

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **NOV 7 1983**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

and/or common Renaissance Center

**2. Location**

street & number 1104 N. Robinson AVE. N/A not for publication

city, town Oklahoma City N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Oklahoma code 109

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input 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 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 See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Oklahoma Co. Courthouse

street & number 321 Park Avenue

city, town Oklahoma City, state OK

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Okla. Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historic Soc., 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 former First Christian Church of Oklahoma City was constructed in 1910 of Neo-Classical Revival style architecture. In the building complex the western-most structure is the one being described first.

The exterior wall material is cut limestone pierced with many rectangular openings on three levels. Third level openings on the west side have arched heads. The roof, composed of hips and gables, is surmounted with a raised dome. The dome, pierced mid-way with port-holes of ornate character, is capped with a crown of anthemion-like ornamentation and a finial. Support for the dome is a "drum" containing 16 vertical, stained glass windows with arched heads. The "drum" in turn is supported on a square pedestal which is trimmed with a balustrade.

Northwest, southwest and southeast corners of the structure are accented with domed cupolas supported in turn on square bases. At each corner, below the cupolas, walls consist of pilasters at corners capped with corinthian capitals. A pedimented window opening, brackets at head and sill, occupies the space between pilasters. Doors, which provide access to the ground floor, pierce the pedestal. These double doors are capped with bracketed water tables which provide a major horizontal line around the building. Window openings on the west, in the pedestal, are plain double-hung. Above these openings is an array of ornate pilasters separated by windows and which support the entablature and gable above.

The main entrance is reached via a side and long expanse of limestone steps, guarded by six limestone columns with corinthian capitals supporting the pedimented porch.

The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation. The exterior will not be altered. However, the interior is being modified in accordance with plans approved by the National Park Service for purposes of the investment tax credit.

# 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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1911 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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

The First Christian Church Building is significant for its architectural style.

Almost immediately after arriving in Oklahoma Territory in 1889, members of the First Christian Church began to establish themselves. The first modest brick structure was located at Third and Harvey in Oklahoma City. About 1902 the congregation had grown substantially, and a second facility was acquired at the corner of Third and Robinson. The church carried on an aggressive effort to gain new members, and by 1910 still more space was needed. The building at Third and Robinson was sold, and a temporary wooden structure was used at Eighth and Broadway while construction got underway on a massive new building.

On December 3, 1911, the congregation of First Christian Church dedicated their impressive new structure at Tenth and Robinson. This structure, the property here nominated, is architecturally significant. It was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style which experienced tremendous popularity during the period 1890-1915. Outstanding features of the building include a raised dome, and three cupolas on the northwest, southwest, and southeast corners, as well as pilasters at corners capped with corinthian capitals.

The First Christian Church Building is the best example of an ecclesiastical structure utilizing the Neo-Classical Revival style found in Oklahoma City.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mersfelder, L.C. editor. The Church of Tomorrow . . . Yesterday and Today, 1964

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey Files, Oklahoma Historical Soc.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Oklahoma City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	3	3	6	8	0	3	9	2	6	9	2	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

Section 3 (See Continuation Sheet)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melvina Thurman, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Oklahoma Hist. Soc.

date August, 1983

street & number Hist. Building

telephone 405/521-2491

city or town Oklahoma City,

state Oklahoma 73105

## 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

*C. Emmett*

10/31/83

title

date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*P. G. Givens*

date

3/8/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 4

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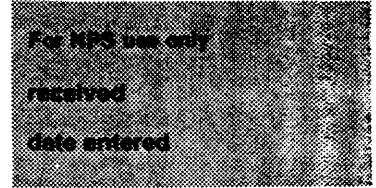
Owner of Property:

Frank Brewer  
3125 Briarwood  
Bethany, Oklahoma 73008

John W. Norman  
8029 Golden Oak Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127

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Continuation sheet

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Old First Christian Church  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Description (additional)

The nominated property consists of the original church building constructed in 1910-11 and a 1940 addition on the east side joined to the original structure by a walkway at the second floor level. No other structures are located on this property. The addition does not impact the historic and architectural integrity of the structure in that it is simple in design complimenting the older part of the building through the use of exterior materials of limestone, small paned glass and wood windows. The two story addition is enhanced with a simple belt course below the upper windows and decorative elements in the entablature which occur above each of the upper windows.

The addition served as location for educational programs of the church and has continuously functioned as an integral part of the structure.

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Continuation sheet

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Old First Christian Church  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described as all of Lots seventeen (17) through twenty-three (23) and the westerly eight (8) feet of Lot Twenty-four (24) in Florence Addition to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma according to the recorded plat thereof. (This is a part of the N/2, NE/4, Section 33, Township 12 North, Range 3 West. No block numbers were assigned.)