



FACT SHEET #4: HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION (Archeological and Historic Resource Survey)

Through systematic field investigations and archival research, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) identifies archeological and historic resources and evaluates them for National Register of Historic Places (National Register, NRHP, or NR) eligibility. The SHPO accomplishes most of its survey and inventory efforts (historic preservation resource identification) through cooperative arrangements with universities, nonprofit organizations, and local governments. The SHPO partially funds these joint survey projects from its annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the National Park Service (NPS). Federal, tribal, state, and local governments, preservation professionals, and the public use the information collected through the SHPO's survey program.

Oklahoma's Archeological and Historic Resources

Resources are the buildings, sites, structures, and objects which represent human activity in present-day Oklahoma. The state's resources are divided into two categories - archeological and historic. Since the mid-1970s, the SHPO and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) have worked to identify and record these physical links to the past. Tens of thousands of resources are now recorded in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory (OLI) and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey Information System (OASIS). However, the work to identify and evaluate the state's archeological and historic resources is far from complete. New information from many sources is constantly added to the OLI and OASIS.

The OAS maintains OASIS, the state's archeological site files (including information gathered through the SHPO's HPF-assisted survey program). To access OASIS, contact the State Archeologist at 405/325-7211. OAS is currently digitizing the site files to make the information available on a secured website.

The SHPO houses the historic survey data (including buildings, and other standing structures) in the OLI. Researchers access the OLI online at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/oli.htm> or visit the SHPO to use the paper files.



From left to right: Carselowey House, Vinita, Craig County; Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park, Foyil vicinity, Rogers County; and Bridge #18 at Rock Creek, Sapulpa, Creek County

Standards for Archeological and Historic Resource Survey in Oklahoma

A survey is a carefully designed and systematic process for identifying and gathering data on the archeological and/or historic resources of a given area. It includes field survey, the physical search for and recording of historic resources on the ground, as well as planning and background research before field survey begins. Professionals meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards in the appropriate field design and manage survey projects. Review these standards at https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm.

The SHPO requires that archeological and historic resource surveys conducted with HPF assistance or to satisfy other requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act, such as compliance with Section 106 of the Act, must follow the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for archeological documentation, for identification, and for evaluation.

These standards ensure that the archeological and historic resources which receive special consideration during a federal undertaking or which qualify for federal and state rehabilitation tax credits or other incentives are indeed worthy of these benefits. Review the Standards at https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_6.htm and https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_7.htm.

The SHPO and OAS provide further guidance for successful completion of archeological and historic resource surveys in Oklahoma in “SHPO Fact Sheet #12: Evaluating Historic Period Archeological Sites for the National Register under Section 106 with Particular Reference to Sites Dating After 1890” (<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/factsheets/fs12arch.pdf>), “SHPO Fact Sheet #16: Guidelines for Developing Archeological Survey Reports in Oklahoma and Report Components” (<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/factsheets/fs16archreports.pdf>), and *Architectural/Historic Survey: A Field Guide* (<http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/fieldguide.pdf>).

Additional Information:

For additional information about Oklahoma’s archeological and historic resources, threats to them, efforts to protect them, and other information about Oklahoma’s statewide historic preservation program, see *Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan*, available at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm> or in print from the SHPO. Reports on HPF-assisted survey projects are available at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoplanning.htm>.



Manhattan Building, Muskogee, Muskogee County



McGranahan Portion of the Chisholm Trail Roadbed, Yukon vicinity, Canadian County



Public Library of Enid and Garfield County, Enid, Garfield County