



Bartlesville

Civic Center/ City Hall/ Public Library 1922- 1989



Bartlesville

City Hall and Bartlesville Area History Museum 1999 to present

A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY AND TIMELINE OF THE BARTLESVILLE AREA HISTORY MUSEUM



A comprehensive history and timeline of the Bartlesville Area History Museum

Even history museums have history—including the Bartlesville Area History Museum. In March of 1964, the Board of Commissioners of the City of Bartlesville appointed a Historical commission by Resolution No. 1340, consisting of fifteen members, appointed by Mayor

Hensley. Paul Endacott, selected to chair the Commission, worked with fourteen other members, all tasked to equip a history room at the newly remodeled Bartlesville Public Library. They immediately adopted the slogan, “To find among the pages of an eventful past, knowledge and inspiration to help build a greater future.”

With plans in place to proceed with the process necessary for preserving Bartlesville and Washington County heritage, the next step required hiring a curator to head the project. In April, fifty-year journalist veteran, with museum experience, Margaret Withers Teague, was hired with an impressive resume that included Gilcrease Museum, the Philbrook Museum, El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Police Department Internal Affairs Department, the International Petroleum Exposition, KVOO Radio and the



Margaret Withers Teague

Tulsa Tribune, as well as The Bartlesville Examiner Enterprise and KWON Radio of Bartlesville.





Addressing a Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce noon forum in 1964, Chairman, Paul Endcaccott declared, "Our Course has been set to use history as a practical springboard to the future. History is no longer water running under the bridge, but a parade moving into the future."

The Historical Commission disbanded in October of 1967, their task completed. Jurisdiction of the History Room officially

became the responsibility of the City of Bartlesville and an official department of the Bartlesville Public Library.

Located in the Civic Center Library, the room was partitioned into various segments pertaining to the heritage and culture of the community, It included an area devoted to memorabilia from the Delaware Indian tribe, as well as an entertainment division complete with photographs from early-day parades and social gatherings. With the enthusiastic contributions of citizens interested in saving the community history, space and preservation of local artifacts became the greatest challenge for the collection.

In May of 1984, the name of the Library History Room changed to the "Bartlesville Area History Museum and Archives," where it continued to evolve until the section of the Civic Center set aside as the Library Annex became less and less adequate for the needs for preserving the heritage of the community. The City of Bartlesville held a bond issue to replace the existing Civic Center/City Hall, and library with a new building. They razed the Civic

You are cordially invited
To attend a

Twentieth Birthday Party

honoring

Bartlesville Area History Museum and Archives

Museum Committee
of the
Bartlesville Library Board

Sunday
November 11, 1984
2-4

Center and constructed a new modern building at the same location on the corner of Johnstone and Adams. Completed in 1992, thirty-two square feet was allocated for the museum in the new library. However, a faction of citizens felt that the resolution adopted by the City of Bartlesville in



1964 had been neglected, as the office of curator was eliminated, along with adequate space promised in the newly constructed Library for preservation and collection of history. A petition formulated and circulated in 1993 by concerned citizens concerning the failure to stand behind the original 1964 History Commission, and the 1964 City resolution presented and signed by Mayor Hensley, was addressed at the City Council Meeting on December 6, 1993. The outcome was the City Council considered and approved the recommendation of a "Library/Museum commission of a work-plan for a History Task Force for a history museum." The main concerns; funding, space and staff.

The first meeting of the appointed task force took place on January 27, 1994. By January 3, 1995, the task force completed their study, presented it to the City of Bartlesville, which in turn voted on and approved for the task force to disband. The results of the Task Force was turned over to the newly formed Bartlesville Area History Museum Trust Authority, who took the reins and were instrumental in the outcome of the present Bartlesville Area History Museum.

In 1998, a citywide bond issue paved the way for the City of Bartlesville to purchase the historic Hotel Maire building, previously owned by Phillips Petroleum Company. The plan to refurbish the five-story office building in downtown Bartlesville, for a new location for municipal offices and museum, solved the issues of space for the burgeoning collection of the museum, thereby satisfying concerned citizens with plans for an all new Bartlesville History Museum and City Hall in the Phillips Annex at 401 S. Johnstone.



Appropriately, the fifth floor of the eighty-five year old Hotel Maire became the new home for a newly established Bartlesville Area History Museum, and the history of the past became juxtaposed

with the new history of the present with cutting-edge design by museum professionals, who supervised the construction of the museum floor plan, including a large Permanent Exhibit Gallery. In addition, the floor plan included a sustainable space branded the Pioneer Gallery, suitable for educational programs, presentations and temporary exhibits. In the center of this floor, was set aside 5,616 square feet for a climate controlled archival storage. Another 632.5sq. ft.



similar storage, was set up on the third floor of the City Hall for the museum's extensive photograph collection, installed with climate control for the preservation of the photographs and negatives.

Funds for furnishing the Bartlesville Area History Museum were amassed through two main endowments, including Martha Jane Phillips Starr, daughter of L.E. Phillips, and Bud Adams, also coupled with personal donations from numerous individuals, citizens, foundations and business donations.

The community celebrated a formal opening of the museum in November of 2000. Donors, along with the official commission, Trust Authority members and city officials, as well as Martha Jane Phillips Starr, attended.

This beautifully equipped and completed facility offers many learning opportunities and revelations for young and old alike, concerning the history and heritage of Washington County, Oklahoma, and enjoys continued growth and development of local and area history.

Two boards provide ongoing supplemental funding for the facility One, a municipal board, the Bartlesville Area History Museum Trust Authority, is tasked with overseeing the initial endowments and contributions collected for the Museum. A second board a non-profit 501-(c) 3, the Friends of the Bartlesville Area History Museum, Inc., was created for additional support.



History of the Hotel Maire: real estate mogul Frank L. Maire, of Lima, Ohio, constructed The Hotel Maire. The Grand opening of the Hotel occurred on July 15, 1913, during a time when Bartlesville was a young community, booming from oil discovery in the town's early days. Maire later became partners with Clarence E. Burlingame, however with the death of Mr. Maire in 1938, the partner took over and the named changed to the Burlingame Hotel.

After the Burlingame closed its doors for good in the late 60s, the Phillips Petroleum Company purchased the building around 1968 and refurbished it and established the "Phillips Annex," completed in 1970.

Time line:

September 1961- The Frank Phillips Foundation issued a \$35,000 grant to refurbish the American Legion Room above the library into a community History Room.

May 1962- The Frank Phillips Foundation gave an additional \$15,000 to furnish the History Room.

March 9, 1964- The Bartlesville City Commission appointed a Historical Commission to establish a History Room with resolution #1340 by Mayor Hensley. Original members of the commission included; Paul Endacott, chair, H.E.Winn, Mrs. Howard Cannon (Nellie Johnstone), Bern F. Buff, Phillip R. Phillips, Don Tyler, John Steiger, Gerald R. Preston, C.E. Cummings, Dr. George R. Kennedy, Elmer J. Sark, and C. Vernon Sellers.

November 20, 1964- The "History Room" opens to the public welcoming Museum Curator, Margaret Teague.

1967- The Historical Commission disbanded

May 30, 1984- The Library History Room changed its name to the "Area History Museum and Archives."

September 12, 1989- A bond issue held for a new library facility, which called for the demolition of the old library and Civic Center and a new library on the existing site.

January 19, 1992- The new library opened in their new facility

June 1, 1993- A petition was presented to the City of Bartlesville, signed by citizens, regarding failure to provide a History Room/museum, because the office of curator was eliminated, and space adequate to fulfill the purposes of the History Room/museum was not provided for when the new Library facility was completed in 1992.

December 6, 1993- The Bartlesville City Council considered a recommendation of a Library Museum, and commission of a work plan for a History Task Force, for a History Museum. The first meeting of the Task Force took place on January 27, 1994, concerning funding, space and staff.

January 3, 1995- Bartlesville City Council voted on and approved a motion to discontinue the Bartlesville History Task Force.

January 3, 1995- Appointments to the Bartlesville History Museum Trust Authority and Special Economic Development and Task Force. Voted on and approved by the City of Bartlesville City Council

January 3, 1995- Bartlesville City Council voted and approved the Bartlesville Museum Trust Indenture.


July 1996- Karen Smith-Woods hired as the Bartlesville History Museum Curator

February 10, 1998- Proposition I, a city bond issue, passed allowing the History Museum to move to the Phillips Building Annex.

January 1999- Renovation of the Phillips Building Annex

Spring 2000- The Bartlesville History Museum moved from the Library to a permanent position in the Phillips Building Annex.

November 2000- The community celebrated a formal opening.



Bartlesville Area History Museum
401 S. Johnstone—City Hall 5th Floor
Bartlesville, OK 74003
“Where history never stands still”
in historic Hotel Maire built in 1909
Open Monday—Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
918-338-4290
www.bartlesvillehistory.com

Compiled and created by Bartlesville Area History Museum

Museum Coordinator, Jo Crabtree—2017