Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

July 2021
Volume XXVII, Issue 4

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

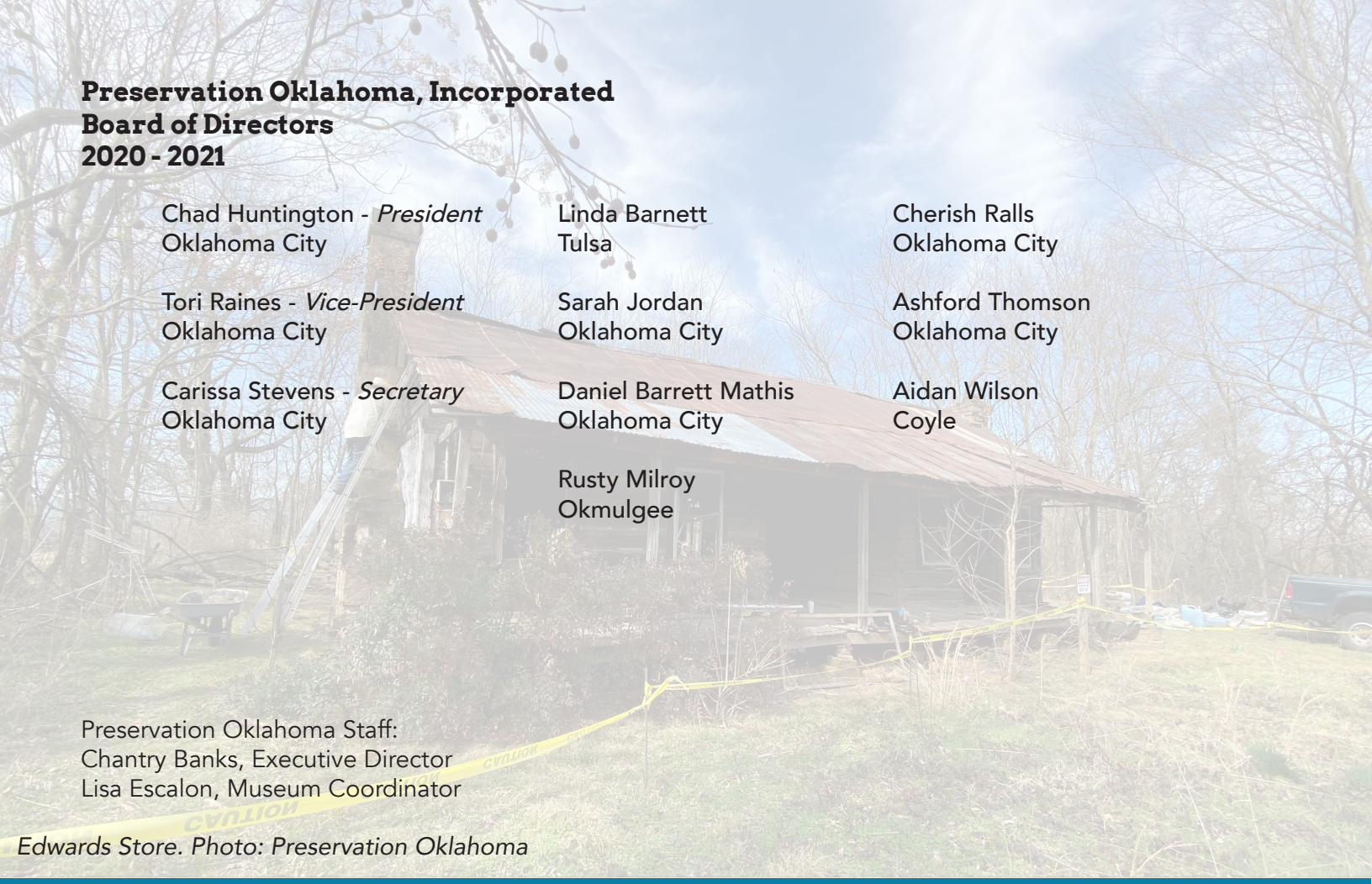
Success in Preservation

Since its beginnings, Preservation Oklahoma has advocated for the places where Oklahoma history lives with the annual Most Endangered Places List. We wanted to use this issue of Preservation Oklahoma News to revisit properties on past lists that we are fortunate enough to still have in communities across the state. These buildings are significant and connect us with our past while adapting to our present and future.

While inclusion on the list does not guarantee protection or funding, recognition for these structures may increase restoration efforts and possibly ensure their longevity. Beginning on page three, we'll give updates on several preservation successes we've seen over the years. Enjoy!



Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma



Preservation Oklahoma, Incorporated
Board of Directors
2020 - 2021

Chad Huntington - *President*
Oklahoma City

Tori Raines - *Vice-President*
Oklahoma City

Carissa Stevens - *Secretary*
Oklahoma City

Linda Barnett
Tulsa

Sarah Jordan
Oklahoma City

Daniel Barrett Mathis
Oklahoma City

Rusty Milroy
Okmulgee

Cherish Ralls
Oklahoma City

Ashford Thomson
Oklahoma City

Aidan Wilson
Coyle

Preservation Oklahoma Staff:
Chantry Banks, Executive Director
Lisa Escalon, Museum Coordinator

Edwards Store. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

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.

Co-Editors

Lynda Ozan
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State Historic Preservation Office
Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917
405/522-4484
www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

Chantry Banks
Executive Director
Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
The Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion
405 NW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
405/525-5325
www.preservationok.org

The activity that is the subject of this newsletter has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

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.

Oklahoma State Capitol Building: Oklahoma City
Few structures represent Oklahoma more than its capitol. It houses representatives of all seventy-seven counties and contains the stories of how our state developed from the laws that were passed to the inauguration of governors. The actions that occur within its walls affect the citizenry of the entire state and beyond. It is home to all three branches of government and a vast collection of state art. The building was designed by Solomon Andrew Layton and was completed in 1917. It is made of Georgia granite and Indiana limestone and was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

After a century of heavy use, harsh Oklahoma weather, and inconsistent maintenance and preservation efforts, the building's mechanical systems were failing, and the exterior façade was crumbling. The capitol building first appeared on our Endangered Places list in 2013 and was listed a total of four times. In 2014 and 2016, the Legislature and Gov. Mary Fallin enacted legislation providing funding for the Capitol's first-ever top-to-bottom restoration. Restoration is ongoing but the transformation is remarkable.



Walcourt Building. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

The Walcourt Building: Oklahoma City
Empty for decades, the Walcourt (Most Endangered Places 2012) long caught the attention of Oklahoma City residents and visitors, inspiring fantasies and questions about its history with its impressive but lonely appearance.

The Walcourt Apartment Building was constructed in 1927 in the Gothic style and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Its major period of use was from the time of its opening through the 1950s, when it was a posh apartment building for business people working downtown. Architect Joe Davis, builder Charles Beveridge, and consulting engineer and owner of the property, H.E. Musson, gave great attention to detail to create stylish apartments with high-end fixtures, genuine maple wood trim, and Shaeffer mantles in every unit. The imposing brick and cast stone exterior appealed to oilmen and bankers flocking to Oklahoma during periods of prosperity.

Years of vacancy raised concerns about deterioration, deferred maintenance, and damage caused by people and animals seeking shelter within. The Walcourt sold in 2017 to developer Steve Morris. A major exterior renovation utilizing Historic Tax Incentives began in 2019 and is nearing completion. The interior will be renovated and restored as leases are signed.



Washita Battlefield NHS. Photo: NPS

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site: Roger Mills County
On November 27, 1868, General George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry attacked the winter camp of Cheyenne Peace Chief Black Kettle, sacked the village, destroyed the pony heard, took prisoners, and killed many, including Black Kettle.

Listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1966, The Washita Battlefield was added to the Most Endangered Places list in 1994 and remained on the list in 1995 and 1996. It was easy for "pot hunters" to access the archaeological resource and years of farming and ranching had altered the landscape. This site in western Oklahoma is one of the most important sites associated with the "Indian Wars."

In 1996, the site became the Washita Battlefield Historic Site and is now managed by the National Park Service. An interpretive center was built, and the land continues to be restored to its natural prairie.

(story continues)



Mayo Hotel. Photo: TravelOK

The Mayo Hotel: Tulsa
and The Skirvin Hilton: Oklahoma City

No properties have appeared on the Most Endangered Places list more than The Skirvin and Mayo Hotels. Both properties appeared for the first time in 1994 and each appeared on our list eight times!

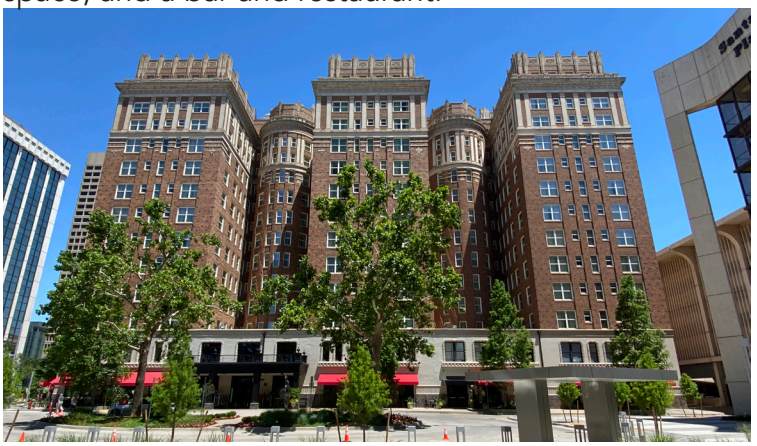
Built in 1925 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, The Mayo Hotel defined downtown Tulsa luxury. Architect George Winkler designed the 19-story building in the Sullivanesque, Art Deco style and featured a base of two-story Doric columns with a terra cotta façade. It had 600 modern guest rooms with ceiling fans and Tulsa's first running ice water.

The Mayo closed in 1981 and over the next 30 years the property fell into disrepair. It was purchased in 2001 by the Snyder family and the lobby was renovated. In 2009, after a $42 million dollar renovation employing Historic Tax Incentives, The Mayo Hotel reopened its doors, helping begin the revitalization of Downtown Tulsa. Steeped in historic detail and modern luxury, the property now offers 102 guest rooms, 76 private residences and event space for hosting weddings, social events, parties, conventions or business meetings.

Designed by State Capitol architect Solomon A. Layton, the Skirvin Hotel opened in 1911 in downtown Oklahoma City and was the center for social and political life for decades.

When opened, the hotel had two south facing wings with 225 accommodations and an interior decorated in English Gothic detail. With its success, the Skirvin grew to 525 rooms in the 1930s and hosted celebrities, dignitaries, and politicians over the next few decades.

The Skirvin closed its door in 1988 and sat empty for 19 years. Using Historic Tax Incentives, a $50 million renovation occurred, the hotel reopened as The Skirvin Hilton in 2007. It features 225 luxurious rooms, event space, and a bar and restaurant.



Skirvin Hilton Hotel. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

Edwards Store, Latimer County

Established in 1850, the Edwards Store became an unofficial stop on the Butterfield Overland mail and stage line from 1858 to 1861. The Butterfield Overland line ran from St. Louis to San Francisco and had several stops in Oklahoma, and Edwards Store is the only extant resource associated with the route still standing in the state.

The Edwards Store was known for serving meals to stage line passengers. Thomas Edwards established the trading post on the Fort Smith-Boggy Depot Road, and it later became the original post office and site of the town of Red Oak. The structure is of "dog trot" design typical of the 19th century and built from hewn logs. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The "Store" and surrounding land remains in the Edwards/Hardaway family. It first appeared on our Most Endangered Places list in 2013 and was re-listed in 2018 and 2019.

A nonprofit organization, The Edwards Store, Inc., was established in 2019 to help manage restoration of the site. Several grants have been received to help begin the renovation process. The original chimneys have been stabilized and with renewed interest in the Butterfield Overland Line, visitation has been on the upswing. Future plans call for a fully restored site and interpretive events held at the store.

National Guard Armory Building: Chandler

Appearing on our 1995 Most Endangered Places list, the Chandler National Guard Armory Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. It was built by the Works Progress Administration in 1936-37 of native sandstone and was home to Battery F, 2nd Battalion, of the 160th Field Artillery of the Oklahoma National Guard, 45th Infantry Division. It was built with 16-inch thick walls to withstand winds of up to 175 miles per hour and much of the work was done by hand, including excavation with picks and shovels. The Armory featured a drill hall with stage and 110-foot rifle range. A new armory was built in 1970.

It reappeared on our list in 1998, when it was learned that the city was negotiating with a national chain to acquire the property and demolish the armory. The deal did fall through and it was removed from the list. Fortunately, in 2007, the building reopened as the Route 66 Interpretive Center.



Chandler Armory Building. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

Journal Record Building: Oklahoma City

The fate of the Journal Record Building was up in the air for several years. Located directly north of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, the Journal Record (originally the old Masonic Temple) bored the full force of the explosion, losing its roof and sustaining extensive structural damage. The Journal Record Building was included in our 1996 and 1997 lists.

Fortunately, the building still stands! The western one-third of the building now houses the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum. The eastern two-thirds of the building remained vacant for several years, but in 2016 Heritage Wealth Management Co. began a major renovation of the building. They returned the façade to its 1923 origins and renamed the building The Heritage.



Journal Record Building. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

Triangle Building: Pawhuska

Part of the Pawhuska Downtown Historic District, The Triangle Building was built in 1912 by Charles Gray who conducted his legal business there for over 60 years. It is a classic early day skyscraper designed as a column with a base, shaft, and capital. Its cast stone ornamentation is "Sullivanesque" with an intricate geometric pattern of intersecting circle, triangles, and squares. It is five stories tall and its north tip is clipped, giving it a narrow north fourth façade, which makes it appear as a "flatiron" building or triangle.

The building anchors the Downtown Historic District and the entire area is one of the least altered commercial districts in the state. The fate of the Triangle Building remained in jeopardy for years, until the success of Ree Drummond "The Pioneer Woman" brought renewed interest to downtown Pawhuska. The same family who restored the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa began a major restoration (utilizing Historic Tax Incentives) of the building and it currently is a 20-room boutique hotel called The Frontier. *(story continues)*



Triangle Building. Photo: Frontier Hotel

Douglass High School/Page Woodson Center

The first African American educational institution in Oklahoma City, Douglass High School occupied several locales before moving to the old Lowell School in 1934 where numerous community leaders taught and learned. Douglass was converted to Page Woodson Fifth Grade Center in 1954 and served in that capacity until 1994, when it closed permanently. In 2007, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The high school appeared twice on the Most Endangered Places list in 2010 and 2011.

Designed by Layton, Smith and Hawk, the building was monumental in size and appearance, equipped with an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, auditorium and stage. And unlike previous homes for Douglass High School, the building was in the middle of the Black community, not hidden among industrial properties.

What followed is one of the greatest examples of adaptive reuse Oklahoma City has ever seen. Developers Ron Bradshaw and his son, Jason Bradshaw of Colony Partners, Inc., purchased the school in 2013 and spent a year establishing its direction. Planner and community activist Gina Sofola and long-time activist Marjorie Young helped Colony Partners gather input from the community. With Historic Tax Incentives, the decision was to create 100 percent affordable residential units and a community auditorium. The building now offers 60 affordable residences and a 750-seat auditorium, and its restoration has encouraged more local development. The OKC Innovation District encompasses The Douglass and "The Douglass Next Door," new affordable apartments were added on the same site. The success of The Douglass at Page Woodson has also prompted the planned restorations of other historic African American schools in Oklahoma City – the former Marcus Garvey Charter School and Dunbar Elementary.



Douglass High School/Page Wodson Center. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma



Lucille's Service Station. Photo: TravelOK

Lucille's Service Station: Hydro

Known as the "Mother of the Mother Road," Lucille Hamons delighted in the traveling visitors who frequented her establishment along Route 66 in Hydro. After nearly 60 years of operating this gas station, Provine Service Station, Lucille passed away in August 2000 and the property was placed for sale. This Bungalow/Craftsman structure includes wooden shingles, exposed rafter tails, and tapered stucco piers. It is one of only two upper-story, out-thrust porch style stations left on Oklahoma's stretch of Route 66. Built in 1929 by Carl Ditmore, the service station was renamed by Provine Station in the 1930s. In 1941, the Hamons family took over the operation of the station. It was placed on the Most Endangered Places List in 2002 and was listed a total of three times.

Lucille's Service Station is one of similar rural service stations that sprung up in the late 1920s in response to increasing automobile travel across the country. This mom-and-pop station was built with the owner's living quarters located above the service station.

In 1971, the completion of I-40 cut Lucille's off from direct access to the new highway, but Lucille kept the station running until the day she died on August 18, 2000. While the service station is no longer in operation, visitors are welcome to stop by for a photo of this unique slice of Americana. The outside of the service station has been restored and an historical marker on-site recounts the tale of the family that lived there and ran the station for years. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997, Lucille's still attracts tourists and Route 66 enthusiasts from around the world.

Lucille's Roadhouse, a Route 66 themed restaurant in Weatherford, was inspired by the original Lucille's Service Station.



Meadow Gold Sign on Route 66, Tulsa. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

Oklahoma Route 66

No other highway has a more storied history than the beloved Route 66 and no other state has more miles than Oklahoma. The route itself was first listed on the Most Endangered Places in 2006 and has appeared five times over the years. This does not include the various signs, bridges, and buildings along Route 66 that have also made the list in the past two decades.

With the centennial of Route 66 approaching in 2026, interest has never been higher in the "Mother Road."The iconic Meadow Gold sign was restored and now stands watch over the road just east of downtown Tulsa. Much of the original roadbed that we have listed over the years remains, including the original 9-foot roadbed outside of Miami (National Register 1995) and the 17.7 mile stretch of highway from Bridgeport Hill to Hydro (National Register 2004) in western Oklahoma. The beloved Bridgeport Bridge (Pony Bridge) is part of this stretch of road. Recently, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation unveiled new plans for updating the Bridgeport Bridge over the Canadian River. While a new bed will be placed, the truss system will be preserved. After restoation, it will placed back on the completed bridge. A turnout for stopping and taking pictures will also be constructed.

Hopewell Church: Edmond

This truly unique architectural accomplishment in Edmond, designed by visionary Bruce Goff, combines old oilfield drill pipe, native stone, and even utilized an aluminum cake pan in its interior. Completed in 1951 by an all-volunteer crew (a feat in itself), this church drew rave reviews from publications across the country, and even landed a spot in TIME magazine. It was listed in the National Register in 2002.

First listed in 2003's Most Endangered Places List, the future of the church was uncertain for many years after sitting empty since the late 1980s when the congregation moved to a building next door. It had a leaking roof and other major structural issues. It appeared again in our 2010 and 2011 lists. The Hopewell Heritage Foundation was formed in 2005 to raise funds to restore the church. The roof was replaced in 2013 with red shingles, similar to the color that was used on the orignial roof. As of 2015, the windows and doors had also been secured, but structural work is still needed on the inside in order to support the upstairs floor. The restoration effort is led by Elliott and Associates. While not fully restored/ preserved, a sign outside of the church is now calling the building The Deer Creek Event Center. The hope is to provide a significant space for community programming in the arts, education, business and training, public celebrations and charitable events. We'll keep you updated on future developments.



Hopewell Church. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

SHPO Announces July Workshop Series

Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program

Join the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for a virtual workshop series focused on the Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program. The entire series will be online, and the live sessions will have ample opportunity for questions and discussion.

Tax Incentives Program Overview, July 7 - 10 a.m. to noon
In this session, we will discuss the Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program in general. The Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program encourages private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings. We will go over how the National Register of Historic Places coincides with the Tax Incentives Program. We will also discuss the application process and timing for submitting a project.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, July 8 - 10 a.m. to noon
In this session, we will discuss the ten (10) Standards for Rehabilitation. The intent of the Standards is to assist the long-term preservation of a property's significance through the preservation of historic materials and features. The Standards pertain to historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy and encompass the exterior and the interior of historic buildings.

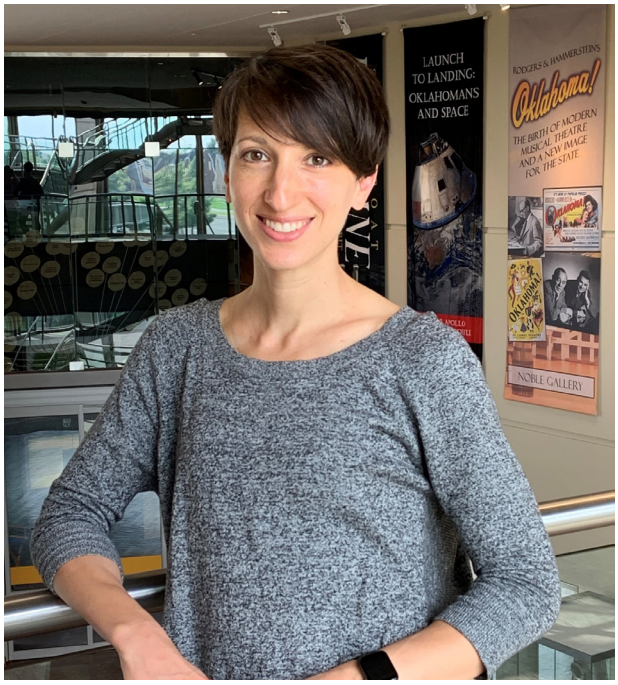
The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation, July 9 - 10 a.m. to noon
For this session, we will discuss the Guidelines for Rehabilitation. The Guidelines are intended to assist in applying the Standards to projects generally; consequently, they are not meant to give case-specific advice or address exceptions or rare instances. The Guidelines pertain to historic buildings of all sizes, materials, occupancy, and construction types, and apply to interior and exterior work as well as new exterior additions.

To register, visit https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshopregistration.

Wyckoff and Holy Join SHPO Staff

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is pleased to announce that Kristina Wyckoff has joined the staff as the Section 106 Coordinator. Kristina is a registered professional archeologist and serves the SHPO as the historic archeologist. Kristina is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a B.A. in History and a graduate of The University of Oklahoma with an M.A. in Anthropology. Kristina can be reached at 405-521-6381 or kwyckoff@okhistory.org.

Natalia Holy joined the SHPO staff on June 16th as the new Survey Coordinator. Natalia has a bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State University in International Studies and Accounting and master's degree in Historic Preservation from Roger Williams University. She previously interned with Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. under David Pettyjohn. You can reach Natalia at 405-521-4533 or nholy@okhistory.org.



Kristina Wyckoff. Photo: SHPO


Natalia Holy. Photo SHPO

Preservation Oklahoma's 2021 Most Endangered Places

Fire Station #1, Guthrie
Housing Guthrie's first fire station, the building at 111 S. 2nd St in Guthrie, Oklahoma, is rich in history. First used by a local café, the building welcomed the Heim and Waite Hose Company in 1903.The building was then occupied by the Guthrie Fire Department until it was sold in 2005. Preserving this site would honor the countless hours of service and protection provided by the many fire fighters housed in this structure. Many original features are still present including an advertising mural and wood hose tower. The hose tower was used for hanging and drying the cotton hose after the fire fighters returned on their horse-drawn fire apparatus. Fire Station #1 contributes to the Guthrie Historic District and Guthrie National Historic Landmark District.

Note: The hose tower has appeared on the Most Endangered Places four times, being listed for the first time in 1997. Chantry Banks, POK Executive Director, recently visited the station and hose tower and both are in good condition.

Flour Mills, Yukon
An icon of the skyline, the elevators/flour mills flanking Route 66 have been the topic of much discussion about progress and preservation in the town of Yukon. Built around 1900, the mills are a staple of the community, so much so the high school mascot is "the Millers." Talk in the town is that the mills may be torn down to make room for a five-story, high-end office park, apartment building, and two multi-level parking garages. The mills are a source of pride for residents and the massive sign atop one of the mills was refurbished with donated funds a few years ago. The future is uncertain for the mills, as the sale is expected to close in October 2021.

Note: Since publishing the list in April, not much has been said about the future of the mills. Developer David Jones says the mills are to be preserved in the plan, but area business owners say their businesses are not being shown on the online plan. We'll continue to monitor the situation.

Canadian County Jail and Stables, El Reno
The Canadian County Jail, designed by Solomon A. Layton and built in 1906, has deteriorated to the point that there are holes in the roof. Although in extremely poor condition, the building remains a striking example of the Italian Renaissance style as applied to a jail. The red brick stable, in better condition, is also a wonderful example of early 20th century functional architecture. As the oldest extant county buildings in Canadian County, the jail and stable would benefit from increased public awareness. The jail was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 and the stables added in 1995. *POK will continue to monitor the buildings.*


Canadian County Jail and Stables. Photo: Cynthia Savage

Tallchief Mansion, Fairfax
Overlooking the Osage prairie, this is the childhood home of Maria Tallchief, Prima Ballerina. Together with her sister, Marjorie, she founded the Chicago City Ballet in 1981. Their father, Alexander Tallchief, was a member of the Osage Nation who obtained his wealth like many others in the Osage tribe through the 1920's oil boom. A 10-room structure constructed of terracotta bricks was built to sit on a hill overlooking the reservation in Fairfax, Oklahoma. This became known as Tallchief Mansion. Alexander Tallchief owned other buildings in Fairfax including a pool hall and the Tallchief Theatre which he designed and built in 1928. The home stands today as a monument to the Osage Nation.It first appeared on the Most Endangered Places in 2004 and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Note: We are currently trying to identify the owner of the home. If you have information, please contact Chantry Banks, Executive Director.

Old First National Bank, Kingston
The First National Bank of Kingston was built in 1905. It was the second brick building built in, at that time, Helen, Indian Territory. The building served as a bank from 1905-1935 and was also a grocery store for many years. It is essentially in its original condition other than a few windows that were bricked over. After closure of the grocery store it sat empty for several years before seeing new life as a craft store. It was at one time nominated for inclusion in the National Register, but the process was never completed. Old First National Bank now sits empty, but it is for sale. It is in danger of destruction from neglect and disrepair. If you have an update on the Old First National Bank in Kingston, please let us know!

(story continues)

Preservation Oklahoma's 2021 Most Endangered Places

Old City Jail, Oklahoma City
This building was constructed in 1935 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program under President Roosevelt during the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. The Police Headquarters and Jail building plays a key part in keeping the story alive. From an architectural standpoint it has beautiful Art Deco details, a style celebrated by design enthusiasts as the golden era of architecture, a style which was demolished all too often in Oklahoma City amidst the Pei Plan. The building is the western-most building of the city's Civic Center, which includes the County Courthouse, Municipal Building, and Civic Center Music Hall. With the recent construction of a new Police Headquarters, the fate of the original building is uncertain. The police proposed demolishing it for additional parking to City Council in 2019; however, a recent City Council meeting deferred any decisions until the end of the 2021.

Note: Of the four Civic Center buildings, the jail is the only one not in the National Register. However, a nomination is currently being prepared. The city plans to continue with the demolition plan of the newer buildings to the east of the jail. We'll let you know as soon as the National Register nomination is submitted.

First United Methodist Church, Terral
Not much is known about the builder or date of the First United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Terral, but it is a beautiful example of what many consider to be the most important buildings in any small town. Almost all of its contents remain in the property. The beautiful stained glass still hangs in the window; it is currently protected by plexiglass. Action does need to be taken to secure the building, as there are many access points to get inside. The current owner purchased the building around ten years ago with hopes of a renovation. Unfortunately, ill health has prevented restoration work, and he is currently looking to sell the church to someone who will help bring it back to its former glory.

Old City Hall, Theater, and Masonic Lodge, Heavener
A recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places, the Old City Hall/Masonic Lodge was built in 1928 in the neoclassical style. It is the only extant neoclassical style in Heavener as applied to buildings along the First Street corridor. Heavener's social history is entwined with that of the fraternal orders that bound businessmen and women together in social and public service. The building is in solid condition and there are hopes to restore the interior, including the theater.



Heavener Old City Hall and Masonic Lodge. Photo: Barbara Tyson

WWII Hangars, Chickasha Airport
Opened in 1941 as Wilson-Bonifils Field, the airport conducted contract basic flying training for the United States Army Air Forces. Flying training was performed with Fairchild PT-19s as the primary trainer. Around 8,000 troops were trained at Wilson-Bonifils as part of the 31st Flying Training Wing. During wartime, the airport had six grass runways. The airfield was deactivated in 1945 and turned over to civil control.

The WWII era hangars still standing are a testament to Oklahoma's important role in wartime training. They are eligible for listing in the National Register for Historic Places and are in fair condition. Preservation and renovation is needed on the hangars and public awareness may help keep the buildings standing for many more years.

W.S. Kelly Merchandise Building, Cogar
This little building, sitting at the intersection of state highways 37 and 152, has seen a lot of action since it was built in the 1920s by Wilbur Kelly in the town of New Cogar. Legend has it Pretty Boy Floyd made frequent stops, along with other notorious crooks and bootleggers. The building has served as a general mercantile, grocery store, and gas station over the years, before closing its doors in 1980. All contents were left behind as well. For film buffs, the building can be seen in the 1988 Dustin Hoffman and Tom Cruise movie, *Rainman*.

In 2020, The Abandoned Atlas Foundation began a small restoration project on the W.S. Kelly Merchandise Building. They hope to preserve this little slice of history in Cogar and are currently accepting donations.

Oklahoma Landmark Added to 2021 National List

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has released America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2021. The list sheds light on important examples of our nation's heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. More than 300 places have been listed in its 34-year history, and in that time, fewer than 5 percent of listed sites have been lost.

The 2021 list includes a diverse mix of historic places nationwide that celebrate the interconnection of American culture and acknowledge it as a multicultural fabric that, when pieced together, helps tell the full American story.

But with threats ranging from deterioration to climate change to inappropriate development, these special places are at serious risk.



Threatt Filling Station. Photo: Preservation Oklahoma

The entrepreneurial Threatt (pronounced THREET) family first sold produce from their 150-acre family farm outside Luther, Oklahoma, in the early 1900s, and over time expanded their offerings to include a filling station (built in 1915), ballfield, outdoor stage, and bar. The filling station was the only known Black-owned and operated gas station along Route 66 during the Jim Crow era, making it a safe haven for Black travelers. The farm also reportedly provided refuge to Black Oklahomans displaced by the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

The Threatt family still proudly owns the property and envisions revitalizing this site in time for the 2026 Centennial of Route 66, starting Route 66's second century off with a more representative narrative of the legendary "Mother Road." But they need partners and financial support to fully restore the filling station and bar and do justice to its stories of Black entrepreneurship and travel. View the entire list at SavingPlaces.org.

Preservation Action Launches Summer Membership Campaign

Preservation Action invites you to become a member and make your voice heard in national, state, and local historic preservation matters. Preservation Action is the only national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to lobbying for the best preservation-friendly policies at the national level. If you're a grassroots preservationist, your agenda is our agenda and we look to you to help us shape our priorities.

Benefits of Membership

1. As a member of Preservation Action, you will receive our newsletter, e-mail legislative updates, in-depth and accessible policy briefings, and information on the status of preservation issues.

2. You will have access to our staff, our nationwide membership network, and the latest information on legislation important to preservation.

3. In addition, you will be invited to attend our annual meeting and Advocacy Week, an educational and lobbying session that will put you in touch with fellow preservationists from across the country.

To join, visit PreservationAction.org/JoinAndDonate.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.
The Henry Overholser Mansion
405 NW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

405.525.5325
www.preservationok.org

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 2579

Change Service
Requested

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!