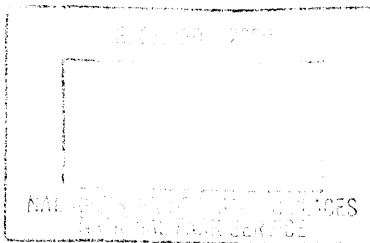


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name First Presbyterian Church of Coweta

other names/site number Mission Bell Museum

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 200 South Avenue B not for publication N/A
city or town Coweta vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Wagoner code 145
zip code 74429

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Bob Lachner

1-21-03

Signature of certifying official

Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Edson H. Ball 3/7/03

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: museum

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Late Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:Limestone

roof ASPHALT

walls BRICK

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1907-1908

1913-1914

=====
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)
=====

Significant Dates 1909
1914

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: _____

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	260820	3981410	3	—	—
2				4	—	—
	<u>N/A See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for the City of Coweta

organization Savage Consulting date October 2002

street & number Rt. 1, Box 116 telephone 405/459-6200

city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079
=====

Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
First Presbyterian Church of Coweta
Wagoner County, Oklahoma

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=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Coweta; W.W. Osburn, Mayor

street & number P.O. Box 850 telephone _____

city or town Coweta state OK zip code 74429

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Section 7 Page 9 First Presbyterian Church of Coweta
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SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church of Coweta was constructed in 1907-1908 in Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma. Due to structural problems which caused the building to be temporarily condemned, the roof and two walls were rebuilt in 1913-1914. The walls appear much as originally constructed but the new roof had broad eaves supported by triangular knee braces. The brick, one-story, Late Gothic Revival style church has a steeply-pitched, cross-gabled, asphalt-covered roof with wide eaves and a stone foundation. The building has a prominent side tower which features a steeply-pitched, asphalt-covered, hipped roof topped by a metal finial. The doors are double, wood, paneled with single glass panels and topped by single transoms. The transoms are covered by nonhistoric cloth awnings. The two large pointed arch openings on the north and east elevations have nonhistoric windows which do not match the historic, Gothic style windows. The windows in the upper part of the tower have also been replaced with nonhistoric, fixed, double windows. The windows in the south and west elevation are nonhistoric, one-over-one, hung with a round window in the south elevation which has also been replaced. Decorative details on the building include wood triangular brackets, wide eaves and two brick stringcourses. The side tower features several decorative details not found on the rest of the building, including brick corbeling, large triangular vents, double windows and false brick buttresses.

Although the building has not functioned as a church since the early 1970s, it retains a good degree of integrity, both on the interior and exterior. Currently, the church is owned and used by the city of Coweta for the Chamber of Commerce office and as a museum. The undivided main room remains remarkably intact with the Chamber of Commerce located on the southeast side and museum exhibits and cases along the northeast, north and west walls. In the southwest portion of the building are the pews and pulpit area reflective of the original function of the building. The interior retains its historic plaster walls, pressed metal ceiling and sloped wood floor. The most notable alteration to the exterior building is the replacement of the windows. Although the new windows do not match the historic windows exactly, they are the same overall dimensions. Additionally, the city has re-shingled the roof, including the bell tower roof, and repainted the interior.

The setting of the First Presbyterian Church remains much as it was originally. The church is located just off the central business district on the edge of a residential area on the west side of Coweta. There are several other churches along South Avenue B Street, although none of them are as old as the First Presbyterian Church. Immediately to the east of the building is a new, noncontributing, brick and wood sign which reads "City of Coweta/Welcome Center/&/Chamber of Commerce." Off of the southwest corner of the church is a

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noncontributing, brick, restroom building with an asphalt-covered, gable-on-hip roof. The restroom was erected in about 1984. To the southeast of the restroom building, are two noncontributing objects. One is a stone marker which reads "Historic Site/Mission Bell/Church Established 1907." To the north is a brick form of the state of Oklahoma with various names engraved on the bricks. All of these objects and the restroom are relatively new and thus do not contribute to the historic significance of the church.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church of Coweta has a steeply-pitched, asphalt-covered, cross-gabled roof with broad eaves. Originally, the cross-gabled church roof had no eave overhang, which probably contributed to the structural problems that resulted in the building being condemned in 1913. The roof was rebuilt in 1913-1914 to its current shape with broad, boxed eaves supported by decorative, wood, triangular knee braces. The roof retained its original cross-gabled form. More recently, the roof, including the side tower, was re-shingled to fix a leak.

The foundation of the building is a rough-cut, light colored stone which contrasts with the red brick of the walls. The foundation is barely visible on the south and east elevations. On the north elevation, the foundation is increasingly visible from east to west. The foundation is equally visible along the length of the west elevation.

Located in the juncture of the north and east elevations is the brick side tower. A hallmark of religious architecture, the side tower contained the church entrance as well as a bell used to sound the happenings of the congregation. The tower is topped by a distinctive metal finial on the steeply-pitched, asphalt-covered, pyramidal roof. On each side of the tower roof are triangular vents with short brick columns on each corner. The columns are each topped by a pyramidal metal cap. The roofline of the tower is marked with a series of brick corbeling, the only corbeling on the building. Below this, on all sides of the tower, are double fixed windows with double, arched, brick headers and stone sills. Originally, the windows were double, one-over-one, hung with at least one window subsequently covered with a wood shutter. The lower portion of the tower's north and east elevations contain the only church entrances. Each entry has a double, wood, paneled door topped by a pointed arched transom. The doors also have a decorative glass panel in the upper section. Currently, there are cloth awnings over the transom windows. The transom windows retain their original window design which is a curved triangular form in a pointed arch window. This geometric design is similar to the new windows in the large pointed arch windows on the north and east elevations. Along the corners of the north and east walls of the tower are

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narrow, false, brick buttresses with stone caps. On the lower part of the east buttress on the north elevation is a stone cornerstone. The cornerstone simply reads "First/1907/Presbyterian/Church."

The north and east walls of the building, the two street elevations, are identical with a single, large, pointed arch window. The north elevation fronts onto West Cypress Street and the east elevation onto South Avenue B Street. Centrally located on both elevations is a single, large, pointed arch window with tracery. Historically, the window tracery featured four lancet windows topped by a round window with a quatrefoil design. The windows were recently replaced by the city of Coweta in their efforts to maintain the building and now have a more geometric disposition. The windows retain their original stone sill and five row brick headers. The uppermost row of brick in the headers is slightly projected with the pointed arch header extending around the upper two-thirds of the window. At the level that the header ends is a narrow, projected, brick stringcourse that encircles the building. Below this, a similar, projected, brick stringcourse extends around the building at the window sill height. There are no other openings on the north and east elevations.

The west elevation is heavily shaded by several large trees located on the nearby property line. The west elevation features four, nonoriginal, hung, one-over-one windows with triple brick headers and concrete sills. Three of the windows are average size and symmetrically located. A smaller fourth window is located towards the south side and opens onto the pulpit area. The historic windows were also one-over-one hung but were evenly divided. The new windows have larger top panes. Also on the west elevation, towards the south, is a door allowing access to underneath the building. This is some type of crawlspace as the building does not have a basement. The door is currently covered with metal panels. A modern heating unit is located in about the middle of the west elevation.

The south elevation is similar to the west elevation but features a large round window in the upper wall. The window, originally featuring a quatrefoil design similar to the design in the top of the large facade windows, now has a simple cross pane design. Three narrow, flush, brick rows encircle the window. Below this are four, hung, one-over-one windows with triple brick headers and concrete sills. Like the west elevation, three of the windows are larger than the fourth. The narrow fourth window is located on the west side of the south elevation and lights the pulpit area. The other three windows are located towards the east side of the wall with equal distance between them.

Constructed prior to the era of indoor plumbing, the building does not have interior bathrooms. As such, in about 1984, separate restroom facilities were

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constructed to the southwest of the church. This small brick building has an asphalt-covered, gable-on-hip roof and a single wood slab door on the east elevation. There are no windows or other openings in the building. A concrete walk extends straight from the doorway to the sidewalk running by the church. Due to insufficient age, the building is a noncontributing resource. Because of its minor scale and rear detached location, the restroom building does not significantly impact the integrity of the church.

To the southeast of the restroom is a brick form of the state of Oklahoma. Names and other inscriptions have been engraved on the bricks. To the immediate south of this is a stone memorial marker inscribed with the words "Historic Site/Mission Bell/Church Established 1907." In front of the church building, on the east side, is another noncontributing object. This brick and wood sign reads "City of Coweta/Welcome Center/&/Chamber of Commerce" and is a fairly recent addition. All of these objects are noncontributing due to insufficient age. None of the objects are of sufficient scale to impact the integrity of the church.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church features a simple, functional interior. A small entry room is located within the side tower. This room includes access to the bell tower above and the rope for ringing the bell. From the entry room, the rest of the church is one large room. The main room continues to features its historic, highly decorative, pressed metal ceiling with an elaborate single chandelier for lighting. The wood floor is also historic and, interestingly, is noticeably sloped towards the pulpit area. The walls are plaster and have suffered some water damage. Although currently in use as the Chamber of Commerce and a museum, the main room remains undivided. The Chamber of Commerce accouterments are located in the southeast corner of the room. In the southwest corner, the raised pulpit area remains intact with a few museum exhibits now located on it and several rows of pews to the front of it. Around the pews and remaining walls are several wooden cases filled with various museum artifacts. Overall, the interior retains remarkable integrity.

ALTERATIONS

Overall, the First Presbyterian Church of Coweta maintains a good degree of integrity. The exterior of the church has been most notably altered by the replacement of the windows. Although not matching the exact tracery of the historic windows, the new windows do feature tracery and are the same dimensions as the original windows. The original windows were clear glass and the new, replacemnt windows are as well. By replacing with a similar feature, ultimately, the windows do not destroy the ability of the building to convey

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its historic significance. Other alterations to the building include a new asphalt roof and cloth awnings over the transoms in the side tower. The setting of the church has been minorly altered by the addition of the noncontributing restroom, sign, marker and brick form. None of these alterations or additions have a significant impact on the building's integrity. The interior of the building maintains a high degree of integrity. No major modifications have been made to the interior with most of the historic finishes still in place.

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SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church of Coweta is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The building is architecturally significant as the only example of a brick, Late Gothic Revival style church with a side tower in Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma. Although this type and style of church was common in early twentieth century religious architecture in Oklahoma, not many examples remain extant. Additionally, the use of brick in this type of church is noteworthy as the common building material was wood. Of the four churches constructed in Coweta in the first decade of the twentieth century, only the First Presbyterian Church was built of brick and remains extant with a laudable degree of integrity.

The first period of significance for the property extends from the start of construction in 1907 to the end of original construction in late 1908. Because structural problems resulted in the reconstruction of two exterior walls and the roof in 1913-1914, an additional period of significance covering this time frame has been included. As the building's significance rests with its architecture only, two distinctive periods of significance are used with each encompassing the time of construction only. The building retains sufficient integrity to represent both periods of significance. The only discernible change between the two periods was the alteration to the roof. Originally the roof had no overhang which probably directly contributed to the structural failure of the walls. The "cantilevered" roof that was put on in 1913-1914 was added so close to the date of original construction that the modification has gained its own architectural significance.

As the building was erected by a religious organization for religious purposes, Criterion Consideration A must also be applied. Because the church is significant for its architectural significance associated with the distinctive characteristics of this property type, the requirements of Criterion Consideration A are amply met.

BACKGROUND

Coweta originated in the first part of the nineteenth century as a Native American community. Following the cession of their lands in Georgia, the majority of Lower Creek Indians prepared to move to Indian Territory in the late 1820s. Among these was a band from Koweta, Georgia, who chose to settle in what is now Wagoner County, Oklahoma. Calling their community "Coweta," the group established their new homes and businesses in the Creek Nation of Indian Territory. In 1842, a missionary named Robert M. Loughridge and his wife established the Koweta Mission (NR 1973) near the Coweta community. Unlike many of the Presbyterian missionaries working in the Creek Nation, Loughridge

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worked under the auspice of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions rather than the American Board. Begun as a day school, the mission became a boarding school as soon as adequate buildings were constructed. The Koweta Mission was abandoned in 1861 due to the unrest caused by the Civil War. During the war, the buildings of the mission were burned and were never subsequently rebuilt.¹

Despite the loss of the mission, the community of Coweta continued to exist. In 1867, under the laws of a new constitution, the Creek Nation divided into six districts. The area northeast of the Arkansas River was included in the Coweta District which centered on the Coweta town square with a one-room log court house being constructed. In 1880, the federal government established the Creek Boarding School just outside of the town. The boarding school, consisting of separate boys and girls dormitories, a kitchen/dining hall and school house, remained in operation until 1905.²

In 1891, according to a census ordered by the Creek National Council, Coweta claimed 593 inhabitants. Within the Creek Nation at the time, Coweta was the second largest community with only Tuckabatchee having more residents. In addition to the Native American population, Coweta was inhabited by Creek Freedman (former African-American slaves) and some Euro-Americans. Similar to the rest of Indian Territory, Euro-American settlement in the area was restricted by the laws of the Creek Nation. In 1893, the first post office in Coweta was established with John W. Simmons, a Creek Freedman, being named postmaster.³

In 1901, the town was incorporated and the Creek Nation accepted the terms of the Dawes Commission with allotment of the tribal-held lands soon to follow. Two years later, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas (Katy) Railway Company were finishing plans to extend a branch line between Tulsa and Muskogee. Under

¹Arrell Morgan Gibson, Oklahoma: A History of Five Centuries 2nd Ed. (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991), 50-51 and 92.

²"Early History of Coweta, Oklahoma," Report given to nomination preparer by Wade Burkholder with the City of Coweta (N.P.: n.d.), 9-10.

³Ibid., 10. See also The Coweta (Oklahoma Courier) 22 September 1904; "Coweta" On-file in the Coweta Vertical Files, Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, n.d., n.p.

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agreement with the Katy Railroad, the Arkansas Valley Townsite Company undertook development of three townsites on the Tulsa-Muskogee branch. In addition to Coweta in the center of the line, a town, Broken Arrow, was established to the north of Coweta and one, Porter, to the south. Although Coweta was already in existence, the railroad track was located about half of a mile east of the original town. As such, the Arkansas Valley Townsite Company laid out the "new" town of Coweta in 1903 between the new depot and east boundary of the original Coweta. Eager to be located in the immediate vicinity of the railroad, the dominant means of transportation in the first quarter of the twentieth century, the inhabitants of Coweta packed their belongings and moved to New Coweta. Within a year, the population of the town had grown from 600 to 1600 and the town boasted "...stately brick buildings alive with business, happy homes equipped with modern conveniences, (and) churches lifting up their spires toward a still better land...".⁴

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1904, four religious groups were holding service in Coweta, although only two had buildings of their own. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had just recently finished their building with plans to dedicate the church later in the year. Also just completed was the "...attractive and commodious..." Missionary Baptist Church. Under the direction of Reverend Mr. Starling, the Christian Church was holding "...protracted..." services and were contemplating the construction of a house of worship. Using the Methodist Church, the Union Sunday School attracted over a hundred attendees, including many future Presbyterians.⁵

On 20 May 1906, the State Worker for the Presbyterian Sunday Schools, a Mr. Romig, and Reverend G. W. Snodgrass of Vinita held services at the Methodist Church for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian Church in Coweta. Previously, interest in establishing a Presbyterian congregation in Coweta had been sufficient that the Presbytery had offered to furnish a pastor who would divide his time between Coweta and another area church. The Presbytery was prepared to pay half of the minister's salary of \$800 with the two congregations splitting the remaining half. The Presbytery had also agreed to contribute \$1,000 towards the cost of buying land and erecting a church building. Following the services of 20 May 1906, an elder and three trustees were elected with hopes that arrangements to erect an house of worship would

⁴Ibid.

⁵The Coweta Courier, 22 September 1904.

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begin the next month.⁶

Despite the earlier hopes, by February 1907, the Presbyterian Church was still without a building. Thus, the Presbyterians held Sunday School in the Masonic Hall over Brim's Drugstore in downtown Coweta. By November 1907, work on a church building for the Presbyterian congregation was finally underway. The week before the Twin Territories were united in statehood, the Masons ceremoniously laid the cornerstone of the First Presbyterian Church of Coweta. Within three weeks of the cornerstone laying, the local newspaper noted "The handsome structure, which is to be the house of worship for the Presbyterian people, is beginning to assume shape, tho' (sic) the work has been somewhat retarded by infavorable weather conditions."⁷

In mid-January 1908, the building was proclaimed to be nearing completion with services still being held in the Masonic Hall. At the end of March, a recital held under the auspices of the Ladies Aid of the Presbyterian Church was the first public event held in the building. The week after the recital, the newspaper noted that "This up to date and pretty church.....is constructed of pressed brick,..., and is a pride to the Presbyterian organization of the town and to Coweta as well." Although holding Sunday School in the building earlier in the month, the church was formally dedicated on the last Sunday in April, 1908. Reverend Snodgrass, who also served as the pastor-at-large for the Muskogee Presbytery, again came from Vinita to conduct the "...impressive ceremony of formal dedication." In addition, Reverend J.C. Arnett of Wagoner delivered the dedication sermon and an evening lecture. Despite "Special music of a high degree of excellence..." inclement weather kept the crowd "...from being as large as otherwise it would have been."⁸

With a seating capacity of 250, the new church cost \$5,300 to build. With interior furnishings, including "...massive quarter sawed oak pews, rubbed down to a dead finish, which are indeed beauties and as comfortable as individual rockers," the price of the new building rose to nearly \$6,000. According to the newspaper, the new house of worship was "...modern in all its appointments, and is alike attractive in appearance and substantially put together." The

⁶Ibid., 3 May 1906 and 24 May 1906. See also The Coweta (Oklahoma) Star, 21 March 1918.

⁷Ibid., 21 February 1907, 31 October 1907, 7 November 1907 and 21 November 1907.

⁸Ibid., 16 January 1908, 2 April 1908, 9 April 1908, 23 April 1908 and 30 April 1908.

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interior of the building was noted to have a "...bowling floor with an incline from each direction to the altar." Overall, the church was judged to be "...a building that would prove an ornament to a much larger town, and one that will ever stand a monument to the untiring efforts of a few individuals and the liberality of the people of Coweta."⁹

Five years after the First Presbyterian Church was completed, structural problems forced the congregation to temporarily abandon the building. According to the newspaper, the south and west wall were giving "...some slight indication of giving way." This failure was blamed on "...errors in construction." Referred to as "the little church around the corner," the church was to be "...remodeled and repaired, with such necessary changes in the structure as to make the building at once more substantial and architecturally correct." A search of Coweta's two newspaper did not reveal precise information on when the building was "condemned" but by December 1913 a contractor from Muskogee, J.M. McCalmout, had "...a force of hands now on the job and is progressing as rapidly as weather condition will permit." In late March 1914, the congregation prepared to re-dedicate their building. Although neither newspaper reported the full details of the work, The Coweta Star noted that the church was "...practically rebuilt and repaired at an expense of several thousand dollars."¹⁰

In 1918, The Coweta Star in their Homeseekers' Edition boasted "Among the choicest assets of the town,..., are to be mentioned the four churches." This included the Baptist, Christian, Methodist and First Presbyterian churches. According to the newspaper, "Each has an edifice commodious and comfortable with furnishings on the interior that are commensurate with their several needs...". All of these houses of worship dated from the first decade of the twentieth century.¹¹

The Baptist Church was the erected in the first years of settlement in "new" Coweta. Organized in the original town of Coweta, the Baptists erected their first house of worship on Division Street in 1903. The Baptists continued to use this building until 1941 when they erected a new building on the corner of Broadway and Pecan. Their original building was a handsome, one-story, frame,

⁹The Coweta (Oklahoma) Times, 30 April 1908.

¹⁰Ibid., 18 December 1913, 12 March 1914, See also The Coweta Star, 18 December 1913, 12 March 1914, 19 March 1914 and 26 March 1914.

¹¹The Coweta Star, 21 March 1918.

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front-gabled building with a prominent, front, center tower.¹²

The Methodist Church was also erected early in the history of the town. The first Methodist Church was constructed by 1904. However, a storm at the end of May, 1906, destroyed the original building. After settling their claim with the insurance company, the congregation quickly undertook construction of a new building. By the end of August 1906, the new house of worship was complete except for painting. The substantial, one-story, frame, cross-hipped building with a front tower was located on the corner of Chestnut and Avenue A. The congregation continued to use this building through 1925. They subsequently constructed a one-story, brick, gabled-roofed building on the corner of Sycamore and South Avenue B streets. Currently, the Methodists are constructing a new building to the south of this.¹³

Organized in 1908, the Church of Christ was the last of Coweta's statehood era churches to be constructed. Constructed in about 1910, the Christian Church was the only house of worship in Coweta at the time not to have a tower. The relatively plain, one-story, frame, hipped-roofed building instead had a simple gable-roofed entry. As indicated by the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, the congregation remained in this church until at least 1925.¹⁴

Thus, the First Presbyterian Church was the only early church building in Coweta to be constructed of brick. It was also the most stylistic of all the churches. As evidenced by the photographs in the 1918 paper, the Christian, Baptist and Methodist churches were all vernacular examples with minimal stylistic details. None featured the pointed arch windows or other decorative details of the First Presbyterian. Additionally of the four, the First Presbyterian Church is the only extant church that is immediately recognizable. According to the City of Coweta, the original Baptist church has been altered to apartments and the other two churches have been demolished. Although there are several churches in the immediate vicinity of the First Presbyterian

¹²Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1905. See also The Coweta Star, 21 March 1918; The Coweta Courier, 22 September 1904; and, "Our Heritage" First Baptist Church <<http://www.cowetafbc.org/heritage.html>>, accessed 14 June 2002.

¹³Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1905, 1910 and 1925. See also The Coweta Star, 21 March 1918 and The Coweta Courier, 22 September 1904, 5 July 1906, 19 July 1906 and 30 August 1906.

¹⁴The Coweta Star, 21 March 1918. See also Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1925.

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Church, and many more in the town as a whole, none are similar to the First Presbyterian Church. The majority have modern designs and are much larger than the First Presbyterian.

The First Presbyterian Church stands out within the community as the only brick, Late Gothic Revival style church with a side tower constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century. Although structural problems caused a partial rebuilding of the church five years after original construction, the building is easily recognizable as the one constructed in 1907-1908. The 1913-1914 rebuilding altered the design of the church's roof but the remainder of the building remained essentially as originally constructed. As the roof change occurred so soon after construction and has lasted for almost ninety years, the modification has gained its own architectural significance. Overall, the First Presbyterian Church retains a good degree of integrity from both periods of significance and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance within Coweta, Oklahoma.

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National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 56, New Coweta, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the church.