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National Register of	Historic Places		
Registration Form			NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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Bourbon County, Kansas County and State

5. Classification		
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First Presbyterian Church Bourbon County, Kansas Name of Property County and State 8. Statement of Significance **Applicable National Register Criteria** Areas of Significance (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the (Enter categories from instructions) property for National Register Architecture 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 Period of Significance individual distinction. 1924-1925 **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. **Criteria Considerations** (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) **Significant Dates** Property is: 1925 A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. **B** removed from it original location. **Significant Person C** a birthplace or grave. (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) D a cemetery. N/A **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure. **Cultural Affiliation** a da ser ser facto de la **F** a commemorative property. N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years Architect/Builder Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more Brostrom, Ernest Olaf continuation sheets.) 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): Primary location of additional data: preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency has been requested Federal agency previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register Local government designated a National Historic Landmark University recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Other # Name of repository: recorded by Historic American Engineering Kansas State Historical Society Record

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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

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas, was constructed in 1924 and completed in 1925. The red-orange tapestry brick church lies just to the southwest of Fort Scott's downtown commercial area, but is easily visible from the Fort and the surrounding neighborhoods. The church was designed by architect Ernest Olaf Brostrom of Kansas City, Missouri. The church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The church is an excellent example of Collegiate Gothic-style architecture.

Description

The L-shaped building is 3-1/2 stories, and is faced with brick and limestone. The north-south extension of the L contains the sanctuary, a sub-ground basement, and several smaller meeting rooms, and classrooms.

The east-west extension of the "L" houses the church offices, classrooms, additional basement rooms, storage, and a gym on the top level.

At the intersection of the "L", on the east side and the north side of the extensions, stands a large bell tower. The tower extends several stories above the church building, but stands as the main entrance to the church at its base.

Like Brostrom's other church designs of the same period, the church's structure is made primarily of concrete and steel. The foundation, footings, and interior framework are all formed concrete that is faced with brick and stone on the exterior and with plaster on the interior. The base of the structure is faced with a natural limestone that blends into the orange tapestry brick.

The roof the building is red-clay tile with a clay tile ridge cap running the length of the roofline along both wings of the building.

Exterior

East Façade

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Looking at the building from the east, the gabled end of the east-west wing is visible, the tower and its base entrance as well as the long side of the north-south wing. The gable end of the east-west wing is ornamented with a gray cast-stone bay that projects out from the gabled end. The bay is decorated with inset Gothic arches and decorated pilasters. The bay extends three stories up along the façade. There are three rows of casement windows in the bay corresponding with the stories and interior spaces. The basement windows are simple eight-light windows. The second and third stories have the eight-light windows with a smaller four-light window set above. Above the third story is a small parapet for the bay with drains to move the water away from the top of the bay. On either side of the bay, several feet from

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

either side, the brick is stepped out to add depth and contrast to the brick wall. There are decorative coping stones that follow the bricks as they are stepped out from the façade. Along the façade above the bay is a casement windows set into the building. The casement window is four eight-light windows with no decoration. The end of the gable extends several feet above the steeply pitched roofline. There is a cast-stone cap that runs along the ridge of the gabled end.

The north-south wing, along the east façade, is divided into four separate bays. The first three bays each frame one of the stained glass windows that lights the auditorium. Between each of the windows, separating the bays, is a brick pilaster with cast-stone trim that breaks up the brick surface providing detail and adding depth to the brick building. The fourth bay on the north-south wing, is a cast-stone projecting bay (similar in design and style to that on the east gable end). Set into the cast-stone projecting bay, are three rows of windows. Each window is an eight-light casement window. The second floor windows have a four-light window above the eight-light casement windows. While the third and first floors are just eight-light windows. Above the projecting bay is a decorative stone parapet. The formed scrollwork and curved lines of the open bring a rounded contrast to the sharp Gothic angles and lines found along the exterior.

North Façade

The north façade is comprised of the north face of the east-west wing and the gable end of the northsouth wing.

The east-west wing contains church offices and classrooms on the interior of the building. On the exterior there are two double-hung, eight-over-eight wood windows spaced along the ground level. The third floor has the same eight-over-eight double-hung windows, but has three of them spaced along the story. The second story, (which is the main floor on the interior) has eight-light casement windows, with a four-light fixed transom above. The red clay tile roof extends over the dormer that is there and there is a decorative clay-tile finial above the dormer. There is a second projection from the attic space that extends into the tower.

The gable end of the north-south wing is divided into three bays. Brick pilasters that rise the above the gable into small spires divide each of the bays. The gable itself is capped with a cast stone. Moving from left to right, the first bay contains a pair of wood double doors framed with a decorative cast-stone Gothic arch. There are two, eight-light transoms sent into the cast stone. The second bay is the largest of the three on this north gable. The first and second floors have three small eight-light casement windows aligned vertically between the two stories. The third story is a large, stained glass window. Framed in cast stone, the window is set back into the brick façade with a decorative gothic arch. The stained glass is not visible from the sanctuary inside due to the location of the church's organ. The third bay has a pair of wood doors, similar to the first bay, but does not have a transom located over the door.

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

West Façade

The west facade faces the alley running parallel to Crawford Street and separates the church from a residential neighborhood to the west. Looking from left to right there are four main bays on this façade. Each bay has its own distinctive features. The first bay has a steeply pitched parapet and a cast stone Gothic arch with two sets of three eight-light casement window inset in Gothic patterning and detailing. The second bay contains the three stained glass windows that face the interior of the sanctuary. Between these windows are two brick pilasters with decorative cast stone detailing. Above these windows are two projecting dormers with stained glass windows. The third bay has a stepped cast stone parapet and only slightly pitched. This bay is largely dominated by a stained glass window that sits higher that the three to the north, however the pattern and color of the window matches the other stained glass windows in the sanctuary. The base, however, is stepped down as the windows follow a stairway on the interior. Below the larger windows is a small stained glass window, taking up only a single window opening. This window also looks out into a stairwell, but is a Victorian-era style window and was reused from the 1888 church that was dismantled. There is also a modern door to the alley at street level. The forth bay is the rear addition that was modified and added on to allow for the installation of an interior elevator. There is very little decoration to this bay. There are eight-light casement windows along the second story and double-hung wood windows on the first and third floors.

South Façade

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The south façade is comprised of the south faces of the east-west wing. This wing is comprised of classrooms, resources and meeting rooms for the church. The exterior façade is flat faced with only the chimney on the eastern end of the façade providing any projection and profile changes along the surface.

The first story is a mixture of rough-cut limestone and brick. There are wood sash windows spaced throughout. The second story has four wood eight-over-eight double-hung windows on the west ends. The center portion of this façade has eight-light casement windows paired in two sets of four or two sets of three. The third story has double-hung eight-over-eight wood windows, and two sets of four metal casement windows in the middle.

Just to the east side of the center of the façade are two wood 15-light doors in an entry that is framed in cast stone. The door leads to an interior stair well. Above the door at half-story settings are two sets of three eight-light casement windows set into the brick façade. The brick extends up into a gabled wall dormer with a case stone capped parapet. On either side of the wall dormer are four smaller wood dormers with casement windows set into the roof.

The chimney extends up to just short of the roofline and is ornamented with cast stone elements that match the Gothic patterning throughout.

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

Tower

The central bell tower is situated at the intersection of the two wings. The tower serves as the main entrance to the building. There are stairs from the east and from the north leading up to the two sets of wood doors with pointed-arch transoms above each door. The main doors enter onto the second story and to a main hall and a centrally located stairwell.

Extending up from the doors on all sides is a large four- spire brick tower. The tower is accented with decorative cast stone pieces and the corners matching the brick patterning. There are four carved openings at the top of the tower with open cast stone tracery embellishing the bell surround.

Interior

The interior of this building is complex and planned so that all space is available for storage or classroom spaces. The east-west wing contains classroom, storage space, church offices, and even a small interior chapel for smaller church meetings and functions. The floors are terrazzo in the main spaces and concrete, often carpeted, throughout the rest of this portion. There are multiple levels to this building, including a basement that houses additional classroom spaces and a large multi-purpose room. The attic spaces are finished and a large gymnasium is located in the attic space and is still used by church youth functions and has often been a home for Boy Scout activities.

The main entrance hall is reached through the primary entrance in the front, and is also easily accessed from the door on the south façade. The floor is a well-preserved terrazzo. The walls in the main entrance and throughout are plaster walls. There is a decorative plaster molding along the ceiling beams. There is also a large staircase just past the entrance to the sanctuary that leads to the third floor and finished attic spaces.

The sanctuary is located in the north-south wing. The main entrance to the sanctuary is just off of the main entrance through the main hallway. The sanctuary occupies all levels and the attic spaces in this wing. There is a balcony accessed from the third floor that projects out over several rows of pews. The interior of the sanctuary retains a high degree of style and integrity. The plaster walls are still intact and the stained glass windows and decorative wooden trusses are all in excellent condition. The floor of the sanctuary slopes downward towards a stage area that holds the choir and the organ. The stage, pews, and decorations throughout the sanctuary are wood and are in excellent condition.

Several years after the construction was completed, the First Presbyterian Church congregation celebrated its 90th anniversary and invited the architect to return to speak about the symbolism and architecture of the church building. Notes taken by church members from his remarks can be found in Appendix 1.

Electrical lighting fixtures in the sanctuary are original. The Henry Pilcher's Sons pipe organ is a three manual electropneumatic instrument with 30 ranks. It was rebuilt by Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc, in 1994.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

Overall this building retains a high degree of integrity and is an excellent example of Collegiate Gothic architecture.



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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas



Figure 1-2: Original floor plans showing the layout and design of the First Presbyterian Church.¹

¹ From the drawings created by architect Ernest Brostrom for the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott, Kansas.

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas



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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas





² From the drawings created by architect Ernest Brostrom for the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott, Kansas.

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The building represents the work of architect Ernest Brostrom and is an excellent local example of the Collegiate Gothic style. The church is located on Crawford Street and lies just southwest of the downtown. The building was completed in 1925 and retains a high degree of its original elements and integrity.

Architect

Ernest Brostrom was born in Sweden in 1888. At a young age he moved with his family to Iowa where Brostrom attended school. No record is found of him having received any formal architectural training. He worked as a draftsman in several architectural offices, and this suggests that he learned the necessary skills as an apprentice. By 1912, Brostrom had opened his own architectural office. And he began a career designing buildings in Kansas City, and throughout southeast Kansas.

In his work Brostrom was influenced by several different popular styles and trends. Many of his commercial designs reflect the influence of the Chicago School and the works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan. In his church designs, however, Brostrom utilized Collegiate Gothic styling and ornamentation. He also intermingled some of the traits and materials common to the Arts and Crafts movement that was popular at the time. His building styles "changed with the trends of the day, but his unique work in Collegiate Gothic stands out as some of his best."

Brostrom began work on the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott in 1924, and the church was completed in 1925. He designed several other churches for the same Presbytery, in southeast Kansas, including churches in Iola and Winfield. He designed the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in Winfield in 1917, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Collegiate Gothic

The Collegiate Gothic style derives from the Gothic Revival style that was influenced by medieval Gothic architecture. Gothic Revival architecture was popularized in the mid-18th century and was often employed for academic, political and religious buildings. The style incorporates a mix of Jacobethan and Elizabethan Gothic detailing. The style is known for large center towers, with tall, monumental proportions with flanking battlement, or castellated towers and parapetted walls. Gothic arches usually

³ Susan Jezak Ford, "The Influence of the Chicago School on the Work of Ernest Olaf Brostrom", Master's Thesis, 1997, University of Kansas School of Architecture.

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

grace these buildings, particularly in windows and door surrounds and detailing. Polychromatic color schemes for these buildings are common as well. The style is meant to reflect English medieval churches and universities with castle-like appearances.⁴

The First Presbyterian Church in Fort Scott has many of these important characteristics, and is an excellent local example of Collegiate Gothic-style of architecture.

Building History

The Presbyterian congregation in Fort Scott is one of the oldest congregations in the state. It was founded with just three members in November of 1859. As the congregation grew, they met at a wood frame building located at Third and Main Streets in downtown Fort Scott. In 1888, the congregation moved to a new red brick building a few blocks to the west at Third and Crawford Streets.

By the early 1920s the congregation had outgrown the Gothic redbrick building, and in 1923 they contracted with Ernest Brostrom to design the current church. Construction began in 1924. The 1888 structure was razed and the new church was built on the same site at the southwest corner of the intersection at Third and Crawford Streets. Many of the bricks and building materials used to construct the 1888 church we reused in the construction of the current building. Although the exterior is an orange tapestry brick, the interior of the bell tower and many of the interior walls were constructed out of the original red brick and faced with the new orange-tinted brick.

The building's auditorium is one of the largest in the area and can seat close to 1,000 people. The building has had few alterations, particularly in the key character-defining spaces. An elevator was added in 2001. Several classrooms and mechanical spaces were reconfigured in order to make room for an elevator and the subsequent equipment to be installed.

Stained Glass Windows

The stained glass windows in the church sanctuary were created by the Jacoby Art Glass Company of St. Louis, Missouri. The Jacoby Art Glass Company began in 1896 as the Jacoby-Spies Company, but by the turn of the century it was known solely as the Jacoby Art Glass Company. They designed and created stained glass windows for many churches in the Midwest. They had artisans living and working in

⁴ Ford, Susan Jezak, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church National Register Nomination, NR Listed November 15, 2005. See also: Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture since 1780, First MIT Press, 1969. p. 174

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number <u>8</u> Page <u>11</u>

First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

Kansas City who created designs for stained glass windows throughout Kansas. The company remained in business in St. Louis for 75 years before closing in 1970.⁵

Fort Scott and the First Presbyterian Church

Fort Scott was established in 1842 along the road south of Fort Leavenworth. The military operated the Fort until 1854 and then abandoned the area for a time. When the Kansas Territory opened up for settlers, the Fort buildings and the area's location made it a good spot to develop a town. In 1857 a town company formed and by 1860 the town of Fort Scott had grown to around 260 people.⁶

The First Presbyterian congregation formed in these early days of the town of Fort Scott. As the town grew with the development of the railroad and the production of local coal resources, more people came to Fort Scott. The growth of the town is mirrored by the movement of the congregation to a larger building in 1888.⁷

Railroad growth in Fort Scott did not expand the town at the rate hoped for by city founders and promoters. The coal resources to the south in Crawford County proved to be richer and more abundant. In order to supplement the slower growth, the city worked to attract other industries. In the early 1900s and 1910s a brick and tile company started, followed by food processors. In 1918, a branch of the Borden Condensed Milk Company opened a large plant in Fort Scott. These were soon followed by the local development of the Western Insurance Company and a municipal-owned Junior College. This growth in the early part of the 20th century brought more people to Fort Scott. ⁸

It follows that about this time that the Presbyterian Congregation outgrew its 1888 structure and commissioned the design and construction of the present building. There were more people living and working and worshipping in the city and church growth became a priority.

As the congregation has grown, it has played a significant role in the local community. It has been the meeting place for many years for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Bluebirds, and many other after school and social gatherings. The large auditorium, which can seat around 1,000 people, often hosts large civic gatherings, weddings and other events. Because of the size and its function within the community, the church was asked to hold the funeral service for Gordon Parks, a native of Fort Scott, in 2006.

⁷ Dedicatory church bulletin, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Scott, Church archives, book entitled BUILDINGS 1, 2, 3.
 ⁸ Shortridge, James, p. 273.

 ⁵ Oppliger, Daniel, History of the Jacoby Stained Glass Studios, Inc., <u>www.tropicalsails.com/jacobyoppliger/</u>, 1/17/2008. Ford, Susan Jezak, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church National Register Nomination, NR Listed November 15, 2005.
 ⁶ Shortridge, James, Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 2004, p. 125.

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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

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Fort Scott Tribune Monitor, Numerous dates (see footnotes), 6 East Wall, Fort Scott, KS.

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- Brostrom, E.O., detailed notes from a speech he made at the church, November 14, 1949, preserved in the church archives, "Buildings 1, 2 & 3" notebook (see "Archives", above.)
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First Presbyterian Church Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The First Presbyterian Church occupies lots 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 on block 133 in Fort Scott, Bourbon, County, Kansas.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries include the historic and the land on which it is situated. The house and playground are also owned by the church are not included in this nomination.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: First Presbyterian Church Location: Fort Scott, Bourbon County, Kansas Photographer: Kristen Johnston Date: 1/10/07 Digital images on file at the Kansas State Historical Society

Photo 1: East (front) elevation, view from the east

Photo 2: North elevation, view from the north

Photo 3: West elevation, view from the northwest

Photo 4: South elevation, view from the south

Photo 5: Interior, north facing main doors, view from the south

Photo 6: Bell tower, view from the north

Photo 7: Interior, main doors into sanctuary, 2nd floor, view from the east

Photo 8: Interior, sanctuary, view from the southwest corner

Photo 9: Interior, sanctuary, stained glass windows on east wall, view from the west

Photo 10: Interior, sanctuary, view from the northeast corner

Photo II: Interior, sanctuary, view from the northeast corner, ceiling beam detail

Photo 12: Interior, sanctuary, close-up of light fixture and stained glass in dormer, view from east

Photo 13: Interior, sanctuary, stage area and organ, view from the southwest

Photo 14: Interior, sanctuary balcony, view from the east

Photo 15: Interior, close up of door hardware detail

Photo 16: Interior, fireplace in main floor chapel

Photo 17: Interior, basement, multipurpose room and kitchen

