

Preservation Oklahoma News



The newsletter of Oklahoma's statewide preservation community.

January 2000

Volume 6, number 2

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Preservation Oklahoma selecting 2000 Most Endangered List

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is accepting nominations for this year's list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties. This program is a joint project with the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office. Nominations will be accepted through January 14. The new list will be announced at a February 18 event in Oklahoma City in the First National Bank Building's Great Banking Room downtown.

Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties is a list compiled annually of roughly a dozen buildings and sites that are indicative of the rich variety of prehistoric and historic resources throughout Oklahoma that are both extremely significant and very threatened. To be eligible for the list, a property must be listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and endangered due to impending demolition, ongoing vandalism, and/or continued neglect.

The program, which began in 1993, is intended to focus public attention on endangered historic resources across Oklahoma, demonstrating the rich variety of threatened resources in our state. The selection committee tries to achieve geographic representation, drawing from all four quadrants of the state, as well as the two major metropolitan areas, but nominations from across Oklahoma are critical to the committee's success.

The selection committee is comprised of representatives from the Oklahoma Historical Society, the State Historic Preservation Office staff, and Preservation Oklahoma's board of directors; as well as Preservation Oklahoma's executive director.

There are no grants attached to this program, but Preservation Oklahoma does provide technical assistance to local groups working to save listed properties, and participates in advocacy campaigns when threats are immediate. After the initial media campaign announcing the list, Preservation Oklahoma publicizes the plight of listed properties through presentations by its speaker's bureau, as well as press releases when the status of a listed property changes.

Properties once on Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List and now considered out of immediate danger of destruction include the Ambassador Hotel (Tulsa), Centre Theater (OKC), Chandler National Guard Armory (Chandler, Lincoln County), Fort Reno (near El Reno, Canadian County), Journal Record Building (OKC), Mayo Hotel (Tulsa), Tulsa National Guard Armory (Tulsa), Washita Battlefield (near Cheyenne, Roger Mills County), and the Warehouse Market (Tulsa).

Nomination forms for the new list were mailed out statewide in December of 1999. For more information on this program or to schedule a presentation by Preservation Oklahoma's speakers bureau, contact Robert K. Erwin at (405) 232-5747.

Preservation Oklahoma launches Most Endangered List Traveling Exhibit and Lecture Series

On December 17, at the Grapevine Galleria on the historic Washita County Courthouse Square in Cordell, Steve Black, staff historian for the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site near Cheyenne, discussed the history and prospects for this National Park once included on the Most Endangered List.

A crowd of over fifteen people attended the opening reception, hosted by Main Street Cordell and the Grapevine Galleria, and were the first to view the new traveling exhibit of Preservation Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties List. The exhibit remained on display at the Grapevine Galleria for a week and then moved across the street to the Washita County Courthouse.

Oklahoma's Most Endangered Historic Properties is an annual list of significant but threatened historic properties compiled by the organization after a statewide nomination process. The program is a joint project with the Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office and is intended to focus attention upon the challenges faced by irreplaceable historic resources across Oklahoma. Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. acts as an advocate for properties included on the list and assists local organizations working to save the properties from destruction.

The new traveling exhibit consists of poster-sized photographs of the properties on the current year's Most Endangered List and information about each. The exhibit is funded in part by grants from the Kirkpatrick Foundation of Oklahoma City and from the Oklahoma Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Each community visited by the exhibit will hold an opening event to publicize the program and provide a venue for a lecture and slide presentation related to a nearby property included on or previously included on the Most Endangered List.

"These expansions to our most successful program are a great way to reach more people with an important message about preserving the essential fabric of our communities," said executive director Robert K. Erwin. "It also provides Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our relationships with local organizations visited by the program." In each community the exhibit visits, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. will work with a local co-sponsor to find an appropriate venue, secure funds for the opening reception, send invitations, and publicize the program. In communities where there will be a charge to attend the opening event, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. members will get in free.

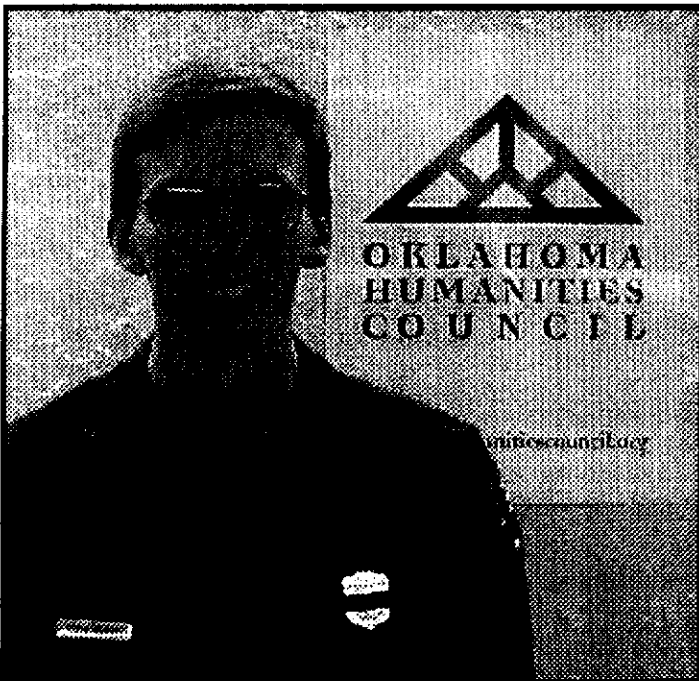
The lecture series is sponsored by MidFirst Bank of Oklahoma City and funded in part by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The remaining three events for the first exhibitions will be held on the following dates:

On January 8, at the First National Bank in Ardmore, Fred Wiemer, the historical photographer who donated over 3,000 slides of Oklahoma properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places to the State Historic Preservation Office's archives, will address oil mansions as a distinct cultural resource in Oklahoma specifically focusing on the Galt-Franklin House in Ardmore, which is on the current Most Endangered List.

On February 18, in the lobby of the historic First National Bank Building in Oklahoma City, Dr. Bob Blackburn, executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and Oklahoma's State Historic Preservation Officer, will help Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. announce the 2000 Most Endangered List with a lecture on the Skirvin Hotel, which has been on the Most Endangered List since the program began in 1993.

On March 25, in the ballroom of the historic Aldridge Hotel in McAlester, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey director Dr. Bob Brooks will talk about information gained from the McLaughlin Mounds in Latimer County and the threats to the site and all archaeological sites in Oklahoma.

Following each event, the exhibit will remain on display in each community for three to four weeks. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a lecture and visit by the traveling exhibit in your community, contact Robert K. Erwin at (405) 232-5747.



Steve Black, staff historian for the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site



Save America's Treasures designates 13 Official Projects in Oklahoma

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures program has designated thirteen official projects in Oklahoma thanks to local and statewide preservation advocates.

Launched in 1998, the *Save America's Treasures* program is a national effort to protect America's threatened cultural treasures, including significant documents, works of art, maps, journals, and historic structures that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States.

Official projects are allowed to use the *Save America's Treasures* name and logo in conjunction with their efforts to raise funds and garner public support for their preservation efforts. If you would like to support these efforts, listed below are Oklahoma's official projects and contacts for each.

Oklahoma's Officially Designated Save America's Treasures Projects



SAVE AMERICA'S
TREASURES

Historic Santa Fe Depot – Ardmore

Contact Bill Hightower, Ardmore Main Street Authority (580) 226-6246

Wheelock Academy – Millerton

Contact Delton Cox, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (580) 924-8280, deltoncox@choctawnation.com

Canadian County Jail – El Reno

Canadian County Sheriff's Stable – El Reno

El Reno Swimming Pool Municipal Bath House – El Reno

Contact Judy Thompson, Preservation El Reno, Inc. (405) 262-5393, judiththom@aol.com

Fort Gibson Historic Site – Fort Gibson

Contact Dr. William B. Lees, Oklahoma Historical Society (405) 522-5233,

wblees@ok-history.mus.ok.us

Korns Building, Columbia Building, and Vogeles Building – Newkirk

Contact Karen Dye, Newkirk Main Street (580) 362-2377

OU Political Commercial Archive – Norman

Contact Dr. Lynda Lee Kaid, University of Oklahoma (405) 325-3114, lkaid@ou.edu

Centre for Design Arts (Old First Church of Christ Scientists Building) – Oklahoma City

Contact Todd Scott, Oklahoma City Fdn. for Architecture (405) 948-7174,

todd_scott@odoc.state.ok.us

Skirvin Hotel – Oklahoma City

Contact Robert K. Erwin, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. (405) 232-5747,

robert@preservationoklahoma.org

Marland Mansion – Ponca City

Contact Kathy Adams (580) 767-0420, klanda@poncacity.net

Tulsa's Hazard Mitigation for Historic Resources Project – Tulsa

Contact Ann Patton (918) 596-7808, apatton@ci.tulsa.ok.us

L. L. Stine Home – Woodward

Contact Linda Smithton, Great Plains Preservation and Dev't. Foundation (580) 256-5104

lksww@pldi.net

Five New Oklahoma Listings in National Register

by Jim Gabbert, SHPO staff Architectural Historian

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce five additions to the Oklahoma properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places. They are: Ambassador Hotel, Tulsa; Arcadia Route 66 Roadbed, Oklahoma County; Berryhill Building in Sapulpa, Creek County; Duncan Library, Stephens County; and Sugg Clinic in Ada, Pontotoc County.

The **Ambassador Hotel**, located at 1314 South Main in Tulsa, near the Boston Avenue Methodist Church, was nominated to the National Register for its architectural merit. It was built in 1929 by noted politician Patrick Hurley utilizing the talents of N. E. Peters, architect. Built in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Style, the nine-story building features elaborate terra cotta ornamentation on its façade. The arcaded entry and scalloped parapet give the façade an elegant, exotic appearance that sets the building apart from its neighbors. Once listed on Preservation Oklahoma's Most Endangered List, the Ambassador reopened last year as an unqualified success. The owners used the 20% tax credit for certified rehabilitations of historic commercial buildings.

Noted Route 66 author Jim Ross submitted the **Arcadia Route 66 Roadbed** nomination for a section of road noted as exemplary of late 1920's highway construction/paving methods and engineering techniques, featuring two separate pavement designs. This section of Route 66 was paved in 1928-29, soon after the highway's official designation. It was bypassed in 1952, allowing it to remain unaltered. It is the only location on Route 66 in the state where two different paving methods meet. The two methods illustrated are the more familiar Portland Concrete and the less common Portland Concrete with rock asphalt overlay. This nomination was submitted as part of an ongoing Multiple Property Submission, "Route 66 and Associated Resources in Oklahoma."

The **Berryhill Building**, located at 14-20 East Dewey in Sapulpa, was designed by the noted Oklahoma City firm of *Layton, Smith and Hawk* and was built in 1910. The five-story building was built in a style known as Sullivanesque, derived from the work of noted Chicago architect Louis Sullivan. Theodore Berryhill, using proceeds from his holdings in the Glen Pool oil field, commissioned it. Berryhill had it built as an investment for his son, Earle. The Berryhill Building was long the premier office

building in Sapulpa, housing the offices of many local oil companies, doctors, lawyers, and prominent businessmen. It was nominated for its commercial and architectural significance to the city of Sapulpa. The Berryhill is currently being rehabilitated, using the 20% Investment Tax Credit available for certified rehabs of historic commercial buildings.

The **Duncan Public Library**, located on North 8th Street in Duncan, was built in 1939 with funds and labor supplied by the WPA. Designed by local architect Kenneth Price, it is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. The building is atypical for WPA projects in the area in its use of buff brick. More frequently, the WPA utilized native stone in a rustic style, as can be seen in the National Register-listed Duncan Armory. The library was the last large WPA project in Duncan, coming just as the economy began to recover from the effects of the Great Depression. The building served the town until a new, larger library replaced it in the 1970's. It now houses the Stephens County Genealogical Society. The Duncan Public Library was nominated to the National Register for its architectural significance and for its economic impact on Duncan.

The **Sugg Clinic**, 100 East 13th Street in Ada, is an outstanding example of Art Moderne architecture. Noted architect Albert Ross designed it to fulfill Dr. Alfred R. Sugg's dream of a large, modern clinic to serve the growing city. A decidedly visionary building in Ada, the Sugg Clinic's smooth tile walls, curved corners, glass block windows, and brushed aluminum trim are all hallmarks of the Modernist movement as expressed in Art Moderne. The Sugg Clinic expressed externally the modern, sanitary, and progressive activities practiced within. Opened in 1947, it was called "one of the best equipped clinics in the Southwest." The clinic closed in 1980 and is currently being rehabilitated using the 20% Investment Tax Credit for certified historic rehabs. The Sugg Clinic was nominated to the National Register for its local architectural significance.

With these new entries, the SHPO continues to work toward its goal of achieving 1,000 listings in the National Register by the end of the year 2000. There are now 942 Oklahoma properties listed. For more information on these properties or the National Register of Historic Places, contact Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478 or jgabbert@ok.history.mus.ok.us.

SHPO offers Grants for

National Register Nominations

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that applications will be available on February 1 for its annual National Register Nomination Grants Program. Two application rounds will be conducted and the deadline for Round One is April 3 and for Round Two is June 1.

The grant funds are from the SHPO's FY2000 Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the U. S. Department of the Interior and are for the purpose of retaining a professionally qualified consultant to prepare individual property nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The maximum grant amount is \$750. Applicants must provide a cash match from a nonfederal source. The required match for a \$750 grant is \$500.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and local or state government agencies. To request an application packet or further information, contact the SHPO at (405) 521-6249.

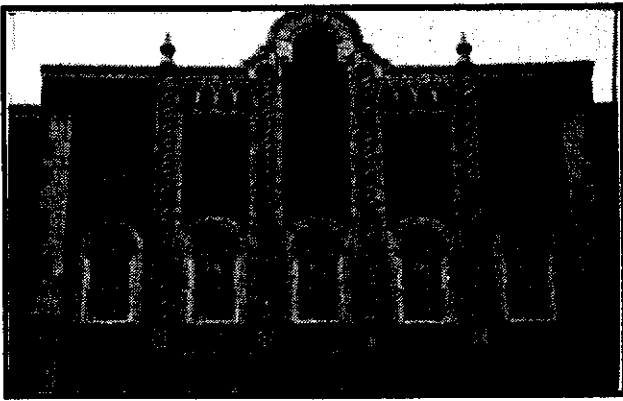
Duncan Subject of Survey

As part of its ongoing effort to identify and document Oklahoma's historic resources, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce that it is undertaking a historic/architectural survey of Duncan in Stephens County.

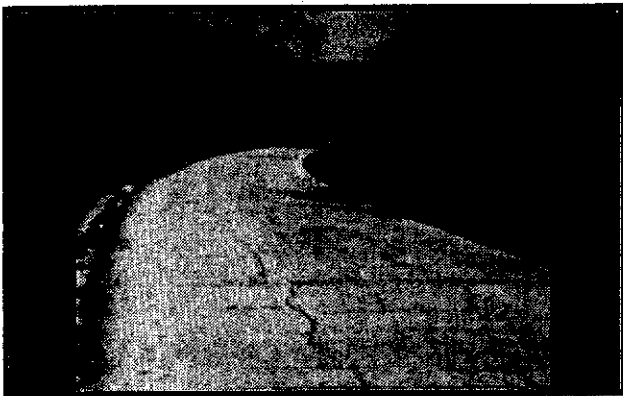
The SHPO work with the Oklahoma State University Department of Geography, spearheaded by Alyson Greiner, Assistant Professor of Geography. Greiner and her assistant, graduate student Jennifer Spencer, completed a similar survey of the city of McAlester last winter.

The survey will identify historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Archival research and field research will help put Duncan's built environment into a historic context. As a final product, a report will be prepared that can be used by interested parties for educational, research, or planning purposes.

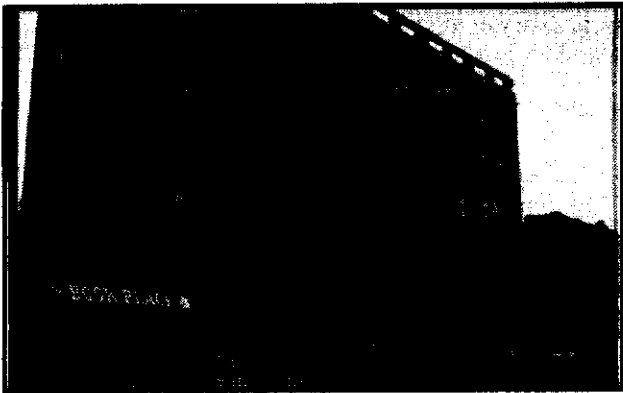
The survey began with a public meeting in Duncan on November 17, at which Jim Gabbert, architectural historian for the SHPO, introduced Greiner and Spencer and explained the purposes and methodology of the survey. Gabbert explained that surveys are integral to the various programs that the SHPO conducts. For more information on the Duncan survey or the survey program in general, contact Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478 or jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us.



The Ambassador Hotel in Tulsa.



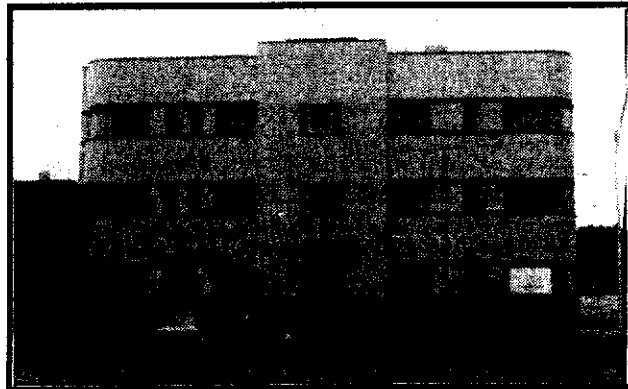
Arcadia Route 66 Roadbed.



The Berryhill Building in Sapulpa.



Duncan Public Library.



The Sugg Clinic in Ada.

Calendar of Upcoming Historic Preservation Events

Unless otherwise noted, all State Historic Preservation Office workshops will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society Boardroom, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, with no registration fee required. If you desire to attend any of these events 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.

January

- 8 Most Endangered List Traveling Exhibit Lecture: Fred Wiemer on "Oklahoma's Unique Heritage - the Galt-Franklin House and other oil mansions." *First National Bank in Ardmore.*

February

- 18 Preservation Oklahoma announces 2000 Most Endangered List at reception for Most Endangered List Traveling Exhibit Lecture: Dr. Bob Blackburn on "The Skirvin Hotel - an irreplaceable Oklahoma City treasure." *First National Bank Building in Oklahoma City.*

March

- 25 Most Endangered List Traveling Exhibit Lecture: Dr. Bob Brooks on "The McLaughlin Mounds - the threats to Oklahoma's Archaeological Resources." *Aldridge Hotel Apartments building in McAlester.*

May

- 4-6 Oklahoma's Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, El Reno Registration Fee.

- 9-15 National Historic Preservation Week

June

The June SHPO workshops will be held at the Stephens County Historical Museum (National Guard Armory), Fuqua Park, U. S. 81 and Beech, Duncan:

- 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.)

Centennial Farm and Ranch Program accepting Applications

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is now accepting applications for the 2000 Centennial Farm and Ranch Program. The Centennial Farm and Ranch Program was established to recognize the important role agriculture has played in Oklahoma's development and to honor the contributions made by the state's long-standing farm and ranch families. The program is an ongoing activity of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

To qualify, the property must be a working farm/ranch; have a minimum of forty acres with gross yearly sales of at least \$1,000; have been occupied by the family continuously for at least 100 years; and, the farm/ranch must be operated by, lived on by, or leased out by a family member over 65 years old.

Applications can be obtained from the SHPO, 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. Along with each application, a ten-dollar application fee is required. The deadline for the 2000 program is March 31, 2000.

In conjunction with the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, there is available the Historic Structures Award. This award recognizes the preservation of historic structures. To qualify, the property must have at least four buildings and/or structures, such as a barn or windmill, that are at least fifty years old and have not been significantly altered. To receive the necessary forms and instructions, please indicate your interest in this program on the back of the Centennial Farm and Ranch application.

If you have questions, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (405) 521-6249.

El Reno set for Twelfth Annual

Statewide Preservation Conference

Oklahoma's Twelfth Annual Statewide Preservation Conference will be held May 4-6, 2000 in El Reno. Joining the State Historic Preservation Office, the Oklahoma Main Street Program, and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. as conference cosponsors are El Reno Main Street; Preservation El Reno, Inc.; the City of El Reno; Redlands Community College; Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes; the United States Department of Agriculture; Fort Reno Visitors Center; El Reno Convention and Visitors Bureau; El Reno Chamber of Commerce; and the Canadian County Historical Society.

The two-and-a-half day conference will feature three concurrent tracks, the tentative titles for which are Track A: *Tribal Preservation Programs and Issues*; Track B: *Preservation Means Business on Main Street*; and Track C: *Preservation Toolbar*. Just a few of the special events will be a tour to Darlington Agency and Fort Reno, a mobile workshop held at Fort Reno, and the keynote session which will feature Lee Adler, Trustee Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, from historic Savannah, Georgia.

Complete conference registration information will be mailed out April 1.

Bits and Pieces:

Art Deco Treasure in Tulsa Defaced

One of Tulsa's most important Art Deco buildings, the Pythian Building (listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Gillette-Tyrrell Building) has lost a significant character defining feature. Boxer Properties, owners of the building, which stands on the corner of Fifth Street and Boulder Avenue, removed the original door canopy on the south side of the building citing "safety reasons."

Preservation Oklahoma member Rex Ball, a member of the Tulsa Preservation Commission, expressed alarm at the damage to the building's historic integrity. "To the best of my knowledge," said Ball, "this is the only terra-cotta art deco entry into a significant historical building in the downtown area. People from across the country came to see this building because of its zigzag style of art deco. Its symbolism of the Native American motif makes it one of a kind. In removing the canopy, no attempt appears to have been made to preserve the materials for possible reuse."

Even though the building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, approval of the building's alteration was not required because the owner was not using federal money or pursuing a federal tax credit. A representative for Boxer Properties said recreating the original canopy "is not cost-effective."

Designed by architect Edward Saunders, the building was built in 1929 by Tulsa oilmen J. M. Gillette and Harry G. Tyrrell. Its design is a direct derivative of the style established in 1925 at the Paris Exposition de Arts Decorative from which the Art Deco style gets its name. A year later, it was bought by the Pythian Benevolent Association and provided meeting space for two Knights of Pythias lodges.

Oklahoma has new National Trust Advisor

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced the retirement of First Lady Keating as one of the two Oklahoma members on its Board of Advisors. In late 1999, the Hon. Phil Kliever became the National Trust's new advisor. Kliever is the mayor of Cordell, recipient of the 1999 Great American Main Street Community Award; a member of Preservation Oklahoma's board of directors; and a long-term supporter of Main Street Cordell.

SHPO has new Staff Member

The SHPO is pleased to announce that Catherine Montgomery, RA joined its staff as the new Historic Preservation Architect on December 1. Montgomery holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Also, she earned a Master of General Administration from the University of Maryland University College. Montgomery moved to Oklahoma from Maryland, where she worked for the University of Maryland for the past ten years. She also has extensive architectural experience in the private sector. You can contact her at the SHPO, 2704 Villa Prom, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 or at (405) 522-4479 or at catherinem@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Montgomery replaces Eva Osborne, who left her position to assume duties with the Oklahoma City Planning Department. Osborne held the position at SHPO since 1994. The SHPO staff wishes her the best in her new position and looks forward to working with her in that capacity.



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 | |

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership contributions may be tax deductible.

**Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
Board of Directors**

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Ralph McCalmont (vice president)	OKC
Dan McMahan (treasurer)	Altus
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Preservation Oklahoma News
Serving the Statewide Historic Preservation Community

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