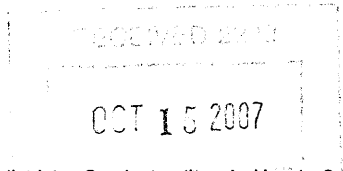


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1225

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Other name/site number 089-0710-0004

2. Location

Street & number NE corner of Pennsylvania and Washington Streets not for publication
City or town Burr Oak vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Jewell Code 089 Zip code 66936

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Patrick Zollner 10/10/07
Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Kansas State Historical Society
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 official /Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is
 entered in the National Register. fore Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 11-28-07
 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:)

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jewell County, Kansas
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Richardson Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone: limestone
Walls: Brick

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

Narrative Description

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

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jewell County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- 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 likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect- Holland, J.C.

Builder- Brady, M.E.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

Kansas State Historical Society

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Name of Property

Jewell County, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	5	5	9	6	1	0	4	4	1	3	2	6	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

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 Alma Garman, Brenda & Amber Eakins, and Jennifer Farr (KSHS)
Organization Burr Oak United Methodist Church Date March 21, 2007
Street & number 2231 130 Road Telephone 785-647-5311
City or town Burr Oak State KS Zip code 66936

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Burr Oak United Methodist Church
NE Corner of Pennsylvania and
Street & number Washington Streets Telephone N/A
City or town Burr Oak State KS Zip code 66936

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS

Section Number 7 Page 1

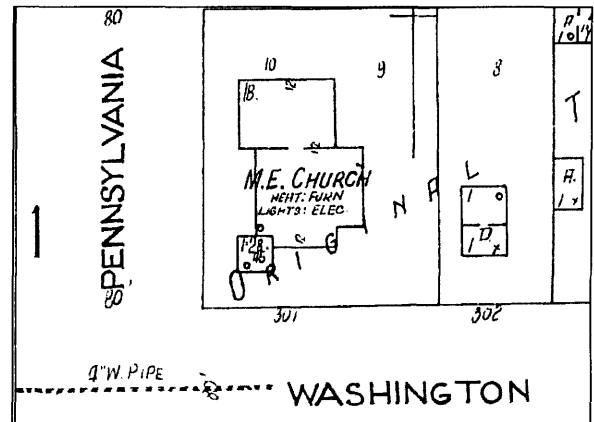
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Burr Oak United Methodist Church (1912) is located on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Washington Streets in Burr Oak, Jewell County, Kansas. It is two blocks east of the main street in the town. The two-story, red brick, hipped roof structure stands on an above-grade limestone foundation.

The church is an example of the Richardson Romanesque style. This is a style that was predominately utilized for public buildings from the 1880s to the early 1900s in Kansas. The style had become a symbol of the transforming landscape, prosperity, confidence, and the desire of a sophisticated metropolitan appearance. The church is unique in its execution of the Romanesque style, particularly with its pyramid roofs on the two tower structures, and its exquisite brickwork and stained glass windows. Its usage of limestone in the foundation is a testament to the local building materials. These elements, however, exhibit a straightforward and simple interpretation of style that the western landscape accentuates. The building clearly takes the basic components drawn from the Richardson Romanesque tradition. The structure's rounded arches over the windows and doors, masonry walls, asymmetrical façade, recessed windows, gabled dormers, and the use of towers are all defining Richardson Romanesque features.

Exterior

Overall- The Burr Oak United Methodist Church is a two-story limestone and red brick structure with a full basement. The limestone is rough-faced with squared stonework. The church has two dominant sides that face Pennsylvania and Washington Streets. The south side, which faces Pennsylvania Street, features a secondary entrance. The west side of the building, which faces Pennsylvania Street, includes the classroom wing. The low-pitched structure contains a main hipped roof, with smaller pyramidal-shaped roofs atop two towers and a classroom wing. The main tower also includes four gabled dormers. There are also two main gabled bays. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.



Burr Oak United Methodist Church. Digital Sanbourn Fire Insurance Map Map, sheet 2, 1926.

Both of the main gable bays feature a prominent arched stained glass window set into a wood frame and topped by a decorative brick arch. The gable bays are flanked by two 1/1 double hung wood windows with transoms that are crowned with decorative arched brickwork. Finials accent the peaks of the gable façade. The building features cast stone accents on the windowsills, the tower, and stone coping.

The dominant three-story tower at the building's southwest corner serves as the main entrance to the sanctuary. This tower, which includes a bell that is no longer in use, has identical south and west elevations. The south entrance opening, however, has been filled with glass block.

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Section Number 7 Page 2

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS

The building contains 25 stained glass windows. Surrounding the windows are the wide, rounded arches that stand as key identifying features of the style. The arch springs that surround the stained glass windows provide the building definition and compliment the Romanesque design.

Interior-

Originally, there were two main entrances to the building. The west entrance, which faces Pennsylvania Street, retains its function. The other entrance on the south side of the building, facing Washington Street, has been filled with glass blocks. The church has three main public spaces within the building, which include the sanctuary, the original classroom space, and the basement.

There are many historic elements in the sanctuary. This includes the stained glass windows, pews, wooden trim, and light fixtures. Inside of the sanctuary there were four secondary stained glass windows and two primary stained glass windows. The subjects within the windows are: "Christ in the Garden," "Christ the Teacher," and the "Garden Angel." The sanctuary provides seating for about 225 people. The historic wooden pews are slightly rounded and face toward the eastern side of the building. There are sixteen pews in total, and they are oriented around a central aisle. The raised stage on which the pulpit stands is slightly higher than the floor on which the pews sit. This gives an impression that the floor is on a slight downward slope. In a renovation done to the church in the 1950s, the original stage was removed to provide more space for the altar.

The classroom wing, on the north half of the building, also served as an overflow space next to the sanctuary. An accordion style partition wall separates the two spaces. This classroom space has since been converted to more of a multi-use room. Adjacent to the classroom is the old pastor's study. An elevator was installed in this space in 1998 and provides access to the basement.

There are two outside entrances that lead to the multi-purpose basement: one at the building's northwest corner and the other at the southeast corner. There are six rooms within the basement of the church, which include the furnace room, the bathroom, the kitchen, a large multi-purpose room, and two classrooms. The elevator is accessed in one of the classrooms.

Most of the changes to the building have taken place in the basement. The basement walls are covered with wood paneling. Other changes include the installation and updating of the kitchen and bathroom, and the coal furnace has become a gas furnace.

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Section Number 8 Page 3

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burr Oak United Methodist Church (1912) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** as a late Victorian example of Richardson Romanesque architecture in a small Kansas town. The Richardsonian Romanesque style of the church, which was the dominant style for public buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, demonstrates the practice of applying it to regional materials and practices.¹ J.C. Holland, the architect of the church, gained prominence in the Midwest by popularizing the style while incorporating materials of the region into his structures. This is demonstrated by his use of limestone in the construction of the church. The design of the Burr Oak United Methodist Church is significant because it illustrates how midwestern architects were able to regionalize the concepts of Richardson's work to supplement the local culture.

History

Burr Oak, which was founded in 1870, is one of the principal towns in Jewell County, Kansas. It is located in the Burr Oak Township eleven miles northwest of Mankato, the county seat. The town is situated on White Rock Creek and connected the Missouri Pacific Railroad. A. J. Godfrey designed and established the layout of the town in 1871.² There were four religious dominations in Burr Oak during its formative years - Baptist, Methodist, Dunkard Brethren, and Catholic.³ The Methodists, however, were the first to establish a congregation in Burr Oak.

The Burr Oak United Methodist Church was first organized by Reverend Breed in 1873 to fulfill the need for a community church. Until 1880, meetings were held in various homes and buildings. In April of 1880, trustees were appointed to start plans for building a church.⁴ In 1881, the town contributed enough money to provide for the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The location chosen was at the northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Washington Streets. The lot was purchased and a foundation was laid for a



Burr Oak United Methodist Church, 1912.

¹ George Elrich and David H. Sachs. Guide to Kansas Architecture. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1996), 20; and Paul Larson, ed. The Spirit of H.H. Richardson on the Midland Prairies: Regional Transformation of An Architectural Style (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 1-3.

² William Connelley. A Standard History of Kansas and Kansans. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1918). See also: Frank Blackmar. Kansas: A Cyclopedic of State History. (Chicago: Standard Publishing Co. 1912).

³ William C. Cutler. "Jewell County." History of the State of Kansas. (Chicago: Andreas Publishing Co, 1883).

⁴ Junior Hi-Lites Class. A Pictorial History of the Methodist Church of Burr Oak, Kansas. (Burr Oak, 1965), 15.

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Section Number 8 Page 4

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS

30' by 50' wooden frame building. A vestibule and steeple were added to the church after its construction. The building would be the town's first religious building.

Early in the twentieth century, the congregation outgrew the white frame church, and members decided they needed a larger structure. A new building, which had been under consideration for several years, was decided upon on December 4, 1911.⁵ The original frame building was moved across the street for \$75.00 and was sold to the Nazarene congregation, which would later move the church again to its present location, two blocks east.

There were many reasons that the congregation found it necessary to construct a new church. Firstly, by having a structure made out of limestone and brick rather than wood, the structure would be better protected from fires. Secondly, it would provide much needed additional space for their religious activities. With the introduction of the railroad in the mid-1880s, the town experienced a boom. By 1880, Jewell County had become the "banner corn county in Kansas."⁶ Therefore, it became quite necessary to establish a church that could contain the growing size of the congregation.

The construction of the church provided for a two-story structure with a gabled roof and two towers. The tallest tower contained a bell, which is no longer in use. At 3,320 square feet, the new building was also much larger than the previous one and provided more room for the growing membership. According to a 1912 publication of the Burr Oak Herald, the new church included a sanctuary, a Sunday school room, a baptistery, a large basement, kitchen, furnace/coal room, and a study and reading room.⁷ The main sanctuary was arranged to seat about 225 people.

There were several contractors that submitted bids for the construction of the church, but the builder chosen was M. E. Brady from nearby Beloit, Kansas. J.C. Holland drafted the design of the church. Holland had already designed another building in the community, the Burr Oak School, right across the street.⁸ The total cost of construction of the church was \$16,000.⁹

There were many different activities that the female members of the church coordinated in order to raise the money necessary for construction. Members featured in the popular drama, "The Last Lost," and the money raised from the admission receipts went to the church.¹⁰ The women also put together a cookbook to raise money as their donation to the building. The Willing Workers Sunday School Class arranged the

⁵ Harry Ross. What Price, White Rock? A Chronicle of Northwestern Jewell County. (Burr Oak, Kan.: The Burr Oak Herald, 1937), 122.

⁶ Jewell County. <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/jewell/jewell-co-p3.html>

⁷ "M.E. Church is dedicated." Burr Oak Herald. 5 December 1912: A1.

⁸ The Burr Oak School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

⁹ "M.E. Church is dedicated." Burr Oak Herald. 5 December 1912: A1.

¹⁰ Harry Ross. What Price, White Rock? A Chronicle of Northwestern Jewell County. (Burr Oak, Kan.: The Burr Oak Herald, 1937), 123.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS**

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cookbook. They visited area homes to secure the best recipes of the best cooks, which were arranged and assembled with the permission and names of the donors.¹¹

There were two ways that members of the church honored the contributions of the community. They donated historical effects for future generations to study, which were left inside of the church's cornerstone. The cornerstone ceremony involved placing a Bible, hymnal, subscription list, copy of the church charter, a history of the organization of the church, list of members, and a copy of the newspaper. These items were placed into the cornerstone at a ceremony on December 5, 1912.¹²

Additionally, many were commemorated on the memorial stained glass windows throughout the church. The contract for the stained glass windows was awarded to Ford Bros. Glass Co., from Minneapolis, Minnesota, which designed and manufactured art, stained, and ecclesiastical American and European Memorial windows. The price of the windows was \$385.00 plus freight charges and guarantee of a safe delivery.¹³ There was some damage to the windows when they arrived, but this was soon replaced. There are three large windows that are enhanced with the effect of stained glass windows. There are within large window columns. The subjects within the windows are "Christ in the Garden," "Christ the Teacher," and "The Garden Angel." In the four flanking windows of the two larger windows is an emblem medallion.¹⁴

After the Great Depression and during the Second World War, the population of Jewell County met a swift decline, as did many rural Kansas communities. During the years between 1920 and 1940, the county population declined 4,270 people. The situation grew far worse just within a ten-year time span. Between 1940 and 1950, the county population declined another 1,272 people.¹⁵

From 1950 to 1953, the interior of the church was modernized. The changes were made to the altar and basement. In the basement, the kitchen was moved to a different location and it was modernized. A gas furnace was also installed as well as new carpeting. In 1998, an elevator was added with an outside entrance on the west elevation. Plexiglas was also installed to protect the stained glass windows from the weather. In 2005-2006, repairs were made to the tall bell tower and a new gas furnace was installed.

In 1977, the church joined the Jewell County Parish. The church currently has a small, but active membership of 20-25. The church is also used for community events including kindergarten classes, 4-H meetings, Bible studies, children's religious gatherings, funeral services, and wedding receptions. The building has been important part of the community for almost 100 years.

¹¹ Junior Hi-Lites Class. A Pictorial History of the Methodist Church of Burr Oak, Kansas. (Burr Oak, 1965), 16.

¹² M.E. Church is dedicated." Burr Oak Herald. 5 December 1912: A1.

¹³ Original receipts, bills, bids for architect, contractor, and material construction enclosed.

¹⁴ M.E. Church is dedicated." Burr Oak Herald. 5 December 1912: A1.

¹⁵ "Historical Census Browser." University of Virginia Library, Geostat Center. Fisher Library Census.
<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 6

**Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS**

Architect

J.C. (James Clinton) Holland (1853-1919), the prominent Topeka architect, was employed to prepare plans, specifications, and details for the church. Holland specialized in public and quasi-public buildings, and designed many significant buildings throughout the state and region. He designed sixteen county courthouses, schools, churches, YMCAs, jails and commercial buildings.

Holland was born in Lima, Ohio, and received his education at Northwestern Ohio Normal University and the School of Architecture at Cornell University. Upon completion of his yearlong studies at Cornell University in 1882, Holland taught architecture in Kansas and other states. He also served as a member of the New York Society of Architects.

Holland served as state architect from 1895 until 1897, during which time the entire central wing of the capitol building, except the central dome, was completed. During these three years, he supervised the expenditure of nearly \$750,000 in public buildings in Kansas.¹⁶ He then served the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway as "special architect" from 1897-1899. Upon leaving the position at the railway, he started his own firm of J.C. Holland and Son based in Topeka. It was during this time that he designed the Burr Oak United Methodist Church

Builder

M. E. Brady, a Beloit builder, was commissioned by church leaders of the United Methodist Church of Burr Oak to construct their new church. Brady and his crew were awarded a contract of \$11,940.00 on February 26, 1912 for the project. Brady and his crew took a total of seven months to complete the project. While working on the project, he and his crew also built the city hall and a garage in Burr Oak.¹⁷

Richardsonian Romanesque Architecture

The Burr Oak United Methodist Church retains its historic architectural features, which include its stained glass windows, masonry exterior, stone accents, round-topped arches, and the asymmetrical façade of the building. Richardsonian architecture is closely associated with cities and city building especially in regards to the midwestern region in the early twentieth century. It became a symbol of the transforming landscape, of prosperity, confidence, and the desire of a sophisticated metropolitan appearance.¹⁸ Richardsonian design was readily adapted to numerous building types, yet it was typically more expensive to build than other Late Victorian styles that could be executed in wood. For this reason, they were mostly architect-designed landmark buildings.

¹⁶ George Elrich and David H. Sachs. Guide to Kansas Architecture. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1996), 20.

¹⁷ "Notes." *Beloit Daily Call*. 28 November 1912.

¹⁸ Paul Larson, Ed. The Spirit of H.H. Richardson on the Midland Prairies: Regional Transformation of An Architectural Style (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 67.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section Number 8 Page 7

**Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS**

Identifying features of Richardsonian Romanesque buildings are the round-topped arches occurring over the windows and doors, masonry walls, towers, and an asymmetrical façade. The windows of Richardsonian Romanesque buildings are usually deeply recessed in the masonry wall and they generally feature a single pane of glass per sash. These stylistic details can be found on the Burr Oak United Methodist Church.

Richardsonian Romanesque buildings in Kansas were often constructed with limestone that is native to the midwestern region. The usage of limestone in building soon acquired symbolic overtones and represented the permanence of prosperity of settlement. Therefore, landmarks of all types used the limestone including churches, hotels, stores, shops, schools, houses, banks, residences, and barns.¹⁹

Summary

The Burr Oak United Methodist Church (1912) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance as an architect-designed Richardsonian Romanesque church. It is a fine example of early twentieth century architecture that is exceptional for a small rural Kansas town.

¹⁹ Ibid, 71.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 8

Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 10 Page 9

**Burr Oak United Methodist Church
Burr Oak, Jewell County, KS**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located on Lots 9 and 10, Block 9, Original Town, Burr Oak.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the land historically associated with the church.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

The following information applies to all the photographs listed below:

Property Name: Burr Oak Methodist Church

Location: Northeast corner of Pennsylvania and Washington

Photographer: Sarah J. Martin

Date: June 21, 2007

Location of Digital Images or Negatives: Kansas State Historical Society

- Photo 1: West elevation from across the street, facing E
- Photo 2: West elevation, facing SE
- Photo 3: North and west elevations, facing SE
- Photo 4: North elevation showing classroom wing, facing S
- Photo 5: East elevation showing small shed roof addition, facing SW
- Photo 6: South elevation close-up of roof detail, facing W
- Photo 7: Cornerstone on west elevation, facing E
- Photo 8: Interior, sanctuary and stage, facing SE
- Photo 9: Interior, sanctuary, facing SW
- Photo 10: Interior, sanctuary, close-up of pew, facing E
- Photo 11: Interior, classroom wing off of sanctuary, facing SE
- Photo 12: Interior, stairway to basement, facing E
- Photo 13: Interior, basement multi-purpose room