

Thursday, February 23, 2017



## Oklahoma City's Early Architecture and the Efforts to Save It

Oklahoma City's built environment began to take shape shortly after the claims were staked on April 22, 1889. Surveyors laid out the city's streets, planners created zoning ordinances, and buildings were erected. What began with tents evolved to skyscrapers in a matter of a few decades. This class will explore Oklahoma City's early architecture from its territorial beginnings to the building boom of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The class will also discuss current efforts to preserve the landmarks of this important era. Examples of successful preservation and revitalization efforts will also be presented.

The class will be led by David Pettyjohn, Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, Ron Frantz, AIA, Director of Great Plains Studio and Wick Cary Professor at OU's Institute for Quality Communities and Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director of Oklahoma History Center.

### Dr. Bob L. Blackburn



Dr. Bob L. Blackburn, a native Oklahoman, has served as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society since 1999. He joined the OHS in 1980 as editor of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* and became deputy director for agency operations in 1989. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from Oklahoma State University. Bob published several articles and his first book while still in graduate school, and has since written or co-authored 18 books and numerous articles, journal entries, and screen plays. He is a steady source of historical information to the media, and he has appeared numerous times on the History Channel. He was instrumental in planning and building the Oklahoma History Center, a 215,000 square foot museum and research center with a budget of \$61 million. Bob has served on numerous national and regional boards and committees, including the Western History Association, the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians, the AIA, and Leadership Oklahoma City. His hobbies are reading, running, carpentry, landscaping, and golf. Bob is married to former State Representative Debbie Blackburn and they have one son, Beau, who is a professional photographer in Denver, Colorado.

## Ron Frantz, AIA



Small towns. Old neighborhood business districts. Main Streets. Bungalows and brick buildings. Quirky road side attractions. Route 66. Highway 33. Highways 77....81...60...62....64...or any two-lane road. Classic cars. Diners and blue plate specials. Local museums. Historic swimming holes. Landmarks. Courthouse squares. Antiques, pottery, recycled items, locally produced art. Front porches, outdoor eating areas, streets filled with people, sidewalks lined with merchandise.

During the last 35 years, Ron Frantz, a licensed architect, worked in over 100 Oklahoma communities to save important—and maybe overlooked—community landmarks and every day places. Currently he works at The University of Oklahoma College of Architecture with a program called the Institute for Quality Communities. Here, he works with staff, faculty, and students to provide design services for Oklahoma communities of all types and sizes while exposing students to all things great about Oklahoma.

## David Pettyjohn



David Pettyjohn is the Executive Director of Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. (POK), a position he has held since October 2012. Prior to joining POK, he worked with the Oklahoma Humanities Council. David holds an M.A. in History and a B.A. in History/Secondary Education, both from the University of Tulsa. He currently serves on the Advisory Council of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.