

PRESERVATION OKLAHOMA LISTS 13 MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

From Okla. Historical Society

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Six properties have been added to the Most Endangered Oklahoma Historic Properties List for 1996, and the Skirvin Hotel in Oklahoma City has been returned after slow rehabilitation progress it was announced by Preservation Oklahoma Inc.

These properties bring the total to 13, said President Hiram Champlin of Preservation Oklahoma. The most highly publicized added property was the Journal Record Building, which was damaged extensively in the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

Other additions include the Ambassador Hotel and Tulsa Club in Tulsa; the 101 Ranch near Ponca City, the Black Middenmound Archaeological Site near Red Oak east of Wilburton, and the Neosho River Route 66 Bridge near Miami.

These joined six properties retained from the 1995 list, said Preservation Executive Director Robert K. Erwin of Oklahoma City. Retained from a year ago were the Beck-Hildebrand Mill near Colcord in Delaware

County, the Centre Theatre in Oklahoma City, Fort Reno near El Reno, the Mayo Hotel in Tulsa, the Washita Battlefield near Cheyenne and the 1842 Wheelock Academy and Mission in McCurtain County.

"These are not just old buildings. They are part of our heritage — of what makes us who we are."

homa, a statewide non-profit organization, established the list in 1993," said Erwin, "to focus attention on immediate threats to important historic and cultural resources in Oklahoma. All of the sites on this list are extremely important to our state and the communities in which they are located."

The Most Endangered list is a joint project with the State Historic Preservation Office of the Oklahoma Historical Society. They foster preservation of historic buildings and sites through advocacy, education, and technical and financial assistance. Erwin points to the rescue of Tulsa's Art Deco Warehouse Market building as a prime example of the program's impact.

"It is appalling," Erwin said, "to note that three of the 16 National Historic Landmarks in Oklahoma are on our list — including the 101 Ranch, the Washita Battlefield and the

EDMOND RESIDENT NAMED PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

From Dept. of Rehabilitation Services

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Edmond resident Mary Howell was recently named Professional of the Year by Goodwill Industries of Tulsa for her work with people with disabilities.

Howell is a programs field representative for the Community Rehabilitation Services Unit of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Howell was one of the motivating forces for the Supported Employment Program administered by DRS since she started working for the agency nearly a decade ago.

Since then, supported employment has become an established and productive system for employing people with severe disabilities. Supported employment is a structured job approach which takes people with disabilities directly into work environments which have been adapted or are monitored by job coaches.

DRS provides assistance to Oklahomans with disabilities through vocational rehabilitation, education, employment, Social Security disability determination and independent living programs.

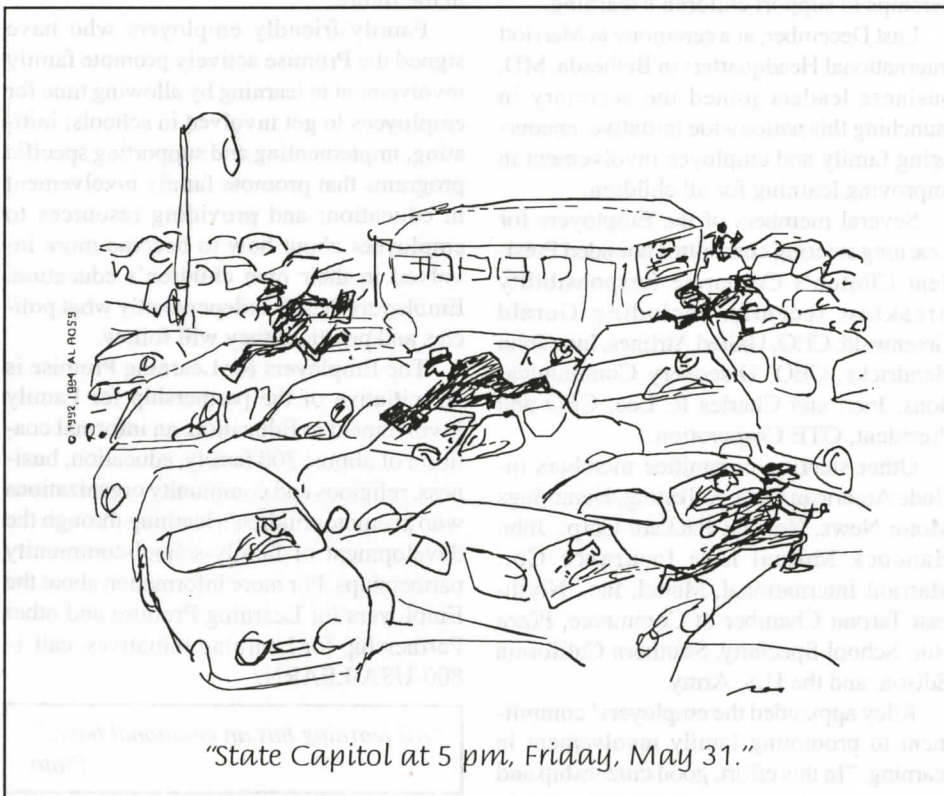
Prior to working for DRS, Howell specialized in employment training with the state Department of Human Services and once served as personnel director for a large metro area realtor.

At DRS, Howell consults, monitors and helps navigate managers and job coaches of community-based programs and businesses which employ workers with disabilities. With ever-changing rules, guidelines, and regulations coming from legislation, it is important for programmers and providers to have the best and latest in information and supervision which Howell and the unit provide.

"Since I've doing this, I've seen some vast changes for people who have never had the opportunity to work. I think it's especially courageous for some people. I remember a man who got his first job at age 60. For people with severe disabilities the chance for self-improvement is always there," said Howell.

Howell was presented the honor of Professional of the Year at the Goodwill Industries of Tulsa, Inc. annual meeting and awards luncheon in May.

"It was a very nice honor, and a surprise, as well, to be given this award," Howell said.



"State Capitol at 5 pm, Friday, May 31."