Ruth and Allen Mayo Fund Established for Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, today announced the establishment of the “Ruth and Allen Mayo Fund for Historic Preservation in Oklahoma” to support the preservation and enhancement of historic properties in Oklahoma. This $100,000 grant fund is a gift from Marcia V. Mayo and Cathryn Mayo Moore in honor of their parents’ commitment to Oklahoma’s heritage.

“We are ecstatic about this new endowed grant fund for Oklahoma,” said Daniel Carey, director of the National Trust’s Southwest Office. “Marcia Mayo and her sister, Cathy Mayo Moore, are heaven-sent. Their gift nearly triples the size of Oklahoma’s grant fund and enables us to provide more and larger grants to preservation projects throughout the state.”

This fund will enable the National Trust’s Southwest Office to render additional planning assistance necessary to seed projects in the early stages and make more projects possible. Endangered properties in Oklahoma like the Gold Dome Bank in Oklahoma City, the Triangle Building in Pawhuska, the Prairie House in Duncan, and the Rosenwald School in Lima may now apply for funding to assist with architectural and engineering services, in addition to educational programs and outreach materials.

The Mayo sisters were introduced to preservation by their mother, Ruth Hall Mayo, whose family came to Oklahoma preceding statehood in 1907. Marcia V. Mayo, a former curator with the U.S. State Department’s Art in Embassies Program in Washington, DC, now heads its Public Diplomacy and Publications departments. She is a leadership volunteer of the National Trust’s Heritage Society Chairman’s Circle, a giving club that recognizes annual donors of $5,000 or more.

Cathryn Mayo Moore of Tulsa, OK, is a former Board member of the Tulsa Historical Society and active local philanthropist. Their grandfather, Cass Allen Mayo, and his brother, John Daniel Mayo, were prominent businessmen and philanthropists who came to Tulsa in 1903. In 1925, they built The Mayo Hotel, a grand luxury hotel that was purchased by Minnesotan Charlie Snyder in 2001, and is currently in the process of being restored. In 1997, Cass and John Mayo were honored posthumously by the Tulsa Historical Society.

Communities interested in learning more about accessing these grants should contact the National Trust’s Southwest Office via e-mail at southwest@nths.org or call 817-332-4398.
2005 Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places List Nomination Form

Sponsored by Preservation Oklahoma and the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places List has served as a sample of the thousands of landmarks across Oklahoma in need of our attention since 1993. While the listing does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, the designation has been a powerful tool for raising awareness of these endangered places.

We are eager to compile our 2005 Most Endangered Historic Places List, and would like to solicit your assistance. Help us identify Oklahoma’s threatened historic resources.


Your name

Your mailing address

Your telephone number and/or email address

Name of Endangered Place/Property

Address of Endangered Place/Property

Is the property listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

Current Owner

Telephone Number

Nature of Threat and Current Condition

In 150 words or less, briefly describe why you believe this Endangered Place/Property should be placed on the 2005 list:

Please include at least two color photographs of current condition of Endangered Place. Slides, jpg.’s and interior photographs are appreciated.

Please return this completed form by September 15 to:
Preservation Oklahoma Incorporated
405 NW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106

Questions? Call 405/525-5325 or info@preservationoklahoma.org
SHPO’s 2004 Citations of Merit Awarded

Each year the State Historic Preservation Office presents its Citation of Merit to individuals, organizations, and agencies from across the State in recognition of their efforts to preserve Oklahoma’s heritage. We are pleased to present the 2004 citations to an outstanding group of recipients.

Laura Barker, Durant – Under Laura’s leadership, as past President of the Durant Historical Society, the Society saved a building close to demolition due to structural problems, raised the money necessary to rehabilitate it, and made a real contribution to the revitalization of downtown Durant.

Wilson Baptist, Shawnee – Wilson Baptist is recognized for rehabilitating the buildings that house Baptist Athletic Supply in downtown Shawnee. Mr. Baptist was the first property owner to work with the Downtown Shawnee “Facade Squad” and follow the Downtown Shawnee Design Guidelines.

Durant Historical Society, Durant – Durant Historical Society’s exemplary rehabilitation of three buildings in the heart of Downtown transformed them into an exhibit space for artifacts relating to the history of Oklahoma and the area.

Downtown Shawnee, Inc. – Since 1989 Downtown Shawnee, Inc. has played an important role in building public awareness about the importance of preserving and rehabilitating their local historic landmarks.

Marcine Fritz, Durant – As vice president of the Durant Historical Society, Marcine Fritz assumed leadership of the organization and is described as a “driving force and lifesaver” in the development of the Three Valley Museum project.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Shawnee – Emmanuel Episcopal Church’s efforts span over 100 years of preserving and maintaining the architectural integrity of the church building and the heritage of the church.

James E. Hamilton Correctional Center, Hodgen – The Peter Conser House, the 1890’s home of Lighthorse the leader of the Choctaw, was closed to the public in the spring of 2001 for extensive repair and restoration work. Inmates from the James E. Hamilton Correctional Center completed much of the work making possible the January 2004 reopening.

Greater Shawnee Chamber of Commerce – The Greater Shawnee Chamber of Commerce through rehabilitation of its own buildings, public relations and promotional material has helped increase public awareness about Shawnee’s rich heritage, including the many historic buildings in the downtown commercial district.

Federal Aviation Administration – The FAA exemplarily restored the Douglas DC-3, N-34, which is housed in Hangar 10 of the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center and is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Douglas DC-3 earned its place in aviation history as one of the most significant aircraft designs.

Greater Shawnee Convention and Visitors Bureau – The organization’s creative historic stained glass tour, of Shawnee’s many historic landmarks, is an excellent example of how public programming supports local preservation efforts.

Irene Lam, Oklahoma City – Dr. Irene Lam’s personal efforts to preserve Oklahoma City’s Citizens State Bank Building, better known as the Gold Dome, resulted in Bank One’s decision not to sell the property for clearance and development by a chain drugstore company. Dr. Lam purchased the building and The Gold Dome was listed in the National Register in September 2003.

Laquita Hackett, Shawnee – An active and dedicated member of the Pottawatomie County Historical Society and the Pottawatomie County Genealogy Club, her dedication is illustrated through her many years of research related to local historic properties and supporting downtown Shawnee preservation efforts.

Thank you to the following Preservation Oklahoma members for their generosity in 2004:

Partner
Leslie and Cliff Hudson, Oklahoma City
Mr. Chris Kessee, Oklahoma City

Benefactor
MidFirst Bank
Susan Guthrie-Dunham, Nichols Hills
Suzette and Kim Hatfield, Oklahoma City

Patron
Dr. Cathy Ambler, Tulsa
Harris Foundation, Oklahoma City

Sponsor
Elliot + Associates, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Cooper, Oklahoma City
Kathleen Page, Tulsa

Associate
Julie Miner, Tulsa
Lillian Taylor, Ponca City
Molly and David Boren, Norman
Marilyn Branch, Guthrie
Anna Eddings, Norman
Sally and Donald Ferrell, Chandler
Sampa, Tulsa
Barbara and Winfrey Houston, Stillwater
Brenda Johnston, Oklahoma City
Glen Meir, Ponca City
Meyer Associates, Oklahoma City
First National Bank and Trust Co., Clinton
Max Weitznhofer, Norman
McIntire and Clark Wiens, Tulsa

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AIA Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma City
Alien County Public Library, Pt. Wayne, Indiana
Sallie Andrews, Grapevine, Texas
Ardmore Main Street Authority, Ardmore
Karen Baxter, St. Louis, Missouri
Jane and Wayland Bower, Norman
Mary and Bill Bryans, Stillwater
Barbara Burleson, Altus
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Heritage Research Company, Ozark, Missouri
Jana and Pete Holcombe, Oklahoma City
Richard Jacobson, Pauls Valley
Elise Kilpatrick, Tulsa
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Mr. and Mrs. Steven Kline, Ft. Worth, Texas
Ann Lancaster, Tahlequah
Sandra Melson, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Newman, Tulsa
Betty Price, Oklahoma City
Mr. and Mrs. James Raul, Ponca City
Loretta Rice, Edmond
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ryerson, Alva
Mr. and Mrs. R.T. Stinchcomb, Catoosa
Tropical Plant Leasing Service, Oklahoma City
James Walker, Tulsa
The Oklahoma State Historic Tax Incentive tax credit for rehabilitation. The new Work, which highlights examples of approaches to rehabilitation work

Pawnee Bill Ranch Association – A private nonprofit dedicated to assisting the Oklahoma Historical Society with the programs, operations and preservation of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Site. The association worked through their legislators to obtain a development grant from the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority and received $25,000 for projects at the site.

Marion McMillan, Shawnee – Mr. McMillan has shown outstanding leadership in the fight to save the Aldridge Hotel securing a developer, working on the financing package, and worked tirelessly to have the site listed on the National Register.

Perry National Register Task Force – Main Street of Perry, Perry National Register Task Force and specifically Marsha Williams undertook the task of researching not only the history of the town, but also detailed histories of each building in the commercial district. A mountain of material was collected and a cogent National Register nomination package produced resulting in the listing of the Perry Courthouse Square Historic District.

Charlotte Patterson, Shawnee – A leader in preservation in Shawnee’s community preservation efforts for ten years, she has strongly supported rehabilitation and composed the successful district National Register nomination for the Bell Street Historic District. She has served with downtown Shawnee Inc., The Ritz Theatre rehabilitation effort, and the City of Shawnee’s streetscape project.

Pioneer Woman Museum Advisory Board, Ponca City – Donated by E.W. Marland and his wife, Lyde, the Pioneer Woman Statue was unveiled at Ponca City on April 22, 1930 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The Pioneer Woman Museum Advisory Board stepped forward and raised the required $85,000 for restoration, completed in 2002, and is now building an endowment for ongoing care.

Pottawatomie County Historical Society, Shawnee – The Pottawatomie County Historical Society and the staff of the Santa Fe Depot have spent many years preserving the Santa Fe Depot, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the heritage of Pottawatomie County.

Sherman Smith, Tulsa – Sherman Smith, former President of Service Drilling Company Southwest of Tulsa donated to the Oklahoma Historical Society a complete 1947 portable oil-drilling rig, which was delivered and set up on the ground of the new Oklahoma History Center.

City of Shawnee – The City’s adoption of the “Smart Codes” which amend Chapter 34 of the BOCA National Building Code has greatly facilitated local rehabilitation projects.

Jim Thorpe Foundation, Yale – The Jim Thorpe Foundation is a private, nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of Jim Thorpe’s legacy. In 2003 the foundation readily agreed to operate the property as an affiliate of the Oklahoma Historical Society handling
day-to-day operations and actively working to complete needed repairs.

The Society for the Revitalization of Downtown Shawnee — The society has diligently worked to revitalize The Ritz Theatre through public/private financial support. The 105-year-old local landmark has undergone a completed façade; marquee and upright sign rehabilitation and is once again a functioning performing arts center with monthly events.

Warren and Jeri Thomas, Shawnee — Mr. and Ms. Thomas have dedicated the past five years to the restoration and rehabilitation of two of downtown Shawnee’s historic landmarks: the Masonic Building and the Federal National Bank Building.

Cosponsors of Oklahoma’s 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference — Oklahoma’s 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, “Cities, Suburbs, and Countryside,” was held May 8-10, 2003, in Miami. The SHPO wishes to thank its cosponsors, the Oklahoma Main Street Center; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; Miami Main Street, Inc.; City of Miami; Friends of the Coleman; Miami Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention & Visitors Bureau; Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College; and Ottawa County Historical Society.

Chronicles of Oklahoma Now Available Online

The Chronicles of Oklahoma is the scholarly journal of the Oklahoma Historical Society and is one of the best sources for information about our State’s past.

Mary Ann Blochowiak, Editor of the Chronicles, announced that full text of Volumes 1-20 (1921-1942) of quarterly journal are available online (free of charge) in a searchable database through the Oklahoma State University Electronic Publishing Center (EPC) at http://digital.library.okstate.edu.

The tables of contents for Volumes 21-80 (1943-2002) were recently added to the site and are fully searchable. We hope that this will allow you and other researchers better access to the wealth of information in The Chronicles. The table of contents portion also has a link to the Oklahoma Historical Society’s website for purchase of back issues of the journal.

Members of the Oklahoma Historical Society receive the Chronicles as a membership benefit. For details about joining the Society, contact the OHS Membership Office at 405-152-4252 or visit www.ok-history.mus.ok.us.

Awards Presented at POK’s Annual Meeting

Deserving awards, an inspirational speaker, the installation of new board members — coupled with a beautiful setting were all part of Preservation Oklahoma’s Annual Meeting and Luncheon on May 20 during the Statewide Preservation Conference in Shawnee.

POK was honored to have a very distinguished Oklahoman, The Honorable Judge Robert H. Henry, as the luncheon speaker. Judge Henry was appointed by Congress to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 1994. Prior to that, Judge Henry served as Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma, a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and Dean and Professor of Law at Oklahoma City University.

Following Judge Henry, POK Board member Dr. Cathy Ambler presented the “2004 Preservation Awards.” This year’s recipients are:

Ms. DeRutha Richardson: “Advocacy Award” in recognition for her advocacy for the renovation of the...
Overholser Mansion Awarded IMLS Grant

The Henry Overholser Mansion has been awarded a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS.) Grant funds have made possible preservation assessments for both architectural and collections conservation.

"By participating in Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) these museums demonstrate a professional commitment to properly caring for the irreplaceable collections and sites they hold in the public trust," said Heritage Preservation's President Lawrence L. Reger.

IMLS provides grants to museums to participate in the CAP, which is administered by Heritage Preservation. Grants support a two-day site visit by conservation professionals who review the museums' collections and environment and recommend priorities for short and long-term conservation planning.

CAP awards also help museums leverage funds. Overholser Mansion Director, Chanda Jammal, stated "CAP will provide a critical plan of action for the restoration and preservation of the 100-year-old mansion. With community support, the action taken today to protect the Overholser Mansion will ensure the historical home's existence for centuries to come."

Management of the mansion is provided by Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., the state's only non-profit preservation organization, working to keep preservation topics in public view through education, advocacy, and leadership. The Overholser Mansion is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Saint Thomas Primitive Baptist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

DeRutha Richardson (right) accepts her award from Dr. Cathy Ambler.

Creek County Board of Commissioners: "Public Leadership Award" in recognition for their public leadership, thoughtful process and continued citizen involvement of the renovation of the Creek County Court House.

Mr. Bret Carter: "President's Award" in recognition of his years of dedicated service in keeping preservation issues and projects in public view, in Ponca City and across Oklahoma.

POK Vice President Barrett Williamson, AIA, conducted the presentation and installation of new board members. The 2004-2005 Preservation Oklahoma new board members are:

Mr. Glenn Bonner: President of First Bartlesville Bank, Bartlesville, Oklahoma;
Dr. John Feaver: President of the University of Sciences and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha, Oklahoma;
Ms. Connie Hart Yellowman: Director of Fort Reno Visitors Center, Fort Reno, Oklahoma.

The Creek County Board of Commissioners accepts its award from Dr. Cathy Ambler.

Bret Carter (right) accepts his award from Bill Gumerson.

Eight New Listings in the National Register

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that eight new properties from Oklahoma have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Among the new listings are six properties that represent significant resources along historic Route 66, a large historic district and a small town's brick main street.

Six properties associated with US Highway 66 were listed as part of a National Park Service study of the entire Route 66 corridor. The six properties include the Beard Motor Company in Bristow, the McDougal Filling Station near Vinita, the Y Service Station and Café in Clinton, and three motels – the Chelsea Motel
in Chelsea, the Riviera Courts Motel in Miami, and the West Winds Motel in Erick. Beard Motor Company is an excellent example of the streamlined architectural style known as Art Moderne. The company features a distinctive sign that towers over the town.

McDougal Filling Station, Vinita

The diminutive McDougal Filling Station, located east of Vinita, is representative of the numerous independent stations that opened along the busy highway while the Y Service Station and Café, on the south side of Clinton, is a much larger business concern. Combining automotive service with a café and small tourist court, the Y catered to all needs for travelers on the storied highway.

The three motels represent the golden age of automotive travel and the promise of commercial success that Route 66 promised.

The Riviera Courts, just outside Miami, features alternating rooms and garages for travelers.

The Chelsea Motel is a small, “mom and pop” operation that provided an additional source of income for the proprietors. Its small neon sign helped to attract potential customers.

The West Winds Motel in Erick has a Spanish Mission feel to it. Its decorative sign, displaying a western theme, welcomed tourists from the east to “the real west.”

There are now forty-eight Oklahoma properties listed in the National Register under the “Route 66 & Associated Historic Resources in Oklahoma” multiple property submission.

The Paseo Neighborhood Historic District in Oklahoma City has ties both to the development of streetcar lines that helped the city grow northward and to the Spanish Village commercial district developed by G.A. Nichols in the 1920s. The eclectic mix of homes in the Paseo and its proximity to the Paseo arts district has helped to establish the neighborhood as one of the city’s more unique and attractive areas.

Included in the district is Fairlawn Cemetery, significant in its own right as the city’s most prominent cemetery.

The Davenport Broadway Avenue Brick Street bisects the town and ties its past to its future. Founded as a railroad town, Davenport experienced success in the oil industry and in the manufacture of bricks. By the 1920s, when the automobile began to supplant the train as the main mode of transportation, the city elected to pave their main street in brick. Broadway Avenue was paved from the railroad north to newly designated US Highway 66, the road that would mark the future course of events for the town.

The State Historic Preservation Office continues to strive to gain recognition for places that are significant in Oklahoma’s history.

These eight properties add to the compendium of the state’s documented history.

For more information on these or other National Register properties, contact Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478.
(email: jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us)
SHPO Seeks Public Input for FY 2005 Program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 am, on Friday, September 3, 2004, in the Shepherd Mall Activity Center, Suite 40B, N.W. 23rd and Villa, Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for the development of the fiscal year 2005 Historic Preservation Fund application.

The SHPO expects to receive approximately $600,000 from the U.S. Department of Interior’s FY 2005 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out Oklahoma’s statewide preservation program. Ten percent of the amount is reserved for pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments. The balance of the total HPF grant award will be used for sub-grants to complete archeological and historic/architectural resource survey projects, to prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations, to continue public outreach and education programs, and to support the other federally mandated functions of SHPO listed below. Your input will help shape the future of Oklahoma’s past. Accordingly, the SHPO will appreciate your ideas and suggestions about what its FY 2005 program priorities will be.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may obtain the “Project Suggestion Form” from the SHPO by calling 405/521-2491 or sending an email message to mheisch@ok-history.mus.ok.us. The form is also available at www.ok-history.mus.ok.us (click on SHPO). The SHPO must receive your comments by 5:00 pm, Friday, September 3, 2005 to consider them. An additional mailing regarding this meeting will be sent. Please check your mail for further details.