

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oklahoma	
COUNTY: Beaver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 16 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Third Street & Avenue E

CITY OR TOWN:  
Beaver City

STATE Oklahoma	CODE 40	COUNTY: Beaver	CODE 007
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Presbyterian Church of Beaver

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Third Street & Avenue E

CITY OR TOWN: Beaver City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the County Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Beaver County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Beaver City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE 40
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Special Survey of Beaver County Historical Society

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971-1972  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oklahoma City	STATE: Oklahoma	CODE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

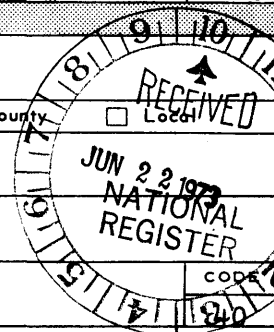
STATE: Oklahoma

COUNTY: Beaver

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Beaver City's First Presbyterian Church was "born" on June 12, 1887. On that day the Rev. R. M. Overstreet organized the congregation and immediately set about providing it with a suitable meeting place.

Some of his friends contributed \$100 to purchase building materials. Much of the balance came from the church's missionary board in New York City. Lumber was ordered from Dodge City, across the No Man's Land border on the north in Kansas. There were no bridges and the country's dirt roads were scarcely more than cow trails. Frank Laughrin took four days to make the trip down from Dodge City with the materials. The 24 x 40-foot structure was then promptly erected ... at a cost of about \$1,000.

The building has been well cared for over the years. A comparison of the pictures enclosed shows that the only basic alternations are a somewhat enlarged entrance foyer and broader, more congenial front steps. The sanctuary has been similarly maintained and upgraded. An organ was installed in 1966 and carpeting has been laid throughout. In short, the church remains essentially what it started out to be some 86 years ago ... a modest place of worship that reflects in a general way both the spiritual needs and the financial resources of its members.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oklahoma	
COUNTY	
Beaver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	1 6 1974

(Number all entries)

No. 7 Description

Presbyterian Church

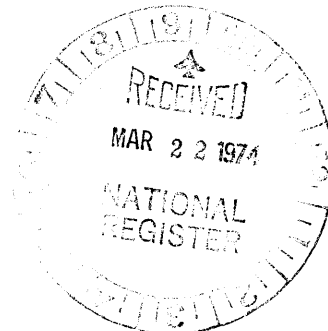
Some relatively minor changes have been made in the church over the years.

The vestibule was enlarged, but the pattern of the original was kept, expanding the original 6 x 10-foot entryway to one measuring 8 x 14 feet. New lumber was used only when necessary. The belfry, its peak 34 feet above the sanctuary floor, is original, as is the bell. Door jamb and facing were retained, the latter merely covered with oak paneling. The back door was similarly remodeled, although in both cases their position was unchanged. The doors themselves are new.

Virtually all of the original interior of the sanctuary remains in place. However, the rostrum and aisles are now carpeted. The original wall plaster has been covered with dry wall texture and swirled. The original forty-inch wainscoting was left on the walls when oak paneling was added. The pews are new, as is the pulpit. (The original pulpit, curiously enough, is now in the Beaver Museum, housed in the Lane Cabin for which National Register status is being sought in a separate nomination.) A gas furnace has replaced the two coal stoves that heated the church in the early days. A brick chimney has been removed.

The sanctuary ceiling is unchanged in shape. Metal blocks have been removed, however, and replaced with sheetrock nailed to the original joists. The frame was put together with square nails and the plates, studdings, joists and rafters were all found to be in good condition and left untouched in the remodeling. New stained glass windows were installed, of the same size as the original windows.

The sanctuary measures 24 x 40 feet and a basement was built the same size. A few years back this basement was extended 24 feet to the west (the back) to provide additional classrooms and a recreation area. The siding on the church's exterior is the original.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                        |                                       |                                                  |                                                  |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                                  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887 to the present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                         |                                                 |                                                         |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                                         |                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |                                                 |                                                         |                                                |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Every western boom town could count a saloon and a dance hall among its earliest structures. And certainly Beaver City was no exception. (Indeed, if any one thing were to distinguish its first saloon and first dance hall it would have to be, not the fact of their construction, but the building materials that went into them. They were made of sod!)

But every western boom town could also count a place of worship among its early buildings. If it was not always constructed as promptly as the others, it was usually constructed more substantially. And Beaver City's first church attests to this. The first in all of No Man's Land, it was built well. And it still stands today, in use regularly, a fitting memorial to the sturdy pioneers who opened this harsh region nearly a century ago.

By 1887 Beaver City was nearly five years old and the Rev. R. M. Overstreet decided it was past time the raw, frontier town had a church. He organized the First Presbyterian congregation and began a building fund drive. With major support from the denomination's missionary board in the East the church was finally completed as something of a trailblazer. Aside from Indian Mission structures -- that is, churches built as part of the missionary effort among the various Indian tribes in what is now Oklahoma -- the Beaver City church is believed to be one of the first, if not the first, erected by and for a non-Indian congregation.

The church, modified only slightly over the years, has been in continuous use from the beginning. Because of its age, constant service, and role in the development of the western frontier, this claim for National Register status is presented.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Beaver County History, 2 volumes, Beaver County Historical Society, 1970, 1971
- Wardell, Morris L., "The History of No-Man's Land, or Old Beaver County," The Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. I (1923), pp. 60-89
- Unpublished manuscript prepared by the Beaver County Historical Society, Beaver City, 1970-1971

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

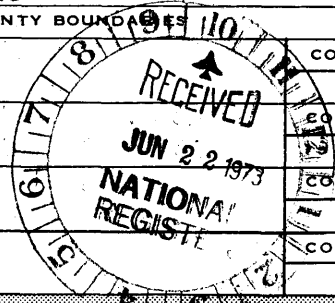
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		36° 48' 51"	100° 31' 13"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

NOVT  
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than one acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Kent Ruth, Deputy**

ORGANIZATION: **Oklahoma Historical Society**      DATE: **April 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Historical Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Oklahoma City**      STATE: **Oklahoma**      CODE: **40**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *Son & Steve*

Title: *ELO for OHS*

Date: *JUN 2 1973*

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*A. R. Mortensen*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *5/16/74*

ATTEST:  
*Charles H. Hargett*  
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: *5.15.74*