

Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

April 2000

Volume 6, number 3

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Six Properties added to Most Endangered List

At a reception on February 18 at the First National Bank Building in downtown Oklahoma City, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., announced its 2000 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. The event was the kick-off for the visit to Oklahoma City by the organization's traveling exhibit and the third in an ongoing series of lectures related to the program.

The annual list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties focuses attention on significant historical resources in Oklahoma that are threatened by neglect, vandalism, or impending demolition. Properties on the Most Endangered List are representative of endangered architecturally and historically significant resources across the state. The program is a joint project with the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office.

This year, five new and one previous entry are on the organization's list of properties that represents the many types of threatened historic resources in Oklahoma. The new listings are: Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa; the Farmers' Exchange Tile Grain Elevator in Goltry, Alfalfa County; the Fort Sill Indian School Girls Dormitory in Comanche County; the Steele, Court, and Braniff buildings on the Main Street Mall in downtown Tulsa; and a special group listing of Oklahoma's Historic County Courthouses. Returning to the Most Endangered List from the Watch List is the Mayo Hotel in downtown Tulsa.

Built in 1950, the **Booker T. Washington High School** at 1631 East Woodrow Place in Tulsa is not only architecturally significant, but has a rich history as well. In 1973, it became the nation's third "magnet school" (the first High School so designated) in an attempt to satisfy a federal court order to desegregate the district. Today, there is a long waiting list to apply to the school, but the building itself is threatened. School officials cite structural deterioration and crumbling interior finishes due to two decades of deferred maintenance as the principal reasons for a major renovation that will radically alter the existing building. Although publicly discussed plans for the building's redesign mention preservation of some significant architectural elements, like the main entrance, the Tulsa Preservation Commission nominated the building for the Most Endangered List out of concern that much of its original fabric and many character defining features still may be lost in the process.

The **Farmers' Exchange Tile Grain Elevator** is the oldest of a group of buildings that dominate the skyline at the west end of Goltry in Alfalfa County. Originally built by local farmers, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as part of a thematic listing of *Tile Grain Elevators of Oklahoma*. Although it played an important role in the agricultural history of the community and state, it is also architecturally

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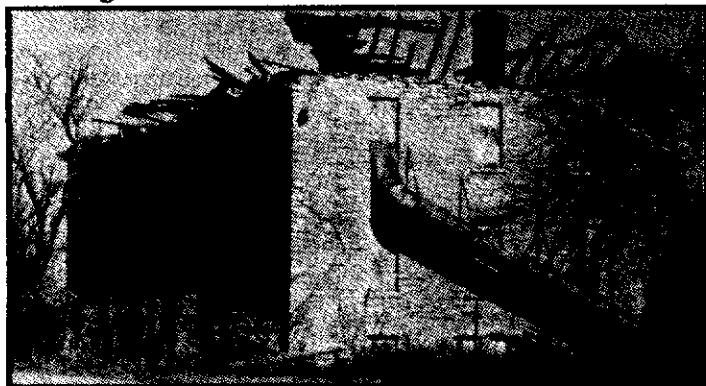
New Most Endangered List Properties, continued:

significant as an unusual mix of design and materials in a landmark agricultural building. As with many historic resources, a deteriorating roof is the most immediate threat to the building's future. The owners, while aware of its historic value, have no practical use for the building and no plans for improving the failing roof.



The Farmers' Exchange Tile Grain Elevator in Goltry, Alfalfa County

The Fort Sill Indian School Girls Dormitory is representative of historic educational resources for Native Americans in western Oklahoma. Abandoned for many years, its roof has collapsed and much of the structure is crumbling. The building's owner, the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache Intertribal Land Use Committee, has no funds available to stabilize the building, nor a plan for its future protection. The Fort Sill Indian School is located at the east edge of Lawton off US 62. It was listed (under the name "Building #309 Fort Sill Indian School") on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 for its association with important events in the history of Oklahoma's Native American heritage and for its architectural merit, since it represents a particular period and design.



The Ft. Sill Indian School Girls Dormitory near Lawton, Comanche Co.

The Mayo Hotel was built in 1925 in a Florentine design by George Winkler. One of Tulsa's most identifiable landmarks, much of the Mayo's interior features was demolished in a failed rehabilitation attempt in the 1980's. It has stood vacant since. Previously included on the Most Endangered List, the Mayo moved to the Watch List after the Tulsa City Council voted its support for an application to HUD for funding as part of a partnership with private developers to save the building. The loss of the developer for that deal and subsequent failed negotiations with other private entities has led to

great concern that if a developer is not found soon, it will be demolished and the lot used for parking. The Mayo was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Steele, Court, and Braniff buildings (514, 518, and 522 South Main Mall) in downtown Tulsa are part of the definitive southern border of Tulsa's historical central business district. The identifiable historic facades of the buildings have remained despite continued redevelopment on Main Street over the decades. Constructed in 1919, 1920, and 1925, the three buildings are good examples of the Plains Commercial architecture so characteristic of Oklahoma. All are considered imperiled by years of neglect, lack of protection under the local historic preservation ordinance, and no plans for their protection if sold for redevelopment.



Plains Commercial architecture is now rare in downtown Tulsa.

Oklahoma's Historic County Courthouses are listed on the Most Endangered List as a group due to the prevalence of deferred maintenance and insensitive alterations to many of these buildings. A number of Oklahoma's courthouses date from the late 1930's and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, but do not hold that designation due to not being yet fifty years old at the time of a statewide thematic survey in 1984. Many rural courthouses, built at a time of peak county population have suffered as the number of residents dwindled.

The six other properties on the Most Endangered List, retained from previous years, are the Galt-Franklin House in Ardmore, Carter County; the McLaughlin Mounds (Archaeological Site LT-11) near Red Oak, Latimer County; the Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City; the Walnut Avenue Bridge in Oklahoma City, the Wheelock Academy and Mission east of Millerton, McCurtain County; and the Central YMCA Building in downtown Oklahoma City.

"The inclusion of two new and one previous property from Tulsa on the Most Endangered List reflects concern by the statewide preservation community over recent damage to and losses of historic buildings in that city," said Marva Ellard, president of Preservation Oklahoma's board of directors.

Properties moved from the Most Endangered List to the Watch List: the Angie Debo House in Marshal, Logan County; the Gene Autry Ranch in Carter County; the Central Fire Department Hose Tower in Guthrie, Logan County; the Lima Rosenwald Town Hall in Seminole County; and the Old Stroud School in Stroud, Lincoln County.

Houses made of . . . Steel !

by *Jim Gabbert, Architectural Historian*
State Historic Preservation Office

Imagine this: You need to hang the newest photograph of your baby on the wall of the bedroom. Instead of getting a nail and a hammer, you rummage around in your kitchen drawers for another magnet.

Imagine this: It is time for spring cleaning; the dirt and grime of yet another winter mar the exterior of your house. So, with a sponge, some warm water and dish soap, you head outside to wash the walls.

Sound crazy? Sound interesting? Well, it is a fact of life when you live in a Lustron house. Imagine living in a house that is made entirely out of porcelain enameled steel. Everything. Interior walls, exterior walls, even the roof are constructed of steel panels coated with a glazing of porcelain enamel. Hailed by its designer as the wave of the future – easy to build, inexpensive, and durable, the Lustron was short-lived, going into production in 1948 and disappearing from the market in 1950.

As the United States geared its military production down after World War II and started to produce goods for the civilian market, one item seemed always to be in short supply. Affordable housing for returning GIs and their new booming families was scarce. The United States government did what it could, offering help through VA and FHA loans, but it took entrepreneurs to solve the problem of actually supplying the houses. To the forefront stepped men like William Levitt, whose cookie-cutter tract homes in Levittown, New York become the model for the suburban sprawl that still characterizes our cities.

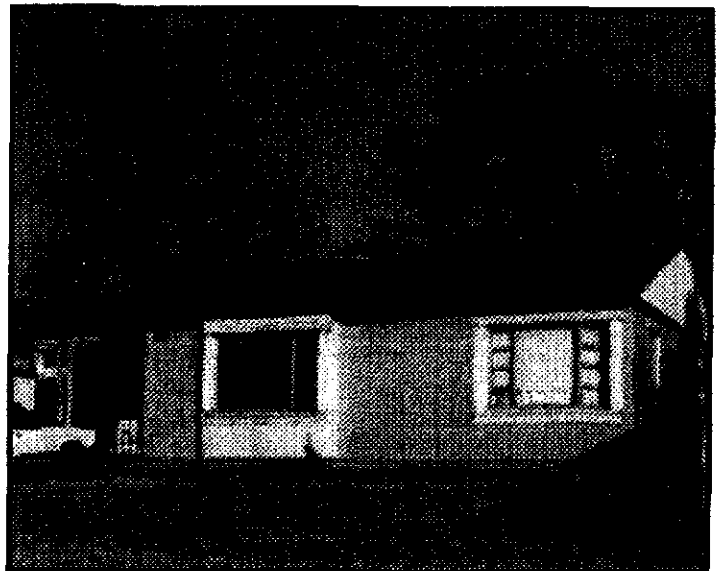
One innovator, who had a novel idea, was Carl Strandlund. Vice president and general manager for the Chicago Vitreous Enamel Products Company, Strandlund had a background in creating porcelain-enameled steel panels for use in gas stations. He had an idea that the technology could be translated to domestic use, so he teamed up with a young architect named Morris Beckman to design a prefabricated, all-steel house that could be produced for under \$10,000.

Strandlund constructed the prototype Lustron in Hinsdale, Illinois in 1946. He obtained loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and acquired a former Consolidated Bomber plant in Columbus, Ohio. Production of the Lustron began in March, 1948. Utilizing a network of builder/dealers, the Lustron was shipped across the United States, but most ended up east of the Mississippi.

There were five models offered over the course of production; outward appearance differed little. Covering approximately 1,000 square feet, the single story homes featured four picture windows, an inset corner porch, and a low-pitched gabled roof. They came in a variety of colors, mostly muted pastels, and featured radiant heating from the ceiling. They were built on a concrete slab and could be put together in three or four days.

The first models consisted of four rooms with large closets and built-ins. Later models expanded to three bedrooms and even offered a garage. However popular the houses were with their owners, though, the company could not withstand the pressures of backorders, slow production, and complaints from local carpenters' unions. The Lustron Corporation, deeply in debt and facing foreclosure by the RFC, ceased production in 1950. Approximately 2,500 of the little steel houses were produced.

Oklahoma has examples of the Lustron house. Two have been identified in the town of Cushing and two more in Bartlesville. Just how many are out there is a mystery we would like to solve. The State Historic Preservation Office asks you to "Show Us Your Lustrons!" If you know of the location of any of these interesting little houses, please send the information (and a photograph, if possible) to: Jim Gabbert, State Historic Preservation Office, 2704 Villa Prom, Shepherd Mall, Oklahoma City, OK 73107.



An elusive Lustron spotted in Bartlesville

State Legislature will soon consider Bill to preserve Historic County Courthouses

In March, State House Bill #2113, sponsored by speaker Loyd Benson, was passed from committee to the full house. The bill, known as the Oklahoma Centennial County Courthouses Preservation Act, would provide \$12 million to be administered by the Centennial Commission for the preservation of historic county courthouses across the state.

50 out of 77 county courthouses in Oklahoma are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and another nine are probably eligible for listing. As a group and individually, they represent an irreplaceable Oklahoma resource and reflect the best in public architecture. The act calls for projects to benefit National Register-listed courthouses and, as this newsletter went to press, was being considered by committee in the Oklahoma Senate.

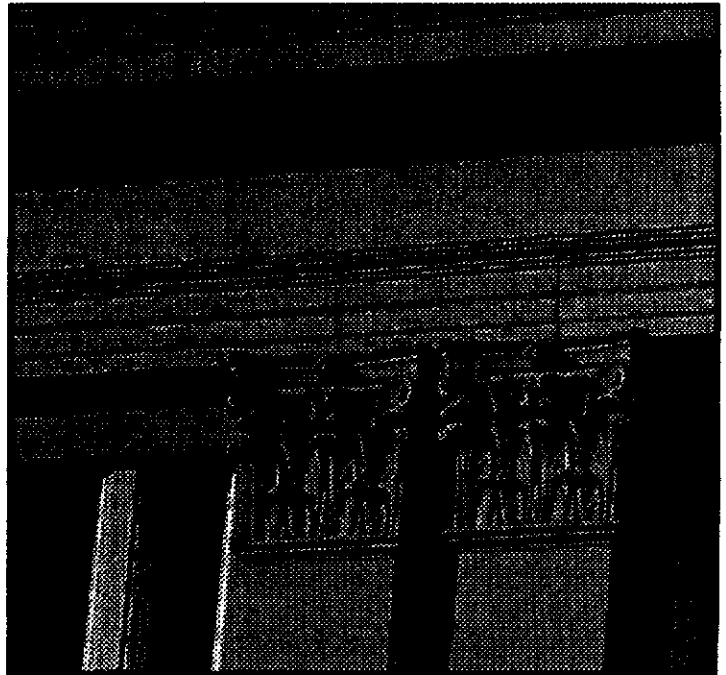
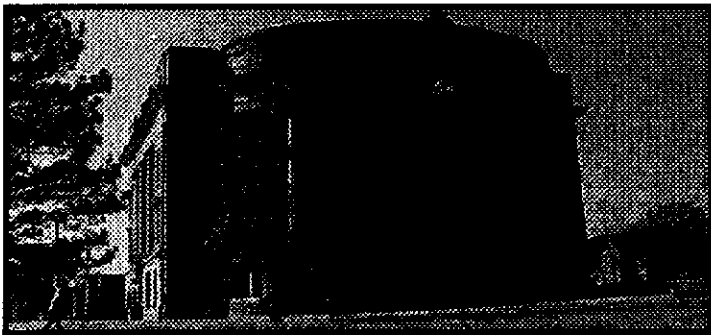
The legislation is the culmination of a two-year process begun by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., which first interested Speaker Benson in the idea of legislation to assist historic county courthouses. Since that time, Preservation Oklahoma has sought partners to help craft and build support for such legislation, working with the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Centennial Commission, which also had a strong interest in seeing this type of legislation passed. The current draft is the result of discussions

with Speaker Benson's staff by the Centennial Commission, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and Preservation Oklahoma.

"We believe that coupling the county courthouse legislation with the Centennial Commission's efforts will boost the initial reinvestment in these resources dramatically," said Robert K. Erwin, executive director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. "It helps that the Centennial Commission already had a strong interest in pursuing a project to save Oklahoma's historic courthouses. Not only are our county courthouses important to Oklahoma, they also are usually among the most prominent and attractive buildings locally."

Blake Wade, director of the Oklahoma Centennial Commission, is extremely optimistic about the legislation's prospects. "This is a great project for the people of Oklahoma," said Wade. "It is absolutely essential that we help counties preserve these historic buildings. Oklahoma's historic county courthouses represent a great part of Oklahoma's history."

A survey of Oklahoma's county commissioners found nearly all were in favor of the legislation. *Preservation Oklahoma News* will keep you updated on the progress of the Oklahoma Centennial County Courthouses Preservation Act.



Historic Courthouses, like these pictured above represent an irreplaceable Oklahoma treasure. Clockwise from upper left: Payne County Courthouse in Stillwater, Creek County Courthouse in Sapulpa, Carter County Courthouse in Ardmore.

Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference to be held in El Reno on May 4, 5, and 6

West central Oklahoma will host the Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference as preservationists from across the state meet in El Reno May 4-6 to exchange ideas and consider issues critical to the preservation of our heritage. This year's conference theme is "Taking America's Past into the Future . . ." What does the new millennium hold for Oklahoma's significant archaeological and historic resources? How will we protect the heritage of the many cultures that have shaped our state? Will we have thriving historic downtown commercial districts that include residential space? What tools can we use to meet these and other preservation goals? Featured topics this year will include *Tribal Preservation Programs and Issues*, *Preservation Means Opportunities for Housing and Economic Development on Main Street*, and *Preservation Toolbar*, a track offering sessions on basic preservation programs, resources, and techniques.

You won't want to miss the special tours, including historic El Reno, the Darlington Agency, and Fort Reno.

Thursday, May 4

- ⇒ Downtown El Reno Walking Tour and Box Lunch (Noon to 1:45 p.m.)
- ⇒ Bus Tour to Darlington Agency and Fort Reno: The tour offers a rare opportunity to see the *Arapaho Collection Exhibit*. (1:45 to 5:45 p.m.)
- ⇒ Opening Reception: Enjoy warm El Reno hospitality and visit three of the city's historic homes in this floating reception. (6:00 to 7:30 p.m.)
- ⇒ Special Featured Presentation: Following the Opening Reception, return to Redlands Community College to hear "Tribal Preservation: a Case Study from Montana" by George P. Horse Capture, prominent cultural resource preservation specialist from the Smithsonian Institution. He will describe his life-long efforts to collect and preserve the art, language, music, and photographic documentation of his tribe. (8:00 p.m.)

Friday, May 5

- ⇒ Workshop at Historic Fort Reno: "Click on Preservation Classroom." Travel by bus to historic Fort Reno to learn what the Fort Reno Visitors Center is doing to foster preservation efforts and about preservation challenges and options as you tour some of the historic buildings at the facility. (8:45 to 11:45 a.m.)
- ⇒ Bus Tour and Lunch: See the historic sites of El Reno. (Noon to 1:45 p.m.)
- ⇒ Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s Annual Meeting and Luncheon: Join Oklahoma's statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization for its annual update on programs, including a special presentation on the expansion of the Most Endangered Historic Properties List to include a traveling exhibit and lecture series. (Noon to 1:30 p.m.)
- ⇒ Keynote Session: Conference participants will have the privilege to hear Lee Adler present this year's keynote address. Mr. Adler is a nationally known preservation leader from Savannah, Georgia. (1:45 p.m.)
- ⇒ Reception and Awards Banquet: The reception will be held at the Elks Lodge from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the awards banquet will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Redlands Community College. The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation, the SHPO's Citations of Merit, and National Register of Historic Places Certificates will be presented.

Saturday, May 6

- ⇒ Plan to stay for one of El Reno Main Street's biggest promotional events: the world's largest onion fried hamburger.

The conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office; Oklahoma Main Street Program; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; El Reno Main Street, Inc.; Redlands Community College; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes; United States Department of Agriculture; Fort Reno Visitors Center; El Reno Convention and Visitors Bureau; El Reno Chamber of Commerce; City of El Reno; and the Canadian County Historical Society.

Historical Marker Dedication in Chandler draws Notables

On February 3, the Old Armory Restorers Committee, a division of the Lincoln County Historical Society, held a well-attended ceremony in Chandler's Tilghman Park to dedicate a historical marker at the foot of steps leading to the National Guard Statistical Building.

Oklahoma First Lady Cathy Keating, Lincoln County State Representative Don Kinnamon, and Major General Steve Cortright were among dignitaries who spoke at the ceremony. The bronze plaque on a brick post cites the history of the building, which overlooks land that was once a firing range. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, thanks to a nomination by the Lincoln County Historical Society funded with a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office. It is also part of a proposed National Guard Military Heritage Trail that would link the old armory, Route 66, and early ONG encampment sites for tourists and travelers.

The event and a reception at the armory following the dedication were attended by Chandler Mayor Keith Duncan; Major Mike Chase of the Oklahoma National Guard; Howard Dickman, head of the Old Armory Restorers Committee; Jane Jenkins, director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southwest Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas; Marty Newman, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., board member and advisor to the National Trust from Tulsa; Melvena Heisch, deputy state historic preservation officer; Jim Gabbert, SHPO staff architectural historian; Robert K. Erwin, executive director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; and Betty Price, executive director of the Oklahoma Arts Council. Dr. Jeanne Hoffman Smith, granddaughter of General Roy Hoffman, who initiated much of the work to establish guard facilities in Chandler, was also in attendance.

Rock Island Depot in Guthrie finally has New Owner

In March, the Save Our Depot Foundation closed on a sale of the historic Rock Island Depot in Guthrie to local entrepreneur Harriet Lerner. According to Lloyd Lentz, of the Guthrie group, Lerner has discussed tentative plans to redevelop the building as a restaurant and retail space.

Lentz expressed delight that the old depot building will eventually become an active participant in the renaissance of the downtown area. "Rehabilitation of the Rock Island Depot would be a highly visible project, since it stands at the entrance to the National Historic Landmark district," said Lentz.

The group formed in 1998 to fight planned demolition of the building, which is a directly contributing resource to the Guthrie National Historic Landmark district. Lentz said the group has no plans to disband now that the building is saved, but will act as a watchdog, ready to issue a call to action when the next preservation crisis occurs in Guthrie. "After all," said Lentz, "SOD can also stand for 'Save Our District.'"

Continuing Education Credit for Architects, Planners, and Realtors

Architects, planners and realtors who attend Oklahoma's Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference may qualify for continuing education credits. Members of the American Institute of Architects will earn AIA/CES learning units. Planners will receive American Institute of Certified Planners professional development hours. Realtors will earn Oklahoma Real Estate Commission continuing education units.

For further details about this special opportunity, contact Melvena Heisch at (405) 522-4484.

Conference Scholarships Available

Students interested in attending the Statewide Preservation Conference can receive a scholarship for the cost of their registration by making application to the State Historic Preservation Office at (405) 521-6249.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled in an Oklahoma institution of higher learning full-time for the Fall 2000 semester and pursuing a degree in archaeology, architecture, history, or other historic-preservation related field.

Chandler Armory Group receives \$100,000 award from Governor Keating

The Old Armory Restorers group in Chandler has announced an award of \$100,000 from the office of Governor Frank Keating to go toward efforts to preserve the historic National Guard Armory. The Chandler Armory was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 and has been on Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties twice. Thanks to local efforts, the fortunes of this building appear to be reversing. The money awarded by the governor's office came from the state oil overcharge fund.

Wheelock Academy Preservation Project receives Park Service and Save America's Treasures Grants

The Wheelock Academy and Mission is one of Oklahoma's 18 National Historic Landmarks. For years, the historic preservation community and members of the Choctaw tribe have expressed concern over the fate of the historic resources at the site, which predates the Civil War.

Established in 1842 as a Presbyterian mission to the Choctaw Nation, Wheelock Academy is the site of a number of highly significant educational buildings and the oldest standing church building in the state of Oklahoma. During the past year, the Choctaw Nation and state and national preservation partners have worked to reverse the fortunes of this endangered site.

Since the program began in 1993, the Wheelock Academy has been on Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. In 1999, it was designated as an official project under the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program and received a matching grant from the Getty Foundation through SAT for \$40,000. It also recently received a matching grant from the National Park Service for \$30,000. This means that \$140,000 is dedicated for the creation of a comprehensive

historic preservation plan for the site and for emergency stabilization of the campus' main structure, Pushmataha Hall, once the main dormitory and classroom building.

In March, the Choctaw Nation received over a dozen bids from architecture firms interested in working on the preservation plan. The Choctaw Nation plans to reopen the campus as a Community College for the tribe and consultants were asked to explain how they would address this proposed reuse.

The Wheelock Academy has also been nominated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Places list. The outcome of the nomination was still pending when *Preservation Oklahoma News* went to press.

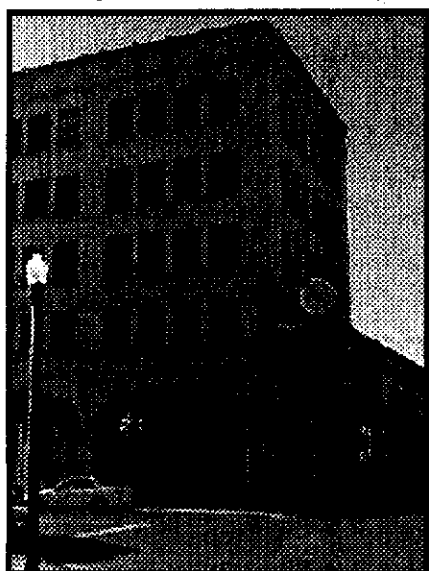
The parties working on the effort to save the Wheelock Academy and Mission National Historic Landmark include the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, which owns the property; the National Park Service; the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southwest Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas; the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office; and Preservation Oklahoma.

Automobile Alley Successes dispel Myths about the Viability of Downtown Rehab Projects

Automobile Alley Main Street in Oklahoma City has been the scene of dramatic improvements over the past year. The city invested in new streetscaping and lighting for the district and a number of private rehabilitation projects have preserved significant buildings along Broadway Avenue, which boasted a row of car dealerships during the early part of Oklahoma City's history.

The old Magnolia Petroleum Building, which once serviced vehicles on its ground floor, is now a BancFirst drive-thru, in a perfect example of good adaptive reuse.

Two more recent projects that have received a great deal of attention are the rehabilitations of the Hudson-Essex Building at 825 North Broadway and the 701 Building (formerly the C. R. Anthony building) at 701 North Broadway by PreCor Realty Advisors. Together, the two buildings offer about 83,000 leasable square feet of space and cost nearly \$7 million to complete.



The Magnolia Petroleum Building features a BancFirst Drive-Through



The Hudson-Essex Building proves Rehabs can lease at Top Market Rates

PreCor principal Nick Preftakes believes that it was money well spent. Like the Garage Lofts apartments he helped develop at 113 N. W. 13th, the Hudson-Essex Office Lofts offer a pleasing mix of modern amenities and original fabric that appeals to tenants tired of modern, cookie-cutter spaces. The 701 Building is more traditional in its approach, providing more finished interior spaces.

Both historic properties are filling up quickly, leasing at a higher-than-market-rate price of \$15 per square foot.

Preftakes considers the 20% tax credits for certified historic rehabilitation projects dealing with commercial buildings a valuable part of the redevelopment process and intends to pursue similar projects that will take advantage of them.

National Park Service holds Route 66 Corridor Act Planning Meeting in Oklahoma City

On February 24-25, members of Route 66 organizations from all eight states along the highway met in Oklahoma City for a workshop organized by the National Park Service to discuss the Route 66 Corridor Act, which was passed in 1999. The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Oklahoma Main Street Program, Automobile Alley Main Street in Oklahoma City, and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., sponsored the event.

The Route 66 Corridor Act authorizes \$10 million over ten years to go toward preservation efforts related to historic Route 66. Although Congress has not appropriated the funding, the National Park Service considered it appropriate to solicit public input regarding how the program would be implemented, should it be funded.

Also participating in the sessions were Robert K. Erwin, executive director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Jim Gabbert, architectural historian for the SHPO; Melvena Heisch, Oklahoma's deputy state historic preservation officer; and Jeff Tully, field representative for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southwest Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

Waynoka Depot and Harvey House Project Complete

In March, preservationists across the state celebrated the completion of one of the largest projects funded in Oklahoma through the original Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (known as ISTEA), the rehabilitation of the Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House buildings in Waynoka in Woods County.

In 1909, the Santa Fe Railroad named Waynoka as a division point on their Chicago-Los Angeles main line and built a depot and Harvey House to serve rail passengers. The Harvey House had a coffee shop and a formal dining area. In 1937, after the Fred Harvey Company started serving meals on trains, the Waynoka location closed. Later, the building was used as a reading room and, in the 1980s, converted to office space for use as a depot. The Harvey House was donated to the City of Waynoka by the Santa Fe Railroad in 1995. The city donated it to the Waynoka Historical Society, which did the extensive rehabilitation of the building.

SHPO announces New State Plan Available

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the availability of the newly revised *Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan*.

The State Plan is based on consultation with Oklahoma's preservation community through a needs assessment and series of meetings. It sets out the goals and objectives for preservation efforts in the state for the next five years. Additionally, the State Plan contains information about preservation agencies and organizations, federal and state laws related to historic preservation, the SHPO's Fact Sheets, and a detailed glossary.

If you would like to receive a copy of the State Plan, contact the SHPO at 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107, or call (405) 521-6249, or fax (405) 947-2918, or e-mail mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Calmez Hotel Threatened

The historic Calmez Hotel in Clinton faces demolition this year as the city prepares to build a new conference center. The six-story hotel, which was built in 1929, is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It was placed on Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties in 1995 and is currently on the Watch List.

Clinton city officials said they plan to open the bid process for the new conference center in August and most likely will consider demolition of the Calmez Hotel at that time. They have estimated rehabilitation costs for the building at \$3.5 million.

Preservation Oklahoma attempted to interest a number of private developers in rescuing the building over the years, even arranging for the city to put the anticipated costs of demolition toward any viable rehabilitation. None has yet shown interest in the project.

"The clock appears to be ticking for this building," said Preservation Oklahoma executive director Robert K. Erwin. "If a developer is going to seriously consider rehabilitation of the Calmez Hotel, the time is now."

State and National Partners Roundup

Main Street announces New Towns for 2000

In March, Oklahoma Main Street announced two new communities were accepted to participate in the program. Out of the eight applications received this year, Collinsville, in Tulsa County, and Sayre, in Beckham County, were accepted to the program. Jim Watters, business consulting specialist, will oversee Collinsville's participation and Matthew Weaver, training and outreach specialist, will work with Sayre.

With the addition of these two new towns, the number of active Main Street programs across Oklahoma is now 37.

Jenkins to leave National Trust

Jane Jenkins, director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Southwest Regional Office, recently accepted the position of executive director for the Boulder Downtown Improvement District. Boulder has a vigorous downtown, including one of the few successful pedestrian malls in the country. It is also a leader in innovative growth management programs. Jane will bring to this position her experience at the National Trust and as director of Main Street community programs in Texas and Oklahoma.

Jenkins was involved in the initiative to save some 200 historic Texas courthouses and created the Smart Start program through which the National Trust provides seed monies (PSF grants) to disadvantaged counties to begin planning for courthouse rehabilitation. She will continue to act as director of the Southwest Regional Office through the end of April. No successor has been named yet.

An Update of Staff Contact Information for OK Main Street and SHPO

It has been some time since *Preservation Oklahoma News* provided our readers with updated contact information for either the Oklahoma Department of Commerce's State Main Street Program staff or for the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office staff. In the last year, there have been significant changes in the personnel of both offices. Therefore, we thought it would be helpful to provide up-to-date contact information.

Oklahoma Main Street Program

Main Number: (405) 815-5171

Jenean Arnold, <i>Marketing and Communications Specialist:</i>	815-5327
Les Hall, <i>State Coordinator:</i>	815-5104
Leisa Haynes, <i>Asst. State Coord.:</i>	815-5124
Alice Johnson, <i>Training Specialist:</i>	815-5379
Carol Pruitt, <i>Secretary:</i>	815-5171
Todd Scott, <i>Staff Architect:</i>	815-5119
Jim Watters, <i>Urban State Coord. and Bus. Consulting Specialist:</i>	815-5186
Matthew Weaver, <i>Training and Outreach Specialist:</i>	815-5133

State Historic Preservation Office

Main Number: (405) 521-6249

Melvina Heisch, <i>Deputy SHPO:</i>	522-4484
Marshall Gettys, <i>Archaeologist:</i>	521-6381
Catherine Montgomery, <i>Architect:</i>	522-4479
Jim Gabbert, <i>Architectural Historian:</i>	522-4478

Persons with questions about *Section 106 Review* should contact Melvena Heisch or Marshall Gettys. Questions about the *National Register of Historic Places* should be directed to Jim Gabbert. Those with questions concerning *Tax Credits for Certified Rehabilitations of Historic Buildings* should call Catherine Montgomery.

Preservation Oklahoma plans to continue successful Endangered List Lecture Series

On March 25, in the ballroom of the Aldridge Hotel in McAlester, Dr. Bob Brooks, director of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, gave a well-received talk on the McLaughlin Mounds, a site in Latimer County on Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. The event, which included a reception locally sponsored by the Bank, N. A., was the fourth and final in the pilot series of lectures underwritten in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities and statewide sponsorship by MidFirst Bank.

The first lecture was held in December of 1999 at the Grapevine Galleria in Cordell. Steve Black, staff historian for the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site gave a lecture about the site, which was once on Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties.

Over 65 people attended the second lecture, held in January at the First National Bank and Trust of Ardmore. Fred Wiemer, prolific photographer of historic Oklahoma

resources, gave a lecture on the Galt-Franklin House, currently on the Most Endangered List, and other Oklahoman oil mansions.

In February, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., unveiled its 2000 List at the First National Bank Building in Oklahoma City and held the third lecture, given by Dr. Bob Blackburn, Oklahoma's State Historic Preservation Officer. More than 85 people turned out for the event and most stayed to hear Dr. Blackburn address the Skirvin Hotel.

"The lecture series has been a great success," said Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s executive director, Robert K. Erwin. "Even when we had smaller crowds, those who attended were extremely interested in the topics and provided lively question and answer sessions afterward."

In each community where a lecture occurred, the Most Endangered List traveling exhibit remained on display and reached hundreds of people over the four months of the pilot program. The exhibit was funded by grants from the Kirkpatrick Foundation of Oklahoma City, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Oklahoma Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts.

"One nice by-product of this program has been the opportunity to get closer to our membership," said Erwin. "Preservation Oklahoma's mission is worthy and our members know we do good work to save historic resources and educate the public. But it's nice to have more opportunities for them to see that work firsthand."

Because of the success of the pilot program, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., has already made plans for further lectures in the series. With funding from the Newman Family Foundation of Tulsa, the organization plans to take the updated exhibit and lecture series to Ponca City and Tulsa this summer.

On July 8, Dr. Charles Leider, who teaches historic landscapes architecture at Oklahoma State University, will give a lecture at the Ponca City Art Center on The 101 Ranch, which was placed on the Most Endangered List in 1996 after he nominated it. The Ponca City Landmark Conservancy is the local sponsor for the event.

On August 5, internationally recognized architect Rex Ball will deliver a lecture on the threats to Bruce Goff resources in Oklahoma, focusing primarily on the Midwest Equitable Meter Building and the Tulsa Club Building, both Goff designs in Tulsa County that have been on the Most Endangered List. The event will be sponsored by Arvest Bank, which will host the exhibit during its visit to Tulsa. Persons interested in receiving invitations to either event should call Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., at (405) 232-5747.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., hopes to continue the monthly lecture series and traveling exhibit through February of 2001. Watch for an updated schedule in the July issue of Preservation Oklahoma News.

Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List is a joint project between Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., and the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

The June State Historic Preservation Office workshops will be held at the Stephens County Historical Museum (National Guard Armory), Fuqua Park, U. S. 81 and Beech, Duncan, with no registration fee required. If you desire to attend a nevents but have a disability and need accommodation, please notify the SHPO at least three (3) days before the event. For more information, call (405) 521-6249.

If you are interested in attending one of Preservation Oklahoma's events, call (405) 232-5747.

May

- 4-6 Oklahoma's Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, El Reno
Registration Fee.
- 9-15 National Historic Preservation Week

June

- 21 Introduction to the Section 106 Review Process (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon)
- 21 Determination of Eligibility under Section 106 (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- 22 Introduction to the National Register of Historic Places (9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- 23 Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon)
- 23 Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

July 8 Dr. Charles Leider lectures on the 101 Ranch at the Ponca City Arts Center (see insert)

Aug. 5 Rex Ball, FAIA lectures on threats to Bruce Goff resources in Tulsa (see insert)

Bits and Pieces:

International Art Deco Congress coming to Tulsa

The International Art Deco Congress will be held April 18 to 22 in Tulsa. The event brings architects and preservationists from around the world together to discuss the importance and impact of Art Deco design and historic preservation issues facing these resources. For more information, contact Rex Ball at (918) 748-9188.

Year 2000 National Preservation Honor Awards Sought

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is accepting applications for its Year 2000 Preservation Honor Awards. The deadline for applications is May 1. For an application form, call Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. at (405) 232-5747.

Cultural Diversity Scholarships available for National Trust Conference

The National Preservation Conference Emerging Preservation Leaders Scholarship Program annually makes available limited scholarship assistance to help a diverse group attend the National Trust's conference. Scholarships cover transportation, lodging (double, shared at hotel selected by National Trust), and conference registration. The National Trust handles hotel and travel arrangements for scholarship recipients. High school students, conference speakers or panelists, and persons who have received scholarship assistance for two years are ineligible to apply. For more information, contact Sierra Neal, program associate and scholarship outreach coordinator, at (843) 722-8552, or e-mail: scholarships@nthp.org.



Become a member of the statewide historic preservation network . . .

JOIN PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA NOW!

Preservation Oklahoma's mission is to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma's historic places. Our strength lies in the working partnerships we have forged with people throughout Oklahoma. We welcome all people and organizations who care about the preservation of our historic and cultural resources. To join, complete the form below and send with payment to: Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., P. O. Box 25043, Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0043.

Name _____ From (if gift) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/e-mail _____

If organizational membership, how many members in your organization? _____

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Club: \$1,000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor: \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student: \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining: \$500.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization: \$50.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiv./Family: \$25.00 | |

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Preservation Oklahoma News
Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community

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Most Endangered List Traveling Exhibit and Lecture Series gains Statewide Sponsors



Since December, 1999, the Most Endangered List Traveling Exhibit has been continuously on display. It has visited Cordell, Ardmore, Oklahoma City, and McAlester.

The Newman Family Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are the latest major sponsors to support the expansion of Preservation Oklahoma's Most Endangered List program. A \$2,500 grant from the Newman Family Foundation of Tulsa and a \$500 *Preservation Services Fund* grant from the National Trust's Southwest Regional Office will help fund continued visits to Oklahoma communities by the traveling exhibit and lecture series through the summer.

The traveling exhibit was originally created with grant assistance from the Kirkpatrick Foundation of Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma Arts Council.

MidFirst Bank and the Oklahoma Humanities Council underwrote the costs of launching the successful lecture series about properties currently or previously listed on the Most Endangered List.

Since last December, an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 people have viewed the exhibit and learned about threats to historic resources across Oklahoma. We hope that you will give generously to Preservation Oklahoma so that we may continue to provide this and other important programs statewide.

New and Renewed Memberships

Individual/Family - \$25.00:

Mary Benningfield, *Stillwater*
Amy Brooks, *OKC*
Kenneth Dennis, *OKC*
Elliott and Grayce Doane, *OKC*

Steve and Lynn Garman, *OKC*
Aulena S. Gibson, *Lawton*
Beth Leslie, *Dacoma*
Bonnie Miller, *OKC*

Floyd W. Sharrock, *Bristow*
Thomas J. Smith, *Edmond*
Ruth Timmons, *Ada*
Kay Todd, *Tulsa*

Organizational - \$50.00:

Jeff L. Hirzel, Inc., *Guthrie*

Senior/Student - \$15.00:

Mrs. Robert Hunter, *Chickasha*

Sponsor - \$100.00:

Barrett L. Williamson, *Architect, Norman*
Brenda Johnston, *OKC*

Patron - \$250.00:

Robert K. Erwin, *OKC*
Dave Huey, *Tulsa*

Thank you all for your support!

Special Donations

We also want to thank those who donated to our 1999-00 National Trust Challenge Grant Match Fund:

Amy Brooks, *OKC*
Dr. LeRoy Fischer, *Stillwater*