United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic   Trinity Episcopal Church

and/or common   Trintiy Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number   ~~Corner of~~ 3rd Avenue E. and 3rd Street N.   NA not for publication

city, town   Groton   NA vicinity of   congressional district   First

state   South Dakota   code   46   county   Brown   code   013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	X museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	NA being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   Brown County Museum and Historical Society

street & number   Box 395

city, town   Aberdeen   NA vicinity of   state   South Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   Register of Deeds

street & number   Brown County Courthouse

city, town   Aberdeen   state   South Daktoa

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   NA   has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date   ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town   state

7. Description

Condition

__X__ excellent   ____ deteriorated
____ good   ____ ruins
____ fair   ____ unexposed

Check one

__X__ unaltered
____ altered

Check one

__X__ original site
____ moved   date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A nave plan church dating from 1883, Trinity Episcopal Church is built after the pattern entitled, "Wooden Chapel," published in Richard Upjohn's Rural Archi-tecture, 1852.

Constructed of frame and resting on a stone and concrete foundation, the church is one story in height with the gable roof sloping down to meet the tops of the windows. The building has a narthex entrance and Gothic Revival details throughout. On the exterior the church is sheathed with board and batten and the windows form lancet arches framed with Tudor label molds. All the smaller windows have etched colored glass, while the large, three-part window behind the altar is leaded and stained. On the interior, stained and grained wood is used throughout, including the wooden truss ceiling. The wallpaper dates from 1889. The motifs for the interior details are Gothic and Victorian. The structure remains in nearly original condition with the exception of the brick chimney flue on the exterior, which connects to an oil furnace located in the narthex.

Architectural historian, Daniel Kidd, describes the church in the following manner:

> Based on the simple fact that it is without a chancel, it would seem that the board-and-batten Episcopal Church in Groton, South Dakota, was inspired by the design for a "Wooden Chapel." This building was erected in 1883, and like so much of the progeny of Rural Architecture, a gabled entrance porch is centered on the main facade. Like the chapel design, there is a lancet to either side of the entrance, but a lancet above this opening was omitted and the trefoil in the gable peak called for by the published chapel design was converted into a simple occulus. Lancets on the side walls are paired into three groups -- taking fur-ther liberties, but the rear wall returns more closely to the plates: the focal feature is an arched window with wooden tracery that creates three lancet shapes. According to the Upjohn book, the chapel's rear wall was to have an emphatic triple lancet.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates	1883-1884	Builder/Architect	NA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The single remaining example of a rural board-and-batten Episcopal Church in South Dakota, Trinity Church is significant in the areas of architecture, religion, and early settlement.

Constructed between July 1, 1883 and June 30, 1884, the church was built for the cost of $1200 and was used by several denominations for meetings. The altar window was shipped from Connecticut and the brass altar vases and cross were donated by the R. A. Mather family. Later additions include the 1889 wallpaper donated by D. B.Johns and electrical wiring installed in c. 1900.

The town of Groton was established in 1881 and named for a community in Massachusetts. The early settlers' connections to New England are evident in both the Connecticut window and the use of a Gothic church design which developed out of the Ecclesiology movement within the Episcopal Church. The merchants and prosperous educated middle class which comprised Trinity's congregation, were founders of the town. One lay leader, W. J. Brewster was educated at Yale and served as postmaster in addition to owning a book store. He served the church from 1885 to 1886.

The famous missionary, Bishop W. H. Hare, served the congregation in the opening years. As a small church body, Trinity had only one resident rector, who served in 1895-1896. This rector was T. H. J. Walton. The church ceased active services in the 1960s and was given to the Brown County Historical Society in 1974.

Richard Upjohn-inspired churches were built in many states in the 1852-1900 era. Alabama, Nebraska and Minnesota all have rural churches built in the board-and-batten rural church mode. Three such churches are known to have been built in South Dakota. Two were Episcopalian and presently only the Groton church remains of the Episcopal designs. A second, simple board-and-batten chapel still stands in Yankton. Trinity Episcopal Church is the only extant example in the state of the Episcopal architectural phenomenon.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed and Abstract
Daniel Kidd, "Midwest Chruch Architecture: Upjohn's Influence." Paper, Missouri River
     Valley History Conference, 1981.
Groton Centennial Committee, "Groton Centennial History." Groton Centennial (see cont sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property   7.5

Quadrangle name   Groton   Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A |1 4| |6 7 0 4 9 0| |5 0 3 1 9 9 0|
   Zone   Easting   Northing

B |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|
   Zone   Easting   Northing

C |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

D |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

E |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

F |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

G |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

H |__| |__|__|__| |__|__|__|

Verbal boundary description and justification The lot lines of the property form the boundaries
of the site which is located in Lots 1 and 2, Block 7 of the Village (now City of)
Groton, Brown County, South Dakota.

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

state	NA	code	county		code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

technical editing: Carolyn Torma
Historical Preservation Center, 216 E. Clark
Vermillion SD 57069

name/title   Terry J. Geisler, Vice President

organization   Landmark Commission   date   8 Sept 82

street & number   Box 395   telephone   605-225-6820

city or town   Aberdeen   state   South Dakota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national   ✓ state   ____ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   _Junius R. Fishburn_

title   Director, Office of Cultural Preservation   date   12/13/82

For HCRS use only
   I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register   date   1/27/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Trinity Episcopal Church

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Committee. North Plains Press: Aberdeen, SD, 1981. p. 273.