

Words to Live By:

"Focus on one thing at a time, instead of leaving several projects unfinished."

Bernadine Minter
quoting Dr. Jack Medlock

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State Approves Chapel Nomination to National Register of Historic Places

By KAREN ANSON
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Seminole's old Strother Chapel has now been nominated to join the county's 15 other historic sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

A group of citizens working together to get the chapel listed took their application to the Oklahoma Historical Society last week.

Working on the project was a committee including Chair Molly Patterson, Sharlene Hammons, Beth Hogan, Liz Gunter, Wanda Turbeville, Carol Branham, Dana Haddican and Charles Johnston.

Melvena Heisch, the deputy state Historical Preservation officer, said the nomination was approved and signed Monday by Bob Blackburn, state Historic Preservation officer.

The nomination has now been sent to the National Register for consideration.

"The reason for the chapel's historic significance is its architecture," Heisch explained.

"The National Register does not list commemorative property."

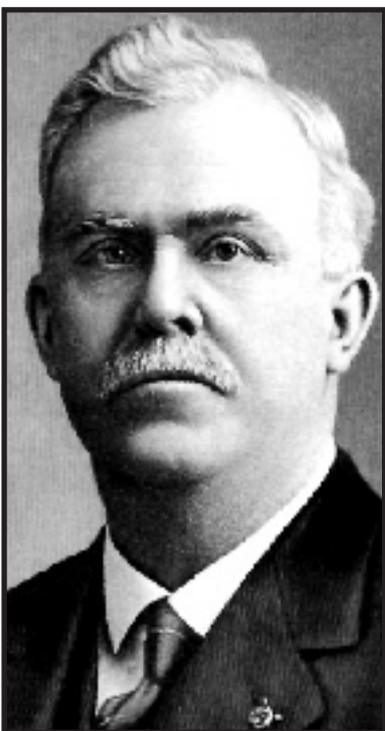
The chapel was built in 1928 in honor of O.D. Strother by his family and replaced another older chapel.

Strother was one of the founding fathers of the oil industry in Seminole.

He organized the Home Stake Oil and Gas Company and drilled mostly dry holes during his lifetime.

However four months after his death, the Fixico No. 1 came in, and then one of his leases, the Strother A, produced over 12 million barrels, the richest quarter section in the Seminole field.

Before his death, Strother had expressed an interest in beautifying the cemetery; the family plot is located south of the chapel.



Strother

Strother Never Benefited From Empire

(Following is an edited excerpt from the book "Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People Volume III," written by Joseph B. Thoburn and Murial H. Wright in 1929. It outlines the interesting life and times of O.D. Strother, for whom the chapel in Maple Grove Cemetery was built. The chapel is being considered for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.)

O.D. Strother was born Oct. 16, 1858 in Glasgow, Mo., and attended school at Lindenwood College, St. Charles, Mo., where his father was president.

Later he was sent to Virginia to school and he showed such a

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Historic Significance

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office has agreed with Seminole residents: Strother Chapel at Maple Grove Cemetery has historic significance. The chapel's Gothic Revival architecture, with

Heisch said the chapel has architectural merit because of its Gothic Revival style and castellation, which is representative of the 19th and 20th century.

"Castellation" is depicted by the chapel's four little towers of sandstone and brick.

The nomination form, compiled by Dr. James Fowler, points out that the chapel does not follow the "pointed" subtype of the Gothic Revival style, but follows a more literal interpretation.

"As executed in the Strother Memorial Chapel, the Gothic

Revival reflects medieval roots," its castle-like towers, has earned it a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Whether it's accepted or not will be announced in September.

Fowler wrote.

"The rough stonework and the four prominent turrets hearken to an age of fortresses and castles."

The term "gothic" was coined during the Renaissance to refer to activities and objects from the pre-

vious, "less enlightened" era.

Although the term originally was derogatory, meaning backward or old fashioned, during the period following the Renaissance, the old styles came back into favor.

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-Staff Photo by Sharon Wallace