

# Preservation and Perseverance: Care Before It's Gone (2025-2034)



**Oklahoma Historical Society**  
*State Historic Preservation Office*

# Acknowledgements

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## Acknowledgment of Support

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## Special Thanks to...

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On the cover: First Christian Church in Oklahoma City (Oklahoma County), November 1956. **DEMOLISHED on September 26, 2022** (21412.M465.38, Z. P. Meyers/Barney Hillerman Photographic Collection, Oklahoma Historical Society).

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# Oklahoma Historic Preservation Staff and Committee Members (2024)

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Historic Preservation Review Committee, 2024.  
Left to right: Ron Frantz, Jana Phillips, Shirley Ballard Nero,  
John D. Hartley, and Charles S. Wallis. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.

# Abbreviations

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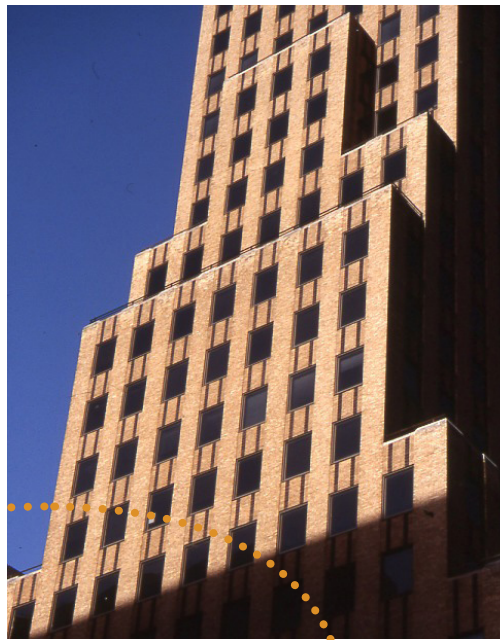
ACHP: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
AICP: American Institute of Certified Planners  
CDBG: Community Development Block Grant  
CLG: Certified Local Governments  
FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency  
GIS: Geographic Information System  
HP: Historic Preservation  
HPF: Historic Preservation Fund  
HPTI/HPTC: Historic Preservation Tax Incentive/Credit  
HUD: United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
NCSHPO: National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers  
NHL: National Historic Landmark  
NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act  
NPS: National Park Service  
NRHP: National Register of Historic Places  
NTHP: National Trust for Historic Preservation  
OAS: Oklahoma Archeological Survey  
ODOT: Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
OHS: Oklahoma Historical Society  
OKSHPO: Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office  
SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office  
SOI: Secretary of Interior  
TCP: Traditional Cultural Property  
THPO: Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
USDA: United States Department of Agriculture



## TIMELINE OF THE

# Oklahoma Historic Preservation Movement

- 1893:** Formation of the Oklahoma Historical Society
- 1906:** Passage of the American Antiquities Act
- 1910:** Oklahoma burial law passed
- 1916:** National Park Service established
- 1933:** Historic American Building Survey (HABS) created
- 1935:** Historic Sites Act
- 1936:** Sequoyah's log cabin and 10 acres of land in Sequoyah County deeded to the State of Oklahoma
- 1949:** National Trust for Historic Preservation is chartered
- 1949:** State's first historical markers
- 1952:** Oklahoma Anthropological Society formed
- 1966:** Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) by U.S. Congress
- 1967:** George Shirk designated as the first State Historic Preservation Officer
- 1969:** Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) created
- 1969:** Oklahoma City Preservation Ordinance passed
- 1970:** Oklahoma Archaeological Survey created
- 1976:** Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit enacted
- 1978:** Spiro Mounds Archaeological State Park opens to the public



- 1980:** NHPA amended to include Certified Local Governments Program
- 1985:** Oklahoma Main Street program created
- 1985:** Oklahoma's first Certified Local Government approved (Enid)
- 1986:** First five Main Street communities designated
- 1988:** Tulsa Preservation Ordinance passed
- 1990:** Department of Tourism transfers 11 properties to the Oklahoma Historical Society
- 1990:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act passed by U.S. Congress
- 1992:** NHPA amended to establish Tribal Historic Preservation Offices

- 1992:** Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. founded
- 1993:** Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. creates the first list of Oklahoma's Most Endangered Places
- 1995:** Oklahoma City bombing
- 1995:** Tulsa Foundation for Architecture founded
- 1999:** Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture founded
- 2000:** Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) created
- 2005:** Oklahoma's State Tax Credit for rehabilitation created
- 2007:** Centennial Celebration of Statehood

# Chapter 1: Introduction

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## **OHS Mission Statement**

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.

Preservation issues continue to evolve and change across Oklahoma but the responsible parties do not: private citizens, organizations, government agencies (local, state, and federal), tribal nations, and the business community. Everyone plays a role in promoting the benefits of preservation to decision makers, providing resources to enhance the important work of preservation partners, preserving the history of underrepresented communities, and supporting investment in historic buildings and places. Oklahoma sits in an unusual situation where we have direct knowledge and experience in coping with man-made disasters such as the Oklahoma City Bombing. However, we share the challenges of the more recent COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on traditional downtown shopping, rehabilitation of historic buildings, and new funding mechanisms.

Experiences from the past have prepared our partners to address preservation needs today and in the future. These experiences have also helped Oklahomans learn to persevere in preservation. “Preservation and Perseverance: Care Before It’s Gone (2025-2034)” focuses on expanding preservation work across the state.

This plan provides an overview of the current state of preservation in Oklahoma. It also includes a summary of the engagement process, which helped to develop the goals and objectives for historic preservation in Oklahoma.

## **Themes and Priorities for the Next Ten Years**

The engagement process focused on identifying preservation priorities for the next ten years. Many are unique to Oklahoma while others are common across the states, territories, and tribal nations. The Oklahoma state plan organizes these into four goals with specific objectives for each goal. Chapter 4 will go into greater detail on the goals and objectives, and strategies.

These priorities are in direct response to the interests expressed by Oklahomans from across the state. Working together or independently, Oklahomans can realize a vision of a successful future for historic preservation across the state.

## **OKSHPO Vision Statement**

The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office strives to collaborate with and empower communities to celebrate, preserve, and commemorate our historic resources through stewardship and public education with a focus on diversity and progress within the state of Oklahoma.



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## 2025–2034 Goals

While the state plan emphasizes the identification, documentation, and protection of historic resources—that the built environment or archaeological sites, as required for all State Historic Preservation Offices—this plan must also address concerns that make preservation an integral part of community development and prosperity. The 2025 plan seeks to support the efforts of all preservation partners, to educate the stakeholders, and to forge new partnerships that lead to the preservation of Oklahoma’s historic resources.

Goal #1: Oklahoma’s archaeological and historic resources will be valued and appreciated as important assets

Goal #2: Oklahoma’s rich and diverse heritage, both tangible and intangible, will be identified and preserved

Goal #3: Advance best practices and broaden participation among stakeholders, decision makers, and citizens through effective outreach efforts

Goal #4: Historic preservation will be well-integrated and supported with local planning and development practices to strengthen and sustain communities

Starting January 1, 2025, the OKSHPO will manage the statewide planning process in ten-year cycles with an evaluation every five years. This current plan will run through December 31, 2034. This plan will address the following topics:

- Preservation issues, trends, and opportunities facing the state
- Goals and objectives that address strategies needed for successful and enhanced preservation practices
- A timeframe for statewide implementation
- A bibliography of resources used to prepare the plan
- Past goals and accomplishments

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Prepared in 2020, “Sooner Rather Than Later: Let’s Preserve Oklahoma’s Past, Oklahoma’s Statewide Preservation Plan” identified four goals, which had an extensive list of objectives to support each goal.

1. Provide information about Oklahoma’s archaeological and historic resources to increase public awareness and foster an effective statewide preservation network.
2. Continue to strengthen efforts to identify, evaluate, and nominate archaeological and historic resources.
3. Develop and disseminate strategies and incentives for historic preservation.
4. Incorporate the consideration of archaeological and historic resources in public (including all levels of government) and private sector planning and decision-making processes.

Since the 2020 plan’s development, countless people across the state have worked together to achieve many of the objectives of each goal. Below are a few examples of those achievements:




- Coordinated with communities to complete surveys, especially for those under-represented communities.
- Hosted an annual Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) to provide training for local historic preservation commission members and city staff
- Developed programmatic agreement for Department of Housing and Urban Development programs that will be available to homeowners in certain older neighborhoods.
- Local Main Street program convinced a new business to move into a vacant building in the historic commercial district rather than build a new facility.
- Local historic preservation commission published its design guidelines and widely distributed them.
- OAS re-tooled an existing lesson plan for a hands-on, in-class archaeology activity using artifacts from the OAS teaching collection (specifically designed to meet relevant portions of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for 3rd Grade Social Studies).
- OAS continues to assist an interdisciplinary team with the City of Tulsa in the reopened investigation to locate the graves of victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. This investigation is being done on behalf of the citizens of Tulsa in close collaboration with descendants of survivors and other members of the Greenwood community.
- The Oklahoma Archeological Survey Information System (OASIS) Public Viewer is now available online. The Public Viewer presents summary open-access data on the state’s archaeological sites by county, brief overviews of some of the state’s most significant sites, and a form that allows citizens to easily report an artifact or archaeological site to OAS and request assistance in recording new resources.

The goals and objectives were made available to the public through the OKSHPO website [www.okhistory.org/shpo/goals](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/goals). Additionally, a tracking mechanism was provided whereby the public could see what had been accomplished over the duration of the plan’s implementation.

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## Planning Methodology and Process

The statewide preservation plan reflects the thoughts and input from our preservation partners and stakeholders. The process included:

-  **Plan Website:** A dedicated webpage on the SHPO website (located within the Oklahoma Historical Society website) provided information regarding the planning process and participation opportunities.
-  **Questionnaires:** Two separate questionnaires were developed with a series of questions. Both were offered in-person and electronically. From July through October 2023, the questionnaires were distributed and completed.
-  **Meetings:** In January 2024, committee meetings were held to gain additional input from our immediate preservation partners: the Historic Preservation Committee of the Oklahoma Historical Society Board of Directors and the Historic Preservation Review Committee (HPRC) appointed by the governor.

The subsequent phase included community engagement activities designed to provide feedback and comments on the draft plan. These comments helped adjust and modify goals and objectives, specifically clarifying implementation steps and progress. The OKSHPO completed the final plan in December 2024.

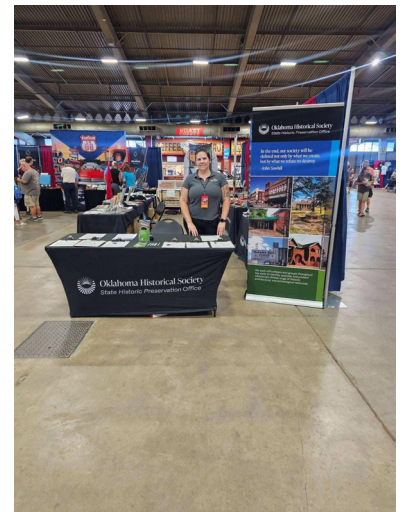
As with the 2020 plan, the 2025 plan will include an internal quarterly review by the OKSHPO staff and HPRC to verify that items within the plan are being addressed and/or accomplished. These reviews will be provided on the OKSHPO website for transparency purposes.



Kristina Wyckoff at the Oklahoma State Fair, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.



Tifani Darata at the Oklahoma State Fair, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.



Sara Werneke at the Route 66 Road Fest in Tulsa, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.

# Chapter 2: Public Engagement

As with previous years, the OKSHPO prepared a questionnaire to gauge public sentiment about historic preservation successes and what needs improvement. This year, however, a second questionnaire was also prepared to gather further details from respondents—to ensure the responses were understood and the new plan would focus on what Oklahomans see as the greatest threats. This year’s responses totaled 574, a tenfold increase over the past three state plans.

The SHPO developed the first questionnaire with one main objective—to find out what Oklahomans saw as the biggest threat to preservation and what the OKSHPO should focus on for the next ten years. The 12 questions were provided in both English and Spanish. The questionnaire went live on the OKSHPO website on July 1, 2023, and was promoted through social media with almost every post until July 31, 2023. Staff attended public events to reach out to Oklahomans and more; this included a Route 66 event in Tulsa and various Oklahoma Historical Society events. In addition to in-person events, the Oklahoma Historical Society Membership Department mailed out hundreds of questionnaire reminders asking interested individuals to participate. This direct outreach proved to be an effective tool. In the past, events targeted for the state plan update process were not well attended and thus the number of responses was low. In 2023, the OKSHPO received 163 responses to the first questionnaire.

## 163 responses

### Top Three Threatened Property Types

1. Downtowns
2. Ethnic/minority resources
3. Cemeteries

### Top Three Greatest Threats to Historic Properties

1. Development/New Construction
2. Lack of Funding
3. Lack of Awareness

### Top Three Communities that Need Better Representation

1. Native American
2. Women
3. African American



Thomas Smith Cemetery, Wagoner County, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.



Abe Lincoln Trading Company, Clearview, Okfuskee County, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.



Downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, 2012. Photo: Wikimedia Commons by katsrcool.

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The second questionnaire was a continuation and clarification of the first survey developed—to narrow the OKSHPO’s focus for the plan update. OKSHPO staff attended the Oklahoma State Fair, set up a table at the booth of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and reached out to fairgoers to have them answer the additional questions. A QR code reminder flyer was created, which was placed in the bag of every purchase made through the Oklahoma Historical Society booth and handed out to those who were not available to respond immediately. Additionally, the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division took the questionnaire with them to all events, gathering additional responses. In total, 411 responses were received.

## 411 responses

### Top Three Cemetery Threats

1. Lack of historical knowledge
2. Lack of memorial maintenance
3. Lack of grounds maintenance

### Top Three Development Threats

1. Demolition of old buildings for new ones
2. Poor redevelopment
3. Expansion removing old buildings

### Top Three Important Ten-Year Accomplishments

1. Provide tools for HP
2. Teach how HP is sustainable
3. Adopt public policies for HP vs. New Construction



Old Union Cemetery, Muskogee County, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.

### Questionnaire for Tribal Representatives

After assessing the results from questionnaires one and two, a special survey was prepared and sent to all tribal representatives (THPOs and Chief/President). All 39 officially recognized tribes in Oklahoma and the Ute (who historically used western Oklahoma as hunting grounds) were contacted.

The following questions were posed:

1. Do you want the State Historic Preservation Office to be involved in the preservation and documentation of tribal resources? If yes, how?
2. In an effort to foster further dialogue between the SHPO and tribal nations, on topics including but not limited to Section 106, NRHP, and Survey, which of the following would be most beneficial: quarterly virtual meetings between SHPO and THPO staff; scheduled open discussion hours, virtual; regional meetings for tribes with commonalities; and other.
3. What should be the OKSHPO’s focus for the updated state plan?

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Five tribal nations responded: Chickasaw Nation, Delaware, Kiowa Tribe, Miami Tribe, and the Quapaw Nation. All wanted OKSHPO involvement in preservation and documentation of tribal resources (at the invitation of the tribal government). All want to see quarterly/virtual meetings between the OKSHPO and tribes to discuss on-going issues (pertaining to all program areas). Multiple tribes asked for the plan to focus on better data sharing.

In addition to the questionnaires, the OKSHPO reached out to our statewide partners—Main Street, state agencies, and more—in person and via email for their input on the upcoming plan. Although the SHPO does not have an advisory team for the development of the state plan, several Oklahoma Historical Society board members were involved in the plan’s preparation.

Questions and responses for each questionnaire can be viewed online at [www.okhistory.org/stateplan](http://www.okhistory.org/stateplan). Below are a few responses to an open-ended question in the first questionnaire.

### **Historic preservation is...**

*“...passing elders’ wisdom to next generations.”*

*“...retaining and restoring structures that tell the story of all residents and generations.”*

*“...preserving our historic resources is a way to understand our history and our story. Historic neighborhoods and buildings contribute to the heart and soul of our communities.”*

*“...managing change to the built environment in a way that recognizes and stewards both tangible & intangible histories connected to it.”*

*“...preserving the past to share the future.”*

## Chapter 3: Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

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The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), passed by the U.S. Congress in 1966, was the most comprehensive preservation law the nation had ever known. The act established permanent institutions and a clearly defined process for historic preservation in the United States. The act included the creation of State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and the National Register of Historic Places. SHPOs carry out the requirements and mandates of the NHPA in partnership with the National Park Service. The Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO) is located within the Oklahoma Historical Society (Title 53 of Oklahoma Statutes).

The OKSHPO manages several programs as core responsibilities mandated by the NHPA and others created over time to address the needs of historic preservation efforts across the state. The core responsibilities include:

### **National Register of Historic Places**

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archaeological resources. Administered by the OKSHPO, this federal program helps to identify historic properties in the state significant for their association with events, people, design, method of construction, or its potential to yield information (archaeological). The NRHP establishes standards and criteria for evaluating historic properties and serves as the foundation for all federal preservation programs.

### **Section 106**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve throughout the country. If a federal or federally assisted project has the potential to affect historic properties, a Section 106 review will take place. This review determines whether the project may adversely affect historic and cultural resources, both NRHP eligible and listed. It also provides the course of action to avoid, minimize, or mitigate such impacts. A Memorandum of Agreement or Programmatic Agreement between the agency, the OKSHPO, and consulting parties authorizes and codifies the mitigative actions.

### **Survey and Documentation**

Through systematic field investigations and archival research, archaeological and architectural/historic resources are identified, recorded, and evaluated for National Register eligibility. The SHPO accomplishes most of this work through cooperative arrangements with universities, nonprofit organizations, and local governments. The information collected on archaeological resources is maintained by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey at The University of Oklahoma, and the OKSHPO houses the architectural/historic survey data in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

### **Certified Local Governments**

The NHPA was updated in 1980 to include the creation of the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program. This program encourages counties and cities to create local preservation programs and to participate in statewide preservation planning activities. The OKSHPO manages this program in coordination with the National Park Service. To become a CLG in Oklahoma, a county or city must adopt an appropriate historic preservation ordinance (or county-applicable regulations), establish a historic preservation commission, and have an ongoing program to complete architectural and archaeological surveys. CLGs also have the opportunity to apply for grants that underwrite preservation planning initiatives (design guidelines, architectural surveys, educational materials, etc.).

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### **Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program**

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 was passed by the U.S. Congress and provides for the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program. This program provides owners of income-producing historic properties a 20% federal income tax credit for qualified rehabilitation project costs. Eligible properties must be listed in the NRHP or be eligible for listing to apply. Projects must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Like other SHPOs across the county, the Oklahoma SHPO manages other programs and initiatives that extend the scope and reach of the preservation movement in the state. These include:

### **Centennial Farm & Ranch Program**

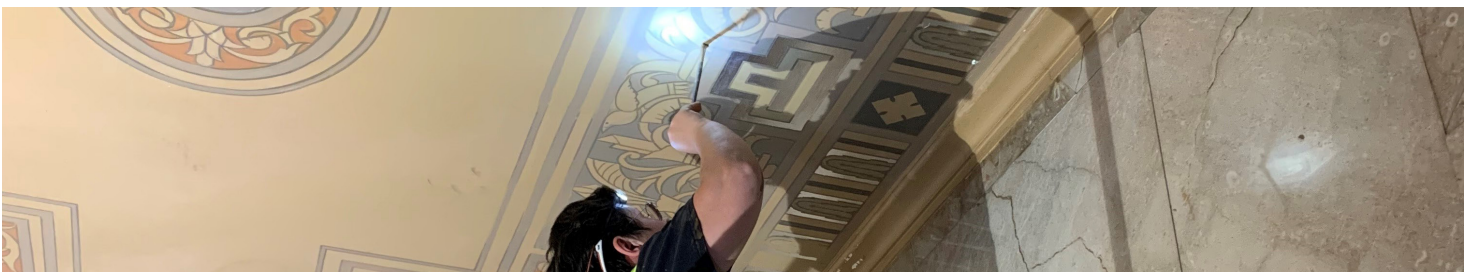
In 1989 the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture established the Oklahoma Centennial Farm & Ranch Program to recognize those families who have continuously occupied their land and carried out farming or ranching operations for at least 100 years. Governor Henry Bellmon received the first application from H.C. Hitch Jr., owner of the Hitch Ranch. Since 1989 more than 1,800 families have received recognition through the program. Additionally, historic structures awards are given if four or more buildings or structures more than 50 years old remain on the land; this award helps identify historic buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects associated with Oklahoma's farming and ranching industries and has led to the listing of farms and ranches in the National Register of Historic Places. To qualify for the program, a family must: have occupied their land for at least 100 years, be a working farm or ranch of at least 40 acres; generate at least \$1,000 in annual sales; and be operated, lived on, or leased out by a family member.

### **State Register of Historic Places**

Under Oklahoma Statute 53-355, the State Register of Historic Places was authorized. The State Historic Preservation Officer, in consultation with the Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee, establishes a listing of sites, districts, structures, buildings, areas, or objects above or below the surface of the earth whether on land or in the waters of the state, together with any designated improvements thereon, significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, or culture of the state, its communities, or the nation. Such listing constitutes the Oklahoma State Register of Historic Places. All historic places within the state listed in or nominated for the National Register are deemed to be listed in the State Register.

### **State Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program**

Oklahoma Statute OS68-2357.41 provides for a State Tax Credit that mirrors the federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program. All rehabilitation work to which the credit may be applied shall be reviewed by the OKSHPO which will in turn forward the information to the National Park Service for certification in accordance with 36 C.F.R., Part 67. A certified historic structure may be rehabilitated for any lawful use or uses, including without limitation, mixed uses, and still retain eligibility for the credit. The authorization for the State Historic Preservation Tax Credit comes from the Oklahoma Tax Commission.



Stencil restoration at First National Center, Oklahoma City, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.



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## **Geographic Information Systems**

A geographic information system (GIS) is a helpful tool for managing and analyzing data to assist in communicating, reporting, and understanding of geographic places and phenomena. The OKSHPO uses GIS to assist the review and compliance program (Section 106); document National Register of Historic Places listings; for Tax Credit application analysis; and to highlight properties in the Centennial Farm & Ranch Program. GIS is also an important tool for education, outreach, and community involvement that can enhance the decision-making of legislators, large landowners, government officials, and community organizations. The overall purpose of GIS is to allow people to tell their story by using a map based on accurate information. The OKSHPO strives to create a GIS that is beneficial to all people of Oklahoma, to assist them in telling their story, and to give everyone an opportunity to understand the importance of preserving Oklahoma's past for future generations.

Aside from these programs and services, the OKSHPO also manages several education programs aimed at addressing preservation needs across the state: educational workshops, speaker series, and a targeted lunch and learn series.

## **Preservation Partners**

Although the OKSHPO sets the tone for statewide preservation efforts and administers national and state programs, the division itself does not own or manage cultural resources, play a role in local land use decisions, develop school curricula, serve as an advocacy organization, or carry out the functions of other agencies. Individual members of the preservation community do much of the on-the-ground local preservation work. The preservation community is most successful preserving cultural resources when working together, each playing to strengths within its unique mission-driven work. The following participants play an essential role in carrying out preservation activities across the state:

### **Oklahoma Archeological Survey**

The Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) was created by act of Oklahoma State Statute (§74 241) in 1970 with a series of objectives and duties: to research Oklahoma's archaeological record; to work with state and federal agencies, and the citizens of Oklahoma to preserve significant archaeological sites; and to disseminate information about Oklahoma's cultural heritage through publications and public presentations. The mission of OAS aligns well with that of the OKSHPO in the furtherance of preservation of Oklahoma's historic and prehistoric resources.

### **Tribal governments**

Oklahoma's 39 diverse tribal governments are invaluable partners in preserving cultural resources related to the state's Indigenous peoples. Many of Oklahoma's tribal nations have a Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), which performs the same functions as the Oklahoma SHPO on tribal lands. In addition, many tribes have established language programs, museums and archives, as well as other cultural programs. Tribal cultural resource programs are growing and encompass many facets of Native culture. These tribes contribute to the work of the heritage community by asserting their rights as sovereign nations to protect their cultural resources and practices and by taking part in preservation planning, federal and state project review, public education, and legislative action.

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### **Federal and state agencies**

As stewards and regulators of public property, federal and state agencies have a legal obligation to identify, evaluate, designate, and treat significant historic properties. Many also curate collections of artifacts and offer educational programs. Of the just over 44 million acres of Oklahoma, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is the largest federal land holder at 942,036 acres, while the state holds 988,116 acres.

State agencies often have a specific responsibility in support of the heritage community. Oklahoma State Parks conserves and protects parkland and educates the public on the people, places, events, culture, and history of Oklahoma (along with many other responsibilities). The Oklahoma Department of Education develops school curriculum, including lessons about Indigenous tribal nations. The Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General enforce laws protecting archaeological sites, objects, and human remains.

### **Certified Local Governments (CLG)**

The Certified Local Governments program is a partnership between the National Park Service, the Oklahoma SHPO, and communities that support local preservation through funding, training, and technical assistance. Participating city and county governments serve a crucial role in physically preserving cultural resources. They protect properties through thoughtful regulation and incentives. Local robust community-driven survey efforts identify and evaluate significant historic properties and designate them under federal and state cultural resource laws and local ordinances to local landmark lists and the National Register.

### **Nonprofit organizations**

Nonprofit organizations, such as museums, archives, historical societies, cultural organizations, and friends groups, engage in various work including advocacy and brick-and-mortar preservation, archives, and living history. Nonprofit organizations serve the entire heritage community by engaging the public in learning about and interpreting our shared past. The unique position of nonprofits enables them to reach out to elected officials, corporate interests, and the public to call for legislative action and funding for preservation activities when government agencies cannot.

### **Universities, colleges, trade schools, and their students**

Students in many disciplines are integral to the future of historic preservation. Our universities are leading the way in architectural design, community planning, archaeological investigations, historical analysis, and other disciplines associated with preservation. These institutions and their students are advocates for preservation, bringing needed resources to large-scale efforts, and providing valuable research to solve pressing preservation issues.

### **Professionals and professional organizations**

Preservation, building, design, finance, and real estate professionals in both the private and public sectors offer essential, specialized services that support preservation. In addition to individual efforts, professional organizations can educate the public and advocate for preservation work by demonstrating preservation's cultural, educational, and economic value, and volunteering to support nonprofit and community organizations.

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### Historic property owners

Most of Oklahoma’s cultural resources, including the state’s historic districts, are owned privately. Owners must engage in the thoughtful maintenance of their property and, most importantly, curate its unique story to preserve Oklahoma’s special places. The heritage community can help by providing educational materials, incentives, and funding that encourages physical preservation.

### Businesses, foundations, and trusts

Preserving our history is a community value. This collective effort requires robust public support for the tax-supported government and incentive programs, laws, and policies. Businesses, foundations, and trusts help make the case for preservation to our elected leaders and the public. They can lead by example by supporting the nonprofit members of the heritage community through funding and volunteerism.

For a full understanding of the laws that pertain to the preservation and protection of Oklahoma’s resources, visit the OKSHPO website at [www.okhistory.org/shpo/laws](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/laws).

## The Land of Oklahoma

Oklahoma is composed of rural lands, ranches, farms, forests, and urban areas. The state’s total land area is 69,596 square miles making it the 20th largest state. According to the 2020 Census, 3.987 million people call Oklahoma home, up from 3.76 million in 2010. The increases have not been that profound as to have a drastic impact on housing as is seen in other neighboring states.

### Metropolitan Population Growth

	Oklahoma City (621 square miles)	Tulsa (201 square miles)	Norman (189 square miles)
2010	582,560	392,289	111,372
2020	687,725	411,401	128,097

While the population growth has been slow, it can exert pressures on cities that may impact historic preservation in both a positive and negative way.

## Pressures, Trends, and Opportunities

Based on the public comments provided from July to October 2023, the most threatened resources included downtowns, ethnic/minority resources, cemeteries, recent past resources, archaeological sites, and neighborhoods. Many respondents considered the greatest threats to be development/new construction, lack of funding, lack of awareness, demolition by neglect, and uninformed decision makers. These issues, along with national trends, are reflected in the pressures, trends, and opportunities. (See survey results in the Appendix.)

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## **Housing/Affordable Housing**

Despite economic setbacks related to COVID-19, the affordability of housing across the state of Oklahoma remains one of the most attractive features of living here. Still, there is a need for more affordable housing throughout the state. There is an opportunity to turn older, smaller homes into affordable housing units or to create living space on second and third floors above businesses in commercial downtowns throughout the state. The ability to have a live/work/play commercial area provides a constant clientele for the businesses in the area. Using under-utilized spaces for affordable housing should be key for any further historic preservation and commercial development growth in our cities and towns. In rural areas, there is less housing demand, leading to neighborhood divestment and decline.

## **Heritage Tourism**

Though the OKSHPO does not have direct jurisdiction over Oklahoma's heritage tourism sites, the state nonetheless has a variety of sites to offer interested travelers. Oklahoma maintains 32 state parks totaling more than 80,000 acres, offering visitors a wide variety of scenic entertainment. Museums and cultural centers across the state provide a context for the growth of civilization in this region from pre-European settlement to modern times. While staffing and resource needs continue to be ongoing issues, enhancing the online presence, even the design of virtual exhibits and museum spaces presents significant opportunities to engage with new audiences. While larger museums and historic sites may have resources to expand their digital footprint, COVID-19 fast-tracked plans for digitizing collections and expanding educational programming. Smaller facilities may still lack the necessary funds to diversify their offerings.

## **Diversity**

In the realms of geography and the built environment, Oklahoma boasts an impressive array of diverse resources. From the Ozark Plateau and Prairie Plains in the northeast to the Wichita Mountains in the southwest, Oklahoma is filled with scenic vistas and wide-open spaces. Within this geographic setting, cities and small towns have grown and thrived, with their previous generations leaving behind architectural treasures. Yet, it goes beyond just our geographic diversity and into the state's diverse ethnic and cultural background as well. Cultural representation includes Native American tribes who continue to perpetuate the traditions of their ancestors and maintain a connection to their many ancestral archaeological sites, to European settlement, and strong African American communities throughout the state. The diversity continues to grow as some of our newest cultural communities including Hispanic and Asian populations continue to introduce aspects of their culture to this region. Every day, the preservation community works to preserve this architectural diversity through technical assistance, grant programs, and historical/archaeological investigations. Public input has shown that we need to do more to address the disparities in minority representation in historic preservation; be that the built environment, archaeological sites, or storytelling.

## **Education and Outreach**

From school-age children to senior citizens, the preservation community's commitment to education and public outreach is as strong as ever. As the OKSHPO works to build relationships with educators, we also continue to grow our social media. We forecast continuing success with online educational sessions that reach an adult audience. The outreach needs to continue through training programs conducted by all preservation-related parties. Public input indicates that we need a multi-faceted approach: in-person, manuals, virtual, and everything in between. Public input also indicates that it needs to be provided for not just the preservation minded but also the elected bodies that represent these constituents.

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### **New Institutional Ideas**

The shift to younger preservation professionals working on grant projects and technical preservation matters, both within the preservation community and across the state, is cause for encouragement. Undoubtedly, institutional knowledge has been lost. This can be regained, however, and new ideas for overcoming the cutting-edge problems facing the field are invaluable. In partnership with these galvanized local preservationists, much can be achieved in future years. Public comments throughout the planning process indicate that there is a lack of awareness regarding historic preservation and preservation-related issues.

### **Political Support**

Preservation practices face varying degrees of support in local communities and regions. Many times, local decision-making leaders/boards must balance historic preservation with private property rights. Officials across the country have shown increasing reluctance to intervene with new preservation ordinances, regulations, and/or policies. As indicated throughout the planning process, the public feels that decision makers are uninformed and that preservationists need to do a better job of education and outreach at the local, state, and federal levels.

### **Downtowns and the Mobile Workforce**

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the workforce had more options involving internet-based technologies; the pandemic highlighted its importance even more. For those with the option of working from home, these advances in technology resulted in more people choosing to live in smaller, rural communities with a lower cost of living. The result, however, was lower tenancy rates in office buildings, many of which are historic, in the larger downtowns. And while Oklahoma sees positive trends in adaptive reuse projects spurred by historic preservation tax credits and in-fill developments that support new uses including mixed retail/residential—downtowns were still identified as an issue during the public comment period. Younger generations trend toward walkability and car-free living, which makes the downtowns an attractive location.

However, changes in the national economy are hitting the downtowns due to online sales, curbside services, and delivery services. While arts and entertainment took a significant hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, they are bouncing back and continue to be a bright spot for downtowns. A current trend in Oklahoma's Main Street communities is an effort to not just bring specialized storefront boutiques to the downtown, but also their counterpart manufacturing facility; leather goods storefront with the manufacturing facility directly behind the storefront in the same historic building.

### **Inflation/Resource Scarcity**

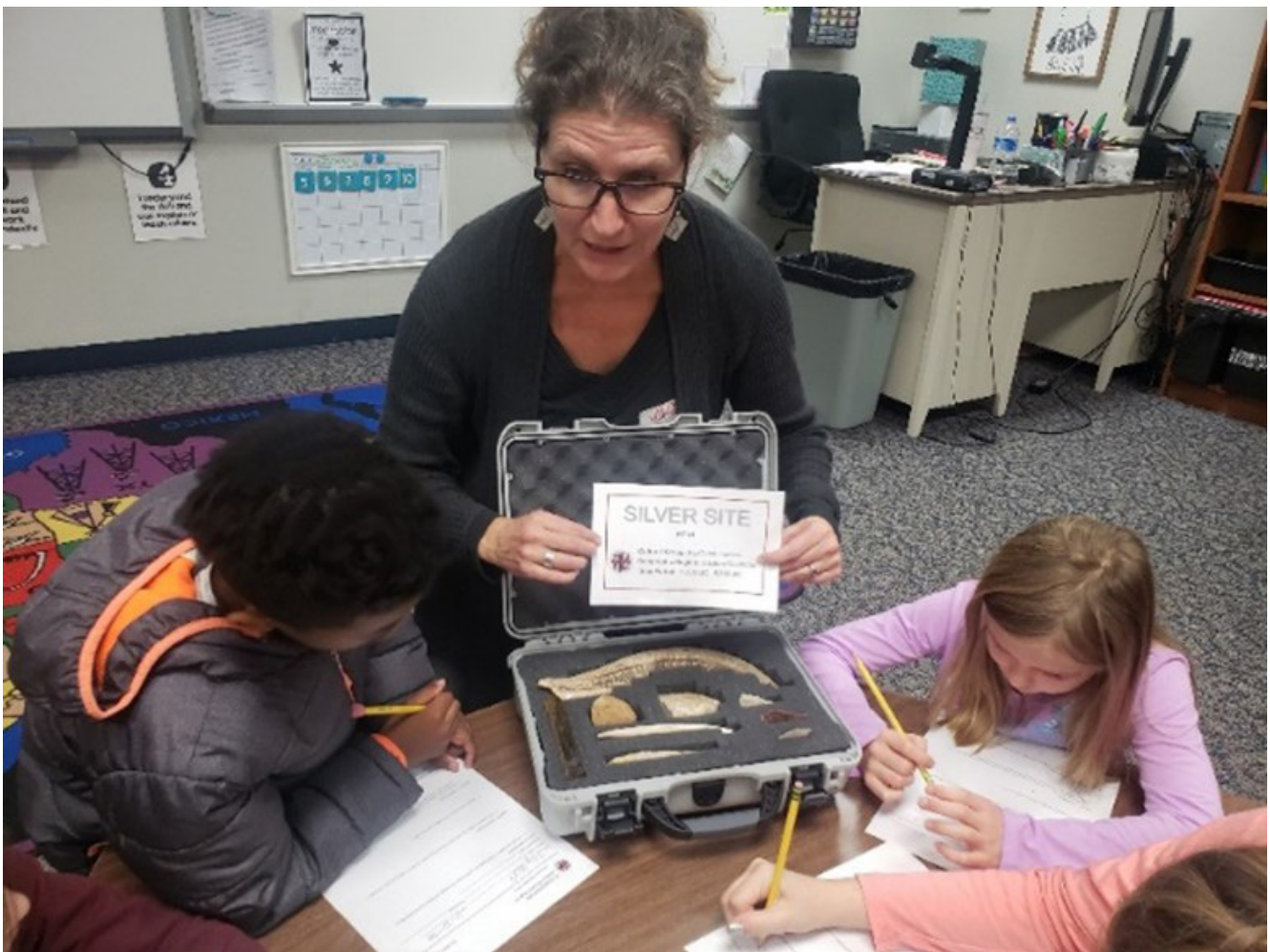
Rehabilitations of historic buildings are made more expensive by an increasing scarcity and rising costs of construction materials and labor. The impact of inflation cannot be stressed enough and while it may be temporary (we hope), it impacts the decision to invest in historic properties.

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## Professional Services

For many years, Oklahoma preservation has been anchored by a core group of architects, architectural historians, archaeologists, historians, etc. committed to their discipline. Many of these preservation practitioners are leaving the profession (aging out, changing careers, moving to other states) thus leaving a void. The OKSHPO sees this void as a challenge that will only intensify as we progress into the next decade; an idea that has borne out through studies completed by the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO). It is unclear how many young architects, builders, and tradesman; architectural historians/historians; and/or archaeologists will cultivate the skills necessary to partake in preservation-related projects.

These issues are tied to an absence of in-state preservation programs. Oklahoma universities have programs for architecture, anthropology, engineering, history, and planning, all of which play a role in historic preservation but with limited classroom exposure. However, no Oklahoma universities or colleges offer a degree or certificate in historic preservation. Unless Oklahoma cultivates these professionals in-state, CLG participants, Main Street programs, and cultural resource management firms will continue to suffer as more and more historic preservation work will need to be outsourced to out-of-state contractors.



State Archaeologist Dr. Kary Stackelbeck guiding elementary students in a hands-on archaeology activity in January 2020. Photo: Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

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## Impacts of Historic Preservation in Oklahoma

### Federal and Oklahoma Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program (2013–2023)

130 approved Part III

\$847,072,091 estimated qualified rehabilitation expenditures

### Oklahoma Main Street Program (since 1986)

\$2.17 billion in public/private investment

\$21,500 in new jobs

8,800 new or expanded small businesses

The Main Street program encourages community and economic development in Oklahoma communities and neighborhood districts statewide. By utilizing the Main Street Four-Point Approach and refocusing efforts to bring vibrancy back to a commercial district, local programs can find the self-reliance and empowerment needed to rebuild a commercial district and increase the quality of life for residents. The Oklahoma Main Street Center was established in 1985 and brought on their first five communities in 1986. Today, there are 45 programs and more than \$2 billion (both public and private dollars) have been reinvested in the local historic districts including 15,000 building rehabilitations. A list and map of Oklahoma Main Street communities can be found at [www.okcommerce.gov/community-development/oklahoma-main-street](http://www.okcommerce.gov/community-development/oklahoma-main-street).



Kendall Whittier Main Street Rent Relief Program, Tulsa County. Photo: Oklahoma Main Street Center.



Ada Main Street Curbside Pickup Signs, Pontotoc County. Photo: Oklahoma Main Street Center.

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## Everything Starts with a Survey

Public input throughout the planning process indicates that the OKSHPO needs to do more to address the significance of Native Americans, African Americans, and Women (see survey summary on Page 11). While the National Register of Historic Places may be the heart of all SHPO programs, we cannot list properties without knowing what we have. Surveys play an important part in identifying properties in neighborhoods, communities, and counties. Surveys also maintain a record of the current state of historic and cultural resources in Oklahoma.

The OKSHPO maintains the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, the collection of survey data for the entire state. The inventory includes information and photographs for over 72,000 historic resources. These resources are also mapped in the OKSHPO's GIS system. Surveys within the inventory include those completed by federal and state agencies, Certified Local Governments, and others.

The OAS maintains the archaeological site files for the state. Archaeological sites have been documented through various efforts across the state including: professional research since the 1930s; more than 22,000 archaeological surveys since the enactment of the National Historic Preservation Act; and volunteered reports from landowners and concerned citizens over the past 65 years. As of December 7, 2023, 26,160 archaeological sites have been recorded for Oklahoma. Among these archaeological resources, 7,931 (30.32%) are historic sites, 15,115 (57.78%) are prehistoric sites, and 2,068 (7.91%) contain evidence of both historic and prehistoric occupation. Less than 5% of the total acreage in the state has been surveyed; it is reasonable to expect that there is tremendous potential for as-yet unknown archaeological resources to be discovered.

Upon request, and occasionally during the OKSHPO workshop series, the OKSHPO staff offer free training to anyone interested in completing a historic resource survey. This training includes how to select an area for survey, how to complete the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form (HPRID), how to compose appropriate photographs and mapping for the property or project area, and how to apply historic and cultural significance. The SHPO also maintains the "Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide" manual, which includes all the steps to completing an acceptable HPRID form.

Survey activities are guided by internal plans, the development or pursuit of thematic contexts, and in response to constituent requests. Trends across the state indicate a growing interest in historic and cultural resources associated with underrepresented communities in the NRHP, National Historic Landmark and Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory. Most recently, the OKSHPO has received additional funding in the form of the Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service to complete architectural surveys in the extant All-Black Towns.



OU Anthropology faculty and OAS research faculty co-directed an archaeological field school for undergraduate students in the summer of 2023 at the Overlook Site (34CI529), a late precontact camp site in Cimarron County. Photo: Leland Bement/OAS.



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## Context

While the property must have significance, be that local, state, or national, that significance is determined through an analysis of the resource’s context. The context provides broad patterns and periods of history that influence the development of “place” and community. The SHPO contextual evaluation for historic resources is based on context/themes provided both by the National Park Service and the Oklahoma Historical Society (see [www.okhistory.org/pdf/ohs-histcontext.pdf](http://www.okhistory.org/pdf/ohs-histcontext.pdf) for further context information). Common themes include agriculture, architecture, commerce, community planning, ethnic groups, government, industry, social history, and transportation. For archaeological resources, the evaluation considers historic and prehistoric timeframes as well as contexts provided by the National Park Service and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

Three related programs—the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory, the National Register of Historic Places, and the Oklahoma State Register of Historic Places—work in concert to carry out the important function of recognizing properties with prehistoric and/or historic significance.

National Historic Landmarks: 22

National Register of Historic Places listings: 1,300+

Districts: 119

Native American: 79

African American: 29

Women: currently not measurable as “women” are not identified as area of significance

Criterion D (typically archaeology): 92

*\* statistics provided for these categories based on public surveys*

Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory: 72,777



John and Hazel Adams House in Vinita, Craig County, 2023. Photo: Oklahoma SHPO.

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## Nature is a Force

Addressed in the 2020 state plan, weather remains a critical issue for preservation in Oklahoma. The earliest recorded tornado, measuring 1.25 miles wide, hit Oklahoma on April 25, 1893, in present-day Cleveland County.

Over the last century, many types of natural disasters have struck Oklahoma, impacting historic and cultural resources across the entire state. While tornadoes are the most common through history, more recent events include earthquakes, ice storms, flooding, wildfires, and even hurricanes. The need to better prepare communities for disaster preparedness and recovery is crucial. Planning minimizes the risk to properties and people, specifically, what is important to your home, your community, your state.

The most likely types of disasters to hit Oklahoma include: hail, lightning, flooding, strong winds, tornadoes, wildfires, winter weather, and occasionally hurricanes.

Several other hazards, including heat waves, droughts, and heavy rains may threaten crops and create life safety issues. The heavy rains have also impacted archaeological sites through time. Many of the disaster types occur at the same time: a tornado impacting several miles of landscape can include lightning, heavy rains, flooding, and other high winds.

When heavy rains do occur, there is a greater likelihood of severe flooding much like what occurred in Oklahoma in the spring of 2019—impacting more than half of the state’s counties. This is of particular concern for buried archaeological sites and burial grounds (many of which are unmarked and/or minimally maintained) that are on or near erosional banks along the state’s major rivers, smaller tributaries, and other waterways. When the banks erode, artifacts and human remains can be part of the soil matrix that becomes dislodged and flows downstream. Additionally, overbank flooding can occur with such force that topsoil is scoured away on floodplains, dislocating agricultural crops and the archaeological sites that often lie beneath them. Natural forces impact the integrity of these sites and may even erase them, but it also renders the archaeological materials more visible and susceptible to loss through looting activity.

In June 2019, OAS archaeologists assisted with emergency documentation and recovery efforts of a previously unrecorded site that was newly exposed after flooding removed 2-3 feet of topsoil. Looters arrived ahead of the archaeologists and dug into the private property without authorization, removing an unknown number of artifacts and disturbing intact features. This was one archaeological site of several that were impacted by this flooding disaster and subsequent looting.

An essential first step in assessing disaster risk is the identification of hazard elements. By researching past disaster histories; documenting the impact on historic buildings and communities; reviewing emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans; and reaching out to communities that have experienced recent disasters, state-level agencies and local governments can better prepare for the next natural disaster.

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## Federally Declared Disasters

From 2020 to 2023, Oklahoma had six federally declared disasters:

<i>Disaster</i>	<i>Declaration Date</i>
4530 (COVID-19)	April 5, 2020
4575 (October 2020 Ice Storm)	December 21, 2020
4587 (February 2021 Cold Snap)	February 24, 2021
4657 (2022 Seminole Tornado and Eastern Oklahoma Flood)	June 29, 2022
4706 (April 19 Tornado Outbreak)	April 24, 2023
4721 (June Derecho)	July 19, 2023

The term “federally declared disaster” means a disaster or other situation for which a presidential declaration of major disaster is issued under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170). The request for a federally declared disaster is initiated by the governor.

There are two types of disaster declarations provided for in the Stafford Act: Emergency Declarations and Major Disaster Declarations. Both declaration types authorize the President to provide supplemental federal disaster assistance. However, the event related to the disaster declaration and type and amount of assistance differ.

- **Emergency Declarations:** can be declared for any occasion or instance when the President determines federal assistance is needed. Emergency Declarations supplement state and local efforts in providing emergency services, such as the protection of lives, property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in any part of the United States. The total amount of assistance provided for a single emergency may not exceed \$5 million. If this amount is exceeded, the President shall report to Congress.
- **Major Declaration:** for any natural event, including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, fire, flood, or explosion, that the President believes has caused damage of such severity that it is beyond the combined capabilities of state and local governments to respond. A major disaster declaration provides a wide range of federal assistance programs for individuals and public infrastructure, including funds for both emergency and permanent work.

An example of how this is applied can be seen in the Shawnee Tornado declaration:

<i>Individual Assistance</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Total Housing Assistance (HA) - Dollars Approved	\$4,933,828.15
Total Other Needs Assistance (ONA) - Dollars Approved	\$553,921.11
Total Individual and Households Program - Dollars Approved	\$5,487,749.26
Individual Assistance Applications Approved	878

At the local level, people must determine their preservation priorities sooner rather than later because once the disaster strikes, it is too late. Identify the threatened and most vulnerable resources early. Create the list of emergency personnel that include federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. Finally, engage local stakeholders in the most up-to-date methods and adaption strategies.



Drone composite of significant damage to structures in downtown Sulphur, Murray County, after an EF3 tornado impacted the area on April 27, 2024. Photo: Wikimedia Commons by wikiwillz.



Damage to the USS *Batfish* from May 2019 flooding, Muskogee, Muskogee County. Photo: FEMA.



Damage from an EF4 tornado that hit Barnsdall, Osage County, on May 6, 2024. Photo: National Weather Service, Tulsa.

## Chapter 4: Preservation Partners - Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

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“Preservation and Perseverance: Care Before It’s Gone (2025-2034)” sets forth a ten-year vision for the state’s preservation future. Generated through public participation by stakeholders, preservation partners, and the greater public at-large, this plan has the potential to involve all corners of the state. While the OKSHPO is the organization responsible for the statewide planning process and will use this plan to guide its programs and activities, local communities along with other preservation interests from across the state have critical roles to play in the plan’s implementation.

\*\*Those named below are not exclusive to this plan but rather just examples of who might fall under these categories.

### Private Citizens

A private citizen is someone who does not have an official or professional role in a given situation. This is someone who has an interest in historic preservation outside of their daily profession. The same person may be a private citizen in one role, and an official in another. For example, the Certified Local Governments coordinator is an official when working in their capacity for the OKSHPO, but a private citizen when serving as a poll worker on Election Day.

### Local Groups

#### *The Arts*

Artists can serve as partners in local preservation efforts. They can assist in the rehabilitation of historic theaters and performing art spaces, and they can adaptively reuse historic buildings into creative spaces. They also can participate in public art, placemaking, and interpretive efforts in historic places. They are key to storytelling and as stewards for cultural traditions.

#### *Certified Local Governments, counties, and local governmental offices*

Under state law, local governments can adopt plans and land use management tools, which guide sound development as well as public health and safety. This activity includes comprehensive plans, historic preservation ordinances, historic preservation planning documents, zoning overlays, and conservation districts. Local planning and historic preservation commissions (including those that participate in the Certified Local Governments program) have formal roles in identifying and designating historic and cultural resources. They also play a key role in educating stakeholders and elected officials on the benefits of historic preservation in their communities.

#### *Economic Development Community*

These organizations serve as the local experts in securing funding and navigating the development process. This can include development corporations, housing groups, and neighborhood revitalization organizations. They facilitate and serve as intermediaries in promoting preservation-based development. Other groups can partner with economic development groups on preservation and conservation approaches for revitalizing neighborhoods while achieving housing goals.

#### *Educational Institutions*

Local schools participate in preservation in various ways. In addition to providing formal education, schools throughout Oklahoma encourage participation in National History Day, students volunteer in community-based preservation projects, and they participate in local hands-on learning at museums across the state. Higher education institutions provide formal education in historic preservation, architecture, archaeology, planning, history, and other related fields. They also participate in local preservation efforts by providing expertise, making information available, and undertaking research.

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### *Historical Societies*

These groups have as their principal responsibility to protect and interpret the history and heritage of the group they represent (city, county, cultural organization, etc.). Often this is done through programming, archival collections, research/documentation, outreach/education, cemetery preservation, and more. They may also operate museums and historic sites.

### *Local Main Street Programs*

Main Street programs manage various initiatives aimed at downtown/commercial districts that maintain these areas as thriving spaces for the municipalities. Main Street programs in Oklahoma work to improve adaptive reuses of historic buildings, undertake placemaking, create incubator spaces for new small businesses, organize special events, and support a unified vision of their downtowns. Main Street communities have close relationships with building owners, merchants, elected officials, and other important stakeholders in their community. Main Street programs can leverage those relationships to the benefit of historic preservation and also play a key role in disaster preparedness.

### *Preservation Advocacy Groups*

Non-profit organizations, such as Preservation Oklahoma, Inc., help to facilitate preservation in many ways: partnering with survey work, facilitating preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations, awards programs, and speaking at public hearings/meetings. Some offer incentives in the form of grants or loans to entice investment in historic properties.

### *Tourism Organizations*

Heritage Trail groups, convention bureaus, and local tourism offices provide essential marketing information that support heritage assets to build local visitation, economic development, and investment in local buildings/businesses. With increasing interest in cultural heritage, tourism organizations have opportunities for involving new participants and attracting new visitors.

## **Government**

### *Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)*

An independent agency under the President of the United States, the ACHP plays an important role in administering the Section 106 process mandated under the NHPA. As part of the consultation process, the ACHP may issue formal comments to federal agencies and parties that cannot agree to a satisfactory resolution regarding federally financed or permitted undertakings impacting historic or cultural resources. The ACHP may also consider and provide preservation alternatives in coordination and participation with the federal agencies and other involved parties. In addition to its Section 106 responsibilities, the Council advises the President and other federal agencies on preservation issues and organizes a number of research and policy initiatives as well as training and educational services.

### *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*

FEMA's primary responsibility is to assist and coordinate response and recovery efforts in disaster-declared areas. As part of that responsibility FEMA may provide grants, loans and other resources, and support for utilities and public infrastructure restoration, debris management, and life safety enhancements. The agency also provides disaster mitigation planning grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, and Tribal Nations in support of disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts.

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### *National Park Service (NPS)*

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1916, the NPS core mission is to preserve and protect the nation's cultural and natural resources for future generations. Known more publicly for its management of the country's National Park System, the NPS is also the lead federal agency for historic and cultural resource preservation and stewardship. Additionally, they offer a range of documentation, planning, education, and funding initiatives. One of its key programs, the National Register of Historic Places, recognizes properties and places significant to local communities, a state, or the nation. Income producing National Register eligible or listed properties may participate in both the federal and state Historic Preservation Tax Credit Programs. In Oklahoma, the SHPO administers the NRHP, Tax Credits, CLG, and other preservation programs.

### *Oklahoma Archeological Survey*

Housed at The University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey served to research Oklahoma's archaeological record; to work with state and federal agencies and the citizens of Oklahoma to preserve significant archaeological sites; and to disseminate information about Oklahoma's cultural heritage through publications and public presentations.

### *Oklahoma Arts Council*

Oklahoma Arts Council works to diversify and enhance the state's creative arts through programs and technical assistance directed to artists, arts organizations and other art-related entities. Through their funding, arts education is made possible in schools and communities across the state, and they support community art learning programs. The arts are important for preserving and carrying on Oklahoma's unique heritage. They offer a special way of teaching Oklahoma's compelling story.

### *Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (ODEMHS)*

ODEMHS prepare for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates against disasters and emergencies. They also provide support, training, and guidance in local disaster preparedness planning. The primary responsibility is to prepare and implement the state's Emergency Management Plan, which outlines procedures and responsibilities for disaster response and recovery on the part of federal and state agencies and local governments. The agency offers both disaster and non-disaster related grants which help support efforts in communities and Tribal Nations.

### *Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)*

ODOT is the agency responsible for maintaining the state's highways, rail, aviation, and other public transportation systems. As it receives federal money for the construction and maintenance of state roadways and other systems, ODOT must participate in Section 106 consultation as required under the NHPA and work with the SHPO, other agencies, Tribal Nations, the public, and the ACHP when necessary to mitigate potential impacts to historic and cultural resources. ODOT currently maintains a programmatic agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, the SHPO, and the ACHP governing how ODOT will manage the consultation process. ODOT employs archaeologists, architectural historians, historians, and other professionals to document and investigate historic and cultural resources as part of the projects.

### *Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS)*

The mission of the OHS 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.

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### *Oklahoma Main Street*

A division of Oklahoma Commerce, the Oklahoma Main Street program has been bringing new life into the heart of communities across the state for over 30 years. Historic preservation, downtown revitalization efforts and economic stimulation help to restore the core assets of communities in Oklahoma. The statewide organization does this by refocusing efforts in commercial districts to bring back vibrancy to commercial buildings. Oklahoma Main Street provides training, resources, and technical assistance for preservation-based historic commercial district revitalization.

### *Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO)*

As a division of the larger OHS, the SHPO helps to facilitate and administer a number of preservation programs that benefit individuals, communities, and organizations across the state. The SHPO must fulfill several mandates under the NHPA including: architectural/archaeological surveys, the National Register of Historic Places, preparing statewide plans, federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program, Section 106, education and training, and operating the Certified Local Governments program.

### *Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD)*

The OTRD maintains and manages the state parks system along with other various outdoor recreational amenities. They also oversee several historic resources within its parks system such as those constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other New Deal related programs.

### *Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs)*

Oklahoma is home to 39 diverse tribal nations—27 of which have federally designated THPOs. The THPO conducts reviews as part of Section 106 and NAGPRA consultation processes. The THPOs also participate in surveys, documentation, nominations of properties to the NRHP, and undertaking preservation practices related to TCPs and sacred sites.

### *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

In addition to its core mission of agriculture, the USDA also provides programs related to rural development, including grant funding for infrastructure, business development, community facilities, housing rehabilitation, and preservation activities.

### *U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*

HUD administers several housing and community programs, including Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships, which help to help to facilitate property rehabilitation in support of maintaining and adding attainable housing in local communities. They have other grant opportunities that do not have permanent funding but have often assisted with preservation-based initiatives such as disaster planning and neighborhood revitalization planning documents.



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What follows serves as a suggestion of ideas that can assist with the preservation movement in Oklahoma. These suggestions are based on the goals and objectives identified through the public input process.

- Goal #1: Oklahoma’s archaeological and historic resources will be valued and appreciated as important assets
- Goal #2: Oklahoma’s rich and diverse heritage, both tangible and intangible, will be identified and preserved
- Goal #3: Advance best practices and broaden participation among stakeholders, decision makers, and citizens through effective outreach efforts
- Goal #4: Historic preservation will be well-integrated and supported with local planning and development practices to strengthen and sustain communities

*\*Note: The font is larger on the following pages for easier reading*



Honey Springs Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark, Rentiesville vicinity, McIntosh County.  
Photo: Jack Ozan.

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## Goal #1: Oklahoma's archaeological and historic resources will be valued and appreciated as important assets

### Objectives:

- Expand effective working relations with representatives from media
  - \* Strategies
    - » Follow preservation-related organizations on social media platforms
    - » Offer tours of historic properties and share the history of the community
    - » Provide articles highlighting organization's activities specific to historic resources
    - » Advertise preservation-related events via multiple media outlets
    - » Coordinate for a series of articles/stories on historic preservation
    - » Utilize the Oklahoma Historical Society's communications division to reach out to media in the state
- Increase resources such as social/digital media to transmit information
  - \* Strategies
    - » Provide content for preservation related organizations on social media
    - » Update materials to target youth, young adults, and underrepresented populations in the professional aspects of the preservation and archaeological fields
    - » Create websites that serve as a clearinghouse of information related to training, internships, and educational opportunities offered by preservation partners across the state
    - » Create historic preservation-related online content
    - » Learn how to better utilize Facebook tools for more effective outreach via social media
    - » Create a social media series to interest followers, e.g., Where in the world is our survey coordinator?, What inspires you to save historic places?, and What inspires you to visit historic places?
- Provide underrepresented communities with preservation-related resources
  - \* Strategies
    - » Provide details to local organizations/government/SHPO pertaining to underrepresented communities
    - » Attend activities sponsored by underrepresented communities
    - » Create interpretive panels specific to underrepresented groups in the community
    - » Produce multilingual publications specific to preservation-related topics and issues
    - » Recognize and address barriers to local participation from underrepresented and under resourced communities
    - » Invite underrepresented communities to project meetings
    - » Create a webinar series highlighting one or many underrepresented communities/preservation projects
    - » Survey underrepresented community resources
- Make more information about resources widely available in various platforms
  - \* Strategies
    - » Meet with local librarian to determine what they have in their holdings and what their needs are
    - » Meet with the local economic development organization to discuss historic preservation resource needs (pamphlets, workshops, etc.)

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- » Keep websites up-to-date specific to historic preservation
  - » Offer virtual and in-person programming
  - » Establish cost estimates for rehabilitation of existing buildings and share with government officials (elected and appointed)
  - » Continue to update and disseminate preservation-related maps and databases
  - » Connect architectural and thematic surveys to map data to make information more accessible to the public
  - Promote the importance of archaeological resources in Oklahoma
    - \* Strategies
      - » Develop an archaeology trunk and other presentations for school-aged children
      - » Continue to develop and disseminate publicly accessible interpretations of archaeological resources
      - » Present and disseminate talks given by researchers and professionals that communicate non-sensitive information learned from archaeological projects for public audiences
      - » Encourage researchers and professionals to develop and disseminate publicly accessible interpretations of archaeological resources
  - Complete a 106 online submission portal
    - \* Strategies
      - » Upon completion: attend training and implement its use
      - » Provide for submission of NRHP nominations, CLG applications and progress reports, Tax Credit Applications, architectural surveys, and additional program documentation as overseen by the SHPO
  - Develop archaeological statewide standards
    - \* Strategies
      - » Respond to surveys distributed during standards update process
      - » Provide data for use in GIS mapping
      - » Attend public meetings about the standards updates
      - » Assist in the development of the standards via review and comment on the draft standards
      - » Survey state and federal agencies, tribal nations, THPOs, and interested parties
  - Promote strategies to protect significant archaeological and historic resources following natural or man-made disasters
    - \* Strategies
      - » Form local preservation and disaster preparedness task forces composed of local professionals tasked with addressing gaps in local disaster preparedness efforts
      - » Raise awareness of disaster risks through community meetings and workshops
      - » Utilize NPS seismic and flood adaptation standards and guidelines when applicable
      - » Create disaster preparedness plans for use by Oklahoma communities
      - » Create model disaster mitigation guidance for use in publicly funded historic preservation and disaster mitigation plans related to housing, public facilities, and historic sites
      - » Conduct periodic training and orientation on integrating historic preservation with local disaster planning
      - » Provide training resources on disaster resilience to community development directors, preservation partners, facility managers, museums, and owners of historic properties
      - » Develop a fact sheet in conjunction with Oklahoma Emergency Management (OEM) on what to do following a disaster in Oklahoma
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- » Promote the SHPO office in media as a point of contact following disasters
  - » Participate in OEM's emergency manager training
  - Collaborate with THPOs
    - \* **Strategies**
      - » Notify THPOs when you find an archaeological site/evidence
      - » Work with tribal governments to promote the cultural history of the property or community
      - » Seek nominations for endangered places from tribal governments
      - » Provide information about descendants in cemeteries
      - » Work with THPOs as their knowledge of tribal histories is unmatched
      - » Tribal governments host training for non-tribal members
      - » Workshop presented by Tribal Nations specific to identifying TCPs
      - » Organize/facilitate monthly meetings between SHPO and interested THPOs

Goal #2: Oklahoma's rich and diverse heritage, both tangible and intangible, will be identified and preserved

Objectives:

- Update historic contexts (prehistoric and historic)
  - \* Strategies
    - » Contract to write a historic context update for the SHPO
    - » Sponsor the development of context documents
    - » Develop topics for historic contexts with agency participation
- Prepare more NRHP nominations
  - \* Strategies
    - » Prepare a NRHP nomination for an important historic resource in the community
    - » Cosponsor the preparation of a nomination
    - » Prepare nominations as part of Section 106 mitigation
    - » Create informative resources and toolkits for guiding local efforts in NRHP preparation
    - » Increase the number of archaeological site nominations
    - » Create a SHPO training course on how to write a National Register of Historic Places nomination
    - » Prepare in-house nominations focusing on groups identified in statewide survey as needing better representation

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- Improve all data collection resources (forms, manuals, etc.)
    - \* Strategies
      - » Restructure SHPO's website for more ease of use
      - » Update manuals/forms with relevant information and resources
  - Redevelop, promote, and utilize the Oklahoma State Register
    - \* Strategies
      - » Develop the rules for an updated State Register program
      - » Develop a website to solicit nominations to the State Register
      - » Conduct a webinar about the State Register and its importance to historic preservation
      - » Nominate a property to the State Register
  - Develop, conduct, and update archaeological, architectural, and thematic surveys
    - \* Strategies
      - » Make recommendations to local government and/or SHPO of areas to be evaluated
      - » Promote survey results and their implications to local policymakers, developers, and community residents
      - » Recommend survey topics to the SHPO via their project suggestion form
      - » Cosponsor the preparation of a survey
      - » Maintain a complete list of historic properties within community
      - » Encourage integration of survey and documentation data into state and local planning efforts
      - » Conduct in-house surveys
      - » Create a training course on how to conduct surveys for Oklahoma
      - » Develop parameters and implement statewide cemetery survey

**Goal #3: Advance best practices and broaden participation among stakeholders, decision makers, and citizens through effective out-reach efforts**

**Objectives:**

- Develop a more robust GIS program for preservation activities
  - \* Strategies
    - » Use online mapping provided by SHPO and other governmental agencies
    - » Provide data for use in GIS mapping
    - » Provide SHPO a GIS layer for historic properties under their purview (update it cyclically)
    - » Make GIS-based mapping of historic resources in disaster prone areas widely available and accessible to property owners and preservation partners
    - » Make GIS data (layers) available for use by others
    - » Develop additional StoryMaps using maps created by the SHPO

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- Increase preservation-related programming in rural communities
    - \* Strategies
      - » Communicate with land advocacy groups regarding conservation easements
      - » Advocate for and/or identify the historic and archaeological resources in a rural community
      - » Integrate the identification of farmlands, ranches, and agricultural resources as part of a broader disaster resilience plan
      - » Promote grant funding for rural areas
      - » Promote the Centennial Farm & Ranch Program at county historical societies and rural libraries
      - » Identify and document properties within rural communities including rural cemeteries
  - Encourage more Main Street and CLG participation in areas that are not represented by this programming
    - \* Strategies
      - » Meet with elected officials to discuss the importance and benefits of state preservation programs in your community using statistical data proved by SHPO/Main Street
      - » Bring in speakers to meetings or organizations to promote the benefits of historic preservation
      - » Consult with local government/commissions concerning agency projects
      - » Have representatives attend Capitol Days to highlight the SHPO's CLG program
      - » Survey the Oklahoma Main Street participants to determine how SHPO can assist their organizations in promoting historic preservation
      - » Develop a new countywide CLG program to help smaller communities
  - Increase organizations/agencies preservation advocacy efforts
    - \* Strategies
      - » Become a member of historic preservation-related organizations
      - » Express support to elected officials for creation of a state grants program for historic buildings
      - » Support the creation of a state grants program for rehabilitating historic buildings
      - » Provide data on the economy of rehabilitation versus new construction with local officials and state legislators
      - » Identify pro-preservation legislators and encourage support
      - » Promote the availability of local, state and national level historic preservation incentives in public workshops and meetings
      - » Review existing regulations, such as zoning variance relief, parking and building codes, to make adaptive use and preservation projects more feasible
      - » Develop a webinar on successful advocacy efforts
      - » Create a how-to advocacy series So You Want to Save a Building?
      - » Bring in specialists from partner organizations such as NTHP and NPS to discuss strategies such as sustainability, public policy development, and local legislation creation
  - Develop and promote curricula for schools
    - \* Strategies
      - » Create a lesson plan about historic preservation or an important historic property in your community
      - » Express support to school board for lessons on historic preservation and its importance
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- » Partner with preservation-related entities in offering internships and preservation trade opportunities for students and young adults
  - » Organize social events for youth and young professionals that promote involvement opportunities as well as the mission of local preservation organizations
  - » Create a Junior preservation/historian program to research and document projects related to local history and historic sites
  - » Develop lesson plans on historic preservation and historic buildings for teachers
  - » Create an adopt-a-building program for elementary school students
  - » Promote historic preservation topics for History Day
  - Provide historic preservation training
    - \* Strategies
      - » Attend preservation-related training offered by governmental bodies
      - » Offer AIA, AICP, etc. credit for continuing education opportunities specific to historic preservation
      - » Provide best practices workshops for historic property owners
      - » Host and/or attend hands-on workshops specific to preservation topics: masonry repair, window restoration, wood floor rehabs
      - » Develop toolkits on community engagement and consensus building methods and processes
      - » Provide training specific to each of the SHPO's program areas
  - Create, prepare, and promote local, state, and national preservation awards
    - \* Strategies
      - » Nominate local projects and/or people for state awards
      - » Host an unveiling event at your historic property
      - » Nominate a significant property and/or person for a national award
      - » Local government, Main Street, or local business creates an awards program to recognize historic preservation efforts in their community
      - » Agency creates an award program to recognize historic preservation efforts in their program area
      - » Evaluate current awards program and develop new program, if applicable
  - Provide technical assistance (non-106)
    - \* Strategies
      - » Host workshops geared toward development community specific to best practices and offer continuing education as part of the session to encourage attendance
      - » Seek input from professionals in the field on projects prior to implementation
      - » Use best practices information from other federal and state agencies
  - Provide technical assistance (Section 106)
    - \* Strategies
      - » Offer training opportunities for staff that implement Section 106 programs
      - » Promote successful 106 mitigation measures through state/federal agencies
      - » Make Section 106 data more easily accessible
      - » Provide database of successful mitigation measures
  - Continue publication of historic preservation-related online newsletter or similar
    - \* Strategies
      - » Write an opinion piece on historic preservation for the newsletter
      - » Subscribe to electronic newsletter provided by a preservation group
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- » Provide articles or article ideas to SHPO
  - » Agency provides articles on successful rehabilitation of historic resources, updates on ongoing projects, and information on funding mechanisms within agency divisions
  - » SHPO staff develops, contributes articles to, and publishes electronic newsletter
  - » Coordinate with other interested parties to provide articles for newsletter
  - Mitigate adverse effects on non-federal property
    - \* Strategies
      - » Follow permit applications at City Hall
      - » Advocate for retention of historic resources
      - » Seek public input before planning projects
      - » Use professionals to plan and implement preservation related projects
      - » If a historic resource must be demolished, release a public statement before taking the action
  - Document historic resources that have been lost on an annual basis
    - \* Strategies
      - » Map demolition of historic resources
      - » Highlight all the non-adverse effects the SHPO has issued
      - » Promote what buildings have been lost annually on website

Goal #4: Historic preservation will be well-integrated and supported with local planning and development practices to strengthen and sustain communities

Objectives:

- Improve Section 106 regulations training
  - \* Strategies
    - » Train staff on outcomes of programmatic agreements so that steps are not missed
    - » Upon signing mitigation documentation, track the outcomes to ensure targets are being met
- Update Oklahoma's economic impact study
  - \* Strategies
    - » Review results of current (dated) study and consider/discuss/emphasize the positive effects of preservation in community/state
    - » Approach local groups, government entities, and SHPO requesting a new/revised study be prepared
    - » Cosponsor the update to the economic impact study
    - » Provide data to consultant/firm conducting the economic impact study
    - » Work with Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, AIA, or other organizations to hire consultant to conduct study
    - » Promote results of study statewide



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- Increase number of qualified consultants in the state
    - \* Strategies
      - » Attend a SHPO National Register training course to learn how to prepare an NRHP nomination
      - » Prepare a successful NRHP nomination to qualify to become a consultant in the state
      - » Host workshop in your historic building on what you need to become a consultant
      - » Utilize universities to include projects in courses that allow students to prepare NRHP nominations or conduct surveys as part of their curriculum
      - » Update the consultant form to provide for more specific specialties
      - » How-to trainings specifically to cultivate SOI qualified consultants
  - Encourage local governments to become CLGs
    - \* Strategies
      - » Offer to serve on historic preservation commission
      - » Attend historic preservation commission meetings
      - » Schedule meetings with local elected officials to discuss the benefits of the program for the community (using data from SHPO/NPS)
      - » Bring in the SHPO to discuss the benefits of becoming a CLG
      - » Distribute information to all cities and counties within Oklahoma promoting the CLG program
  - Strengthen community preservation initiatives
    - \* Strategies
      - » Attend neighborhood association meetings
      - » Propose preservation activities for neighborhood, e.g., wood window repair workshop for homeowners
      - » Attend candidate forum nights and ask questions specific to historic preservation
      - » Promote funding opportunities offered by agency
      - » Develop and provide training that allows citizens to “get back to the basics” of historic preservation
      - » Develop rules, application, and evaluation process, and monitoring process for a statewide development grant program
  - Promote (encourage) local landmark designations
    - \* Strategies
      - » Appeal to local government to create legislation allowing designation
      - » Submit an application for local landmark designation
      - » Cosponsor a local nomination
      - » Support legislation creating local designation
      - » Create local legislation allowing for local designation
      - » Offer workshops on preparing documentation
      - » Bring in speakers on the importance of local landmark designations for CLGs and their commissions as well as the public
      - » Develop a list of local landmark designations within the state
      - » Develop draft language for local landmark designation for use by communities
  - Encourage the use of the Secretary of the Interior (SOI) Standards
    - \* Strategies
      - » Read the SOI Standards at the NPS website or watch a recorded SHPO workshop to learn more about the Standards
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- » Share how you utilized the Standards in the update of your home with your neighbors and friends
  - » Organize homeowner fairs, home tours, local marketing programs to raise knowledge of Standards
  - » Invite SHPO to give presentation to property owners on Standards
  - » Local government produces design guidelines and widely distributes them
  - » Develop workshops for professionals involved in rehabilitation of historic buildings
  - » Develop workshops for nonprofessionals involved in rehabilitation of historic buildings
  - Increase the use of Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
    - \* Strategies
      - » Buy a historic building and rehabilitate using SOI Standards (serve as the local example)
      - » Talk with elected officials about the economic impact to the community specific to HPTI
      - » Hold meetings in a federal tax credit building and promote it as part of the meeting
      - » Invite SHPO to give presentation to property owners about the program
      - » Lease space in historic properties rehabilitated using historic tax credits
      - » Engage with overlooked stakeholders (young people, artists, seniors, housing advocates), etc.
      - » Provide information for CLGs on successful tax incentives projects within their communities via e-newsletter
      - » Develop a “hot topic” series for developers addressing the problems and solutions
  - Promote alternative methods of historic preservation
    - \* Strategies
      - » Attend one of the SHPO workshops on proper repair techniques in historic preservation
      - » Hire local preservation-minded contractors, craftsmen, and artisans
      - » Host a SHPO event about historic preservation techniques in your community
      - » Demonstrate how you put preservation techniques into use on your property
      - » Digitize agency records
      - » Collect oral histories in underrepresented communities
      - » Share information about upcoming historic preservation projects
      - » Develop a how-to series on preservation techniques
      - » Compile a list of preservation-minded contractors, craftsmen, and artisans; make it searchable online
  - Local Financial Incentives
    - \* Strategies
      - » Pursue and secure grants and other forms of financial and technical assistance when undertaking research, surveys, and other documentation work
      - » Partner with statewide economic development, planning and environmental groups to create new incentives and educational programs related to historic preservation and revitalizing neighborhoods
      - » Explore nontraditional funding sources for preservation incentives and programs (CDBG, USDA, arts, housing organizations, etc.) and promote within communities
      - » Advocate the use of HUD and other funding sources to support housing rehabilitation and conservation
      - » Compile lists from CLGs nationwide on what local incentives are available
      - » Prepare a list of preservation friendly funding sources
      - » Bring in an expert on tax incentives from the IRS to speak to owners/developers

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## Questionnaires and Results

### Oklahoma's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan Questionnaire #1 (163 responses - results in red)

1. Do you live in Oklahoma?      Yes (149)      No (14)
  
2. Which Oklahoma county do you represent, if applicable?  
(Top Counties: Tulsa, Oklahoma, Cleveland)
  
3. What is your age range?  
15-35      (21)  
36-55      (59)  
56-75      (73)  
Over 75      (13)
  
4. What is your connection to Oklahoma's history? [Pick all that apply]
  - a. Oklahoma native (81)
  - b. History enthusiast or professional (86)
  - c. Caring resident (94)
  - d. Historical society (local or state) member (20)
  - e. Preservation or archaeological professional (13)
  - f. Owner of historic property (17)
  - g. None (5)
  - h. Other: (29 - genealogists, Route 66 enthusiast, Kansas State grad student, etc.)
  
5. In your opinion, what are the top three most threatened types of historic properties in Oklahoma?
  - a. Cemeteries (49)
  - b. Archaeological sites (43)
  - c. Ethnic/minority resources (55)
  - d. Farm and agricultural resources (25)
  - e. Landscapes (31)
  - f. Downtowns (80)
  - g. Neighborhoods (38)
  - h. Recent past architecture (48)
  - i. Transportation-related resources (11)
  - j. Religious facilities (21)
  - k. Schools (20)
  - l. Government buildings (8)
  - m. Industrial properties (oil/gas, broomcorn, cotton, electric plants) (8)
  - n. Other: (12 - Native American, bridges, WPA/CCC structures, etc.)

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6. ***In your opinion, what are the top three greatest threats to historic properties?***
- a. Development/New construction (85)
  - b. Lack of awareness (71)
  - c. Lack of funding (private and public) (83)
  - d. Demolition by neglect (67)
  - e. Uninformed decision makers (49)
  - f. Lack of local protection (37)
  - g. Apathy (35)
  - h. Vandalism (29)
  - i. Projects funded by private utilities (8)
  - j. Natural threats/disasters (10)
  - k. Agricultural practices (1)
  - l. Public works projects (roads, water, sewer, etc.) (8)
  - m. Hospital/university expansion (2)
  - n. Lack of trained contractors (4)
  - o. Other: (4 - destruction of history)
7. ***What does historic preservation mean to you?***  
See page 13 for some responses
8. ***What issues should be the top priorities for the state's historic preservation community over the next ten years? [Pick your top three]***
- a. Preservation of archaeological sites (27)
  - b. Partnering with local preservation organizations and planning commissions (69)
  - c. Surveying to identify buildings and structures (48)
  - d. Working with statewide preservation partners (31)
  - e. Diversity (21)
  - f. Preservation training (44)
  - g. National Register of Historic Places (36)
  - h. Tax credits (26)
  - i. Funding programs (CLG, RFPs) (56)
  - j. Community engagement (52)
  - k. Other: (3 - Route 66 centennial, digitizing records, educate school-age/college students)
9. ***What or who makes preservation happen in your community?***
- a. Historic Preservation Commission (58)
  - b. Funding (41)
  - c. Main Street programs (52)
  - d. City efforts (43)
  - e. Resident efforts (65)
  - f. There is no preservation in my community (15)
  - g. Other: (11 - educated developers, private funds, I don't know)

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10. **Which of these Oklahoma communities could be better represented in historic preservation?**
- a. Native American (107)
  - b. African American (69)
  - c. Women (73)
  - d. Hispanic/Latinx (32)
  - e. Asian American (29)
  - f. LGBTQIA+ (29)
  - g. Other: (8 - Known ethnic settlers, Early settlers and historic, Faith communities)
11. **Is there a building, site, or other location in your area of the state that is unique to Oklahoma? How is it unique?**  
Examples: Johnson House, Mangum; The Edwards Store, Red Oak; Art Deco resources, statewide; Route 66 resources, statewide
12. **Do you have a favorite building, archaeological site, or state/national park in Oklahoma? What is it and why?**  
Examples: First National Center, Oklahoma City; Star House, Cache; Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Sulphur; Spiro Mounds, Spiro; Woolaroc, Barnsdall

## **Oklahoma's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan Questionnaire #2 (411 responses)**

1. **Cemeteries were in the top three of the most threatened resources in the state of Oklahoma. What do you see as the threat to cemeteries? [Circle all that apply]**
- a. Lack of grounds maintenance (mowing, weed control, etc.) (85)
  - b. Lack of memorial maintenance (gravestones, markers, houses, etc.) (90)
  - c. Lack of locational knowledge (knowing where they are located) (73)
  - d. Lack of historical knowledge (why they are important) (100)
  - e. Lack of security measures (vandalism) (53)
  - f. Other: (10 - Maps of graves, Lack of available space, Access on private lands)
2. **Development/new construction was chosen as the greatest threat to historic properties. What does that mean to you? [Circle all that apply]**
- a. Demolition of historic resources for new construction (114)
  - b. Historic buildings being poorly redeveloped for their design (72)
  - c. Inappropriate uses for historic buildings (49)
  - d. Loss of agriculture to housing/commercial development (45)
  - e. Expansion of a single resource at the cost of multiple historic resources (hospitals, churches, museums, etc.) (57)
  - f. Other: (7 - Loss of history behind the places, Neighborhood preservation, Education)

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3. **What is the most important thing historic preservation should accomplish over the next 10 years?** [Choose only one]
- a. Increase investment in downtowns (23)
  - b. Participation in historic preservation training (24)
  - c. Greater awareness about how historic preservation is sustainable, environmentally friendly, and how it creates livable communities (46)
  - d. Adoption of public policies regarding preservation versus new construction (41)
  - e. Expand effort to tell underrepresented community histories (29)
  - f. Reduce gentrification/displacement in older neighborhoods (16)
  - g. Provide communities with tools to promote historic preservation to combat new development pressure and increased growth (49)
4. **What type of historic preservation workshop/lunch and learn/training would you attend?** [Circle all that apply]
- a. Maintenance of historic buildings (70)
  - b. Repair/Rehabilitation of historic buildings (69)
  - c. Energy conservation in historic buildings (29)
  - d. Historic preservation law (49)
  - e. Funding opportunities (54)
  - f. Disaster preparedness for historic buildings (31)
  - g. Heritage tourism for historic buildings and sites (61)
  - h. Americans with Disabilities Act and historic buildings (34)
  - i. Researching my historic property (37)
  - j. Training for public officials in preservation advocacy (36)
  - k. Other: (4 - County commissioner education)
5. **What methods of presentation would you prefer?** [Circle all that apply]
- a. Hands-on (99)
  - b. Virtual (60)
  - c. Lecture/Public program (76)
  - d. Booklets/Brochures (46)
  - e. Other: (1 - Opportunities on Sundays)
6. **How do you learn about SHPO programs?** [Circle all that apply]
- a. OKSHPO website (49)
  - b. Social media (54)
  - c. Newspaper (9)
  - d. Newsletter/email (21)
  - e. Membership in the Oklahoma Historical Society (11)
  - f. Membership in local organizations (commissions, historical societies, service clubs, etc.) (17)
  - g. Word of mouth (39)
  - h. Previous events (16)
  - i. Other: (36 - OHS library, State Fair, Group in Guthrie)