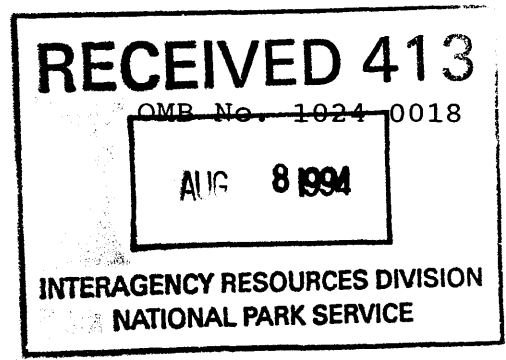


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

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 Tonkawa

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 109 South 4th not for publication N/A

city or town Tonkawa vicinity N/A

state Oklahoma code OK county Kay code 071

zip code 74653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

J. B. Wade   July 25, 1994   
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, S.H.P.O.   
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  Jeff R. Jager   9/22/94   
  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):

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>  0  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing   N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Religion</u>	Sub: <u>Religious Facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Religion</u>	Sub: <u>Religious Facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Side-steeple Church

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

roof ASPHALT

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

other N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

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 1905  
1907-1913

Significant Dates 1905  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====

8. Statement of Significance (Continued)

=====

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Schwab, J. M  
\_\_\_\_\_

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	<u>14</u>	<u>651450</u>	<u>4060360</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

N/A See continuation sheet.

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 Smelker

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date January 21, 1994

street & number 4401 NW 39th Expressway, #408 telephone 405-949-1617

city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73112

=====

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 Tonkawa  
Kay County, Oklahoma

Page 8

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

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

name Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

street & number 100 Witherspoon Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40202-1396



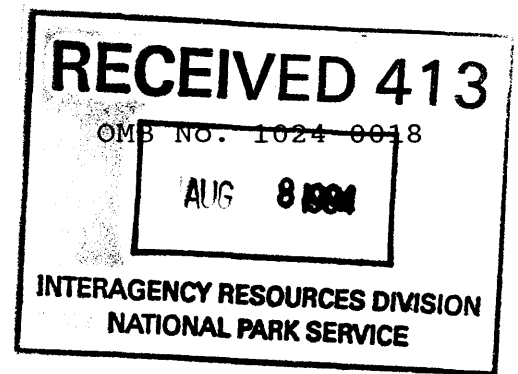
NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa  
name of property  
Kay County, Oklahoma  
county and state



=====  
Foundation: CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

#### Summary

The First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa is a one-story vernacular side-steeple building. The building exhibits modest references to the Late Gothic Revival Movement, except for the use of round arch windows rather than the pointed arch windows favored in Late Gothic Revival and the vernacular overtones. The church was built under the direction of J. M. Schwab, a local carpenter, in 1905. The congregation was incorporated as a legal entity on 27 April 1905 and the building was dedicated on 5 June of the same year. The building has been in continuous use since that time as the First Presbyterian Church. The church is located on the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Center Drive. The primary entrance faces east onto Fourth Street. The church is surrounded by a residential development, dating from approximately the 1910s. Slightly cruciform in plan, the building measures sixty-eight feet along its east-west axis and forty-four feet along its north-south axis. The cross gabled roof rests atop a weatherboard frame with wainscoting along the lower portion of the entire building. The building's roof is characterized by a slight overhang, which is continued in the steeple, as well as the hipped roof north side entrance. The primary entrance, originally a simple entry portal with a slight overhanging gable roof, is now protected with a flared slope roof extended off the original gable bay. The wheelchair ramp on the southeast corner is not permanently attached to the building. The basement, added in 1925, is discernible in the windows piercing the limestone foundation. The most distinctive features of the building are the nine beautiful, leaded stained glass windows, three with leaded stained glass fanlights, and the steeple. The stained glass windows were acquired at the time of the building's construction from a church located "back east" slated for demolition. Although some alterations have been undertaken on the building, the church retains its historical and architectural integrity.

#### Exterior Description

The First Presbyterian Church is a typical vernacular side-steeple church built in the Oklahoma Territory. The cross gabled roof until recently was sheathed with wood shingles. A contract to re-shingle the building was let in 1991. Due to the prohibitive costs of wood shingles, composite shingles were selected. The new

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=====

Narrative Description (continued)

roof was put in place in late 1993. Although slightly modifying the historic appearance of the building, the new shingles are extremely compatible with the old.

Beneath the re-shingled roof, the weatherboard frame is remarkably intact for an eighty-nine year old building. The building's original wainscoting encircles the entire structure. The native limestone foundation was raised in 1925 to allow for construction of the full-length basement at a cost of nearly 1,904 dollars. Visible in the north, west and south elevations are the basement windows. (Photographs 1 & 2)

A leaded stained glass triple window with fanlight highlights the gabled bay of the east elevation. The primary entrance is located on the southeast corner. (Photographs 1 & 2) Historically, the building featured a gabled portal off of the bell tower. A slope porch roof was added presumably in the late 1960s, when other modifications were made to the interior of the building. The original portal configuration remains easily discernable. The wheelchair ramp is not a permanent addition to the church. The ramp is of wooden construction momentarily attached to the building for the use of a congregation member temporarily immobilized.

Also evident from the east elevation is the distinctive bell tower. (Photographs 2 & 3) However, the bell tower is more appropriately located on the south elevation. The bell tower was enclosed in 1976 when a bell was donated to the church. Prior to this, it was open under the bell tower's steeply pitched pyramidal roof with a balustrade for decoration. The tower was infilled with solid walls, although the original openings are still discernible. Three double-hung leaded stained glass windows also adorn the south elevation, as well as a leaded stained glass triple window with fanlight. One of the single leaded stained glass windows is obscurely located within the portal area.

The west elevation (the rear of the church) is relatively unadorned. (Photographs 3 & 4) It was added to enlarge the building between 1907 and 1913 and rests on a poured concrete foundation. It consists of two small offices on the interior, as well as the pulpit. The leaded stained glass windows formerly in the rear were moved to the north and south elevations of the new addition. The west elevation has two four-over-one vertical light double-hung wood windows near the end of the building. Immediately north of the right window is a wooden slab door accessed by a simple entry stoop, constructed at the same time as the rear

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Narrative Description (continued)

addition. The stoop, with its concrete block stairs, is adorned with a simple iron railing. The stoop has no covering.

The north elevation contains three leaded stained glass double-hung windows and a triple leaded stained glass window with fanlight. (Photographs 1 & 4) Located on the north elevation but parallel to the primary entrance on the southeast elevation, is another entrance with a panelled wood door. This small entry is totally enclosed with a hipped roof. It is an historic entry as it appears on the 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Tonkawa.

The focal point of the north, east and south elevations are the large, leaded stained glass triple windows with fanlights. (Photographs 1, 2, 3, 4. Also see supplemental information for color xerox copies). The windows are vividly colored with brilliant turquoise, purple, yellow and red. The triple windows are composed of three separate double-hung frames, with the fanlight providing a suspended covering. Within each frame, amidst ornamental decoration, are two columns and an arch. Within the arch of each of the two outer frames is a round religious depiction. The north side features depictions of an anchor and an horn, the east has flowers and grains of wheat with the words "I am the Bread of Life" inscribed on two white ribbons encircling the wheat grains, while the south exhibits green wheat in one frame and green wheat stalks with the word Hosanna and a six-pointed star in the other. In each of the center frames is an oval depiction of wheat, in its various forms of harvest, signifying Christ. The depiction of wheat is particularly appropriate as Tonkawa is known as the "Wheatheart of Oklahoma." In the center of the fanlights, is another oval depiction. The north elevation depicts the crown and cross, the east elevation the bible, and the south elevation the symbols for Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. All three of the triple windows advocate the basic themes of the church. Interestingly, there are no human forms in the windows, instead various symbolic objects.

Also located on the north and south elevations are six leaded stained glass double-hung windows, three on each side. These windows contain no depictions, instead elaborate ornamentation set off in vibrant purple, red and yellow. The windows are located parallel to each other. On the south elevation, the first window is situated close to the east elevation in the portal area, the next in the bell tower and the third far to the back in the rear addition. The north elevation has one window located close to the east elevation, the next in

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First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa  
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Narrative Description (continued)

the enclosed entrance and the last far to the back in the rear addition. The congregation repaired and covered the windows with clear protective glass in 1977, thereby ensuring preservation of the fragile windows.

Alterations

The construction of a basement expanded the church in 1925. A sidewalk was built to the north door the following year. The slope porch roof was added probably in the late 1960s. In 1976, the bell tower was enclosed and in 1977, the leaded stained glass windows were repaired and non-obstructive protective glass was placed over them. New, wood paneled doors were added in 1989. The roof of the building was re-shingled in late 1993.

Due to the nature of the alterations, the church retains its overall integrity. The slope porch roof is not historically a part of the church, but the original portal configuration remains easily discernible. Therefore, the slope porch roof, while not totally sensitive to the building, does not detract from the comprehensive structure. The preservation of the leaded stained glass windows is commendable. The enclosure of the bell tower does not distress the building as the impact of the steeple and tower is still present. The new composite shingle roof and paneled doors are compatible in appearance with the old. The building has been well maintained and retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and conveys the feeling of its past environment.

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First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa  
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=====  
Statement of Significance

The First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa is architecturally significant as one of the few extant vernacular side-steeple churches built in North Central Oklahoma. Built in 1905 as the First Presbyterian Church, the building remains in use as the First Presbyterian Church. Numerous towns built similar vernacular side-steeple churches, however, congregations over the last ninety years replaced these simple weatherboard constructions with brick buildings. The First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as the best example of a wood-clad vernacular side-steeple church in North Central Oklahoma, and under Criterion Consideration A as a religious property deriving primary significance from its architectural distinction.

Background

The Cherokee Outlet, Oklahoma Territory, opened to homesteaders 16 September 1893. On 9 March 1894, the United States government established a post office in the evolving town of Tonkawa, located in far north central Oklahoma. Between 16 March and 24 March 1894, surveyors platted the town. Tonkawa's population, however, peaked with forty people in 1894. Predominately an agricultural community, Tonkawa struggled along with poor to mediocre harvests for the next five years. In 1899, increased rainfall, improved prices, and a new rail line spurred the town to new developments. Between the years 1900 to 1921, Tonkawa steadily grew. In 1921, oil was discovered three miles south of Tonkawa in the Three Sands Field. This discovery accelerated maturation of the town during the 1920s.

Schools, churches, and city governments were the hallmarks of town development. Church services were being held in Tonkawa as early as June 1894. At that time, the Presbyterian Sunday School missionary, William Davis, held Sunday evening services on the second floor of C. S. Reed's dry goods store. It was not until 5 April 1903, however, that plans were made to formally organize the First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa. A formal session of the Blackwell, Oklahoma Territory, Presbyterian Church established the Tonkawa church on 7 June 1903. Church services were initially held at the I.O.O.F. hall, and subsequently, in the Masonic Hall.

The first permanent pastor, Reverend E. N. Snook, was appointed on 12 April 1904. Reverend Snook is largely credited with the erection of the church

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First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa  
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Statement of Significance (continued)

building. Reverend Snook also acquired the distinctive stained glass windows from an eastern church. Snook was professionally assisted in constructing the church by J. M. Schwab, a local carpenter. Incorporated as a legal entity on 27 April 1905, the congregation dedicated the building on 5 June 1905.

Architectural Significance

The First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa is significant because it represents one of the few extant buildings of its design in North Central Oklahoma. Similar churches were built in the Oklahoma towns of Blackwell, Enid, Newkirk, Perry, Ponca City, Stillwater, and Tonkawa which subsequently have been demolished. A comparably designed church also was constructed and demolished in Anthony, Kansas. Significantly, vernacular side-steeple churches were built by various religious denominations, not restricted in use by one particular denomination. Oklahoma churches built in a corresponding type include the Baptist, First Christian, Methodist Episcopal, Early Day United Brethren, and First Presbyterian churches of Blackwell, as well as the First Baptist, First Methodist, Plymouth Congregation, and First Presbyterian churches of Enid. The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Newkirk, built in 1902, was of comparable design. Perry's First Baptist, First Christian, and First Presbyterian churches were also of coinciding type. The First Baptist, First Christian, and Methodist churches of Ponca City closely resembled the First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa. The Christian Church of Stillwater, built in about 1898 and demolished nineteen years later, was of remarkably similar design to the Tonkawa church, as was the Methodist Episcopal Church of Stillwater.

In Tonkawa itself, the First Baptist and the Methodist Episcopal churches initially closely resembled the First Presbyterian. The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1900 and replaced in 1907. The First Baptist was reconstructed in 1925 and is now a brick structure. The remaining churches located in Tonkawa are not similar to the First Presbyterian in either design or construction material, and were predominately built during or after the 1920s. The brick First Methodist Church, now the United Methodist, was constructed in 1928. The Saint Joseph's Catholic Church of Tonkawa, built between 1925 and 1926, is also constructed of brick, as is the First Christian Church, which was dedicated on 1 July 1923. Other churches in Tonkawa include the brick Tonkawa Bible Church, built in 1951; the modern wood and brick Assembly of God Church; the

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First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa  
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Statement of Significance (continued)

white cinder block Church of Christ; the cinder block and wood Victory Pentecostal Holiness Church; and, the asbestos sided Grace Community Church. The First Presbyterian is the best example of a wood-clad vernacular side-steeple church in Tonkawa and North Central Oklahoma.

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Section 9 Page 16 First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa  
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Bibliography

ARTICLES

Corbett, William P., Ph.d. "Peerless Princess of the Best Country: The Early Years of Tonkawa." Tonkawa, OK: Tonkawa Public Library, 1984-1985.

INTERVIEWS

Agnew, Ted, Church Historian, First United Methodist Church, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Personal Interview with Charles Denker. Date Unknown.

Austin, Mary Midgley, Church Historian, First Presbyterian Church, Newkirk, Oklahoma. Personal Interview with Charles Denker. Date Unknown.

Denker, Charles. Personal Interview with Cynthia Smelker. 6 November 1992. 20 December 1993.

Leseman, Bonnie, Church Historian, First Christian Church, Newkirk, Oklahoma. Personal Interview with Charles Denker. Date Unknown.

Porter, Mrs. Ray, Church Historian, First Presbyterian Church, Ponca City, Oklahoma. Personal Interview with Charles Denker. Date Unknown.

Terrel, Anna. Personal Interview with Charles Denker. Date Unknown.

NEWSPAPERS

Enid (Oklahoma) Eagle. 8 May 1902.

The News: Synod of the Sun Edition. October 1992.

The Ponca City (Oklahoma) News. 23 January 1991.

The Ponca City News. 8 May 1991.

The Tonkawa (Oklahoma) News. 30 March 1978.



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- "The Diamond Jubilee of the First Presbyterian Church." Blackwell, OK: 1974.
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- "Memories: First Presbyterian Church of Tonkawa, Oklahoma." Tonkawa, OK: July 3, 1994.
- "Service of Dedication." Perry, OK: First United Methodist Church, n.d.
- "Session Records: First Presbyterian Church." Tonkawa, OK: 1903-1948.
- "Tonkawa, They All Stay Together." Tonkawa, OK: City of Tonkawa, n.d.

=====

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 22-25, Block 29, Original Township, NE 1/4 Section 4, T25N, R11W

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are the original boundaries for the church established in 1905.