

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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TERRITORIAL ERA CARPENTER GOTHIC CHURCHES OF NORTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

1. First Presbyterian Church of Chandler (Photos 1-5 and No. 1 on Sketch Map)

Location: ~~Intersection of~~ Eighth and Blaine Streets,
Chandler, Oklahoma 74834
County: Lincoln Code: 081

Owner of Property: First Presbyterian Church
Eighth and Blaine
Chandler, Oklahoma 74834

Location of Legal Description: Office of the County Clerk
Lincoln County Courthouse
Chandler, Oklahoma 74834

Description: The First Presbyterian Church of Chandler, built in 1894, is a one-story, detached, gabled roof religious structure with clapboard finish. It is approximately 25' x 30' with the central gable having a north/south orientation. There is an east/west intersecting gable with a bell tower standing in the southeast corner of the axis of the two gables. The building has a full basement.

The facade (south side) has wood paneled double door entryway located near southeast corner. There is a stooped concrete porch with eight steps on either side of entry door. Immediately to the west of the double doors is a 1/1 double-hung sash stained glass window of multi-color religious design. The end gable has paired, long, rectangular shaped 1/1 double-hung sash stained glass windows with multi-color religious design. The windows have pointed arches and there is a pointed arch stained glass transom above entry door with an inscription which reads: "First Presbyterian Church."

East side has paired rectangular-shaped stained glass windows in center of intersecting gable. They are 1/1 double-hung sash type. Flanking the larger windows are single 1/1 double-hung sash windows with stained glass of multi-color religious design. All three sets of windows have pointed arches. At basement level are four 1/1 double hung sash windows and a wood panel door with glass pane in upper half. A small shed roof extending out from east side covers the basement entrance. There is a wood panel door on north end of east side. It has a stained glass transom topped with triangular arch.

West side has the large 1/1 double-hung sash windows of stained glass in the center of the intersecting gable. The northern part of west side has two smaller 1/1 double-hung sash windows of stained glass. A single 1/1 double-hung sash window of stained glass is located in southern part of west side. There is a small gable roof entryway to basement door which is wood panel type with light in upper half.

The rear (north side) has two 1/1 double-hung sash windows with stained glass and one round stained glass window located in upper center. There are seven 1/1 double-hung sash windows at basement level.

The second level of the bell tower has single 1/1 double-hung sash windows of stained glass on south and east walls.

Decorative elements include the Gothic-type arches over window and door openings above basement level. All windows and doors above basement level have multi-colored stained glass panes with religious patterns. There is fish scale pattern wood shingles below eaves in all the gable ends. Minature dentils adorn entry door and large center windows in facade, east, and west walls. The square-based cupola with gently sloping roof rises to a louver finished belfry. The building has retained its architectural integrity

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Statement of Significance: The First Presbyterian Church of Chandler is historically and architecturally significant because: (1) it is the oldest building of any type in Chandler, and (2) it is the only remaining example of Carpenter Gothic architecture in Chandler.

Erected in 1894, the church was the only building in Chandler which survived a tornado which hit the town in 1897. It was used as a temporary medical facility and home for those injured and homeless as a result of the devastation. It has been continuously used for religious services throughout its 90 year history.

The church embodies several Carpenter Gothic principles. The availability of timber near Chandler resulted in the use of clapboard finish and wood framing for the building. Its pointed arch openings, multi-colored stained glass windows with religious designs, and wooden belfry give it the feel and appearance of a modest Gothic-inspired small town church. The belfry houses the original cast iron bell which is still rung via a rope in the church foyer. Fish scale pattern shingles and minature dentils above entry door and large side windows provide further decorative elements. There have been no alterations during the building's history and it is still used for worship services thereby maintaining both its historic and architectural continuity.