

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 3 1979
DATE ENTERED	DEC 1 1979

**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 Presbyterian Church
AND/OR COMMON
Christian Science Society

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
101 E. Washington Ave.
CITY, TOWN
McAlester
STATE
Oklahoma

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
003
VICINITY OF
CODE
40
COUNTY
Pittsburg
CODE
121

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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
Christian Science Society
STREET & NUMBER
101 E. Washington
CITY, TOWN
McAlester
STATE
OK

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
County Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER
Pittsburg County Court House
CITY, TOWN
McAlester
STATE
OK

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey
DATE
1979
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society
CITY, TOWN
Oklahoma City
STATE
OK

--- FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

This small, (66' by 51') one-story, cream colored, shingle-style church reflects an era of long ago. Resting on one of the hills that overlook the city of McAlester, its charm and dignity reigns supreme over the newer surrounding buildings.

Originally this building was brown, reflecting the nature of the wood used for the shingles which cover the entire exterior. The body of the structure is wrapped in rectangular overlapping shingles and scalloped ones serve as decorative bands dividing the facade into horizontal planes. Even the steeple of the belfry has its original shingles. The stained glass windows are today as they were when the church was built about 83 years ago. The lower windows have a gothic arch top as do the front doors, using one of the symbols that is so much associated with religious structures. The building rests on a foundation of sandstone blocks. This foundation is of varying height because of the building's location.

The only exterior alteration was the transference of the stairway leading to the church from the west side of the belfry to the south side. This was done when the street on the south side of the structure became a major thoroughfare replacing the earlier western street as such.

The interior is as it was when the building was erected with the exception of fresh paint and some new furnishings. Also the entrance that had been on the western side of the belfry was filled in and a new doorway cut in the southern wall. The belfry area is a small ante chamber for the chapel. A narrow rectangular room extends to the south of it and the chapel to the east.

The church has its original wooden floors and door facings. In the chapel are wooden pews arranged in parallel rows facing east. Hanging from the ceiling are four lights and two double fans. All appear to date before the 1920's.

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 checked="" 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 1895 - Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. J. Walsh

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small structure depicts an era and a style of years ago. It is the only original church building in the McAlester area and it is still being used for its original purpose - religion.

In 1894 the city of McAlester was barely alive. But the people of the area knew they were going to stay and wanted a place of worship. One such group, 21 people, became charter members of the First Presbyterian Church in that year. They met at various places until 1895 when they purchased the corner lot that the church stands on. They immediately began building and in 1899 they held their first service in their new chapel.

This church was not the only one built during this time, not even the only Presbyterian church. However, all the others within a few years tore down their original structures and built new ones. In fact, in 1923-24 the three Presbyterian churches in McAlester unified and built a new church. But the 1895 structure did not remain empty. Within a very short time, the Christian Science Society purchased the building and immediately moved in.

This shy, graceful structure is the only original church in the city of McAlester, in fact it is one of the few original buildings in the city altogether. It is the best example of shingle style architecture in the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Manuscript by V. Hubert Smith; McAlester, OK (undated).
 Oklahoma Landmarks. School of Architecture, OSU. Stillwater:
 Department of Publishing and Printing, 1967.
 Interview, George Welch, McAlester, OK, June 17, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Under 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME McAlester, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5"

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 2,4,6 2,5,0 3,8,6,9 0,8,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 4 Block 300

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

Diane Everman, Directed by Dr. Annetta L. Cheek

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Survey

DATE

June 29, 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

H Glenn Jordan

TITLE

DATE 9/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally Goodhue

DATE 12/11/79

ATTEST: *Keith Grosvenor*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER *Chief of Regis*

DATE 12/5/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION