

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 1 1979

OCT 3 1979

DATE ENTERED

**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

Bristow Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6th and Elm

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bristow

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Creek

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bristow Presbyterian Church

STREET & NUMBER

6th and Elm

CITY, TOWN

Bristow

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Creek County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Sapulpa

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1979

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church faces north from the southwest quadrant of the intersection. Its 41x70-foot, three-story educational wing is set at right angles to its 29x65-foot sanctuary to form a massive "L" open to the intersection. A 40-foot bell tower soars up from the crook of the "L" and a traditional Narthex (44 feet wide) and porte cochere face the handsomely proportioned structure.

Masonry walls are load-bearing throughout. Sanctuary walls are concrete with 4-inch brick core, lined with unpolished Carthage marble on the outside and buff-colored Bedford stone on the interior. The steel truss roof is covered with red tiles anchored with copper nails. Sanctuary trim is of quarter-sawed oak. The pews, choir rail and pulpit were a special design of the architect, as were the light fixtures. The ceiling is of cypress for accoustical quality and beauty. The sanctuary features fine Tiffany stained glass windows.

The church has been well maintained over the years and stands today much as when dedicated 55 years ago.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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				

*Pittsburgh, Pa.

SPECIFIC DATES 1922 to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Corland L. Butler*, Architect
The Rev. Thomas Murray, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bristow Presbyterian Church is significant as a fine example of Gothic architecture, unusually ambitious for so small a city, and as an impressive monument to the three men largely responsible for its construction. Albert A. Rollstone and Claude Freeland, both of whom made fortunes in the Bristow area oil fields, were principal contributors to the church building fund. But more significant was the contribution of the church's remarkable pastor, the Rev. Thomas Murray. Having learned the building and stone mason trade in Ireland, he played the unusual dual role of serving as building superintendent/principal mason while ministering to the congregation's spiritual needs as well.

*

Bristow started as a Creek Nation trading post, was founded as a town in 1901. Development of highly productive oil fields in the area began in 1916. The First Presbyterian congregation was chartered the following year with 23 members. In 1920 it called as pastor the 32-year-old Murray, then completing some academic work at nearby Henry Kendall College in Tulsa.

Murray was an unusual figure. Born in Scotland, where his father was a contractor who built churches, he was brought to Belfast with his parents while very young. There he learned the building and stone mason trade and served six years as a journeyman bricklayer before coming to the United States in 1910 at 22. In this country he got his academic and theological training and in Bristow, curiously enough, he became a naturalized American citizen.

With an experienced builder as pastor and a membership roll that included at least two members with newly acquired wealth from oil, planning for a new church building was soon under way. Construction began in 1922 and the handsome stone church - actually a product of Scottish architecture and know-how - was dedicated Sept. 30, 1923. Cortland L. Butler of Pittsburg was the architect, but Pastor Murray supervised the building and did much of the masonry himself.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Bristow, Okla.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 286475 3968316

B

C 735

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1-3 of Block 65, Original Town, now City of Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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

January 1979

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 1

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

TITLE

Kerry L. Simpson M.A.

DATE

7-13-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carl Skell

DATE

10-3-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bob Groves

DATE

10/2/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION