

Sheerar Culture Center and Heritage Garden



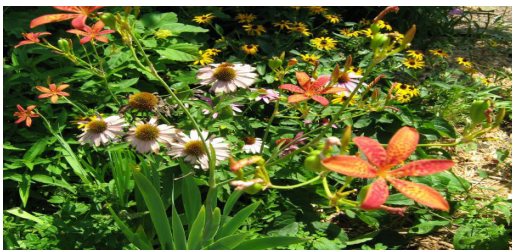
The upper level houses the Sheerar Cultural Center Auditorium. The Auditorium features original theater style wood seating and will accommodate 200 people.

A stage is available as well as a piano for musical performances. The auditorium is available for rent to individuals and groups for musical events, educational programs, meetings, pageants, receptions, weddings and other social gatherings. For fees and availability contact the Museum office at 405-377-0359.



The Heritage Garden to the west of the building features heirloom plants grown in this area since statehood. Photographers and downtown professionals alike take advantage of the beautiful garden during blooming season. The garden is maintained by the Late Bloomers Garden Club.

Plans are currently in the works to expand the garden to allow for more seating areas as well as additional plantings. If you are interested in helping with this project either through a monetary or inkind donation of goods and services please contact the Sheerar Museum office.



Become and Associate!



Sheerar Museum Associates support the museum through annual donations. These funds are the foundation of the budget that allows the museum to operate and offer quality exhibits and programs. To become an associate, call the Sheerar Museum at (405)377-0359 or fill out the form below and return to the museum with your donation at 702 S. Duncan St., Stillwater, OK 74074.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Category of Support:

Patron: \$1,000 and above _____

Benefactor \$500-\$999 _____

Donor: \$100- \$499 _____

Sustainer: \$50-\$99 _____

Single or Family \$24-\$49 _____

Supporter: \$24 and under _____

Please mail checks payable to:
Stillwater Museum Association.
We also accept Master card and Visa.



Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History

Home for Stillwater, Payne County and
OSU History



Free Admission

Tuesdays - Fridays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Mondays and major holidays

702 South Duncan Street
Stillwater, Ok 74074

Phone: (405)377-0359

E-mail: thesheerarmuseum@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://www.sheerarmuseum.org>

About the Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History



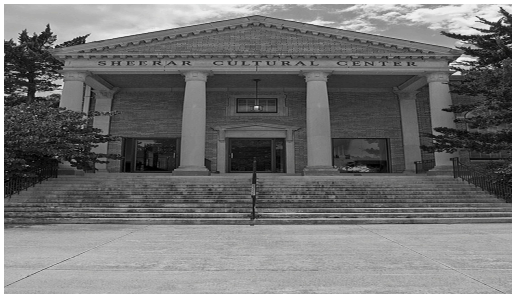
The Sheerar Museum of Stillwater history is dedicated to increasing public interest in and knowledge of the history of Stillwater, from the land run to the recent past. Of equal importance, the Sheerar Museum is proudly responsible of the preservation of Stillwater history for generations to come.

The Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council originally established the museum. The Sheerar Museum opened to the public in November 1974.

The museum is named for Mr. and Mrs. Leonard F. Sheerar, whose initial donation of \$25,000 was matched by a community-wide fundraiser. The Council purchased the First Church of Christ Scientist building to house the museum.

Since 1989, the Sheerar Museum has been owned and governed by the Stillwater Museum Association, a non-profit corporation.

The Sheerar Museum has had a strong relationship with the Stillwater community. The operation of the museum is primarily volunteer based. The citizens of Stillwater continue to donate artifacts to both existing and developing exhibits.



Sheerar Museum of Stillwater History Exhibits



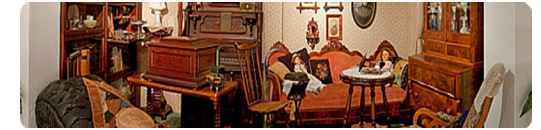
Exhibits at the Sheerar Museum illustrate the history of Stillwater and the surrounding areas. Two small exhibits, "Land and the Peoples of Oklahoma before European Settlement" and "How Stillwater Won the College", introduce visitors to permanent displays arranged by decade, beginning with the Oklahoma land run of 1889 and continuing to the recent past.

Also featured are additional short-term exhibits focus on various themes of local history. Past exhibits have included the history of medicine, art, theater, schools, agriculture and the struggle to ensure adequate water supply in Stillwater. Exhibits change one to two times every year. Currently, the Sheerar Museum is working on an exhibit of first responders, firemen and police officers.

A distinguished button collection is displayed at the museum. The button collection ranges from the 1740s to the 1930s. The Sheerar family's contribution to purchase the building for the museum was made in part to provide a permanent home for the button collection. The button collection came to Stillwater in 1949 when Mrs. Lena Sheerar moved from New York to be closer to her son and his family.



From Land Run to a College Town



On April 22, 1889, the Unassigned Lands of the Oklahoma Territory were open for the first land run. By the end of the day, 240 acres had been claimed and a tent city of around 300 people had claimed the land for Stillwater.

Located miles from existing railroads, the settlers immediately made plans to ensure the town's survival. Several who had claims in and near Stillwater had received an education at land-grant colleges and knew the importance of education for the new territory. A land-grant college would welcome a stream of federal money to Stillwater.

As soon as the Oklahoma Territorial government organized in 1890, Stillwater entered the competition for the land-grant college. Leaders of the Payne County and Stillwater successfully lobbied to place the college in Payne County. Stillwater and Perkins were the two sites to be considered.

A site location commission visited both towns, first Perkins, then Stillwater to spend the night. The next day, Stillwater officials invited Perkins for a meeting. Perkins took this to mean that Stillwater had lost the bid. When they arrived, they found the site commissioner and the Stillwater delegation to be "red and glowing" from celebrating Stillwater as the new college site.

