POK Receives 2014 Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation

On June 5, Preservation Oklahoma was honored with the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation for “Two Decades of Advocacy for the Preservation of Oklahoma’s Heritage.” The award was presented during the 2014 Statewide Preservation Conference banquet in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom, Oklahoma Memorial Union, on the University of Oklahoma campus.

“We are extremely honored to receive this prestigious award from SHPO, one of our strongest partners in the preservation field,” said Barrett Williamson, President of Preservation Oklahoma. Preservation Oklahoma was recognized for its statewide programs, its commitment to advocacy and education, and its partnerships with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation is presented to individuals, organizations, and agencies that have had statewide impact on the preservation of Oklahoma’s heritage through leadership, public programming, publications, research, restoration, and other contributions.

More information about POK’s special recognition is available at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm
2014 POK Preservation Awards

The 2014 Preservation Awards were presented on June 6, 2014, at POK’s annual meeting and luncheon in Norman.

Cohen-Esrey Communities for the rehabilitation of Clay Hall in Enid. This project transformed a long-shuttered women’s dormitory into 30 units of affordable senior housing. It was also the first project to use historic tax credits in Enid.

Wymer Brownlee for the interior restoration of their office space located in a 1922 Classic Revival building in downtown Enid.

Cherokee Nation Cultural Tourism for the restoration of the 1869 Cherokee Nation Capitol.

Main Street Enid received a Citation of Merit for their successful efforts in promoting the preservation of Enid’s historic structures.

Congratulations to these worthy recipients!

Photos from top: Clay Hall (Photo: Cohen-Esrey); Cherokee Nation Capitol (Photo: Cherokee Nation); Wymer Brownlee (Photo: Main Street Enid); Kelly Tompkins, Program Manager of Main Street Enid, and Barrett Williamson, POK President.

Welcome New Board Members!

On July 1, Preservation Oklahoma welcomed the following members to its Board of Directors: Melissa Hunt (Moore); Mike Gallagher (Oklahoma City); Travis Owens (Tulsa); Jeff Erwin (Oklahoma City); Susie Clinard (Shawnee); and Melyn Johnson (Texhoma).

We would also like to express our appreciation to those members whose terms ended on June 30: Jim Carrington; Kingkini Arend; Lisa Melchior; Katie Gumerson Altshuler; and Kay Decker. Thank you for your years of dedication and service!
On Thursday evening, June 5, the Oklahoma Historical Society’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) presented the Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation (see front page) and the 2014 Citations of Merit as a highlight of the annual statewide preservation conference held in Norman. The awards were presented during the conference banquet in the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom, Oklahoma Memorial Union, on the University of Oklahoma campus. The SHPO’s Citation of Merit is presented annually to those who have had positive impacts on the preservation of Oklahoma’s significant archaeological and historic properties. The 2014 recipients included:

**The Coltrane Group** for documenting and sharing the heritage of the Boley Historic District.

**Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Builders Unlimited, Inc., and GH2 Architects, LLC** for rehabilitation of the Greenleaf State Park Nature Center.

**Chickasha Housing Partners Limited Partnership** for rehabilitation of the Chickasha Hotel.

**Cohen-Esrey Communities, LLC** for rehabilitation of Clay Hall for the Enid Senior Residences.

**Hobart Main Street Program** for its highly successful facade improvement grant program.

**International Order of the Rainbow for Girls** for stewardship of the IORG Supreme Assembly Temple.

**Jonita Mullins** for development and presentation of Muskogee’s Historic Neighborhood Walking Tours.

**Michael Brinkley** and **Lynda Donley** of Norman for rehabilitation of their Chautauqua Historic District residence.

**Brent Swift** for leadership efforts to encourage rehabilitation of Norman’s historic properties.

**The University of Oklahoma** and **Bockus Payne Associates Architects** for rehabilitation of the McCasland Field House and the Beatrice Carr Wallace Old Science Hall.

**Midtown Investments LLC** for rehabilitation of the Packard - Eisele Motors Building in Oklahoma City.
Standley Systems LLC for rehabilitation of the historic Sherman Iron Works building in Oklahoma City.

Main Street of Perry, Cherokee Strip Museum, City of Perry, and Civic Organization Cooperative Effort for co-sponsorship of Our Sense of Place: Oklahoma’s 25th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

Beverly Bryant for efforts to inform the public about Ponca City’s heritage and the importance of its preservation.

Ponca City Historic Re-Enactors Group for performances informing the public about Ponca City’s heritage.

City of Ponca City, Ponca City Historic Preservation Advisory Panel, and Ponca City Main Street for the September 2013 Local History Month celebration.

Ponca City Art Association for stewardship of the historic Soldani Mansion.

Charles L. Leider, retired Oklahoma State University professor of landscape architecture, for leadership efforts to identify, document, and share Oklahoma’s historic landscapes with the public.

Northern Oklahoma College, GH2 Architects, LLC, and Hemphill Services, LLC for rehabilitation of buildings on Northern Oklahoma College’s Tonkawa campus.

Ed Taylor and the Tulsa Community College Documentary Filmmaking Class for completion of the Tulsa: Finding 66 student video project.

Thomas Foster and the University of Tulsa’s Spring 2013 Cultural Resource Management Class for the Tulsa Neighborhood Research Project completed in cooperation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office.

Blythe and Casey Wilson for the adaptive reuse of Washington’s historic First American Bank Building as Althea’s Vault.

For more information about the 2014 award recipients, as well as previous honorees, visit the SHPO’s website at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm.
First Annual Oklahoma Archeology Month

Oklahoma’s archeology and history will be in the spotlight during the first annual Oklahoma Archeology Month. In October 2014, museums, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and individual archeologists will present public events to share information about the special places that tell the story of the state’s distant past.

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, State Historic Preservation Office, and the University of Oklahoma Anthropology Department will co-sponsor the statewide observance. The goal is to increase awareness of the diverse archeological and cultural research and preservation projects occurring statewide, and to establish Oklahoma Archeology Month in October as an annual program.

Events for October 2014 already scheduled include archeological site and historic building tours; prehistoric flintknapping, pottery making, and even chain-mail production demonstrations; lectures; and much more. Hosts who have events planned include the Quapaw Nation in Northeast Oklahoma, Lawton’s Museum of the Great Plains in the Southwest, and many others statewide.

To add an event to the developing Oklahoma Archeology Month calendar or to collaborate with an existing host, please contact Stephanie Stutts, University of Oklahoma, at sastutts@ou.edu or 979/393-8202.

In 2016, the landmark National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) turns 50 years old. To celebrate, the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) plans a nationwide initiative called “Making Archaeology Public” (MAP). SAA will partner with the Archaeology Channel to produce short (10-15 minute) videos for each state. The videos will highlight what the states consider the most important, exciting, and (or) surprising archeological find generated by NHPA-related work.

Oklahoma’s contribution to the effort will be coordinated by a steering committee representing the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, University of Oklahoma Anthropology Department, and the State Historic Preservation Office. This year, the committee looks to archeologists, preservation specialists, and members of the public to nominate sites as the subject of Oklahoma’s video. We ask everyone who reads this to nominate a site that fits the bill (important, surprising, thrilling) and to share this request with others to solicit as many nominees as possible.

As a next step, the steering committee will compile nominations and present them to members of the public to gauge which one Oklahomans most want to see as their contribution to the effort. When produced, the videos will be accessible online through an interactive map of the nation at the SAA website (saa.org) and through other visual media.

For more information or to nominate a site, please contact Bonnie Pitblado, Professor of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, at (bonnie.pitblado@ou.edu).
The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30am on Friday, September 5, 2014, in the Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive (just northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City. SHPO staff will provide information about the statewide preservation program and receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2015 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) application to the U. S. Department of the Interior. The SHPO expects to receive approximately $830,000 from the HPF 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 administers the federal historic preservation program in Oklahoma. The purpose of the program is to encourage preservation of the state's archeological and historic resources for everyone's benefit. The SHPO conducts surveys to identify archeological and historic resources; nominates eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); comments on the effects of federal undertakings on archeological and historic resources; develops the statewide preservation plan; administers the CLG Program; provides comments to the National Park Service about rehabilitation projects proposed for federal tax credits; and provides public outreach programs and technical assistance to preservation professionals, government agencies, and interested citizens.

Tomorrow's Legacy: Oklahoma's Statewide Preservation Plan (2010) (available from the SHPO or at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm) sets forth the statewide preservation community's goals and objectives. The SHPO's priorities for addressing the State Plan's goals are continuation of the archeological and historic/architectural resources survey program, with special emphasis on resources associated with underrepresented peoples, and to extend survey coverage to previously unstudied areas; preparation of NRHP nominations; and continuation of public outreach and technical assistance programs. Your ideas and priorities for the SHPO's activities in each of these program areas in FY 2015 will help strengthen the preservation of Oklahoma's heritage.

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 5:00pm, Friday, September 5, 2014. Just call the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or send an e-mail message to Betty Harris at bharris@okhistory.org to request the form. You may also obtain it at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm.

2014 Heritage Hills Home and Garden Tour
September 27-28, 2014
www.heritagehills.org

Photo: Historical Preservation, Inc.
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. (POK) announced the 2014 list of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places at Circle Cinema on Tuesday, April 8. This year’s list includes several historic homes, prehistoric rock art, and the longest deck truss bridge in Oklahoma. This list was selected by a group of preservation professionals from nominations submitted by the public. Please visit www.preservationok.org for more detailed information.

The 2014 List of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places are:

**Westhope**, Tulsa: A 1929 Frank Lloyd Wright home built for his cousin, Richard Lloyd Jones. It is one of only three Wright-designed structures in the state.

**J. Paul Getty Bunker**, Tulsa: Built in 1942, this structure served as the home of J. Paul Getty as he managed the Spartan Aircraft Company during World War II.

**Chilocco Indian School**, Kay County: This campus provided agricultural and vocational training to Native American students from across the country.

**Union Bus Station & Surrounding Block**, Oklahoma City: This 1941 Art Moderne structure served as a transportation hub for over 60 years. It anchors the southwest corner of one of the only intact early 20th century commercial blocks in downtown Oklahoma City.

**Wolverine Oil Company Drayage Barn**, Avant: Built in 1923, the barn is the only extant building at the site of the Wolverine Oil Company’s natural gas plant and is also the only extant oil company-owned drayage facility in southeastern Osage County.

**Rock Art**, Statewide: This art was done through pictographs (paintings) and petroglyphs (carvings) along cave walls and sandstone bluffs and provides valuable insight into the culture of Oklahoma’s early ancestors.

**The Blakemore Home**, Muskogee: This 1907 home was constructed for Dr. Jesse L. Blakemore, a Muskogee pioneer who built one of the first hospitals in Indian Territory.

**The Alice Robertson Home**, Muskogee: This 1922 structure was home to Alice Mary Robertson, the first woman elected to represent Oklahoma in the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Oklahoma State Capitol**, Oklahoma City: Designed by Solomon Andrew Layton, the Oklahoma State Capitol was completed in 1917 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Constructed of Georgia granite and Indiana limestone, the Capitol has long been a symbol of the state, visited annually by thousands from across the world.

**Eastern Oklahoma Tuberculosis Sanatorium**, Tahklihina: Opened in 1921, it was the only tuberculosis hospital available in eastern Oklahoma for white Oklahomans. Built in the sanatorium model of the time, the facility provided long-term and out patient care for those Oklahomans suffering from the ills of tuberculosis.

**Highway 77 Bridge**, Canadian River: Opened to traffic in 1939, the Highway 77 Bridge at the Canadian River is the longest, highest, and best example of a deck truss bridge in the state of Oklahoma.

**Watch List: Route 66**, statewide: Route 66, the Mother Road, has many historic structures along its nearly 375 mile route across Oklahoma.
The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to present its 2014/2015 series of special events. The location of each event or series is given below, and there are no registration fees unless noted. If you have questions, call 405/521-6249. Note: If you have a disability and need an accommodation, please call 405/522-4484 at least two (2) days before the event.

NOTE TO DESIGN PROFESSIONALS: Many of these programs qualify for HSW hours needed to fulfill requirements of the State of Oklahoma’s Board of Governors of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. The SHPO will provide a certificate of attendance, and participants must self-report their attendance to the board.

SEPTEMBER 2014

5 Public Meeting for the SHPO’s FY 2015 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30am)

Location: Oklahoma History Center Classroom, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive (immediately northeast of the State Capitol), Oklahoma City

DECEMBER 2014

3 Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (10:30am -12:30pm)

8 The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30pm - 4:30pm)

Location: Tulsa Third Floor Presentation Room, City Hall, 175 E. 2nd, Tulsa. Parking is available in the pay lot at the corner of 2nd Street and Cincinnati Avenue.

JUNE 2015

3-5 Oklahoma’s 27th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Bartlesville

Details available late April /Registration Fee
On May 19, 2014, the 2013 Secretary of Interior's Historic Preservation Awards were presented during a ceremony in Washington, D. C., at the penthouse of the Main Interior Building, followed by a reception on the rooftop. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Rachel Jacobson, and Deputy Secretary Mike Conner provided remarks. Four awards were presented.

Dana Sigmon, who retired from her position as the City of Okmulgee’s Community Development Director in June 2013, received the Secretary’s award in the Certified Local Governments (CLG) category. When the State Historic Preservation Office staff learned that Dana was retiring, they nominated her for the award to thank her for her accomplishments in the CLG program and for her leadership in the statewide historic preservation program. The SHPO and Dana’s Oklahoma preservation friends and colleagues congratulated her on the award during the statewide preservation conference banquet in Norman on June 5.

Dana began her career with the City of Okmulgee in 1990, one year after the City became a CLG. The SHPO worked with Dana as she supported the City Planner in the administration of the local historic preservation ordinance and the City’s CLG Program. When she became the Community Development Director, the partnership continued to develop.

Just a few of Dana’s accomplishments that earned her the Secretary’s award include:

- Development of brochures for Historic Downtown Okmulgee Walking Tour; Historic Churches Tour; The WPA Structures Tour; and Okmulgee Black Heritage Tour.
- Development and publication of the City’s Design Guidelines for the Downtown Historic District.
- Coordination of production of “Preserving the Past, Preparing for the Future,” a fifteen minute video used for the Okmulgee tour during the 2008 National Trust Conference in Tulsa, for building local public awareness of community heritage, and for visitor orientation.
- Identification of the Okmulgee Stock Pavilion, Harmon Athletic Field, and the Okmulgee Armory as eligible for the National Register and use of CLG funds from the SHPO to have the nominations prepared. She also guided the update of the Okmulgee Black Hospital National Register documentation.
- Oklahoma’s annual statewide preservation conference was held in Okmulgee in 1991 and in 2010. Dana assisted the Okmulgee Main Street Manager in the successful presentation of both conferences.

In addition to Dana, the Secretary recognized award recipients in three other categories, including (1) State Historic Preservation Office: Ann L. Swanson, Grants Operation Analyst, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office; (2) Tribal Historic Preservation Office: Alan S. Downer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Navajo Nation now working for the Hawaii SHPO; and (3) Federal Preservation Office: John S. Wilson, Regional Historic Preservation Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) invites you to comment on the second draft of Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan 2015. The State Plan highlights Oklahoma’s archeological and historic resources, discusses threats to them, provides a vision for the future of the statewide historic preservation program, and includes the goals and objectives for implementing this vision from January 2015 through December 2019.

The second draft is now available at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan.htm (see 2015 State Plan-Second Draft in PDF) or request a hard copy from the SHPO. All comments received by 5:00pm, Monday, August 4, 2014, will be considered as the SHPO develops the final draft of the document. E-mailed comments are preferred, but submission via regular mail is also acceptable (see below).

The SHPO sought input on the preliminary draft from federal, tribal, state, and local governments; nonprofit organizations; preservation professionals; the business and development community; and individual citizens. The second draft reflects the comments received and the SHPO’s continued refinement of the preliminary draft. We appreciate everyone’s time and participation in the process so far and have made every effort to incorporate the comments received. We want the State Plan to accurately reflect the goals of Oklahoma’s entire preservation community and look forward to hearing from you by August 4.

To submit your comments (e-mail preferred), ask questions, or request a hard copy of the second draft State Plan, contact:

Melvena Heisch
Deputy SHPO
State Historic Preservation Office
Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
405/522-4484
FAX 405/522-0816
mheisch@okhistory.org
Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

By becoming a member of Preservation Oklahoma, a 501(c)3 organization, you are demonstrating your commitment to historic preservation in our state and your willingness to get involved in the critical issues of preserving Oklahoma's heritage for future generations. Each member increases the strength, power, and presence in advocacy efforts at the local, state, and national level. Your membership is greatly appreciated and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership Benefits

In addition to being a part of Oklahoma’s preservation community, members of Preservation Oklahoma receive newsletters and email updates on preservation news and issues, invitations to members-only events, free admission to tours and programming throughout the year, and much more!

Membership Levels:

Sod House: $25 Individual $75 Family
Bungalow: $100 Individual $300 Family
Victorian Mansion: $500 Individual $1,500 Family

Corporate, Institution, and Senior/Student Levels are also available.

To join, please visit http://www.preservationok.org/become-a-member.html and join through our secure online payment form. You can also join by calling the POK offices!