

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Church of Christ, Scientist

Other names/site number: Praise Center Family Church

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 302 North 7th Street (historically 304 North 7th Street)

City or town: Muskogee State: OK County: Muskogee

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B XC D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century Revivals/Mission Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stucco

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The First Church of Christ, Scientist (currently the Praise Family Worship Center), was erected in 1912 at 302 North 7th Street (at Court Street), although historically the address was 304 North 7th Street, in Muskogee as a Classical Revival building and was re-styled with a Mission Revival exterior in 1923. The historical and current setting is generally residential, with many domestic dwellings from the early 1900s, a few other churches, and a few small business buildings. The building's primary defining visual characteristics are Late 19th Century-Early 20th Century Revival Styles/Mission Revival with shaped pediments, shaped buttresses from grade to eave, and white stucco cladding. The one-story plan, with a combination hipped and cross-gabled roof, measures is 40 feet north-south and 82 feet east-west. It has a slightly raised basement in the west end. The building retains its original 1912 Classical Revival fenestration pattern and most of the original window multi-light units, some of which are Palladian. It is roofed with composition shingles. Alterations after the 1923 date of significance are restricted to the replacement of original double-doors in the west elevation, a new door in the north elevation, and boarding of one window in the south. The building is in good condition and retains a sufficient degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship to enable listing.

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Narrative Description

The First Church of Christ, Scientist (currently the Praise Family Worship Center), was erected in 1912 at 302 North 7th Street in Muskogee on the south ½ (one-half) of Lot 12 of Block 188, Muskogee Original Town. The building was originally styled as Classical Revival; in 1923 it was restyled and slightly enlarged in 1923 and received a Mission Revival exterior (See Fig. 1, Historic Postcard circa 1913, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Muskogee, Oklahoma, on Continuation Sheet 7/1).¹ The building faces west, fronting on North Seventh Street with the long axis paralleling Court Street. The historical and current setting is generally residential, many domestic dwellings from the early 1900s, a few other churches, and a few small business buildings. The one-story plan, with a combination hipped and cross-gabled roof, measures approximately 40 feet north-south along 7th Street and 82 feet east-west along Court Street. It has a slightly raised basement in the west end. Presently, the building is stucco-clad; three elevations are painted white, and one is painted tan.

In the original 1912 Classical Revival exterior, on the west end, an imposing main entry sat well back in the wall under a massive, gabled portico supported by six round Classical columns. It was accessed by a broad flight of steps up from the sidewalk. Near the top of the portico's gable end was a circular window with a star or compass design. The precise exterior dimensions of the original building and original exterior cladding is unknown. Currently the core of the building is about 40 feet by 82 feet. The historic images shows the wall resting on a raised foundation, of unknown material.

In 1923 the exterior was restyled, and since 1923 the building's primary defining visual characteristics have remained Late 19th Century-Early 20th Century Revivals/Mission Revival. The original full-hipped roof, with shallow overhang, was restructured on the west side to remove the hip, turning it into a gable, and the building appears to have been enlarged in that direction by several feet. The eaves on west, south, and north were given raised, shaped, Mission-style pediments that have a slightly projecting coping to accentuate their curves. The walls were given shaped buttresses placed perpendicular to the walls. There is a projecting water table in all elevations, serving as a sill for the windows. In contrast, from the date of construction the fenestration pattern has remained almost completely intact as original, and all but four of the windows have remained the original wood-framed multi-light, hung type Classical Revival-style units. The current roofing material is composition shingles.

West (primary) elevation

The west elevation, measuring about 40 feet wide (not counting the buttresses that project 3 feet out from the building), provides the main entry to the church. The building sits on a low hill, so that there are several steps up from the sidewalk to a landing, following by another series of steps up to a 24-foot-wide, 4-foot-deep portico. Thus the floor of the building is about ten feet above street level. There is currently a steel railing placed near the center of the steps (added at unknown date).

Historically, this elevation was defined by an apparently 24-foot-wide, 4-foot-deep Classical Revival portico sheltering the entryway. The portico projected as the front of a "secondary gable," out from the hipped roof, at a slightly lower height. The prominent gable end, a Classical pediment, had a wide frieze band, a cornice, and, in the center of the triangle, a compass window with glazing bars and lights set in a star shape, like the points of a compass (or a sliced pie). The portico roof was supported by six round columns. These were grouped with two columns set closely together at the outer edges and single

¹ Although historic postcard views are not generally relied upon as visual evidence, in this instance the 1913 view of the church is used to guide a discussion about the character of the 1923 alterations to the original appearance. This decision was taken because the windows in the card match the current windows in the building, give a building of similar roof, and a footprint of similar, but smaller, dimension.

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columns between the sets, dividing the portico into three openings, all accessed by broad steps. In the wall of the building was a double-door entry under a Palladian-arch transom window. Small side windows under the portico, separated from the entry by a few feet, were multi-light hung units.

In 1923 the west elevation was extended west and still looks somewhat similar to the original. The west end of the core's hip roof was restructured by extending the ridge and rafters forward to create a gable. (The roof is now gabled in the west end and hipped in the east.) The end of the gable was given a large, curved, Mission-style pediment that rises a few feet above the roof. A shed roof projects from the wall of the pediment, and in its center rises another, smaller, curved pediment, mirroring the larger one above and marking the west side (front) of the portico. The shed roof and portico enclosure are 4 feet deep, and 24 feet wide, the front wall supported by four square piers (rather than the original six), two of which lie directly beneath the front pediment. The two center piers rise and curve into a semicircular arch in the wall. On either side of the entry arch are lighting fixtures of some apparent vintage, or replicas. At the back of the portico, in the building wall, non-original double doors access the interior. They have ten lights (2x5) and sit beneath a semicircular transom light with Y tracery glazing. It resembles the original door and surround, and the transom light is possibly original, as its tracery matches that of the windows in the south and north elevations (see below). There are no window openings under the portico. The north and south ends of the portico now have low barrier walls, and the corner posts rise above the roofline of the shed.

The building walls to the south and north of the portico measure about 8 feet to the building's corners, and buttresses extend an additional 3 feet to the west, that is, perpendicular to the west wall. Each wall has also one narrow vertical 10-light (2x5) wood-sash window. A large steel sign has been placed outside the building's southwest corner.

South elevation

The building's south elevation is its second-most visually distinctive, aligned along Court Street. Originally, in the building's "classical incarnation," there were three bays, the center bay demarcated by a cross gable, and there were three windows in the west bay, a Palladian triple window in the center bay, and three windows (no door) in the east bay. The elevation now has four bays, created by large buttresses, which is part of the unusual combination of Mission and Classical features. The elevation retains all but one of its Classical Revival windows (as suggested in the 1913 view), and the original windows now appear to rest on a projecting concrete water table. The furthest window west has been replaced by an entry.

Beginning at the west end of the elevation, the four bays are created by the placement of five perpendicular buttresses. The narrow bay at the west end of the elevation measures approximately 10 feet wide. Perpendicular side buttresses enclose the bay, and a small curved Mission-style pediment, with an arch-topped air vent, rises above the roofline. Central in the wall is a narrow, 10-light (2x5) window, apparently not original, but matching the narrow windows in the west elevation. Below the window is a basement window, boarded at an unknown date, but the outline is visible through the stucco cladding. A curving buttress is placed flat against the building, as if providing additional support.

The next bay to the east is about 28 feet wide and extends between buttresses of the bays to the west and east of it. It has a small, 6x6-light hung window. Below it is a basement window, boarded but containing an air conditioner. Further east are two large, apparently original 8x8 hung windows that have a Palladian semicircular transom window with Y tracery mullions. All the window units appear to be original, with casings and frames of wood.

The center bay is 16 feet wide, bounded on each side by very large, angular (rather than curved) buttresses. The bay is defined by its large, curved Mission pediment with a circular vent. This bay

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contains a single, original Palladian window arrangement (that is, a Palladian window and two side windows separated from the center by wide muntins). The central Palladian arch window is 8x8 pattern with a semicircular transom window with Y tracery mullions; the contiguous side windows are 6x6 lights. Above the window arrangement, an arched hood molding of concrete projects slightly from the wall, following the Palladian shape.

The bay on the east end of the south elevation is about 28 feet wide. It has two large, apparently original, 8x8 hung windows (with a Palladian-arch transom window and Y tracery mullions). East of these, near the building's corner, is an entry added at an unknown date (perhaps original to 1923, as the 1913 view shows only a small window in that end of the wall). A small stoop is three steps up from a walk and shelters a doorway containing a pair of wood-frame, 10 light (2x5) doors. The entry is framed by low, curving baluster walls, shaped like the buttresses, and is protected above by a hipped roof that rests on curving brackets. The corner of the building is marked by a heavy buttress that extends to the south.

The south elevation has downspouts for guttering. The guttering is no longer present.

East elevation

The east elevation is a blank wall, currently devoid of openings. The water table extends almost the full width of the elevation. The wall has two infilled areas that appear to have originally been a window, near the southeast corner, and a doorway, near the northeast corner. These have been stuccoed over, and the alteration may date from the 1923 date of architectural restyle for the building. The elevation is separated about five feet from a large metal building to the east. A new steel fence prevents access to the area between the buildings. An air conditioner condenser is placed in the enclosed space.

North elevation

The north elevation is concealed from the street by a side building to the east. This side of the church is painted an "Adobe tan" color, which contrasts with a white-painted parapet coping, water table, and window units. Like the south elevation, the north has four bays. It also has metal guttering and downspouts (not present in the other elevations).

The easternmost bay (toward the rear of the building), measures approximately 28 feet. There is a partly intact 6x6-light hung window that is boarded behind its sashes. To its west are two Palladian windows with 8x8 lights under a transom light with Y tracery mullions.

Like its counterpart on the south, the 16-foot-wide center bay is bounded by two large, angular buttresses that extend from the building and by a large, curved Mission pediment with a circular vent. This bay contains one original Palladian window arrangement (that is, a Palladian window and two side windows separated from the center by wide muntins). The central Palladian arch window is 8x8 pattern with a semicircular transom window with Y tracery mullions; the contiguous side windows are 6x6 lights. The bottom half of the center window is boarded, and several lights and mullions are missing. Above the window arrangement, an arched hood-mold of concrete projects slightly from the wall.

The third bay to the west is approximately 28 feet wide and has two large, 8x8 Palladian arch windows with Y tracery mullions in the semi-circular transom in the east end. Further west is a large 8x8 hung window.

The westernmost bay mimics the "new" area on the south. At about 10 feet wide, it is bounded by projecting buttresses, and the curved Mission style parapet rises above the roofline. Rather than a window, however, the lower part of the wall contains an entryway with a new full-light door with 3x5

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glazing, added at an unknown date. Above the doorway, a small gable roof attaches to the building and extends about 12 feet over a walkway to a small building on the north, built circa 2010 (according to historic 2010 and 2012 satellite views of the location). The entry door and the walkway cover may date from the erection of the smaller building. It is also styled as Mission Revival but its placement and appearance do not impact the original 1923 church building's design, materials, or workmanship and do not impede the feeling and association of the original architecture. The other building is not within the boundary drawn for the subject property. Outside the church wall there are two air conditioner condensers, and the wall has various utility connections and conduits. A wooden light pole has been placed at a walkway that extends the length of the north elevation.

Interior

The interior of the church was inaccessible but is described in the literature as having a lobby with cloakrooms, inside the main entry. The lobby accesses a large "reading room," now a chapel, where the congregation conducts its services.

Alterations

There have been no known alterations to the 1923 restyled building other than the replacement of the entry doors in the west elevation, boarding several windows, and creating a new entry in the north elevation. The First Church of Christ, Scientist building retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship and is therefore eligible for listing.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1912

1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The 1923 First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 302 North 7th Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is an excellent local example of a Late 19th-Early 20th Century Revivals/Mission Revival building and is nominated for Architectural Significance under Criterion C for the year 1923. In 1912 the building was erected with a Classical Revival exterior, but in 1923 it was restyled as Mission Revival. The west end of the hipped roof was restructured to add a gable and a raised, shaped Mission parapet. The north and south elevations were also given Mission parapets. Three walls received shaped buttresses, and the building was stuccoed. The fenestration pattern and window materials, original to 1912, remained as individual Classical multi-light hung windows placed symmetrically in the elevations. Six are Palladian-arch units with a semicircular transom light/Y-tracery mullions. In 1997-98 a reconnaissance level survey identified only four (4) Late 19th/Early 20th Century Revivals/Mission Revival non-domestic (i.e., commercial or religious) properties within the survey boundaries in central Muskogee, and only two (2) domestic properties in Muskogee, indicating that the Mission Revival style was relatively uncommon in the city. Therefore, the building is nominated under Criterion C, Architecture, for its Mission Revival architectural style. Its integrity is almost complete to 1923 (with a few altered doors and windows). Criteria Consideration A is requested, as the building remains a church. The building retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship and still provides the feeling and association of a neighborhood worship center.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The building that was erected in 1912 and restyle as Mission Revival by the congregants of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 302 North 7th Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is an excellent local example of a Late 19th-Early 20th Century Revivals/Mission Revival. It is one of the few remaining Mission Revival style historic buildings in the city. For that reason, and for its unusual architectural history, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture, for the significant date 1923. The structure of the building was erected in 1912, and the exterior was then styled as Classical Revival.² (Refer to Fig. 1, Church postcard view circa 1913, on Continuation Sheet 7.1) Circa 1923 its exterior was completely recovered/restyled by the application of a "slipcover" of Mission Revival style, including stucco walls and curved parapets.³ Thus the date 1923 is used for the period of significance denoting Architecture, with the year 1912 used for another significant date (erection of the structure).

The original First Church of Christ, Scientist, congregation in Muskogee organized in May 1905 with thirteen members. They held services in a business building downtown and later in the Hinton Theater. In 1907 the members purchased the south one-half of Lot 12, Block 188, of Original Muskogee, on the corner of Seventh and Court Streets. They had managed to raise \$1,000 of the necessary \$3,000 price for a large property with a dwelling on it, in the form of a Bungalow-style house. An unfortunate temporary split in the congregation delayed any attempt to erect a regular building. The separation was healed by 1910, and in May 1912 the building project commenced. In October of that year the present edifice was completed. Facing on North 7th Street, with its long axis paralleling Court Street, it cost \$5,000 to construct and could seat four

² "First Church of Christ, Scientist, Muskogee, Okla.," *Christian Science Journal* 32 (May 1914), 98-99; Historic postcard view, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Muskogee, pictured in Roger Bell and Jerry Hoffman, *Muskogee* (Charleston, S. Car.: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 44.

³ Bell and Hoffman, *Muskogee*, 44; *Christian Science Sentinel*, 27 December 1924.

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hundred.⁴ Its style was, as was usual for that denomination, Classical Revival. The orientation followed the lot, providing for a rectangular footprint. The building was raised on a high foundation, so that the imposing main entry sat well back in the wall under a massive, gabled portico supported by six round Classical columns. It was accessed by a broad flight of steps up from the sidewalk. Near the top of the portico's gable end was a circular window with a star or compass design. The architect of the original building remains unknown, as does the architect of the restyle.

Architectural Significance

The church's location, in a residential setting northwest of downtown Muskogee, was consonant with the Christian Science concept of providing a place of reflection away from a bustling downtown.⁵ The original 1912 appearance was consonant with the architectural philosophy of Christian Science, although that philosophy was not formally articulated nor was it a rule. Architecture was viewed as symbolic of the denomination, however, and the most favored forms in the first three decades of the twentieth century were Revival styles in Classical and Gothic. Of these, the Classical Revival style eventually became the hallmark of the church's architecture, particularly in smaller cities and towns. The general idea of using Classical Revival, in the view of historian Paul Ivey, involved the concept that the church building was a "lighthouse guiding people away from materialism. The church edifice itself became a significant component of reform, a place for individual inspiration, and a beacon of social and civic enlightenment."⁶ The style was desirable because it rejected frivolous ornamentation and reflected the simpler past of early Christianity. Resembling a public building, a Classical Revival church reflected a quiet integrity and a focus on the spiritual. However, within the denomination as a whole, there was some debate about the necessity and efficacy of the Classical style, and some churches used other historical styles or even ventured toward modernism.⁷ The building's Classical Revival windows still reflect the philosophy of classicism.

In 1922 or 1923 the congregants decided to redesign the exterior of the church, for reasons unknown. They selected the Mission Revival style, which was used elsewhere in Muskogee for schoolhouses and a railroad depot building. Mission Revival architectural characteristics may include a hipped or gabled roof; tile roof covering; a symmetrical façade; flat, smooth walls; stucco wall cladding; shaped parapets, often with decorative coping; arcaded porches; and, as applied in churches, bell towers.⁸ Several of these elements were used in the Muskogee church's re-style. The west wall appears to have been moved forward several feet. In this elevation the roof, originally hipped with shallow eaves, was changed to have a gable that was hidden by a raised, curving, Mission-style parapet with a decorative coping. The former portico columns were reduced in number, made square, and arched at the top, creating an arcade. Flanking it, on the south and north sides of the west elevation, a small raised, curved parapet and shaped buttresses were added. Shaped buttresses were added at the corners as if to support the wall.⁹ In the north and south elevations, near the center, a former cross-gable end was removed, and the roof edge was restyled with a raised, curved parapet with decorative coping. A new entry was created at the east end of the south elevation. The entire building, which apparently had been originally clad with wood siding, was stuccoed throughout. The fenestration

⁴ *Christian Science Journal* 32 (May 1914), 98-99; *Muskogee Daily Phoenix*, 28 January 1906;; *Muskogee Times Democrat*, 27 January, 27 April, 15 June, and August 17, 1912; *Moore's Directory of the City of Muskogee, Oklahoma* (Muskogee: Model Printing Company, 1911, 1912, 1913).

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1912/corrected to 1951.

⁶ Paul Eli Ivy, *Prayers in Stone: Christian Science Architecture in the United States, 1894-1930* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999), 3, 92. See also Ivy's article titled "American Christian Science Architecture and Its Influence," posted by The Mary Baker Eddy Library, accessed online 14 March 2018.

⁷ On symbolism, see Ivey, "American Christian Science Architecture."

⁸ Virginia S. McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015), 511-12.

⁹ Corner buttresses, often with an arched opening, and corners that are reinforced or buttressed, by battering or projections were not uncommon in the 1920s and 1930s in "Spanish vernacular" or Mission Revival-style houses in New Mexico and Texas.

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pattern and window materials, original to 1912, remained as original, with individual Classical multi-light hung windows (6x6 and 8x8 lights). They are arranged symmetrically in the elevations. Six of them are Palladian arch units with semicircular transom light and Y-tracery mullions. Thus the building's distance view had changed from a Classical Revival style into a "southwestern Mission Revival" style, but at a medium view the windows were still Classical (although very similar three-part "focal windows" are found in Spanish Revival examples of the same period.¹⁰

The First Church of Christ Scientist closed its doors circa 2009 as declining membership reduced its viability. The property was subsequently sold to Praise Family Church, Inc., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, which uses it as a satellite church. The building is now known as Praise Family Worship Center.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, building retains its original 1912 residential location and setting, its basic 1912 structure, its Classical Revival fenestration from 1912, and almost pristine Mission Revival design, materials, and workmanship from 1923. The only known alterations are the removal of original west-end main-entry doors and their replacement with similar units; the removal of one window and its replacement with a door in the east end of the south elevation; the removal of a window and a door in the east elevation (probably in 1923, as they are concealed by stucco); boarding of one window in the north elevation, and removal of one window in the west end of the north elevation and its replacement with a door. The building retains the feeling and association of a neighborhood religious gathering center, distinguished from the surrounding domestic dwellings by its Mission Revival style architecture, and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture, for the year 1923, as a rare local example of that style, there being only four other Mission Revival buildings known in Muskogee.

Criteria Consideration

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, building in Muskogee, Oklahoma, is owned and used by a religious organization, Praise Family Church, Inc., therefore requiring Criteria Consideration A. The property derives its primary significance in Muskogee under Criterion C, Architecture, as an almost pristine example of Mission Revival style applied to a small, non-commercial building. It is one of only four known extant buildings in that style in Muskogee.

Additional Developmental Context

In the 1910s and 1920s only a few buildings, including two public schools, a railroad depot, a Jewish temple, a small wood-framed church building, and the First Church of Christ Scientist, are known to have exhibited Mission Revival style. In 1997-98 a reconnaissance level survey identified only four (4 extant Late 19th/Early 20th Century Revival/Mission Revival non-domestic (i.e., commercial or religious properties within the survey boundaries in central Muskogee, and only two (2 domestic properties. This data indicates that the Mission Revival style was relatively uncommon in Muskogee. The commercial buildings executed in this style include Bradley Funeral Home at 1020 West Okmulgee Avenue and the Midland Valley Passenger Depot in the 200 block of Elgin Avenue. Two of the properties are religious, those being the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 304 North Seventh (Mission Revival and Beth Israel Temple at 320 South 9th (Mission Revival.¹¹

Beth Israel Temple is a classic example of the symmetrical subtype of Mission Revival style. It has a rectangular plan, symmetrical facades, curved, raised parapets, moderately wide, open eaves with exposed rafter tails, and smooth-stuccoed walls that are buttressed to resemble the "melting" shape of adobe buildings. It received a Determination of Eligibility for the National Register in 2013.

¹⁰ McAlester, *Field Guide*, 522.

¹¹ Brad A. Bays et al., "Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of Muskogee, Project No. 40-97-12040.013," submitted to Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 1998, 22, 46, 59. See also the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory.

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Built in 1940, the Bradley Funeral Home is a two story, smooth-walled, stuccoed building that has a low-pitched roof with multiple roof lines and a square tower with triple arches. The facade is asymmetrical. The roof is covered by red tile. The building was altered at an unknown date by a large addition on the east side that expanded the facility by about one-third. The addition may have occurred after the 1990s survey.

The 1911 Midland Valley Passenger Depot is a large, one-story building a two-story central block. It has smooth stucco walls, Mission-style parapets, and a flat roof. The two-story section is covered with red tile. It is distinguished by its wide overhang with eave braces along various walls, and by its size and asymmetrical plan, as befits a multipurpose building with both passenger waiting areas and areas for baggage and freight. As late as 2012 it was deemed National Register eligible.

Another non-domestic property, the former Fife Indian Memorial Church at 603 E. Okmulgee Ave., was excluded from the Muskogee survey but is identified in the Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory as Mission Revival. Built in 1951, it resembles a residence. This small, wood-frame building with cross gables is listed as Fife Indian Memorial Church but is now home to an alarm company. (Note: the photo attached to the OLI file online is actually a photo of the "pizza store" next door to the west.) In 1998's Oklahoma Landmarks Inventory form, it was described as having a red tile roof and stucco wall material and was potentially significant as "one of the very few urban Native American Protestant Christian churches in the United States." It now has wood or vinyl lapped siding and appears to have a sheet-metal roof.

These four properties all differ considerably from the First Church of Christ, Scientist, which has significant characteristics of its architectural type and has the distinction of having been originally an entirely different architectural style and having been slipcovered with a more "modern" style during its first decade of existence.

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bays, Brad, et al. "Reconnaissance Level Survey of a Portion of Muskogee, Project No. 40-97-12040.013. Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office, 1998.

Bell, Roger, and Jerry Hoffman. *Muskogee*. Charleston, S. Car: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.

"In the Churches: Muskogee, Oklahoma." *Christian Science Sentinel*, 27 December 1924.

"First Church of Christ, Scientist, Muskogee, Okla.," *Christian Science Journal* 32 (May 1914).

Historic postcard view, First Church of Christ, Scientist, Muskogee, circa 1913. Pictured in Roger Bell and Jerry Hoffman, *Muskogee* (Charleston, S. Car.: Arcadia Publishing, 2014).

Ivy, Paul Eli. "Americon Christian Science Architecture and Its Influence." Boston, Mass.: Mary Baker Eddy Library, published online at www.marybakereddylibrary.org. Accessed 14 March 2018.

Ivy, Paul Eli. *Prayers in Stone: Christian Science Architecture in the United States, 1894-1930* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999).

Moore's Directory of the City of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Muskogee: Model Printing Company, 1911, 1912, 1913.

Muskogee Daily Phoenix, 28 January 1906.

Muskogee Times Democrat, 27 January 1912, 27 April 1912, 15 June 1912, and August 17, 1912.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Muskogee, Oklahoma, 1912/corrected to 1951.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

___ 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 # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 (one) acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.753009 Longitude: -95376015

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

From the South-Southwest corner of Lot 12 (Block 188, Muskogee Original Town), which is the Point of Beginning, proceed in a generally East-Southeast direction for 110 feet, paralleling Court Street; turn North and proceed for 54 feet North-Northeast; turn West and proceed for 116 feet West-Northwest; turn South and proceed South-Southwest back to the Point of Beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses only the area historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dianna Everett, Consultant to City of Muskogee
organization: _____
street & number: 2510 Countrywood Ln
city or town: Edmond state: OK zip code: 73012-6433
e-mail weaver25@cox.net
telephone: 405/348-4679
date: 19 May 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

First Church of Christ, Scientist
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: First Church of Christ, Scientist

City or Vicinity: Muskogee

County: Muskogee State: Muskogee

Photographer: Dianna Everett

Date Photographed: 30 May 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 5. 0001 West (primary) elevation, camera facing SE
- 2 of 5. 0002 South elevation, camera facing WNW
- 3 of 5. 0003 North elevation, camera facing SW
- 4 of 5. 0004 South elevation/East elevation, camera facing NW
- 5 of 5. 0005 South elevation/West elevation (part), camera facing NE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 1

First Church of Christ, Scientist

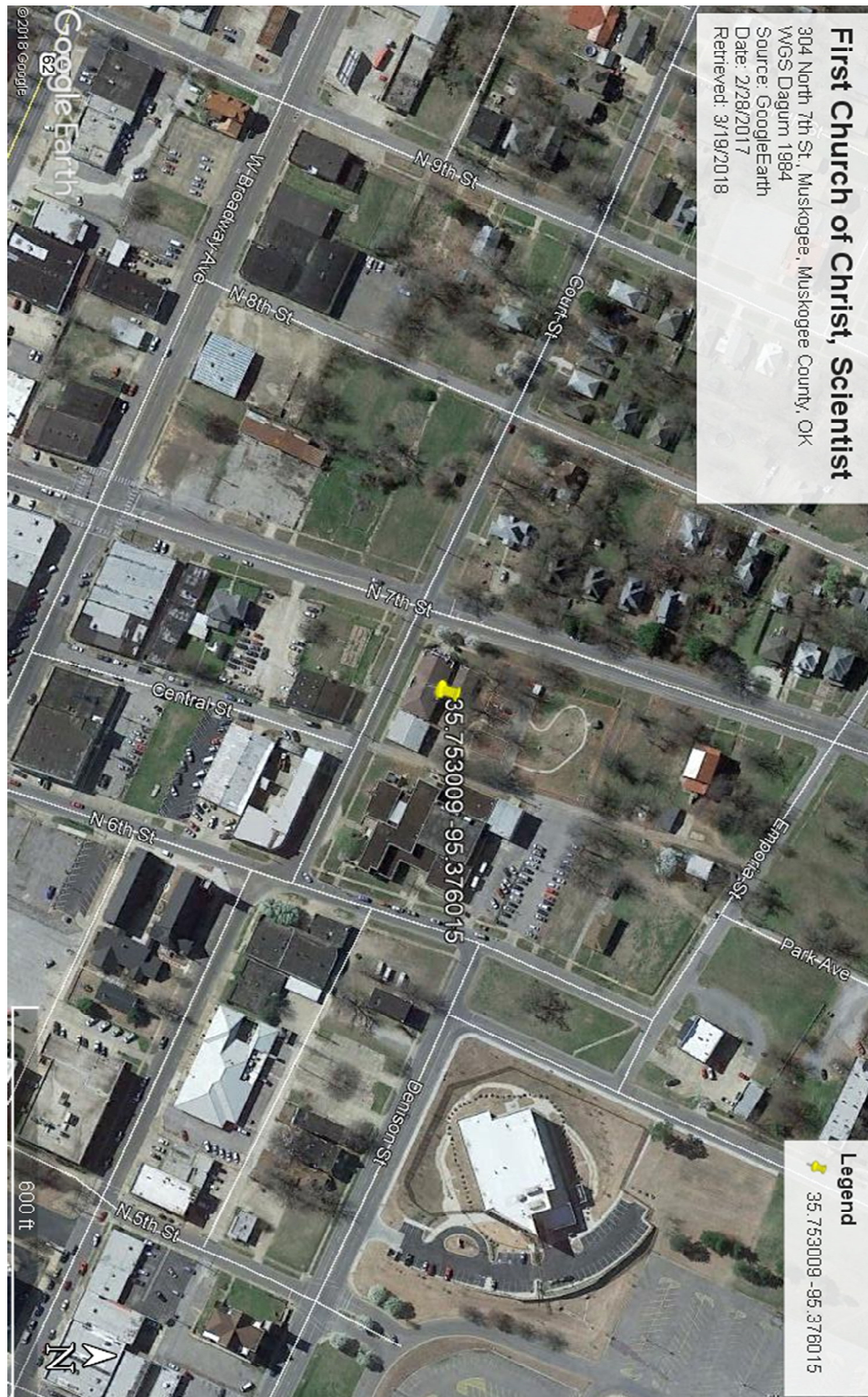
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 2

First Church of Christ, Scientist

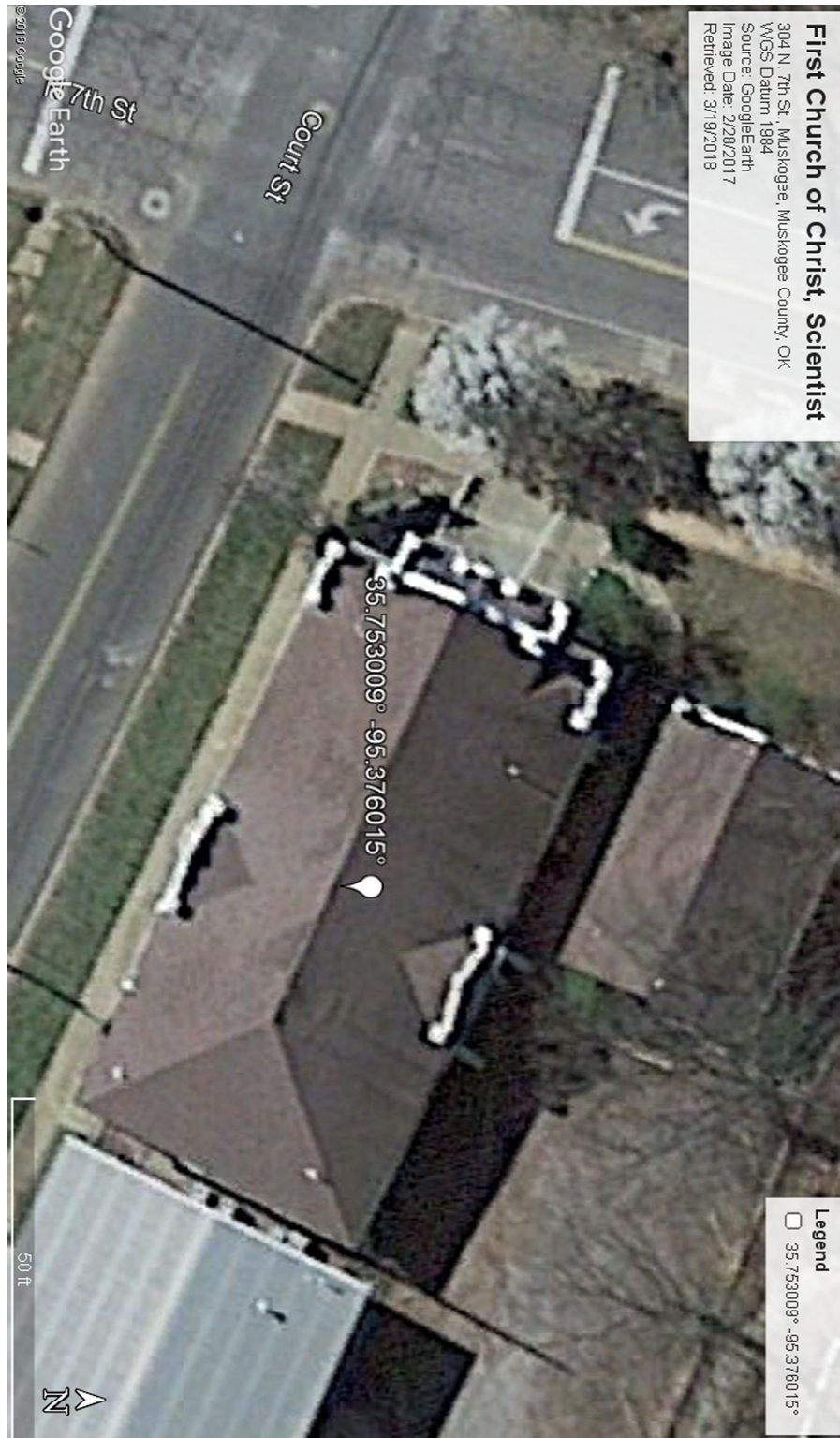
Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 3

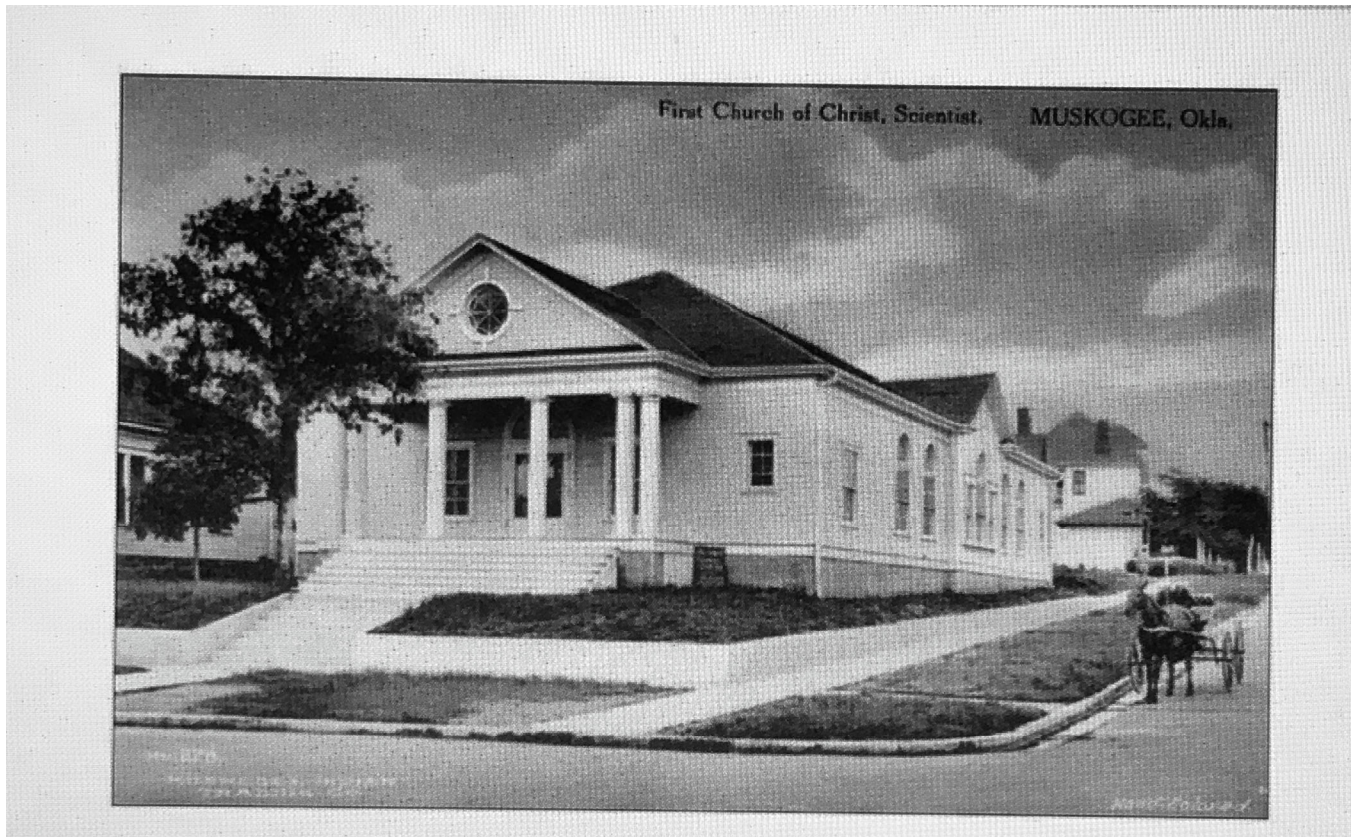


Fig. 1. Church postcard view, ca. 1913

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 4



OK_MuskogeeCo_FirstChurchofChristScientist_0001

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 5



OK_MuskogeeCo_FirstChurchofChristScientist_0002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 6



OK_MuskogeeCo_FirstChurchofChristScientist_0003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 7



OK_MuskogeeCo_FirstChurchofChristScientist_0004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Name of Property

Muskogee, Oklahoma

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 8



OK_MuskogeeCo_FirstChurchofChristScientist_0005