

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUN 16 1980

**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

**Garvin Rock Church**

AND/OR COMMON

**Old Rock Church**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

**Love and Williams Streets**

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Garvin**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

**No. 3**

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

**Oklahoma**

**40**

**McCurtain**

**089**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

**First Baptist Church**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

**Garvin**

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

**Oklahoma**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Office of the County Clerk**

STREET & NUMBER

**McClain County Courthouse**

CITY, TOWN

**Idabel**

STATE

**Oklahoma**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

**Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey**

DATE

**1979**

\_\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

**Oklahoma Historical Society**

CITY, TOWN

**Oklahoma City**

STATE

**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 (somewhat)	<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

The Garvin Rock Church was an impressive affair when erected in 1910 in a town that could count only a few hundred people. Despite the loss of its stained glass windows the church remains so today ... roughly 44 x 64 feet over all, with a full basement and, not one, but three square crenelated towers. The largest of these stands 25 feet tall at the principal corner entry to the church. All three guard entrances to the 33 x 53-foot sanctuary, at the head of long flights of concrete steps. Otherwise the church, with its towers and thick load-bearing walls, is constructed entirely of a slightly reddish-hued native limestone quarried less than a mile northeast of the site.

The prime construction contract was for \$12,000. But this did not include the stained glass windows, installed in two attractively designed banks of four long center-hung sashes (see Photo No. 1) on the south and west elevations of the church. Unfortunately, storm damage in the 1920s led to removal of these panels. Lost was the quatrefoil tracery in the two arches as well. Plain painted wood now fills in the arch above conventional sash windows.

Otherwise, however, the church remains much as it was when completed in 1910 (although the basement is no longer used). Sunday school classroom space is provided by a 20 x 30-foot section of the sanctuary that can be closed off with folding doors and by four small rooms lining the east and north walls of the church. Interior walls throughout are plastered and painted.

# 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               |   |   |  |

Arch.: Campbell & Owens  
Paris, Texas

### SPECIFIC DATES

### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Builder: M. C. Morris  
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance of the Garvin Rock Church lies in its unusually elaborate design, for a relatively small church in a tiny rural community, and in its use of a native stone quarried near the site. Worth noting, too, is the fact that the church is still in regular use after nearly 70 years - though the town of Garvin now has a population of only 117 - and is, in fact, the second oldest in McCurtain County. The only one older: Wheelock Church, the state's oldest and itself in the National Register since 1972.

\*

In 1909 Garvin was a thriving community with substantial homes, brick business buildings, and several small industries. For a time it had been the county's largest town and served as provisional county seat. The First Presbyterian Church was then housed in a small wooden building. Claude Gamble, a prominent Garvin merchant and banker, donated the lot for the new church, with the stipulation that it be "equal to that of any church in this area." It was.

Three architectural firms competed for the design contract. Campbell and Owens of Paris, Texas, won it and called for use of the local stone. A construction contract was won by M. C. Morris of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, with a bid of \$12,000. Two church members pledged the additional funds needed for the two banks of stained glass windows (see No. 7), easily the building's most distinguishing feature.

Construction began February 15, 1910, with excavation for the full basement. Cornerstone was laid July 4, 1910. Johann Schmidt of Little Rock, Arkansas, fabricated and installed the leaded, stained glass windows. The virtually completed building was first used in December 1910. Furnishings included pews of seasoned mulberry wood and a circular walnut pulpit. The Garvin Graphic proudly described it as "absolutely the finest church building that you will find between Fort Smith, Ark., and Dallas, Tex."

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Materials researched by the **McCurtain County Historical Society**

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Long.: 94° 56' 27"  
Lat.: 33° 57' 18"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Garvin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minutes

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

**Lot 4, Block 19, Original Town of Garvin.**

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

**Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION

**Oklahoma Historical Society**

DATE

**April 1979**

STREET & NUMBER

**Historical Building**

TELEPHONE

**405/884-5456**

CITY OR TOWN

**Oklahoma City**

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

TITLE

*Harry L. Humphreys M.D.*

DATE

**7-13-79**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

**6/6/80**

ATTEST:

*Beth Grosvenor*

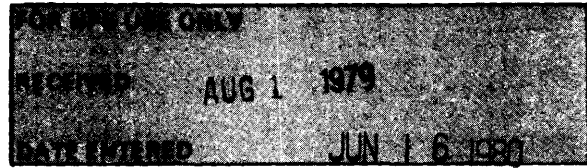
DATE

**6/6/80**

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Garvin Rock Church

Unfortunately, a severe storm in the early 1920s so damaged the stained glass windows that they had to be replaced by more conventional sashes. By this time the timber industry on which the Garvin area largely depended was in a sharp decline, as was the town's population. As the congregation lost membership, the Presbyterians finally sold the Rock Church (in October 1933) to the Baptist congregation that uses it today. The group hopes not only to preserve and maintain the still rather striking structure, but in time, perhaps even to replace its two handsome stained glass windows.