

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

For NPS use only

received **JUL 20 1983**
date entered

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

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

1. Name

historic West Point Christian Church

and/or common ~~THE CHURCH OF THE WEST POINT, YUKON, OKLAHOMA~~

2. Location SW of Yukon

street & number ~~NW Corner of NW/4 of Sec. 12, T 11 N, R 6 W I. M.~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Yukon vic, vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Canadian code 017

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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 West Point Christian Church

street & number Route 3, Box 67

city, town Yukon vicinity of state Oklahoma 73099

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the County Clerk

street & number Canadian County Courthouse

city, town El Reno state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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

West Point, when built in 1898-1899, was a thoroughly traditional country (or small town) church, although perhaps a bit more imaginatively designed than many. Set on native stone quarried near by, it was a 30-x-60-foot all-wood rectangle with a plain hipped roof and handsome, yet traditional, bell tower.

Exterior walls and gable ends were of plain lap siding, relieved by a narrow ornamental course of tongue-and-groove boards laid vertically under the eaves and outlining the two gables. Also noteworthy: the fish scale shingles on the bell section of the entry tower ... the well-spaced single, cathedral windows, double-sashed and nicely corniced ... the pyramidal tower with its bell-cast profile and crowning cross ... the effectively plain entry with its four-paneled double door and sternly plain frontispiece.

Interior of the church was equally traditional ... the plastered walls, all-wood "Pullman" type ceiling, polished pine floor, sturdy time-darkened pews, the small recessed rostrum area with its hand carved altar. Traditional, but gone now, was the coal burning pot-belly stove. And gone, too are the two coal oil lamps that once hung from the ceiling, although their hangers remain. (One of the better church legends concerns the janitor who would subtly regulate the length of services by varying the amount of oil poured into the fonts, with the not surprising consequence that the lamps would often burn out before the preacher had finished his sermon.) Electric lights in time replaced the coal oil lamps. The sanctuary now has modern heating and air conditioning. The center aisle has been given carpeting and paneling now covers the plaster walls. Otherwise the interior is much as it was when the church was dedicated nearly 84 years ago.

A plain all-wood wing was added to the right rear corner of the church in 1945-1946 and dedicated to the memory of two members who died in World War II. It was enlarged in 1982 to provide a kitchen, new classrooms, and restrooms. The church has been well maintained over the years.

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

Specific dates 1894 to present **Builder/Architect** Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

West Point Christian Church represents nearly a century of service to the spiritual needs of a rural community. It is significant historically for the continuity of this service, especially in the face of an accelerating trend away from the small country church. It is also significant for its architecture - quite modest, completely traditional, inside and out, and excepting a recent addition attached tangentially to the back, remarkably well preserved with almost total integrity.

*

This section of Old Oklahoma was opened to settlement in the Run of 1889. A Sunday School sprang up almost immediately. By 1890 it was housed in a "soddie" just west of the present church. When a small frame school-house was erected to replace the sod structure, the Sunday School moved into it. West Point Christian Church itself was organized Sept. 6, 1894. Briefly the congregation moved to nearby Thurston, a small town that quickly died. In April 1898, and back in its former meeting place at West Point School, the congregation began a campaign for funds with which to build a proper church of its own. An acre of land east of the soddie was donated by Charles Little and the present building was largely hand-built by the congregation. It was dedicated July 3, 1899, and worship services have been conducted in it continuously since then.

Architecturally West Point is a small gem (see No. 7). On the outside, notice particularly the well proportioned cathedral windows and the traditional entry tower with its handsomely plain double doorway ... tapered bell section with cartouche, louvered window and cut-shingle ornamentation, the square pyramidal tower, shingled and topped by a cross. Inside, notice the original pine flooring, "Pullman" style wood ceiling, the solid no-nonsense pews, and the hand-carved pulpit.

Curiously, if not significantly, this final botanical note: In the "lawn" of the churchyard, beyond the imported-shrub landscaping of the church itself, native bluestem and buffalo grass survive as a striking link between West Point with its pioneering heritage and the virgin prairie sod on which it was built.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Church records and reminiscences of long-time church members.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Minco NE

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

A 1A 609400 3923340
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kent Ruth, Deputy

organization Oklahoma Historical Society date February 1983

street & number Historical Building telephone 405/884-5456

city or town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

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 7-13-83

title date

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

Linda McClelland date 9-2-83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page a

West Point Church: Continuation Sheet . . .

No. 10. Verbal boundary description

A part of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Twelve (12), Township Eleven (11) North, Range Six (6) West of Indian Meridian, Canadian County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said Section Twelve (12), thence South along the West line of said Section Twelve (12) a distance of 210.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing South along the West line a distance of 132.00 feet; thence East and parallel to the North line of said Section Twelve (12) a distance of 330.00 feet; thence North and parallel to the West line of said Section Twelve (12) a distance of 132.00 feet; thence West and parallel to the North line of said Section Twelve (12) a distance of 330.00 feet to the point of beginning.