

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **APR 21 1980**
DATE ENTERED **JUN 30 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
First Methodist Church Building
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
105 West First *st.*
CITY, TOWN
Atoka
STATE
OK
VICINITY OF
CODE
40
COUNTY
Atoka
CODE
005
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
003

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
First Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER
105 West First
CITY, TOWN
Atoka
VICINITY OF
STATE
OK

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER
Atoka County Courthouse
CITY, TOWN
Atoka
STATE
OK

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE
1979
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN
Oklahoma City
STATE
OK

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Methodist Church Building was constructed in 1915. Measuring 63' by 78', the structure has a modified Palladian architectural style which is based upon Greek Classic revival. Of special significance are the structure's dome, Doric columns, and Palladian windows. The circular entry faces southeast, and the roof is gabled. Particularly impressive are the stained glass windows which portray religious scenes and admit into the sanctuary light that is remarkable for its delicate hues and soft tones. Constructed of buff bricks, the building is two-storied, containing a balcony in the auditorium.

In 1954 an educational wing was added to the structure. Measuring 27' by 81', it was attached to the west side of the building and was entered from the south. The addition does not detract from the architectural integrity of the building. Somewhat later, protective windows were added to the outside of the large Palladian windows, the purpose to provide better protection for the priceless stained glass.

At the time of the addition of the educational wing, the interior of the original building was significantly altered. The balcony of the sanctuary was closed off, being turned into classrooms, the pulpit was remodeled, and the original hardwood floors were covered with carpet. Fortunately, none of these alterations altered the ediface of the structure, which retains its original Palladian architectural style.

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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1915 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT First Methodist Church

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Methodist Church building is primarily significant because of its unique architectural style, but also because it demonstrates the religious development and evolution of a major Protestant denomination within the region. Although Methodist missionaries had worked among the Choctaw Indian residents of the community, no church was actually organized in Atoka until 1885. The congregation's first minister was James Young Bryce, and its membership was composed of some Choctaw Indians but primarily of railroad workers who followed the Katy to the community. The first resident minister came in 1887, and it was under his direction that the congregation's initial house of worship was constructed at the corner of Pennsylvania and Court streets. Situated in the interior of the Choctaw Nation and beyond the jurisdiction of United States law, the church was one of those institutions that provided the white residents of Atoka a sense of community and the link with the "states." With Oklahoma statehood in 1907, the Methodist church grew rapidly, a fact that permitted it to construct and move to its present building. This same type of growth permitted the addition of an educational wing in 1954. The growth pattern of previous years, however, has not been maintained. Atoka has suffered a decline in population, a decline reflected in church membership. Moreover, the tendency of Atoka residents to identify with more evangelical Protestant groups has also caused a decrease in church roles.

The principal significance of the Methodist Church building is its architectural style. With a modified Palladian design that might pass for Greek Revival, it is totally unique to the community, and even to the region. There is, for example, nothing that compares with its dome, its Doric columns, or its stained-glass Palladian windows. Fortunately, the building is well maintained and recognized as a regional landmark.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Underwood, William H. A History of Atoka County. University of Oklahoma, M.A. Thesis, 1931.
"Homecoming-Official Opening Day," First Methodist Church Bulletin, October 17, 1954.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Lehigh, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5'

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 764095 38081400

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

South 80' Lot 6, and south 80' of the east 40' of Lot 7, and the south 75' of the west 20' of the east 60' of Lot 7, Block 36, Atoka City.

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

Dr. W. David Baird

Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

September, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Oklahoma State University

TELEPHONE

(405) 624-5678

CITY OR TOWN

Stillwater

STATE

OK

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

Blenn Jordan

TITLE

DATE 4/10/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Anthony...

DATE 4/30/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Beth Grosvenor*

DATE 6/23/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION