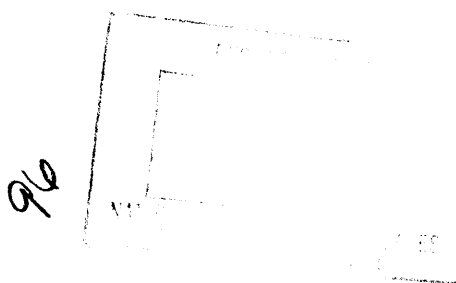


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property Page 1

historic name First Presbyterian Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 120 South Oak Street not for publication

city or town Sallisaw vicinity

state Oklahoma Code OK county Sequoyah code 135 Zip code 74955

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 for 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.)

Bob Blackledge
Signature of certifying official/Title

1-21-03
Date

Oklahoma 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 certifying 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.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson Beal
Signature of the Keeper

3/7/03
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
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

None

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 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

Walls CONCRETE; BRICK; STONE: Limestone

Roof METAL Tin; ASPHALT

Other

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
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.)

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

N/A

Significant Dates

1918

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

J.T. Fineton & Son/H.P. Culp (Builder)

Architect unknown

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One (1) city lot, less than one (1) acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>33774</u>	<u>3925060</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 John E. Lane, AIA

Organization Lane & Associates, Inc. date 12/10/02

street & number (P.O. Box 3929) 309 North 7th Street telephone 479-782-4277

city or town Fort Smith State Arkansas zip code 72913

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name First Presbyterian Church - Board of Trustees

street & number 120 South Oak Street Telephone 918-775-4868

city or town Sallisaw state Oklahoma zip code 74955

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 listing. 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 20303.

Record # _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY:

The First Presbyterian Church at 120 South Oak Street, Sallisaw, Oklahoma, is sited in a downtown commercial zoned area adjacent to a residential area to the south across Creek Street. The Sequoyah County Historical Museum, directly across Creek Street to the south, is a Craftsman style wood frame residence. On the northwest corner of Creek and Oak Streets is located the Sequoyah County Jail. On the southeast corner is an office building.

On Creek Street and Oak Streets for the length of the property and beyond, there were placed cut stone curbs during the WPA period. The streets have been resurfaced numerous times and are higher than the tops of the curb on Creek Street with a depressed gutter area between the asphalt paving and stone curbs. Concrete was used in the rough head joints between the stone pieces of varying lengths from twenty inches to thirty plus inches long.

Except for the asphalt paved parking lot to the north of the property, the historic site setting of the 1918 era remains the same.

The building was constructed using modified plans from a similar First Presbyterian Church building in Van Buren, Arkansas, which was completed in 1916.¹ Construction of this building was completed in 1918 at a cost of \$17,500.² The plan is shared as a modified symmetrical rectangle. The main facade faces west on South Oak Street (Photos 1 & 2). Secondary elevations face south (Photo 3) and north (Photo 6) and an alley is at the rear to the east of the building (Photos 4 & 5).

The predominant visual characteristics of the church building are its exterior walls, pitched, gabled and domed roofs, front portico and decorative elements which identifies its style as Classical Revival with Greek Revival elements. This architectural style was popular from the 1890's through the 1920's for American buildings of this type and importance. Major elements include a symmetrically balanced monumental front facade on the west (Photo 2), two (2) secondary facades facing north and south, a gabled roof with pediment at the rear of the dome, a ribbed metal-clad dome containing a skylight resting on a raised octagonal-shaped base above the three (3) pediments of three (3) facades, and the rear gabled roof pediment. Other elements include two (2) brick pilasters with stone bases and egg and dart capitals on each side of the main (front) portico opening. There are four (4) pitched gabled roofs, two (2) side-low hipped roofs, one (1) dome and three (3) levels of low slightly pitched roofs at the rear (east), one major chimney and four (4) secondary chimneys, a wide wood decorative frieze band on two (2) facades, a wide wood raking cornice on four (4) pediments, and a cornice around the top of the octagonal dome base structure. The upper main level walls are of a blended "rough" textured brick ranging in color from deep purple gray to terra cotta red with taupe colored mortar and stone lintels over window and door openings. The lower foundation walls project out two (2) inches and are of poured concrete patterned by the horizontal construction form board marks and provide a sloped projecting

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

water table (Photo7). This element extends completely around the perimeter of the building from each side of the main facade entry portico. All windows on the lower level elevations are plain with wood sash and frames and all windows on the upper facades and clerestory, except for two, are original stained glass in wood frames along with the segmented interior dome stained glass skylight above the sanctuary. One (1) stained glass window on the south elevation has been shortened to allow for a window air conditioning unit. The stained glass window on the north wall of the sanctuary was replaced several years ago after a tree fell through it during a severe storm. Wood trim pieces are painted white, the stone is off-white limestone and the concrete has its natural aged finish.

With the exception of two (2) north and south side entry and door modifications, the addition of a window air-conditioning unit on the south side elevation, three (3) pad mounted air conditioning condensing units in a chain-link fence enclosure, one (1) replaced stained glass window, the possible addition of the asphalt shingle covering on the wall of the dome's octagonal base and other roofs and structures, five (5) plexiglas stained glass window coverings, the addition of exterior carpeting on the portico, some settlement cracks in the concrete walls and brick, non-compatible patching of brick mortar joint cracks, the addition of aluminum framed screens on the lower windows, replaced metal gutters and downspouts and an added pipe railing on the front portico, which are minor alterations, and in some instances are removable or reversible items, it appears that the historic components of the building are intact and have been preserved in suitable condition adding to the historic integrity of the building which qualifies it for eligibility for the National Register listing under Criterion 'C' for its architectural significance in Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

DESCRIPTION:

THE BUILDING WALLS (EXTERIOR)

The First Presbyterian Church is sited at the northeast corner of South Oak & Creek Streets at 120 South Oak Street, Sallisaw, Oklahoma. It is a 2- story building designed in the early 20th Century Classical Revival Style with four (4) upper pediments, high roofs and a dominant dome, with the lower level as a half basement with an exposed concrete foundation wall as a band at the base of the building. The building's axis is oriented east and west with the main facade and front entry facing west. The church upper exterior walls including interior plaster are 14-in. thick, of a mixed blend of rough textured brick with colors ranging from deep purple gray to terra cotta red with taupe colored "V" tooled mortar joints on the exterior and common brick on the interior surface. The interior of the wall has a plaster finish. Lintels and window sills in the brick walls are limestone.

Name of Property

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

County and State

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

A 5 ft. to 5 ft.-6 in. high (depending on the finish grade) exposed concrete foundation base wall, 16 in. thick including plaster inside, extends around the entire perimeter to the abutments on each side of the main monumental steps. The surface is textured and patterned by the raised lines representing vertical and horizontal joints formed by the rough-cut wood board forms used in pouring the concrete. At the lower concrete wall window openings, the jambs were smoothed by applying a thin layer of cement, called parging, after the concrete was cured and the forms removed. In some places, the parging has separated from the concrete leaving a vertical crack which may allow water to enter the wall (Photo 7).

The leaded stained glass windows are an important artistic element. The lower level windows in the concrete wall are single casement with plain glass in wooden sash and frames, while the main level windows and clerestory are leaded stained glass in wood sash with a central pivot at each jamb in wood frames. The interior dome leaded stain glass is in eight (8) sections of wood trim over the center of the sanctuary.

The east/west dimension from the rear wall to the front of the main façade is 81 feet. The rear (east) wall is 53 ft.-3 in. wide. There is a projected south entry on which extends southward 3 ft.-3 in. from the main south wall. The front (west) facade, which includes a portico and main entry, measures 44 ft. across.

The main facade extends westward from the main building mass 14 ft.-5 in. and is indented in from the north wall 6 ft. and 8 in. in from the south wall, thus forming a projected monumental, pedimented portico facade 44 ft. across (Photo 2).

The main (west) facade is symmetrical about a raised monumental recessed portico with eight (8) concrete steps which have 14 in. treads and 7 in. risers leading up from a concrete entrance walk extending across the width of the 21 ft. wide steps and two concrete side abutments 2 ft-10 in. wide and extending out 7 ft-10 in. (Plan 'A' and Photo 2). On the top of each abutment is a poured concrete cap beveled to the sides and front and containing a hole with wiring which was intended for two (2) light posts which were never installed, since there are no anchor-bolt holes. Photos of the Van Buren, Arkansas church, which was built earlier from the same plans, show two (2) light poles of that period. The recessed portico opening is 16 ft. wide, between two (2) 2 ft. wide brick pilasters with purple-grey accent brick in header bond on each side of each pilaster, and extending out from the face 2 in. to form a shallow 'U' shaped element in plan view, sitting atop a carved stone base with a carved stone capitol with egg and dart decoration. The pilasters with their bases and capitols are 14 ft-10 in. tall matching the opening height. A stucco plaster soffit of the recessed portico is 16 ft. above the landing. The portico platform is covered with 12 in. square ceramic or clay tile.

On the east (rear) wall of the front recessed portico are three (3) stained glass windows set in wood frames and covered with Plexiglas, in three openings of equal size measuring 3 ft.-4 in. wide by 10 ft. high with stone sills, two (2) brick courses tall 4 ft 8 in. above the landing. The window openings are topped by a 14 in. decorative wood soffit moulding, which replicates and continues the wooden frieze trim on the wooden beam cover on the exterior. These three windows provide light into the sanctuary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Across the portico opening, the continuous wide wooden frieze trim covers a beam extending from over the pilasters on each side and continues around the facade to the north and south. The beam is also supported at third points by two plain tapered wooden stave columns constructed using entasis, measuring 20 inches in diameter at the base and approximately 16 in. at the top, resting on a circular double ring wooden base 22 in. in diameter on a cut stone plinth 22 in. square x 3 in. tall. The column capitols are carved wood of the Ionic order with large volutes and egg and dart decorations, and topped with a thin beveled abacus.

The wood covered beam across the opening carries a gabled brick pediment which has a continuous wooden horizontal cornice and a wooden raking cornice capped by a painted sloped sheet metal top. In the southwest corner there is a cornerstone with incised lettering reading "First Presbyterian Church Erected 1918."

The recessed portico is approximately 6 ft.-5 in. deep and has two (2) entry doors, one at each end of the recess, which are concealed from the front by two (2) full height brick wing walls about 5 ft. long and 17 in. thick. Four stone steps lead up 27 in. from the portico platform to the main level floor through each of the two (2) entry doors at the north and south ends. The (south) opening serves as the main entry into the sanctuary and has a pair of original wood stile and rail panel doors 7 ft.-6 in. tall x 2 ft.-3 in. wide in a wood frame beneath a stone lintel. The (north) secondary entry has a single original wood stile and rail panel door set in a wood frame, also beneath a stone lintel (Plan 'A').

Set back approximately 8 in. flanking the portico on the main facade on each side are matching smaller brick-walled elements with matching continuous decorative wood frieze above a single corbeled brick course in the brick, butting into the adjacent walls and a concrete foundation wall having a 2 in. sloped projecting water table at approximately 52 in. above the finish grade. These corner elements each contain two (2) 2 ft.-8 in. wide x 5 ft.-5 in. tall horizontally aligned stained glass windows with stone lintels and sills in the upper brick walls, one on the west wall and one on the north or south walls and directly above two (2) 2 ft.-8 in. wide x 4 ft.-10 in. tall plain glass, wood casement windows with stone lintels in the lower concrete wall. Over each of these corner elements is an asphalt shingle low hipped-roof. Near the top of the brick walls is a single course brick corbel (Photos 1,3, and 6).

The secondary south facade emulates the main west facade with its matching pitched roof and gabled brick pediment with decorative wood raking cornice, continuous horizontal cornice, and frieze board. A tall brick chimney 4 ft.-4 in. wide x 2 ft.-8 in. deep extends up 35 ft. above the ground level and intersects the rake and continuous horizontal cornices as well as the decorative frieze. This facade is 30 ft. across including the chimney, and contains a large 8 ft.-6 in. wide x 10 ft. tall opening into the main sanctuary level filled with three (3) stained glass windows in wood frames with an 8 in. high stone sill with the decorative frieze board as the lintel. In the lower concrete foundation wall are three (3) plain glass wood window openings and one (1) opening with mechanical louvers, all openings are evenly spaced and measure 3 ft.-3 in. wide and 4 ft.-10 in. tall with stone lintels sitting above the concrete water table.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Adjacent to the south secondary facade is a recess measuring 2 ft-3 in. wide which has a wood casement window 1 ft.-8 in. wide x 4 ft. 10 in tall in a wood frame in the lower concrete wall, with dimpled obscure glass in 3-sections which are butted and have no horizontal muntins. Over the window is a stone lintel above the concrete wall and it adjoins an entry foyer element at 90°. This wall has an entrance opening 5 ft-4 in. wide and 10 ft.-8 in. high containing an aluminum-framed, glass slab entry door with sidelights and transom, which replaced an original entry at some point in time. To the east of the door opening is 2 ft.-8 in. wide and 5 ft.-5 in. tall wood framed stained glass window with a stone sill and lintel. There is no lower window due to the stair inside. From its southeast corner, the wall extends north to intersect another wall at 90°, which continues to the east to the southeast building corner. This wall segment measures 17 ft.-8 in. long and 16 ft. 4 in. tall, and contains three (3) evenly spaced upper level 3 ft.-3 in. wide x 5 ft.-5 in. tall wood framed stained glass windows with stone sills and the window head directly below the wood frieze board of the horizontal roof cornice. The center stained glass window has been shortened in order to house a window air conditioning unit for the pastor's study. There are three (3) 3 ft.-3 in. wide x 4 ft.-10 in. tall wood framed plain glass casement windows with stone lintels in the concrete wall, directly below each of the upper three (3) windows. The top of the lower concrete wall steps up two (2) brick courses or approximately 5 in. at the inside corner and continues around on the rear (east) wall.

The rear (east) wall is 53 ft. 4 in. long and continues the south wall height of 16 ft. 4 in. with continuous brick and concrete heights. There are two (2) chimneys on this elevation. They are noted in the section on roofs. In this wall are six (6) stained glass windows in wood frames measuring 3 ft. 3 in. wide x 5 ft. 10 in. tall in the upper brick area, having the typical stone sill with the window head below the wood frieze board of the horizontal roof cornice. There are also six (6) 3 ft. 3 in. wide x 4 ft. 10 in. tall wood framed plain glass casement windows with stone lintels in the concrete wall directly below each of the upper six (6) windows.

Beginning at the northeast building corner, the same height wall with brick and concrete sections continues westward for a distance of approximately 32 ft. at which point a chimney forms the edge of a taller horizontal wall section of the north facade.

In this section there are three (3) pairs of the same size stain glass wood framed windows in brick over the same size wood framed plain windows in the concrete wall, as the rear wall and a door opening with a stone lintel which has a hollow metal door. West of the chimney there is a single wood stained glass window in a wood frame, 3 ft.-3 in. wide and 5 ft.-5 in. tall, with a stone lintel in the brick wall directly above a plain glass wood casement window in a wood frame, and a stone lintel above the opening which measures 3 ft.-3 in. wide x 4 ft.-10 in. tall in the lower concrete wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

At the centerline of the pedimented north facade is a large stain glass window in a wood frame in an opening 5-ft. wide x 10 ft.-2 in. tall with an 11 in. high stone lintel and 8 in. high stone sill. This stain glass window replaced the original after a severe storm fell through the original. This large window is in the sanctuary behind the choir and to the right (west) of the altar.

The top of the lower concrete wall water table drops down 8 in. just west of the first stained glass window and continues at that height westward and around the corner to the south and butts into the north wall of the front facade. In this concrete lower wall are plain glass wood casement windows in wood frames in three (3) more openings with stone lintels and measuring 3 ft.-3 in. wide x 4 ft -10 in. tall, evenly spaced and centered on the large stain glass window above.

At the top of the north brick, pedimented facade there is a decorative raking cornice of wood with a sheet metal covered cornice return of approximately 5 ft. on each side. At each eave of the pitched roof is a built-in sheet metal gutter.

At the northwest corner of this facade the wall turns 90° to the south approximately 6 ft. to intersect another brick wall running east/west at an inside corner. This wall continues the brick over concrete wall construction and contains a wood door to the lower level. The 3 ft-4 in. door opening has a wood panel door and frame with a stone lintel above it. At the northwest corner of the north pedimented facade, a decorative frieze board begins approximately 16 in. on the north face and continues around the corner and above the lower corner element, where it is intersected by an asphalt shingled hipped roof of the lower corner element. The details of this lower corner element were discussed earlier.

The Brick

The brick used on the exterior is denoted as "rough matt-face texture" and is a blend of colors ranging from dark purple/charcoal grey to dark pink and terra cotta red, The texture was produced when the brick column (slab) passed thru a rough-edged orifice as it was being cut to the required size and thickness. Common brick with flush mortar joints was used on the interior of the walls, as seen on the interior of the north and south pediments in the dome (Photo 15). The bricks measure 8 in. x 3-5/8 in. x 2-1/4 in.

The variation of colors was caused by the brick-maker "flashing" the brick in the kiln. In the "bee-hive" type kiln, the oxygen was turned off for "flashing." The lack of oxygen caused heat and smoke to rise. The upper layers of brick received the most heat and smoke thus causing the red clay to darken in different hues as seen on this building. The exterior mortar was tinted to a pink taupe color and the joints are a tooled "V" on the horizontal and head joints, which measure 1/2 in. to 5/8 in. thick.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

The brick is set in a running bond with a projected rowlock bond over the stone lintels and a header bond at the ends of the limestone lintels above the lower level window and door openings. These brick project out from the main brick wall approximately 1 in. and the stone lintel is projected out another inch to the face of the concrete foundation wall, where it rests on the 2-in. sloping water table top of the concrete wall.

THE BUILDING ROOFS

There are four (4) asphalt shingled, pitched roof, pediments of equal proportions and heights supporting the raised wood framed octagonal base of the wood framed dome. The pitch of each of these four (4) roofs is 4 1/2 in. to 12 in.

The pediment on the east (rear) has two (2) raking cornices and two (2) 5 ft. cornice returns and is covered with red asphalt shingles while the other three (3) pediments are brick. The west (front) and south pediments have continuous horizontal cornices matching the raking cornices. The north pediment has a rake cornice with two (2) cornice returns and no horizontal frieze board. The four (4) pitched roofs have a built-in sheet metal gutter at the eaves. The original round downspouts have been replaced with rectangular corrugated pre-finished metal downspouts. At each side of the main facade (front) pediment are lower sloped hipped asphalt shingled roofs (Photo 1).

At the rear of the dome area there are three (3) low sloped built-up asphalt covered roofs. The roof above the large auxiliary seating area has a 3-way sloped hipped roof with a metal fascia. It sits 3 ft-6 in. above the lowest (rear) roof and approximately 16 in. above the parapeted roof over the south entryway. This raised element has three (3) stained glass clerestory windows on the east and one (1) on its south and two (2) on its north side, each being 2 ft-8 in. wide x 1 ft.-6 in. tall in wood frames and having a painted metal clad wood sill.

On the north of the raised area is an asphalt shingled hipped roof element containing a 20 in. square brick chimney which reaches 11 ft. above that roof and is topped by brick corbeling and a precast concrete cap. At the rear elevation (east), there are two (2) matching brick chimneys that are 36 in. x 22 in. and extend up 8 ft.-8 in. above the roof. The largest chimney on the south facade is 4 ft.-4 in. x 2 ft.-8 in. and 17 ft. above the low south parapet and interrupts the raking cornice and horizontal cornice and frieze boards of the south facade and pediment. It has brick corbeling at the top and a precast concrete cap similar to the other four (4) chimneys. The parapeted low sloped asphalt roof over the south entry contains a raised metal covered roof hatch approximately 2 ft. square.

Walls of the octagonal base of the dome and other vertical structures above the roofs are covered with red asphalt shingles with 4 in. exposure. Many of the shingle tabs are windblown because the manufacturers do

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

not approve this use for asphalt shingles. The substrate is 1x10 wood sheathing with building felts over wood stud framing.

Next to the octagonal dome base in the north slope of the front pitched roof stands a fifth brick chimney 20 in. square in shape with brick corbeling at the top and rising approximately 7 ft. above this roof (Photo 6).

The top of the east wall is 16 ft.- 4 in. above the ground and the parapet wall above the south entry extends to 20 ft.-4 in. above the entry walk. Each of these areas has low sloped asphalt roofs.

The four (4) pitched roof ridges are symmetrical about the octagonal dome base and intersect it; however, the front roof ridge is longer than the other three.

The Dome

The dome is noted on the 1918 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map as being 40 ft. high. ³

The dome interior is a skeleton made up of thousands of pieces of wood framing including handmade dome rafters, specially cut and warped curved wood sheathing, catwalks, wood beams and columns, cut, connected, bolted and nailed with hand tools with the precision craftsmanship of that era.

Atop the wood framed metal-clad truncated dome with standing rib metal cladding sits a circular wood corniced opening containing a wood-framed 8-section clear glass skylight that encloses another interior 8-section wood-framed dome-shaped stained glass skylight above the center of the sanctuary. The interior of the upper dome measures approximately 29 ft.-4 in. in diameter inside the wood sheathing. The interior domed stained glass skylight is 16 in. tall and 13 ft. in diameter.

The exterior dome sits on a circular asphalt shingled knee wall constructed of 1x10 specially warped rough cut wood sheathing and roofing felts over wood stud framing, spaced at approximately 16-in. above the octagonal base structure, which is of the same construction.

The dome rafters rest on the top plate of the circular knee wall and are spaced to bear directly on the studs of the knee wall below. The rafters appear to be made up of a rough sawn 2x6 with a 2x10 cut with an arced outer edge and placed on the outer edge of the 2x6 to form a curved plane for the dome sheathing. The two (2) pieces are held together by three (3) 1x6 boards nailed perpendicular to them at quarter points. The tops of the rafters slope inward, thus the space between them is reduced as they are connected to a wooden compression ring made up of what appears to be rough-sawn 2x12's cut with arced outer edges and placed in segments and secured together.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

The stud framing for the truncated top of the dome rests on the wooden compression ring directly over the top ends of the domed rafters.

The exterior sheathing of the dome is made up of specially cut and warped rough-sawn 1x10's, and smaller filler pieces, which enabled the installers to fit over the framing to form the spherical shape. Over the wood sheathing there is ribbed metal cladding applied directly to the wood sheathing.

BUILDING INTERIOR

The Main Level

The floor plan of this church was unique to its time. The sanctuary plan is set in a large truncated square room with curved pews and a floor sloping toward a raised altar in one corner. There is an interior stained glass dome atop a plastered dome in the center of the ceiling.

After climbing the eight monumental exterior steps to the recessed portico, the entrance into the church involves a turn to the right and up another three steps to a double door entry of the church. Through the wood double stile and rail panel doors is a truncated triangular shaped vestibule which serves as a weather shield and a transitional area into the sanctuary, which is entered through a pair of wood stile and rail panel double acting doors at the rear (southwest corner) of the sanctuary. The 8 in. x 8 in. acoustical tile vestibule ceiling is 9 ft.-9 in. above the floor. The walls are covered with vertical grooved wood paneling. There are two (2) stained glass windows, one (1) on the south and one (1) on the west walls.

The secondary entry (exit) to the sanctuary is opposite the main entry from the portico, and at the same elevation above it as the main entry through a single wood stile and rail panel door. It also has a truncated triangular shape matching the main southwest vestibule. The door to the sanctuary is a single wood stile and rail panel door. There is a stained glass window in each of the north and west wood paneled walls. The ceiling is 8 x 8 acoustical tile 9 ft.-9 in. above the floor.

The main part of the sanctuary is a truncated square space measuring approximately 42 ft. each way with a raised 25 ft. wide x 5 ft. deep choir platform protruding out on the north side (Plan 'A'). The sanctuary floor is sloped from the southwest corner to the northeast corner, approximately 1 ft. to the raised platform in that corner. The platform is arced out about 8 ft. at its center point, out from an angled wall behind it cutting off the northeast corner of the sanctuary to match the opposite southwest entry door wall to the rear. The platform is 1 ft.-10 in. above the floor low point. The west main facade wall of the sanctuary contains three

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

(3) stained glass vertical windows, each with three (3) sections. The south wall contains one large opening with three (3) stained glass (3) section windows separated by (2) vertical wood mullions. The north wall contains a large opening with a (3) section stained glass window featuring Christ. This window was replaced several years ago after a tree fell through it during a severe storm.

The south end of the east wall of the sanctuary contains a wood stile and rail panel door in a wood frame leading to a stair landing and vestibule entry on the south elevation. It also has an opening on the east wall into an overflow area with a 21 ft. wide x 9 ft.-2 in. tall opening housing a vertical lift door. The door is constructed of a wood frame truss in a lattice-like configuration with 2 in. thick x 3 in. wide members 18 in. on center at 45° angles to the floor intersecting and mortised at 90° into each other and covered with canvas. On the sanctuary side 18 in. square x 1/2 in. thick acoustical tiles with beveled edges were applied. The door is raised using two original 8 in. x 24 in. poured concrete counterweights on a steel cable in each jamb. Two wooden forms used to cast the four (4) counterweights were discovered in the upper dome on a recent investigation. This concept was unique (Plan 'A').

The sanctuary walls are textured plaster. The ceiling is constructed of wood lath and textured plaster with 8 in. square acoustical tile over the plaster. There are four furred down plaster covered main beams, each being 24 in. wide x 24 in. deep bearing at 11 ft. above the southwest corner, intersecting to form an opening approximately 21 ft.-5 in. square which surrounds the dome. The interior dome is finished with smooth plaster on wood lathe and has three (3) cove light troughs in ogee shapes. The base of the stained glass (8) section domed stained glass skylight with eight (8) formed wood mullions is 13 ft. in diameter and 16 in. tall, and sits approximately 12 ft. above the top of the beams and is located in the center of the sanctuary. The clear glass outer dome discussed earlier provides sunlight to illuminate the stained glass (Photo 16). There is no provision for lighting it from the outer dome at night.

The sanctuary floor is carpeted. The original wood pews are curved with the bases fitted to the sloping floor. There are two (2) side aisles and two (2) intermediate aisles between three (3) sections of pews, with the center section being the widest (Photos 9 and 10).

The original stained wood railings, balusters and newel posts at the north and south entry foyers are excellent examples of the precision craftsmanship of the period (Photo 13).

The south entry vestibule contains one (1) stain glass window and stairs to the main level and lower level. Upon entering the vestibule, directly ahead there are five steps down to the lower level floor 3 ft.-7 in. below the entry landing. From the entry landing, there are two steps up to an intermediate landing on the right (east) and more steps up to the main level. The main level floor is approximately 10 ft.-7 in. above the lower level floor. The 9 ft.-2 in. high ceiling is acoustical tile. The space is 11 ft.-8 in. east and west and 14 ft.-3 in. north and south. The walls are plaster. From the vestibule on the main level to the west is the sanctuary, to the east is the pastor's study, and to the north is the overflow room off the sanctuary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

The pastor's study has three (3) stained glass windows on the south wall and the center one has been shortened to house a window A/C unit. There is one (1) stained glass window on the east wall. The walls are covered with wood paneling and built-in bookshelves. The ceiling is at 8 ft.-8 in. and covered with acoustical tile. North and adjacent to the study are two (2) workrooms. The first is 8 ft. x 7 ft.-6 in. with an 8 ft.-10 in. high acoustical tiled ceiling. There is one (1) stained glass window on the east wall. The next workroom to the north measures 8 ft. x 7 ft.-9 in. with an 8 ft.-10 in. acoustical tiled ceiling and plaster walls. There is one (1) stained glass window on the east wall.

To the north of the south entry vestibule is the overflow area off the east side of the sanctuary. This space measures 24 ft.-9 in. north and south and 17 ft. east and west. The ceiling is textured plaster at 13 ft.-2 in. above the floor. The walls extend above the flat roofs in this area to form a clerestory above the south, east, and north walls. The west wall extends up as a housing for the large vertical lift door.

There is an alcove in the northwest corner of this space measuring about 8 ft. x 7 ft.-6 in. with one (1) stained glass window in the east wall. The walls and 8 ft.-10 in. high ceiling are plaster.

The clerestory continues from the southeast sanctuary wall east, north and west back to the sanctuary wall. There is one (1) stain glass window in the south clerestory, three (3) in the east clerestory, and two (2) in the north clerestory. These six (6) stained glass windows are small, approximately 16 in high x 24 in. wide, and horizontal in shape, set in wood sash and frames.

To the northeast of the overflow room there is a library, family room, measuring 13 ft.-6 in. north/south x 17 ft.-6 in. east/ west. The walls are plaster and the 8 ft.-8 in. high ceiling is acoustical tile. The floor is carpeted. There are two (2) single panel, stained glass windows on the east wall and three (3) on the north (Photo 12). All of the upper level single stained glass windows are pivoted at the center point to swing in at the top and out at the bottom.

The overflow room and library connect to another vestibule on the north side of the church. The vestibule has had the steps from a lower landing replaced with a wheelchair lift which opens up to the lower level, entry level and upper main level to meet the ADA requirements. There is a short piece of the original wood railing between the lift and the west wall of the vestibule at the upper level. There is no exit access to the north entry door from the main level at this location.

West of the vestibule, there is another truncated triangular room formed by the wall behind the sanctuary altar platform and the sanctuary walls. This room provides access to the sanctuary platform and a room with a ceiling hatch to the structure and the outer dome. The walls and ceilings are plaster.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

The Lower Level

The northeast lower level entry door has been sealed and covered over on the inside by a gypsum board wall. Entry into the lower level is by the north or south entry vestibules.

Entering from the south and down steps to the east, is an alcove and a men's toilet room. This room contains a frosted dimpled glass window with three (3) panes installed with butted glass and no horizontal muntins. The walls are plaster and the ceiling is acoustical tile.

To the east of the vestibule is a children's room. It measures 10 ft -10 in. east and west x 16 ft.-10 in. north and south and the acoustical tile ceiling is at 9 ft. The walls are paneled with wood. The floor is carpeted. There are three (3) plain glass casement windows on the south wall and one (1) on the east wall. All are directly below the upper windows.

The lower level of this vestibule allows access through a pair of original stained wood stile and rail panel doors into an activity/dining area to the north measuring 26 ft.-10 in. east and west, and 24 ft.-9 in. north and south. The acoustical tiled ceiling is at 9 ft.-2 in. above the floor. The walls are plaster with a painted wood baseboard. The floor is carpeted. There are three (3) 9 in. square plastered columns supporting two (2) lowered beams spanning north to south in the center area. Ductwork is suspended in the room. There are three (3) plain glass casement windows on the east wall located directly below those of the upper level (Plan 'B' and Photo 14).

To the north of this area is a kitchen measuring approximately 18 ft. east to west x 13 ft.-7 in. north to south. The ceiling is at 9 ft.-2 in. The walls are plastered. There are two (2) plain glass casement windows on the east wall and three (3) on the north wall located directly below those of the upper level..

West of the kitchen is the north entry vestibule with access stairs to the north entrance door landing and the wheelchair lift. The walls are plastered. The ceiling is acoustical tile. The original exterior door was replaced with an insulated flush hollow metal door with a small glass light. To the west of the lower vestibule is the ladies' toilet. It takes the shape of the truncated triangular room directly above it. There is one (1) plain glass window.

On the west wall of the activities/dining area a pair of double wood stile and rail panel doors open into another large open area beneath the sanctuary.

There are three (3) beams spanning east to west from the upper walls of the sanctuary to the outer west wall. There are three (3) 4 in. diameter steel pipe columns with exposed base plates and top plates in the center area. Eight other similar columns are concealed in the walls (Plan 'B'). There are three (3) plain casement windows on the north wall located directly below the upper level windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

At the south and west perimeter, there are small classrooms and a furnace room which were constructed in 1967.² The walls are of wood studs with wood paneling and the doors are flush hollow-core wood veneer. The ceilings of all these rooms are between 8 ft. and 8 ft.-6 in. above the floor. The classroom walls have a wood panel wainscot on the exterior walls, plain glass casement windows located directly below the upper level windows located on the south, and one (1) on the northeast and southwest corners. Below the recessed entry portico is a storage room with an exposed poured concrete roof at 7 ft- 8 in. above the floor and exposed poured concrete walls located below the upper masonry walls.

Stained Glass Windows

The twenty-three (23) stained glass upper level wall windows include one (1) large replaced window on the north wall of the sanctuary, three (3) originals on the west wall of the sanctuary, and one (1) large (3) segment original window in the south wall of the sanctuary. All of the upper level single stained glass windows are pivoted at the center point to swing in at the top and out at the bottom.

There are six (6) small clerestory stained glass windows around the overflow area east of the sanctuary. There are a total of twenty-nine (29) stained glass windows in the walls, plus the eight (8) section stained glass dome in the sanctuary. All but one (1) are original from about 1918 by unknown artisans. One in the pastor's study has been cut short for a window air conditioner. The original stained glass windows and the stained glass dome in the sanctuary ceiling are significant religious art objects.

Building Alterations

In May, 1961, a sign was added on the front lawn. In April, 1967, cracks were repaired on the exterior brick walls, the trim was painted and the windows puttied. In July, 1967, the south door was replaced.⁴ The north entry door has been replaced at some time with an insulated finish hollow metal door with a small glass light. Plexiglas has been installed over the exterior of the sanctuary stained glass window.

The First Presbyterian Church building maintains a superb integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship and feeling. Its Classical Revival exterior, with minor exceptions, remains unaltered, with no building additions. It is an exemplary example of the feeling and association of this church's place in the history and development of Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

End Notes:

- ¹ Garner, Robert. *A History of the Presbyterian Church, Van Buren, Arkansas (1849-1992)* p. 4
- ² Mayo, Jim. *Sallisaw Historical Highlights* p. 19
- ³ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sallisaw, Oklahoma 1918*
- ⁴ Harp, Rev. C. and Frye, Roy, Jr. *History of First Presbyterian Church, Sallisaw, Oklahoma*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church building located at 120 South Oak Street, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is an intact example of Sallisaw, Oklahoma's historic church architecture and the only extant example of the early twentieth century Classical Revival style church architecture in the Sallisaw area. Its nomination for its architectural significance meets the requirements of Criteria Consideration A. The building remains an example of a pattern of events that made a significant contribution to the development of a community as related to an era of public building in Sallisaw. The design and construction of the church is unique to the area and its time and, as such, Criterion C applies for its high artistic value, aesthetic achievement and distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or architectural style.

SUMMARY

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in work and in hope.... Let your watchword be order and your beacon beauty." These are the words of architect Daniel Burnham, whose magnificent scheme for the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893 inflamed the nation with passion for the City Beautiful. The Chicago Fair heralded America's expanding international presence - and for this new Imperial Age nothing less would do than the style of Imperial Rome, brought forward in time by academicians of the French *Ecole des Beaux-Arts*, and practiced in American architectural offices and schools by a Paris-trained generation. This was to be architecture for all time - grand in scale, monumental, symmetrical, luxuriously appointed, with a broad and richly pictorial vocabulary of Classical ornament. Its mode was noble, for it was the architecture of a society that sought reform, progress - perfection.¹ Late Nineteenth Century revivals are larger, grander, and more elaborate than earlier Nineteenth Century style revivals. They tend to be stately rather than exciting, "correct" rather than daring. Buildings or monuments which revive Classical Greek or Roman styles are notable for their weightiness, solidity, and pretentious figural and ornamental motifs.²

The area that lies between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains is one of the most difficult to define in terms of culture in general and of religious architecture more particularly.³ Wooden churches lasted for many decades in outlying parts of the West, though the shifting population brought about by financial and meteorological vicissitudes often saw them converted to secular uses or abandoned to decay. As the region began to urbanize, a similar pattern of importation of fashion from the culture hearths of the East rapidly prevailed. Kansas City, Omaha, and Denver, as they changed from "cowtowns" to real cities, began to take on the cultural accoutrements of proper urban centers. Boosters promoted the building of churches, which carried with them an aura of permanence, and railroads were eager to provide free land, particularly to the Protestant denominations.⁴

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Not surprisingly, the cityscapes that now began to emerge at wide intervals throughout the urban West did not differ dramatically from those back east. In religious, as well as secular architecture, the West for the most part did not turn out to be the wellspring of fresh and dramatic ideas. Rather, western cities were intensely conservative in their built environment, adopting the styles that had already become popular in the cities of the Northeast and the Old Northwest.⁴

During the early years of Sallisaw's development, churches were, and still are, an important part of the town's activities.

Many activities revolved about the doctor, preacher, and teacher. The doctor was a general practitioner who treated every sickness. He made house calls any time of day or night. Hospitals were seldom available; thus, operations were rare. If an operation was necessary, it was performed on the kitchen table at home or in the doctor's office. Babies were born at home. When there was illness in a family, the minister was a frequent visitor and the women of the church helped in any way possible. The doctor and his little black "pill bag", along with the minister and his Bible, were frequent companions when smallpox or some other dread disease appeared.⁵ Sunday was a day of rest, but nearly everyone went to church. Sermons were often long and of the "hell-fire-and-damnation" kind. No stores opened on Sunday. After a big home-cooked dinner, if the weather was good, the horse was hitched to the buggy and the family went driving, or calling on the neighbors. Young people frequently gathered at a favorite site along a stream or at a nearby spring, if one existed in the community. After supper, however, most returned to church for another sermon. Often there was only one church in a community and although the doctrine of various individuals may have varied greatly, they usually worked together when the need arose.⁶

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The word Sallisaw derives from a French word meaning salt provisions. During a hunting expedition into the area, French explorers called the present Sallisaw Creek *Salaisean* because hunters killed bison and salted the meat.⁷ The Town of Sallisaw was incorporated in 1898. By 1908 waterworks improvements costing \$60,000 were underway. Electricity also became available about the same time. The permanent foundations of the community were laid in its second decade, and the time from 1909 through 1918 proved to be era of strong growth built on those foundations.⁸

Statehood in 1907 placed the Sequoyah County seat of government in Sallisaw. The railroads continued to transport new people into the city and county. By the 1912-13 school year, thirty-five students were attending high school. This number jumped to forty-two in the 1913-14 year, and to sixty-six in the 1914-15 year. Quesenbury High School was constructed in 1908. A Sequoyah County Courthouse went up in 1913 and 1914 at a cost of \$35,000. The original building still stands, but a brick facade put on in 1961 hides the original exterior. Two of the major reasons for construction of the courthouse then were crowding and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 17

unsanitary conditions in the structures then being used for jails. Municipal electricity became available in 1908, and in April 1916, a contract was let to build a new power house at a cost of \$3,274.64. The building still stands and is in use by the city electric department, although not as a generating station. New homes, many of them large, were under construction all over the city. Sewer bonds totaling \$45,000 were voted in 1911 and the system constructed the next year. New churches also went up. The First Baptist Church is credited with being the oldest congregation still in existence. It was organized in 1890. The oldest church building in the city still standing is at 319 West Choctaw, built in 1910 and extensively remodeled in 1955. It originally housed the First Christian Church. The First Presbyterian Church at 120 South Oak is the oldest church building in the city still in its original configuration and still being used for its original purpose. It was constructed in 1918 at a cost of \$17,500.⁹

Railroads still provided the major means of transportation in and out of the city, but by late 1911 a local good roads association was calling for new roads running north and south and east and west paralleling the Iron Mountain and Kansas City Southern Railroad tracks. The Fifth Oklahoma Legislature laid out a state highway system in 1915, and in 1917, the Albert Pike Highway was started between Hot Springs, Arkansas and Colorado Springs, Colorado. This highway ran through Sallisaw. By this time, autos were beginning to replace wagons and buggies.¹⁰

Sallisaw's third decade came to an end with a good feeling in the minds and hearts of residents. The Great War, the one to "End all Wars," had itself come to an end only days before on November 11, 1918. The city was growing, and new buildings were going up.

The First Presbyterian Church of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, resulted from a merger of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. The records indicate that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in Sallisaw, Indian Territory, on April 10, 1898, by the Rev. J. L. Lish of Wagoner, Indian Territory.¹¹ The original building for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Sallisaw was apparently constructed on land donated by the father of Jim L. McDonald. The church was constructed in about 1903, was about 60x90 ft. and had a steeple and a bell. Uncle Jim McDonald, or J. A. McDonald, was the pastor of this Cumberland Presbyterian Church from 1906 to 1910. Mr. J. A. McDonald was the father of Angus McDonald who wrote about his father's fame in the story "Old McDonald Had a Farm." Membership in the church continued to grow from 1907 to 1911 and in 1912 there was no pastor and membership dropped. Letters from old members indicated that the church building burned in about 1916 and that services were held in the courthouse until the new church was constructed in 1918. In the minutes of November 28, 1917, they recommended that the church build a duplicate of the Van Buren, Arkansas Church (which in fact was done).¹²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 18

In the meeting of December 17, 1917, the church accepted a deed to Lot 7, Block 39, apparently as a gift from Jess W. Watts and McDonald and Matthews, and a committee was appointed to raise funds for the building of a new church. On April 1, 1918, the session advertised for bids for the construction of a new church, and in the meeting of May 22, 1918, Mr. H. P. Culp of Muskogee was employed to build the church at commission of 10% of the cost of the building, not including pews or windows. In the minutes of August 18, 1918, C. M. McDonald was appointed to gather facts of interest about the organization of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and Ed Francis was to gather facts about the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. to be deposited in the cornerstone of the new building at the NE corner of Oak Street and Creek Avenue.¹³

According to published PCUSA General Assembly records, the congregation was organized in 1897 and absorbed a large part of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church's membership in town when that congregation divided in 1907. According to GA statistics, the church had 120 members in 1918, and a full time minister, John W. Willebanks. The congregation had a large Sunday school, and was a generous supporter of denominational missions relative to other churches in the presbytery. All of these facts suggest that the church did not need the aid of the national church in order to build its new sanctuary. While they may have used PCUSA Board of Church Erection designs, this is generally not a matter of national record. The board did not indicate individual churches helped in their annual reports, and published church plans could be used for many years after their first announcement by the board. While the board reproduced some of their plans in their published annual reports, these reproductions represented only a sampling of their available plans, and the reproductions are not indexed for individual church names or locations.¹⁴

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND CRITERIA CONSIDERATION

The First Presbyterian Church of Sallisaw is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as the best, extant example of Classical Revival style architecture in Sallisaw. The monumentalism of the Classical Revival is evidenced by its frequent use in banks, churches, and governmental buildings. During the first three decades of the 20th Century, Classical Revival and Neo-Classical buildings were constructed in large numbers across the country.

The largest and most prominent Classical Revival style building in Sequoyah County was the courthouse, constructed in 1913. Finished scarcely five years later, the First Presbyterian Church rivaled the courthouse as a landmark. While smaller in footprint, the impressive dome and columned portico of the church dominated the streetscape a block south of the courthouse. In 1961, the courthouse was radically remodeled; all traces of classical architectural embellishment were removed, creating a sleek, unadorned, modern appearance. This alteration left the intact First Presbyterian Church as the best local example of this important stylistic trend.

As the area of significance for this church is architecture, Criteria Consideration A can be applied to this superb architectural resource. It holds an important, well respected, place in the history and development of Sallisaw as its best example of intact Classical Revival architecture. It is unique, well maintained with an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 19

outstanding location and setting. Its precision crafted elements, stained glass windows and dome, artistic aesthetics, religious feeling and its magnificent, majestic stature bestow upon all who view or enter it, reverence, solitude and respect for its purpose, place, and pride in the artisans and craftsmen of early 20th Century Sallisaw.

Therefore, the First Presbyterian Church of Sallisaw, Oklahoma is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural significance.

End Notes:

- ¹ Rifkin. *A Field Guide to American Architecture* p. 217
- ² Ibid. p. 220
- ³ Williams. *Houses of God* p. 209
- ⁴ Ibid. p. 214
- ⁵ Morris. "The Smaller Cities." *Cities of Oklahoma* p.15
- ⁶ Mayo. *Sallisaw Historical Highlights* p. 4
- ⁷ Ibid. p.7
- ⁸ Ibid. p.19
- ⁹ Ibid. p.20
- ¹⁰ Harp. Rev. C. & Frye, Roy *History of First Presbyterian Church Sallisaw.* p.1
- ¹¹ Ibid. p. 4
- ¹² Ibid. p. 6
- ¹³ Ibid. p. 7
- ¹⁴ Ross. e-mail 10-31-02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

Bibliography

Deed Records. Sequoyah County Clerk's Office, Sallisaw, OK

Garner, Robert. *"A History of the Presbyterian Church, Van Buren, Arkansas (1844-1992)"*
Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Presbytery. 1992

Harp, Rev. C & Frye, Roy. *"History of First Presbyterian Church, Sallisaw, Oklahoma (from 1898-1974)"*
Typescript. Vertical File, First Presbyterian Church, Sallisaw, OK 1974

Mayo, Jim. *Sallisaw Historical Highlights, A Pictorial History of Sallisaw, Oklahoma - 1888-1993.*
Cookson Hills Publishers, Inc. 1993

Morris, John W. *"The Smaller Cities." Cities of Oklahoma.* Ed. John W. Morris. Oklahoma City, OK
Oklahoma Historical Society. 1979

Rifkin, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture.* New York, NY. The Penquin Group. 1980

Ross, Kenneth. Reference Librarian. "e-mail 10-31-02" Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)
Presbyterian Historical Society. 2002

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Sallisaw, OK. December 1918
Microfilm Archives, University of Central Oklahoma

Williams, Peter W. *Houses of God, Region, Religion, and Architecture in the United States.* Urbana and
Chicago, Illinois: University of Illinois Press. 1997

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 21

Verbal Boundary Designation:

- Lot 007, Block 39, City of Sallisaw, Oklahoma
Section: 5 & 6, Township: 11N, Range: 24E in the State of Oklahoma
- Located on a corner lot at northeast corner of South Oak Street and West Creek Street, with Oak Street on the (west) front, Creek Street on the (south) side and an alley on the (east) rear.

Boundary Justification:

- The boundaries include the property historically associated with this church building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

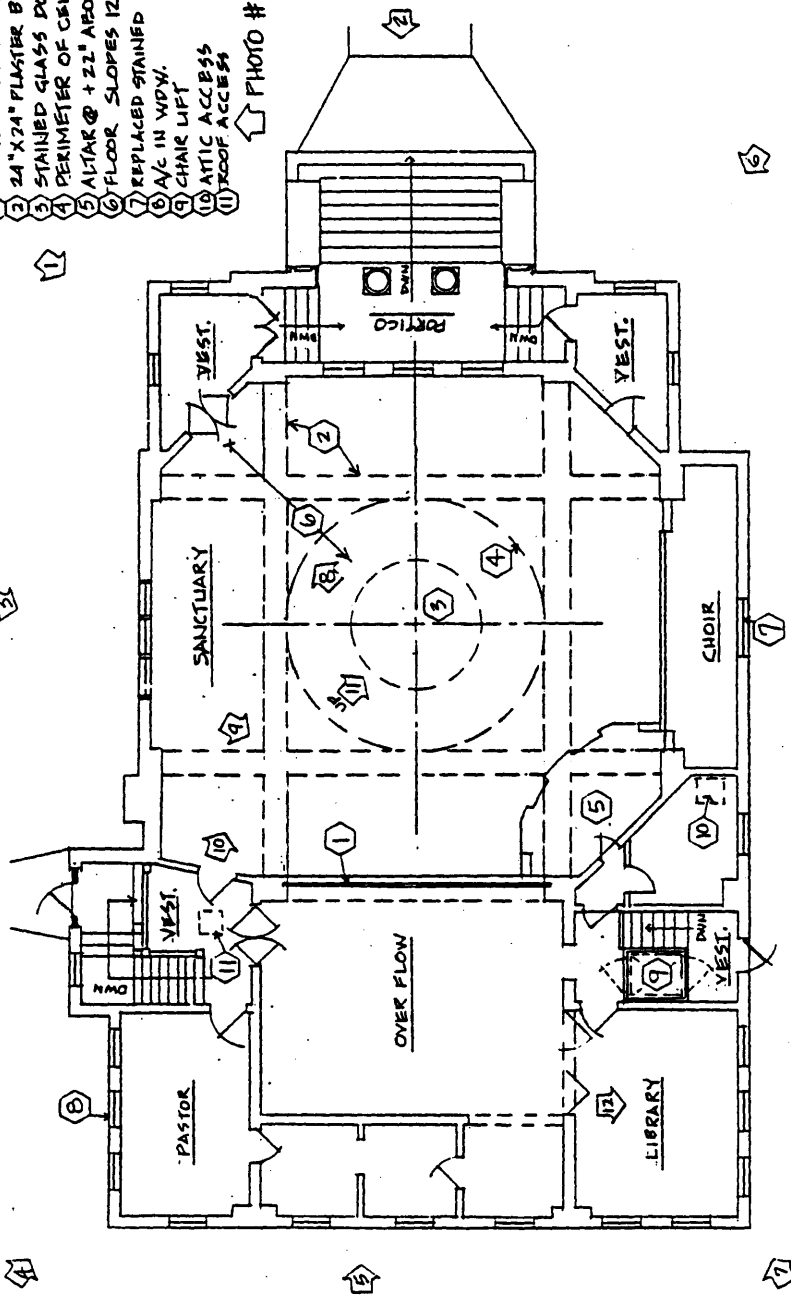
Section number _____ Page 22

Photographs (Supplemental Information)

3. All (17) photographs were taken by John E. Lane.
4. The dates of photographs are as follows:
 - #1 - 10/26/02
 - #2 & #3 - 12/5/02
 - #4 - #7 - 10/26/02
 - #8 - #17 - 12/5/02
5. The negatives of the photographs are at the SHPO.
6. Directions of photographs (see Plans A&B)
 1. Northeast
 2. East
 3. Northeast
 4. Northwest
 5. West
 6. Southeast
 7. Southwest
 8. Southwest
 9. Northeast
 10. West
 11. Up & Northwest
 12. North
 13. Southeast
 14. Southeast
 15. Attic - Northwest
 16. Dome interior - South
 17. Dome interior - Up and South

KEYED NOTES

- 1 VERTICAL LIFT DR.
- 2 24" X 24" PLASTER BEAMS
- 3 STAINED GLASS DOME ABOVE
- 4 PERIMETER OF CEILING DOME
- 5 ALTAR @ + 22" ABOVE FLOOR
- 6 FLOOR SLOPES 12" TO N.E.
- 7 REPLACED STAINED GLASS WDW.
- 8 A/C IN WPW.
- 9 CHAIR LIFT
- 10 ATTIC ACCESS
- 11 ROOF ACCESS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

120 SO. OAK
SALLISAW, OK.

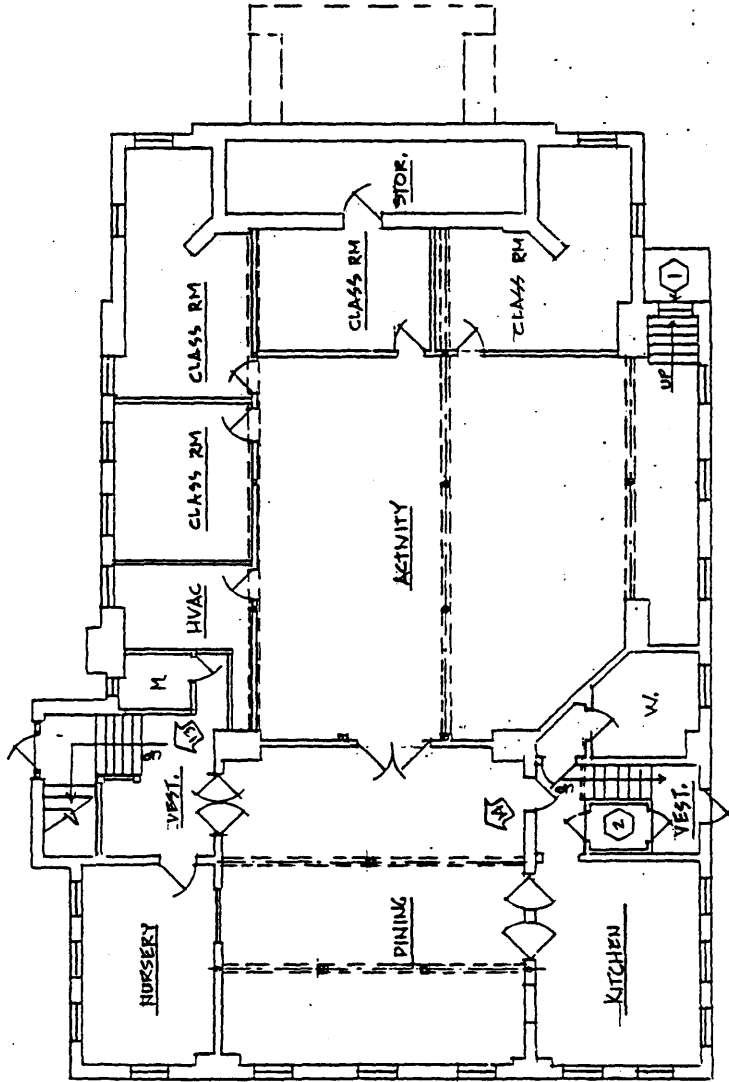
PHOTOS NOT KEYED

15, 16, 17 ATTIC,
& DOME STRUCTURE

MAIN LEVEL PLAN

SCALE 0 4 8 12 16 FT.

© J.E. LANE, 12/7/02



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

170 SO. OAK
SALLISAW, OK.

KEYED NOTES

- ① DOOR SEALED
 - ② CHAIR LIFT
- PHOTO # ↗



LOWER LEVEL PLAN

SCALE 0 4 8 12 16 FT.

© J.E. LANE, 12/7/02

17