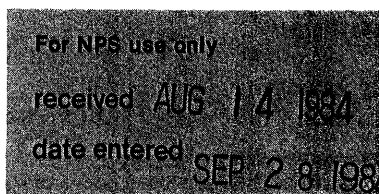


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic Churches <sup>TR</sup> of North Central Oklahoma <sup>S</sup>

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number (see continuation sheet)

N/A not for publication

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma

code 40

county (continuation sheet)

code (cont. sheet)

## 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 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name (see continuation sheet)

street &amp; number

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. (see continuation sheet)

street &amp; number

city, town

state

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1983

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

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

city, town Oklahoma City

state Oklahoma 73105

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The four properties nominated in the Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic Churches of North Central Oklahoma thematic group were built between 1894 and 1904. The four churches were constructed shortly after their respective towns were founded and are the only original church buildings still intact in each community. They are all located in small towns (less than 2,500 population) in four contiguous counties (Logan, Noble, Pawnee, and Lincoln) in north central Oklahoma.

The dominant architectural style employed in the four buildings is Carpenter Gothic, a style often used in turn-of-the-century rural and small town churches and because of the availability of wood for framing and finishing. The use of one type of construction material and color gives a general monochromatic effect to the buildings characteristic of the Carpenter Gothic style. Gothic principles applied to the four buildings include the pointed arch windows with simple traceries, steep central gables, bell towers and belfries, wood hood moulds over windows, three-sided bays in rear elevations, and round gable end windows. All four have retained their original clapboard finish.

Although one building has added a wing and one was moved from its original site in 1902, the overall architectural integrity has remained intact. The historic integrity has been preserved because the four churches have served their respective communities as social and religious institutions for over 80 years. The four buildings included in the Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic Churches of North Central Oklahoma are:

- (1) First Presbyterian Church of Chandler (1894)
- (2) Methodist Church of Marshall (1898)
- (3) Baptist Church of Morrison (1903)
- (4) Methodist Church of Blackburn (1904)

There is one other Territorial Era church of comparable condition in north central Oklahoma (Mulhall Methodist Church constructed in 1894), however, it is of native red sandstone.

## 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 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 checked="" 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** 1894-Present      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic Churches of North Central Oklahoma thematic nomination is both historically and architecturally significant because: (1) the four properties, built between 1894 and 1904, represent the oldest and best remaining examples of small town religious structures constructed in north central Oklahoma prior to statehood in 1907 and (2) the four buildings are the only existing examples in north central Oklahoma of Carpenter Gothic architecture as applied to churches.

Oklahoma Territory was opened for homesteading in the late nineteenth century. Two of the most significant events in the settlement of the Territory were the Land Runs of 1889 and 1893. These two events brought settlers from throughout the Midwest and South to lay claim to land primarily for agricultural purposes. Small rural market centers immediately emerged to provide goods and services to the surrounding farm and ranching areas. The hardy pioneers brought families and there was an immediate need for schools and churches. Most of the pioneers who came to Oklahoma were from strong Midwestern or Southern Protestant stock. With them came their strong church influence and work ethic.

All of the churches in this thematic group were constructed shortly after the Land Runs, located in the small town market centers of less than 2,500 population, and represented three strong Protestant denominations: Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian. All four properties are the only original church buildings which remain in their respective communities, and each have held continuous services since their construction.

The four buildings depict the Carpenter Gothic style as applied to churches. They are characterized by the traditional Carpenter Gothic wood framing and clapboard exterior finish painted white. Gothic Revival vocabulary includes the pointed arch windows with simple traceries, wood hood moulds over the windows, steep central gables, round gable end windows, bell towers and belfries, bay windows, and the overall monochrome effect of white wood materials.

The First Presbyterian Church of Chandler was constructed three years after the town was founded in 1891. In 1897, three years after the church was built, a devastating tornado hit the town and, according to Kent Ruth, noted Oklahoma historian, it destroyed every building in Chandler except the Presbyterian Church (Oklahoma Travel Handbook, p. 66). Fourteen people were killed and the church served as a hospital and refuge in the aftermath of the tornado. Therefore, the First Presbyterian Church is not only the oldest church in Chandler, but also the oldest remaining building in the town.

The Marshall Methodist Church, built in 1898, is the only original church building still intact in Marshall. The church was organized in 1895 and the congregation acquired three lots in Marshall's Old Town section in early 1898. In September of 1898, the first services were held in the new building. In 1902 when the entire town of Marshall was moved three-fourths of a mile south near the Santa Fe depot, the church building was placed on rollers and moved by a steam engine to its present location.

The Morrison Baptist Church was completed in 1903. The congregation was founded in 1899 and, according to the Morrison Sun of June 26, 1903, the members raised \$4,000 to construct the new building. It is the only original church left intact in this small agricultural community of approximately 400 people.

The Blackburn Methodist Church, constructed in 1904, is the oldest remaining religious structure in this small town of less than 100 people. The congregation was organized in 1899, but sufficient funds for a building of their own were not raised until five years later.

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

Item number 8

Page 2

These four small town Oklahoma churches played a vital role in the religious and social histories of their respective communities by providing a place of worship for the early homesteaders of Oklahoma Territory as well as a social outlet for small town families during a period in Oklahoma's history when churches and schools were focal points in the life of a community. All have held continuous services for over 80 years and the oldest for more than 90 years. Although one was moved from its original site in 1902 and another has added a wing, the original character and fabric of the four buildings has remained intact.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

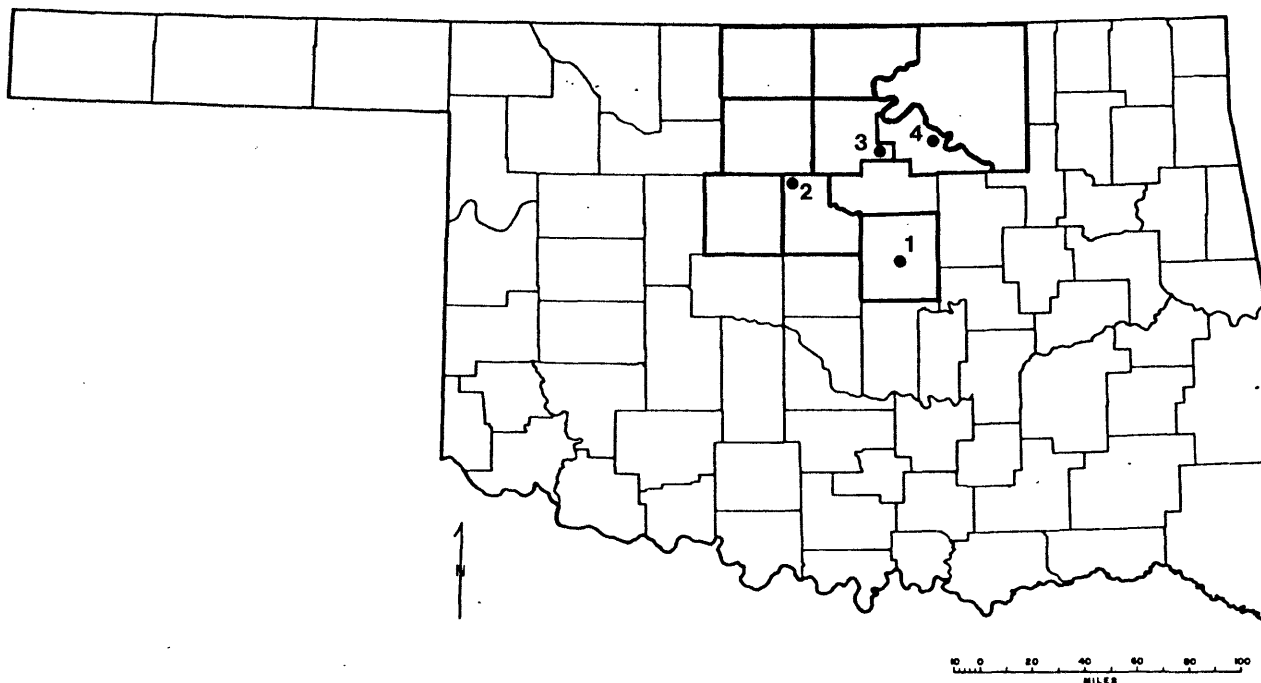
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

## TERRITORIAL CHURCHES OF NORTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Each property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name (see continuation sheet)

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minutes

UTM References (see continuation sheet)

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia Ahmad and Nicola Perkins Supervised by Dr. George O. Carney

organization Department of Geography date January, 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature C E Metcalf date 7-30-84

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

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

Beth Grosvenor  
Keeper of the National Register

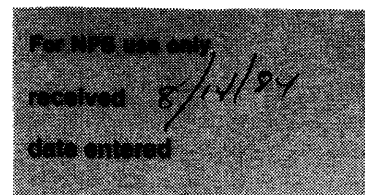
date 7/28/84

Attest: See Continuation Sheet for Justification  
Chief of Registration

date \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic Churches Thematic Resources

State Lincoln Co., OKLAHOMA

Cover 8/28/89

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. First Presbyterian Church of  
Chandler

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Beth Grosvenor 9/28/89

2. Methodist Church of Marshall

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Beth Grosvenor 9/28/89

3. Morrison Baptist Church

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Beth Grosvenor 9/28/89

4. Blackburn Methodist Church

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

Beth Grosvenor 9/28/89

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest