

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

NOV 21 2006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Natoma Presbyterian Church
Other name/site number 141-3920-0005

2. Location

Street & number 408 N. 3rd St. not for publication
City or town Natoma vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Osborne Code 141 Zip code 67651

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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] DSHPO 10/11/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.	_____	Signature of the Keeper	_____	Date of Action	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____				
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____				

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Osborne Co., Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Wood

Roof: Asphalt

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Natoma Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Osborne Co., Kansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes. C is checked.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A-F, G with checkboxes. B is checked.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898-1949

Significant Dates

1898, 1923, 1949

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Beisner, L. C.

Pohlman, A. Henry

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, landmark, survey, engineering.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Osborne Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one.

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	4	9	8	1	8	0	4	3	3	7	6	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

2

Zone		Easting				Northing								

3

Zone		Easting				Northing								

4

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Kristen Lonard & Patrick Zollner
Organization Kansas State Historical Society Date May 2, 2006
Street & number 6425 SW Sixth Ave. Telephone 785-272-8681
City or town Topeka State KS Zip code 66615

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Natoma Heritage Seekers
Street & number PO Box 116 Telephone _____
City or town Natoma State KS Zip code 67651

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Osborne Co., Kansas

Description

Summary

Constructed from c. 1898 to 1899, the Natoma Presbyterian Church is a one-story, wood-frame, gable-roof church located at 408 North 3rd Street in Natoma, Osborne County, Kansas. Featuring vertical board-and-batten siding, pointed arch windows, a prominent entrance/bell tower with a wood-shingled octagonal steeple, and two distinctive chimney shafts, the Natoma Presbyterian Church exhibits several characteristics of the Carpenter Gothic subtype of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. L. C. Beisner and A. Henry Pohlman were the builders of the church.

The church was originally located at the northeast corner of Elm and N. 2nd Streets. In 1923, a basement was constructed south of the church, and the church building was moved onto the new basement foundation. In 1949, the church was moved to the current location on a new concrete basement that is partially above ground. Except for the steeple, the roof is covered with modern composition shingles. The front and side elevation stained-glass windows were installed in 1961. The stained-glass window on the north elevation was added in 1980. The building is in excellent condition.

Elaboration

The front, or southern, elevation features a prominent square entrance/bell tower on the eastern end of the elevation. The tower is accessed by seven concrete steps or a modern ADA wheelchair lift. The entrance door is a modern aluminum-frame replacement with a narrow sidelight that was installed in 1986. Above the doorway a lancet arched pediment is formed by applied wood trim. An arched, louvered wood vent is placed on all four sides of the belfry, which is capped by a wood-shingled, octagonal steeple with a small cross gable on each elevation. A 1948 photograph reveals a decorative wood panel was originally placed below the louvered vent near the juncture with the front gable end.

The center of the front elevation is dominated by a large Gothic-arched, stained-glass window that is composed of three juxtaposed lancet windows that are unified by three diamond-shaped panes within the spandrel. The overall Gothic arch is exaggerated by additional applied wood tracery mimicking the arch for the stained-glass window although slightly more pointed. The western end of the elevation is defined by a three-sided, projecting square shaft that originally housed a chimney. The chimney shaft features three segments of pointed tracery and is capped by a flared square capital. Historic photographs from both the original location and after the 1923 move reveal that a chimney pot originally extended above this capital. The gable end features a wide frieze adorned with curved brackets and applied tracery forming a Gothic arch beneath the natural point of the gable end.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Osborne Co., Kansas

The western elevation is fenestrated by three sets of paired, pointed-arched, stained-glass windows that are ornamented by exaggerated wood lancet-shaped drip molds for each window in the pair and decorative wood window casing trim that is stepped from the top and bottom of the window to the narrowest point in the center of the window. There are also three basement level windows.

The rear, or northern, elevation consists of a small room (for the choir/pulpit area) with a gable roof projecting below that of the main gable. A second board-and-batten chimney shaft is located at the junction of the main block of the church (sanctuary) and the rear projecting gable. The original chimney pot has been removed and a small vent-type metal flue extends from the flared capital.

The western elevation of the rear room is not fenestrated; however, a shed roof for the basement extends to the west from this elevation and is attached to the wall a couple of feet above grade. The rear elevation proper contains a smaller version of the three-part, stained-glass window on the front elevation. A cross gable extends to the east of the rear gable. Based on historic photographs, this room extension is not original; however, the siding and trim is consistent with the main building and is undoubtedly a historic addition, perhaps from the first move in 1923. The rear elevation of the cross-gable extension is fenestrated by a conventional one-over-one window that is adorned with trim and an applied pointed arch like the stained-glass windows on the side elevations. The eastern elevation contains two single-leaf entrances. The entrance that is adjacent to the north corner board is composed of a modern flush steel panel door that leads into the basement. A larger double-leaf door is placed off center to the south and is accessed by four concrete steps. This entrance is slightly wider and consists of a flush panel wood door. Both entrances are capped by applied pointed arches. The gable end of this projection is similarly adorned with a bracketed frieze and pointed arch motif. The double-leaf door also has stepped casing trim similar to the stained-glass windows.

The eastern elevation of the sanctuary is fenestrated identically to the western elevation. All stained-glass windows are protected by clear plexiglas storm windows. The eastern side of the entrance/bell tower contains a tall lancet stained-glass window that matches the height of the front elevation window.

The interior is essentially original. Double-leaf, lancet-shaped wood doors separate the entrance vestibule from the sanctuary. The tall, stained-glass window in the vestibule is dedicated to the original builders, L. C. Beisner and A. H. Pohlman. The sanctuary contains nine rows of curved pews with a center aisle between pews. The pews were re-covered and re-finished in 1983. The high tray ceiling is covered with acoustical tiles. The basement is carpeted and finished in wood paneling. A center beam is supported by three screw jacks.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Osborne Co., Kansas

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Natoma Presbyterian Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent representative of the Carpenter Gothic subtype of the Gothic Revival style of architecture.

History of the Natoma Church

The town of Natoma, Kansas in the western part of Osborne County was founded in 1888. Homesteaders moved into Osborne County beginning in the 1870s from Europe and various places across the Midwest. Settlers along Paradise Creek organized and founded the settlement of Tarply in the mid 1870s. In 1888, with a population of 150, Tarply changed its name to Natoma and officially became a town. The town grew with the additions of a lumberyard in 1892, a blacksmith shop in 1894 and several other stores and services that developed within the town. A severe drought in the late 1890s made it difficult for farming and ranching in Osborne County, many local men had to leave their families to find work in other towns, while some stayed in Natoma and helped build buildings in Natoma or teach in the local schools. It was during these late years of the drought that L.C. Beisner and A. Henry Pohlman began work on the Natoma Presbyterian Church.¹

Preparations for the church building began in the summer of 1898 as the congregation organized itself and began raising funds to pay for the new construction. The Presbyterian Church Officials located in New York provided the construction plans for the new church and a grant of \$500 to help with the costs. The construction of the Natoma Presbyterian Church was undertaken by two of Natoma's local builders. L.C. Beisner and A.H. Pohlman were involved in the construction of many of Natoma's commercial and civic buildings built in Natoma around the turn of the century. Beisner, who had perfected a "no sag" roof design that was used on the church, and Pohlman finished the construction rather quickly, and the church was officially dedicated in June of 1899.²

The church was originally built on a lot at the northeast corner of Elm Street and N. First Street. It remained in that location until 1923 when more room was needed, so the church built a foundation and basement just to the south of the original location, and moved the building over on top of the new foundation. As time progressed the basement settled and water would stand in one corner after any amount of significant rainfall. There were also no interior restrooms and the general facilities were in need of updating. In 1949 a lot was purchased on North 3rd St., and another foundation/basement was

¹ Natoma History 1888-1988, Natoma Centennial Book Committee, Jostens 1988.

² Richmond, Della, Church History Account, 2005

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Osborne Co., Kansas

built which included bathroom facilities and classrooms. In August of that year, the church was moved three blocks to the north on top of the newly built foundation and the church has remained in that location for the past fifty-seven years.³

From the time the church opened its doors in 1899 the Natoma Presbyterian Church played an important role in community life in Natoma. The church members organized several groups that helped in the community over the years. "The Young People's Christian Endeavor" and the "Ladies Aid Society" developed through the church congregation and worked throughout the Natoma Community. The Natoma Presbyterian Congregation held services in the church till the 1990s when the members combined with another local church and met at a different facility. Today the building is owned by the Natoma Heritage Seekers and is used by the community for a variety of functions, including weddings, funerals, public meetings, and holiday events.⁴

Significance

The Natoma Presbyterian Church represents a relatively rare Kansas example of the Carpenter Gothic subtype of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. The Gothic Revival style worked its way into prominence during the early to mid-nineteenth century. In the 1810s and 1820s, this style was utilized for many universities. Architects like Alexander Jackson Davis, Andrew Jackson Downing, Richard Upjohn and others all helped to popularize the style across the United States into the mid-nineteenth century. Davis and other architects stressed the "picturesque effect" that makes so many Gothic Revival building so striking in appearance.⁵ Generally, the popularity of the Gothic Revival style for residential buildings began to decline after 1864. The style remained popular, however, for public and religious buildings throughout the nineteenth century. A subtype known as Collegiate Gothic continued well into the twentieth century. The subtype known as Carpenter Gothic simply refers to those designs using wood as the primary building material. With its board-and-batten siding, decorative tracery, prominent bell/entrance tower and elaborate wood-paneled chimney shafts, the Natoma Presbyterian Church expresses the ideals of the earlier "picturesque" movement of the style. Despite being moved twice historically, the nominated property meets Criteria Consideration B and is eligible for listing under Criterion C.

³ Natoma History 1888-1988, Natoma Centennial Book Committee, Jostens 1988.

⁴ Natoma History 1888-1988.

⁵ Whiffen, Moris, *ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9,10 Page 5

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Osborne Co., Kansas

Bibliography

Kansas City Star. September 25, 1948. Photograph with caption.

McAlister, Lee, and Virginia McAlister, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1984.

Natoma History 1888-1988, Natoma Centennial Book Committee, Jostens 1988.

Richmond, Della, Church History Account, 2005.

Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 1992, p. 53.

Verbal Boundary Description

East 72' – South ½ Union Tract 26, Section 17, Township 10, Range 15W

Boundary Justification

This boundary reflects all of the property associated with the church after the 1949 relocation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 6

Natoma Presbyterian Church
Osborne Co., Kansas

Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Natoma Presbyterian Church
2. Osborne County, Kansas
3. Photographer: Kristen Lonard
4. April 5, 2006
5. Digital photographs on file at the Kansas State Historical Society

Photo #1: South (front) Elevation, view from the south

Photo #2: East Elevation, view from the southeast

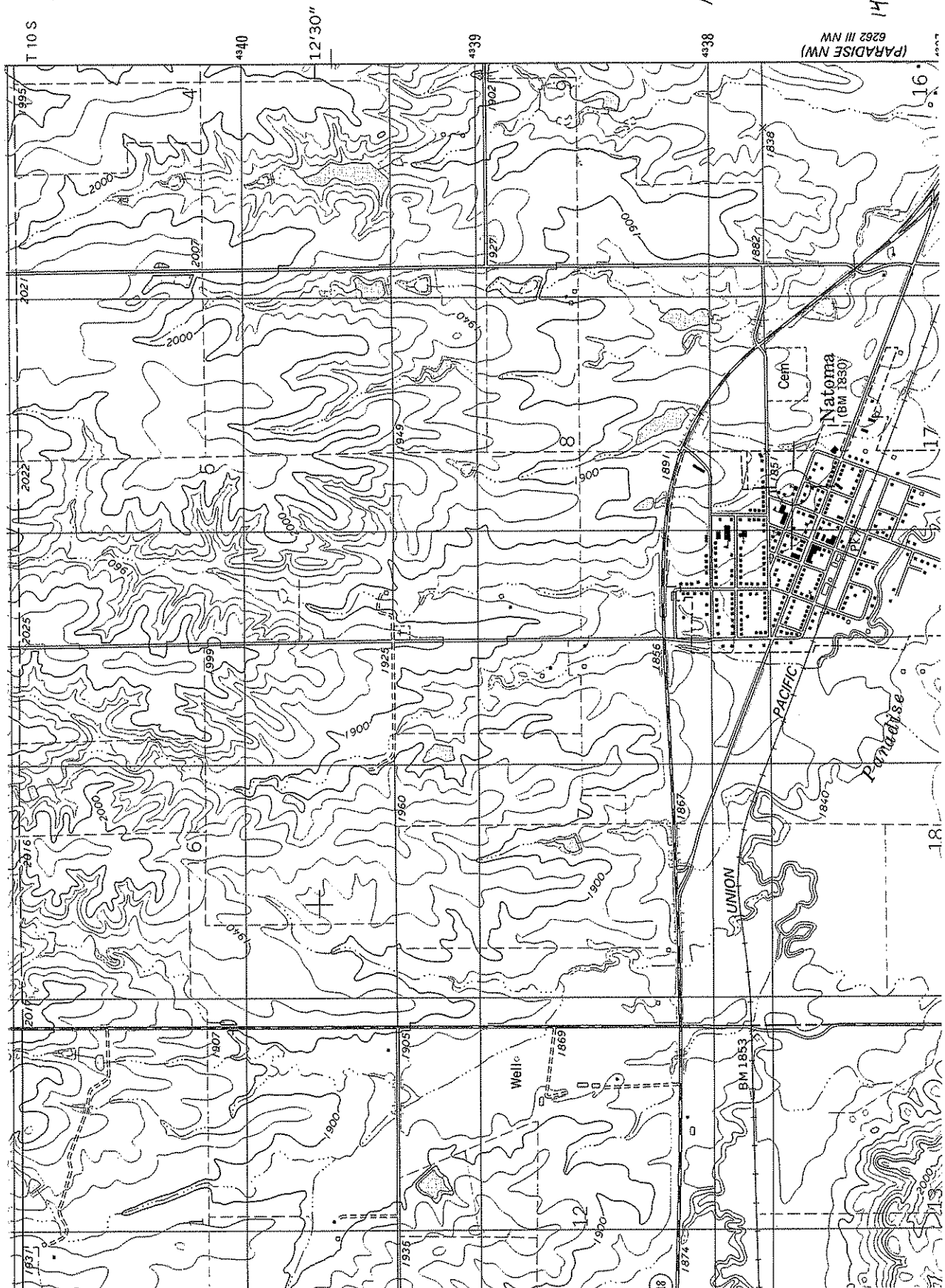
Photo #3: East Elevation, view from the east

Photo #4: North (rear) Elevation, view from the north

Photo #5: West Elevation, view from the west

Photo #6: Interior, sanctuary, view from the north

Photo #7: Interior, sanctuary, view from the south



Natoma Presbyterian
Church

Osborne Co.
Natoma, KS

14 / 498180 E
4337630 N

(PARADISE NW)
6262 III NW