

9. Major Bibliographical References

Garrett, Jessie L.R.
1958 History of Centenary Methodist Church. Chronicles of Comanche County
4(1):6-12.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lawton, OK 1956-75

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	5	5	5	1	6	0	3	8	2	9	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 52, Original Townsite, Lawton, OK

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John D. Northcutt

organization Museum of the Great Plains

date March 16, 1983

street & number 6th and Ferris; P.O. Box 68

telephone (405)353-5676

city or town Lawton

state Oklahoma 73502

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

C. E. Petey

1-15-85

title

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grovona
Keeper of the National Register

date

3/12/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1922–24 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Centenary Methodist Church is architecturally significant because it is the oldest and best remaining example of the use of the Gothic Revival style in Comanche County.

The missionary Rev. B.F. Gassaway peached among the Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians near Fort Sill. In 1901 he came to Lawton and organized a Methodist congregation. By the 1920's the group had grown to the point a new and larger facility was needed for their services. In 1922 the Centenary Methodist Church was constructed in the Greek Revival style, and in 1924 a small addition was erected to house the organ. Distinctive features typical of the style, such as the impressive portico, make the structure the best example of Greek Revival architecture in Comanche County. Also, it is the oldest remaining structure of that style in the county.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Centenary United Methodist Church of Greek Revival Style has a half basement and two stories and is of buff brick. Constructed in 1922/1924, it is recognized for the two-story columns of the ionic order in its monumental portico. The characteristic pediment contains dentil moldings and a wheel window having raised keystones at quarter points. The full length, half basement raises the first floor level considerably above ground level requiring a broad flight of steps (12) at the entrance.

The broad portion of the "T" shaped plan of the building faces North and contains the altar end of the sanctuary, classrooms and offices. Composition shingles cover the low pitched roof which is pierced with two chimneys. Gable ends are masonry parapets, capped with limestone copings, whose pediment shapes contain round windows with the keystones again at quarter points. A limestone cornice surrounds the building while the frieze below is executed in brick. The Architrave is limestone over the sanctuary windows and all of the front portion of the building. However, on the broad part of the "T" it is done in brick. Three entry doors are separated by projecting pilasters opposite the large columns of the portico. The two outer doores and windows on each side are sumounted with pediments and trim of limestone. The center door has an arched pediment and similar trim. Second floor windows, just above, are flat arched with raised keystones and limestone trim, and filled with stained glass.

Sanctuary walls are divided by pilasters, framing the two-story stained glass windows. These windows are of identical configuration with the rounded arches, but of differing subject matter. The northermost space of each side between pilaster and wall contains a high window, similar to its neighbors arched type, the lower portion being adapted for a door with transom and sidelight. Stairs connect the ground level with these doors.

A great deal of wood is exposed in the interior of the sanctuary. The chancel end wall is of matched veneers which encloses the pipes of the organ, recessed in its own niche. This provides accent at the choir and the alter with side lectern and pulpit, which are of recent vintage.

A two story classroom addition was constructed at a later period (photo #2 - exact date not known). It is of brick and is in a contemporary design. The addition is connected to the main structure by a small one story hallway. The addition and other very minor alterations have not seriously affected the architectural integrity of the church.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 1 1985
date entered MAR 12 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

and/or common Centenary Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 702 D Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Lawton N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Comanche code 31

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Centenary Methodist Church

street & number 702 D. Avenue

city, town Lawton _____ vicinity of state Oklahoma 73501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Comanche County Courthouse

street & number 6th and C Avenue

city, town Lawton _____ state Oklahoma 73501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date March 16, 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City _____ state Oklahoma 73105