

PH0967544

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 30 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oklahoma Presbyterian College

AND/OR COMMON

Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

601 N. 16th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Durant

VICINITY OF

No. 3

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Bryan

013

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDEN
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Office

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Red River Valley Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

601 N. 16th Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Durant

VICINITY OF

Oklahoma

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Bryan County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Durant

Oklahoma

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Special Oklahoma Presbyterian College Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Oklahoma Presbyterian College today -- as headquarters and museum of the Red River Valley Historical Society -- is a two-building complex on a large grassy block. The main building is a three-story red brick affair trimmed in white stone. When erected in 1909-1910 at a cost of \$100,000 it served the Presbyterians as combination dormitory and all-in-one school plant. Originally the building had a partial fourth floor. When it was damaged by fire in 1941, it was reconstructed without the top story. The fire also resulted in loss of all but one of the rather fine original wooden staircases.

The first building is a solid 50 x 160-foot rectangular block, a massive, square, false-fronted central section flanked symmetrical wings. It faces east and a broad, heavily rock-faced stairway leads up to a formal, balconied terrace. From the terrace the dressed stone trim extends to the framing of the formal main doorway, to the first floor window cornices, to the corner towers and the facade of the building's center section, and to the pilasters and cornices of the flanking wings. The basically classic lines of the building are clean, quite simple, and still undeniably handsome.

Basement (ground level, actually) of the building contained classrooms, as did the main floor in both wings. This second level, beyond the spacious lobby with its ornamental wooden columns and staircase, also accommodated one apartment. The upper floor was used entirely for dormitory rooms. Interior walls throughout are wood covered with lath and plaster. Central halls run the length of the floors with fire doors separating each wing from the lobby.

The second college building, erected in 1918, stands immediately south of the main building. Also three-floored, it is a somewhat modest reflection of the first. In size it is basically a 32 x 80-foot rectangle. A plain stairway leads into its central section, which serves the single north-south hallway dividing each floor into twin banks of relatively small rooms. Most were used for classes. A 30 x 60-foot "T" at the back -- constructed in 1923, also of brick -- contains a second-level auditorium over a ground-level pool.

Exterior of the second structure, though quite severe, echoes the style of the college's first building and is not unattractive. Stone cornices outline the building, serve to emphasize the modest central entrance tower. But ornamentation is accomplished primarily through the use of the building's red bricks themselves. As in the first building, pilasters mark the corners and the central tower. Here, however, brick are also used, rather than stone, for the capitals. The two buildings are connected by covered walkway at the second level.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Oklahoma Presbyterian College

it accommodated head start, day care, and other welfare service needs. Then in 1975 it was purchased by the Red River Valley Historical Society for use as its seven-state headquarters and regional museum. Implementation of this project is currently under way.

\* \* \*

In summary, Oklahoma Presbyterian College, an academic facility no longer needed in today's fast-changing world, promises, as a still eminently serviceable physical property, to serve the expanded needs of a seven-state cultural community, white and red, that is at long last wakening to its rich historical heritage. And becoming increasingly determined to preserve and interpret it for future generations.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 to 1966

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oklahoma Presbyterian College represents nearly three quarters of a century of labor by the Presbyterians on behalf of (primarily) Oklahoma Indians. Work here in Durant began in 1894 when the Home Missions committee of the Presbyterian Church in the United States opened Calvin Institute, a coeducational school for Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes.

This initial effort in educational mission work was so successful that a fund drive for expansion was begun in 1899. It, too, was successful, and in September 1901 a new and larger school was opened in a large brick building costing the for-then munificent sum of \$11,000. For the new building a new name seemed only reasonable: Calvin Institute became Durant Presbyterian College.

Statehood for Oklahoma came in 1907, and with it an expanded and improved educational system. "Normal" schools were called for to provide teachers for the new state. A scattering of them was authorized by the Legislature and in 1908 the City of Durant purchased the physical plant of Durant Presbyterian College, which became Southeastern Normal School the following year (and is today Southeastern Oklahoma State University). The Presbyterians, meanwhile, with their sale money, had purchased a new site on what was then the northwest edge of Durant and Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls came into being in September 1910.

The new institution was operated as a four-year, degree-granting college until 1916, when the program was reduced to three years. The college accepted junior college status in 1920. Dr. W. B. Morrison served as president during this initial decade. A scholarly historian, he helped establish the academic soundness of the new institution.

Still, the school fell on hard times -- with nearly everyone else -- in the 1930s. (Curiously enough, large gifts from wealthy Indians more than once rescued the school's budget from serious deficits.) And in 1935 a definite change was made in the program. For reasons of economy and mutual self-interest, OPC became affiliated with then Southeastern State College ... concentrating on Bible, religious education, leadership training, and music programs, while Southeastern assumed responsibility for the academic instruction of both schools.

This arrangement proved advantageous to both institutions. The only significant change came in 1951 when Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls dropped "Girls" from its title and again became coeducational. This status lasted until 1966, when the rising costs of higher education everywhere finally brought about the school's closing. It continued to serve for a time as the Oklahoma Presbyterian Center. More recently

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Semple, Anne, Ties That Bind, The Story of Oklahoma Presbyterian College, publisher and date of publication unknown

----- Miscellaneous materials collected by the Red River Valley Historical Society

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	4	7	4	0	7	7	0	3	7	6	5	0	1	8
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

C 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

D 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

February 1976

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature]

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

JUL 27 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

[Signature]  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/12/96

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/15/76