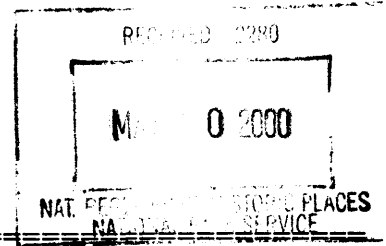


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

655



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

other names/site number Chandler Seventh-Day Adventist Church

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 812 Blaine Avenue not for publication N/A  
city or town Chandler vicinity N/A  
state Oklahoma code OK county Lincoln code 081 zip  
code 74834

=====  
3. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Bob Blackburn  
Oklahoma Historical Society/SHPO  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5-22-00

=====  
In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
=====

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
4. National Park Service Certification  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

   See continuation sheet.

   determined eligible for the

National Register

   See continuation sheet.

   determined not eligible for the

National Register

   removed from the National Register

   other (explain):   

Edson H. Beall 6-9-00

for

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====  
5. Classification  
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing        |
|--------------|------------------------|
| <u>  1  </u> | <u>  0  </u> buildings |
| <u>    </u>  | <u>    </u> sites      |
| <u>    </u>  | <u>    </u> structures |
| <u>    </u>  | <u>    </u> objects    |
| <u>  1  </u> | <u>  0  </u> Total     |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Late Gothic Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone

roof ASPHALT

walls STONE: Sandstone

WOOD: Shingle

other ASBESTOS

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets).

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1899-1950  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

Significant Dates 1899  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone  | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|-------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 14    | 691570  | 3952800  | 3    | _____   | _____    |
| 2 | _____ | _____   | _____    | 4    | _____   | _____    |

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Jocelyn Lupkin / Historical Architect  
organization Robison & Associates Architects date January 11, 2000  
street & number 2927 The Paseo telephone (405) 524-4544  
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73103

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Oklahoma Conference Corporation of Seventh-Day Adventists, a corporation  
street & number 4735 N.W. 63<sup>rd</sup> Street telephone (405) 721-6110  
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73132  
=====



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

St. Stephens Episcopal Church  
name of property  
Lincoln/ Oklahoma  
county and State

=====

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

**General:** St. Stephen's Episcopal Church consists of the original, rectangular, sandstone church building and a small addition. St. Stephen's is located in a residential neighborhood, mostly composed of bungalows from the teens and twenties. It occupies the southeast corner of the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Blaine Avenue. It is two blocks west of Chandler's historic downtown, which also has sandstone buildings dating from the late nineteenth century; and it is across the street from the First Presbyterian Church of Chandler (NR 1984), a Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic church that predates St. Stephen's.

The original church building measures approximately twenty-nine feet by fifty feet on the outside. It is one story and constructed of masonry bearing walls with battered buttresses that extend out approximately nineteen inches at grade and taper up to fit under the building eaves. The main portion of the roof is a steeply pitched (approximately 12:16) gable, oriented east and west. There is a small intersecting gable over the entry at the west end of the north side.

The walls of St. Stephen's are built of sandstone. They are constructed in a random coursed ashlar pattern of irregularly cut rock-faced stone. They are supported by six evenly spaced buttresses, approximately two feet wide, on the north and south walls. Buttresses are located at the corners and set in between windows. The tops of the buttresses are hewn to fit under the roof overhang. Run off has led to mold or mildew growth on the buttresses, giving the stone a much darker appearance than the wall face. Stones used to construct the buttresses are more massive than those used to construct the walls.

Windows, unless otherwise stated, are the original wood 2/2 vertical panes in hung sashes.

**East Elevation:** The east elevation has a large, centered, gothic arched window. The original tracery window was replaced with plain float glass subdivided into three sections. Fixed glazed panels set in wide wood frames flank the arched window. These panels replaced the original divided light windows. Each of the flanking windows is approximately one-fourth of the width of the wall segment on either side of the arched window. The windows are approximately centered between the adjacent edge of the arched window frame and the outside face of the north and south walls. (Refer to Photo #1) The arched window surround is constructed of stones whose size and shape is more evenly matched than the stone used to construct the walls. The arch is surmounted by a larger keystone. A plain stone sill constructed of multiple pieces is set at a level slightly below the lower edge of the roof rafters. The window width at the sill is slightly less than one-third of the width of the elevation. The sill height is slightly below the eave edge of the roof. The height of the window keystone is approximately one-half the height of the roof gable end.

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED**

The wall covering at the gable end above the keystone is unpainted wood shingles. Simple stick gable end trim consisting of a collar tie, collar brace and king post with a finial on the bottom runs from the apex of the gable down to, approximately, the bottom of the upper two-fifths of the shingle covering in the gable end. The trim is set on the same plane as the gable end rafters. (Refer to Photo #2)

**North Elevation:** The north elevation includes the main entry on its west end. (Refer to Photo #3) The elevation is composed of five equal bays, including the main entry bay, defined by buttresses with window or door openings in between. The tops of the buttresses are hewn on a curve to fit under curved rafter ends. (Refer to Photo #4) An original wood panel door, with a pattern of two short panels on the bottom and two longer panels on top, is located in the easternmost bay. Its height above grade indicates that there may have been steps up to it, previously. The main entry is covered by a small intersecting gable roof. Simple stick gable trim consisting of a collar tie and king post with a finial on the bottom is located at the upper two-fifths of the gable end, on the same plane as the gable end rafters. There is a pair of original wood panel doors that have a pattern of two short vertical panels on the bottom and two longer vertical panels on top, separated by a single horizontal panel. The double entry doors are surmounted by a depressed arch with a plain wood infill panel. The arch is delineated with six square rock-faced stones of about the same size that project slightly from the wall face. (Refer to Photo #5)

Alterations to the north elevation include installation of a ramp, and replacement of the original wood porch roof supports, pickets and railings with wrought iron.

**West Elevation:** The west elevation has a large, centered, gothic-arched window. The window surround construction is identical to the window at the south end. The wall covering at the gable end above the keystone is a wide, nonhistoric asbestos siding. Buttresses flank the arched window. The tops of the buttresses are at the level of the springpoint of the arch. (Refer to Photo #6) The stone caps at the tops of the buttresses are the only decorative carved stones on the building. (Refer to Photo #7)

Alterations to the west elevation include replacement of the arched window, replacement of the shingle siding with asbestos siding, and removal of the stick gable end trim.

**South Elevation:** The south elevation is identical to the north elevation, except that each bay has a window in between the buttresses, rather than a window or a door.

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED**

Alterations to the south elevation include a small building addition on the east end, and the addition of a gas-fired heating unit installed on the building exterior immediately to the west of the building addition. The addition extends from the east side of the fourth buttress from the west end to the east end of the south wall. (The corner buttress does not appear to have been altered for the addition.) It is approximately eighteen feet (running east and west) by forty feet (running north and south). Its architectural style and materials are residential and unobtrusive, and distinctly different from the style and materials of the original building. The addition is located at the building corner that is least visible from the street elevations. (Refer to Photo #8)

**Interior:** The interior of the building is simple and nearly unchanged. The sandstone walls have a painted finish. The interior side of the roof, a plank roofing underlayment, is exposed and has been left unpainted. The roof is supported by the original wood rafters and scissor trusses, which are also unpainted. Each truss has a king post that connects the ridge beam to the intersecting point of the scissor truss members. There are decorative pendils at the lower edge of the king posts that extend below the bottom edge of the lower truss chord. The pendils appear to be carved in the shape of a simple, stylized flame. (Refer to Photo #9) The original carved oak pews remain. (Refer to Photo #10) There is a raised platform, about 12 inches tall and 9'-6" deep along the entire width of the east end. A pulpit is centered on the platform. The pulpit may also be original, as it appears to date from the Victorian era. (Refer to Photo #11)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is in good condition, and it has retained a high degree of integrity.

**Alterations**

**Exterior:** On the exterior, a one story building addition of approximately eighteen feet (running east and west) by forty feet (running north and south) was constructed at the east end of the south elevation. A minor alteration, consisting of removal of a section of the south wall on the east end, was done to provide an entry into the addition. The date of construction for the addition could not be substantiated, however, from the materials used, it appears to be from the 1940's or 50's. (Refer to Photo #8) The addition is asbestos siding on a wood frame with a composition shingle roof. It is on a raised concrete block foundation, so that the finish floor and roof edge line up with those of the original building. The roof is at a low, typically residential slope (probably 5:12). There are two windows on the east elevation, two windows on either side of a pedestrian door on the west elevation, and two windows on the south elevation. The windows are wood,

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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=====

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION, CONTINUED**

single hung, and have divided lights in a 6/6 pattern. The addition is architecturally undistinguished and unobtrusive, and it is located at the least conspicuous corner of the building and building lot, in relation to the adjoining streets and the main entrance. It is set back as far as possible from both Blaine Avenue and Eighth Street. The east side is partially obscured by shrubbery and the west side is screened by large trees.

The main entry has been changed to make it accessible to the handicapped. Originally, access to the entry porch was by way of wood steps on its east side. The entry roof was supported by wood posts. A simple wood railing supported by pickets is evident on the north side of the porch between the posts. (Refer to historic photos.) Presently, there is a ramp on the east side of the entry and concrete steps on the west side. The wood posts, pickets and railing have been replaced with wrought iron posts, pickets and railings. The new posts are in roughly the same location as the original posts. The pickets and railings extend between the posts and down the north face of the ramp and steps.

The frame of the gothic arched windows on the east and west ends remains, but the original simple curved tracery windows have been replaced. (Refer to historic photos.) The east window now has three longitudinal plain panes of glass. The west window has three rectangular panes of glass below the springpoints of the arch, a horizontal division and three longitudinal plain panes of glass set in the arch. The original wood 2/2 vertical pane windows in hung sashes that flanked the Gothic window on the east side were replaced with single fixed panes.

At the gable end on the west side of the main gable and the north side of the porch roof, the wood shingle covering was removed and replaced with nonhistoric asbestos siding. It also appears that a cross and gable end trim has been removed from the west end of the main gable, and a cross above the entry has been removed. (Refer to historic photos.) A stone in the base, located in the second bay from the east end of the north side is missing. It was reported that this stone had the date of construction carved in it.

**Interior:** On the interior, a vertical board panel finish has been added in a band at the north and south walls from a point a few inches above the window heads up to the top of the roof rafters where they sit on the exterior bearing wall. Pendils at the lower ends of two of the truss king posts were removed to install ceiling fans. (Refer to Photo #9)

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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Lincoln/ Oklahoma  
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=====

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion "C", as the best example of a small, stone Gothic Revival church building in Lincoln County, Oklahoma; and Criteria Consideration "A", a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural distinction. St. Stephen's was constructed in 1899.<sup>1</sup>

St. Stephen's is located in a residential neighborhood, mostly composed of bungalows from the teens and twenties. There are no other territorial buildings in its immediate vicinity, with the exception of the First Presbyterian Church. Six churches organized soon after the opening of the Chandler town site in 1891 and constructed buildings prior to 1900. Of these six, only two remain. The older church is the First Presbyterian Church of Chandler (NR 1984), a Territorial Era Carpenter Gothic church, constructed in 1894, that is located across the street from St. Stephen's. First Presbyterian is also notable because it was one of the few buildings to survive the tornado of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1897 that demolished most of the town.<sup>2</sup> First Presbyterian, with its relatively complex cross-gabled roof and tower, wood siding, and decorative shingles, is much different in its use of materials and design than St. Stephen's. The contrast between the fanciful wood Carpenter Gothic building and the simpler and weightier stone Gothic Revival building directly across the street provides a microcosmic view of territorial era religious architecture in Oklahoma.

St. Stephen's is two blocks west of Chandler's historic downtown, which has three sandstone territorial commercial buildings. The Mascho Building (NR 1984) at 717-719 Manvel is comprised of two adjacent, Richardsonian Romanesque buildings, dating from 1897 and 1898. A third commercial style sandstone building at 907 Manvel was constructed in 1899. Despite use of the same sandstone wall material, these buildings are very different from St. Stephen's in design, location, setting, feeling and association.

St. Stephen's remains in use today because, unlike most church buildings of its size, it has not become obsolete due to either a dwindling or burgeoning congregation, or become obsolete because it became too small for its congregation. The church was owned by the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral until 1946, when it was bought by the Society of Friends. In 1959, ownership changed

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<sup>1</sup>"History of St. Stephen's Church." Early Churches in Chandler, Oklahoma (1985).

<sup>2</sup>Lincoln County, Oklahoma History Part 1, (Country Lane Press, Claremore, Oklahoma, 1988). p. 83.

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED**

to the Oklahoma Conference Corporation of the Seventh-Day Adventists.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1880's, the Episcopal Church sought to make inroads in the Missionary District that encompassed Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. Noting the "poverty, almost amounting to distress" and the "many 'queer' people...who have strange records behind them", an Episcopal missionary in the district identified it as one "where brave men find work worthy of them." The church made inroads in the Territories, despite their dissolute state. Between 1893 and 1896, church buildings increased from two to fifteen and the value of church property increased from \$2,500 to \$30,000.<sup>4</sup>

The Episcopal Church built a few Gothic style churches in Oklahoma that were similar to St. Stephen's at around the same time. These include churches in El Reno, Chelsea, Bristow, and St. Luke's in Chickasha. The church in El Reno was originally very similar, but an extensive remodelling in 1949 greatly obscured the original building. The church in Chelsea, now demolished, was also of a very similar form and size, but constructed of a more regular cut, ashlar stone. The Bristow church, also demolished, was of a very similar form and size and constructed of brick. St. Luke's in Chickasha looks identical to St. Stephen's on the interior and nearly identical on the exterior. A history of St. Luke's church provides some clues about the construction of St. Stephen's.

St. Luke's was constructed between 1899 and 1900. A member of the fledgling congregation traveled to England and "brought back with her a number of photographs of English Churches. Looking over these pictures, one especially appealed... a small rock church, low walls, steep roof, ivy covering the walls."<sup>5</sup> Grudging permission to obtain native red sandstone from a quarry in Indian Territory was granted, and construction began. "[P]lans had been borrowed from the Church in El Reno; they were to be used in conjunction with the picture of the old English Church which had been decided upon." The church "was to measure 30 by 50 feet, allowing ample room for later additions; walls were to be 18 inches in thickness and 12 feet in height, supported by buttresses; a high steep roof and large windows in both east and west ends; the Church was to conform to old

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<sup>3</sup>Lincoln County News (Thursday, October 21, 1982), p. 6.

<sup>4</sup>The Missionary District of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, p. 15.

<sup>5</sup>"Visions," History of St. Luke's Church (August, 1931): Chapter IV.

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTINUED**

Gothic architecture..."<sup>6</sup> A photograph of the interior at St. Luke's also shows that the truss design is the same as at St. Stephen's. (The truss design of the El Reno church, which was constructed in 1894, is similar but not as refined as that of St. Stephen's and St. Luke's.) The similarity between the two churches is striking, and it is probable that the design of St. Luke's was strongly influenced by the design of St. Stephen's, since the construction of St. Stephen's was substantially complete by November of 1899<sup>7</sup> and the construction of St. Luke's did not begin until the Fall of 1899. (It is likely that the plans that had been borrowed from El Reno by St. Luke's may also have been borrowed by St. Stephen's. In fact, the popularity of this church design may have been a contributing factor in the absconding of the contractor with St. Luke's set of plans before its construction was completed.)<sup>8</sup>

The St. Stephen's Episcopal Church building is an excellent example of Late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical masonry architecture from Oklahoma's Territorial Era. The original structure is, largely, intact and still being used as a church. Modifications to the building have not obscured the original design; it retains a high degree of its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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<sup>6</sup>"Trials," History of St. Luke's Church (August, 1931): Chapter VI.

<sup>7</sup>The Chandler Publicist (November 3, 1899).

<sup>8</sup>"Trials," History of St. Luke's Church (August, 1931): Chapter VI.

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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**Bibliography**

The Chandler Publicist, Chandler, Oklahoma, 3 November 1899.

Reverend Keppel W. Hill. History of St. Luke's Church. Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1931.

Early Churches in Chandler, Oklahoma, 1985. Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Lincoln County, Oklahoma History Part 1. Claremore, Oklahoma: Country Lane Press, 1988.

Lincoln County News, Chandler, Oklahoma 21 October 1982.

Right Reverend Francis Key Brooke, D.D. The Missionary District of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The North 90 feet of Lots 11 and 12 in block 47 in the original City of Chandler.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary described above is the property historically associated with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Chandler, Oklahoma.