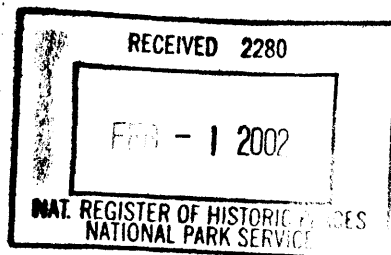


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

175



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name First Presbyterian Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 124 West Broadway not for publication N/A
city or town Waurika vicinity N/A
state Oklahoma code OK county Jefferson code 067
zip code 73573

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. (N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

1-24-02
Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature: Edson H. Beall] 3-13-02

other (explain): _____

[Signature]
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>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

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: GOVERNMENT Sub: _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Side-Tower Church

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof ASPHALT

walls BRICK

other WOOD:shingle

METAL:iron

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 1908-1909

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

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
 N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Berry, J.C., architect
 Osborn, J.B., contractor

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: Chisholm Trail Historical Museum

=====
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	591990	3780700	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 Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for the city of Waurika

organization Savage Consulting date October 2001

street & number Rt. 1, Box 116 telephone 405/459-6200

city or town Pocasset state OK zip code 73079

=====
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 City of Waurika
street & number 122 S. Main Street telephone 580/228-2713
city or town Waurika state OK zip code 73573-3054

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

SUMMARY

The First Presbyterian Church of Waurika, Jefferson County, is a brick, one-story, side-tower building which features wood shingles, painted green, in the gable ends and on the tower. Modest references to the Prairie School style include the wide, overhanging, boxed eaves. The front-gabled roof is nonhistorically asphalt-covered with an historic metal roof on the tower. The wood windows are hung with the windows on the front being fifty-six-over-one, the side windows being fifty-six-over-four and the back windows one-over-one. There is also a triple window on the facade which consists of two twenty-one-over-one windows flanking a thirty-five-over-one window. This window is topped by a two-pane transom window. The historic wood doors are narrow, double, wood, paneled. In addition to the front entrance, there is a side entrance on the west elevation with matching doors. Both doors are topped by a transom, the main door being twenty-eight pane and the side door being forty-two pane. A relatively simple building, the church is ornamented by the green wood shingles, gable returns, multi-pane windows, the wide, painted, brick band along the top of the windows and the narrow brick buttresses systematically placed around the building. Despite the latent Prairie School stylistic features of the building, the side tower stands out as the defining element of the church.

Although the building has not functioned as a church since the late 1980s, it retains a high degree of integrity, both on the interior and exterior. Currently, the church is owned and used by the city of Waurika. While the sanctuary remains remarkably intact, the city uses the nonoriginal classrooms in the south end of the building as offices. The only alterations to the building have been minor. Prior to 1959, the original metal roof was replaced with an asphalt roof. The projection on the roof of the rear brick chimney was also removed, probably at the same time. Additionally, the three classrooms now used as office space for the Waurika Chamber of Commerce were added to the south side of the interior, also prior to 1959. More recent alterations are confined to the replacement of a couple of bottom panes of glass on the east side. The city is planning to put a new roof on in the near future as the existing roof is badly deteriorated. Additionally, the building is in need of other maintenance work, including repointing.

Not attached to the building, the city has placed two signs in front of the building since acquiring ownership. A permanent wooden sign is located on the corner in front of the building indicating the status of the building as location of the Waurika Chamber of Commerce. A temporary metal sign has been recently put on the side of the tower on the south elevation related to the receipt of Community Development funds. Due to their scale and location, neither sign has a notable impact on the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
Located one block off of Main Street, the setting is predominately commercial. Across the street to the south is the historic United States Post Office building which continues to function as the town post office. To the east is the historic central business district which remains as the town's commercial center. To the west, there are a few commercial buildings with a lumberyard located northwest of the church. Although the date of construction of the current buildings are unknown, historically, a lumber company was located on the entire block northwest of the church.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church is classified as a side-tower church. Although this categorization does not address the stylistic features of the building, it is representative of the building type which is dominant. This type of church is typical of religious architecture constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century in Oklahoma. Within Waurika in 1909, the Methodist, Baptist and Christian churches were similar in type, although all of these buildings were frame and none remain extant in their historical form.

Stylistically, the church exhibits influences from the Prairie School style. Characteristics of the Prairie School style evident on the First Presbyterian Church include the use of contrasting wall material which emphasizes the upper portion of the building; a prominent horizontal banding provided by the painted white brick belt course above the windows; the wide, flared eaves which are boxed; and, the dramatically multi-paned windows with fifty-six-over-four being the prevalent window. Although the multitudinous use of shingles in the gable ends bring to mind the Late Victorian Shingle style, the church is more evocative of the Prairie School style. Further distancing the church from the Shingle style is the fact that the original roof material was metal and not wood shingle.

The red brick, one-story building has a front-gabled roof and a red brick foundation. The north and south elevations feature wood shingles, painted green, in the gable ends. The tower, located on the southwest side, is also clad with wood shingles along the upper walls. The west and east elevations do not have any wood shingles. Except for the back windows, the wood, hung windows have a multi-paned upper section over a four-pane or single pane. The back windows are wood, one-over-one, hung. All of the windows have a narrow, slightly projected, concrete sill. Encircling the entire building above the windows is a wide belt course of painted brick. The uppermost course of the painted brick is laid in a projected header row. Between each window and at the corners of the building are narrow, stepped, false brick buttresses. Along the lower wall there is a concrete water table around the entire building. The water table shifts from ground level on the east elevation to slightly above on

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

the other elevations. The building is nicely landscaped with various bushes and shrubs on all elevations.

The south elevation is the primary elevation, facing onto Broadway. On the west corner of the south elevation is located the prominent entrance tower. On the lower west side of the tower is the stone cornerstone laid in 1908 by the Masonic lodge. Both sides of the cornerstone are inscribed with "First/Presb/Church/1908". Above the cornerstone on each side are the tops of the narrow, brick, false buttresses that occur around the building. A buttress is located on each corner of the tower. The above grade entrance is accessed via a short flight of concrete steps with a simple, metal handrail on the east side. The entry consists of two narrow, wood paneled doors topped by a twenty-eight pane transom. Above this, the tower is ornamented with painted green shingles. Centrally located in this area is a white, wood, paneled piece which breaks up the monotony of the shingles. These white panels are only located on the south and west sides of the tower. Of the other two sides, the east side is nearly obscured by the principal roof and the north upper tower wall is completely covered with the wood shingles. Above the green shingles, the tower features a narrow wood cornice topped by a pyramidal metal roof with wide boxed eaves.

To the east of the tower, the south elevation features two single windows flanking a triple window with a two-pane transom window. The flanking windows are wood, fifty-six-over-one, hung. The center window consists of two narrow, wood, twenty-one-over-one, hung windows flanking a larger, wood, thirty-five-over-one, hung window. Separating the triple window from the flanking windows are narrow, brick, false buttresses. A buttress is located between each window with additional ones located by the east window and on the east corner. Located in the corner between the principal wall and the tower is a portion of a buttress. The painted band above the windows, acting as the header, is at the same height around the building except over the center triple window on the facade. Due to the two-pane transom above this window, the painted band goes up around the transom. The narrow, corbeled header row disappears above the transom due to the proximity of the wood green shingles in the gable end. Similar to the gable end on the north wall, the south elevation's gable end is totally covered with wood shingles, painted green, and features a single, prominent gable return. The upper portion of the gable return is asphalt-covered like the roof. However, the south gable differs from the north in that the peak of the gable is brought out flush with the roofline. Separating the two areas in the gable is a short expanse of wood boards, painted white.

The west elevation also fronts onto a street, First Street. Like on the south elevation, the tower is a major element on the west side. Located on the south side of the west elevation, the upper features of the tower are identical to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

those on the south elevation. In the lower brick part of the tower, instead of an entrance, as originally called for in the building's blueprints and matching the south elevation, there is a single, wood, fifty-six-over-four, hung window. Outside of the tower, the west elevation has three single windows and a rear entrance. The wood hung windows match the southernmost tower window in being fifty-six-over-four. The windows are separated by brick buttresses. Near the north corner of the west elevation is an above-grade entrance similar to the front entrance. Accessed by a short flight of concrete steps, the entrance contains double, wood, paneled doors topped by a multi-pane (forty-two light) transom. Like the windows, the door is flanked by brick buttresses.

The north elevation, the rear, features a brick apse. Typical of church architecture, the apse has a half dome concha and a semicircular exterior wall. The concha is covered with asphalt shingles, like the principal roof. The back elevation features only two openings, located on the outside edge of the apse. Unlike every other window in the building, these two wood hung windows are one-over-one. Systematically located along the apse are narrow brick buttresses. Situated on the corners of the main wall are also narrow brick buttresses. The gable wall of the north elevation is completely covered with painted green, wood shingles. On both sides of the gable are prominent gable returns. Like the south gable return, the upper part of the gable returns are clad with asphalt shingles. Beside the east gable return on the north elevation is a narrow brick column. Originally this column extended above the roofline as the building's chimney. The upper part of the chimney, above the roofline, was removed probably when the roof was shingled with asphalt before 1959.

The east elevation features five single windows separated by brick buttresses. Like the west elevation, the windows are fifty-six-over-four, wood, hung except for two windows which have been repaired with a single lower pane.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

As typical of vernacular church architecture, the interior of the building is separated into five areas by use. Historically, the church was separated into only four areas. On the north end of the building in the apse, as originally designed, is the choir area. This area is separated from the main auditorium by the principal north wall which has a wide arch. Immediately in front of this is the pulpit area with rows of pews located south of this in the auditorium. Located within the tower area on the southwest side of the building is the entry area.

Originally, the auditorium was entirely open. Prior to 1959, however, three classrooms were constructed on the south side of the auditorium. These

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 13

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

classrooms currently function as office, bathroom and storage space for the Waurika Chamber of Commerce. The original building was not designed with interior bathrooms and information concerning the pre-1959 alterations also do not reference bathrooms; however, it does indicate three classrooms were created so the bathroom was apparently added post-1959 in what was one of the classrooms. The created rooms do not have walls that extend to the ceiling so the tops of the windows and original, patterned, pressed metal ceiling are still readily visible from all areas of the auditorium.

ALTERATIONS

The interior of the church retains a remarkable degree of integrity, especially as the building no longer functions as a church. The furnishings, light fixtures and materials remain much as they were historically. The only significant alteration being the pre-1959 construction of the classrooms at the back of the auditorium. However, as the classroom walls are not full walls, the nonhistoric partitions do not dramatically alter the integrity of the interior. The use of the classrooms by the Waurika Chamber Commerce is a compatible reuse of the space which allows the building to remain in limited use.

The exterior of the church also maintains a high degree of integrity. Although the building is in need of maintenance, alterations have been minimal. The most significant change has been the replacement of the original metal roof with asphalt shingles and removal of the rear chimney above the roofline. Completed prior to 1959, this type of alteration is typical of all buildings and consequently has only a marginal impact on the overall integrity of the building. The replacement of the lower panes in a couple of windows on the east side also minimally effects the integrity of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
 Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church in Waurika, Jefferson County, Oklahoma is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The building is architecturally significant as an excellent, unusual example of a brick, side-tower church in Waurika which exhibits Prairie School style attributes. Although this type of church was common in early twentieth century religious architecture in Oklahoma, not many examples remain extant. Additionally, the use of brick in this type of church is noteworthy as the common building material was wood. Further, churches of this type were usually stylistically influenced by the Late Gothic Revival style. The clear exhibition of Prairie School style influences differentiated the First Presbyterian Church from its contemporary buildings of this type. The period of significance for the property extends from the start of construction in 1908 to the end of construction in late 1909. Because the building was erected by a religious organization and used for religious purposes, Criteria Consideration A must be met. As the building is significant on its architectural merits, associated with the distinctive characteristics of the property type, the requirements of Criteria Consideration A are met.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Located on the 98th Meridian, the dividing line between the Five Civilized tribes' land on the east and the Comanche-Apache-Kiowa lands on the west, Waurika officially came into being in 1902. Previous to this, there was a post office known as Monika (also spelled Moneka) in the area. This post office was designated in April 1895 and discontinued May 1898. Prior to 1895, the post office was called Peery and had been established in May 1890. Both of these post offices were located east of the 98th Meridian in Pickens County of the Chickasaw Nation. As part of the Chickasaw Nation, non-Native American settlement was restricted by the laws of Indian Territory.¹

On 6 August 1901, the lands west of the 98th Meridian near what would become Waurika opened for non-Native American settlement. As part of the Comanche-Kiowa-Apache lands, the area opened in a novel manner, a land lottery. Although lands east of the 98th Meridian remained restricted for several more years, settlement along the west side of the Meridian began to rapidly occur. A major factor in this was the location of the Chicago and Rock Island (Rock

¹"Waurika, Jefferson Co., Oklahoma," (On-file in the Waurika Vertical Files, Research Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), n.d. See also J.M. Dyer and Mary A. Dyer, "History of Jefferson County, Oklahoma," (n.p., c. 1957), 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

=====
Island) rail line which crossed Oklahoma near the 98th Meridian, roughly following the Chisholm Trail, a popular mid- to late-19th Century path for cattle crossing Indian Territory from Texas. Beginning in 1889, the Rock Island laid track in northern Oklahoma Territory. Reaching as far south as Minco, Chickasaw Nation, the following year, the Rock Island completed its line into Texas in 1892. Although limited settlement occurred along the line prior to the opening of the adjacent Comanche-Kiowa-Apache lands, as evidenced by the Monika post office, the 1901 land opening resulted in more permanent settlements, such as Waurika.

Following the 1901 land opening, the Kingfisher Improvement Company, under the ownership of brothers T.B. Kelley and E.J. Kelley, surveyed and platted the new town of Waurika. A post office for the community was designated on 28 June 1902. Although originally restricted to the west side of the 98th Meridian, additions east of the Meridian were soon added as the Native American allottee Elibabeth (sic) Bohannen platted her lands. Development of the town rapidly occurred in a peculiar manner. Described as "...a town that in layout resembles a stadium, its residence section spread out and overlooking an arena of business buildings," Waurika's central business district developed as originally platted west of the 98th Meridian. Despite limited non-commercial development on the west side, the larger residential development occurred east of the 98th Meridian, where it remains today.²

Although schools and city governments were important hallmarks of town development, churches were also a significant indicator of a permanent settlement. In the early years of the community, the same buildings often functioned in at least two of these capacities and sometimes all three. In early 1903, the first schoolhouse in Waurika was constructed in the southwest corner of the townsite. In May of that year, the first elected city officials were sworn into office. The following year, the First Baptist Church, the first denominational church, began meeting in the schoolhouse.³

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

In early September 1905, another church was organized in Waurika, the First Presbyterian Church. Although desiring a permanent building immediately, church members held services in the local schoolhouse and other existing local

²The WPA Guide to 1930s Oklahoma, (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1986), 322. See also Dyer, "History of Jefferson County," 1 and 6-7.

³Dyer, "History of Jefferson County," 21.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

tabernacles for several years. By January 1907, the congregation was firming plans for construction of a permanent building as the local newspaper noted "...work has begun on the large brick Presbyterian church." As no further mention is made of progress on the church until 1908, it is probable the work consisted of acquiring and readying the lot for construction.⁴

By June 1908, the congregation was ready for the laying of the cornerstone. Calling upon the local Masonic fraternity to lay the cornerstone, preparations were made to hold the ceremonies on the 4th of July. The week after, the weekly newspaper reported "The Masonic Fraternity had charge of the laying of the cornerstone for the beautiful new Presbyterian church last Saturday and it was a beautiful and impressive ceremony which unfolded to the throng which assembled to witness it." The Waurika band led the march of local lodge members and visiting brethren from the Masonic Hall to the church. Once on the site, Grand Master D.D. Hoag of Anadarko took charge of the program. Judge William M. Anderson, the Grand Secretary, "...deposited copies of The News and The Press, the last statement of the Citizens Bank, a roster of the Masonic Grand Lodge and local lodge officers, and many other things of interest and value..." into the cornerstone after which the Honorable Alvin Campbell of Lawton addressed the crowd.⁵

Within months of the cornerstone laying, construction activities came to a halt. Apparently "A tangle of money affairs..." was responsible for the suspension of work. By mid-November 1908, work had "...been resumed and will be pushed until the fine brick edifice is completed."⁶

This prediction turned out to be overly optimistic as in August of the following year, the congregation held a meeting in the Irving School building, where they were holding their services, to elect new officers and make arrangements to "...proceed at once to complete the church edifice." Calling upon their members to help provide the shortfall of \$1500, the members drafted a written resolution ensuring completion of the church. Although it is not dated, it is presumably at this time that the congregation contracted with J.B. Osborn, a contractor, to finish the building in exchange for the sum of \$3225.

⁴Frances Biffle, "History and Tribute, First Presbyterian Church, Waurika, Oklahoma, 1905-1959, 54th Anniversary," (N.P., Available at Chisholm Trail Historical Museum, Waurika, Oklahoma), n.p. See also The Waurika (Oklahoma) News, 25 January 1907.

⁵The Waurika News, 26 June 1908, 3 July 1908 and 10 July 1908.

⁶Ibid., 13 November 1908.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

=====

Osborn pledged to follow the original plans "...as closely as possible..." with a few exceptions and to assume several outstanding obligations previously incurred. According to the local newspaper, "The money is in sight and most of it on hand and a contract has been let for the work which will be done at once."⁷

Within a month, as the church was nearing completion, the congregation was forced to move some of their events to the new building. The local school board "...desired the discontinuance of the services in the school building now that school has begun...". Immediately following this, Reverend Cravens "...announced that the Sunday school, at least, will hold forth Sunday next in the new and unfinished brick church...". By the end of September, the wood shingled gables had been painted green while the newspaper described the windows as "...artistic and attractive." The newspaper also contended that "some wealthy parishioner should purchase the remainder of the quarter block and present it to the church" to make the grounds "complete."⁸

Likely finished within the year, the actual completion date of the church is unknown. In late October 1909, the local newspaper carried an undated photograph of the four churches in Waurika. However, this photograph shows the First Presbyterian Church still under construction with the walls in place but the roof unsheathed and no tower. In late January 1910, The Waurika Democrat ran a photograph of the completed church but no mention is made of the dedication of the building in either of the town newspapers. This is possibly because the congregation was forced to move into the building prior to completion. Since it was already in use, they may have felt there was no need for a formal opening. Additionally, sometime during the fall 1909, Reverend Craven's wife suffered a "...stroke of paralysis." In late December 1909, Mrs. Craven was residing at her daughter's home in El Reno and Reverend Craven's was "...expected to have to close his home here as there to be little likelihood of his wife being able to return anytime soon." Under these circumstances, the congregation may have felt a celebration of their new home inappropriate.⁹

⁷Ibid., 20 August 1909. See also Original Building Receipts and Contract, (Available at the Chisholm Trail Historical Museum, Waurika, Oklahoma, various dates).

⁸Ibid., 17 September 1909 and 24 September 1909.

⁹Ibid., 29 October 1909. See also The Waurika (Oklahoma) Democrat, 24 December 1909 and 27 January 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

As mentioned above, Waurika boasted three churches in 1909 besides the First Presbyterian. The Methodist, Baptist and Christian congregations all had relatively new frame buildings. The Baptist, as the first organized church, had the oldest church building. The foundation for the Baptist Church was laid in early December 1904 with the building being completed the following year. Judging from the 1909 newspaper photograph, this frame building was also of the side-tower type, although it may have been an off-center front tower. About twenty years later, the Baptist's constructed a new building in the Harper Addition, east of the 98th Meridian. The First Methodist congregation also organized in 1904 with construction of their building soon following. Also a frame building, the Methodist's 1909 church was a corner-tower type building. L-shaped, the Methodist church's tower was located in the junction of the two sections. Judging from photographs, portions of the original Methodist church were extant in the late 1950s but additions and other modifications had changed the building. At that time, the Methodist Church building was described as "commodious and convenient in construction arrangement." The Christian Church was organized in early 1909 with immediate construction of their building getting underway. Completed prior to the First Presbyterian Church, the Christian Church building was a frame, side-tower type. By the late 1950s, the "...original building (had) been enlarged by additional rooms (and) the sanctuary (had) been remodeled and beautified."¹⁰

Although several other churches were erected in Waurika after 1910, including a Roman Catholic Church, Central Methodist Church, Mount Zion Baptist and Progressive Christian Church, none were identical to the First Presbyterian Church. The First Presbyterian Church is noteworthy as the only extant, side-tower, brick church in Waurika constructed prior to 1910. Generally, the other churches constructed after 1910 were of a larger scale and modern type. A windshield survey of the town revealed that the majority of existing churches, including the First Baptist, Church of Nazarene, First Christian and Church of Christ, are located on the east side of town and are newer, multi-story, brick or stone buildings with contemporary architectural features.

The pre-1910 church buildings are linked by their similar building types and sizes. The First Presbyterian Church stood out among this group during the period of significance due to the use of brick and the stylistic features of the building. Additionally, the First Presbyterian Church remains the only extant pre-1910 church on its original location and in its historical form.

¹⁰Ibid., 29 October 1909. See also Jefferson County Oklahoma Family Histories, (Waurika, Oklahoma: Chisholm Trail Historical Museum Society, 1997), 11-12; Dyer, "History of Jefferson County, 19-22; and Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Waurika, Oklahoma, 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

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Stylistically, the First Presbyterian Church differed markedly from the other three pre-1910 church buildings. Although vernacular in overall expression, the other churches exhibited modest references to the Late Gothic Revival Style. This style was extremely popular for small, frame, religious buildings constructed during the first part of the Twentieth Century. Generally, the dominant stylistic features of these churches were the tower with a steep pyramidal roof and the windows which were usually pointed arched or round arched.

The First Presbyterian Church is noteworthy for its use of Prairie School style influences. The Prairie School style flourished in the first two decades of the Twentieth Century. Noted as "...one of the few indigenous American styles," the style became popular nationwide through the publication of pattern books.¹¹ Designed by J.C. Berry, an Amarillo, Texas, architect, the First Presbyterian Church is vernacular in its application of stylistic features; however, the church clearly exhibits a Prairie School style inclination. This includes the use of contrasting wall material, in this case red brick and wood shingles painted green, which emphasizes the upper part of the building. Also indicative of the Prairie School style is the painted brick band above the windows which adds a major horizontal element to the building. The wide, boxed, overhanging eaves reinforces this horizontal emphasis.

Found in both Prairie School and Craftsman style architecture of the time, the flat, multi-paned windows are another major architectural statement. The numerous, small, wood, upper, window panes are a distinctive element with the number of panes varying from fifty-six to thirty-five and twenty-one. The transoms above the two sets of doors continue the small, wood, panes with twenty-eight above the front door and forty-two above the side door. Interestingly, all of the upper window panes and transoms in the building are dividable by seven. Although this may have been a purely functional choice, it must be noted that the number seven has Biblical implications.

Although not necessarily a Prairie school feature, bringing the upper gable wall flush with the roofline on the front gable of the First Presbyterian Church may have been an attempt to create the swept-back profile found on many Prairie School style buildings with a gable roof. The swept-back profile features the peak projecting beyond the lower edge which basically flared the roofline. Although the peak of the First Presbyterian's roof does not project, the infill of the upper gable with green shingles to be flush with the roofline creates an illusion that the roofline is varied.

¹¹Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990), 439-440.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 20

 First Presbyterian Church
name of property
 Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

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The First Presbyterian Church is an outstanding example of a Side-tower type religious building. The building has maintained a high degree of interior and exterior integrity. Even at the time of construction, the church was noteworthy for its atypical building material and the use of Prairie School style influences. Among the other extant church buildings in Waurika, the First Presbyterian Church stands out as a landmark building. The other identified churches are of later construction, larger scale and modern architectural inclinations. Constructed by a religious organization for religious purposes, the building is nonetheless eligible for the National Register for its architectural significance as an excellent, extant, pre-1910 example of a brick, Side-tower church which exhibits Prairie School style influences.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 21

First Presbyterian Church
name of property
Jefferson County, Oklahoma
county and State

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 19 and 20, Block 12, Original Townsite of Waurika, Oklahoma.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the property historically associated with the First Presbyterian Church.