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: Wesleyan Methodist Church
   Other names/site number: Brookfield Avenue Wesleyan 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: 300 East Brookfield Avenue
   City or town: Ponca City
   State: OK
   County: Kay
   Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property _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 _X_C ___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
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: [x]
Public – Local [ ]
Public – State [ ]
Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s) [x]
District [ ]
Site [ ]
Structure [ ]
Object [ ]
### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ________

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

- **RELIGION: religious facility**
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

- **RELIGIOUS: religious facility**
- 
- 
- 
-
7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: __Brick____

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 Wesleyan Methodist Church, located in Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma, was constructed in 1955-1956. The building is a modest, post-World War II (WWII) example of a Late Gothic Revival style church. The one-and-half-story with a basement building has a steep pitched, front gabled, asphalt-covered roof and a concrete foundation. The non-historic white steeple was placed on the roof reportedly around 1998. The walls of the building were constructed of a combination of haydite block and pink brick according to the October 26, 1956 article about the building published in The Ponca City News. The metal casement windows are a combination of single four-lite, double five-lite and double two-lite. All of the first floor windows feature a multi-colored opalescent glass with the basement windows having clear glass. The double front and single south side doors have been replaced with modern, black, metal, glazed slab doors. The two single back doors remain wood slab. Located in the midst of a small mid-century residential neighborhood, the Wesleyan Methodist Church occupies a corner location two blocks west of North Fifth Street, a main thoroughfare in Ponca City. In addition to the contributing building, there are two objects that are part of the church property, one noncontributing and one contributing. The noncontributing wood sign is located southwest of the church and is a non-historic replacement of an earlier sign. Although there are a total of three matching light fixtures, they are counted as one contributing object. The contributing light fixtures are located near the street on the south and west sides. Changes to the building over time include the replacement of the doors, boarding of one rear window to accommodate a window air

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conditioner, altering one east side window for window air conditioner, and the addition of a steeple to the roof in 1998. Overall, the building retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a notable degree.

**Narrative Description**

The Wesleyan Methodist Church is a modest, Late Gothic Revival style, one-and-half story with a basement, brick building with a concrete foundation. The front-gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles and, typical of post-WWII architecture, has a minimal eave overhang. On the roof ridge, towards the south side, is a non-historic, white steeple of unknown materials. According to the Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form prepared for the church in 2012, the steeple was added to the building in 1998. The other decorative features on the building are similarly restrained and consist of opalescent glass windows, brick rowlock sills, double windows on the side elevations and symmetrically located false brick buttresses, also on the side elevations. The building has two grade level entries and two above-grade entries. The above-grade entries are accessed by a partial porch on the front and an entry porch on the west side. The double door on the front (south) has been replaced with a contemporary, metal, glazed slab, double door with tinted glass. The rear doors retain their simple wood slab doors, painted white.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church is nestled in about the middle of what is otherwise a compact, predominately Minimal Traditional style, residential area. Typical of post-war religious construction, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was setback at a distance in the front from the street and included a sizeable area to the rear of the building for parking or, as never happened, possible expansion. The front setback of the church is consistent with the setback of the houses around the church in all directions. The building was also located towards the east side of the church property to allow a more spacious open area on the west side. A row of trees on the front and back of the east side creates a separation between the church property and the adjacent single family home.

The immediate area around the building is grassy with concrete sidewalks. The main north-south church sidewalk is wider and begins at the street and extends directly to the front door. A narrower concrete branch sidewalk extends off the main church sidewalk to the west before turning north to extend completely along the west elevation of the building to the narrow rear concrete sidewalk. The rear concrete sidewalk extends in a straight line west from the rear ground-level door to North Third Street.

Located in the front grassy area to the southwest of the building is a non-historic sign. The current noncontributing wood sign is suspended between two wood posts and relates the times for services. Low shrubs obscure the base of the sign. As shown in the undated photograph attached to the Kay County Assessor’s record, the previous sign had the typical pedimented enclosed message area sitting on a brick wall between two brick columns and was located in closer proximity to the branch sidewalk and building. The sign was replaced after 1998, which is the reported date that the steeple was added. The steeple is visible in the assessor’s photograph, indicating the photograph was taken after 1998. On the south (front) edge of the church lawn, there are two matching, metal, silver and green, light poles. The west light has lost its glass globe.
but the light post on the east is intact. Towards the middle of the southwest side of the church lawn is the third light post, which has also lost its glass globe. Although damaged, the light posts retain sufficient integrity to collectively add to the historic character of the church. Between each false buttress on the west elevation, there are four modern metal park benches. The benches are not counted separately as they are moveable and of insignificant scale to the overall building.

SOUTH FAÇADE (photographs 0001, 0002 and 0007): The façade of the Wesleyan Methodist Church faces West Brookfield Avenue. The south façade is symmetrical with a glass block cross embedded in the peak of the front gable. Below the cross, there are two single, four-lite, metal casement windows that light the interior balcony space. As with the first floor windows, the balcony windows contain opalescent glass panes. Each window also has a short rowlock brick sill and no header. Symmetrically located to either side of the centrally located, partial porch are the first floor windows that are identical to the balcony windows, including the narrow rowlock brick sills. The above-grade entry contains non-historic, double, aluminum, glazed slab doors. The doors were replaced after 1998 as the photograph attached to the Kay County Assessor’s record shows the previous, double, wood, slab doors. The doors are sheltered by a flat, vinyl-sided, porch roof supported by full-height brick walls that are vertically stacked for a restrained dramatic effect. The above-grade porch has a concrete floor supported by brick walls with a concrete cap. To either side of the concrete porch floor and steps are continuous wrought iron railings. Along both outside edges of the wall, there are single, narrowly projected, false, brick buttresses. Off the east side of the porch is a metal mailbox on a wood post.

EAST ELEVATION (photographs 0002 through 0004): The east elevation is divided into six bays by the false, brick, full-height buttresses. From the south, on each of the first, fourth and last buttresses on the east elevation, there is a narrow white downspout. Each bay contains a first floor, double, four-light, metal casement window that is topped by a double light transom and, at the basement level, a double two-light, metal casement. The first floor and basement windows alike have rowlock brick sills and no headers. The northernmost window has been altered to accommodate a non-historic window air conditioning unit but was not boarded. There are no entries on the east elevation.

NORTH ELEVATION (photographs 0004 through 0005): Off the rear elevation, are two small graveled parking areas separated by the east-west alley that divides the block. Within a chainlink enclosure adjacent to the building, there are two mechanical units. The north elevation has a centrally located, dropped, front gabled section that creates a small projection off the main north wall. The main north wall features a single window on the west side that has been boarded on the top and filled with a non-historic window air conditioning unit in the bottom. Various mechanical boxes have been affixed to the east side of the main north wall. On the outside edges of the main north wall, there are single, narrowly projected, false, brick buttresses. The front-gabled projection has an asphalt-covered roof with minimal eave overhang. In the center of the north wall of the project, there is a single, four-lite, metal casement window. There are no openings on the east side of the projection and a single, at-grade, wood, slab door on the west side.
WEST ELEVATION (photographs 0006 and 0007): The west elevation is also divided into six bays by the false brick buttresses. On the northernmost and southernmost buttresses, there are narrow, white, downspouts. Unlike the east elevation, the two outermost bays contain entries rather than windows. The southernmost bay has a single, at-grade, replacement door with a simple light above it. The door is located towards the south side of the bay with no other openings in the bay. The four center bays each contain a first floor and basement window that match the windows on the east elevation. In front of each basement window, there are now metal park benches. The northernmost bay has an above-grade entry porch on the south side. The entry porch features a flat roof supported by wrought iron columns. The porch has a concrete floor supported by brick walls and, on the north side, concrete steps. There is a wrought iron railing along the steps and between the roof supports. The door on the entry porch is wood slab that is painted white. To the north of the porch in the northernmost bay, there is a double window that differs from the other first floor side windows in that it is not topped by the two-lite transom and the window is set slightly lower in the wall. In place of a basement window in the north bay, there is a metal louver near the base of the porch’s concrete steps. The brick on the lower portion of the porch has possibly been cleaned, giving it a different color from the main walls. The porch is believed to be original as there is a section of brick on the front porch that has been similarly impacted and the accompanying window in the bay does not appear to have been modified, including the rowlock brick sill that is placed lower in the wall than the other first floor windows.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS: The Wesleyan Methodist Church has been altered by the addition of the steeple on the roof, replacement of two doors, replacement of the sign and placement of two window air conditioning units in the north and east windows. Except for the steeple, these changes are easily distinguished due to the use of modern materials. The steeple is harder to discern but is an insignificant change that allows the building to more clearly express its function. Overall, the Wesleyan Methodist Church retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association to readily convey its architectural significance as a post-WWII, Late Gothic Revival style church in Ponca City.
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
Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1955-1956

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown
Wesleyan Methodist Church  Kay County, OK
Name of Property                   County and State

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 Wesleyan Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent, mid-1950s, modest sized example of a Late Gothic Revival style church. The church is eligible at the local level of significance. The period of significance for the property is 1955-1956, corresponding to the construction of the facility. The building meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural distinction.

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

PONCA CITY BACKGROUND:

The city of Ponca City originated in 1893, following the Cherokee Outlet land run on September 16th of that year which opened the area to non-Native American settlement. The land comprising the Cherokee Outlet in what is now northwestern Oklahoma, excluding the panhandle, was given to the Cherokee tribe in 1828 by the federal government. Following the Civil War, as part of the Reconstruction Treaty of 1866, the Cherokee Nation conveyed the eastern one-third of the Outlet to the federal government for the purposes of relocating various other Native American tribes. The Cherokee tribe retained control of nearly six million acres of prime grassland in the remaining portion of the Outlet. This grassland became popular with cattlemen during the 1870s and 1880s for grazing purposes. The Cherokee tribe quickly began collecting grazing fees, allowing the Outlet to become a major economic support for the Cherokee government.¹

Despite the encroachment by cattlemen and others seeking to benefit from the area’s natural resources, the Cherokee Nation retained ownership of the Cherokee Outlet until the early 1890s. In 1889, the Jerome Commission, a federally-authorized committee, began to negotiate with the various Native American tribes holding “surplus” lands in what is now western Oklahoma. Typically, the government considered as surplus any land remaining after each man, woman and child of the tribe received an allotment of 160 acres. After much discussion, the Cherokee tribe finally agreed to cede ownership of the six million acres of surplus land in the Outlet in exchange for $8.5 million. This action paved the way for the Cherokee Outlet land run of September 16, 1893.²

Prior to the Cherokee Strip land run, Burton Seymour (B.S.) Barnes organized the Ponca Townsite Company in July 1893, after exploring the area and noting the presence of a natural spring and proximity to the existing railroad line. Making the run in a two-seater buggy, Barnes

² Gibson, Oklahoma, 179-180.
arrived at his anticipated townsite to find several people already on site. Securing their agreement to divide their claims into town lots, Barnes was successful in establishing a townsite. Within four days of the land run, the new townsite was surveyed and on September 21, 1893, the drawing for town lots began. With over 2,300 certificates sold, the drawing took two days. After the drawing, a mass meeting elected B.S. Barnes as mayor and W.E. McGuire as town clerk. Within sixty days of the land run, the town boasted a new two-room schoolhouse and one church.3

Two other communities existed in the vicinity of the Ponca Townsite Company’s new townsite, aptly called “New Ponca.” Located about three miles north was the federal government townsite of Cross and, to the south, the Ponca Indian Agency, called Ponca by the federal government and White Eagle by locals. With a convenient ford across the Arkansas River, New Ponca quickly attracted many residents. Signifying its permanence, a post office for New Ponca was established on January 12, 1894. The post office officially changed the name of the community to “Ponca” on July 7, 1898 as the original Ponca post office, established in 1879 at the Ponca Indian Agency, changed its name to Whiteagle. On October 23, 1913, the name “Ponca City” was formally approved for the community by the United States Post Office.4

By September 1894, New Ponca secured a rail connection from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (Santa Fe) Railway Company, which previously only serviced the nearby community of Cross and the Ponca Indian Agency. This connection quickly spelled the doom for Cross as residents were induced to move to the thriving community of New Ponca. Cross continued to exist in some form until 1927 when the area was incorporated into the city limits of Ponca City.5 The Cross Addition to the city of Ponca City is the location of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

In 1900, New Ponca’s population stood at 2,528 residents. By the time of Oklahoma’s statehood in 1907, the number of citizens had grown by just one, bringing the total population to 2,529. Three years later, the official census recorded 2,521 citizens, a loss of eight persons. Related to oil developments, Ponca City’s population shot to 7,051 by 1920 and more than doubled to reach 16,136 in 1930. Growth slowed but did not halt during the turbulent years of the 1930s so that in 1940, the number of residents in the community reached 16,794. The war years also resulted in a notable increase in new citizens for the city. Reaching 20,180 in 1950, the population again flourished during the 1950s with a twenty-one percent population increase bringing the 1960 population to 24,441. Growth stabilized during the next two decades with the number of Ponca City residents reaching 26,238 in 1980.6

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5 *Souvenir Program*, 8-12. See also WPA Guide, 356.
Wesleyan Methodist Church

Until about 1910, Ponca City was economically dependent on the surrounding agricultural community. For years, the famed 101 Ranch operated nine miles south of Ponca City. Covering 110,000 acres, the ranch was home to the renowned 101 Ranch Wild West Show which continued to operate until the late 1920s. Even after 1910 and the discovery of oil in the area, Ponca City served as an “important grain and flour shipping point.” Through the early 1940s, the Ponca City Milling Company, owned by the Donahoe family, was considered one of the city’s largest industries.7

Oil production in the area around Ponca City began prior to 1909 with discoveries on the Ponca Indian Reservation south of town and, to the east, on the Osage lands. This attracted the attention of several Pennsylvania oilmen, most notably E.W. Marland and L. H. (Lew) Wentz. Both of these oilmen enhanced Ponca City by providing numerous employment opportunities and financing various civic improvements, such as Marland’s Pioneer Woman Statue and Lew Wentz’s Ponca City Educational camp. With large oil fields in the vicinity, including the Ponca, Burbank and Shidler fields, and many oil-related industries in the area, Ponca City has continued to thrive for decades.8

One of the large oil-related developments in Ponca City of lasting economic importance was the location of E.W. Marland’s immense refinery. The Marland Refining Company was taken over by the Continental Oil Company in 1929 when Marland’s oil prowess hit the skids. By 1941, the Continental Oil Company employed 2,500 workers in Ponca City and the refinery was characterized as “the largest in the state and one of the most modern in the world.” The name of the refinery had been changed to Conoco by that time, which operates today as Conoco-Phillips. By the mid-1930s, the Empire Oil and Refining Company, one of Henry L. Doherty plants, also operated a refinery in Ponca City, in addition to a host of smaller related industries.9

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH:

With the population exploding across the country, the years following WWII saw “one of the great ecclesiastical building booms in American history.” As a nation, Americans spent $126 million on building new churches in 1947. Within six years, the total amount spent jumped to $474 million. By 1955, when construction started on the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Ponca City, Americans spent $734 million on new religious buildings. The amount continued to grow so that by 1960, over a $1 billion a year was expended on church buildings nationwide. This amounted to about “2.5 percent of all money spent on privately financed construction.”10

The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Ponca City was organized in 1939. The church originated from a twelve-week revival meeting that began in the mid-summer of 1938.

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Wesleyan Methodist Church
Name of Property

Kay County, OK
County and State

The revival meeting was conducted by Reverend and Mrs. Paul Hodge of Houston, Texas. After the revival meeting, a Sunday School was organized and then, under Reverend Hodge, regular church services were held. Just twelve persons attended the first service.11

From 1938 through 1955, the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Ponca City met in what had been a vacant store building at 411 West Highland Avenue. The church bought the building in 1939 with a dedicatory service held on July 7, 1940. On August 18, 1944, the church held a mortgage burning to celebrate “the paying off of the debt against the property.” In June 1950, the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America purchased six lots about three-quarters of a mile away on the corner of West Brookfield Avenue and North Third Street.12

Due to “extremely crowded conditions,” the church initiated construction of a new building on the Brookfield property in mid-1955. The “completely new and modern church plant,” estimated to cost $40,000, was to have a seating capacity of 250 persons. The groundbreaking ceremony for the reported 34’ by 76’ building was held on Sunday, July 24, 1955. “Friends of the church” were “especially invited” to attend. As seen in a photograph published in the local newspaper on July 27, 1955, a nice crowd attended the groundbreaking ceremony with four of the seven church building committee members turning the first shovels of dirt.13

Although it was anticipated at the groundbreaking that work would begin by early August 1955, actual work did not commence until September 1955. By January 1956, work was progressing on the new building so that the church placed an advertisement with a photograph that announced “Yes…We’re building!” at Third and Brookfield with the previous building at 411 West Highland described as the “temporary location.” In mid-February 1956, “a group of vandals caused considerable damage” to the building by pushing over a brick wall and breaking several metal ties.14

As anticipated at the groundbreaking ceremony, the new church building was completed in May 1956 with the old building sold to the Knights of Pythias Lodge 18. The first service at the new Wesleyan Methodist Church building was held on Sunday, May 20, 1956. The new 34’ by 80’ building, including equipment, had a reported total value of $45,000. The church was built of Haydite blocks with a pink brick cladding and included a full basement and a balcony. On the interior, the building featured a Basilican type plan and “exposed laminated beams.” With the main sanctuary accommodating 250 members, the balcony could seat another 50 and the church had “purchased ample land so that additional structures (could) be added when needed.” The full basement contained five

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12 Ibid. See also Warranty Deed from W. D. and Willie D. Clarke to The Oklahoma Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, June 30, 1950, filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.
Sunday school classrooms and a 50’ by 20’ auditorium area. Restrooms were in the basement and the church also boasted a “new soundproof nursery.” Among the modern amenities was a loudspeaker system in the main sanctuary. With the new building completed, the congregation listed the remaining Haydite blocks for sale in August 1956. The regular blocks were priced at .23 cents each and the header blocks commanded .04 cents more a block.\textsuperscript{15}

The official dedication for the new Wesleyan Methodist Church was held on Sunday, October 28, 1956. Although there was a large tree in the yard in 1956 that partially obscured the building, the current building remains readily recognizable in the photograph published in \textit{The Ponca City News} in October 1956.\textsuperscript{16}

The Wesleyan Methodist Church was a relatively modest church as suggested by its $45,000 value. In all, there were about 44 churches in Ponca City, representing 33 denominations, in the mid-1950s with total church membership in 1956 reported as 14,581 persons. The total value of church buildings city-wide was estimated at $3,564,500 with the parsonages worth an additional $422,200. As suggested by the amount of money spent nationwide on religious buildings, church construction after WWII was booming in Ponca City. In 1955-1956 alone, there were about four new church buildings constructed in Ponca City with an additional seven religious organizations constructing educational and other support buildings or, as in the case of the First Church of the Nazarene to the tune of $40,000, investing significantly into remodeling their existing facilities. Among the more popular renovations was the addition of air conditioning.\textsuperscript{17}

The four church buildings constructed during the 1955-1956 period consisted of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Central Baptist Church, Pleasant View Baptist Church and the National Register-listed First Presbyterian Church (NRIS #100004169). The first three churches were fairly comparable with the Wesleyan Methodist building costing around $45,000; the Central Baptist building a reported $42,000 with the land costs increasing the value to $80,000; and, the Pleasant View Baptist Church building costing an economical $25,000 with the church members providing nearly all of the labor. Both the Central Baptist Church and Pleasant View Baptist Church were started slightly earlier than the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The Central Baptist Church was dedicated in July 1955 and the Pleasant View Baptist Church dedicated in October 1955.\textsuperscript{18}

The remaining church built, or finished, in 1955-1956 was significantly larger than the Wesleyan Methodist Church and, thus, not comparable to it. The First Presbyterian Church cost a reported $650,000. Construction on the First Presbyterian started in 1954 with the church finished in 1955. An additional two churches, the Asbury Methodist

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid, May 6, 1956, August 1, 1956, and October 26, 1956.
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid, October 26, 1956.
\textsuperscript{17} Ibid, September 7, 1956. See also City Directory, Ponca City, 1957, (available \textit{Ancestry}).
Church and Woodland Christian Church, were slated for construction in late 1956 but actual work was not underway until 1957.19

The Wesleyan Methodist Church measured 34’ by 80’, which equaled over 5,440 square feet of interior space excluding the balcony. The Central Baptist Church had a reported 8,000 square feet of interior space. The Pleasant View Baptist Church, also boasting a full basement, was the smallest, measuring 60’ by 32’ for a total interior space of 3,690 square feet. Both the Wesleyan Methodist and Central Baptist buildings were built of Haydite block with a brick exterior cladding, although the Central Baptist building had a central tower constructed of Arkansas ledgestone. The Pleasant View Baptist Church was a frame structure faced with Arkansas buff brick.20

Continuing the similarities between the Wesleyan Methodist Church and Central Baptist Church, both were gable-roofed rectangular buildings. Additionally, both featured a glass block cross in the front gable; however, the one on the Central Baptist Church is apparently not original as it is located where the main entry originally was. Distinguishing the two buildings, however, is the original, flat-roofed, two-story education plant connected to the rear of the Central Baptist’s main auditorium. Additionally, over the years since construction, a larger building has been added to the west side that is connected to the original building via a covered walkway and an enclosed addition attached to the front of the education building. More significantly, the original main entry on the north elevation was moved to the east elevation and the opening infilled with matching Arkansas ledgestone.

Although the Pleasant View Baptist Church was included in the newspaper with the Ponca City churches, it was located north of town on US Highway 77. Thus, the church was not listed in the city directories and the only address provided in the newspaper was “North of City.” Although the local newspaper included photographs of the building, the exact location of the church could not be determined. If the church remains extant, it has been altered beyond recognition as the existing buildings along Pleasant View Road, near old US Highway 77, do not match the appearance of the building in the available historical photographs.

While the Central Baptist Church, now known as the Victory Worship Center and located at 618 East Hartford Avenue, remains standing, it has lost the ability to convey its architectural significance as a modest mid-1950s religious building constructed in Ponca City in 1955-1956. Style wise, the Central Baptist Church is classified as Minimal Traditional. The Wesleyan Methodist Church stylistically stands out as an example, albeit modest, of the Late Gothic Revival style. Characteristics of the style present on the Wesleyan Methodist Church include the steep-pitched roof, opalescent window glass and false buttresses. As the best example of a modest, mid-1950s, Late Gothic Revival style

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church in Ponca City, the Wesleyan Methodist Church merits recognition of its architectural significance through listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directory. Ponca City, Oklahoma. 1930 (available Ponca City Public Library, Ponca City, Oklahoma) and 1957 (available Ancestry).


Moore, (No First Name). “Ponca City.” Available Ponca City Vertical File, Oklahoma Historical Society, Research Library, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, n.d.


*Souvenir Program: Ponca City, Oklahoma, Cherokee Strip Celebration, September 16, 1941*. Available Ponca City Vertical File, Research Library, Oklahoma Historical Society, Research Library Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1941.


Warranty Deed. W. D. and Willie D. Clarke to The Oklahoma Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America. June 30, 1950. Filed for record at the County Clerk’s Office, Kay County Courthouse, Newkirk, Oklahoma.

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 #
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

X 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 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: 36.719142 Longitude: -97.080920

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

Lots 1-3 and 22-24, Block 38, Cross Addition to the City of Ponca City.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, consisting of the six lots purchased in 1950 by the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America.
Form Prepared By

cname/title:  Cynthia Savage, Architectural Historian, for  
organization:  City of Ponca City  
street & number:  346 County Road 1230  
city or town:  Pocasset  state:  OK  zip code:  73079  
e-mail:  archconsulting.savage@yahoo.com  
television:  
date:  March 2020  

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.)
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 does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Wesleyan Methodist Church
City or Vicinity: Ponca City
County: Kay
State: OK
Photographer: Cynthia Savage
Date Photographed: 19 November 2019

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

- Photo 0001: Front (south) elevation, camera facing north.
- Photo 0002: Front (south) elevation (left) and east elevation (right), camera facing northwest.
- Photo 0003: East elevation, camera facing northwest.
- Photo 0004: East elevation (left) and north elevation (right), camera facing southwest.
- Photo 0005: North elevation, camera facing south.
- Photo 0006: North elevation (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.
- Photo 0007: West elevation (center) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.
Wesleyan Methodist Church
300 Brookfield Avenue
Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma
Latitude: 36.719142 Longitude: -97.080920

Legend
Approximate Boundary
Wesleyan Methodist Church
300 Brookfield Avenue
Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma
Latitude: 36.719142 Longitude: -97.080920
Wesleyan Methodist Church
300 Brookfield Avenue
Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma
Latitude: 36.719142 Longitude: -97.080920
Wesleyan Methodist Church

Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 1

OK_KayCounty_WesleyanMethodistChurch_0001
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**Name of Property**: Wesleyan Methodist Church

**County and State**: Kay County, Oklahoma

**Name of multiple listing (if applicable)**: OK_KayCounty_WesleyanMethodistChurch_0002
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wesleyan Methodist Church
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 3

OK_KayCounty_WesleyanMethodistChurch_0003
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Wesleyan Methodist Church
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _11_  Page _4_
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11  Page 5

Wesleyan Methodist Church
Name of Property  Wesleyan Methodist Church
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State  N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable) OK_KayCounty_WesleyanMethodistChurch_0005

OK_KayCounty_WesleyanMethodistChurch_0005
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 7

Wesleyan Methodist Church
Name of Property
Kay County, Oklahoma
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OK_KayCounty_WesleyanMethodistChurch_0007