

# Preservation Oklahoma NEWS

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

Preservation  
OKLAHOMA 



## Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma



*Side-gabled Bank Barn, Yeager vicinity, Hughes County. Photo: Brad Bays.*

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to host “Shut the Door! Barns in Oklahoma,” a six-part webinar series. Presented by Dr. Brad Bays of Oklahoma State University, the first in the series, Log Barns in Oklahoma, was held on February 22 and was a success with great questions asked by those in attendance. The rest of the schedule is below and you can register online at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/webinars](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/webinars).

Three-Bay and Crib Barns in Oklahoma (26 April)

Use of Stone and Bank Barns in Oklahoma (28 June)

Signs of Ethnicity and Adaptation in Oklahoma Barns (30 August)

Oklahoma’s Special Purpose Barns and Farm Structures (25 October)

The Significance of Barns in the Oklahoma Cultural Landscape (27 December)

Webinars are limited to the first 100 registered, and you can contact the SHPO at **405/521-6259** for more information.



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Gold Star Building, OCU. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK

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Mail all correspondence to Preservation Oklahoma.



## SHPO to Host Workshops

The Oklahoma Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, is pleased to announce its May Workshop series. The sessions will be held via Big Marker with registration available at <https://www.okhistory.org/shpo/workshopregistration>.

### Section 106 Workshops:

May 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act  
May 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Section 106 and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey  
May 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Archeological Documentation in Oklahoma  
May 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Section 106 and Tribal Consultation

### National Register Workshops:

May 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: What is the National Register of Historic Places?  
May 17, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: How to Research Your Property

### Tax Credit Workshops:

May 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Tax Incentives Program Overview  
May 19, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: The Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation  
May 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Rehabilitation

For more information or to register for classes, please contact Tifani Darata at [tdarata@okhistory.org](mailto:tdarata@okhistory.org) or **405/521-6249**.

## Tulsa Foundation for Architecture Hosts Historic Neighborhood Tour

Make plans to attend the TFA Historic Neighborhood Tour: Owen Park. Tulsa Foundation for Architecture presents a spring Historic Neighborhood Tour in partnership with Unique Properties benefitting both Tulsa Foundation for Architecture and The Owen Park Neighborhood Association on Sunday, April 24th from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Enjoy a self-guided tour of six historic Owen Park homes.

Tickets for this tour are \$20 for not yet members and \$15 for members, and children 12 and under are welcome to participate in our tours free of charge. Tickets are limited, so advanced registration is strongly encouraged. Walk up tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. Walk up tickets will be cash only and will require exact change. Tickets are limited and sell out FAST, so purchase yours today to make sure you don't miss out! Visit <http://tulsaarchitecture.org/programs/> for more information and tickets.

The history of the Owen Park neighborhood can be traced to the early 19th century. A description of the area was given by Washington Irving in his book, *Tour of the Prairies*.

A monument in Tulsa's Owen Park denotes the point where the lands of the Osage, Creek and Cherokee nations met. The first American settler was Chauncey Owen, husband of a Creek woman who qualified for a land allotment. This land later became the Owen Park neighborhood that was developed between 1910 and 1930. Owen Park neighborhood was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.



Photo: Tulsa Foundation for Architecture

## Oklahoma City University: Modern Architecture on the Historic Campus

In Part II of our look at modern architecture on small Oklahoma campuses, we stop at Oklahoma City University. The early history of what we now know as Oklahoma City University (OCU) had many names and locations in its formative years but its foundation in the Methodist roots has remained constant. What started as Epworth University in 1904 changed to Oklahoma Methodist University in 1911 located in Guthrie. In 1922 it changed again to Oklahoma City College when it moved back to Oklahoma City. The formal name change to Oklahoma City University occurred in 1924.

As with other small campuses around the state, OCU survived the Great Depression and World War II. While the majority of the student population during the war period was female, upon the war's end, OCU saw a surge in enrollment including returning military service personnel. Growth and development on campus continued at a rapid rate.

Dr. C.Q. Smith, President of OCU, announced in 1945 expansion plans for the campus that focused on Route 66/23rd Street adjacent to campus. As part of this plan, expansion would include the Business/Law building south of the original hall; a science building, student union, planetarium, and a boy's dormitory on the west side of campus; and a stadium at the northwest corner. By the 1945-46 school year, enrollment had risen to 1,600 students creating a need for more faculty and facilities. By the spring of 1946, enrollment was at 2,705 students.

In his 1948 address to the Trustees, Dr. Smith stated "It is common knowledge that buildings and grounds do not make a college, but permanent buildings give articulate expression to faith in an enterprise. They give faith and evidence that the enterprise will carry on." Smith created a robust building program that led to modern architecture both on and around the campus.

Out of the campus expansion to accommodate the enrollment expansion post WWII came stunning modern architecture that carries common modern elements and stylistic details to rival any large campus in the state.



Gold Star Building, OCU. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK

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## Modern Architecture at OCU (continued)

The Gold Star Memorial Building (pictured on previous page) opened on September 28, 1953, as a memorial to Oklahoma Methodists who served their country during World War II. Designed by George Winkler and Guy Reid in 1946, the building stands approximately 270 feet tall and has a 200-pound star atop its tower. Clint Miller, while working at CC Cooke Company produced the 7-foot star atop the building based on Winkler/Reid's drawings. At the time of construction, it had the most arc-welded steel, 1,000 pounds.



Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

Now known as the Tom and Brenda McDaniel University Center, the student center has evolved through time. The student center burned in a major fire on campus on June 15, 1954. By 1955, the center was rebuilt and expanded in 1967. The building was renovated, reopened and renamed in 2007. This mid-century modern building has common elements from the era including exposed aggregate panels, large overhanging eaves, bands of glass with dark metal mullions, monumental aggregate columns, and an expansive courtyard with both raised and sunken features.



Harris Hall, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

In 1958 four dormitories opened on campus: Harris, Draper, Smith and Banning. Harris and Draper were identical in design: brick, three story buildings with a flat roof, balconies on the second and third floors with patios on the first floor, and one exterior tower stair case on the south and north elevation. The balconies serve as very heavy details on the north and south elevations utilized as awnings for the floor below. The roof eave extends also over the third floor providing the same awning detail. Smith and Banning are also identical in design: brick, three story buildings with a flat roof, two exterior tower stair cases on the south and north elevation and heavy continuous concrete awnings over each floor. Unlike Harris and Draper which has both interior and exterior circulation patterns, Smith and Banning have only interior circulation patterns.



Draper Hall, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO



Smith and Banning Halls, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

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## Modern Architecture at OCU (continued)



Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel is an elaborate expression of modern architecture. Famed MIT architect Pietro Belluschi designed the chapel with Reid and Associates detailing the plans and supervising construction. Belluschi was an Italian-born American architect who most consider to be a leader in Modern Movement design. Ground breaking occurred in 1966 with completion of the building in 1968. The interior boasted an eight-story height ceiling with a four gabled roof capped with a 151-foot spire. Each wall is adorned with stained glass which illuminates in varying tones depending on which window the sunlight strikes. Belluschi was considered a major architectural visionary and was admired for his use of fine craftsmanship and careful detailing.



Walker Hall, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

Walker Hall opened in 1967. This multi-story brick dormitory was built to house 252 female students. It was a building of firsts: the first dormitory on a campus in Oklahoma to feature the split-triple room concept; the first residential hall on campus to have central air-conditioning; and the first residential hall on campus with acoustically engineered music rooms/studies in the basement. Identifying exterior modern architectural elements include both the vertical and horizontal aggregate banding, the wide overhanging eaves, the entry recessed under an aggregate port-cochere, and "X" shaped design (common in dormitories of this period).

*Continued on next page*



## Modern Architecture at OCU (continued)



Wilson House, OCU. Photo: Lynda Ozan, SHPO

A trip to see modern architecture on OCU's campus would not be complete without a stop by the Wilson House. Built in 1975 by architect George Seminoff the house has had very few renovations; mostly interior. The two-story house has four bedrooms, three bathrooms, a living room, kitchen, dining area, a study, and secondary living room. Seminoff studied at Oklahoma State University as well as Harvard University and by 1960 established Seminoff, Bowman & Bode architectural firm. From the front, the house is very protective and almost secretive. The façade has very few openings, most focused on the main entry off Blackwelder. The north and south elevations have considerably more windows but again the building has a very protective feel as each elevation has a courtyard that is concealed by brick walls. The overall design is Usonian in nature in that it has very little public exposure, a strong connection between the interior and exterior spaces, natural lighting, and a flat roof.

The next time you are in Oklahoma City, stop by Oklahoma City University and really look at the buildings. You will be pleasantly surprised at the collection of mid-century modern architecture many of which will feel familiar if you have been on other campuses in the state or have a fondness for modern architecture.

## History and Hops

In February, Preservation Oklahoma kicked off the new speaker series, History and Hops, at the Carriage House of the Henry and Anna Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City. Trait Thompson, Executive Director of Oklahoma Historical Society, gave a presentation on the restoration of the State Capitol.

Around fifteen guests were in attendance and had great questions for Trait.

In March, June Lester Chubbuck gave a talk on the Edwards Store and the history of the Butterfield Overland Trail. The Edwards Store is the only extant structure in Oklahoma on the trail.

We will be taking April off, but the program will return on May 20. Future topics include Mid-Century Modern architecture and Oklahoma Route 66 landmarks. Do you have an idea for a topic or would you like to be a featured speaker? Let Chantry Banks, Executive Director know! Email him at [director@preservationok.org](mailto:director@preservationok.org).



History and Hops. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK



## Tour Historic Overholser Dam with Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture

Save the date for April 27 and make plans to join the Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture for a tour of the Historic Lake Overholser Dam.

In the early years of Oklahoma City, the water source was the N. Canadian River, which was unreliable due to drought and flooding, and the future growth of the City was impaired by insufficient water supply. After years of discussions and disagreements about the need for a dam, in 1916, a \$1.5 million bond issue was approved and construction began on the dam.



Lake Overholser Dam, Oklahoma City. Photo: Chantry Banks, POK

Completed in 1918, Lake Overholser Dam created a 700 acre lake, which aided in flood control and provided Oklahoma City with its primary source of water, enabling her to grow substantially in the years following its completion.

Lake Overholser Dam is a reinforced concrete buttress type dam 1650 feet long and 68 feet high. It dams the North Canadian River which flows from Canton Reservoir in Blaine County, to form Lake Overholser. The dam was named for Edward Overholser, mayor of Oklahoma City at the time. It wasn't until May of 1930 that the City finally allowed use of the lake for fishing, boating and swimming. The dam runs east/west and straddles the border of Oklahoma and Canadian Counties, at the southeast corner of the Lake. In 1924, the west end of the dam was extended, adding eight more gated spillways.

Tickets for this tour are free for members of OKC Foundation for Architecture and \$15 for nonmembers. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://okcarchitecture.com/tours/>.

## Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Every two years, two individuals, one living and one deceased, are selected to be inducted into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame. The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is now seeking nominations for the 2022 awards. The Hall of Fame ceremony will be held Saturday, July 9, in Clinton at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum.

Information needed for nomination:

- Full name of Nominee (state if living or deceased)
- Biography of Nominee (nominee must live/have lived in Oklahoma)
- Nominee's Contribution to Route 66
- Reason you feel this nominee deserves this award
- Be prepared to furnish a portrait style picture of Nominee
- You may nominate more than one person



Include your name, address, and phone number in case the judges need clarification on any information

**The deadline for nominations is April 21, 2022. Please mail your nomination to the Oklahoma Route 66 Association state office at P.O. Box 446 Chandler, OK 74834 or email to [info@oklahomaroute66.com](mailto:info@oklahomaroute66.com).**



## In Memory of Catherine Montgomery, AIA *(as written by Steve Lackmeyer)*

*Catherine Montgomery, one of Oklahoma City's most passionate preservationists and a dear friend of Preservation Oklahoma, passed away on February 17. The following article, by Steve Lackmeyer, appeared in The Oklahoman on February 23, and perfectly captures her love of preservation and devotion to the historic structures in Oklahoma City and across the state.*

Oklahoma City's architects, preservationists and developers are mourning the loss of Catherine Montgomery following her death on Thursday. She was 61.



Photo: Chris Landsberger, The Oklahoman

Catherine Montgomery's influence in the effort to preserve Oklahoma City's historic buildings extends back to 1999 when she started as a preservation architect with the State Historic Preservation Office. She later worked with the City of Oklahoma City and guided preservation efforts and cataloging historic properties. In 2009 she started her firm, Preservation and Design Studio.

The late John Weeman, who led the restoration and reopening of the Skirvin hotel while Montgomery was working with the state, credited her with finding solutions that compiled with historic tax credit requirements while keeping the project within budget. Her expertise on tax credits and preservation played a role with landmarks throughout the city, including the Calvary Baptist Church where Martin Luther King Jr. once spoke, the Milk Bottle Building, Lincoln Plaza, Yale Theater, and Plaza Court.

Her more recent projects included adding Black Wall Street in Tulsa to the National Register of Historic Places, the redevelopment of the former Villa Teresa school in Midtown into a hotel, and helping lead battles to save the original Oklahoma City police headquarters and the Brockway Center, a Black civil rights landmark east of downtown.

Marva Ellard, herself a preservationist who saved the former Sunbeam home with Montgomery's help and worked with her on Villa Teresa, said Montgomery was a unique voice seen as a top expert on preservation and using tax credits to get through difficult projects. "She had extreme knowledge of the field," Ellard said. "She was a perfectionist. No work product was ever good enough for her. She worked and worked and worked to put out the best product she could."

Chris Fleming, a partner in Midtown Renaissance, worked with Montgomery on several preservation efforts in Midtown and credited her with educating some of the city's most prominent developers of historic buildings. "She was an integral part of the historic preservation work that we've done in Midtown," Fleming said. "She was Yoda to the rest of us. If you go and ask Chip Fudge, Dick Tanenbaum, Marva Ellard, others I'm not thinking of, she taught us so much."

Her latest battle was to save the 1931 Oklahoma City police headquarters. Ellard said the city has lost a preservationist who was dedicated to saving historic buildings and fighting for them to remain for future generations. Montgomery's battles also included unsuccessful efforts to save Stage Center and the 1902 India Temple building against the powerful energy executives who sought to have the properties destroyed.

"She always tried to do the right thing regardless of personal cost or sacrifice," Ellard said. "She would stand up to people. Who would say things to people others wouldn't say out of concern of political cost or how it might upset others."



# Apply for National Trust Preservation Funds



Grants from National Trust Preservation Funds (NTPF) are intended to encourage preservation at the local level by supporting on-going preservation work and by providing seed money for preservation projects. These grants help stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for preservation projects, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, and encourage financial participation by the private sector.

A small grant at the right time can go a long way and is often the catalyst that inspires a community to take action on a preservation project. Grants generally start at \$2,500 and range up to \$5,000. The selection process is very competitive.

The review process is generally completed within ten weeks of the application deadline, and applicants are notified via email once the review process is complete. The next deadline for this program will be Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

## Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be either a public agency, 501(c)(3), or other nonprofit organization to be considered eligible. Applicants that have received previous National Trust financial assistance are eligible provided that all grant requirements are current.

No more than three grants will be awarded in any two-year period to a single grantee. Only one grant will be awarded per organization in any grant round. Only one grant will be awarded for a particular project phase. Only Organizational Level Forum members or Main Street America members of the National Trust are eligible to receive funding from the National Trust Preservation Fund. Organizations do not need to have an active Forum membership to apply for a grant, but selected grantees will be required to become members prior to the release of funds. Your Forum member status will be verified by our grants office once award decisions have been made. To learn more about Forum and to join today, visit <https://forum.savingplaces.org/join>. If you have questions about your membership status, please email [members@savingplaces.org](mailto:members@savingplaces.org).

## Grant Conditions

Applicants must be capable of matching the grant amount on a one-to-one basis. Due to the economic impacts caused by COVID-19, the National Trust is temporarily changing its matching fund requirement and allowing for both cash and in-kind donations to count toward the one-to-one required match.

The required match can come from private or public sources, from income earned from registration fees or sales, or from fundraising activities. In-kind donations of labor, materials or services will also be considered eligible for meeting the matching requirement. Other funding from the National Trust may not be used to match an NTPF grant.

Please visit <https://forum.savingplaces.org/build/funding/grant-seekers/preservation-funds> for more information and to begin the application process.



# Oklahoma State Capitol Museum Now Open

Created as part of the Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project, the Oklahoma Historical Society opened the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum on Tuesday, March 22.

The venue is a state-of-the-art gallery space located on the ground floor of the State Capitol near the new primary public entrance on the south side of the Capitol.

The State Capitol Museum contains 4,400 square feet of exhibit space and 13 exhibit cases, featuring more than 125 artifacts relating to the history of the Oklahoma State Capitol and the work of Oklahoma's state government.



Capitol Museum, Oklahoma City. Photo: Evelyn Moxley, OHS

During the ceremony, OHS Executive Director Trait Thompson welcomed guests, followed by remarks from Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell. Thompson served as the project manager for the Oklahoma Capitol Restoration Project prior to becoming executive director of the OHS.

"The Oklahoma State Capitol Museum is a necessary addition to our Capitol Building," said Lt. Gov. Pinnell. "No state can match our heritage and history, and these exhibits will provide Oklahomans and out-of-state visitors with a hands-on way to experience that history. I appreciate the hard work Trait Thompson and the rest of the Oklahoma Historical Society have put in to make this dream a reality," Pinnell added.

Visitors are greeted by a five-minute custom animation projected in a 270-degree arc showing a brief history of the Oklahoma State Capitol. A series of 20 graphic panels and 8 audiovisual interactives tell the stories of Oklahoma politics and of the State Capitol itself.

Oklahoma's history comes alive as visitors view important artifacts from Oklahoma's political past, such as a working draft of the Oklahoma Constitution, the quill pen used by President Theodore Roosevelt to sign the Oklahoma Statehood Proclamation and a 1970s-era voting machine.



Capitol Museum Artifacts, Oklahoma City. Photo: Evelyn Moxley, OHS

"The new Oklahoma State Capitol Museum is going to provide a key educational component to our beautiful Capitol for visitors from around the world," said Thompson. "The Oklahoma Historical Society has worked very hard to install exhibits that showcase the unique story of our Capitol and help people of all ages understand the important work that takes place within its walls. This museum is an integral part in making the Capitol a must-see destination when people come to Oklahoma City."

Admission to the Oklahoma State Capitol Museum is free. The museum will be open from Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Before a complete restoration, the Oklahoma State Capitol appeared on Preservation Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places four times. The building was designed by Solomon Andrew Layton and was completed in 1917. It was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.





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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!