Heisch Receives Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award

On Friday, June 17, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell recognized individuals who are helping to preserve special historic and cultural places across the country. Four preservation officers received the prestigious Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., for their outstanding efforts to protect America’s diverse cultural and historical heritage for the education and enjoyment of future generations.

Melvena Heisch, Oklahoma’s Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, received the award in the State Historic Preservation Officer category. Heisch was recognized for her four decades of service and her commitment to historic preservation through patience, perseverance, and tenacity. Other recipients included: Brian Jordan, Ph.D., Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Loretta Jackson-Kelly, Hualapai Tribal Nation; and Nancy Hiestand, City of Bloomington, Indiana.

“As we approach the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act this October, we are reminded that none of the impactful programs enabled by the Act would be possible without the hard work, passion and professionalism of individuals who have devoted their careers to the preservation of our nation’s history and culture,” said Secretary Jewell. “It is through their efforts that future generations will know the places that tell our nation’s stories.”

Created by the National Historic Preservation Act, the awards are the only congressionally-mandated, cabinet-level recognition program acknowledging the dedication and expertise of historic preservation professionals within federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies.
Preservation Oklahoma News, the newsletter of Oklahoma’s historic preservation community, is published quarterly as a joint project of Preservation Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office.

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This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.

POK News Page 2
On Friday, June 3, Preservation Oklahoma (POK) presented awards to two projects that demonstrated excellence in historic preservation. The event took place during POK’s annual meeting and luncheon in the Independence Tower Ballroom in Enid. Preservation projects happen ONLY because of the efforts of local citizens across our state. Preservation Oklahoma would like to applaud the work of these individuals whose tenacity, courage, and determination are the backbone of successful preservation projects across Oklahoma. The following awards were presented:

**Russ Teubner, Stillwater**, for the adaptive reuse of the former Aggie Theater in downtown Stillwater into Backstage, a unique and world class event space. Backstage thoughtfully blends the past, present, and hints at the future. It integrates a 120-year-old building, innovative modern design, architectural artifacts, and a personal art collection to create a unique event space that manages to be very modern yet have a strong historical context.

**Broadway Antiques & Uniques, Enid**
The building was purchased by John & Cindy Greven and was renovated to become Broadway Antiques & Uniques in 2015, where approximately 50 vendors sell antiques and collectibles in booth-type spaces. The renovation included removing lots of green and orange shag carpet and linoleum flooring to reveal beautiful hardwood floors, which they refinished. They removed the old pressed paper ceiling tiles, painting the original tin tile ceiling, and removed walls that blocked the front windows upstairs.

**Linda Barnett**, Director of the Oklahoma Main Street Center, received a special preservation award in appreciation for her dedication to historic preservation and support of Preservation Oklahoma.

For more information on the Preservation Awards, please contact the POK offices at 405.525.5325 or david@preservationok.org.

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**Endangered Places Exhibit Available**

A traveling exhibit of the 2016 list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places is available for display. (See page 11 for more information on the list.) Hosting the exhibit is free of charge thanks to the generous support of the Kirkpatrick Foundation and the Cherokee Nation. The exhibit will be delivered, set up, and picked up. All you have to provide is the space!

For more information, please contact David Pettyjohn at 405-525-5325 or e-mail: david@preservationok.org.
The Oklahoma Historical Society’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will hold a public meeting at 10:30am on Friday, September 16, 2016, 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 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and how it supports the statewide preservation program. Also, during the meeting, the SHPO will receive public input for development of the Fiscal Year 2017 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) application to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Nation is celebrating the NHPA’s 50th anniversary this year. Your participation in this public meeting is an important way you can join the celebration and help the SHPO advance Oklahoma’s preservation goals for the future.

Under the NHPA, 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 Certified Local Governments (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. The SHPO expects to receive approximately $830,000 from the HPF for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan (January 2015-December 2019) (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 extension of 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 2017 will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

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 16, 2016. Call the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or e-mail Melvena Heisch at mheisch@okhistory.org to request the form or obtain it at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm.
The Oklahoma Historical Society hosted the annual Oklahoma National History Day competition on May 4 and 5 at the Oklahoma History Center. National History Day is a highly regarded academic program for 6th through 12th grade, and “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History” was its theme for 2016.

Each year, students choose topics related to the annual theme and conduct extensive primary and secondary research through libraries, archives, museums, and historic sites. They present their work in original papers, exhibits, performances, websites, and documentaries. These projects are entered into competitions in the spring at district, state, and national contests where they are evaluated by professional historians and educators.

With a private donation, the State Historic Preservation Office continued the special prize to recognize outstanding achievement in addressing the History Day theme through historic preservation. Specifically, two prizes were awarded for projects that involve interpretation of the importance of place and the National Register of Historic Places.

The junior division preservation prize winner was Evan Kamriguel with his exhibit titled “Coming up Roses: How Beautification Projects have Shaped Exploration, Encounter, Business Exchange, and Social Encounters on Broken Arrow's Main Street.” He is from Broken Arrow.

The senior division winner was David Berry with his paper “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History: A Drive Through Time Down the Mother Road-Route 66.” He is from Classen School of Advanced Studies in Oklahoma City.

The SHPO established the special prize to encourage students to learn more about Oklahoma’s historic properties and about why their preservation is important. The goals and objectives of Tomorrow’s Legacy: Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan identify efforts with schools and youth organizations as priorities for the statewide preservation program.

For more information about Oklahoma National History Day, contact Sarah Dumas, Director of Education, Oklahoma Museum of History, Oklahoma Historical Society, at 405/522-0785 or sdumas@okhistory.org. Also, you can learn more at http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday.
The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, presented its 2016 Citations of Merit during a banquet on Thursday, June 2, in Enid. The banquet was a highlight of Preservation is Golden: Oklahoma’s 28th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, held June 1-3.

Twenty-six citations were presented for accomplishments in eleven Oklahoma communities. The award recognizes positive impacts on the preservation of Oklahoma’s historic properties through restoration, rehabilitation, research, planning, public programming, and other activities.

The 2016 recipients of the SHPO’s Citations of Merit and their accomplishments include:

- **Amber-Pocasset Elementary School, Third Grade** for production of the I-movie about the historic Pocasset Gymnasium.

- **Main Street Bartlesville, Bartlesville Area History Museum, Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce, Bartlesville Visitors Bureau, Bartlesville Redevelopment Trust Authority, Washington County Historical Society, City of Bartlesville, and Price Tower Art Center** for sponsorship of Tradition and Transition: Oklahoma’s 27th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference.

- **Grady County Historical Society** for the façade rehabilitation of downtown Chickasha’s historic Dixie Building.

- **Charles Elliott** for protection of a segment of historic Route 66 roadbed and a unique stone bridge.

- **Kingkini Arend** for efforts to increase public awareness about Enid’s Mid-Century Modern Architecture.

- **Main Street Enid, Inc.** for creation of the Downtown Enid History website.

- **Tammy Wilson** for presentation of the Eerie Enid Tour and the Oklahoma Ghost Towns Tour.

- **Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce** for continued sponsorship of the Cherokee Strip Celebration.

- **Robert Klemme** for extraordinary efforts to mark and share the history of the Chisholm Trail.

- **Railroad Museum of Oklahoma** for collecting, sharing, and preserving the history of railroading.

- **Jodi Rolls** for extraordinary efforts to protect and maintain Mustang’s historic Meloy House.

- **Robert L. Brooks** for over thirty years of research, publication, and leadership in the protection of archeological resources.

- **John D. Hartley** for thirty years of dedicated public service in the study and management of archeological and historic properties.

- **Brent Swift Design Build** and **Butzer Gardner Architects** for the certified rehabilitation of Norman’s Logan Apartments.
Carnegie Centre LLC, Beck Design, and Sikes Abernathie Architects for the certified rehabilitation of Oklahoma City's historic Main Public Library Building.

Comprise CDC, Rosin Preservation LLC, and Yeager Architects for the certified rehabilitation of Oklahoma City's historic Wesley Hospital.


Elise Kilpatrick, Seibold Architecture, and Preservation and Design Studio for the certified rehabilitation of Oklahoma City's Milk Bottle Building.

Midtown Renaissance and Butzer Gardner Architects for the certified rehabilitation of Oklahoma City's The Mayfair.

Midtown Renaissance, David Kraszewski, Architect, and Preservation and Design Studio for the certified rehabilitation of Oklahoma City's Marion Hotel.

OCU Law Building Associates and Frankfurt Short Bruza Associates for the certified rehabilitation of the Central High School Building for the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

Bruce Smith for the adaptive reuse and certified rehabilitation of the historic Pawhuska Drug Building.

St. Gregory’s University and TAP Architecture for rehabilitation of the historic Benedictine Hall.

Linda Barnett for leadership in community revitalization efforts and service as State Coordinator for the Oklahoma Main Street Center.

Interak Corporation and Sikes Abernathie Architects for rehabilitation of the Ward Building in Tulsa’s Brady Historic District.

Nelson+Stowe Development, Ross Group, and KKT Architects for rehabilitation of Tulsa’s Coliseum Apartments.

For more information about the 2016 Citation of Merit recipients and about the SHPO's awards programs, contact Melvena Heisch at 405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org or visit http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpoawards.htm.
In April 2015, Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. (POK) placed the William H. Murray (Bridgeport) Bridge on its list of Oklahoma’s most endangered places. The bridge, a 38-span camelback pony truss constructed in 1932-1933, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 2004 as part of the “Bridgeport Hill – Hydro Route 66 Segment. This historic district is a 17.7-mile-long corridor that includes the roadbed itself and 11 bridges carrying US-281 and a county road segment over rural countryside, streams and gorges. The roadway embodies the spirit of the open road and incorporates the scenery associated with the vast open short-grass plains. Oklahomans should consider this structure and the associated roadbed a state treasure. Preservationists and Route 66 enthusiasts consider it a national treasure.

In 2005 ODOT began an aggressive campaign to address Oklahoma’s structurally deficient bridges. Through funding from Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety (ROADS), Oklahoma has, and is expected to continue to, reduce the percentage of structurally deficient bridges. According to FHWA “Bridges are considered structurally deficient if significant load carrying elements are found to be in poor condition due to deterioration and/or damage...” The Bridgeport Bridge is listed as a ‘Bridge and Approach’ project in ODOT’s 2016 to 2023 Construction Work Plan. The project is needed because the bridge is considered structurally deficient. The purpose of the project is to provide structurally sound crossing of US-281 over the South Canadian River, and preserve Route 66 as a tourist destination in Oklahoma.

While ODOT has identified specific structural conditions that need to be addressed, there are other conditions that contribute to the challenges of this particular crossing, including the narrow 24-foot width of the bridge. In addition, the Bridgeport Bridge, as most truss bridges built decades ago, was not designed to routinely carry the medium-sized truck – such as delivery trucks and recreational vehicles – that account for over 40 percent of the current traffic, which is estimated at 1,300 vehicles per day. Finally, truss bridges also require an increased attention and greater frequency of inspection, which is reflected in long-term maintenance costs.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) mission is to “…provide a safe, economical and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma.” Federal regulations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act, both signed into law on October 15, 1966, also require federal agencies to consider preservation of historic properties (properties identified as eligible for listing or which are formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places), including properties that are part of America’s transportation infrastructure. In addition, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental “umbrella” law, established a mandate for federal agencies to consider the potential environmental consequences of their actions, document the analysis, and make that information available to the public for comment.
Because many of ODOT's projects have financial support from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), federally-funded historic bridge projects are subject to the regulations cited above.

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects that their projects have on historic properties. On behalf of FHWA, ODOT consults with individuals and organizations who have a demonstrated interest in historic properties that may be affected by the project. If such properties are identified, the regulations stipulate that the agency make an attempt to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effect to those properties. The Section 106 regulations are procedural, and outcomes are not pre-defined. Consultation with interested parties is key, however, and necessary by law to the process. The following excerpts from the regulations summarize this:

"The views of the public are essential to informed Federal decision making in the Section 106 process. The agency official shall seek and consider the views of the public in a manner that reflects the nature and complexity of the undertaking…"  [36 CFR 800.2(d)(1)]

Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act applies only to federal transportation agencies. The regulation is substantive in nature and requires that all "feasible and prudent" alternatives be explored before approval of the "use" of land from publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites. Under Section 4(f), a site is determined historic through the Section 106 process. Feasible alternatives are those that can be constructed as a matter of sound engineering judgment. Prudent alternatives are those that do not cause other problems of a severe magnitude that would outweigh the importance of protecting the historic property. Such problems might include: impacts to other protected environmental or 4(f) resources; community or social impacts (detours or relocations); unacceptable safety or operational problems; or if the alternative results in additional construction, maintenance, or operational costs of an extraordinary magnitude.

In short, ODOT and FHWA must balance a multitude of constructability, environmental, and maintenance concerns when evaluating rehabilitation and replacement alternatives for historic bridge projects. Public opinion regarding the significance of the historic bridge is also weighed into the analysis, specifically through the Section 106 process, but also in the 4(f) process of defining the importance of the historic property.

The environmental review process for the Bridgeport Bridge, currently being conducted under NEPA, Section 106, and Section 4(f) requires an analysis and consideration of alternatives that meet the purpose and need of the project. In addition, the process requires public involvement and transparency in the analysis so that ODOT and FHWA can consider the comments of the public and weigh them with the potential impacts to other environmental resources and constructability and maintenance of the US-281 crossing. ODOT has established a website dedicated to the William H. Murray (Bridgeport) Bridge and several other historic bridges that are currently in the 2016 to 2023 Construction Work Plan. You are invited to visit the site to learn more about these projects and provide comments so that ODOT and FHWA can make informed decisions regarding these historic properties.

Please visit http://www.odotculturalresources.info/ and review the Key Projects. In this section, you will find information on public meetings, engineering and environmental studies, presentations, and web-based comment forms. Please provide comments regarding any of the projects listed on the site or contact Scott Sundermeyer at ssundermeyer@odot.org.
Oklahoma SHPO Calendar of Events

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office announces its 2016/2017 events. Locations are listed below each event, 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 business 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 e-mail certificates of attendance after the event, and participants must self-report their attendance to the board.

SEPTEMBER 2016
16 Public Meeting for the SHPO’s FY 2017 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application (10:30am)

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

MAY 2017
10 Certified Local Governments Program: The SHPO and Municipalities Preserving Community Heritage (10:30am - 12:00pm)
10 Introduction to Section 106 and Determinations of Eligibility for the National Register (1:30pm - 4:30pm)
11 Working with the National Register of Historic Places (10:30am - 4:30pm)
12 Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (10:30am -12:00pm)
12 The Secretary’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1:30pm - 4:30pm)

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

JUNE 2017
7-9 Oklahoma’s 29th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference, Oklahoma City

Details available late April /Registration Fee

PastForward Preservation Conference in Houston

Join the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Houston, Texas, Nov. 15-18 for the premier educational and networking event for those in the business of saving places. This year, PastForward focuses on how preservation can play a greater role in securing healthier, more sustainable, and just cities, especially during the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Be part of the discussions! For more information, including speakers, sessions, local tours, and registration, visit www.PastForwardConference.org.
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. (POK) announced the 2016 list of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places at the Fire Alarm Building in Tulsa on Tuesday, April 5.

This list was selected by a group of preservation professionals from nominations submitted by the public to preserve these historic buildings. The event was generously sponsored by the Cherokee Nation and the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture.

The 2016 List of Oklahoma’s Most Endangered Historic Places are:

**New Deal Structures, Statewide** (Focus on Chandler Memorial School Building): 2016 marks the 81st anniversary of the Works Progress Administration legislation and today, many of the structures constructed during this time have fallen into disrepair. One such building is the Chandler Memorial School Building. Completed in 1942, the building is the largest WPA-built school in Lincoln County and is constructed of native stone exhibiting the Moderne influence.

**Apuckshunubbee District Choctaw Chief’s House, Swink**: The oldest remaining site in the Choctaw Nation, the Apuckshunubbee District Choctaw Chief’s House was constructed in the 1830s.

**Vannerson Homestead, Erick**: The Vannerson Homestead is one of the few remaining early settlement homesteads in Beckham County. The Vannerson Homestead is a rare property in Oklahoma as it has two extant half-dugouts on the property.

**First National Bank Building, Stratford**: The First National Bank Building in Stratford is a great example of the small building in downtowns that have failed to thrive following introduction of a highway that bypassed the downtown itself.

**Mid-Century Architecture, Statewide**: Mid-Century Modern Architecture is known for its unique style and distinctive design elements. These unique characteristics have also presented a challenge to the proper rehabilitation of these important structures. An example is the Abundant Life Building in Tulsa designed by Cecil E. Stanfield.

**Rock Shelter Sites, Statewide**: For thousands of years people in Oklahoma took shelter from the elements under natural rock overhangs. These overhangs provided shelter ranging from a few square feet for dry sleeping to enough area for a fire, food storage, and a place to make tools and supplies.

**Oklahoma Iron Works Building, Tulsa**: Located in Oklahoma’s petroleum capital, the Oklahoma Iron Works Building is important for its association with two companies that played a vital role in the production of oil field equipment widely used in the state and beyond.

**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. In 2014, Governor Mary Fallin signed legislation that provided $120 million in funding to address many needed repairs. Since that time, extensive work has been completed on the building. A $125 million bond issue was passed in 2016.

**Quanah Parker Star House, Cache**: Built around 1890, the Star House was built for renowned Comanche warrior, leader, and statesmen Quanah Parker. Relocated to its current location in Cache, the home is visited by people from all over the world.

**Route 66, Hydro to Bridgeport and William H. Murray Bridge**: In western Oklahoma, the section of Route 66 from Bridgeport to Hydro is considered distinctive since it marks a change in geography by providing the first glimpse of the western plains. The section also contains the William H. Murray Bridge, also known as the Pony Bridge (due to the truss system it uses). Completed in 1934, the bridge is one of the most distinctive bridges of the road in Oklahoma due to its massive length.
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!