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TERRITORIAL ERA CARPENTER GOTHIC CHURCHES OF NORTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

4. Blackburn Methodist Church (Photos #14-15 and No. 4 on Sketch Map).

Location: D Street and Fourth Avenue  
Blackburn, OK 74058  
County: Pawnee Code: 117

Owner of Property: Blackburn Methodist Church  
% Rev. Donald W. Bradford  
401 North B. Avenue  
Cleveland, OK 74020

Location of Legal Description: Office of the County Clerk  
Pawnee County Courthouse  
Pawnee, OK 74058

Description: The Blackburn Methodist Church, built in 1904, is a one-story, detached religious structure with clapboard finish. It has a gabled roof and the overall dimensions are 14' x 20'.

The facade (north side) has two rectangular-shaped 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The east side also has same fenestration as facade, however, there is one round window in the gable end. The south side (rear) has a one-story, three-sided bay with shed-type roof. It is located in the center of the rear wall. There is one 1/1 double-hung sash window in each of the outer bays. On either side of the bay there is a single 1/1 double-hung sash window. A rear wood paneled door is located to the east of the bay. There is one brick end chimney.

Decorative elements include triangular arches above windows and decorative wood molding trim. Round windows are located in the gable ends. The bell tower has a double door, wood paneled entryway with stoop and iron railings. There is a Gothic arch transom above entry doors. A single 1/1 double-hung sash window is also located in bell tower. The bell tower rises to a square-based belfry which contains the original bell. The belfry has an octagonal based tent roof with steeply pitched slopes decorated with fish scale shingles. The slopes rise to an urn-shaped finial. The building sets on a native sandstone foundation. Original character of the church has remained intact for almost 80 years.

Statement of Significance: The Blackburn Methodist Church is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it is the only original church building left intact in Blackburn, and (2) it is the best example of Carpenter Gothic architecture in Blackburn.

Constructed in 1904, the building is symbolic of the strong work and religious ethic brought by homesteaders to Oklahoma Territory. Erected three years prior to statehood, the church was one of the first built in Blackburn and is the only one of the original churches still intact in this small agricultural town of less than 500 people.

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Gothic elements include the pointed arch openings with simple traceries, decorative hood moulds over windows, and exquisitely crafted, octagonal-shaped, tent-roofed belfry. Additional decorative features consist of fish scale pattern shingling on belfry, urn-shaped finial which tops belfry roof, round window openings in gable ends, and three-sided bay in the rear.

The architectural integrity remains intact even to the cast iron bell which still functions every Sunday morning. Its historic integrity likewise remains intact for this 80 year old church building.

Major Bibliographical References:

Personal Interview: W.W. Weaver (member of church), July, 1983  
Donald Bradford (minister), July, 1983

Quadrangle Name: Blackburn, Oklahoma

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/715800/4027680

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 1-5, Block 39, Original Townsite of Blackburn, OK.