



Rock Cafe

Stroud, Oklahoma

Cost-Share Grant Project Spotlight

The Rock Cafe was aptly named when it was built in 1939 from rock quarried during the construction of Route 66. Located in the small town of Stroud, Oklahoma, the cafe struggled economically when the town was bypassed by the Interstate, and again when the town was struck by a devastating tornado. The owner of the cafe had considered closing the cafe like many of the other businesses in Stroud, but understanding the historic significance of the property, decided instead to pursue the benefits of historic preservation. The owner began by working with the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) to successfully list the building on the National Register of Historic Places. Then, through an OHS sub-grant process, the owner was awarded \$34,445 in cost-share grant funds for rehabilitation from the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. Rehabilitation work included repairs to the neon sign, masonry, windows, and interior floors. Three interior and exterior doorways were restored to their original location, and new fire-suppression, gas supply, electrical, and HVAC systems were installed.

Since the restoration was completed in 2003, the cafe business has flourished. As a result of the improvements to the building, the business is able to operate much more efficiently, which has attracted more customers. This in turn has enabled the owner to expand hours of operation and hire more staff. The cafe has also been recognized as a desirable event venue, and has hosted car shows, motorcycle rallies, and other groups. With these successes, the owner has also been able to construct a new business nearby, which serves as a Route 66 gift shop. The town of Stroud is very proud of the cafe, and proudly features it on their website to attract new visitors to the area.



Rock Cafe neon sign, after restoration.



Rock Cafe, after restoration.

For more information about preservation initiatives on historic Route 66, contact:

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