Preservation Conference Highlights

Oklahoma’s statehood centennial year was the perfect time and Guthrie was the perfect place for Preservation Is A Capital Idea: Oklahoma’s 19th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference. Over 200 Oklahoma preservationists came together June 6-8 for this heritage celebration.

The two-and-one-half day event featured sessions about the preservation, interpretation, and adaptive reuse of significant properties from Oklahoma’s prehistory to the recent past, the importance of project planning and use of appropriate preservation methods, and financing strategies for revitalization of individual buildings and districts. Program highlights included special tours (such as the tour of Guthrie’s magnificent Scottish Rite Temple), two plenary sessions, and wards presentations.

Plenary Session #1 featured the development of Guthrie’s preservation movement and was one of the most popular conference events. The session opened with the screening of the 1977 film Born Again, a project of Arn Henderson, Professor of Architecture (retired), University of Oklahoma. It highlighted preservation issues of the era for Boley, Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. Then Ron Frantz, Architect, Oklahoma Main Street Center, discussed his involvement in the late 1970s and early 1980s as Guthrie’s preservation movement grew. Then a panel of Guthrie preservation leaders featured in the historic film shared their reflections and projections about preservation efforts in Guthrie. Panelists included Ralph McCalmont, Donald G. Coffin, Ron Frantz, Jay Hannah, Arn Henderson, and Bill Lehmann.

Plenary Session #2 featured Peter H. Brink’s keynote address. Mr. Brink is Senior Vice President, Programs, National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mr. Brink’s topic was Preservation Matters! He concluded his remarks with a special announcement about the National Trust’s 2008 annual conference, which will be held in Tulsa and extended a special invitation to everyone to participate in the event.

On Thursday evening, June 7, the State Historic Preservation Office presented its Citations of Merit during the conference awards banquet. The citation is given for outstanding accomplishments in the full range of preservation-related activities, and fifteen individuals and projects were recognized, including:

- Muskogee Housing Partners, LP and Sikes Abernachie Architects
- Richard Andrews
- Arvest Bank and Ambler Architects
- BancFirst
- Paul Buntz
- Dr. Stanley Bussey (posthumously)
- The Cherokee Nation, Saline Preservation Association, Fritz Baily, P.C., and Dr. George H. O’Dell
- John Givens, Great Plains Coca Cola Bottling Company, Dean Codner, and Shaun Colbert

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Sigmon and Conaghan Receive Preservation Award

Preservation Oklahoma announced the 2007 Preservation Oklahoma Award recipients at their annual meeting held on June 7 in Guthrie, Oklahoma. These annual awards are given under the categories of “Public Leadership” and “Advocacy.” The awards give Preservation Oklahoma an opportunity to applaud the work of individuals and groups whose tenacity, courage and determination are the backbone of successful preservation projects across Oklahoma.

The “2007 Preservation Oklahoma Awards” were given to:

Dana Sigmon, Okmulgee: “Public Leadership”
In recognition of her exceptional public leadership efforts in raising community awareness and support of historic preservation efforts in Okmulgee. In 1996, Ms. Sigmon became the Community Development Director in Okmulgee. She has served on the local Main Street Board of Directors and three of its committees, has written numerous grants, spearheaded a streetscape master plan, serves on a multi-cultural museum board as well as several other boards. She is well known for her energy and leadership in her hometown.

Kelley Conaghan, Tonkawa: “Advocacy”
In recognition of her efforts in bringing public awareness to the endangered WPA bath house and pool in Tonkawa. Through Ms. Conaghan’s hard work and tenacity, the pool house will once again serve as a vital amenity in her community.
SHPO Seeks Public Input for FY 2008 Program

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30 am, on Friday, September 7, 2007, in the Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 2401 N. Laird Avenue (just northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City, to provide information about the statewide preservation program and to receive public input for the development of the Fiscal Year 2008 Historic Preservation Fund application. The SHPO expects to receive approximately $650,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s FY 2008 Historic Preservation Fund to carry out its programs and operations. Ten percent of the award is reserved for pass-through grants to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

Under the National Historic Preservation Act, the SHPO has responsibility for administration of the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. In brief, the purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state’s archeological and historic resources for everyone’s benefit. Specific activities directed toward this goal include identification of properties important in history, architecture, culture, and archeology; evaluation and registration of significant properties; formal review of federal and federally assisted projects that could affect archeological and historic resources; development and implementation of the statewide historic preservation plan; administration of the CLG program; administration of the federal and state investment tax credits program for certified historic structures; and public outreach activities.

Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan (2005) [available from the SHPO or at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm] sets forth the goals and objectives for historic preservation efforts in the state, including the SHPO’s programs listed above. The SHPO’s priorities for addressing the State Plan’s goals are continuation of the archeological and historic/architectural resources survey program to document property types under-represented in the state’s inventory and to extend survey coverage to previously unstudied areas, preparation of nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, and provision of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your comments will help the SHPO determine its specific projects and activities for FY 2008 to address these priorities.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, your written comments and suggestions are welcome. You may complete the SHPO’s “Project Suggestion Form” and return it by 5:00 pm, Friday, September 7, 2007. Just call the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or send an e-mail message to Shea Otley at sjotley@okhistory.org to have the form sent to you. You may also obtain it at www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm (select “Events”).

Preservation Conference Highlights

Continued from Page 1

The American Lung Association of Oklahoma and Fritz Baily, P.C.
Philtower, LLC and Kinslow, Keith, and Todd
Skirvin Partners, LLC, Marcus Hotels and Resorts, City of Oklahoma City, Kahler Slater Architects, and Flintco Constructive Solutions
The Small Group – Architects
Waverly Neighborhood Association
Bobby Weaver
Cosponsors of Preservation Inside and Out: Oklahoma’s 18th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference:
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
Wilburton Main Street, Inc.
Robbers Cave State Park
Wilburton Chamber of Commerce
Latimer County Arts Council

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Washington, D.C. 20240

If you would like to receive email notices regarding preservation related grants, workshops and upcoming events, please forward your email address to: info@preserveok.org
On April 28, over thirty participants joined guide Cathy Ambler for “R.I.P.,” a walking tour of Oak Lawn Cemetery in Tulsa. Ms. Ambler outlined our changing concepts of death as evidenced in burial grounds, their locations, and the markers used to memorialize the dead. This program was part of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places Program, a joint project of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. If you would like to host a similar program in your community, please contact Heather at (405) 525-5325 or info@preserveok.org.

Those who travel in northeast Oklahoma are probably familiar with the Glass House Restaurant which actually spans the Will Rogers Turnpike (I-44). Originally built by Conoco, it is owned by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and leased to a concession. Recently, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) identified the restaurant as one of the nationally and/or exceptionally significant resources on the Interstate Highway System that will receive special consideration during the planning of federal highway projects.

FHWA’s report on these special properties states:

Several sources indicate that it was the first restaurant facility constructed over a public highway in the United States, and that it was considered the largest McDonalds restaurant in the world until recently surpassed by those in Moscow, Peking, and Orlando. Overhead restaurants are a rare property type on the Interstate Highway System, and the Glass House Restaurant is an excellent example of roadside architecture designed in the Late Modern style. Character defining features include: vertical sunshade louvers on one side, natural stone facing, large glass curtain wall construction, and a concrete arch structure for the central span and roof.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) provides that federal agencies, such as FHWA, must consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) regulations (36 CFR Part 800) guide the Section 106 review process and provide a number of options for streamlining it.

In 2005, the ACHP exercised one of these options and exempted the majority of the Interstate System from consideration as an historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA. This exemption allows numerous activities, such as resurfacing roadbeds, to be carried out without case-by-case consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

While the exemption removed the majority of the Interstate System from standard Section 106 review (such as existing roadbed), it also provided that special features of the Interstate System, such as bridges, tunnels, and rest stops remain subject to the standard review if they have national and/or exceptional significance.

To implement the exemptions, the FHWA created a process for determining which Interstate System elements would be excluded from the streamlined process. The final list of these special features was published in December 2006 and includes the Glass House Restaurant. Visit the FHWA’s website at http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/newsletters/mar07nl.asp for more information. Also, see the announcement of the SHPO’s workshop on the Section 106 process in this issue of Preservation Oklahoma News or visit http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm.

Cemetery Tour Held in Tulsa

On April 28, over thirty participants joined guide Cathy Ambler for “R.I.P.,” a walking tour of Oak Lawn Cemetery in Tulsa. Ms. Ambler outlined our changing concepts of death as evidenced in burial grounds, their locations, and the markers used to memorialize the dead. This program was part of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places Program, a joint project of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. If you would like to host a similar program in your community, please contact Heather at (405) 525-5325 or info@preserveok.org.
On June 14, 2007, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Historic Route 66 Motels – from Illinois to California – to its 2007 list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

The National Trust’s press release stated: “It’s been called “The Mother Road,” and “America’s Main Street,” but most know it by its original official designation: Route 66. This internationally-recognized American icon conjures images of 1950s family vacations with quirky roadside attractions and mom-and-pop motels. The nation’s first all-weather highway linking Chicago to Los Angeles, Route 66 gained fame as the shortest year-round route between the Midwest and the Pacific Coast. Its motels – many adorned with Art Deco flourishes and neon and some even shaped like wigwams – offered travelers essential roadside amenities and a touch of fantasy. Of the many properties that line historic Route 66, the motels built between the late 1920s and late 1950s are among the most cherished and most endangered. In urban areas, the threat is due to redevelopment pressures spurred by accelerating property values; factors such as soaring insurance costs and aggressive city efforts to target “problem” motels with stiff fines and demolition are also causing widespread losses. In the 1950s, Albuquerque’s Central Avenue boasted more than 100 motels – but today that number is closer to 25 and dwindling: . . . Development pressures are affecting Route 66 motels in hot real estate markets in all eight states through which the historic highway passes. In more remote communities, . . . motel owners often lack the financial capacity to make needed investments, and many motels suffer from deferred maintenance or have simply been abandoned.”

In January, POK announced Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places list for 2007, and it included Oklahoma’s Route 66 Motels. Through various SHPO survey projects, thirty-five Route 66 motels have been recorded. Unfortunately, twenty of them have lost their historic integrity and are no longer eligible for the National Register which indicates the threat that exists for these resources.

POK and the SHPO hope that through recognition of the Route 66 Motels as significant historic properties and through bringing the threats to them to the public’s attention, interest in preserving some of these endangered treasures will be stimulated. Incentives such as the Federal and State tax credits and matching grants from the National Park Service’s Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program are available to assist motel owners.

But, it is not just the preservation community in Oklahoma or in the United States that is concerned about historic route 66. On June 6, 2007 the World Monuments Fund announced its 2008 World Monuments Watch List. Route 66 was included in this group of 100 threatened historic properties from around the globe. Please visit www.worldmonumentswatch.org for full details.

Frederick and Coweta Receive PlanFirst Grants

Preservation Oklahoma awarded the communities of Frederick and Coweta PlanFirst grants. Each community was awarded up to $1,500 to help fund a local preservation project. The City of Frederick will use their grant to fund a conditions assessment report for their old city hall. And the City of Coweta will use their grant to fund a similar report for a city-owned downtown building.

Launched in 2006, the PlanFirst pilot program awards a total of $10,000 to Oklahoma historic preservation projects in 2007 throughout BancFirst’s 47 Oklahoma banking communities. Focusing on funding the initial planning phase of preservation projects, recipients will receive funding for a conditions assessment, feasibility study and /or master plans. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Heather Seifert at (405) 525 5325 or info@preserveok.org
The nomination was prepared by Kelli Gaston of the State historic preservation office with the help of Donna Dow, Durant Main Street program manager.

Perry Lake Park, also known as CCC Park, is located just south of the town of Perry. The park is centered on a small reservoir that once served as the town’s main water source. Over the period 1934-1935, Civilian Conservation Corps camp #863 lived and worked at the site. Using a master plan created by NPS landscape designers, the CCC boys carved foot and bridle trails out of the rolling topography, and sited amenities such as a boat house, picnic shelters, comfort station and well houses to take maximum advantage of sight lines and view sheds. The quality of the remaining work is high and includes some of the best examples of Park Rustic architecture in the state. The City of Perry is looking to revitalize the park and to rehabilitate the amazing buildings and structures that were built by the CCC boys over 70 years ago. The nomination for the park was prepared by Kim Penrod, a graduate student at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Located near Ponca City, White Eagle Park has been the site of Ponca tribal historical events since their resettlement at this location in 1878, following their forced removal from their Nebraska homeland in 1877. The Ponca Powwow held annually at White Eagle Park disseminated elements of Ponca culture to other tribes, establishing the template for the intertribal contest powwow now practiced nationally. This direct association of place and culture by the Ponca people, or so strongly practiced old and new ceremonies at other communal grounds. Although the Ponca practiced old and new ceremonies at other locations on their lands, no other place had the length of tenure, was used so universally by the Ponca people, or so strongly reinforced their sense of identity as a people. This direct association of place and culture is what helps define White Eagle Park as a Traditional Cultural Place. Dr. Mary Jane Warde prepared the nomination for the Ponca Tribe.

The Durant Downtown Historic District is listed in the National Register for its importance as a commercial and trade center for southern Oklahoma. As the core of the central business district, this area has been the center of commercial development from shortly after the community’s founding to the present. Anchored by the railroad tracks on the south and east ends of the district, it includes excellent examples of early commercial architecture and remains a viable commercial center to this day due to the efforts of the Durant Main Street program. The nomination was prepared by Kelli Gaston.
New Listings in the National Register

Continued from Page 5

and diversion canal were completed in 1918 to much fanfare. Lake Overholser was supplanted as the primary water supply for the city in 1947 with the impoundment of Lake Hefner. The nomination was prepared by Leslie Dixon, a graduate student at OCU.

Taft Junior High School is listed in the National Register as the best example of the Art Deco style on a school building in Oklahoma City. Built in 1931, with a 1940 addition, Taft Junior High was designed by the firm of Layton Hicks & Forsyth, who veered from their traditional use of classical or gothic vocabulary and embraced a modern style. The plan of the building diverged as well from the typical block & court footprint of the city schools. Dominated by a central core that house administrative and communal functions, the school’s classrooms are housed in wings that parallel the side streets. The yellow brick of the building features numerous decorative brick patterns that are somewhat overshadowed by the liberal use of terra cotta ornamentation on all exterior walls. Of course, the central tower is the most ornate, but notable are the eight spandrel panels depicting vocations and academic disciplines. It is the exuberant use of terra cotta and decorative brick pattern that makes the building so appealing; it is a break from traditional architecture of the day. In terms of what is now known as Art Deco, the building stands head and shoulders above its contemporaries in the Oklahoma City school system. The nomination was prepared by Jason Harris, a graduate student at UCO.

A three building complex, consisting of drill hall and offices, plus two maintenance buildings, the Lawton National Guard armory is listed in the National Register for its significance in Cold War defense readiness and as an excellent example of Modern Architecture. Architect Paul Harris used thin-shell concrete to create the large dome of the drill hall and the sine-wave roofs of the maintenance building between 1954 and 1955. The armory building consists of two sections, a single story, low slung office wing and a round, tall domed drill hall. An interesting feature of the drill hall is the cooling system – at the apex of the dome is a cupola with a large exhaust fan. The perimeter walls feature a small cantilever, with hopper-type vents. When the exhaust fan is turned on, it pulls air through the vents along the perimeter walls and out the cupola, creating a constant flow of air. The dome is also pierced by numerous skylights, which until the addition of a dropped ceiling provided ample light during daytime. Harris seemed a fan of thin shell concrete and used it on a number of commissions. The maintenance buildings show another use; the interesting sine wave roofs of the otherwise utilitarian buildings give them a distinct presence. The armory was constructed as part of a new building program following the Korean War. The first wave of Oklahoma National Guard armories was constructed by the WPA in the mid 1930s. These new armories reflected the changing mission and needs of the Oklahoma National Guard. Harris and the National Guard thought that this armory might serve as a model for new armories in the state and beyond, but there is no evidence that any others were ever build using Harris’ plans. The nomination was prepared by Cindy Savage for the Oklahoma Military Department.

The Hotel Franklin in Mangum is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in community development and architecture. The five story hotel building, designed by the prominent architectural firm of Layton Hicks & Forsyth, was the culmination of the efforts of community leaders to provide the city of Mangum with a first class hotel. A two year program of fundraising and lobbying led to the dedication of the five story, brick hotel in September, 1929, with Sergeant Alvin York, Medal of Honor winner and hero of the Great War, as the guest of honor. A citizen driven campaign to improve the prospect of the city resulted in the construction of a five-story, first class hotel designed by the state’s premier architectural firm. The modern design of the hotel, combining the newest engineering with the most fashionable style for a hotel building sets it apart from the building stock of Mangum and surrounding communities. The building is currently owned by a local development corporation, who hope to return it, in part, to its original use. The nomination was prepared by Deah Johnson, a UCO history student.

The First State Bank of Maramec is listed in the National Register for its architectural significance as the only bank building and the only extant territorial-era commercial building in the town of Maramec, Pawnee County, Oklahoma. Constructed in 1903, the building is a vernacular example of the Romanesque Revival style. With its distinctive canted corner entry, the building is emblematic of small town, financial institution architecture. Significantly, the bank is also the only extant historic commercial building from the town’s first years when it was located in Oklahoma Territory. It served as the community’s primary financial institution until 1933. This building was nominated to Preservation Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Properties list last year. The locals hope to use that designation and National Register designation as a springboard for preserving this building, one of the few surviving examples of the founding and hey day of Maramec. The nomination was prepared by Cindy Savage for Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

The Flynt Building, a single story, brick building is listed as an excellent example of a territorial era commercial building in Chandler. Territorial era commercial buildings represent the last gasp of Victorian exuberance. Decorative brickwork and a slightly ornamented storefront distinguish this building from its slightly younger neighbors. Completed in 1902, the Flynt Building represents the rebuilding of Chandler after a disastrous tornado in 1897. The building languished in poor condition until purchased by Don & Sally Ferrell, who sought to save the building and return some of its old glory. Using historic photographs, the Ferrells restored the primary façade and stabilized the rest of the building. The nomination was prepared by Cindy Savage for the Lincoln County Historical Society.
Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th-Century Buildings

In post-World War II America, buildings, suburbs, and towns sprang up like lawn weeds. Discuss how these structures fit into today's and tomorrow's historic preservation patterns. With an emphasis on the 1950's, examine the era-specific factors that help to identify and evaluate post-war buildings in terms of their significance for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. An agenda is available online at www.npi.org.

Instructors. James C. Massey, architectural historian, contributing editor of Old House Journal, and historic preservation consultant to owners of historic property on the use of federal and state rehabilitation tax credits and Shirley Maxwell, historian, historic preservation consultant, contributing editor to Old House Journal, and co-author of House Styles in America and other publications

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.

Questions? Please contact: 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

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State Historic Preservation Office
Calendar of Events 2007/2008

SEPTEMBER 2007
7: Public Meeting for the SHPO's FY 2008 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30am)
Location: Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 2401 N. Laird (immediately northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City

DECEMBER 2007
5: Federal and State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (9:30am-12:00noon)
5: Guidelines and Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30pm - 4:30pm)
6: The Section 106 Review Process: A Workshop for Agency Officials and Cultural Resource Management Consultants (9:30am - 4:30pm)
7: Working with the National Register of Historic Places (9:30am - 4:30pm)
Location: Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 2401 N. Laird (immediately northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City

MAY 2008
7: The Section 106 Review Process: Introduction and Overview (9:30am - 12:00pm)
7: Determination of Eligibility under Section 106 (1:30pm - 5:00pm)

JUNE 2008
4-6: Oklahoma's 20th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Ponca City
Details available late April / Registration Fee

New Listings in the National Register

in Oklahoma's history. These ten properties brings the total number of listings in the National Register from Oklahoma to 1,106. The listing of Greer County's Hotel Franklin brings us closer to our goal of having at least five listings from each county by November 16, 2007. For more information on these or other National Register properties, please contact Jim Gabbert at (405) 522-4478 or email: jgabbert@ok-history.mus.ok.us
Inasmuch Gives $100,000 to the Overholser

The Inasmuch Foundation recently awarded $100,000 to Preservation Oklahoma to help fund phase-one of the Overholser Mansion exterior restoration. To date, a total of $550,000 has been raised toward the $1 million restoration project.

“We thank the Inasmuch Foundation for their generosity and support for this important restoration project,” said Heather Seifert, Director of Preservation Oklahoma. “With the help of the Inasmuch Foundation, Preservation Oklahoma will be able to restore the Overholser Mansion to its original spender.”

The Inasmuch Foundation was founded by Edith Kinney Gaylord in 1982. The organization supports charitable, scientific and educational causes that enhance the progress and quality of life for Oklahomans.