Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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The joint publication of the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.

Ride through history with the Oklahoma Route 66 Passport

With over 400 miles in Oklahoma alone, there is so much to see and do along The Mother Road, including the many unique buildings and businesses that have served motorists for almost 100 years. The Oklahoma Route 66 Passport is your guide to 66 of those places across the state. It runs from east to west and is divided into three sections. Prizes are awarded after completing each section and a final prize is given after finishing all stops in the passport.

Chantry Banks, Preservation Oklahoma's Executive Director, recently had the opportunity to send a few questions to Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, who has spearheaded the Passport program.

What inspired you to create the Passport Program?
I had seen a passport that included all the Route 66 states, but not one specifically for Oklahoma- so I knew we needed something that was more detailed and specific to our state.

Do you have a favorite stop in the Passport?
I thought it was neat that a fire station in Tulsa, that was on Route 66, completely rebranded themselves "Fire-house 66". It's a great stop to learn more about the job of a firefighter and what they do for a community.

What does Route 66 mean to you and what does it mean to Oklahoma?
Route 66 is America's Main Street - it's for everyone. Before roads became generic, we had the Mother Road. It's an economic engine for Oklahoma, and is arguably the most popular Americana roadtrip you can find today.

Are there early numbers yet about participation in the Passport Program?
We have reports weekly from businesses who are seeing increased traffic due to the Passport Program, but it will take some time to get more accurate numbers. But early reports show it's working!

Interview continues on page 3



Hole in the Wall Filling Station, Commerce. Photo: POK

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Preservation Oklahoma is currently seeking board members from the Tulsa and rural areas. If you are interested in serving on the Preservation Oklahoma Board of Directors, please contact Executive Director, Chantry Banks, director@preservationok.org.

Dairy King on Historic Route 66, Commerce. Photo: POK

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.

Do you anticipate the Passport Program growing as more businesses/attractions see the benefit?
We do, yes. Small businesses are hurting right now, it's so critical to be shopping local, and a program like this could be the difference between a business being able to pay rent or not.

Do you have a favorite item on the menu at Waylan's KuKu Burger in Miami?
Easily one of the best burgers on Route 66, and their onion rings are hard to beat!

Anything you'd like to share about Route 66, the Passport, or any upcoming events?
There's an American renaissance happening in this country. People want to see the good in America- and they can see that all along this route. The best is yet to come for Oklahoma's 400 drivable miles of the most famous road in the world.

Preservation Oklahoma thanks the Lieutenant Governor for his time and also for his enthusiasm for Route 66. There are so many notable buildings on the Route, including several listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For more information and to plan your Oklahoma Route 66 adventure, visit www.travelok.com.



Amy Hellmich Joins SHPO Staff

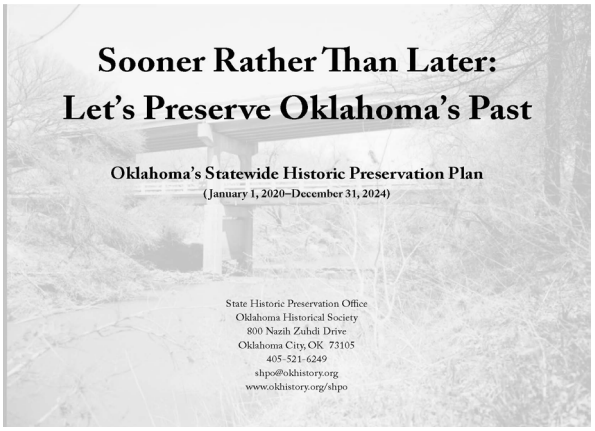




Amy Hellmich (unmasked and masked!), Photo: SHPO

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to announce that Amy Hellmich has joined the staff as the new Survey Coordinator (architecture). Amy is a graduate of University of Alaska, Anchorage with a B.A. in History and a graduate of Boston Architectural College with an M.D.S. in Historic Preservation. Amy can be reached at 405/521-4533 or ahellmich@okhistory.org. If you're driving along historic Route 66, you might take a moment to wave to Amy as she is currently resurveying buildings along the route.

State Plan: Take II



COVID has affected everyone's day-to-day life: from work to school to home life, everyone is experiencing new ways of handling the situation. Activities in the State Historic Preservation Office are no different. Unsurprisingly, 2020 did not go as planned, but 2021 will see new opportunities for safe trainings, lectures, meetings, and brainstorming. As such, we are going to take this moment to remind everyone of our State Plan and use the New Year to get back on track - Sooner Rather Than Later!

The State Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the availability of its updated historic preservation plan, Sooner Rather Than Later: Let's Preserve Oklahoma's Past. The plan sets forth the goals and objectives for Oklahoma's preservation community from January 1, 2020-December 31, 2024. The update was completed over 12 months with input from preservation professionals and the public and was approved by the National Park Service in August 2019. A list of the goals and objectives will be available online at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan, and the SHPO will be using this list as a way to document completed projects to increase transparency. If you wish to receive a printed copy of the updated state plan, provide your name and complete mailing address to the SHPO at 405/521-6249 or tdarata@okhistory.org. If you have any suggested projects for our upcoming year, please take time to fill out the project suggestion form found at www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion.

Remembering Former POK President Bill Gumerson

William Dow Gumerson, Jr., was born on October 2, 1944, in Minneapolis and died in Oklahoma City on Thanksgiving, November 26, 2020. Bill was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and contributor to dozens of landmarks throughout Central Oklahoma.

Gumerson was the founder of Bill Gumerson & Associates, a design-build firm, which focuses on new and historic properties in Central Oklahoma. He began his career when he joined his father, architect Dow Gumerson, in his design and construction firm. Their first project together, the Ford Distributing Company, was built by Gumerson from his father's design. The two also collaborated on Nichols Hills Plaza. While an expert in new construction, Gumerson particularly loved historic properties and restored some of the finest architecture in Oklahoma.

Bill was an avid boater, fisherman, snow skier, car enthusiast, traveler, and adventurer. He adored spending time in Minnesota and visiting the Gilderhus Family Farm, where he spent time as a child. Together, he and Mary Ellen enjoyed their travels around the world, their friendships, civic life, and the activities of the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. Above all, Bill was loyal, and he demonstrated this loyalty to family, friends, clients, and to the heritage of Oklahoma City. One close friend, who is also a client, referred to Bill as "the consummate gentleman."

Continued on next page

Remembering Bill Gumerson Continued



Former POK Executive Director David Pettyjohn with Bill Gumerson

Gumerson served on dozens of boards and task forces, including as president of Preservation Oklahoma, for which he led the capital campaign to renovate the exterior of the Overholser Mansion; the Heritage Hall Board of Trustees; the Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Commission; the Children's Hospital Foundation Board of Directors; the National Trust for Historic Preservation Board of Advisors; Historic Preservation, Inc., which supported the neighborhood of Heritage Hills, where he was a longtime resident; and the Chafing Dish Society. Gumerson was a founding member of Friends of the Mansion, which preserves the Oklahoma Governor's Mansion. He served on public-art task forces for transportation thruways, on behalf of Oklahoma City Beautiful; and he co-chaired the Oklahoma AIDS Care Fund's Red Tie Night.

Gumerson was preceded in death by his parents, William Dow Gumerson and Jean Gilderhus Gumerson; his wife and mother of his children, Dianne Gumm Gumerson; and brother, Jon David Gumerson.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen, of the home; daughters, Kristen Gumerson Bohanon, and son-in-law, David Bohanon, of Oklahoma City; Katie Gumerson Altshuler and son-in-law, Brooks Altshuler, of Oklahoma City; and son, William Dow Gumerson III, and daughter-in-law, Katie Schoenfelder Gumerson, of Jamestown, North Carolina; Mary Ellen's children, Lauren Flanagan Gaffney, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and William and Katherine Flanagan, of Oklahoma City; his brother, Ted Lee Gumerson, and wife Cheryl, of Oklahoma City; grandchildren, Luther Andrew and Dianne Elaine Bohanon, William Geoffrey and Evelyn Dianne Altshuler, Maxwell Dow and Georgia Dianne Gumerson, and Frances Maryrose Gaffney and Vivienne Skye Flanagan; and numerous beloved nieces and nephews and their children.

The family wishes to thank all of the frontline medical workers battling the COVID-19 pandemic, and a very special thank you to extended family, Jon Blaschke, M.D., and Shea Weir, RN.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the William Dow Gumerson, Jr. Memorial Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, Preservation Oklahoma, Oklahoma Children's Hospital Foundation, or the charity of one's choice. A celebration of the extraordinary life of Bill Gumerson is planned for 2021.

Tulsa's Vernon AME Church Selected to Participate in the National Fund for Sacred Places



Vernon AME Church, 311 N. Greenwood, Tulsa

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is pleased to share the news that Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tulsa has been selected to participate in the National Fund for Sacred Places.

The National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, provides training, planning grants, and capital grants from $50,000 to $250,000 to congregations of all faiths for rehabilitation work on their historic facilities.

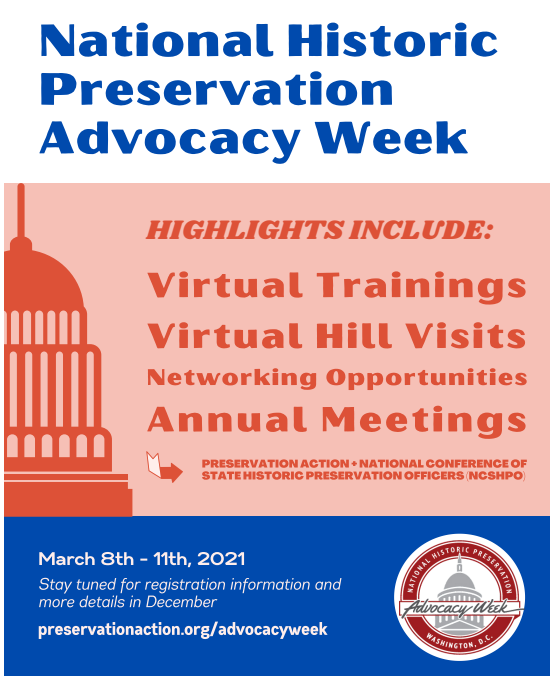
The National Fund for Sacred Places, now in its fifth year, is generously supported by the Lilly Endowment. The program has now awarded over $6 million to 68 community serving congregations representing 19 faith traditions in 39 states and the District of Columbia, and is on track to commit $20 million in capital grants to about 100 recipients by 2023. Letters of Intent for the next grant cycle will be available on the National Fund website starting January 26, 2021. Visit fundforsacredplaces.org for more information.

SHPO Website Update

Not to beat the bad news drum, but have we mentioned 2020 did not go as we had planned? Planned for 2020 but shelved due to COVID, the SHPO website will undergo a transformation in 2021. With a goal of increasing access to available information for consultants, preservation professionals, and the public, the website will include updated forms, program checklists, preservation videos, and guidelines for all of the SHPO program areas. Watch the SHPO social media sites to learn when the new website goes live.



Save the Date for Preservation Action's Advocacy Week



Preservation Action, along with our partners at the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, is excited to announce National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week 2021 will be held virtually for the first time from March 8-11, 2021. Virtual Advocacy Week will feature in-depth virtual trainings, policy briefings, networking opportunities, virtual meetings with elected officials, and of course virtual hill visits, providing the opportunity to meet with your members of Congress and their staff directly. Save the Date! Visit https://preservationaction.org/actioncenter/advocacyweek/ for more information on how you can participate.

HPF Project Suggestions for 2021

The Oklahoma Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) 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 $879,000 from the HPF for these programs and its operations. Ten percent of the HPF award is reserved for pass-through grants to CLGs.

The SHPO's statewide preservation plan, now available for years 2020-2024 at www.okhistory.org/shpo/stateplan, 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 project ideas and recommended priorities for the SHPO's FY 2021 activities will help strengthen preservation efforts in Oklahoma.

The project suggestion form will be available online through the SHPO website (or through hard copy by request). The form can be submitted electronically at any point during the year but will only be considered for the next funding cycle which is available (the SHPO is governed by the federal fiscal year which runs from October 1-September 30). Visit the SHPO website at http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/projectsuggestion. Contact Lynda Ozan at 405/522-4484 or lozan@okhistory.org with questions or to receive a hard copy of the form.

Oklahoma History Conference "Perspectives in History" April 22–23, 2021



Amos Hall, Thurgood Marshall, and Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, 1948 2012.201.B1268.0091, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection



Young boy at St. Elijah's Syrian Orthodox Church, Oklahoma City, 1936 2012.201.B0970.0478, Oklahoma Publishing Company Photography Collection

The 2021 Oklahoma History Conference is going virtual. Join us April 22–23, 2021, as scholars, students, historians, and authors from across the state and country share the history and culture of Oklahoma.

The conference theme, "Perspectives in History," will encompass a wide range of Oklahoma topics from traditionally underrepresented voices. Presentations will include six live sessions with Q&A and several prerecorded presentations with scheduled chat room discussions. Topics will explore Oklahoma minorities in popular culture, women and minorities in Indian and Oklahoma Territories, underrepresented political movements, and the social, cultural, and political impact of archives and exhibits. In addition, this year the OHS has added professional development sessions in archival and museum studies.

More information can be found at okhistory.org/conference. If you have questions, contact Larry O'Dell, Director of Development and Special Projects, Oklahoma Historical Society, 405/522-6676 or lodell@okhistory.org



Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion Resumes Daily Tours February 1

The Henry Overholser Mansion is closed for daily tours until Tuesday, February 2. Tours are held every Tuesday - Saturday at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm. Reservations are still required to visit the mansion. To make a reservation, call 405/525-5325 or email Lisa@PreservationOK.org.

2021 NRHP Nomination Grants Available from the SHPO

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) announces its annual matching grants to state, local, and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for the preparation of National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations. The SHPO has reserved $10,000 of its FY 2021 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the program. Applications are accepted February 1 through April 30. Each grant is limited to $1,000, and the applicant must provide a nonfederal, cash match of at least $700. Grant recipients will use the grant funds and nonfederal match to retain an appropriately qualified professional to prepare a complete individual property nomination package for the NRHP. Applicants must be aware that $1,700 (federal grant + nonfederal match) is only an estimate of the cost for such projects and that more than the minimum $700 nonfederal match may be necessary to cover the consultant fee. Consultants must consider the nature of the property proposed for nomination and many other factors as they develop their fee proposals.

The NRHP is the catalogue of our nation's significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes important in our past. While listing is not a guarantee of preservation or of financial assistance, the NRHP status of a property is often critical to the strategy for its preservation. The NRHP provides increased public awareness of these irreplaceable resources, provides limited protection for them, qualifies property owners for federal and state tax credits under certain circumstances, and may qualify the property owner for grant assistance when such programs are funded.

To obtain an application form go to www.okhistory.org/shpo/nrgrant. You may also contact the SHPO at 405/521-6249.



The Edwards Store, Red Oak. Photo: State Historic Preservation Office

Mass Grave Found in Search for Victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

Efforts to locate the graves of victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre as part of the recently reopened investigation continued with test excavations conducted on October 19-22, 2020. This latest phase of the investigation focused on two locations in Oaklawn Cemetery: the Clyde Eddy Area and the Original 18 Area. The fieldwork was completed by an excavation team led by the Physical Investigation Committee and with observation by and participation of representatives from the Public Oversight Committee.

As with the earlier test excavations in the Sexton Area completed in July 2020, no indication of a mass grave or any other human remains were detected in the Clyde Eddy Area. However, a mass grave was found in the Original 18 Area near the southwestern corner of the cemetery.

The combined test excavations in the Original 18 Area exposed nearly 27 square meters (290 square feet), which represents a portion of the overall mass grave dimensions. Initial data from soil core samples suggest the mass grave could encompass an area that measures about 131 square meters (1410 square feet).

The excavations focused principally on exposing evidence of graves but, with one exception, stopped short of fully exposing the skeletal remains contained therein in an effort to maintain their preservation for later exhumation and analyses. At least 12 individuals are believed to be interred within the mass grave based largely on evidence for coffins and coffin hardware. If the estimated dimensions of the overall grave shaft are accurate, it is possible that the total number could include more than 30 individuals.

Additional investigations are needed to confirm the actual dimensions of the mass grave and collect detailed data on the remains themselves, including the extent to which they do indeed represent victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.



Florida Gulf Coast University student, Sonya Concepcion-Jones, observes as Angela Berg collects data on steps that were observed at the west end of the mass grave trench (Image courtesy of the City of Tulsa).



Members of the Public Oversight Committee (on the right) observe as researchers from the Physical Investigation Committee discuss the discovery of multiple coffins—representing a mass grave—in Backhoe Trench A in the Original 18 Area of Oaklawn Cemetery (view facing west) (Image courtesy of the City of Tulsa).

Names of Historic Homes Changed to Honor Women



Fred and Addie Drummond Home. Photo: OHS



Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion. Photo: POK

To recognize the significant contributions of women to the history and culture of Oklahoma's communities, the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Board of Directors has voted to change the names of two historic homes. The Fred Drummond Home in Hominy will now be known as the Fred and Addie Drummond Home, and the Henry Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City will now be known as the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion. The names now reflect the couples who, in partnership, helped Hominy and Oklahoma City flourish in their early days.

"The OHS is proud to celebrate the centennial year of women's suffrage by taking these women out of the shadows of history," said Kathy Dickson, director of Museums and Historic Sites for the Oklahoma Historical Society. "Although the changes are long overdue, adding Addie and Anna's names to the official name of these sites reminds visitors that both women and men built communities and were central figures in the creating of what we now know as Oklahoma."

Fred Drummond moved to Pawhuska in 1886 as a licensed government trader. He married Addie Gentner in 1890, and by 1895 the couple had saved enough money to buy a partnership in the trading company for which he worked. In 1904, the Drummonds formed the Hominy Trading Company, and soon expanded into ranching, banking and real estate. The three-story, Victorian-style Fred and Addie Drummond Home in Hominy was completed in 1905. The home was deeded to the OHS in 1980, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

Henry Overholser arrived in Oklahoma City shortly after the Land Run of 1889, where he soon built six business buildings and was elected president of the board of trade. By 1894 he was elected to the Oklahoma County Commission, and he continued to boost civic causes and the expansion of the city. He married Anna Ione Murphy within six months of his arrival in Oklahoma City, and the two were active in Oklahoma City social circles. They built a 20-room Victorian mansion in Anton Classen's Highland Park Addition (now Heritage Hills), completing it in 1904. Anna made their home a center of society in early Oklahoma City. The Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and was acquired by the OHS in 1972. It is operated by Preservation Oklahoma, a private non-profit dedicated to preserving Oklahoma's historic places.

The Fred and Addie Drummond Home is located at 305 N. Price Ave. in Hominy. The Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion is located at 405 NW 15th St. in Oklahoma City.

The mission of the Oklahoma Historical Society is to collect, preserve and share the history and culture of the state of Oklahoma and its people. Founded in 1893 by members of the Territorial Press Association, the OHS maintains museums, historic sites and affiliates across the state. Through its research archives, exhibits, educational programs and publications the OHS chronicles the rich history of Oklahoma. For more information about the OHS, please visit www.okhistory.org.

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Help POK Preserve Oklahoma's Historic Treasures!

Historic structures, much like photographs and newspapers, tell the story of Oklahoma communities, linking the past to the present. They also provide economically vibrant locations for local businesses and residents. Since 1992, Preservation Oklahoma has worked to protect and preserve these structures through advocacy, education, and programming. By joining our efforts, you are supporting the protection of Oklahoma's unique and diverse history. Your support also assists in the preservation of the 1903 Henry Overholser Mansion, an Oklahoma City landmark and home of POK's offices.

Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include discounted tickets to POK events, complimentary tours of the Overholser Mansion, and invitations to our annual membership appreciation event.

Membership Levels:

Student	$25
Individual	$50
Family	$100
Partner	$500

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!