

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Item number 7

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TERRITORIAL ERA CARPENTER GOTHIC CHURCHES OF NORTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Major Bibliographical References:

Ruth, Kent, Oklahoma Travel Handbook. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1977, p. 66.

Personal Interviews: Sally Ferrell (local historian), August, 1983  
Rev. Robert McLeod (minister), October, 1983

Quadrangle Name: Chandler, Ok. Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/691555/3952840

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 13-16, Block 44, Original Townsite of Chandler, Ok.

2. Methodist Church of Marshall (Photos #6-9 and No. 2 on Sketch Map)

Location: Two Blocks East and One Block North of Flagpole (Center of Town)  
Marshall, Oklahoma 73056  
County: Logan Code: 083 *aff OK 74*

Owner of Property: United Methodist Church  
Marshall, OK. 73056

Location of Legal Description: Office of the County Clerk  
Logan County Courthouse  
Guthrie, OK 73044

Description: The Marshall Methodist Church, constructed in 1898, is a one-story, rectangular-shaped, detached, gabled roof religious structure with clapboard finish.

The facade (west side) has a wood paneled double door entryway in the bell tower. There are two double-hung sash windows to the south of the tower. The south side has four double-hung sash windows as does the north side. The rear (east side) has a hipped roof, three-sided bay with one double-hung sash window in each of the outer bays.

Decorative elements include several Gothic features including the pointed arch windows with simple traceries and decorative wooden hood moulds over all windows. The bell tower, located on the northwest corner, has a triangular arched transom above the entryway and a wooden hood mould over transom. The bell tower has a tent roof with square base. The roof has steeply-pitched slopes rising to a peak which is adorned with a finial. Although the belfry is no longer used, the original cast iron bell stands on a metal-framed structure immediately to the south of the church. The church was moved from its 1898 original site in 1902 when the whole town was moved near the Santa Fe depot. The building is in excellent condition, however, the exterior needs paint.

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

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Constructed in 1898, nine years before Oklahoma statehood, the church was moved from its original location in 1902 when the whole town was moved three-fourths of a mile to be near the new Santa Fe Railroad depot. Its congregation was organized in 1895 and moved into the new building three years later. Angie Debo, noted Oklahoma historian, authored a book entitled Prairie City which describes her hometown of Marshall. Activities, including Sunday services, funerals, weddings, and prayer meetings, play a prominent role in her analysis of the history of churches in Marshall which includes the nominated property.

Elements of the Carpenter Gothic style are employed in the building. Gothic arch windows with simple traceries, clapboard wall finish, wooden hood moulds over windows, and the tent-roofed bell tower are among the Gothic principles used. Although the property needs paint, its architectural integrity remains intact. It continues to serve as the only remaining original church in Marshall, a role that it has assumed for more than 85 years.

Major Bibliographical References:

Marshall Methodist Church (unpublished church history) n.d.  
Personal Interview: Vera Long (local historian), May, 1983.

Quadrangle Name: Marshall East, Oklahoma

Scale: 7.5 minutes

UTM: 14/623885/4001775

Verbal Boundary Description: Lots 23-24, Block 24, New Marshall