Devon Energy Announces Overholser Restoration Project

The Overholser Mansion will begin a transformation this Fall through a $250,000 contribution from Devon Energy to restore the historic home to its original spender.

“The Overholser Mansion reflects the economic, social and architectural history of Oklahoma City,” said Larry Nichols, Devon’s chairman and chief executive officer. “We are excited to play a role in the restoration of a national treasure that will continue to symbolize the development and prosperity of our state.”

Preservation Oklahoma has launched a capital campaign to restore the mansion. Once the project is complete, the mansion will provide additional educational programming and continue to serve as a place to learn first hand about Oklahoma's history. The campaign so far has resulted in funding from Devon Energy, Leslie and Cliff Hudson, and the Inasmuch Foundation.

“We are grateful for Devon’s support of this project,” said Bill Gumerson, chairman of the Overholser Mansion Restoration Committee and Past President of Preservation Oklahoma. “Contributions to this campaign will preserve the mansion’s integrity and ensure that future generations will benefit from the mansion’s rich history.”

Built by Henry and Anna Overholser in 1903, the mansion served as the couple’s home and was among the first mansions in what became one of Oklahoma City’s most prosperous neighborhoods.

Today, the mansion comprises one of the richest collections of original furnishings in the nation and draws thousands of visitors each year.

Rutgers to Conduct Economic Study

Economics and historic preservation are rarely used in the same sentence, but with the help of Rutgers University, Preservation Oklahoma will fund a study showing how preservation positively impacts Oklahoma’s economy.

The goal of this study is to guide the development of public policy relating to preservation, identify strengths and weaknesses in the state’s preservation programs, and most importantly, to provide support for local preservation efforts.

David Listokin from Rutgers Center for Urban Policy Research is collecting mountains of data from organizations working with preservation projects across Oklahoma. By Fall 2008, the study will be complete, and Preservation Oklahoma will provide copies of an executive summary for all to use.

The study will address issues such as the economic impact on:

• property values associated with listing on the National Register of Historic Places
• property values associated with locally designated historic district
• reinvestment through building rehabilitation associated with federal and state tax credits
• heritage tourism
• job creation with regard to historic building rehabilitation
• downtown revitalization of our local economies.

Preservation Oklahoma would like to thank those whose generosity will fund this important project:

Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, City of Oklahoma City, Kirkpatrick Family Fund, Chesapeake Energy, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a Gift made in the memory of Lt. Col and Mrs. James F. Bott
National Register Nomination Grants Available From The SHPO

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations. The SHPO has reserved $10,000 of its FY 2008 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U. S. Department of the Interior for the program. The funds will be equally divided for award in two grant rounds with any funds remaining from Round 1 carried over for Round 2. Applications and detailed instructions will be available from the SHPO on February 1. The deadline for Round 1 applications is 5:00pm on April 1, and the deadline for Round 2 applications is 5:00pm on June 2.

Each grant is limited to $900.00, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least $600.00. Grant recipients will use the funds to retain an appropriately qualified professional to complete preparation of an individual property nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the catalogue of our nation’s significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing in the National Register is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, it is one of the most important components of the preservation strategy for any significant property. The designation provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal and state tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded.

To obtain a National Register Nomination Grant Application or further information about the National Register, contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or visit our website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm (select “Programs” and then “National Register”).

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Historic Landscapes: Planning, Management, and Cultural Landscape Reports: Oklahoma City – March 11-12, 2008

The National Preservation Institute (NPI), in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, presents this special two-day seminar in the Classroom, Oklahoma History Center, 2401 North Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City.

Review the basics of scenic vistas and designed, cultural, rural, agricultural, and urban landscapes and applicable laws and regulations. Explore the development of the cultural landscape report—the principal tool used to document a site’s landscape—and its use in planning and managing historic and cultural landscapes. Assess realistic approaches to adaptive reuse, historic preservation, restoration, and accessibility and discuss current preservation theory. An agenda is available online at www.npi.org.

Instructor: Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, (Keynote speaker for Oklahoma’s 2006 Statewide Preservation Conference in Wilburton) founder and executive director, The Cultural Landscape Foundation; formerly coordinator, National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative; editor of Design With Culture: Claiming America’s Landscape Heritage and Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture I and II. A registration form is available online at www.npi.org/register.html. The advance registration rate is valid until January 29 — $375 (2 days). The regular registration rate after that date is $425.

This seminar meets the criteria for programs in the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System and AIA members will receive 6 learning units each day.

Advance registration rate available through January 29. Questions? Please contact us.

Jere Gibber
Executive Director
National Preservation Institute
P.O. Box 1702, Alexandria, VA 22313
703/765-0100; 703/768-9350 fax
info@npi.org; www.npi.org

The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of our cultural heritage. The 2007-2008 National Preservation Institute seminar schedule is now available online at www.npi.org.

The Gold Dome Bank in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, received the prestigious 2007 Board of Advisors Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The project is one of 21 national award winners the National Trust for Historic Preservation honored during its week-long 2007 National Preservation Conference held in the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

When it opened in 1958, Oklahoma City’s Gold Dome Bank was such a dazzler that pilots used it to get their bearings. The building, inspired by the geodesic domes of futurist R. Buckminster Fuller, is both one of Oklahoma City’s most recognizable and most beloved architectural icons. Located along a stretch of historic Route 66, the Gold Dome Bank also harkens to an era when vernacular roadside architecture sought to inject a sense of fun and frivolity into the American landscape.

It isn’t easy to lose something so big and shiny – but this futuristic structure was almost lost to the wrecking ball. In fact, the threat was so serious that the dome appeared on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 2002. When demolition plans were announced, local preservationists launched an energetic campaign to garner support for saving this eye-catching piece of the recent past. Thousands of local residents signed a petition to save the Gold Dome Bank, and every week, protesters marched in front of the building carrying “Honk Your Horn to Save the Gold Dome” placards.

Amidst the hoopla, a heroine emerged. Seeing the dome as a perfect home for her optometry practice, Dr. Irene Lam purchased it and used tax credits to support a thorough rehabilitation. Today, the gleaming structure houses a mix of tenants – including a multicultural center and the Oklahoma Main Street Program – and is an anchor for the city’s newly designated Asian District.

“The successful effort to save the Gold Dome Bank could serve as a model for how local, state and national preservation advocates can work together,” said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “Thanks to the collaborative efforts of these groups, the future of this Oklahoma City icon is as good as gold.”

Co-nominees honored for the Gold Dome Bank’s Honor Award are Dr. Irene Lam, The Citizens for the Gold Dome, and Preservation Oklahoma.

The National Preservation Awards are bestowed on distinguished individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies and corporations whose skill and determination have given new meaning to their communities through preservation of our architectural and cultural heritage. These efforts include citizen attempts to save and maintain important landmarks; companies and craftsmen whose work restores the richness of the past; the vision of public officials who support preservation projects and legislation in their communities; and educators and journalists who help Americans understand the value of preservation.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America’s diverse historic places and revitalize communities. Its Washington, D.C. headquarters staff, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with the Trust’s 270,000 members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. For more information, visit the Trust’s web site at www.nationaltrust.org.
Oklahoma’s 2008 Statewide Conference Announced

The year 2008 will be an especially exciting time for Oklahoma’s preservation community. Join your friends and colleagues in Ponca City June 4-6 for Artfully Done: Oklahoma’s 20th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

In keeping with our tradition, the program will feature special tours, receptions, the SHPO’s annual awards banquet, Preservation Oklahoma’s annual meeting and luncheon, and three concurrent tracks of sessions as follows:

TRACK A: Art and Architecture
Presentations will concentrate on artistically and architecturally significant properties from prehistory to the recent past. Topics such as restoration of Ponca City’s Pioneer Woman Statue, celebration of the 75th anniversary of the New Deal and its art and architecture, and the significance of suburban neighborhoods are just a few examples of sessions in this track.

TRACK B: Sculpting Community Preservation Programs
Well-informed and dedicated leaders are essential to the success of local historic preservation programs. Participants will learn about what makes an effective leader, the basics about building and sustaining community preservation programs, involving young people in historic preservation, and protecting and preserving historic properties on a small budget.

TRACK C: Drawing on the Past or a Drammatic Future
Oklahoma’s rich heritage and culture are expressed in buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes. Special highlights include presentations about historic theaters and their rehabilitations, the traditional cultural properties of tribes and special efforts to protect them, and the National Historic Landmark program and its impact in Oklahoma.

Cosponsors for the conference include the State Historic Preservation Office/Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma Main Street Center/Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Ponca City Main Street; City of Ponca City; Ponca City Park and Recreation Department; Ponca City Chamber of Commerce/Ponca City Tourism Department; Ponca City Historic Preservation Advisory Panel; and Newkirk Main Street.

But, the annual statewide conference is just the beginning. Please be sure to mark your calendars for October 21-25 for the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s annual National Preservation Conference in Tulsa. The conference theme is Preservation in Progress. As this is the first time the NTHP has brought their conference to Oklahoma, you will not want to miss this special opportunity to meet with over 2,000 preservationists from across the country and to help share Oklahoma’s heritage with our visitors. For more details, visit www.nthpconference.org.

Watch your mail and the next issue of Preservation Oklahoma News for more statewide conference details and information about the National Preservation Conference. You may also contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org or visit www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm.

Kirkpatrick Foundation Grants

The National Trust for Historic Preservation invites public agencies and non-profit organizations in Oklahoma County to apply for preservation planning grants made possible by a generous gift from the Kirkpatrick Foundation, Inc. The Kirkpatrick Preservation Fund for Central Oklahoma provides matching grants up to $10,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts. Grant funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fundraising, organizational development and law as well as to underwrite educational programs to engage the public. For more information and an application, send an email to swro@nthp.org or call 817-332-4398.

Grants from National Trust, February Deadline

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is currently accepting grant applications from nonprofit organizations and public agencies for four grant programs: the Ruth and Allen Mayo Fund for Historic Preservation in Oklahoma, the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors, and the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns. Additionally, individuals and for-profit businesses may receive grants from the Favrot and Mitchell funds if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. All four grant programs are designed to encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects focused on planning or education efforts. Grant awards range from $500 to $10,000 for Mitchell and Favrot grants, and $500 to $5,000 for the Hart Fund and Mayo Fund. Deadline for application is Feb. 1, 2008. Please contact Denise Alexander at denise_alexander@nthp.org for more information on these grants. Applications can be downloaded from http://www.nationaltrust.org/funding/nonprofit.html.
The Oklahoma Humanities Council Sponsors Two Grants For The Overholser Mansion

The Oklahoma Humanities Council recently awarded $5,000 to Preservation Oklahoma to help fund an education video on the Overholser Mansion. This video, titled *A Walk Through The Overholser Mansion*, will showcase the history of the Overholser family, the architectural significance of the house and the diverse collections of each room.

In addition, the Oklahoma Humanities Council recently awarded Preservation Oklahoma the opportunity to host a *Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma* series entitled “The Oklahoma Experience: From Wilderness to Metropolis.” This book club series lead by distinguished humanities scholars will discuss the following books: *A Tour on the Prairies*, *Sand In My Eyes*, *Catalogue*, and *Briarpatch*. The dates include February 19th, March 11th, April 1st, and April 22nd. All programs start at 5:30 p.m. and books are provided by the Oklahoma Humanities Council. For more information please call Liz Carr at 405/528.8485 or email at overholsermansion@earhtlink.net.

“We are thankful to the Oklahoma Humanities Council for sponsoring the education video and the *Let’s Talk About It, Oklahoma* series,” said Liz Carr, Overholser Mansion Director. “With the help of the Oklahoma Humanities Council, we are able to reach more individuals and teach them about Oklahoma history.”

The Oklahoma Humanities Council is an independent, nonprofit organization whose mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and communities by fostering access to and education in the humanities.

“Can-do” Book Helps Preservationists Save Endangered Buildings

*Buying Time for Heritage: How to Save an Endangered Historic Property* by J. Myrick Howard, president of Preservation North Carolina, describes how his organization has creatively employed common real estate strategies to save more than 500 endangered historic properties from destruction. The book provides practical tips on how a neighborhood, downtown, or preservation group can get involved in beneficial real estate work with only modest resources. 160 pages.

Preservation Books titles offer step-by-step strategies to deal with a variety of preservation issues. Publications run the gamut from the economics of historic preservation to travel guides to historic places, with new titles added frequently. You’ll also find back issues of the Forum Journal. Check out our website at www.preservationbooks.org or call 202-588-6296 for more information.

Preservation Oklahoma is Seeking an Executive Director

The Executive Director will be responsible for all aspects of the organization’s operations including financial management and budgeting, supervision of staff, developing and implementing public programs, and fund raising. Executive Director answers directly to an all-volunteer Board of Directors.

Desired background:

- A minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree and five years experience in non-profit management.
- Demonstrate leadership ability, flexibility and creativity.
- Strong organizational and project management skills.
- Persuasive oral and written communication abilities.

We are seeking a creative, entrepreneurial, self-starter with a vision and passion for the mission of Preservation Oklahoma.

For consideration, please send cover letter, resume and salary requirement to:

Preservation Oklahoma
Attn: Search Committee
405 NW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Preservation Oklahoma is a statewide, nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and promote Oklahoma’s historic places.
In the Company of Layton: Architects Practicing in Oklahoma City Around Statehood

Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian
Part Two of Four Part Series

Following the dissolution of the Layton, Wemyss-Smith and Hawk partnership sometime in 1910-1911, Hawk again went solo before partnering with Josephus Overton Parr in about 1914. The alliance of Hawk and Parr in 1914 is notable as the firm quickly became one of the most prolific architectural practices in the state. The firm worked on many landmark buildings during their eighteen year alliance, including the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City, the Scottish Rite Temple in Guthrie and the A.F. and A.M. Lodge No. 157 in Tonkawa.

J.O. Parr practiced his trade in McAlester with Edgar Smith during the first decade of the twentieth century. Smith and Parr moved their firm from McAlester to Oklahoma City in about 1910. Before and after this, the firm of Smith and Parr designed a number of school buildings throughout the state, including the Administration Building at the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha. Within Oklahoma City, the firm designed the Administration Building for the Oklahoma City College for Young Ladies and the campus for the St. Joseph’s Industrial School. The firm also worked outside Oklahoma, being responsible for the 1912 design of the Carnegie Library in Winfield, Kansas, the commission coming after inspection of the firm’s First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City by the library’s building committee.

Previous to partnering with Layton and Wemyss-Smith, Hawk associated himself with G.W. Collignon. The collaboration of Hawk and Collignon was formed on the first day of January 1907 and lasted only about a year. Collignon also did not seem to have formal architectural training but by the time of his arrival in Oklahoma City in about late 1906, he had had “...years of experience in several of the large cities of the east.” He apparently specialized in steel frame buildings and fire proof office buildings, as well as designing “...some of the most expensive residences east of the Mississippi river.” Collignon also planned a hollow, fire proof, tile residence for William Moe, president of the Security National Bank. As described by Collignon, this type of construction was “...entirely new here.” With roof and walls of tile, the architect noted the building would be an “…absolutely fireproof structure at comparatively the same cost as a wooden building of like design.”

In 1908, Collignon partnered with an architect by the last name of Thompson. The following year, Collignon formed another alliance with W.H. Keyser. After 1909, Collignon apparently quit practicing architecture in Oklahoma City. W.H. Keyser, however, went on to form the firm of Keyser and Schreiber. While the partnership only lasted through 1910, both Keyser and Schreiber continued to practice separately in Oklahoma City through 1911.

Coming to Oklahoma City in 1909, W.H. Keyser brought over forty years of experience in the building trade. Relocating from Chicago, where he “…was recognized as a leading architect…,” Keyser also designed several buildings in Dallas, Texas. Schreiber also practiced in Chicago, as well as Indianapolis, before coming to Oklahoma City. During their partnership, the firm designed the Stock Exchange Building, as well as the general office building of the Morris Packing Plant, the City Hospital and the Hospital for Consumptives. The firm was also responsible for the design of the H. Gerson residence at the corner of Fourteenth and Dewey streets. According to the local paper in 1910, this home was “…acknowledged to be the most beautiful residence in the state.”

New SHPO Publications Available

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce the availability of new editions of two of its publications. Each of them is a basic tool for preservation leaders, government agency officials with cultural resource management responsibilities, and preservation professionals.

Oklahoma’s National Register Handbook includes a complete listing of the state’s entries in the register, the criteria for evaluating National Register eligibility, details about what listing means and the rights of private property owners, and more. Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan (2005) discusses the state’s historic resource types and threats to them. Additionally, it includes the goals and objectives for the statewide preservation effort and suggestions for meeting the objectives. The State Plan is also an easy-to-use guide to preservation-related laws, terminology, and who to contact with your questions.

To request a copy of either publication, contact the SHPO at (405)521-6249 or s jotley@okhistory.org.
Historic Preservation Review Committee Schedule For 2008

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board) is appointed by the Governor to provide advice to the State Historic Preservation Officer about nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and other preservation issues. Members of the Committee include Arn Henderson, Chairman (architectural historian); LeRoy H. Fischer (historian); John D. Hartley (prehistoric archeologist); and Towana Spivey (historic archeologist). A vacant position will be filled in early 2008. The 2008 Committee meetings will begin at 10:00am on each of the following dates:

- Thursday, January 17
- Thursday, April 10
- Thursday, July 17
- Thursday, October 16

Each meeting will be held in the Oklahoma Historical Society’s LeRoy H. Fischer Boardroom, Oklahoma History Center (third floor), 2401 N. Laird Avenue, Oklahoma City. The meetings are open to the public, and meeting agendas are provided on the State Historic Preservation Office’s website at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm under “Events.”

The National Park Service regulations governing the SHPO’s programs require that a qualified state review board participate in the National Register and other SHPO programs. During each meeting, the Committee hears presentations on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places from SHPO staff and consultants, receives comments from owners of properties proposed for nomination, listens to public comments and concerns, and formulates recommendations to the SHPO about whether or not a property should be nominated to the National Register. The Committee and SHPO staff invite concerned citizens and preservation professionals to participate in this important component of the statewide preservation program.

For further information about the Committee, the National Register, or other SHPO programs, call 405/521-6249 or visit us on the website listed above.

NTHP Seeks Exhibitors for 2008 Annual Conference

The National Trust for Historic Preservation invites you to exhibit at the 2008 National Preservation Conference, October 22-24, 2008 in Tulsa. The conference draws more than 2,000 preservationists from all over the country for four days of intensive education, field work, exhibits, and professional development.

Delegates work in all aspects of the preservation field and represent federal, state, and local governments, architects, community advocacy, developers, real estate professionals, main street and downtown revitalization programs, historic sites and house museums, and so much more. Our conference covers such a vast array of topics that the extensive preservation audience finds it a “must” for their continuing professional success.

Why is this opportunity to exhibit important to your business? Penetrating the preservation market is a complex marketing challenge, particularly when your prospective customer has very specialized needs. The marketplace at the National Preservation Conference is made up of a broad range of professionals that rarely meet in one place, and many of them are actively seeking vendors who can partner with them to meet their unique requirements for preservation-related services and products. The National Preservation Conference is that rare meeting place where businesses can connect with their specialized customers.

When you exhibit at the 2008 National Preservation Conference, you’ll be partnering with the National Trust to support the preservation movement. Your business will gain wide visibility with leaders in the preservation movement, the people that inspire historic homeowners and regional leaders to preserve the unique characteristics of their communities. Position your business to influence the decision-makers of the preservation field at the 2008 National Preservation Conference.

Access the exhibit application at http://www.nthpconference.org/exhibitors/

We hope to hear from you soon—any questions? Just contact Tina Hochberg at 202-588-6275.

Overholser Mansion Pearl Sale

On November 30th Fox Lane Pearls and Preservation Oklahoma co-sponsored a pearl sale at the Overholser Mansion. A portion of the proceeds benefited the Overholser Mansion’s education programs and preservation efforts. Thanks to the generosity of Judy and Buz Goodrich, and Cecilia and Rick Lane of Fox Lane Pearls, over $1,500 was raised for the Overholser Mansion. Special thanks to the host, Annie Bohanon, whose commitment, dedication, and hard work on the event guaranteed its success.
Join Preservation Oklahoma today and become a member of the Statewide Preservation Network.

Preservation Oklahoma’s goal is to encourage the preservation of Oklahoma’s historic places through advocacy, education and leadership. As a member, you become part of a vital network of individuals and organizations working to rebuild communities, strengthen neighborhoods, restore historic properties...you become part of Oklahoma’s future.

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☐ International $500 - $999
☐ Colonial Revival $250 - $499
☐ Arts and Crafts $100 - $249
☐ Vernacular up to $100

Mail, along with check, to:
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
405 Northwest Fifteenth Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

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

Save the Date!

Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Conference
June 4-6, 2008
Ponca City

National Trust for Historic Preservation National Preservation Conference
October 21-25, 2008
Tulsa