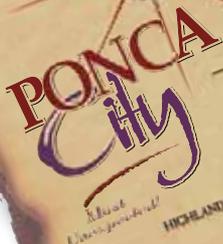
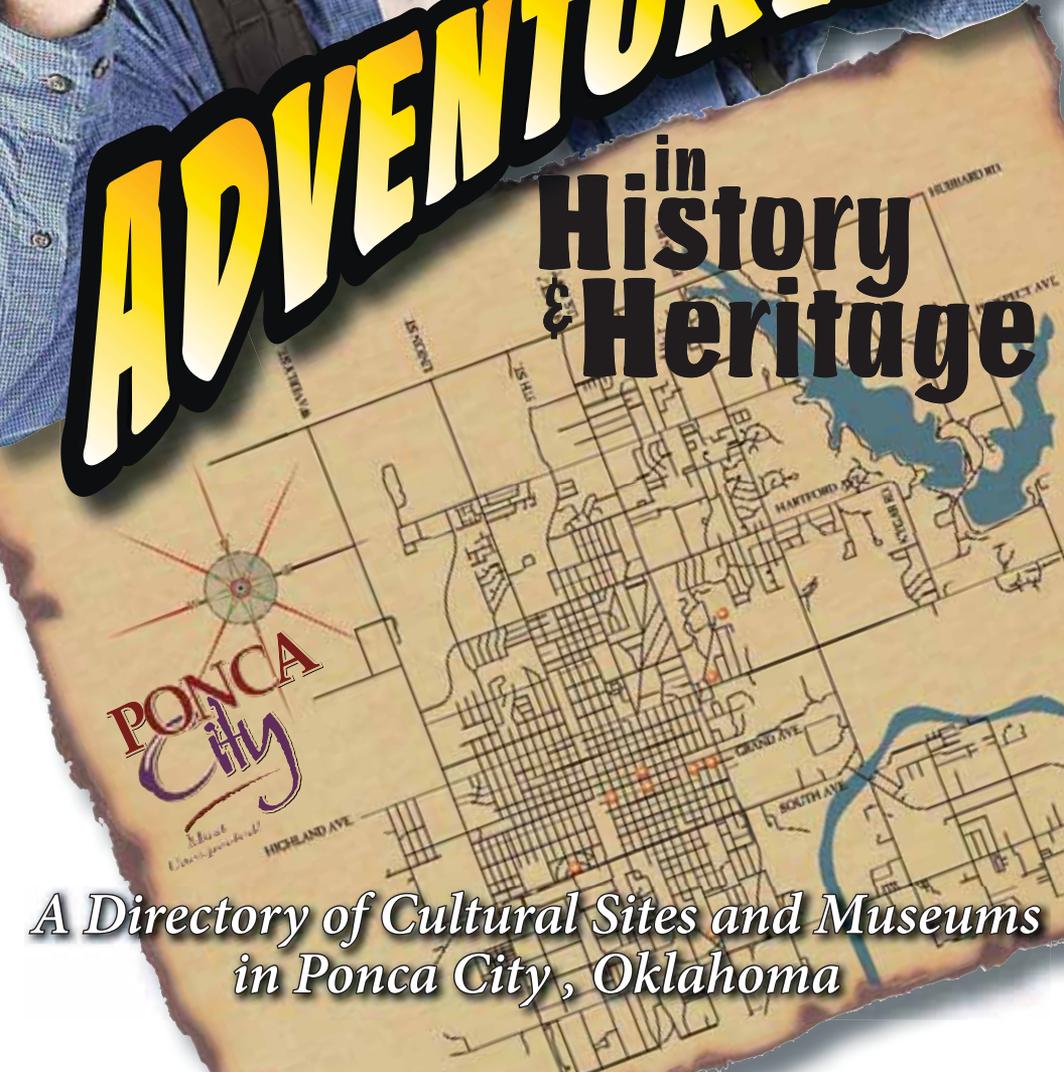




ADVENTURES

in History & Heritage



*A Directory of Cultural Sites and Museums
in Ponca City, Oklahoma*

Purpose of Directory Guidebook

This “Adventures in History & Heritage” directory guidebook is intended to be a resource for teachers and citizens. It represents each cultural and/or historic site in the Ponca City area and contains information to assist those interested in planning educational visits. We hope you will find the content informative and useful in scheduling field trips, group tours or individual visits. Enjoy the adventure and what can be discovered along the way.

Why Cultural Heritage Field Trips are important...

- They help others discover the history and roots of a community.
- They create community awareness.
- They enhance community pride.
- They encourage community involvement.
- They generate partnerships between local schools, cultural heritage sites, students and citizens.

Museum/Cultural Site Etiquette

A note to teachers and tour coordinators: Prepare your students/visitors for their visit by accessing websites and site brochures. Share the information with them, so they will have an idea of what to expect when they visit. They will also have a greater appreciation for their educational experience. Prior to the tour, point out the museum's rules and restrictions.

Museums and other cultural sites are fairly quiet places where visitors can listen, learn, and observe. All cell phones and music devices should be turned off before entering a museum. Don't wear backpacks or take bulky purses or bags. It is best to use quiet voices when visiting, particularly when there is a guided tour. The most important rule on a tour is “Do Not Touch.”

The walking pace in a museum or a cultural site should be gentle. Visitors should remember not to run, crowd or walk fast so other visitors are not distracted and so exhibits are not damaged.



A tour guide or docent is usually available for assistance. This person is knowledgeable about the museums and collections. Listen and respect them and follow their lead. They have a wealth of knowledge to share.

Show respect for the valuable artifacts and treasured items in a museum or a cultural site. Most items could not be replaced if destroyed. A “hands off” policy is best when touring.

At the end of the visit, be sure to show your appreciation and thank your guide.

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Start Your ADVENTURE



in History & Heritage



5TH ST.



GRAND AVE.



City Hall, Centennial Plaza and Historic Downtown

A National Register District

516 E. Grand Ave. | 5th St. and Grand Ave.

Ponca City, OK 74601

580-763-8082 (Main Street office)

www.poncacitymainstreet.com

Hours: City Hall - Mon. - Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Plaza - Mon - Sun. Daylight Hours

FREE Admission

Special tour designed for third graders available. Call ahead for other guided tours.



The City Hall, designed by Solomon Andrew Layton (architect of the Oklahoma State Capitol Bldg.), was first built as the City Auditorium in 1916. In 1922, the east and west wings were added and the building became the Civic Center, housing city offices, police and fire stations.

The Centennial Plaza, located in front of the City Hall, was created to honor the families that staked their claims during the historic Land Run of Sept. 16, 1893. In 1993, local citizens purchased personalized bricks to “stake their claim” in the Centennial Plaza and make their name a part of Ponca City’s history.

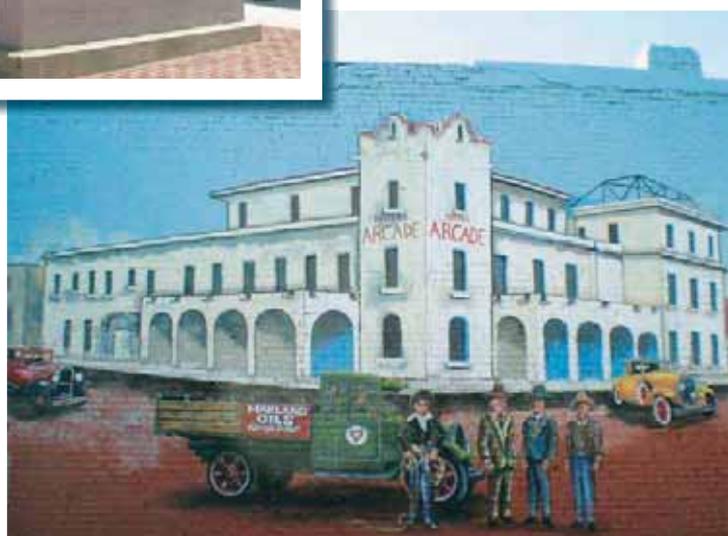
Centennial Plaza is the home of Ponca City’s three favorite sculptures: the “Centennial Monument” by Jo Saylor commemorates the Land Run; statues of “Ernest Whitworth Marland” by Jo Davidson and “Lewis Hanes Wentz” by Jo Saylor, honoring both of the oil millionaires and philanthropists, grace the NW and NE corners of the lawn. A plaque honoring Burton Seymour Barnes, the founder of Ponca City and its first mayor, stands near the sidewalk on the west side of the Plaza.

Ponca City’s downtown has been designated a National Historic District by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The downtown includes brick streets and several historic buildings of Spanish Colonial architecture. Other historic buildings include the circa 1934 Art Deco Post Office, the 1927 Poncan Theatre, and the 1934 renovated Ponca City Library. Three large murals depicting the 1920’s history of the community are in the downtown district.



*The Centennial Monument by
Jo Saylor*

Mural at 1st St. and Grand Ave.



6



ELM ST.



SOUTH AVE.



Conoco Museum

501 W. South Ave. | Elm and South Ave.

Ponca City, OK 74601

580-765-TOUR (8687)

www.conocomuseum.com

Hours: Mon - Sat 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sun 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

FREE Admission

Special tour designed for fifth graders available. Call ahead for other guided tours.

Experience the legacy of Ponca City's oil business. What began as Marland Oil Company became Continental Oil Company, then Conoco, DuPont, and now ConocoPhillips. View a film that depicts the "Spirit of Conoco."

Exhibits include:

- Horse drawn wagon
- 1917 delivery truck
- Doodlebugger work site
- Interactive science oriented displays
- Hands on displays of gas pumps
- Replica service station with a gravity-fed gasoline pump
- TV commercials from the 1950s to the present
- 1950s Touraide interactive travel game
- A computer-generated "flyover" of Oklahoma's oldest operating refinery





*Interactive gallery depicting
Conoco marketing*

Horse drawn delivery wagon



14TH ST.

MONUMENT



Marland Estate Mansion

A National Historic Landmark

A National Register Property

901 Monument Road | North of Pioneer Woman

Ponca City, OK 74604

767-0420 or 800-488-8340

www.marlandmansion.com

Hours: Mon – Sat 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sun 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fees: Adults - \$7.00

Students 12-18 - \$4.00

Gift Shop

Special tour designed for seventh graders available. Call ahead for other guided tours

E.W. Marland was an oil baron in the Teen's and 20's. He was also a U.S. congressman, and the 10th governor of Oklahoma. His dream was to live in a palace, and so he built this majestic home. The Marland Estate Mansion, built in 1928, is a 55-room Italian Renaissance villa. Also known as the "Palace on the Prairie," the mansion is furnished with original period furniture so it appears that the family still lives here. Over the years, the mansion has been restored and decorated to depict Mr. Marland's majestic lifestyle.

An architectural wonder, the mansion was designed as a showplace for pieces of fine art. The ceilings are works of art in themselves. Throughout the building, there are sculptures of gargoyles, owls, jackals, and other intricate ornamentation.

Historic features on the tour include a leather-lined elevator, an automatic dishwasher, a master bath with shower heads that spray in all directions, and a dumbwaiter that moved food and kitchen items from the basement to the upper level. Several other original buildings are on the Marland Estate and can be incorporated into the tour:

- Lydie Marland Cottage/Carriage House/Marland Family Museum
- Bryant Baker Artist Studio and Gallery Exhibit
- Marland Oil Museum



Bryant Baker Gallery in the Artist Studio

Exhibit in the Marland Oil Museum



10

10TH ST.

GRAND AVE.

14TH ST.



Marland's Grand Home

A National Register Property

1000 E. Grand | 10th St. and Grand Ave.

Ponca City, OK 74601

580-767-0427

www.marlandgrandhome.com

Hours: Tues - Sat 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fees: Adults - \$3.00,

Students 6-16 - \$1.00 (Under age 6 - free)

Special tour designed for sixth graders available. Call ahead for other guided tours.



This showcase home, built in 1916, was E.W. Marland's first mansion in Ponca City. There are 22 rooms, spread out on four levels. The home's grand staircase and the crystal chandelier greet visitors as they enter the home. The oak-paneled library features a very large painting of Mr. Marland and his friends on their horses, ready for a foxhunt. In the formal dining room, the walls have original black walnut wood wainscoting and hand-painted wall murals. The adjoining sunroom welcomes visitors to sit for awhile. Under the east terrace is an indoor swimming pool, one of the first pools in Oklahoma. There is also a billiard room with oak trim and a bar.

The second floor bedroom suites are arranged to look like they would have in the 1920's. There are also separate rooms that display collections from Plains Indian tribes. Mr. Marland had many business dealings with area tribes. In the early years, formal gardens on the property extended four blocks east to 14th Street.

E.W. Marland found his first oil well on the 101 Ranch, and became a partner with the Miller Brothers in the 101 Ranch Oil Co. The lower level features memorabilia from the famous ranch.

Mr. Marland was the President of Marland Oil Co., which later was renamed Continental Oil, then Conoco, and is now ConocoPhillips.



*The Fox Hunt" by
Randall Davey*

*The 101 Ranch
and Wild West
Show exhibit*



12

14TH ST.
MONUMENT



LAKE RD.

Pioneer Woman Museum and Statue

The Statue is a National Register Property
701 Monument Road | Lake Road and Monument
Ponca City, OK 74604
580-765-6108
www.pioneerwomanmuseum.com

Hours: Mon. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tues – Sat 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday and National Holidays
Fee: Adults - \$3; Seniors, 65 and up - \$2.50
Children, 6-17 - \$1.00

Gift Shop

Special tour designed for fourth graders available. Call ahead for other guided tours.

Pioneer Woman, by Bryant Baker, is a heroic bronze statue of a young, sun bonneted pioneer mother, leading her son by the hand, striding confidently, head held high. She's a woman of sturdy beauty and dignity, whose eyes are fixed on the far southwestern horizon. The statue, dedicated in 1930 by Will Rogers, honors all the pioneer women of the United States and carries the following inscription: "In appreciation of the heroic character of the women who braved the dangers and endured the hardships incident to daily life of the pioneer and homesteader in this country."

The Pioneer Woman Museum features exhibits showcasing women who have pioneered in various fields and have made significant contributions to Oklahoma's history, up to the present day. Educational activities include relics of pioneer life, information and artifacts about the daily life of homesteaders. As you approach the building, look up. The architect envisioned the copper-lined entrance to the museum as being representative of the statue's bronze sunbonnet. Punched through the top of the bonnet are 12-inch letters that read, "I SEE NO BOUNDARIES"





"The Pioneer Woman" by Bryant Baker

A weaving demonstration in the museum



8TH ST.



GRAND AVE.

14TH ST.



Ponca City Art Center

A National Register Property

819 E. Central | Just West of Marland's Grand Home

Ponca City, OK 74601

580-765-9746

www.poncacity.com/art_center.html

Hours: Wed - Sun 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

FREE Admission

Gift shop



The Ponca City Art Association purchased the home in 1966. The Ponca City Art Center features artists' exhibits, art classes, and workshops for all ages. Housed in the stately Soldani Mansion, the center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is a work of art in itself. Anthony Godance Soldani built his dream home in 1925 at a cost of \$92,000. The house was designed in the Prairie Style, with Spanish Colonial Revival accents. The brick and stone house is a two-story sprawling rectangle with a green glazed tile hipped roof.

The interior woodwork came from walnut trees on Soldani's Osage County Ranch, and was specially milled in Kansas City. Other features include tiled fireplaces from England, and imported tiles floors in the basement. One charming aspect of the house is the "courting room," tucked under the gracious staircase. In its heyday, the Soldani house was a gathering place for the young people of Ponca City.



Main gallery

Summer pottery class



5TH ST.

GRAND AVE.



Ponca City Library

Matzene Art Collection

515 E. Grand Ave. | 5th St. and Grand Ave.
 Ponca City, OK 74601
 580-767-0345
www.poncacitylibrary.com

Hours: Mon – Thurs 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 Fri 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Sat 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Sun (Sept-May) 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FREE Admission

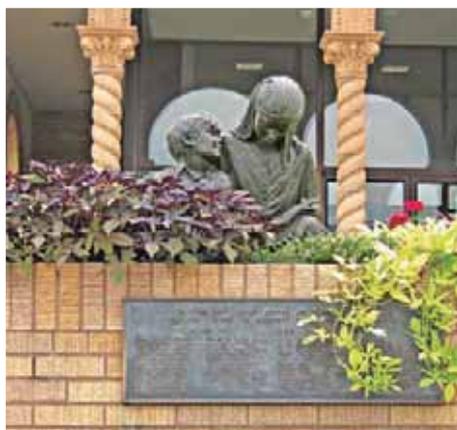
Special tours are available with advance notice.



The Ponca City Library is very fortunate to house a special art collection. The paintings and statues are on display year round, on both levels of the building. In the 1950s, Richard Gordon Matzene, a well-known photographer, art dealer, and world traveler donated a substantial part of his collection of American Western art and Oriental art to the Ponca City Library.

During his career, Matzene maintained studios in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and India. He had a close relationship with Birger Sandzen of the Prairie Print Makers, and with Nicholai Fechin, a Russian born painter. Both of them have artwork in the Library's collection.

On one of his many trips to the Orient, Matzene was forced to hide in the basement of a Chinese friend during the Boxer Rebellion. During this trip to China, he acquired several pieces of art from the Imperial Palace. In 1927, he was invited to photograph the Royal Nepalese family. These very rare photographs are part of the Matzene Collection.



"Through the Eyes of a Child"
by Jo Saylor

Robotics workshop for kids





1ST ST.



GRAND AVE.



Poncan Theatre

A National Register Property

104 E. Grand Ave. | 1st St. and Grand Ave.

Ponca City, OK 74601

580-765-0943

www.poncantheatre.com

Hours: Mon – Fri 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Special Pricing for group tours.

Special tours for any age. Please call ahead for special tours:

- **Entertainment in the Years Before Television:** Experience a time before televisions, computers or video games. This tour of the Poncan Theatre highlights how people were entertained during the early 20th Century.
- **Segregation –Separate Was Not Equal:** This thought provoking tour of the Poncan Theatre utilizes the fact that the theater was designed and built during racial segregation.
- **The Art of Advertising:** This tour is designed with students of art in mind. The Poncan Theatre is home to the world's largest collection of hand-painted lobby art of the 1930's. Each piece in the collection is a one-of-a-kind original created by regional craftsmen to advertise the upcoming film fare of the local theater.

The Poncan Theatre opened in 1927, when movies were still “silent.” That same year, sound was added to the movies, and they were referred to as “talkies.” Many famous actors have appeared on the stage at the Poncan over the years.

The theater has been restored, so it still retains its original glory, including the hand-painted stage curtain. Throughout the theater, there are original hand-painted movie posters from 1931-37, an era called the “Golden Age of Hollywood.”

Executive Director, Dave May, is an accomplished ventriloquist and magician, who has worked in schools and festivals across Oklahoma and Kansas. The Poncan Theatre can provide your students or group with a custom educational performance, with the tour, if desired.



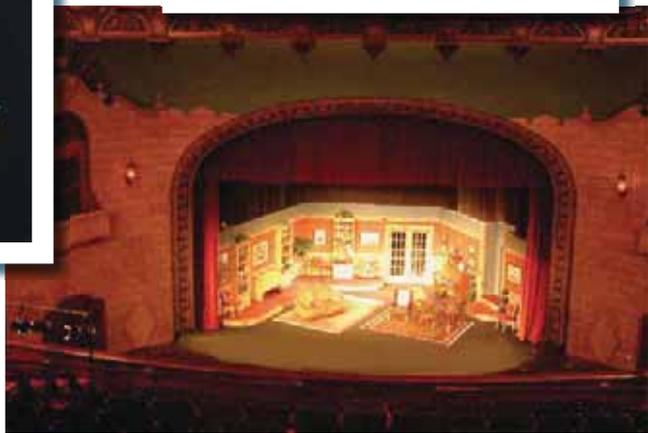
The "vaudevillians"
Dave and Andy



Lobby art painted in
1931.



The stage of the
Poncan





Standing Bear Park, Museum and Education Center

Hwy. 60 and Standing Bear Parkway
 Ponca City, OK 74601
 580-762-1514
www.standingbearpark.com

Hours: Mon – Fri 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 FREE Admission
 Gift Shop
 Call ahead for specialized tours



The primary mission of the Standing Bear Native American Foundation is - “To educate all peoples to the important role and heritage of Native Americans in the development of our country’s diverse culture.” This is accomplished through critical partnerships with the six area tribes, local and area schools, and Northern Oklahoma College. By bringing these groups together, there is an opportunity to provide education through traditional, as well as non-traditional methods, thereby participating in the preservation of a culture.

The Standing Bear Museum features a classroom setting, an art gallery/workshop area, and exhibit space with tribal displays, traveling exhibits, and artwork. This creates the opportunity to design and host educational experiences using a variety of methods. An additional enhancement is the outdoor interpretive center that focuses on the history and culture of the area tribes. These six tribes: Kaw, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, Pawnee, Ponca, and Tonkawa each have their own tribal viewing court that features recordings, photographs, artwork and other information about their respective cultures.

Native language, traditional and contemporary art, tribal history, current governmental affairs, traditional ceremonies and celebrations, as well as special community interests all find space within the unique setting of Standing Bear Park, Museum and Education Center where the staff is happy to design a special experience designed for any age group.



“Standing Bear” by Oreland C. Joe

Orientation court with granite monoliths



Blubaugh Angus Ranch

Blubaugh Angus Ranch (BAR) was founded in 1893 by Cletus Blubaugh, one of the youngest participants to stake a claim in the Cherokee Strip Land Run, the largest land run in U.S. history. Blubaugh lived in a dugout for seven years and eventually purchased the current site of the BAR from an Osage Tribe member. This 2000-acre working farm has small grain operations, and registered Angus cattle. The ranch includes the original home, built in early statehood days during the height of the oil boom. There are also vintage barns, an historic wooden granary, murals, horses, and oil tanks.



Silvertop Farms

Joe and Ruth Steichen founded their farm in 1945. They were known for their principles of diversified agriculture and community service. The 3,250 acre working farm has Shropshire and Hampshire sheep, Hereford cattle, sheep dogs, burros, small grain operations, hay, pecan groves, hunting and fishing, ponds, nature trails, and rolling hills. The headquarters includes a five-acre vineyard, two farm houses, a greenhouse, five barns, two machine shops, a chicken house, sheep and cattle working pens, grain bins, oil pumping units, nearby pastures, vintage farm equipment and a 1936 rock farmhouse.



Big "V" Ranch

A National Register Property

W.H. and Viola Vanselous built their three-story home in 1903. Mr. V. had staked a claim in the 1893 Cherokee Strip Land Run. He was the largest mule dealer in the country, and even provided mules to the British Army. From 1905 to 1912, the Big V Ranch was over 10,000 acres. Today, the Ranch is a 1200-acre working farm that includes cattle, hay, and small grain operations. The three-story historic house has been restored, and there is a refurbished turn-of-the-century mule barn, rebuilt commissary, chicken houses, gardens, tool building, oil pumping units, a cook shack, and a surrey house.



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Standing Bear Park, Museum and Education Center



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Office of Equal Opportunity
National Park Service
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240