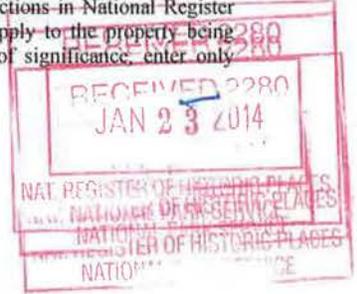


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Methodist Episcopal Church

Other names/site number: Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 518 E. Houston St.

City or town: Muskogee State: Oklahoma County: Muskogee

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	<u>1/21/14</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*For Edwin B. Beall*

Signature of the Keeper

*3/11/14*

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/Religions Facility

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Located at 518 E. Houston Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, the First Methodist Episcopal Church is a two-and-a-half-story, detached, brick Classical Revival-style building with a full-height, eight-column portico, cross-gabled roof, limestone window and door crowns and labels, and octagonal cupola rising from the roof. It has a bay window, also typical of Classical style. The roofing was originally terra cotta but was replaced with composition at an unknown date. Doors are not original. All windows are original, and more than fifty of them are of stained glass, one of the building's defining visual characteristics other than its porticoed temple front. The surrounding area was and is residential. The First Methodist Episcopal Church retains an intact integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship to enable it to reflect the feeling and association of its past and secure its place in Muskogee's architectural history. Therefore, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, for Architecture.

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## Narrative Description

The First Methodist Episcopal Church (after 1939 known as Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church and now Trinity United Methodist Church) is a detached, reddish-brown brick, Classical Revival-style building. The building is located in a residential neighborhood that has remained so since the church's construction in 1911. In height it is two stories over a raised basement. Measuring approximately 70 feet east-west and 110 feet north-south, the building is rectangular in plan. The roof is cross-gabled with low to moderate pitch, boxed eaves, and a moderate overhang. There is a flat-roofed section on the northwest. The roof is covered by brown composition shingles, which replaced terra cotta tiles at an unknown date.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture, as an excellent example of Classical Revival style. The building possesses characteristics of that style not found in other Classical Revival buildings of Muskogee. Popular in the United States from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century,

Classical limestone detailing is also visually prominent. It is wide and heavy, making it very obvious. At the main entry, the three doorways have semi-circular, arched stone labels. Around the building is a water table, placed about a foot and a half beneath the first-floor windows and at the head of the basement window openings. A similar stone band is placed at the foot of the wall all around. On all elevations the window sills and crowns are also stone. In the east, west, and south elevations are circular openings with stone surrounds and four keystones. These appear to have been either windows or vents but were filled in with a slightly lighter colored brick at some point.

Along the west side, there are two other roof styles. The south end has a two and a half story bay window that fronts on the south. The bay window section has a gabled roof with a semicircular front. At the rear of the west side (and west end of the north side) the roof is flat. The design of this side of the building clearly indicates the utilitarian nature of many of the rooms as office/meeting areas.

An important distinguishing visual feature is the building's 53 thematic "stained-glass" windows. Except for three that are lunette-style transoms above the main entry doors, these are rectangular and have removable single-piece plexiglass "storm" windows for protection from vandals. All are set with opalescent glass and placed in both first-and second-floor windows in all four elevations, though the majority are in the south, east, and north, facing the public. The windows depict a variety of subjects: doctrinal concepts, New Testament references and parables and Methodist organizations and personages. They include, for example, The Lost Sheep, Let the Children Come, The Sower, and The Reaper; Moses, Jesus, Mary, Martha; the Epworth League, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society; John Wesley and Frances E. Willard. Some have only objects or flowers. These and other windows are of two types: fixed, and single-hung, and are of two sizes, with smaller fixed units appearing in the upper floor. The basement windows have clear glass and are uniformly a smaller size than those in the upper floors.

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#### South elevation:

The south elevation, facing Houston Street, has two sections: a full-height, pedimented portico, with a moderate pitch, rising from broad steps that lead up from the street to the main entry doors; The other is a full-height bay window section on the west. Without its bay window section, the south elevation would be a simple temple front form. The concrete steps that lead up from the street are as wide as the portico itself. A simple metal rail, apparently original, divides the steps in the middle. The portico, which extends approximately nine feet out from the main wall of the building, is supported by four pairs of round Ionic columns on brick bases. These create visual bays, between each of which is a doorway on the first floor and a single window on the second. Above the portico is an entablature on which are the words "THE TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH." Centered in the gable is a Palladian window of three units, divided by small engaged columns that have Ionic capitals. The units in the Palladian are all single-hung and have stained glass. In this elevation, viewed from a slight angle, one may see the cupola rising from the roof.

Beside the temple front, to its west, is the bay window section. There are three windows in each floor---basement, first, and second. The basement windows are single-hung 1x1 clear glass. In the first floor are two narrow, single-hung units flanking a fixed unit; these are stained glass. The second floor window units mirror the first but are slightly smaller; they are also stained glass.

There are other decorative elements in this elevation. The pediment and bay window have a broad cornice. The southwest and southeast corners of the building have quoins of brick. The window crowns and sills are continuous in the second floor, and in the first floor the crowns are separate but the sills are continuous.

The three pairs of doors (not original) under the portico are aluminum-framed units with slab glass. The original wood doors were replaced at an unknown date. There is a metal downspout at the southwest corner.

#### East elevation:

The east elevation parallels F Street and provides two secondary entrances to the building. Here, the octagonal cupola at the intersection of the gables makes its the first impression. This elevation is clearly in two sections, with the south section being the sanctuary. Here, under a moderate-pitch gable, is a Palladian window set with size, style, and glazing identical to the one in the south elevation. The sanctuary section is marked off by quoined brickwork at each corner.

This elevation is visually distinguished by its numerous, regularly placed stained-glass windows, all the same size and all single-hung. In the first and second floors of the south, or sanctuary, section there are four: a single-hung unit on each end flanks two fixed units. Near the south corner is a basement entry. Its two steel-slab doors are sheltered by a metal "carport" type cover, date of addition unknown. The roof of the cover partly obscures the east face of the cornerstone. Beside this entry is one fixed clear-glass window. The building's original 1911 marble cornerstone resides in the southeast corner. It says simply "FIRST METHODIST

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH/1911" on the south side and "ORIGINALLY 1906 ERECTED 1911" on the east side.

The north section of the east elevation has a prominent entryway. It is accessed by concrete steps up from the sidewalk and by an accessibility ramp that extends to the corner and around the north elevation to an eight-foot-by-nine-foot original porch cover supported by brick columns that have an arched opening on south and east and a flat header on the north. The single door, accessing the first floor, is an aluminum-framed glass-slab unit, date of addition unknown. Above the porch is another single-hung stained glass window. To the north of this, the wall has three single-hung stained-glass windows on each floor. Below them, three basement windows on this end of the east elevation were filled in with brick when the ramp was built in 1981. Both ramp and stairs have a metal railing. A carved granite plaque is set in this wall near the northeast corner. In 2006 the Muskogee Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, placed it there to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the congregation's establishment. This side of the building has metal downspouts at the corner and in the center.

North elevation:

The "rear" of the building is on the north, next to a parking area on an adjacent lot. This elevation is in two sections. The east section (toward F Street) has the gable end, with a bricked-up circular, limestone-bordered and keystone opening in the gable. Once again, this elevation is visually pleasing because of its numerous single-hung, stained-glass windows. Beneath the gable, both first and second floors are identical in openings. Moving east to west, there is a single such unit followed by three pairs of them. In this section, three basement window openings were bricked up when the ramp was constructed, two others units have wood panels instead of glass, and two other openings are filled with wood panels. From this vantage point, a square brick chimney is visible, rising from the gable roof. It has a white cornice.

The west section of the north wall has a flat roof. At the level of the first floor, a metal slab door is accessed by new metal stairs. The door leads inside to a kitchen area. Beside the door is a single window unit, and above is a smaller, fixed unit. Both are stained glass. Two basement window openings on this end have been filled with wood panels.

Other objects outside the building near the north elevation and within the resource boundary are not being counted as noncontributing resources. Two air conditioner compressors sit inside a chain-link enclosure, another such fence protects a metal storage building, and a third fenced area has playground equipment. A sidewalk separates this area from the building.

West elevation:

The west elevation is in three sections. In the south section is the side wall of the bay window area. It has a fixed, stained-glass window in each floor; the second-floor unit is smaller. The basement window is single-hung with clear glass in 3x1 pattern.

North of that is center section, under the gable, which has a bricked-up circular limestone-bordered opening up in the gable. There are three clear-glass single-hung 1x1 windows in the

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basement level. Above are two clear-glass 1x1 single-hung units in the first floor (lighting the organ chamber and choir loft, and one 1x1 single-hung clear-glass unit between floors (lighting a staircase). A side entry in this wall has a metal-framed slab-glass door. A metal "carport style" cover provides shelter for the sidewalk from this door to the adjacent Education Building's covered porch. The cover rests on posts and is not fixed to the wall of the church building. The Education Building is located approximately thirty feet west of the church building. The walkway cover is not counted as a noncontributing resource and does not constitute an addition to the 1911 building.

The north section of the west elevation also has regularly placed windows. Moving south from the entryway to north (rear), there are five 1x1 opaque-glass windows in the basement. Above, on each floor are a pair of single-hung units followed by three single-hung units. These all have stained glass. One of the first-floor windows has an air conditioning unit.

This side of the building has metal downspouts and various electrical conduits feeding a light fixture, none original. A chain-link fence on each end of the building, running across to the adjacent Education Building, protects this area from stray pedestrians.

#### Interior:

The building's interior has three levels, except in the sanctuary, which is two stories in height. Inside on the first floor, there is a large foyer that is as wide as the portico. It accesses the sanctuary via two doors. Facing north when one enters the sanctuary, on the left (west) are a small "parlor" that is inside the bay-window area, and the choir loft, behind which is the organ room. The organ is on this side of the room. Arranged around the outside of the area are various other rooms, including the foyer inside the F Street entry, a small chapel (originally a nursery), two library rooms, a meeting room, and a small room where ceremonial material is kept.

On the second floor, the room arrangement mirrors that of the first, with the exception of a wide balcony that wraps around the south, east, and north sides, providing additional seating. The balcony extends out over the first-floor seating.

The basement has a large meeting area in the center and one on the north end. There are mechanical rooms. Along the west wall are a kitchen, a meeting room, a work room, and an office.

Two signs sit on the ground outside the south elevation out from the southeast and southwest corners of the building. These are not counted as noncontributing resources.

#### Alterations:

There have been alterations to the First Methodist/Trinity Methodist Church building's exterior. The cupola windows were originally diamond panes, according to photos, and they were changed to stained glass in 1981. The circular openings in the north and west gable ends may have been either windows or vents but were filled in with a slightly lighter colored brick at an unknown date. Five of the exterior door units are metal framed with slab glass, and one door is a metal slab. None are original and were added at an unknown date. In 1981 a ramp was built

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around north end of east side and halfway along the north elevation. Basement windows on two sides were filled with wood panels at an unknown date.

The roofing material was changed at an unknown date (but probably before 1995<sup>1</sup>) and composition shingles replaced original terra cotta. However, because the roof pitch is low to moderate, the roof is not visible to a viewer who stands directly across the street from the principal/south (Houston Street) elevation or in the parking lot near the rear (north) elevation. An east-side windshield or sidewalk view from F Street shows the moderate roof pitch, and from that angle the windows, not the roof are the most prominent visual element.<sup>2</sup> The building's defining Classical decorative features draw attention away from the roofing, when viewed at close or medium range. The roofing material is not the defining visual element of the First Methodist Episcopal Church building, and therefore, the change to it does not greatly impact the building's feeling, or visual integrity.

Interior alterations have been several. These came about at various times, in 1921, 1928, 1939, 1947, 1962, 1975, 1982, 1990, and 1999, resulting in extensive changes to room purposes and finishes in the sanctuary and basement, though the plan remains much as original. A nursery became a chapel, the choir loft was enlarged, a restroom was added, original chandeliers were removed and ceiling fans installed, and so forth.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church/Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church retains an intact integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship to enable it to reflect the feeling and association of its past and secure its place in Muskogee's architectural history. Therefore, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, for Architecture.

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<sup>1</sup> The year 1995 is suggested by GoogleEarth views.

<sup>2</sup> For viewing, open web browser, log on to GoogleMaps (street view), and search for "518 Houston Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma." This allows a windshield view on Houston and F streets. See also historic 1955 photo on page 60 of Tyrell's *Trinity United Methodist Church, 1906-2006: A Church History* (2006).

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## 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1911

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1911

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

ARCHITECT: J. W. Gaddis

BUILDER: McKee Construction Co.

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The First Methodist Episcopal Church/Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1911 at 518 E. Houston Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, maintains sufficient integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, and association to be eligible for the national Register under Criterion C, Architecture. Sited in a residential neighborhood, the building incorporates most of the elements of Classical Revival style: a temple-front principal façade, a bay window, several typical window types, Classical decorative elements. An added feature is its huge assortment of stained-glass windows. Unique for its architectural detailing among its set of four non-domestic comparable properties in Muskogee, it is an excellent representation of the Classical Revival style in a small town.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Muskogee, Oklahoma, located at 518 East Houston Street, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture, as an excellent example of Classical Revival style. The building possesses characteristics of that style not found in other Classical Revival buildings of Muskogee. Popular in the United States from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, Classical Revival style is distinguished by its two-story height, with a full-height portico that dominates the main elevation. The portico usually has round columns with Ionic or Corinthian capitals. In general, the placement of openings in the principal elevation is symmetrical. The “type” that most appropriately describes the First Methodist Episcopal Church, according to McAlester and McAlester, is the “full height entry porch” type, in which the porch extends the full height of the building but not across its full width. The First Methodist Episcopal Church fits into this subtype, with its Classical pediment and gabled roof. However, it has a cross-gabled roof, which gives it a front gable, allowing for a “temple front” appearance. Other characteristics of the type are a boxed eave with moderate overhang, rectangular windows, and sometimes triple and/or Palladian windows or bay windows.<sup>1</sup> The design of the Methodist building includes all of these characteristics, with the addition of more than fifty examples of figural stained glass.

The congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, established 1906, purchased a lot at the corner of Houston and F streets in their first few years and erected a wood-framed church building on it. In 1911 the trustees acted upon the congregation’s desire for a more elaborate meeting place. A building committee ordered the original church moved, selected J. W. Gaddis,

<sup>1</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1989), 343-44.

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of Vincennes, Indiana, as the architect and in late January solicited construction proposals. A bid by McKee Construction Company of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Springfield, Illinois, was selected in March, and by April the lot had been cleared and excavation begun.<sup>2</sup>

Construction began in May but lagged through the summer. The trustees and congregation placed a marble cornerstone in the southwest corner on July 11, 1911 and expected rapid progress. An anticipated date of completion in October 1911 was clearly not viable, due to delays and an unfortunate lawsuit with the construction contractor. Much of the interior was not yet complete when the premises were occupied. The first services were held on Sunday, January 14, 1912, and the building was dedicated on March 16.<sup>3</sup> Attending the dedication, the reporter from the *Daily Phoenix* marveled at what he described as “one of the most beautiful and largest buildings in Muskogee,” and his rival at the *Times-Democrat* extolled “Muskogee’s largest church . . . [and] magnificent edifice.”<sup>4</sup> Clearly, the congregation’s contemporary citizens judged the Methodists’ new home to be a significant addition to the town’s complement of church buildings, and so it remains.

The new house of worship was an expensive project. The exterior detailing was limestone from Carthage, Missouri, provided by the Carthage Cut Stone Company for \$1,593. The church’s polished interior complemented its magnificent exterior. The numerous stained-glass windows, a significant architectural element for the new building, were produced by Kansas City Stained Glass works for \$619, and the special glass medallions inserted in them cost \$923 additional. The interior beams were ornamentally plastered and painted in the auditorium area. The lighting effect from the windows and from a centrally placed cupola rising from the sanctuary auditorium was ethereal. The building’s construction per se cost \$23,294, paid to the McKee company. Later additions included an organ, added in 1921.<sup>5</sup>

The Congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church has consistently occupied and used the premises since its erection in 1911. Changes over time to the exterior have been to protect the stained glass from vandals, provide handicapped access, and replace the roofing material. The interior finishes have been worked over a number of times, but the building remains intact as to the floor plans.

#### Criteria Considerations:

The First Methodist Episcopal/Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church is owned by and used by a religious organization, therefore meeting Criteria Consideration A. The property derives its primary significance from its architectural significance Criterion C, Architecture, because it is represents an architectural style that is little represented in Muskogee. It is eligible under Criterion C as one of four Classical Revival buildings of an

<sup>2</sup> Ken Tyrell, comp., *Trinity United Methodist Church, 1906-2006: A Church History* (Muskogee: Trinity United Methodist Church, 2006), 3; *Muskogee Daily Phoenix*, 23 April 1911; *Muskogee Times Democrat*, 18 March 1912; C. Nicky Blackford, *An Humble Outpost of Methodism* (Muskogee: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1981), 12.

<sup>3</sup> *Muskogee Daily Phoenix*, 9 and 30 July 1911, 20 August 1911, 10 January 1912, 20 February 1912, 16 and 20 March 1912.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 20 March 1912; *Muskogee Times-Democrat*, 18 March 1912.

<sup>5</sup> Tyrell, *Trinity United Methodist Church*, 4-5, 9.

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appropriate historic age. It differs from the other three in several of its Classical details, including its temple front, its bay window, and its octagonal cupola, and it is also distinguished from them by its fifty-plus custom-made stained-glass windows.

#### Comparable Classical Revival Properties in Muskogee, Oklahoma:

A 1997-98 preservation survey of the downtown area identified Muskogee's Masonic Temple as one of four non-domestic examples of buildings designed with Classical Revival-style exteriors.<sup>6</sup> Each of these buildings is significantly different from the other but not all are pristine on the exterior. All were deemed National Register eligible.

Erected in 1913, the original Muskogee Public Library (401 E. Broadway St.), is a red brick building designated in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory as Classical Revival, but it has significant Beaux Arts details, including a swag-like pediment with shields and carved floral decorations over the main entry. The library is 2.5 stories and has a full-height entry of engaged Doric (rounded) pilasters. The door surround is limestone with a dentiled ogee pediment over the door. The limestone elaboration includes a broad cornice, belt courses, lintels, sills, inset panels, and other details. The building is not a pure example of Classical Revival.

Muskogee Municipal Building (229-231 West Okmulgee Avenue) is a combination Classical Revival and Modern Movement/Art Deco edifice built in 1925. The north elevation, or "office section" presents a red-brick "enframed block" with Deco-style up-stepped wings and decorative elements flanking a Classical Revival central section with a slightly recessed Classical portico over three main entrance doors. The west or "arena" elevation is almost entirely characterized by restrained Art Deco ornamentation, though each of the main elevations has elements of both styles. The Municipal Building has retained excellent integrity in most aspects.

The 1925 Masonic Temple, at 121 S. Sixth Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is a monumental, two-story (over raised basement), detached, flat- and gable-roofed Classical Revival "central block with wings." It is clad in gray limestone and has steel window and door units, primarily at the basement level. The most prominent features are a Classical portico on the east elevation, a detailed entablature, and a gabled, temple-like projection from the flat roof in the center of the building. The building's defining visual feature is its Classical symmetry. All materials are original, and the exterior, and most of the interior, are virtually pristine.

By comparison, these three buildings are considerably different from the First Methodist Episcopal Church, though all fall under the general architectural rubric of Classical Revival. The First Methodist Episcopal Church/Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, with its sufficient integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, is unique for its architectural detailing among its set of non-domestic comparable properties in Muskogee. It combines Classical Revival---a temple-front principal façade, Classical decorative elements, and a huge assortment of stained-glass windows---with a late-nineteenth-century style bay window. As a unique representation of the Classical Revival in a small town, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture.

<sup>6</sup> Brad Bays et al., "Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of Muskogee, Project No. 40-97-12040.013," Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office 1998, 47.

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Additional Developmental Context:

Muskogee, Oklahoma, established in 1872 in the Creek Nation, has always been a center of population as well as government, economic, and transportation activities in Eastern Oklahoma. Early on, it was the seat of the administration of justice in the Indian Nations. By the time of statehood it was the second-largest town in Indian Territory. The town incorporated in 1898 and after that time maintained a formal city government. From a population of slightly more than 4,000 in 1900, oil booms and other fortunate economic occurrences raised it to a population of 32,000 by 1920 and by 1940, to 32,000.<sup>7</sup> From the beginning of the twentieth century most of the nation's Protestant denominations were present in the town, as were Roman Catholic and Jewish houses of worship.<sup>8</sup>

The nominated resource has had various official names through time. As previously mentioned, the First Methodist Episcopal Church congregation formed in 1906 under the aegis of the Methodist Episcopal Church (North) at the nominated resource's present location, which is on east of downtown Muskogee. (The Methodist Episcopal Church, South had a church in Muskogee also). Methodists living on the west side wanted their own church, and Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (North) was organized in 1908. In 1917 the two churches merged as First Methodist Episcopal (North). Because of the 1939 union of the northern and southern branches of Methodism and the Methodist Protestant Church into the Methodist Church, the name changed to Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church; this was done also to avoid confusion with another First Methodist Episcopal Church (South), which remained as "First Methodist." After the national Methodist Church became the United Methodist Church, the nominated resource has been called "Trinity United Methodist Church," according to published histories of the congregation.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Wallace F. Waits, Jr., "Muskogee," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, ed. Dianna Everett et al (Oklahoma City: OHS, 2009), 995-96.

<sup>8</sup> See Moore's *Muskogee Directory*, 1909, page 475, for names and locations. See also Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1912, 1912/1951.

<sup>9</sup> Tyrell, 46-47; Blackford, 40; see also Christina Wolf, "Methodists," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, 939-41. Name changes may also be tracked in the *Polk City Directories of Muskogee*.

First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Bays, Brad, et al. "Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of Muskogee, Project No. 40-97-12040.013." Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. 1998.
- Blackford, C. Nicky. *An Humble Outpost of Methodism*. Muskogee: Trinity United Methodist Church, 1981.
- Muskogee Daily Phoenix*. 1911-1912.
- R. L. Polk and Co. *Directory of Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1910-1912*. Var.: R. L. Polk and Company, var. dates.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1912, 1912/1951.
- Tyrell, Ken, comp. *Trinity United Methodist Church, 1906-2006: A Church History*. Muskogee: Trinity United Methodist Church, 2006.
- Wolf, Christina. "Methodists," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*. Ed. Dianna Everett et al. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 2009.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** Less than one (1) acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.753748 | Longitude: -95.358541 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

#### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot 5 (Block 48, Muskogee Old Town), proceed North for 173 feet in a northerly direction along the east line of Lot 5 (along F Street); turn West; proceed in a westerly direction for 107 feet along the west edge of a paved parking lot and into Lot 6; turn South; proceed in a southerly direction for 173 feet to the South line of Lot 6; turn East; proceed in an easterly direction along the South line of Lot 6 and continue East into and along the South line of Lot 5 to the point of beginning, having described an enclosed rectangle measuring 173 by 107 feet.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Because both Lots 5 and 6 are rhomboid (no two sides equal), the boundary crosses part of both lots in order to describe an enclosed rectangle that includes all of the First Methodist Episcopal Church building but only the area originally and historically ascribed to its use.

First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dianna Everett, Consultant to the City of Muskogee Planning Office  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 2510 Countrywood Lane  
city or town: Edmond state: Oklahoma zip code: 73012-6433  
e-mail weaver225@cox.net  
telephone: 405/348-4679  
date: July 15, 2013

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma  
County and State

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: First Methodist Episcopal Church

City or Vicinity: Muskogee

County: Muskogee State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Dianna Everett

Date Photographed: May 7-8, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 4.

Photo 1: South elevation, camera facing north

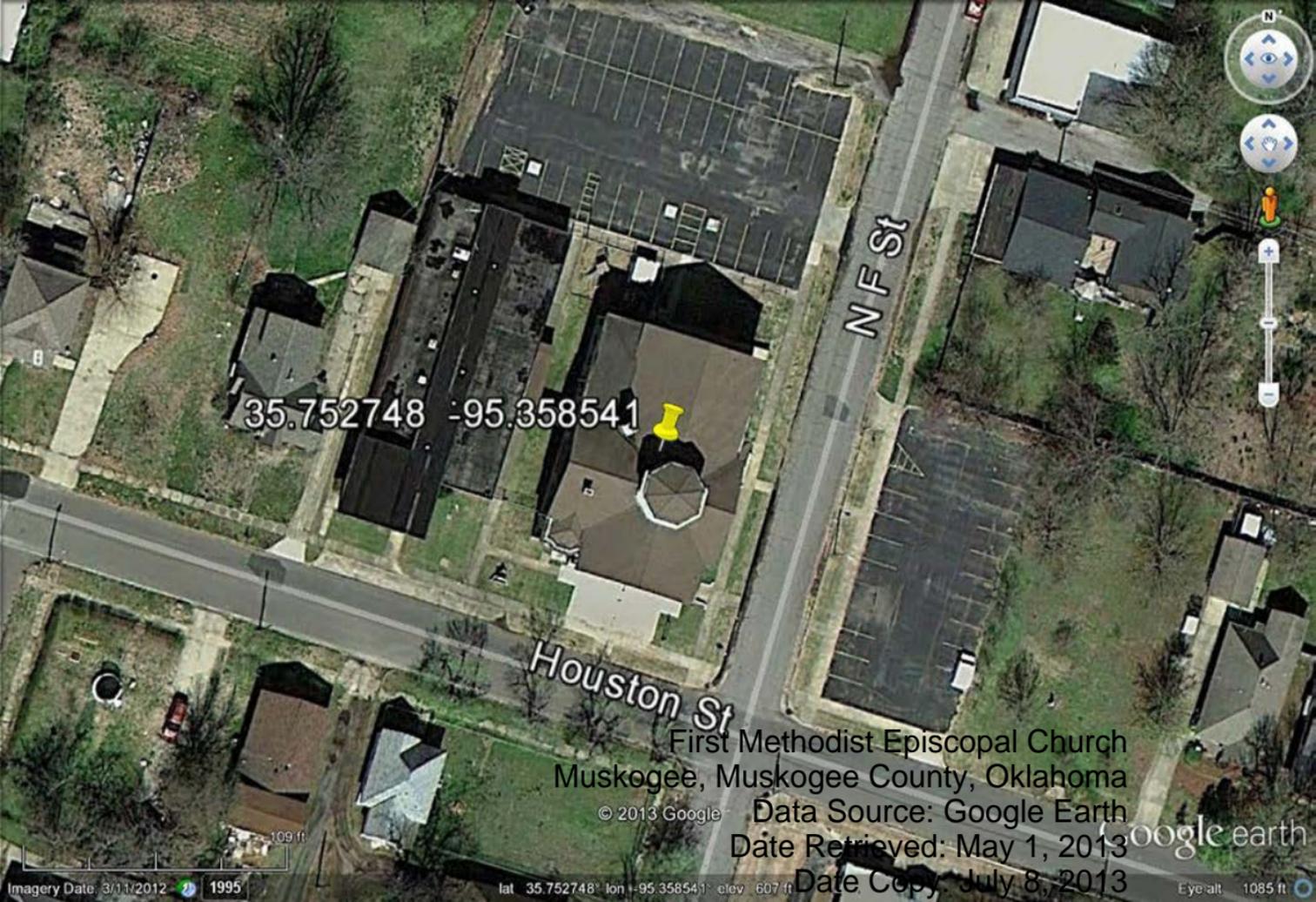
Photo 2: East elevation, camera facing southwest

Photo 3: North elevation, camera facing south

Photo 4: West elevation, camera facing northeast

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



35.752748 -95.358541



NF St

Houston St

First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Muskogee, Muskogee County, Oklahoma

© 2013 Google

Data Source: Google Earth

Date Retrieved: May 1, 2013

Date Copy: July 8, 2013

google earth

Imagery Date: 3/11/2012 1995

lat 35.752748 lon -95.358541 elev 607 ft

Eye alt 1085 ft



THE TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

TRINITY  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH







TRINITY  
METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30  
MORNING WORSHIP 10:45

THERE'S ALWAYS  
A 2<sup>ND</sup> CHANCE  
WITH GOD...  
ALWAYS

FATHER - SON - HOLY SPIRIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Methodist Episcopal Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OKLAHOMA, Muskogee

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/24/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/11/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/11/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000052

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3.11.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



# Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

## State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7917  
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • [www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm](http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm)

January 23, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper of the Register  
National Park Service 2280, 8th floor  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to transmit five National Register of Historic Places nominations for Oklahoma properties. The nominations are for the following properties:

Logan Apartments, 720 West Boyd Street, Norman, Cleveland County  
Beattie's Prairie, Address Restricted, Delaware County  
First Methodist Episcopal Church, 518 East Houston Street, Muskogee, Muskogee County  
Masonic Temple, 121 South Sixth, Muskogee, Muskogee County  
Woodward Park and Gardens Historic District, 2101 South Peoria Avenue, Tulsa, Tulsa County  
Washington County Memorial Hospital, 412 Southeast Frank Phillips Boulevard, Bartlesville, Washington County

The member of the Historic Preservation Review Committee (state review board), professionally qualified in the fields of architecture was absent from the public meeting at which each of these nominations was considered and the recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Officer was formulated. However, the member possessing the requisite professional qualifications for evaluation of each nominated property was present and participated in the recommendation's formulation.

We look forward to the results of your review. If there may be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Lynda S. Ozan of my staff or myself.

Sincerely,

  
Melvena Heisch  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer

MKH:iso  
Enclosures

# CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT

Note: This report shall be completed for each nomination to the National Register of Historic Places submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. Each item must be completed. The report form shall be attached to the complete National Register nomination. All comments received from the owner and others must also accompany the report.

1. Name of Nominated Property: First Methodist Episcopal Church  
Location (Street Address): 518 E. Houston St.  
City: Muskogee  
State: Oklahoma  
County: Muskogee

2. CLG Reporting: City of Muskogee  
Contact Person: Tish Callahan  
Title: Assistant City Planner  
Address: PO Box 1927  
Muskogee, OK 74402  
Telephone: 618-684-6232

3. a. Date CLG received the nomination(s): 10-2-2013  
b. Date Property Owner(s) notified: 10-15-2013  
c. Date of Public Hearing (if appropriate): 11-19-2013  
d. Date nomination considered  
by local review commission: 11-19-2013  
e. Date nomination submitted to SHPO: 12-9-2013

4. Recommendations of the CLG (check appropriate item):

The chief elected local official and the local review commission agree that the property is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The chief elected local official and the local review commission agree that the property is not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The chief elected local official considers the property eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, but the local review commission disagrees.

The local review commission considers the property eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, but the chief elected local official disagrees.

5. Owner(s) Response (check appropriate item):

- ✓ The owner (majority of owners) consent to listing of the nominated property in the National Register of Historic Places.

The owner (majority of owners) object to listing of the nominated property in the National Register of Historic Places.

(Additional comments should appear in this area)

The owners consent to listing of the nominated property in the National Register of Historic Places.

6. Local Review Commission's Statement of Opinion:

The Local Review Commission considers the property

✓ Eligible

Not Eligible

For nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

The City of Muskogee Historic Preservation Commission considers the property to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places due to its architectural significance of the Classical Revival style. It also is eligible due to it being owned by and being used by a religious organization.



Signature of Chairman

Joel E. Pete Carson

Printed Name

12-9-2013

Date

6. Chief Elected Local Official's Statement of Opinion:

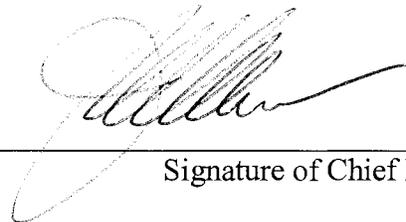
The Chief Elected Local Official considers the property

✓ Eligible

Not Eligible

For nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

The City of Muskogee Historic Preservation Commission considers the property to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places due to its architectural significance of the Classical Revival style. It also is eligible due to it being owned by and being used by a religious organization.



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Signature of Chief Elected Local Official

John Robert Coburn, Mayor

---

Printed Name

12-9-2013

---

Date

\*Add additional pages if necessary