

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

and/or common Renaissance Center

2. Location

street & number 1104 N. Robinson N/A not for publication

city, town Oklahoma City N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Oklahoma code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Oklahoma Co. Courthouse

street & number 321 Park Avenue

city, town Oklahoma City, state OK

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Okla. Comprehensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Oklahoma Historic Soc., Historic Preservation Office

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 4

Page 1

Owner of Property:

Frank Brewer
3125 Briarwood
Bethany, Oklahoma 73008

John W. Norman
8029 Golden Oak Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73127

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former First Christian Church of Oklahoma City was constructed in 1910 of Neo-Classical Revival style architecture. In the building complex the western-most structure is the one being described first.

The exterior wall material is cut limestone pierced with many rectangular openings on three levels. Third level openings on the west side have arched heads. The roof, composed of hips and gables, is surmounted with a raised dome. The dome, pierced mid-way with port-holes of ornate character, is capped with a crown of anthemion-like ornamentation and a finial. Support for the dome is a "drum" containing 16 vertical, stained glass windows with arched heads. The "drum" in turn is supported on a square pedestal which is trimmed with a balustrade.

Northwest, southwest and southeast corners of the structure are accented with domed cupolas supported in turn on square bases. At each corner, below the cupolas, walls consist of pilasters at corners capped with corinthian capitals. A pedimented window opening, brackets at head and sill, occupies the space between pilasters. Doors, which provide access to the ground floor, pierce the pedestal. These double doors are capped with bracketed water tables which provide a major horizontal line around the building. Window openings on the west, in the pedestal, are plain double-hung. Above these openings is an array of ornate pilasters separated by windows and which support the entablature and gable above.

The main entrance is reached via a side and long expanse of limestone steps, guarded by six limestone columns with corinthian capitals supporting the pedimented porch.

The building is currently undergoing rehabilitation. The exterior will not be altered. However, the interior is being modified in accordance with plans approved by the National Park Service for purposes of the investment tax credit.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social:
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration-settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
X 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics-government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Christian Church Building is significant for its architectural style.

Almost immediately after arriving in Oklahoma Territory in 1889, members of the First Christian Church began to establish themselves. The first modest brick structure was located at Third and Harvey in Oklahoma City. About 1902 the congregation had grown substantially, and a second facility was acquired at the corner of Third and Robinson. The church carried on an aggressive effort to gain new members, and by 1910 still more space was needed. The building at Third and Robinson was sold, and a temporary wooden structure was used at Eighth and Broadway while construction got underway on a massive new building.

On December 3, 1911, the congregation of First Christian Church dedicated their impressive new structure at Tenth and Robinson. This structure, the property here nominated, is architecturally significant. It was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style which experienced tremendous popularity during the period 1890-1915. Outstanding features of the building include a raised dome, and three cupolas on the northwest, southwest, and southeast corners, as well as pilasters at corners capped with corinthian capitals.

The First Christian Church Building is the best example of an ecclesiastical structure utilizing the Neo-Classical Revival style found in Oklahoma City.

E.W. Van Slyke
Architect

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page

First Christian Church
name of property
Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
County and State

First Christian Church

(Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 3/8/84)
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County (109), Oklahoma (OK)

Amendment to the Verbal Boundary Description

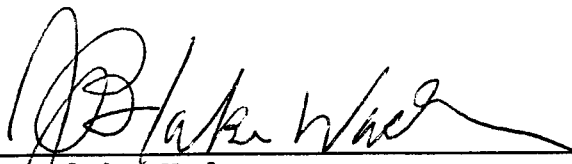
The verbal boundary description in the 1984 nomination (Part of lots 21, 22, 23 and 24, Florence Addition, a part of N/2, NE/4, Section 33, Township 12 North, Range 3 West) did not encompass the entire historic property. Several of the lots on which the church is located were inadvertently not included in the original verbal boundary description.

As recorded in the County Assessor records, the correct verbal boundary description for the property is as follows:

Lots 17 through 24 and the west 8 feet of Lot 25, Florence Addition, a part of N/2, NE/4, Section 33, Township 12 North, Range 3 West.

The amended boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the First Christian Church.

20 May 1998
Date


J. Blake Wade
State Historic Preservation Officer

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mersfelder, L.C. editor. The Church of Tomorrow . . . Yesterday and Today, 1964

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey Files, Oklahoma Historical Soc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Oklahoma City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	6	3	3	6	8	0	3	9	2	6	9	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of lots 21, 22, 23, and 24, Florence Addition a part of N/2, NE/4, Section 33, Township 12 North, Range 3 West.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state ^{N/A}	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Melvina Thurman, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

organization Oklahoma Hist. Soc.

date August, 1983

street & number Hist. Building

telephone 405/521-2491

city or town Oklahoma City,

state Oklahoma 73105

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

C Emetz

10/31/83

title

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register



First Christian Church

OKLAHOMA CITY QUADRANGLE

OKLAHOMA

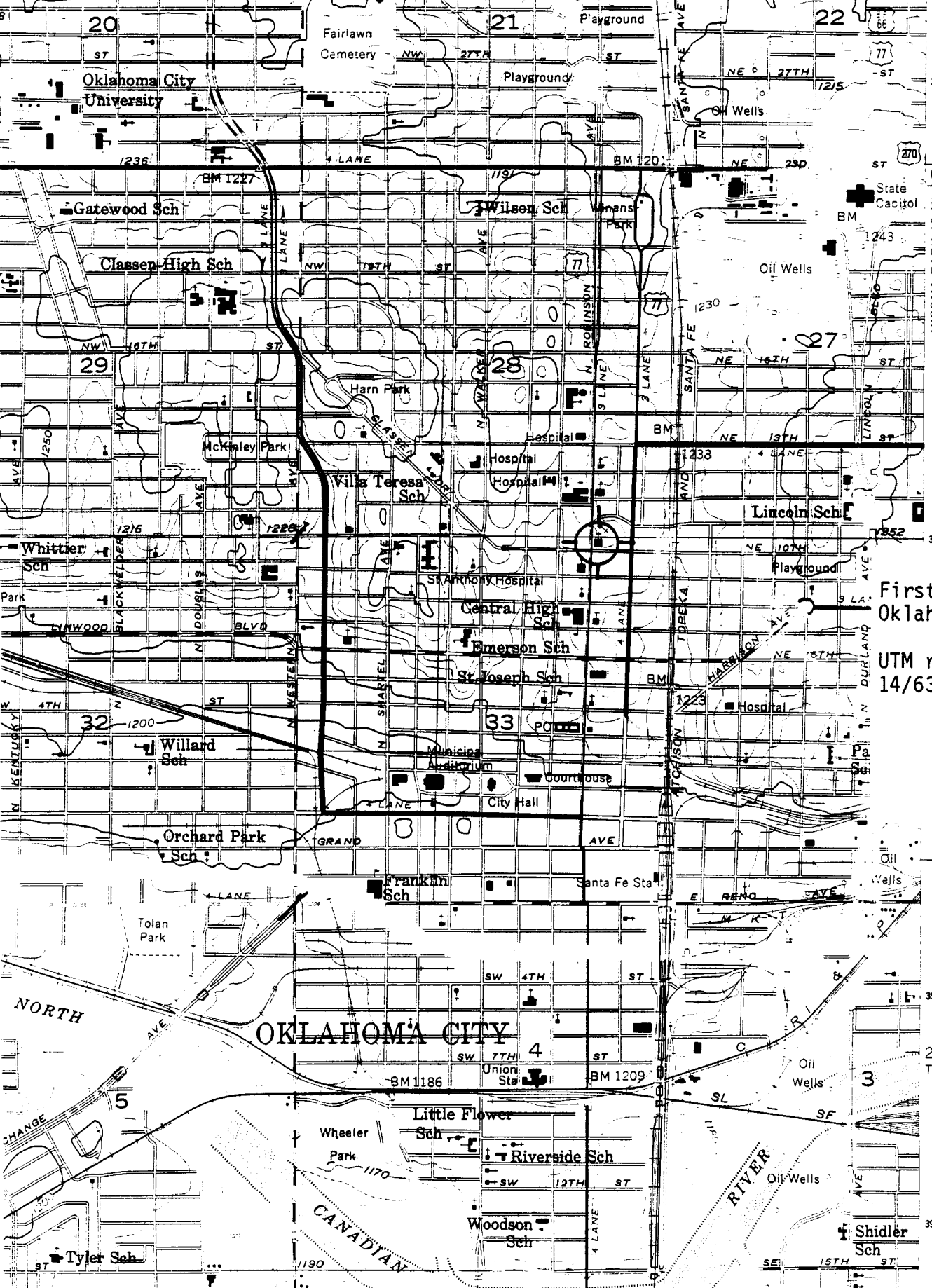
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE/4 OKLAHOMA CITY 15' QUADRANGLE

GUTHRIE 29 MI.
2.1 MI. TO U.S. 66

6555 III SW
(SPENCER)

32°30' 633 2140 000 FEET (NORTH) 635 97°30' 35°30'



180 000 FEET
(NORTH)

NICOMA PARK 10 MI.
SHAWNEE 40 MI.

First Christian Church
Oklahoma City, OK

UTM reference:
14/633680/3926920

OKLAHOMA CITY

CANADIAN RIVER

RIVER