwin Place east and north of Berlin, Oklahoma, 1970 (21622.UA.90, Black Kettle Museum Collection, OHS).



Right: State archaeologist Bob Brooks sifts through materials brought in from a dig (2012.201.B0109.0050, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

sands of programs to Oklahoma schools, civic groups, and avocational archaeologists as well as teaching students at the University of Oklahoma about archaeology in the state.¹⁵

Thus, there are two agencies overseeing archaeological and historic preservation in Oklahoma. Working together, the SHPO and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey bring about enhanced awareness of Oklahoma's diverse cultural heritage while also advocating for preservation of this fragile record of the past.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider how their actions affect historic properties. Prior to its enactment, federal agencies had no responsibility for their direct actions, or for their indirect actions in the form of funding assistance and regulatory oversight. There is no accurate means of calculating the loss of archaeological sites with a federal nexus prior to passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The loss of archaeological sites was profound. With the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act there was a mechanism in place to ensure that project locations for federal undertakings would be examined for the presence of sensitive archaeological sites. Federal undertakings can be defined as projects on federal land, funded with federal money, or permitted by the federal government. This meant that thousands of sites were documented and evaluated that had been

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

ignored in the past. Of course, the loss of archaeological sites from land disturbance occurring on private land using private funds remains.

Since the early 1900s, the federal government has been involved with land acquisition. Some of this land was acquired with the intention of preserving large tracts of undeveloped land. In other cases, the land was acquired for military training. Other land holdings were derived from public works projects such as lake construction. Currently in Oklahoma, there are eight federal agencies with significant land holdings: the US Air Force, the US Army, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (in a guardianship capacity). Some of these agencies were involved with the documenting and treatment of archaeological sites prior to passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. One example is the US Army Corps of Engineers that documented the sites lost through lake construction by the Reservoir Salvage Act. But, for the most part, archaeological sites on federal and tribal lands were largely ignored during land development prior to passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.¹⁶

With the directives in Executive Order 11593 signed by President Richard Nixon and the more comprehensive language present in Section 110 of the NHPA, federal agencies were tasked with inventory of their lands for archaeological sites, identification and nomination of sites eligible for the National Register, and development of a management plan for long-term treatment of those resources. Unfortunately, this was an unfunded mandate, as most agencies did not initially build into their budgets funding for such work. By the 1980s and 1990s some agencies in Oklahoma were increasingly making efforts to follow their Section 110 directives. Today, a significant number of sites are being added to the state inventory due to entities such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, Fort Sill, the Oklahoma Army National Guard (Camp Gruber), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Grand River Dam Authority) inventorying their property. Evaluation of sites for their potential eligibility for the National Register and nomination of sites also are taking place, but at a much slower rate. Despite the daunting task of managing twenty-eight lakes in Oklahoma, the Tulsa District of the US Army Corps of Engineers has devoted some resources to management of sites documented during the Oklahoma River Basin Survey era.

Most people familiar with the National Historic Preservation Act understand that its passage brought about an increase in the number of identified historic and prehistoric resources. Section 106 of the act mandated that agencies consider the effect of their activities on

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY



Left: Camp Gruber (2012.201.B0121.0, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection, OHS).

Right: Grand River Dam construction, July 1939 (Imalea Weathers Collection, 21448.1, OHS).

properties eligible for the National Register. In most instances, this required that the land be inventoried for archaeological and architectural/historic resources. While many locations examined did not result in the identification of archaeological sites, other undertakings held one or more sites. This was especially true for larger projects. Thus, the increase in the number of recorded sites has been dramatic since the 1970s. Prior to the NHPA's passage in 1966, there were 2,918 recorded archaeological sites in the centralized repository administered by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. Currently, there are approximately 25,000 recorded sites. In fifty years of working under the requirements of Section 106, an average of some 441 sites annually have been recorded.¹⁷

The numbers are impressive, but so is the nature of the sites. Discovery of significant prehistoric and historic properties on the landscape is derived from numerous funding and regulatory mechanisms within the National Historic Preservation Act. These include survey and planning efforts that the State Historic Preservation Office performs with its annual allocation from the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the Section 110 responsibilities of land-managing federal agencies, and the Section 106 activities of entities receiving federal funds or participating in a federally regulated action. Survey subgrants also were used to examine the effects of increasing urbanism in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas.¹⁸

HPF-assisted surveys are generally focused on areas that are poorly understood archaeologically or that are experiencing widespread threats from specific land alteration practices. In the Oklahoma

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Panhandle and northwest Oklahoma, survey and planning studies by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey have resulted in the identification of 10,700-year-old Clovis site (Jake Bluff), a 9,000-year-old bison kill, (Ravenscroft), paleoenvironmental locales dating back some 11,000 years (the Bull Creek locale), as well as the earliest evidence of corn agriculture at the Patsy's Island campsite, circa 1,400 years ago.¹⁹

In western and southwestern Oklahoma, other OAS and planning projects found 2,000-year-old bison kills, numerous Plains Indian village settlements ancestral to the Wichita tribe, and hundreds of farmsteads associated with the white homesteading of Oklahoma Territory.²⁰

In southeastern Oklahoma, studies documented the effects of clear-cutting on prehistoric and historic sites, as well as documenting towns and places occupied by Choctaws who were relocated to Indian Territory in the early to middle nineteenth century.²¹ Another project established the National Register eligibility of the Grobin Davis Mound Center, an ancestral Caddo site.²² This set the stage for Grobin Davis to be acquired by the Archaeological Conservancy for long-term preservation.

Eastern Oklahoma also benefited from research funded from the SHPO's HPF subgrants to the OAS. Numerous camps and villages associated with Arkansas River Basin Caddoan groups were identified in Le Flore and Sequoyah Counties. The Tall Cane, Baker, and Star Pasture sites were identified as National Register eligible properties related to Caddoan origins in Sequoyah County.²³ Other projects supported by the HPF provided new insights on the relocation of the Cherokees to northeastern Oklahoma in the early nineteenth century.²⁴

Section 110 survey and evaluation programs by federal agencies also have added meaningful new information on Oklahoma's prehistoric and historic archaeological record. There are three especially noteworthy contributions. In southwestern Oklahoma, a myriad of survey and National Register evaluations at Fort Sill in Comanche County have contributed to the understanding of Apache prisoner of war camps for individuals such as Geronimo. In northeastern Oklahoma, archaeological investigations at Camp Gruber in Muskogee County have identified numerous historic sites associated with the Cookson Hills resettlement program administered as part of the New Deal.²⁵ Studies at Camp Gruber also further documented the history of the German prisoners of war held there during World War II. Surveys and National Register evaluation studies conducted at Lake Hudson in Mayes County by the Grand River Dam Authority have fostered understanding of the occupation of northeastern Oklahoma by Late Archaic/Woodland societies living along the Grand River some 1,500 to 3,000 years ago.

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY



Excavation at the Heerwald Site, located in Custer County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

Federal projects (undertakings) subject to Section 106 review comprise the principle source of new data about archaeological sites. It is difficult to characterize the diversity in findings from the work of roughly twenty-five federal and state agencies. However, three areas have provided a wealth of new information. The first is derived from the many projects undertaken by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Over the past fifty years, improvements to roads and bridge replacements have resulted in the recording of many prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.²⁶ Investigations from oil and gas well exploration as well as pipeline construction also have been significant sources of new information. For example, a survey of proposed well sites in Osage County since the mid-1990s has documented some five hundred previously unrecorded prehistoric and historic sites. The last example comes from the investigations conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation associated with construction of McGee Creek Reservoir in Atoka County. Here, some five hundred prehistoric and historic sites were documented, more than one hundred sites were evaluated, and thirty-two were the subjects of major data recovery.²⁷

In previous decades of research, archaeologists generally knew what defined a “significant” site. But the meaning of significance was often clouded with the personal values of the researcher. For example, if an archaeologist was mainly interested in Paleoindians, they might not attribute much significance to a 3,000-year-old Archaic campsite. Or, if the researcher was principally interested in lithic technology, a site with a large ceramic assemblage could be marginalized. In other instances, sites were ambiguously labeled as “important,” but seldom was the importance specified. The National Register brought major changes to how archaeologists perceived “significant” sites. These changes did not occur overnight, and initially there was concern among archaeologists that being placed on the National Register

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

would deny them the opportunity to continue investigations at these sites. Nominating an archaeological site to the National Register or determining that one was eligible required the archaeologist, whether a consultant, university researcher, or a state or federal agency employee, to identify the characteristics that made it significant. Criterion D, the most widely used National Register criterion for archaeological sites, states that these places have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory. This is a general criterion for defining site significance, but it requires a formal justification for whatever information potential may exist at the site as well as the site's precise location. In August 2015 there were 83 archaeological sites or districts listed on the National Register and 228 that had been determined eligible.²⁸

National Register eligibility also has prompted archaeologists to go beyond the consideration of what makes the site reach this level of answering questions about the past. If a site is determined eligible for the National Register, it cannot be disturbed by a federal undertaking without development of a plan to mitigate the impact on the site. This plan generally includes the excavation methodology, how the data recovered are to be analyzed, and how the data are to be used in providing information for justification of the site's National Register eligibility. This is referred to as the data recovery plan, but it is in fact a research design. Archaeologists concerned with scientific process have advocated the need for research designs in archaeology since the 1960s, and by the 1990s the designs were integral parts in the treatment of sites to be affected by federal action.²⁹ The data recovery plan is part of the larger agreement among the federal agency, the State Historic Preservation Office, American Indian tribes, and other consulting parties. Thus, the data recovery plan receives scrutiny from a number of individuals.

Undoubtedly, one of the most glaring omissions from the initial language of the National Historic Preservation Act was the failure to include American Indian nations and tribes. It perhaps can be attributed to the greater concern with architecture and history in the NHPA, but archaeologists in the 1960s also had little involvement with tribes even though they were excavating Native heritage. Increasing American Indian civil rights activism finally brought changes to the law in 1992. The 1992 amendments were long overdue and far reaching, radically changing the interaction between federal agencies, archaeologists, and tribes. Probably, the most compelling requirement was that federal agencies must consult with tribes on their undertakings. This consultation was to take place on a government-to-government basis,

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

recognizing tribal sovereignty. The consultation process also brought archaeologists to the table with the tribes. Archaeologists were now required to explain the nature of their investigations. In the immediate years following passage of the 1992 amendments, there were strained conversations between archaeologists and the Native community. Over time, Native people and archaeologists have gained a better understanding of each other. While not necessarily always in agreement, there is more a sense of a common cause—that of preserving and learning about the past.³⁰

There were other important provisions of the 1992 amendments. One clearly spelled out the agencies' responsibility to acknowledge and treat traditional cultural properties and sacred places. By default, this required that agencies meet with the tribes and consult on treatment of these places. Another important 1992 amendment was a section that permitted tribes to have self-governance for historic preservation on their tribal trust lands. Section 101(d)2 established the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Under this program, the THPO would take over the responsibilities for historic preservation on tribal trust lands. If the National Park Service approved their program, it also made them eligible for funds to develop and administer their tribal preservation program. A consequence of the establishment of THPOs was the hiring of archaeologists to oversee that part of their preservation programs. It also has contributed to an increased number of tribal members seeking degrees in anthropology and training in archaeology. Prior to the passage of the NHPA there were no professionally trained tribal archaeologists or anthropologists. As of 2015 there were roughly a dozen distributed across some eight tribes and nations.

Before passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, most of the archaeology conducted, even that done for federal agencies with federal funding, was accomplished without a great deal of standardized planning. Selection of sites meriting work was usually left up to the archaeologist. Archaeologists were typically affiliated with a college or university. Field procedures were seldom formally discussed and sometimes were altered without discussions with the federal agency. In general, universities were given a fixed dollar amount and were expected to investigate a specific number of sites. This led to considerable variability in field methodologies and outcomes from the investigations. This was true in many states, but Oklahoma and the Great Plains states were exceptions. In Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma had conducted most of the prior fieldwork. From 1947 to the 1970s, Dr. Robert Bell, as director of the Oklahoma River Basin Survey, supervised the archaeology and maintained consistency in

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

field methods. More importantly, virtually all of the work conducted under Bell's supervision resulted in a published report on the findings. During the Oklahoma River Basin Survey era in the Great Plains (e.g., South Dakota, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas), the National Park Service and Interagency Archaeological Services administered all of the work. They issued standardized work contracts, which resulted in a significant degree of consistency in the work conducted by archaeologists.³¹

Even with the existence of the earlier regional standardization, the National Historic Preservation Act ushered in a new series of formal requirements. One of the foremost items was establishing the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Prior to the NHPA, federal agencies or those doing the work had not addressed this issue. The standards were codified as 36 CFR Part 61, which states the requirements necessary for performance of work under the NHPA. The professional qualifications are an advanced degree in archaeology or a related field, one year of experience, four months supervisory experience, and the ability to carry research to completion.³²

The other major development was a series of standards on work performance. In 1983 the National Park Service issued "Archeology and Historic Preservation: Standards and Guidelines." The language of the guidelines has not been significantly revised since its initial drafting, and little has changed in regard to the expectations outlined by the National Park Service for federal undertakings. The expectations include preservation planning and consideration of historic contexts in the project; identification, which includes development of a research design and development of appropriate field survey methodology; evaluation of identified sites in terms of their information content and integrity; and documentation, which includes an outline for reports. These guidelines have been generally applied, and some federal agencies and states have developed their own guidelines that exceed those of the National Park Service. The important point is that for thirty years, there have been standards that were to be followed when archaeological work was conducted in response to a federal undertaking.³³

There were also changes in the groups of archaeologists performing the work. Enactment of the small business set-aside 48 CFR Part 19 required federal agencies to prioritize granting of contracts to small businesses, including archaeological firms. This regulation was subsequently extended to women- and minority-operated businesses. In fact, the small business set-aside served to shrink competition with university-based archaeological groups.³⁴

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Federal agencies meeting their responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act brought about significant funding for archaeology, and increased the number of archaeologists and the parties involved in archaeological work. The most obvious effect was in the volume of archaeological investigations. Prior to the passage of the NHPA, federally funded archaeology was limited to large projects such as lake construction or the interstate highway system. Section 106 of the act requires that all federal agencies consider how their actions affect historic properties. Federal agencies were slow in meeting this new responsibility, but by the late 1970s or early 1980s most acknowledged their role in compliance with the NHPA and its accompanying core of federal regulations. It should also be pointed out that federal agencies also needed to consider their activities' effect on the environment under the newly passed National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. There have been more than one hundred thousand undertakings reviewed, and as of December 2015 more than eighteen thousand surveys, testing programs, and data recovery operations have been conducted in Oklahoma since the inception of the NHPA.³⁵

There is no satisfactory means of calculating the monetary value of the archaeological investigations, either in respect to the total value of the projects cleared for future construction or the actual dollar value of the archaeological studies conducted. There are some limited indicators. For a number of years, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey tracked the dollar value of projects submitted through the Oklahoma State Clearinghouse, which served as a centralized entity from which all federally funded projects were routed for comment. President Reagan abolished the state clearinghouse program in the late 1980s but the data from 1989 showed that in fiscal year 1987–88 438 undertakings were reviewed with a dollar value of \$260,495,818. Thirty-four of these undertakings required some level of archaeological investigation with a total project value of \$37,280,372. With the greater volume of work today, it is difficult to estimate the economic value of the Section 106 process.³⁶

The number of professionally employed archaeologists dramatically increased in response to the number of investigations necessary to meet compliance with the new law. Obviously additional archaeologists were needed to handle the increase in field surveys, testing programs, and data recovery operations. But there was also an increased need for laboratory staff. NPS standards and guidelines require the State Historic Preservation Office to have access to a professionally qualified prehistoric and historic archaeologist. Federal agencies, especially those with land-managing responsibilities, are required to have a

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Excavation at Rose Hill Plantation, Hugo vicinity, Choctaw County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).



historic preservation officer, which is sometimes an archaeologist. The volume of archaeological work also brought about increased need for curatorial staff at museums and repositories. Under Section 101(d)2 of the act, American Indian tribes can assume the duties of the State Historic Preservation Officer on their tribal lands. A number of tribes in Oklahoma have hired professional archaeologists as part of their THPO office staffing. Thus, operationalizing the NHPA brought about not only an increase in the number of archaeologists but also resulted in a diversification of places where an archaeologist could find employment. Prior to the NHPA, employment opportunities mainly were limited to academic institutions and museums. Today, there are numerous archaeologists employed by private environmental consulting firms, state and federal agencies, and tribes. Within Oklahoma, four federal agencies and two state agencies have archaeologists on staff. There are also roughly a dozen private consulting firms with offices in Oklahoma and numerous others that routinely work in Oklahoma with offices in adjoining states that employ archaeologists. Four tribes also have archaeologists in their tribal preservation offices.³⁷

During the previous eras, archaeological investigations were typically focused on large sites in major river valleys. In many cases these valleys were to be inundated by lake construction. Even though a variety of sites might be present in lake project areas, there was a bias to the larger, better known sites. The National Historic Preservation Act altered this practice. The myriad of undertakings being examined by numerous federal agencies was spread across the landscape. While some activities took place in the major river valleys, others were located in small stream drainages, while others took place in upland settings. Some linear projects, such as pipelines and utilities, crossed all of these landscape settings. Just as the geographic setting became more diversified, so did the types of sites investigated. There were

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

smaller sites holding significant information that were uncovered in various geographic settings. Under the provisions of the NHPA, these sites merited the same attention as the larger ones. Consequently, the cultural landscape of investigated archaeological sites included a variety of site types and sizes and extended across physical landforms ranging from river valleys to ridge tops.³⁸

The diversification in the nature of the sites investigated also broadened archaeological perspectives. Research at smaller, sometimes single component sites permitted refinement in cultural chronologies and residential practices.³⁹ The wider range of investigated site types (e.g., temporary camps, rock shelters, quarries, kill sites) presented the opportunity to look at more than just residential places, resulting in a better understanding of the cultural landscape for a particular group.

Much of the historic archaeological record has been neglected in archaeological research. During the 1930–80s, the principal focus was on prehistoric archaeological sites. There was an interest in historic contact sites where Native groups encountered Europeans, and the record left during the early colonial period. But, it would be safe to say that most historic sites dating after the Civil War were largely ignored. This was even more of an issue in Oklahoma where most historic sites did not date earlier than the late nineteenth century. Prior to the NHPA, concern with historic archaeological sites was largely limited to postremoval sites of the Five Civilized Tribes, trading posts, and historic forts. During the early years after the NHPA's passage (circa 1966–80), historic sites were often ignored. Large area surveys were conducted where no historic sites were documented. Changes in the attention paid to historic sites can be attributed to two factors. One was an increasing interest in historic sites and their contribution to theoretical advancements within the discipline.⁴⁰ The emphasis was due in large part to the increased interest in the scientific method of archaeology. It was becoming less acceptable to ignore such a large body of data when conducting archaeological research. The other factor that played a significant role was the NHPA. Section 106 responsibilities to the archaeological record were nonselective. If a place was greater than forty-five to fifty years of age and in an archaeological context, it needed documentation and evaluation. In the Section 106 review process, the input of the SHPO's historic archaeologist meant that historic sites were given appropriate consideration.

For a long time archaeology was known as an ivory tower or academically oriented discipline. While there were relationships with amateur or avocational archaeologists, there was little to no public involvement. In Oklahoma archaeologists had a working relationship

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

with the Oklahoma Anthropological Society since the 1950s.⁴¹ But aside from speaking engagements to a few civic groups, there is little record of public outreach by the archaeological community prior to the NHPA. Numerous sections of the National Historic Preservation Act address public involvement or participation and increasing public awareness of historic preservation. The decades since 1966 have witnessed an increasing dedication to public involvement and participation. This ranges from seeking public input for development of Oklahoma's statewide preservation plan to numerous venues of public outreach such as Archaeology Month.⁴²

It was noted at the beginning of this article that comments would not be limited to the success stories resulting from passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. As with most if not all legislation, there are problems not perceived when addressing statutory needs and broad public mandates. Much like the discussion of accomplishments, these are not necessarily in order of importance, and there is some overlap among these issues.

During the earlier years of the National Historic Preservation Act, sites that had unknown eligibility for the National Register (what is often incorrectly termed potentially eligible) were frequently evaluated to better determine their National Register eligibility. Sometime in the 1990s, the National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation began advising that the first option should always be preservation. It is unclear exactly where in the process the preservation first alternative, a policy that states that it is better not to disturb archaeological sites, is to be invoked. Is it at the very beginning of the project when sites are initially documented or is it once we know which sites are National Register eligible? Many federal agencies took this initiative to mean that sites should be preserved upon their initial documentation. However, the mantra of preservation first has presented a quandary to federal agencies, especially those with land managing responsibilities. It presents a direct conflict with Section 110, which states that federal agencies should be evaluating sites for their National Register eligibility.

In Oklahoma, changing the project design, and thus removing the site from the area of potential effect, achieved avoidance of sites. There are a few agencies that continue to evaluate sites for the National Register under Section 106 such as the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration) and others that evaluate sites on their lands through Section 110 responsibilities, such as the US Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Sill (administered by the Department of the Army), Camp Gruber (administered by the Oklahoma National Guard), and Grand River Dam Authority

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

(licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). Many of the approximately twenty remaining state and federal agencies avoid sites if their eligibility status is unknown. Some agencies even avoid sites that have been determined not eligible for the National Register. This avoidance strategy has ultimately resulted in our knowing less and less about the nature of the archaeological landscape. Currently, very few reports are received that deal with site evaluation.

One example of this problem is presented by the US Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service. The Forest Service manages the Ouachita National Forest in southeastern Oklahoma, the Black Kettle National Grasslands in western Oklahoma, and the Rite Blanca National Grasslands in the Oklahoma Panhandle. There are more than one thousand sites on these properties, identified from Section 106 and Section 110 actions. Of these sites, only three were tested for National Register eligibility where the land was to remain under Forest Service management. Some of the sites that have not been evaluated are probably National Register eligible; others undoubtedly would fall short of meeting the criteria for eligibility. The problem, however, is that we do not know with certainty. Even evaluation of a sample set of sites would provide data that could be used to model certain site characteristics and present a better knowledge base for site management. The Forest Service routinely follows this practice, but other agencies have been equally susceptible to this managerial trap. For those who would argue that the evaluation process consisting of test excavations would cause some disturbance of the sites, a counter argument is that the extent of disturbance is minimal and would be far outweighed by the information obtained from the evaluation. There are also noninvasive means of evaluating sites that could contribute to site assessment.⁴³

As noted earlier, some if not many of the issues discussed here are interrelated. This is certainly true of the preservation and evaluation issue and publication on archaeological investigations. If the focus is on preservation or avoidance rather than evaluation, it clearly diminishes the nature and extent of the data available for study and ultimately publication. A ten-acre survey where an archaeological site with research potential is avoided is not a publication topic. But there are other problems within the National Historic Preservation Act that have contributed to the absence of published literature on the results of Sections 106 undertakings in Oklahoma. Perhaps what is meant by publication should be defined. It means the results of analysis or study of prehistoric or historic material that is published in a national, regional, or state journal, or published as a monograph with a distribution that extends beyond the Section 106 participants (the client, the agency, the

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

SHPO, and the tribes). In Oklahoma, since the 1980s there has been a dearth of such published material resulting from Section 106 work. An examination of published literature on Oklahoma archaeology since the 1980s found only two articles or monographs derived from Section 106 work.⁴⁴ In the past five to six years consulting archaeologists have been encouraged to publish their findings. This has met with limited success. There have been four articles on such projects in *Oklahoma Archeology* within the past five years. However, none of these were by an Oklahoma consulting firm. To put this in perspective, more than eighteen thousand reports have been reviewed since the 1980s with roughly ten resulting in a published article or distributed monograph. This situation may be unique to Oklahoma as publications on the results of Section 106 investigations are more frequent in surrounding states.⁴⁵

Another reason for the lack of publications resulting from Section 106 investigations lies in the economics. Many consulting firms do not have the capital to allow their personnel to spend the additional time needed to prepare a manuscript for publication in a professional journal, or to conduct additional research needed for manuscript preparation. After completion of the report for one Section 106 project, the archaeologists are tasked with another project, leaving no time for thoughts about research or publishing. This process maximizes income for the consulting firm, but limits professional development. A third reason that little in the way of published results are derived from Section 106 actions is that it is not required. Few contracts for Section 106 archaeological investigations require that a published report be generated.

There is a significant loss of legacy from the absence of Section 106-derived publications. Federally sponsored archaeological investigations under Section 106 comprise the bulk of archaeological work today, perhaps 80 to 90 percent. Archaeologists still rely on the published literature to build their archaeological background for the area and to gain an understanding of what makes a site significant. The published report is a legacy that will outlive the investigator or perhaps the site. It is relied on to provide the knowledge base for future researchers. If we continue this failure to publish, such legacy will ultimately be lost.

The draft of the 1992 amendments to the NHPA contained Appendix A, which presented the argument that archaeological investigations create disturbance to the site and should be considered as an effect. Since the initial draft, this appendix has been integrated into the law. Thus, archaeological research using federal funds or occurring

FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

on federal or Indian land is considered as an undertaking by the responsible federal agency and require Section 106 review.⁴⁶ On the surface, this appears logical and straightforward. However, it ignores some fundamental aspects of archaeological research and has also created logistical nightmares for the archaeological community.

Some archaeologists are concerned that the argument that places archaeological investigations in the same category as construction-based land disturbance contains significant flaws. If conducting archaeological excavations is an effect, then to meet the preservation directive no archaeological excavations should be conducted, regardless of the legal responsibilities. Archaeological investigations have at their core the recovery of site information. Rather than site information loss, there is conservation of site information. This is in marked contrast to construction-based land disturbance where there is no attempt to recover archaeological data. The material record from the archaeological fieldwork ultimately will be curated in a museum or repository with the accompanying records. In other types of land disturbance, the material record would remain scattered across the landscape with no record of any kind.

Appendix A has also brought about logistical quagmires for the archaeologist. If an archaeologist seeks to conduct research at an archaeological site using no federal funds but located on federal land, they can be denied this opportunity. If the federal agency does not wish to address the necessary Section 106 review, they can deny the application on the grounds that it would affect the site. It is gratifying that there has not been an example of this taking place in Oklahoma, but this has occurred in surrounding states. If the federal agency has no objections to the research, the research must still pass through the Section 106 review process. At this juncture, any number of parties may object to the work, placing sufficient conditions on the work to make it infeasible for the archaeologist. The academic freedom of archaeologists has been significantly constrained by Appendix A.

It is unfortunate that the procedures for compliance with one law designed to protect the natural and cultural aspects of the environment, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), would cause confusion for those who must comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. But when federal agencies authorize their nonfederal subgrantees, for example, to carry out some of their responsibilities under Section 106, those nonfederal agencies have often failed to comprehend that the two laws are completely different and that compliance with the NEPA does not constitute compliance with the NHPA. In 2013, working with the Council on Environmental Quality, the Ad-

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

visory Council on Historic Preservation developed a handbook to aid in coordinating concurrent review under the two laws. This has greatly reduced the number of cases where procedures have been out of sync and increased the appropriate consideration of archaeological sites and other historic properties in the planning of federal undertakings.

The past fifty years have witnessed a dramatic change in the preservation of the archaeological record. Prior to the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, countless thousands of prehistoric and historic sites were undoubtedly lost. The NHPA brought to the attention of federal agencies a public concern about the nation's heritage. No longer could it be ignored as "just another arrowhead" or "another old pile of trash." Just as the historic record resides in documents, maps, and letters, the archaeological record resides in what lay underfoot, records that must be protected and conserved for their part in our national heritage and identity.

As a consequence of the National Historic Preservation Act, thousands of archaeological sites have been identified, evaluated, and protected. The NHPA also served to enhance many areas of archaeology, ranging from increased standardization to employment opportunities. As with any law, it also resulted in some unforeseen issues. But the story has not ended. Amendments to the NHPA as well as technological innovation in archaeological research and methodology suggest that the next twenty-five years may lead to transformational changes in how archaeology is performed in compliance with the NHPA. When the NHPA initially was passed, there were no global positioning systems to find your absolute location, no digital cameras, little to no use of subsurface remote sensing equipment, no readily accessible satellite imagery for looking at the landscape, no personal computers or tablets, no cell phones, no internet for rapid communication, and no social media. These breakthroughs have occurred at a rapidly increasing pace, so it safe to assume that twenty-five years from now, much of what we accomplish today in our historic preservation efforts may seem archaic or at best unsophisticated. Archaeologists engaged in Section 106 undertakings will have a new suite of tools at their disposal to better preserve Oklahoma's diverse cultural and archaeological heritage. It is anticipated that there will be changes in the National Historic Preservation Act to accommodate our enhanced abilities to identify sites, evaluate their National Register eligibility, and preserve them for the future.

Endnotes

* Robert L. Brooks obtained his BA from Wright State University in Ohio, his masters from the University of Arkansas, and his PhD from the University of Kentucky. Brooks served as state archaeologist and director of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey at the University of Oklahoma, recently retiring after thirty-four years. His research interests include the Southern Plains and Southeastern United States, prehistoric agriculture, cultural landscapes, and preservation of cultural heritage.

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FIFTY YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

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Cultural Diversity and Historic Preservation in Oklahoma



*By Cynthia Savage and Susan Allen Kline**

In a 1936 article in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* addressing the contributions of American Indians to the development of the state of Oklahoma, historian Muriel Wright wrote, “One interpretation that may be given the term ‘history’ is the story of the formation of nationalities.” Wright further explained that a nationality comes from people being “united in culture and spirit.” Wright notes that the development of a nationality for the United States, and Oklahoma in particular, rested heavily on the contributions of Native people. At the conclusion of her article, Wright identified preservation of Native traditions and customs as a necessary element in the future advancement of “real American culture.” In sum, Wright recognized that it is our cultural diversity that characterizes Oklahoma as a state and that preservation is an integral element of maintaining that identity.¹

Also recognizing that preserving Oklahoma’s cultural diversity required continuous effort, Wright did not limit herself to one article. Between 1922 and 1971, including the years she served as editor,

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION

Wright, the granddaughter of the principal chief of the Choctaw Nation who suggested the name "Oklahoma," contributed sixty-six articles to *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. Reoccurring topics in her articles included American Indian history, military developments, notable women, and historic preservation. Additionally, among numerous other accomplishments, Wright was instrumental during the 1950s and 1960s in identifying, researching, and raising public awareness about Oklahoma's historic sites.²

Thirty years after Wright's 1936 article, the federal government recognized much the same thing through passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. In addition to declaring that preservation of historic properties as living parts of our community provided an invaluable "sense of orientation to the American people," the NHPA created a federal program for preservation that relied on states for implementation. The reliance on states was, and remains, key because it allowed for more diversity, not only in the types of properties recognized but also the unique combinations of historic peoples, trends, and associations that are part of each state's history. It is through the unique history of individual places and times that the common threads of history come together to form the ever changing, ever growing tapestry of local, state, and national history.³

As created by the NHPA, the cornerstone of the federal preservation program is the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The National Register is the official federal list of properties that are significant in American history and culture. The first properties listed on the National Register were those that had been previously identified as National Historic Landmarks under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. For Oklahoma, the first twelve properties listed on the National Register were a combination of military and American Indian properties, including three archaeological sites. These properties collectively express much of the early history of Oklahoma, while individually they represent a diversity of themes and groups, including Cherokees, Cheyennes, Muscogees (Creeks), African Americans, and European Americans.⁴

Since October 1966 almost 1,300 historic properties in Oklahoma have been listed on the National Register. In addition to military and American Indian properties, Oklahoma has a multitude of National Register-listed properties that are associated with African Americans, women, European Americans, Hispanics, cultural groups, and various religious organizations. An example of this is Sundial in Oklahoma City. Constructed in 1919 for John Sinopoulo and his wife Katharine Mary de la Montanye and listed on the National Register in 1978, the

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

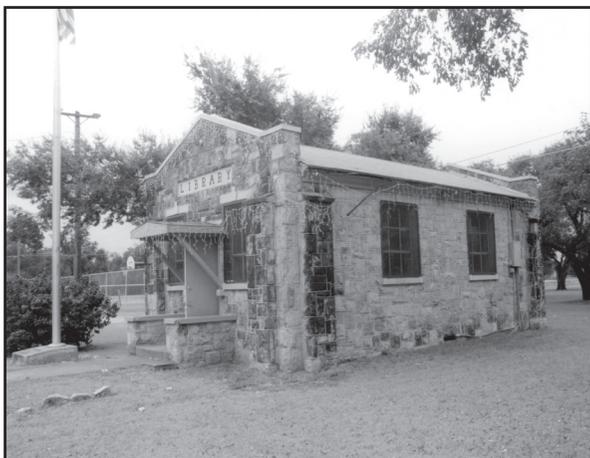
*Pioneer Club of Atoka,
Atoka County, Oklahoma
(OKSHPO, OHS).*



Mediterranean style house was just one of the buildings in Oklahoma City that the Greek-born Sinopoulo was responsible for building. Another of Sinopoulo's buildings was the recently demolished 400–406 West Main Street, which for years housed Baron's Department Store and, later, Carpenter Square. In addition to his business activities, Sinopoulo also headed the Greek war relief effort for Oklahoma and was instrumental in the establishment of Saint George's Greek Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City.⁵

Diversity also is expressed through the organizations that individuals join in addition to the racial or ethnic groups into which they are born. These social groups often had a profound impact on their communities. For example, beginning in the late 1800s many women in Oklahoma became members of women's clubs. Through these clubs, women found camaraderie and engaged in activities that facilitated study and self-expression. The clubs also were concerned with matters of social reform and the betterment of their communities. One such club was the Pioneer Club of Atoka. Organized in 1896, the club was the first women's club in Indian Territory and one of the few in Oklahoma to build its own club house, which was completed in 1905. The building was listed on the National Register in 1980 for its association with the club and still serves its original function.⁶ Among the civic projects that women's clubs supported were public libraries and parks. In Olustee, the New State Womens Club was instrumental in the development of that town's public park in the 1920s and the erection of a small library building in the park by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1936. The National Register nomination for the Olustee Public Library

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION



Olustee Public Library (Jackson County, Oklahoma), built by the Works Progress Administration in 1936 (OKSHPO, OHS).

and Park celebrates the New State Womens Club's tireless efforts to improve the quality of life in its community.⁷

Less celebrated groups also have had a great impact on the quality of life of their members and their communities. A nondescript building in Oklahoma City has served as the home of the local chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous since 1946. Known as the Kelley Club, the building was listed on the National Register in 2014 for its association with an organization that has helped alcoholics achieve and permanently maintain sobriety and has contributed to the compassionate treatment and understanding of alcoholism.⁸

Death may be the great equalizer, but the manner in which the dead are buried often differs among social groups. Under National Register criteria, graves and cemeteries normally are not eligible for listing. Exceptions can be made, as in the case of graves, if there is no other site or building associated with the individual's productive life. A cemetery can be listed if it derives its primary significance from the graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or association with historic events.⁹

There are numerous graves and cemeteries in Oklahoma that have been listed on the National Register or identified in surveys that reveal much about the cultural and social history of the state. The Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners in Mount Calvary Cemetery in McAlester was listed on the National Register in 1980. It is a sad reminder of the dangers inherent in coal mining and the lack of benefits given to miners working in southeastern Oklahoma in the early twentieth century. On December 17, 1929, sixty-one of sixty-six men working in a mine in North McAlester were killed as a result of a gas explosion. Thirty-two

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Folk art cross decorating a grave in Enid Cemetery, Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).



of those killed were Mexicans. Because there were no death benefits for the families of miners killed on the job, a public subscription was held to raise the funds needed to bury the dead. Twenty-four of the Mexican victims were buried in a mass grave dug by convicts from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. For a time, only a wooden cross marked the grave until families of ten of the miners erected stone grave markers.¹⁰

On a different scale, a small cemetery on the outskirts of Edmond is the only reminder of a once thriving rural community of African Americans established prior to statehood. The Gower Cemetery is the final resting place for blacks who homesteaded in the area following the Land Run of 1889 and before statehood in 1907. The school and church that served the community, as well as the individual houses, are gone. The cemetery was listed on the National Register in 1991.¹¹ Representing diversity within the same community, the Enid Cemetery and neighboring Calvary Catholic Cemetery were listed on the National Register in 1996. These cemeteries reveal much about the early settlers in the Enid area. Graves are grouped according to religious affiliation with separate sections reserved for Protestants, Jews, African Americans, and Catholics. Grave markers, some of which can be classified as folk art, identify an individual's service in the military, affiliation with fraternal organizations, and social status.¹²

Properties recognized by the National Register fall into five broad types, consisting of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. The classification of property types is multiform, with a single property able to contain more than one type in an array of combinations. For example, a district may include a combination of the four other property types. Additionally, a site may be a landscape or an archaeological

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION



Constructed in 1925, Czech Hall, Yukon, Canadian County, Oklahoma, was listed on the National Register in 1983 (OKSHPO, OHS).

property, or even a combination of the two. While not a type of property in itself, traditional cultural properties (TCPs) emerged as identifiable entities following the 1980 amendments to the NHPA as a means of recognizing tangible places that have significance from the role the resource had in the local community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices. The significance of TCPs may have been passed down orally or through traditional use that may continue to the present time.¹³

TCPs may be found in any group. This includes ethnic, social, economic, and other types of organizations. Some TCPs may have been based on religious practices; however, the religious significance of the property is typically not an evaluative factor as, per National Register Criteria Consideration A, religious properties require justification on architectural, historic, or artistic grounds. This is to ensure that the federal government does not inadvertently appear to favor one religion over others.¹⁴

Many TCPs in Oklahoma are associated with American Indian communities. White Eagle Park, located in Kay County, is a TCP that is listed on the National Register. The park, in continuous use since the 1870s, has significance to the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. The site has been used as a ceremonial and social site, including as a dance ring and powwow grounds. It also is associated with the earliest settlement and encampments for the tribe following its relocation to the future state of Oklahoma.¹⁵

Other TCPs in Oklahoma are listed on the National Register; however, the nominations may not recognize them explicitly as a TCP as the White Eagle Park nomination does. The Czech Hall, located

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

in Canadian County, was listed on the National Register in 1983 in the areas of social history and ethnic heritage. The building served as the headquarters of the Jan Zizka Lodge #67, a social and fraternal organization for Bohemian immigrants. The current Czech Hall was constructed in 1925 to replace an earlier building and, evidencing its continuing relevance to the local community, has been enlarged multiple times. The initial purpose of the organization was to provide life insurance for its members; however, the organization quickly became known for its dances and *davadlos*, the latter being plays from the old country that were presented in the Czech language. The building gained statewide distinction as a center of Oklahoma's Czech culture.¹⁶

Surveys are a common preservation tool used to identify and evaluate properties for listing on the National Register. Surveys are most often based on a geographic area, but also can be based on common themes, chronologies, and associations. In addition to early thematic surveys identifying properties built by the WPA or associated with the iconic Route 66, surveys in Oklahoma have been performed to identify historic properties associated with the state's pre- and protohistory, coal mining, grain elevators, oil, bridges, barns, movie theaters, armories, rural schools, and state parks, among a variety of others. Each of these reflect an aspect of Oklahoma's unique cultural diversity. From the coal miners in Haskell County to the grain operators in Beaver County, these surveys document Oklahomans at work, at home, and at play.¹⁷

An early thematic survey was the Black Historic Resources Survey. It was funded in part by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and conducted in 1983 under the direction of the late Dr. George O. Carney of the Department of Geography at Oklahoma State University. This survey identified churches, schools, homes, hospitals, mortuaries, and commercial buildings associated with African Americans in cities such as Ardmore, Chickasha, Guthrie, McAlester, Muskogee, and Okmulgee. Similar resources, as well as government buildings, were identified in All-Black towns such as Grayson, Langston, Lima, Red Bird, Rentiesville, Summit, Taft, Tatums, and Vernon.¹⁸ After completion of the survey, National Register nominations were prepared for many of the identified properties, including several in the All-Black towns. These included the W. E. B. Dubois School in Summit, Taft City Hall, the Black Theater of Ardmore, and Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Muskogee (all listed in 1984).¹⁹ Over the past thirty years, other properties identified in the survey also have been listed on the National Register. These include Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Tatums (1995), Langston University Cottage Row

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION



Langston Cottage Row Historic District, Langston, Logan County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

Historic District (1999), and L'Ouverture Gymnasium in McAlester (2006). Sadly, several of the resources identified in the initial survey have been demolished. Although the properties may have been lost, the record of their existence is a form of preservation.²⁰

A significant contribution of the Black Historic Resources Survey was the documentation and eventual National Register listing of Rosenwald Hall in Lima. The identification of this building led to the recognition of the important role Rosenwald-funded schools played in the education of black youth in the state. These schools benefited from the financial support of Julius Rosenwald and the organization that bore his name. Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, was also a philanthropist who supported many causes. Beginning in 1913, he started to provide limited funding for the construction of schools for African Americans in Alabama. With the success of this effort, the Julius Rosenwald Fund was established to aid in the construction of black schools and for other education-related activities across the South. While the Rosenwald Fund provided only a portion of the total construction cost, the Rosenwald money was a critical stimulus in improving the overwhelmingly decrepit separate schools.²¹

In total, the Rosenwald Fund aided in the construction of 198 education-related buildings in forty-four Oklahoma counties between 1920 and 1932. Unfortunately, the location of all of these schools is not known, nor is it known whether they still exist. In 1997 the Oklahoma SHPO completed a historic context for Rosenwald schools in Oklahoma in order to assist in the identification of these historic resources. With one of the objectives of Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan the completion of this survey, SHPO staff have continued to work on identifying and documenting Rosenwald buildings. This effort recently

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

resulted in a National Register nomination sponsored by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., (POK) in 2014 for the Union School 19 ½ in Cleveland County. Although the Union School 19 ½ proved to not be a Rosenwald school as originally thought, this African American school in the small community of Stella was nonetheless historically important as the only separate school in Cleveland County for a time in the 1930s that continued to serve the educational needs of the local black youth until desegregation resulted in the consolidation of the Stella schools in 1955. With the historic African American school building originally selected by the local school board for the consolidated school, a battle erupted in the community that resulted in the use of the other school building. The Union School 19 ½ continued to be used for decades after 1955 by the local African American population as a community building. Other Rosenwald-aided schools in Oklahoma listed on the National Register include the Douglass School in Lawton, one of six schools in the state to also receive Rosenwald monies for erection of a shop building.²²

As frequently happens, thematic surveys meant to identify specific resources associated with one aspect of our culture also will identify resources associated with another. For example, in 2009 the Oklahoma SHPO conducted a survey of modern architecture in Oklahoma City. One of the properties identified in that survey was Emanuel Synagogue, home to the city's conservative Jewish congregation.²³ Similarly, as part of the 2010–14 statewide thematic survey for barns performed by Dr. Brad Bays with Oklahoma State University's Department of Geography, the Knippelmier Barn near Minco in Grady County was identified. The subsequent National Register nomination sponsored by POK broadened the scope of study beyond the architectural significance of the barn. In addition to the iconic livestock feeder type barn built by the Knippelmier family around 1916, the farmstead included a house, garage, cellar, calf shed, and other resources. Typical of German farmsteads, the house was built the year after the barn. The farmstead was listed on the National Register as a representation of the farmsteads built by the small ethnic German enclave that moved to Grady County from the same area of Nebraska shortly after Oklahoma's statehood. This community included other immigrant and first generation German families with names such as Doebeli, Frey, Eden, Balke, Koerner, and Kuhlman.²⁴

Geographic-based surveys also have resulted in the identification of properties that are important to Oklahoma communities. While the SHPO sponsors many of these, local governments participating in the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program also sponsor many architectural and historic surveys. Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Enid, Ponca City,

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION



Knippelmier Barn, Minco vicinity, Grady County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

Norman, and Okmulgee have been the subject of numerous surveys. While many of these surveys focus on neighborhoods and the central business districts, both Okmulgee and Muskogee have surveyed their communities for African American properties.²⁵

As evidenced by both the Union School 19 ½ and the Knippelmier Farmstead, further research into a property may reveal significant associations that the initial survey effort may not have uncovered. The passage of time also frequently impacts the perception of a property's historic significance. In terms of the National Register, it is important to keep in mind that a nomination is not intended to be a full history of every aspect of a property. Oftentimes, only the most important area of significance is identified, in part because the other aspects can frequently be incorporated into the most salient significance. As the only state supported women's college, the Oklahoma College for Women (OCW) Historic District was listed on the National Register in 2001 in the areas of education and architecture. That it was a women-related resource is captured in the educational significance of the property, as was the significance of the efforts to desegregate the school in the mid-1950s.²⁶

Many historic properties, particularly those associated with minorities or common activities, were not valued by the public-at-large at the time they developed. For example, the Mijo Camp Industrial District in Pontotoc County is an oil field production camp constructed in 1924 by the Benjamin Trees Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. This utilitarian property would not have been appreciated in 1924 for the information it divulges now concerning the early and mid-twentieth-century oil industry in Oklahoma. However, it is for that reason, in

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

particular the information revealed in the design and arrangement of buildings and the overall positioning of the camp in relation to the oil wells, that the industrial complex was listed on the National Register in 1985.²⁷

In general, a property must be at least fifty years old before it is considered for the National Register. The exception to this is properties that meet the test for exceptional significance under Criteria Consideration G. While the fifty-year rule has come under scrutiny as arbitrary, it provides a standard measure of time to ensure the perception of the property is based on sound scholarship rather than emotion and that the event is viewed in the correct circumstances and in terms that it can be fully understood and assessed, also known as its historic context. A highly atypical example that is an exception but also exemplifies the reasons for the rule is the Oklahoma City National Memorial, which commemorates the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The property was listed on the National Register in 1997 when the site became an affiliated unit of the National Park Service. The listing was not without controversy, in part because the event itself was less than two years old and it was yet unknown how future events would shape the interpretation of the 1995 event, such as the acts of foreign terrorism on September 11, 2001. As recently demonstrated with the preparation of scholarly documentation for the memorial in time for the twentieth anniversary of the event, the passage of time has created a needed perspective to understand the impact of the event beyond the immediate shock. The comprehensive documentation carefully assessed the changes in American society that the event triggered, including setting the example on how to memorialize acts of violence and the development of design guidance on retrofitting existing federal buildings to provide better protection. As an unprecedented act of domestic terrorism, the event also showcased that Oklahomans in all their diversity came together to exhibit compassion, strength, and resilience in what has become known as the “Oklahoma Standard.” However, it will be interesting to see how the next thirty years will add to the body of scholarship and how the significance of the event may be reinterpreted in 2045.²⁸

The retrofitting of existing historic federal buildings is subject to the legal mandate in the NHPA that federal agencies consider the impact of their actions upon historic properties. This mandate, which applies whether the agency owns the property or not, is another critical element of the preservation program. The legal requirement provides an opportunity to identify and evaluate properties that might not be accessible to the general public. This includes properties on

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION



The Travertine Nature Center at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Sulphur, Murray County, Oklahoma (OKSHPO, OHS).

federal lands, such as Fort Sill, Tinker Air Force Base, the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, and the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Significant sites associated with women, African Americans, American Indians, the military, the New Deal, settlement, and other groups and associations have been identified on federal land under the auspices of Section 106 of the NHPA.²⁹

Federal agencies that do not own land play an important role in identifying properties that otherwise may escape attention, such as along waterways, in low income housing areas, and on the path of highways. The US Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Federal Highway Administration in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation have been instrumental in the identification of archaeological sites, bridges, neighborhoods, and commercial buildings across the state. In addition to architectural and engineering significance, these resources also provide information about the various communities in which they are located. From the farming communities of southwestern Oklahoma to the former lead mining towns of northeastern Oklahoma, the documentation tells the story of every day places across the state.³⁰

Beyond identification and evaluation, federal agencies also have management responsibility for some of Oklahoma's most historically significant properties. The US Army has responsibility for the Fort Sill Historic District, consisting of the original, late nineteenth-century frontier post. As part of its management responsibilities, the US Army installation must undertake the activities necessary to preserve both the physical properties and their history. Accordingly, in addition to the day-to-day maintenance of the standing resources, the agency continues its effort to document and understand the archaeological sites that were once a vital part of the post, as well as the archaeological sites within the NHL boundaries that predate the 1869 establishment of the military fort.³¹

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

There are many ways that the National Park Service contributes to the preservation of Oklahoma's cultural heritage. Recently, its Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program completed a survey of properties along the Mother Road that were advertised in the Negro Motorist Green Book and other travel guides. These guides were published for African American travelers during the era of segregation, providing a vital list of restaurants, cafés, hotels, and motels that would accept their trade, thereby helping them to avoid potential harassment or worse from unaccommodating white business owners. Of the sixty-four Oklahoma Route 66-related establishments listed in the guides, the survey determined that at least twelve of these properties still exist. Two, the Ruby Restaurant and the Littlepage Hotel, both in Oklahoma City, are already listed on the National Register.³² The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program also provides cost-share grants for eligible historic preservation, research, oral history, interpretative, and educational projects. The City of Sapulpa recently received one of the grants for the rehabilitation of Sapulpa's 1948 National Guard Armory to serve as a Route 66 museum honoring the history of the automobile, the armory, and the military along the highway.³³

An amendment made to the NHPA in 1992, Section 101(d)(2), gave federally-recognized American Indian tribes, as sovereign nations, the opportunity to assume certain duties of the State Historic Preservation Officer on reservation or tribal trust lands. This allows tribes to assume greater control over the protection of historic properties on their lands. To accomplish this, tribes submit proposals to the National Park Service outlining which of the SHPO's functions the tribe wishes to assume. The governing authority of the tribe appoints a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) who oversees its preservation program. Approved THPOs are then eligible to receive funds from the annual Historic Preservation Fund allocated by Congress. As of 2015, Oklahoma has nineteen tribes that have formally received this designation.³⁴

One of the functions that many THPOs in Oklahoma have assumed is the review of federal undertakings on tribal land pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. This review is designed to prevent, minimize, or mitigate any negative impact such undertakings may have on historic resources. Some tribes, such as the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, maintain a register of historic properties that possess significance to the tribe. The THPO of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes started an inventory of tribal historic resources in nine Oklahoma counties where the tribes were originally assigned. The THPO of the Wyandotte Nation initiated the archaeological investigation of an allotment homestead believed

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION

to date to the early 1900s when the more traditional members of the tribe began to relocate to what was then the Seneca reservation in northeastern Indian Territory.³⁵ The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Choctaw Nation have developed programs for the identification and preservation of cemeteries. Sometimes tribes focus on preserving cultural traditions. The Choctaw Nation has led workshops to teach tribal members and nonmembers traditional arts. In some instances, tribes have focused on teaching members their languages, as retention of native languages is an important component of preserving culture.³⁶

As the statewide nonprofit preservation organization, POK assists tribes, local groups, the SHPO, and private individuals in their preservation endeavors. In addition to cosponsoring the quarterly *Preservation Oklahoma News*, the organization has sponsored National Register nominations for a variety of properties statewide that are significant for their association with African Americans and European Americans, as well as properties representative of rural communities, commercial developments, local government, educational advancements, and transportation means. The group also holds lectures, workshops, and other programs that provide vital information to the public. POK has organized lectures concerning the Julius Rosenwald Fund and held workshops on cemetery preservation, window rehabilitation, Route 66, and preservation matters in general.³⁷

Private entities are also valuable participants in the state's preservation program. In addition to nominating their properties to the National Register, private parties rehabilitate historic buildings in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and, thus, earn a 20 percent tax credit under the federal investment tax credit program and the Oklahoma state tax incentives. From providing senior housing in downtown Cordell to bringing new life to the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa, the tax credit program has aided in the preservation of some of Oklahoma's longtime community hot spots.³⁸

The Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City is a particularly interesting example of a culturally important property that benefited from the investment tax credit program. Originally constructed between 1909 and 1911, the Skirvin was expanded multiple times in the 1920s and 1930s, despite a downturn in the owner's finances in 1932 attributed to the broader depression affecting the entire country. Even through changing ownership and multiple modernization efforts, the hotel was a major icon of Oklahoma culture through the 1960s. In addition to the resplendent architecture, the hotel functioned as a commercial, social, and political center in Oklahoma City. During the 1940s and 1950s when Oklahoma City was third in the nation

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

in the number of conventions, two US presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower, stayed at the Skirvin. Plagued by falling occupancy caused, in part, by a declining downtown suffering from a combination of suburban flight, traffic congestion, insufficient parking, and urban renewal, the Skirvin struggled through the 1970s and 1980s before being shuttered in 1988. After being vacant for sixteen years, the City of Oklahoma City engineered a deal to bring the Skirvin Hotel back to life as a Hilton property. At a cost of \$55 million, and utilizing both the federal and state investment tax credit programs among other incentives, the rehabilitated hotel opened in 2007 and continues to operate as an upscale hotel to the present day.³⁹

On the opposite end of the economic spectrum from the Skirvin Hotel are historic properties such as the Cherokee Terrace Apartments in Enid, another certified investment tax credit rehabilitation project. Constructed under the auspices of the New Deal's Public Works Administration, the apartments were one of two public housing developments constructed in Oklahoma during the 1930s.⁴⁰ The other was the Will Rogers Court in Oklahoma City, which was documented in a 1992 survey of Oklahoma City. Both the Cherokee Terrace Apartments and Will Rogers Court continue to function as public housing complexes.⁴¹

Private individuals are also instrumental in the SHPO's Centennial Farm and Ranch program. Since 1989, and in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, this program has recognized farms and ranches that have remained in the same family for one hundred years. While agriculture is no longer one of Oklahoma's dominant industries, it is an important part of the state's heritage. The farms and ranches recognized through this program represent the diverse peoples who settled on the land, including American Indians, African Americans, and European Americans of various ethnicities such as German and Czechoslovakian. Individually, these farmers and ranchers have diverse backgrounds, education, experiences, and associations. Collectively, they represent an enduring rural group that weathered in place during some of the most trying decades of the twentieth century. Although many are no longer active participants in the farming process, they maintain a connection through their land to the agrarian lifestyle of their ancestors.⁴²

The passage of the NHPA in 1966 contributed to our understanding of the valuable role that historic preservation can play in individual and collective identities. The notion of what is historic and what is worthy of preservation has broadened over the past fifty years. With the passage of every year, more properties meet that critical fifty-year

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION



Sign designating an Oklahoma Centennial Farm (OKSHPO, OHS).

threshold. Similarly, decennial census records reveal that with each succeeding decade, the population of Oklahoma becomes more diverse racially and ethnically. The challenge will be to keep broadening our interpretations of American and Oklahoma history and to engage a broader audience in that interpretation. The citizens of Oklahoma can look forward to the identification of more properties and the engagement of people associated with communities such as the Asian American and Hispanic American communities, and cultural groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Oklahomans. As with the mixture of properties documented to date, this will include events that are tragic as well as triumphant. It also requires developing the necessary contexts to place the properties in their proper milieu. It is an exciting challenge.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Endnotes

* Cynthia Savage is an architectural historian with Architectural Resources and Community Heritage (ARCH) Consulting in Pocasset, Oklahoma. Susan Allen Kline is a historian and preservation consultant in Fort Worth, Texas. Both are former employees of the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The authors wish to extend their thanks to their former supervisor Melvena Heisch, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the Oklahoma SHPO, for the opportunity to prepare this article and for being a wonderful friend and mentor.

¹ Muriel H. Wright, "Contributions of the Indian People to Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 14, no. 2 (June 1936): 156, 161.

² Patricia Loughlin, "Wright, Muriel Hazel," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, accessed September 29, 2015, www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=WR005.

³ National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 915, 54 U.S.C. § 100101 et seq., 1966.

⁴ Historic Sites Act of 1935, 49 Stat. 666, 16 USC § 461 et seq., 1935. Those twelve properties were Fort Gibson, Fort Sill, Camp Nichols, Cherokee National Capitol, Creek National Capitol, Deer Creek Archaeological Site, Fort Washita, McLemore Archaeological Site, Sequoyah's Cabin, Stamper Archaeological Site, Washita Battlefield, and Wheelock Academy.

⁵ National Register of Historic Places, John Sinopoulo House (Sundial), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #78002251, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=78002251.

⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Pioneer Club, Atoka, Atoka County, Oklahoma, National Register #80003253, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=80003253.

⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Olustee Public Library and Park, Olustee, Jackson County, Oklahoma #06000116, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=06000116.

⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Kelley Club, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #14000594, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=14000594.

⁹ US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, "Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms, Part A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form" (1977, rev. eds. 1986, 1991, 1997), 37, www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb16a.pdf.

¹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Mass Grave of the Mexican Miners, McAlester, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, National Register #80003297, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=80003297.

¹¹ National Register of Historic Places, Gower Cemetery, Edmond, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #91001895, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=91001895.

¹² National Register of Historic Places, Enid Cemetery and Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma, National Register #96000305, nr.shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=96000305.

¹³ US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation" (1990, rev. eds. 1991, 1995, 1997), 4–5, www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb15.pdf. See also US Department of the Interior, National Park Services, Cultural Resources, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties" (1990, rev. eds. 1992, 1998), 1–3, www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb38.pdf.

¹⁴ US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties," 1; US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," 26–27.

DIVERSITY AND PRESERVATION

¹⁵ National Register of Historic Places, White Eagle Park, White Eagle vicinity, Kay County, Oklahoma, National Register #07000522, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=07000522.

¹⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Czech Hall, Yukon vicinity, Canadian County, Oklahoma, National Register #80003258, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=80003258.

¹⁷ "Survey/Planning," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoplanning.htm. See also "Architectural Surveys," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys.htm and "Thematic Surveys," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, www.okhistory.org/shpo/thematics.htm.

¹⁸ George O. Carney, "Historic Resources of Oklahoma's All-Black Towns: A Preservation Profile," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* 69, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 116–33.

¹⁹ National Register of Historic Places, W. E. B. DuBois School, Summit, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, National Register #84003161, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopics.asp?id=84003161; National Register of Historic Places, Taft City Hall, Taft, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, National Register #84003330, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopics.asp?id=84003330; National Register of Historic Places, Black Theater of Ardmore, Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, National Register #84002978, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopics.asp?id=84002978; National Register of Historic Places, Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma, National Register #84003338, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=84003338.

²⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Bethel Missionary Church, Tatums, Carter County, Oklahoma, National Register #94001519, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=94001519; National Register of Historic Places, Langston University Cottage Row Historic District, Langston, Logan County, Oklahoma, National Register #98001593, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=98001593; National Register of Historic Places, L'Ouverture Gymnasium, McAlester, Pittsburgh County, Oklahoma, National Register #06000486, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=06000486.

²¹ Cynthia Savage, "Rosenwald Schools," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, accessed September 28, 2015, www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=RO029.

²² Cynthia Savage, "Historic Context for the Julius Rosenwald Fund in Oklahoma," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, August 1997, www.okhistory.org/shpo/thematic/rosenwaldfund/pdf; National Register of Historic Places, Union School District 19 ½, Newalla vicinity, Cleveland County, Oklahoma, National Register #14001026, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=14001026.

²³ "Reconnaissance-Level Survey of Modern Architecture in Oklahoma," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 2009, 47, www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/RLSofmodernOKC.pdf.

²⁴ National Register of Historic Places, Knippelmier Farmstead, Minco vicinity, Grady County, National Register #11000638, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=11000638.

²⁵ Terri Myers, "From Creek Freedmen to Oklahoma Oil Men: The Black Heritage and Architectural Legacy of Okmulgee (1878–1929)," December 1991, www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/OkmulgeeLegacy.pdf; Mary Jane Warde, "The Historic Context for African American History in Muskogee, Oklahoma," 2014, www.okhistory.org/shpo/thematic/MuskogeeAAHC.pdf; "Architectural Surveys," and "Thematic Surveys," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

²⁶ National Register of Historic Places, Oklahoma College for Women Historic District, Chickasha, Grady County, National Register #01000950, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=01000950.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

²⁷ National Register of Historic Places, Mijo Camp Industrial District, Ada vicinity, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, National Register #85002560, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=85002560.

²⁸ National Register of Historic Places, Oklahoma City National Memorial, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #01000278, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=01000278.

²⁹ Section 306108 (formerly Section 106), National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Cynthia Savage, "Report on the Documentation Improvement for the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Documentation for the Old Post Historic District" (Tulsa: Tulsa District Corps of Engineers for Fort Sill Environmental Quality Division through R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., for Avatar Environmental, LLC, 2015).

³² "Black Heritage and Route 66," *Preservation Oklahoma News* 22, no. 1 (October 2015): 11.

³³ "City of Sapulpa Receives Route 66 Grant," *Preservation Oklahoma News* 22, no. 1 (October 2015): 8; "Cost-Share Grant Project: National Guard Armory Rehabilitation," Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, accessed October 11, 2015, ncptt.nps.gov/rt66/grants/projects/view/103.

³⁴ Those tribes are the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Caddo Nation, Cherokee Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Choctaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Comanche Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Osage Nation, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Wyandotte Nation, Otoe Missouri Tribe, and Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma.

³⁵ Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, "Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's State-wide Preservation Plan (January 2015–December 2019)," 2015, 42, 43, 49, www.okhistory.org/shpo/plan2015web.pdf; Rebecca Hawkins, "Crotzer Allotment—Preservation Opportunity for Wyandotte," *Preservation Oklahoma News* 18, no. 2 (January 2012): 4.

³⁶ Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, "Tomorrow's Legacy," 40.

³⁷ "Preservation Oklahoma," www.preservation.ok.org.

³⁸ "Tax Credits," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, www.okhistory.org/shpo/taxcredits.htm.

³⁹ Dr. Bob Blackburn, "A Tradition of Elegance: 70 Years of the Skirvin Hotel," City of Oklahoma City, 1982, accessed September 23, 2015, www.okc.gov/projects/Skirvin.html. See also National Register of Historic Places, Skirvin Hotel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma, National Register #79002010, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=79002010, and "Skirvin Hilton Hotel Development," City of Oklahoma City, accessed September 23, 2015, www.okc.gov/projects/skirvin/index.html.

⁴⁰ National Register of Historic Places, Cherokee Terrace Apartments, Enid, Garfield County, Oklahoma, National Register #13000939, nr_shpo.okstate.edu/shpopic.asp?id=13000939.

⁴¹ Robinson Boeck Architects, "Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of Central Oklahoma City," City of Oklahoma City Neighborhood and Community Planning Department, September 30, 1992, 6, www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/RLSofPortionofCentralOKC.pdf.

⁴² "Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, www.okhistory.org/shpo/farmandranch.htm.



FOR THE RECORD

Oklahoma Historical Society Minutes of the Quarterly Board Meeting *Wednesday, April 27, 2016*

Call to Order

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Corbett at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at the Woodward Conference Center, 3401 Centennial Drive, Woodward, Oklahoma.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members present: Jack Baker, Sherry Beasley, Bill Corbett, Frederick Drummond, Deena Fisher, Billie Fogarty, Karen Keith, Leonard Logan, Patricia Loughlin, Sherry Muchmore, Shirley Nero, Sandra Olson, Donna Sharpe, Kenneth Sivard, Lewis Stiles, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Members excused: Mickey Clagg, Cheryl Evans, Martha Lippert, Guy Logsdon, John Mabrey, Linda Reese, and Bill Settle.

Emeritus members present: Thalia Eddleman and Dan Lawrence.

Echoes of History

Dr. Blackburn read from the January 26, 1967, board minutes. During this meeting the agency's appropriation was discussed. At that time, the OHS's annual appropriation was \$124,000. In 1966 Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act, setting up historic preservation as it is known today. At the board meeting of the OHS, President George Shirk informed the board that Governor Dewey Bartlett had received authority from the US government to designate a state agency to handle historic sites and restoration with matching funds furnished to the state by the federal government. At that meeting, it was moved that the OHS petition the governor to designate the OHS as the agency of the State of Oklahoma to work with the federal government in this matter, and to propose that the Honey Springs Battlefield Site be the first project to be considered for federal and state participation. The motion carried. Dr. Blackburn stated that this was the first step in creating the State Historic Preservation Office under the Oklahoma Historical Society. Today, the OHS is the center of the statewide preservation community because the State Historic Preservation Officer is also the executive director of the OHS. The network that the OHS uses to help with collecting, preserving, and sharing started in 1966.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Approval of Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes

Jack Baker moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2016, meeting. Seconded by Karen Keith, the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Fisher reported that the OHS has \$1,825,590.17 in cash at the State Treasurer's Office. The OHS has \$200,487.89 invested in a Salomon Smith Barney account. This was originally a \$150,000 investment. The OHS has \$147,136.93 invested at Federated with an original investment of \$150,000. However, there are monthly drawdowns of \$750 from that account. The OHS has \$2,322,100 invested in the Oklahoma City Community Foundation Endowment Fund. The total cash and invested funds of the OHS amount to \$4,495,324.99.

Executive Director's Report

Review of budget projections and expenditures. The budget projections and expenditures were reviewed. Revenue is down, but the OHS is beginning to realize savings from the hiring freeze.

Impact of revenue shortfalls. The second round of revenue shortfalls amounted to 10 percent for the OHS. The numbers for March were up, so no further revenue shortfall is anticipated. Two days of furlough for all employees was declared. Additionally, some savings were found in utilities at the History Center amounting to \$50,000.

Status of legislation and appropriations. The bill to transfer the Will Rogers Memorial Museums to the OHS passed the legislature and was signed by the governor. The bill will go into effect on July 1, 2016. A bill related to the OHS passed out of the Joint Committee on Appropriation and Budgets (JCAB) and will be heard on the floor soon. This bill would allow for in-kind transfers in addition to cash sales of OHS property.

Update on efforts to secure a developer for the State Capital Publishing Building. The awarded request for proposal (RFP) proposed to use the State Capital Publishing Building for housing. The City of Guthrie is considering a rezoning of the area to preclude housing. The process is out of the hands of the OHS and all activities and decisions are being made by the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES).

Presentation of Cost/Benefit Analysis on All OHS Programs

Dr. Blackburn presented to the board a cost/benefit analysis for a sampling of OHS divisions. These analyses help to show what the OHS does as an agency and the output for different programs not only on a divisional basis, but also by quantifying what a project is doing and how much it costs.

Consideration of a Contract with the City of Watonga to Transfer Ownership and Operations of the T. B. Ferguson Home

Dr. Blackburn stated that last year the board voted to eliminate funding for the T. B. Ferguson Home. Dr. Blackburn explained that this is an example of a property low on the OHS Museums and Sites Priority Ranking List. If the bill for in-kind transfer passes, it is recommended to the board that the OHS proceed with a contract with the City of Watonga.

Lewis Stiles moved that, pending the passage of the in-kind transfer bill, the OHS contract with the City of Watonga to transfer ownership and operations of the T. B. Ferguson Home. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Contract with the Cherokee Nation to Transfer Ownership and Operations of Sequoyah's Cabin

Dr. Blackburn began by stating that Sequoyah's Cabin is an example of one of the OHS's favorite sites. However, another group has offered to take over operations and title. The immediate advantage is \$100,000 in operational cost savings. An additional incentive is another \$100,000 one-time cash donation that would be invested at the George Murrell Home to further plans for an 1850s working farm.

Karen Keith moved that, pending the passage of the in-kind transfer bill, the OHS contract with the Cherokee Nation to transfer ownership and operations of Sequoyah's Cabin. Donna Sharpe seconded the motion. Following the motion and second, President Corbett opened discussion of the consideration. Lewis Stiles stated that he stands opposed, saying that Sequoyah's Cabin is too important a site to give up. Kenneth Sivard supported the statements made by Dr. Stiles. Karen Keith stated that she had every faith that the Cherokee Nation would run and operate the facility in a superior manner. Leonard Logan and Jim Waldo expressed concerns about the wording of the contract and suggested amendments be made with a stronger reversionary clause. Frederick Drummond felt that currently the Cherokee Nation was better able financially to care for the site.

Following discussion a roll call vote was held.

Yea votes: Frederick Drummond, Deena Fisher, Karen Keith, Patricia Loughlin, Donna Sharpe, and Charles Tate.

Nay votes: Sherry Beasley, Billie Fogarty, Leonard Logan, Shirley Nero, Kenneth Sivard, Lewis Stiles, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Abstain: Jack Baker, Sherry Muchmore, and Sandra Olson.

The vote being six yeas, eight nays, and three abstentions, the motion failed.

Consideration of a Proposal to the Tulsa Development Authority for Land to Build the OKPOP

Dr. Blackburn explained that the OHS is still considering sites for the location of the OKPOP Museum. Recently a location had been suggested at the corner of Elgin and Archer in Tulsa. This location is still in the Brady Arts District and would be across the street from the baseball stadium. This lot would be one-half city block as opposed to a full block. The advantage of this site is that it would get the OKPOP out of the parking garage business and the responsibility to provide parking to BOK. In order to proceed the OHS would need to submit a proposal by late June to the Tulsa Development Authority. The decision to proceed has not yet been made, but board approval is being sought so that OKPOP staff is prepared to move forward.

Lewis Stiles moved to approve a proposal to the Tulsa Development Authority for land to build the OKPOP. Seconded by Jim Waldo, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Requests for Contract Services and Products to Comply with Executive Order 2015-46

The board was given a handout of requests for contract services and products to comply with Executive Order 2015-46.

Jack Baker moved to approve the requests. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Jack Baker formally asked the board to consider the Hard Rock Hotel located in Catoosa as the site of the 2017 OHS Annual Oklahoma History Conference at the recon-

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

vened board meeting the following day. He stated that he would be unable to attend the meeting in person, but wished to extend the invitation on behalf of the Cherokee Nation.

Consideration of Recess until April 28, 2016, at 2:05 p.m.

A motion to recess until April 28, 2016, at 2:05 p.m. was made by Jack Baker. Seconded by Donna Sharpe, the motion carried unanimously.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

WILLIAM CORBETT, President

Oklahoma Historical Society
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Membership
Thursday, April 28, 2016

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the membership of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Corbett at 1:50 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Woodward Conference Center, 3401 Centennial Drive, Woodward, Oklahoma.

Welcome

Announcement of New Board Members

In the absence of Jack Baker, President Corbett announced the newly elected board members. The new board members, all of whom were incumbents, are Patricia Loughlin, Donna Sharpe, Lewis Stiles, and Guy Logsdon.

Annual Report to the Membership

Dr. Blackburn began by stating that his comments will focus on the OHS adding value as it moves forward. He stated that the OHS has the best staff that it has ever had. Over the course of the past year the OHS had two important retirements. The first was that of Dr. Tim Zwink, deputy director of the OHS. Dr. Zwink was a great resource for staff members. He was a problem solver. His skill set allowed others, such as the executive director, to be outside of the building promoting the OHS to the public, knowing that matters were well handled within the building. The other staff member who has retired is Dr. Paul Lambert. Dr. Lambert came to the OHS about ten years ago from the Oklahoma Heritage Association. His understanding of fundraising and development was a great asset to the OHS.

It is easy to focus on the budget cuts when the OHS is down 30 percent from 2007. It is tempting to sit back, lick the wounds, and get frustrated over the fiscal cuts. However, it is not a constructive way to solve the problem. Despite dwindling appropriations, the OHS still manages to find ways to add value. This year the OHS has suffered a 10 percent cut due to a revenue shortfall and expects a cut of 10 to 13 percent for the 2017 fiscal year.

Instead of letting these hits get us down, we add value. Take History Day. This is a program that brings in revenue from donors and allows for a statewide program of history. Oklahoma is one of the fastest growing states in terms of participation numbers. This year there were six thousand participants statewide. Another example is the Route 66 Museum in Clinton. When the museum came to the OHS it was a failed museum. However, OHS staff saw potential, developed a new business plan, and rebranded the museum in conjunction with Route 66. With an investment of money, the right staff, and

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

buy-in with the City of Clinton, the Route 66 Museum generates \$400,000 in revenue each year. Lastly, another example of added value is the digitization program in the Research Division of the OHS. OHS staff has found a better way to preserve and share OHS history through digitization and online platforms. Additionally, the department also has put these skills and this equipment to use creating a revenue source by doing the same for other entities, such as digitizing the Oklahoma Senate Journals.

Dr. Blackburn concluded by stating that the OHS cannot give up—that is when you lose the support of your young professional staff, civic leaders, donors, and educators, which will lead to lost momentum and opportunities. Despite the budget cuts, Dr. Blackburn stated that we cannot give up, that we will continue to look for ways to add value and it starts with our board, our staff, our membership, and our partners. Together we can add even more value.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjourn

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

WILLIAM CORBETT, President

Oklahoma Historical Society
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 2016

Call to Order

The special board meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Corbett at 2:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Woodward Conference Center, Woodward, Oklahoma.

Roll Call

Members present: Sherry Beasley, Mickey Clagg, Bill Corbett, Frederick Drummond, Deena Fisher, Leonard Logan, Patricia Loughlin, Shirley Nero, Sandra Olson, Linda Reese, Donna Sharpe, Lewis Stiles, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Members excused: Jack Baker, Cheryl Evans, Billie Fogarty, Karen Keith, Martha Lippert, Guy Logsdon, John Mabrey, Sherry Muchmore, Bill Settle, and Kenneth Sivard.

Emeritus members present: Thalia Eddleman and Dan Lawrence.

Congratulations and Welcome to New Board Members

President Corbett welcomed the newly reelected board members.

Consideration of Committee Appointments

President Corbett told the board that he has made a few changes to the committees. One change was to retire the Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. A committee has been added for the Will Rogers Memorial Museums.

**Consideration of a Site for the 2017 OHS Annual Oklahoma
History Conference**

Paul Lambert explained to the board that the OHS has been invited to two different locations for the 2017 OHS Annual Oklahoma History Conference. The first location is the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino located in Catoosa and the other is the conference center in Claremore. Dr. Lambert gave his opinion that both sites would be very suitable to host the next conference.

Leonard Logan moved to hold the 2017 OHS Annual Oklahoma History Conference at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa. Seconded by Patricia Loughlin, the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

President Corbett stated that he would consider a motion to reconsider Item Ten from the previous day's meeting.

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Deena Fisher moved to reconsider Item Ten from the previous day's meeting. The motion was seconded by Patricia Loughlin. A roll call vote was needed.

Yea votes: Sherry Beasley, Mickey Clagg, Frederick Drummond, Deena Fisher, Leonard Logan, Patricia Loughlin, Shirley Nero, Sandra Olson, Linda Reese, Donna Sharpe, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Nay votes: Lewis Stiles.

The vote being thirteen yeas and one nay, the motion carried.

Jim Waldo moved that the board authorize the executive director to negotiate with the Cherokee Nation pursuant to the provisions of the in-kind transfer law to achieve a mutually acceptable cooperative arrangement for the ownership and continued prudent operation of Sequoyah's Cabin as a historic site. The motion was seconded by Patricia Loughlin.

Mr. Waldo stated that this adjustment of the motion from the previous day's meeting allows for more flexibility. Mr. Waldo reminded the board that the bill upon which this motion hinges has not yet been made law. Leonard Logan seconded that sentiment by stating that this allows postponement of the final decision while still allowing Dr. Blackburn to continue negotiations with the Cherokee Nation until the next full board meeting.

Following discussion a roll call vote was held.

Yea votes: Sherry Beasley, Mickey Clagg, Deena Fisher, Leonard Logan, Patricia Loughlin, Shirley Nero, Sandra Olson, Linda Reese, Donna Sharpe, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Nay votes: Frederick Drummond and Lewis Stiles.

The vote being twelve yeas and two nays, the motion carried.

President Corbett recognized Jim Waldo to make a second motion. Mr. Waldo moved that the board request the executive director recommend to the board suggested guidelines for anticipated future transfers of properties pursuant to the in kind transfer law. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Charles Tate moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Shirley Nero, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

WILLIAM CORBETT, President

**Oklahoma Historical Society
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
*Wednesday, June 15, 2016***

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Corbett at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, in the Dr. LeRoy Fischer Boardroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members present: Jack Baker, Mickey Clagg, Bill Corbett, Frederick Drummond, Billie Fogarty, Karen Keith, Leonard Logan, Guy Logsdon, Patricia Loughlin, Sherry Muchmore, Sandra Olson, Linda Reese, Bill Settle, Donna Sharpe, Kenneth Sivard, Lewis Stiles, Charles Tate, Barbara Thompson, and Jim Waldo.

Members excused: Sherry Beasley, Cheryl Evans, Deena Fisher, Martha Lippert, John Mabrey, and Shirley Nero.

Emeritus members present: Thalia Eddleman.

**Consideration of Guidelines for Implementing the New
Statute Authorizing Transfer of Real and Tangible
Property for In-Kind Compensation**

Dr. Blackburn stated that the bill to allow the OHS to accept in-kind compensation for transfer to a nonstate entity passed the legislature and was signed into law by the governor. The board reviewed the guidelines, which included policies regarding a reversionary clause, easements, the transfer of collections, entities eligible for this type of transfer, and other criteria for when and how to utilize the in-kind transfer.

Charles Tate moved to approve the guidelines for implementing the new statute authorizing transfer of real and tangible property for in-kind compensation. Seconded by Barbara Thompson, the motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Plan to Absorb Budget Cuts for
Fiscal Year 2017**

Dr. Blackburn began by stating that the OHS has been living with budget cuts for the past eight years and believes that the trend will continue. Therefore, the decisions made today must be made with an outlook for not just this upcoming fiscal year, but for the future. Dr. Blackburn continued by declaring that the OHS is at a pivot point. The

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

grants-in-aid program, once funded, will allow the OHS to shift from a management organization to a support organization. This change will allow the OHS to broaden its statewide base of support. While the Museums and Sites Division will focus on acting as a support division throughout the state, the Research Division will expand upon the gains already made through digitization projects, with the aim of helping organizations statewide preserve and share their collections. The originals can then stay with the local entity and the OHS can aid in sharing the resources through its online repository. The Oklahoma History Center will see a shift to greater self-sufficiency with a focus on earned revenue and private donations to help fund exhibits and programs.

Dr. Blackburn then detailed the proposed FY-17 budget. He began by detailing the cuts made to the agency. The legislature cut the agency by 11.65 percent, amounting to \$988,326, and there was a \$112,000 reduction in sales tax allocation. This put the OHS with a budget cut amounting to \$1,100,326. Additionally, an error in the legislative budgeting process caused an additional cut of \$248,000 due to the bond payments for the History Center not being shielded. There is currently a plan in place to correct this error and it is therefore not reflected in the proposed budget.

Dr. Blackburn recommended the following cuts to have a balanced budget for FY-17: Administration would transfer purchasing and accounts payable to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) with a savings of \$102,297 and continue to leave the deputy director position vacant for seven months, saving \$74,179. In the Research Division a vacant full-time position would be converted to a part-time position, creating a savings of \$33,379. Additionally, three voluntary buy-outs that will create unfilled vacant positions will save \$96,994. The Oklahoma History Center Division will reduce its maintenance fund by \$100,000, leave a vacant position open in education, and offer two voluntary buy-outs amounting to \$128,723 in savings. The Will Rogers Memorial Museums will leave a vacancy unfilled creating a savings of \$77,352. Lastly, the Museums and Sites Division will create a savings of \$487,402 by transferring nine OHS-owned properties, reducing the operating budget of seven OHS-owned and operated sites, three unfilled vacancies, two voluntary buy-outs, two reductions-in-force, and reduction in general operations support costs.

Dr. Blackburn stated that the Chickasaw Nation is interested in taking Fort Washita and that the tribe wishes to contract with the OHS to continue educational programs. Sequoyah's Cabin would be transferred to the Cherokee Nation.

Leonard Logan moved to approve the plan to absorb budget cuts for FY-17. Seconded by Frederick Drummond, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Plan for Voluntary Buy-Outs or Reductions-in-Force

Dr. Blackburn presented the board with a list of staff members who had indicated interest in a voluntary buy-out (VOBO) plan. Eleven staff members would be offered a VOBO: two from Administration, three from the Research Division, two from the Oklahoma History Center, and four from the Museums and Sites Division. Additionally, two reductions-in-force may be needed for the Museums and Sites Division.

Lewis Stiles moved to approve the plan for voluntary buy-outs or reductions-in-force. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for Purchases to Comply with Executive Order 2015-46

Jack Baker moved to approve the list of purchases to comply with Executive Order 2015-46. Seconded by Frederick Drummond, the motion carried unanimously.

FOR THE RECORD

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

Frederick Drummond moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Leonard Logan, the motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, President Corbett declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

BOB L. BLACKBURN, Executive Director

WILLIAM CORBETT, President

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

New Members, April–May–June 2016

*Indicates renewed memberships at a higher level

Benefactor

Larry and Polly Nichols, Oklahoma City
David Russell, Enid

Business Partner

*Bonnie Hefner, Oklahoma City

Director's Circle

*Johnny and Cindy McCharen,
Oklahoma City
*William Owen, Oklahoma City

Fellow

*John Favell, Tulsa
*Dan Hobbs, Norman
*Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hogan, Nichols Hills
*Michael and Dorothy Tramontana,
Tulsa

Associate

Howard K. Berry Jr., Oklahoma City
*Rosa Flipse, Del City
*Garfield Furniture, Enid
Penny Lane, Ardmore
*Logan and Donna Sharpe, Checotah
*Peter and Elizabeth Shumway,
Santa Fe, NM
*Tom Walker, Tulsa
*Washington County Historical Society,
Dewey

Friend

Rita Aragon, Edmond
*Brian and Julia Bakeman,
Oklahoma City
*Donald and Virginia Bellows, Tulsa
*Clarence and Connie Black,
Modesto, CA
*Bobby Blair, Shawnee
*Ken and Gerry Bonds, Oklahoma City
*William and Mary Bryans, Stillwater
Carl and Holly Conner, Choctaw
*Kathy Doss, Tulsa
Ayn Garza, Houston, TX
*Frank and Carolyn Gault,
Oklahoma City
Penny George, Oklahoma City

*Curt and Mimi Hendricks,
Oklahoma City
Sue Hood, Oklahoma City
*Don and Joyce Keel, Edmond
Ed and Gay Kirby, Oklahoma City
*Joe Klabzuba, Prague
Phil Kliewer, Cordell
*David Kueter, Oklahoma City
Helen Lange, Oklahoma City
*Mary Lindemann, Norman
*Michael and Margaret Martz,
Blanchard
Jim and Connie McGoodwin, Edmond
*Frank and Nadine McPherson,
Oklahoma City
Gerald Nield, Ponca City
*Dennis and Sandra Noble, Edmond
*OKC Friday, Oklahoma City
*Rondi Ott, Enid
*Jerry and Karen Peterson,
Oklahoma City
*Vernon and Linda Pierce, Harrah
*Rex and Joy Rigglesman, Midwest City
Erin Snyder, Skiatook
*G. K. and Jymmie Stanton, Norman
Lee Thompson, Enid

Family

*Don and Dot Adkins, Norman
Drew and Shirley Austin, Stillwater
Bob Bailey, Weatherford
Kathryn Bailey, Midwest City
Twila Barnes, Saint Robert, MO
Bill and Susan Bartheld, Haymarket, VA
William and Laurisa Bernhardt,
Choctaw
David and Gladys Boggs, Oklahoma City
James and Marian Bradley,
Westmoreland, KS
*Jean Louise Brody, Bethany
Matt and Jenny Brunton, Edmond
Mal and Lurie Bucholtz, Oklahoma City
Barbara Bush, Kiefer
*John R. Calhoun, Windsor, ON
Timothy and Linda Cannon, Tecumseh
Patricia Capra, Oklahoma City
Melanie Carpenter, Bethany
Ashley Carter and Teresa Merrill,
Midwest City

FOR THE RECORD

Matt and Kristi Collard, Edmond
*Karen Cox, Oklahoma City
Franklin and Margaret Cullum, Sallisaw
*Clara Davis, Reydton
Caroline Dennis, Edmond
Norman Dunagin, Nichols Hills
Laurel Eaton, Oklahoma City
Shaun and Victoria Eller-Moore,
Oklahoma City
Roberta Ensign and Kyle Wendling,
Edmond
Amanda Forum and Lee Parmenter,
Coweta
Angi and Cheryl Gavin, Oklahoma City
Frank Gilson, Oklahoma City
Elizabeth Givens and Ashley Jaques,
Yukon
Matt and Shelly Glazner, Oklahoma City
Harry and Cathy Goett, Oklahoma City
Gerold Gordon and Heather Stephens,
Oklahoma City
Gary and Susan Grandle, Oklahoma City
*Molly Levite Griffis, Norman
Gloria and Robert Hall, Spencer
Debra Hampton, Edmond
Jayne Harless and Alyson Wendling,
Midwest City
Andre and Carrie Harris, Oklahoma City
Patsy Heidlage, Claremore
Darrin and Jill Hill, Edmond
Robin Hixon, Iola, KS
Pete and Jane Holcombe, Oklahoma City
Bethany Holley-Griffith and Jennifer
Brown, Del City
Patti Howell, Oklahoma City
Loretta Jackson, Chickasha
Kim Jensen and Kayla Dowdy, Edmond
Craig Johnston, Oklahoma City
Doug and Donna Johnston,
Oklahoma City
Catherine Jones, Moore
Sarah Kimball, Stillwater
*George and Patricia Kiser, Yukon
J. T. and Brandy Langston, Luther
Celia Lehmann, Yukon
Keith and Lanita Lough, Oklahoma City
Jacob Martin, Edmond
George and Judy McDowell,
Oklahoma City
Harold and Sue McMillan,
Oklahoma City
*Roger Moore, Stillwater
Richard and Cindy Murray, Tulsa
Rick and Kandi Nagel, Norman
Shani Nealy and Dee Cox, Spencer
*Jim and Luann Nelson, Liberal, KS
Keith and Bud Oehlert, Oklahoma City
*Charles and Pamela Oliver,
Waxahachie, TX
Walter and Sara Palmer, Oklahoma City
*Rhea Patterson, Dewey
Cathy Peck, Oklahoma City
Charlie and Jessica Peters, Midwest City
James and Peggy Pierce, Harrah
Blake Podhajsky, Oklahoma City
Linda Pond and Rebecca Cal, Stratford
Connie Ponds, Oklahoma City
*Jack and Shirley Querry,
Oklahoma City
Joe and Ali Rettedal, Edmond
Shannon Rundell, Oklahoma City
Ronda Shepherd, Okarche
Dale and Yvonne Shifflett,
Oklahoma City
Barbara Shirey and Jennie Yow,
Collinsville
Ruth Simmons and Allison Simmons,
Oklahoma City
Michele Skidgel and Laura McConnell,
Perry
Kathy Slaughterbeck and Edie Steiner,
Oklahoma City
Steven Smith and Zachary Smith, Tulsa
Tonda Stafford and Lauren Keck,
Edmond
Walter Stumpf and Emily Johnson,
Yukon
*Leonard and Marilyn Sullivan,
Oklahoma City
Deena Thomas and Katherine Thomas,
Oklahoma City
Donna Vogel, Oklahoma City
David Weaver, Edmond
Sally Wegner, Guthrie
*Donald Whitney, Edmond
Andrea Williams, Oklahoma City
T. J. Williams, Ada
Barbara Williams-Johnson, Edmond
Curtis and Betty Working, Checotah
*Craig Wright, Oklahoma City
Joshua and Natalie Zantop,
Oklahoma City

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Individual

Kayleigh Barton, Sulphur
James Beauchamp, Oklahoma City
Jennifer Bekhti, Park Hill
George Billingsley, Broken Bow
Ida Blackburn, Oklahoma City
Paul Blankenship, Lindsay
Virginia Bourisseau, Prague
Katherine Bowen, Broken Bow
Bette Brandin, Piedra, CA
Jana Brown, Cleo Springs
Ray Cain, Muse
Jennifer Carroll, Owasso
Terry Castor, Beaver
Michelle Cogburn, Cement
Jason Cullive, Elk City
Ryan Davenport, Paden
Jacques DeLier, Oklahoma City
Lise Deshea, Oklahoma City
Kory Dowell, Ada
Kathryn Fenton, Virginia Beach, VA
Claude Gahart, Skiatook
Samuel Gavia, Wayne
Mary Habekott, Crawford
Sharon Hallman, Arlington, AZ
Michael Harris, Tahlequah
Chad Hillis, Maysville
James Hodgens, Stroud
Levittia Hudson, Idabel
Joseph Hughes, Cibolo, TX
Yoskitaka Iwasaki, Suita, Osaka, Japan
Lisa John, Ada
Kaelyn Johnson, Ardmore
Harold Jones, Miami
Eugene Kelso, Tahlequah
Kayli Koger, Jenks
Cathy Kunkel, Guthrie
Betty Law, The Village
Brooke Lee, Noble
Mary Littlefield, Stillwater
Gail Loafman, Duncan
Daniel Maher, Fort Smith, AR
Cindy Martin, Vinita
Cynthia Miller, Oklahoma City
Jo Moore, Purcell
Leslie Moreno, Tulsa
Chase Morgan, Indianahoma
Marcus Moss, Pauls Valley
David Nutter, Tulsa
Chandra Prevost, Tulsa
Clint Quinton, Sulphur
Darlene Ridge, Garvin

Brandy Rodriguez, Anadarko
Jessi Runyan, Sulphur
Cindy S. Schuering, Checotah
Steven Scott, Welling
Harry Shermantine, Jay
John H. Stallings, Fairborn, OH
Rebecca Starks-Pittman, Fitzhugh
Emily Storm, Shawnee
Shelly Stuck, Oklahoma City
Sydney Talley, Washington
Erin Taylor, Oklahoma City
Whitney Taylor, Lindsay
Ethel Thomas, Pawhuska
Kimberly Vessel, Kansas
Jacob Ward, Sapulpa
Katie Watson, Muskogee
Clay Watts, Oktaha
Ashley Williams, Lawton
Danny Williams, Elmore City
Tyler Wixon, Enid
Dan Woodward, Rolla, MO
Bradley Wynn, Oklahoma City
Barbara Yuill, Edmond

Organizational

Downtown OKC, Inc., Oklahoma City
Durant Historical Society, Durant
Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band,
Moore
Pottawatomie County Museum, Shawnee
University of Illinois-Chicago,
Chicago, IL

Twenty-Year Members April–May–June 2016

Listed below, with the date they joined the OHS, are people and organizations that, when they renewed their memberships in April, May, and June, have been members twenty or more years. Their long-term loyalty is most sincerely appreciated!

Duke and Linda Ligon, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1955
 Vernon and Linda Pierce, Harrah, November 1, 1966
 Oklahoma State University—Okmulgee Library, Okmulgee, October 1, 1972
 Van and Pat Barber, Oklahoma City, May 1, 1974
 Richard E. Wood, Bethany, March 1, 1977
 Jack and Shirley Querry, Oklahoma City, April 1, 1979
 Russell Newville, Lexington, June 1, 1979
 Lewis Culver, Little Rock, AR, May 1, 1980
 Lynda E. Brown-Drabek, Oklahoma City, February 1, 1981
 Richard Mullins, Edmond, January 1, 1982
 Jim and Burnis Argo, Edmond, May 1, 1983
 Marvin and Lily Kroeker, Reedley, CA, December 1, 1983
 Ric and Francie Russell, Meeker, April 1, 1984
 Dola J. Yeager, Edmond, April 1, 1984
 Frank and Loreece Dennis, Oklahoma City, February 1, 1985
 Van Appelman Jr., Catoosa, April 3, 1985
 Talbot Library and Museum, Colcord, May 1, 1985
 Susie Clinard and Harley Lingerfelt, Shawnee, January 1, 1986
 Calvin F. Zitterkob, Moore, April 7, 1986
 45th Infantry Division Museum, Oklahoma City, April 10, 1986
 Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN, June 17, 1986
 Ardmore Public Library, Ardmore, June 23, 1986
 Mead Ferguson, Woodward, October 27, 1986
 Bob Thompson, Ada, March 13, 1987
 Rondi Ott, Enid, March 20, 1987
 James O'Malley, Richardson, TX, March 23, 1987
 Tom Walker, Tulsa, March 27, 1987
 Nowata City-County Library, Nowata, April 17, 1987
 Neal Leader, Norman, May 7, 1987
 Molly Levite Griffis, Norman, June 2, 1987
 Kenneth and Corie Delashaw, Marietta, November 3, 1987
 Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library, Durant, February 10, 1988
 Bill Carter, Coweta, April 4, 1988
 Dan Hobbs, Norman, April 13, 1988
 Alice Coffman, Harrah, April 28, 1988
 Davis Joyce, Spavinaw, May 31, 1988
 Lonnie and Susan Smith, Fort Towson, May 31, 1988
 Sac and Fox Nation Public Library, Stroud, January 24, 1989
 Daryl Townley, Duncan, March 28, 1989
 Barbara Klein and James Weaver, Oklahoma City, March 29, 1989
 Gary Brown, Enid, April 19, 1989
 Nancy Samuelson, Sacramento, CA, May 12, 1989
 Ethel Thomas, Pawhuska, February 5, 1991
 Carol Woitchek, Oklahoma City, June 21, 1991
 Daniel and Mary Ann Littlefield, North Little Rock, AR, January 1, 1992
 Don and Dot Adkins, Norman, March 11, 1992

THE CHRONICLES OF OKLAHOMA

Frances Elliott, Wichita, KS, April 2, 1992
James L. Showalter, Stillwater, April 2, 1992
James Russell, Mustang, April 13, 1992
Logan and Donna Sharpe, Checotah, April 21, 1992
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Weigand, Edmond, April 21, 1992
Sloan Coats, San Francisco, CA, April 24, 1992
Leroy and Marlene Boyer, Oklahoma City, April 27, 1992
Jane Osborn, Miami, January 19, 1993
Wagoner County Historical Society, Wagoner, April 23, 1993
Robert B. Ringo, Lincoln, CA, April 28, 1993
Laurie Williams, Ardmore, May 3, 1993
Myrtle Edmond, Antlers, May 17, 1994
Donald and Virginia Bellows, Tulsa, June 1, 1994
Glenda Temple, Chandler, September 2, 1994
Don and Gwen Walker, Atoka, March 7, 1995
Garfield Furniture, Enid, March 23, 1995
Nancy de Quevedo, Oklahoma City, April 26, 1995
Joe Hickman, Broken Bow, April 26, 1995
Sylvia Duncan, Stillwater, July 5, 1995
Brent and Deborah Johnson, Tulsa, July 18, 1995
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, July 28, 1995
Janet Cottrell, Tulsa, October 2, 1995
John McKee, Oklahoma City, October 28, 1995
Louise Reeves, Tulsa, January 9, 1996
Randal and Kimberly Ice, Oklahoma City, February 27, 1996
Lavonne Sanders Walker, Shawnee, April 1, 1996
Edna Spears, Pawnee, April 17, 1996
Joy Grant, Mangum, June 4, 1996
William Slagle, Edmond, June 14, 1996

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