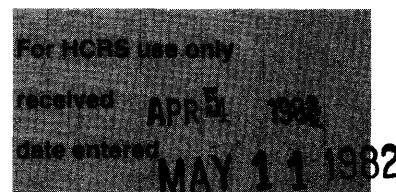


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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 St. James Episcopal Church

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 303 South Church Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Wagoner

vicinity of

congressional district 002

state Oklahoma

code 40

county Wagoner

code 145

## 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of St. James Episcopal Church

street & number c/o Sally Self Byrd

1787 West 63rd Street

city, town Tulsa

vicinity of

state Oklahoma

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Wagoner County Courthouse, 307 East Cherokee

city, town Wagoner

state Oklahoma

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society—State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1896
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. James Episcopal Church, completed in 1894, is a one-story detached church building constructed of clapboard with a coursed ashlar sandstone foundation. Three distinct roof types (gable, hip, and pyramidal) are present on this 35' X 45' rectangular structure.

The main body of the building is rectangular and has a front gable roof. On the east side of the structure, there are two polygonal protrusions, one at the front corner and one at the rear corner. The protrusion at the rear is three-sided with a hip roof and forms the nave of the church. Its dimensions are 3' X 12' X 8'. The protrusion at the front is five-sided with dimensions of 5' X 8' X 6' X 8' X 5'. It forms the vestibule of the church and is topped by a pyramidal roofed bell tower.

Entrance to the building is through a door located at the base of the bell tower in the wall diagonal to the south and east walls of the structure. The door is wooden with pointed arch motif panels.

In the building's south side, there is a Gothic-type tracery window with a pointed arch. In the east side there are two paired 2/2 sash windows. In the protrusion which forms the nave, there are three 2/2 sash windows. In the west side of the building, there is a paired 2/2 sash window.

Decorative elements include a simple wooden cross attached to the point of the gable above the Gothic-style tracery window. The portion of the bell tower housing the bell is enclosed with louvered windows.

St. James Episcopal Church occupies a corner lot in an area of mixed land-use one block south of the central business district. To the west of the structure there is a drive-in bank and to both the north and west, single family dwellings. The church has a sizeable yard which has been landscaped with shrubs and trees.

There have been three alterations to the structure. In 1896 the bell tower was added to the southeast side of the structure. At that time the entrance was moved to the bell tower and the original door was replaced with the Gothic tracery window. In 1958 there were two additions to the structure. An office (12' X 15') was added to the rear of the structure and a social hall (30' X 25') was added to the west side. At the same time the clapboard on the original structure was covered with asbestos shingles.

None of the alterations significantly diminish the integrity of the structure. The bell tower was added over 80 years ago and has been part of the church through all but two years of its existence. The additions were constructed in such a way as not to detract from the original structure and could be easily removed. Underneath the asbestos shingles the original clapboard is intact and could easily be restored to its original condition.

St. James Episcopal Church was originally located on the edge of the Wagoner Business District at the intersection of Cherokee and Casaver Streets. In 1896 city officials decided to build a new city hall on the corner where St. James stood. Church officials decided to move the church and chose as a site the current location. The present site is less than 1/4 of a mile from the original location, on the diagonal corner of the same legal block.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Ethnic
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1893-Present      **Builder/Architect** William Alston

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

St. James Episcopal Church is significant because: (1) it is the oldest Episcopal Church in continuous service in Oklahoma having served residents of northeastern Oklahoma for over 88 years, (2) it was the first and only Episcopal mission in the Creek Nation of Indian Territory, (3) it was consecrated by Bishop Francis Key Brooke, the first Episcopal missionary bishop assigned to Indian Territory, and (4) the land for the Church was deeded to the Church by Pleasant Porter, the last Principal Chief of the Creek Nation.

St. James Episcopal Mission was organized in 1893 by six families, four of whom were Creek Indian. For a short time, the congregation met in homes in and around the community of Wagoner until a permanent church building was constructed. In June of 1894, thirteen years before statehood, Bishop Francis Key Brooke, the first missionary bishop assigned to the Twin Territories (Oklahoma and Indian) by the Episcopalian Diocese, consecrated the building. St. James, therefore, has been continuously associated with the Episcopalian denomination for 88 years.

St. James is the only pre-statehood congregation in Wagoner County which has occupied the same building since its inception.

The land where the Church originally stood and where it presently stands was deeded to the St. James Church by Pleasant Porter, the last Principal Chief of the Creek Nation and President of the Sequoyah Convention, a body which proposed double statehood for Oklahoma and Indian Territories.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Macklin, Beth, "Church Will Be Recognized For Its 80 Years of Service."

Tulsa Daily World 5-5-73.

Interview with Sally Self Byrd, Member and Descendent of one of the founding families of St. James Episcopal Church 7-7-81.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wagoner East, Oklahoma

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minutes

### UMT References

A 

1	5	2	8	6	0	0	0	3	9	8	1	7	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 11, Block 342, Original Town of Wagoner

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Ann Craig supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Northeastern Oklahoma Counties Survey date October, 1981

street & number Oklahoma State University telephone 405-624-6250

city or town Stillwater state Oklahoma 74078

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*C. M. et al.*

title date 3-29-82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	
<i>Beth Braxton</i>	date <u>5/1/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET    Description                    ITEM NUMBER 7                    PAGE 2

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Moving St. James from its original location has had little, if any, effect on the historical integrity of the property. The move was made less than two years after St. James was constructed, over 85 years ago. The church served the same role before and after the move in both the community and the Creek Nation.

The Church of God sign shown in photographs no. 1 and 2 was placed there on a temporary basis while its congregation used the St. James building for services during a six-month period in 1981.