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5. Classification					
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 ➢ private ☐ public-local ☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal 	⊠ building(s) ☐ district ☐ site ☐ structure ☐ object	Contributing Noncontributing 1 buildings			
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		1 total Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
N/A		<u>N/A</u>			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions Enter Categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
RELIGION: religious facility		RELIGION: religious facility			
7. Description					
Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)			
LATE VICTORIAN: Second Gothic	Revival	Foundation: STONE: Limestone ; CONCRETE Walls: BRICK			
		Roof: STONE: Slate			

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

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Name of Property

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Applicable National Register Criteria Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
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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	Period of Significance
individual distinction.	1878, 1907
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riteria Considerations /lark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
roperty is:	1878, 1907, 1932
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
B removed from it original location.	
C a birthplace or grave.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
] D a cemetery.	N/A
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	1907 - W.E. Harris, Architect
Major Bibliographical References	
bliography ite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on	one or more continuation sheets.)
evious 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	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government
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recorded by Historic American Engineering	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: Inis 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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

Architectural Description

Summary

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, used continuously as a religious facility since 1878, is located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Cedar Streets in Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas, (population 6,500). The east-facing church is nestled between a business district of historic buildings to the south and east, and a residential district of Victorian-era homes to the north and west. The original church structure, which continues to be used as a sanctuary space, is a 40' x 60' foot red brick building in the Late Victorian Gothic Revival style, and features pointed arch windows, elaborately carved paneled doors, and a steeply pitched roof covered with diamond-shaped slate tiles. Built upon a limestone foundation, the red brick exterior is of a stretcher bond pattern and features a wall surface extending into the gable without a break. A wooden bell tower with pointed open arches and mansard roof sits atop the building's original northeast corner entrance. A 1907 brick addition extends to the south of the original sanctuary and is defined by a battlement parapet on the east elevation and large intersecting gable on the west elevation. A small flat roof addition was added to the northwest corner of the building in 1932. A covered walkway connects the southwest corner of the 1907 addition to a one-story building located next door and constructed in 1973. The property is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Exterior

The building was officially dedicated August 18, 1878, as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The east (front) elevation faces Cedar Street and is composed of a bell tower entrance at the northeast corner, a front-facing gable section dominated by a central lancet arch window, and a one-story flat-roof addition and intersecting gable at the south end. The simple wood cornice is emphasized by a pattern of vertical brickwork below.

The wooden bell tower with four pointed open arches and mansard roof sits atop the building's original corner entrance. A steeple once adorned the bell tower until it was destroyed by a tornado in September 1962. The tower was repaired, but the steeple was not replaced. The original bell is in the tower and bears the inscription "Bell Cast for Trinity Lutheran Church 1878, Philadelphia, Pa." The east-facing wooden porch was constructed in 1982 to mimic the original porch that had been removed. Five concrete steps lead to the gabled porch. The original wood double doors were replaced in 1993 with exact reproductions. An ornately carved design on the door panels reflects the arches of the belfry, windows, and brickwork. Above the doors is a rectangular stained glass transom. There is a cornerstone next to the entrance that reads "1878 & 1907".

The east elevation features a steeply pitched roof covered with diamond-shaped slate shingles, projecting saw-tooth pattern brickwork in the gable, and a large stained glass lancet arch window flanked by two smaller segmental arch windows with drip molds. The lancet window has wooden

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

tracery and brick hood molding and is defined by a projecting brick lancet arch that follows the shape of the window.

The 1907 addition (also east-facing) extends south from the original building and has many similar architectural characteristics. Kansas City, Kansas, architect W.E. Harris designed the addition, which is constructed of pressed brick with stone trimmings. J.L. Kruger of Abilene was the contractor. The flat-roof section is slightly recessed from the original structure and features a castellated parapet. The simple wood cornice is emphasized by a pattern of vertical brickwork below. There is also a row of three segmental arch windows of equal size and matching those of the original building. The addition also contains a double-door entrance with a gabled wood porch accessed by five concrete steps. There is a historic basement entrance below these steps. This south porch, used now as the main entrance, leads to a vestibule built as part of the 1907 addition.

The church's north elevation faces Fourth Street and consists of the bell tower, the original north wall with three stained glass windows, and the 1932 flat roof addition to the west elevation. The bell tower projects northward several feet from the plane of the main north wall. The north side of the bell tower base features one segmental arch window with brick hood molding and a simple wood cornice emphasized by a pattern of vertical brickwork. The main north wall of the church is defined by three pointed stained glass windows and vertical brickwork below the wood cornice. Two projecting vertical brick columns separate the windows. The 1932 addition, which includes a single-door entrance and a stained glass window, originally housed the pastor's study, but is currently used as the sacristy. There is a concrete landing and stairway with a wrought iron rail that leads to the entrance.

The west (rear) elevation is comprised of the original gable section and the 1907 and 1932 additions. The 1932 addition has one stained glass, pointed arch window on the west elevation. There is a hip roof section projecting westward from the center of the original structure, which houses the organ equipment. This section was expanded to make room for the organ components in 1932. A large exterior chimney rises above the roofline. At some point a door was pierced in the west wall of the sanctuary, but it has since been removed and the opening filled in with brick. The 1907 addition originally contained three stained glass, pointed arch windows. The bottom half of the southern-most window was changed in 1973 to accommodate a door opening. The door leads into a covered walkway and into the one-story education building erected in 1973. The education building is not connected to the historic church in any other location other than through this covered walkway at the rear. Built to accommodate the growing congregation, the addition houses Sunday School rooms, church offices, a kitchen, and a meeting room.

The education building is situated directly next to the south side of the historic church, but it is not connected at any point on this elevation. The south side of the 1907 addition includes a gabled section

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

and a flat roof section. The gabled section features a pointed arch double window flanked by two smaller pointed arch windows that mimic those of the original church.

Interior

The northeast bell tower access is the original entrance to the building. It is not generally used as the main entrance, but is still accessible. The bell tower entryway retains the original wainscoting, which matches the woodwork. Through this access, one enters into the rear of the sanctuary. Defined by a central aisle, the west-facing pews, which date to 1937, point toward the raised pulpit platform at the west end. When the pews were installed in 1937 the configuration was changed from three sections with two aisles to two sections with one central aisle. Members of the church were asked to purchase pews for \$100, and brass plaques with their names were attached to honor their contributions. These nameplates remain fixed to the pews. The sanctuary chancel includes the pulpit, altar, organ, and choir loft. The pulpit and platform railings also date to 1937. At an unknown date, ten ornate cast iron steam heat registers were installed along the walls for heating. These registers remain in the building.

A large lancet stained glass window is located at the rear of the sanctuary on the east wall.¹ The leaded glass in the three windows on the east wall was installed during the construction of the 1907 addition. The interior woodwork, tin ceilings, cast iron heat registers, and light fixtures are historic and retain their integrity. There are a number of decorative medallions in the frieze, and four chandeliers each with four lamps hang from the empanelled tin ceiling.

An organ room and pastor's study were added in 1932 to the west end of the sanctuary when a Reuter Pipe organ was given to the church. The organ, electro-pneumatic in operation, had 20 stops, a set of 12 couplers, organ chimes, and a detached console, and was operated by a two-horsepower motor. It has since been refurbished with much of the original organ remaining in use. The former pastor's study is now the sacristy.

Wood paneled double doors at the rear southeast corner of the sanctuary open into the 1907 addition. This addition consists of a 15' x 16' vestibule, a 19' x 16' side room or narthex, and a 36' x 36' main room. The vestibule has a doorway and transom on each of the four walls. The doorway to the exterior, which now serves as the church's main entrance, has a stained glass transom. Wooden, paneled double doors on the west wall of the vestibule open into the main room of the addition. Within the vestibule is a staircase to the basement. A single door with transom leads south from the vestibule to the side room.

The side room functions as a social area and holds displays of historic church artifacts and photographs. A wall that was later added to separate the side room from the main room was removed in 2004 to

¹ This window is unusual in that it depicts two separate Biblical allegories - the Good Shepherd on one pane and Christ knocking at the door with no doorknob on the other.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

restore the addition to its original floor plan. A set of wooden vertical rolling partitions once enclosed the opening between the side room and the main room of the addition, and the opening between the main room and the sanctuary. Only the rolling partition between the main room and the sanctuary remains intact. The main room contains additional pews and can be closed off by the rolling partition for separate functions.

The 1907 addition contains a finished basement. Built to accommodate Sunday School classes, the basement included a kitchen, restrooms, and a main room. It is accessed by a stairway located in the vestibule or from beneath the exterior southeast steps. The space continues to be used for educational purposes.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

Statement of Significance

Summary

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a Late Victorian Gothic Revival style church built in 1878. This is the second oldest congregation in Abilene, with members worshipping in this same brick structure for nearly 130 years. Many of its founding members were some of Abilene's earliest residents, including Conrad Lebold and Jacob Augustine.

Architectural Significance

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a good example of the ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style of architecture. The Gothic Revival architectural movement began in England in the 18th century and sought to awaken interest in the medieval Gothic styles and forms. Numerous historical sources credit Boston architect Richard Upjohn with introducing and popularizing the Gothic Revival-style church in the United States. Gothic church design was also "promulgated by the Cambridge Society in England and *The Ecclesiologist*, which it published, as well as branch societies in the United States."² The defining architectural characteristics of the nominated property include a steeply pitched roof, wall surface extending into gable without a break, windows that commonly extend into gables and frequently have a pointed (Gothic) arch, a window crown or drip mold, doors showing pointed arches or other Gothic motifs, and a one-story entry porch.

Church and Community History

Beginning in 1867, businessman Joseph McCoy enticed cowboys to herd Texas longhorn cattle north up the Chisholm Trail to Abilene to be shipped to eastern markets. Thus, the community became a "cowtown" full of rowdy cowboys who gave Abilene the reputation as a "wild and wooly sin city." By the time the town was incorporated in 1869, pioneer families had spread the word that upland prairie farming had proved successful. Witnessing the lawlessness of the cowboys, several local Lutheran families who desired to worship God and raise their children in the faith of their fathers banded together in 1870 to establish a place of worship with a regular pastor. They organized the First English Lutheran Church of Abilene as a mission outreach and met in several locations for the first few years.

Some of the town's early influential people were charter members of the Lutheran church: **Conrad Lebold**, a successful banker and state senator, partnered with **Jacob Augustine** in 1869 to purchase the original town site of Abilene. **John Johntz** came to Abilene in 1870 to open a general merchandise store, became treasurer of Rice-Johntz-Nicolay Lumber Company, was a partner in Johntz and Rice

² Leland M. Roth, A Concise History of American Architecture (New York: Harper & Row, 1979), 110-11.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

Flour Mills, was associated with two banks, and served as a state senator, city treasurer, and school board president. **W.H. Eicholtz** was Abilene's first undertaker and a city councilman.³

According to the church minutes, on August 20, 1871, members voted to "proceed immediately [with] the erection of a parsonage and also to make an effort to secure the funds for the erection of a church next summer." Lebold, J.M. Shepherd, Eicholtz, W.L. Nixon, and G. Strome served on the building committee. Lebold and Augustine donated land for the Lutheran church and parsonage sometime during the early-1870s.

The cattle drive era was winding down by 1872 with the influx of more farmers to the area. T.C. Henry had introduced in 1871 an experimental winter wheat crop that proved successful and the crop soon spread across Kansas, turning the state into the breadbasket of the world.⁴ Businesses located south of the railroad tracks during the cattle trade began catering to farmers, while other businesses opened in the growing community that expanded north of the railroad tracks. It was in this area north of the railroad tracks that Lebold and Augustine donated land for the church and parsonage. The parsonage was built first on lot 36 of North Fourth Street – immediately west of the present church.⁵

The congregation raised money for a permanent church building. The church membership grew throughout the 1870s and plans were developed for the new building. No information could be found in early newspapers or other sources regarding the building's architect, but Hallock and Presney were the contractors. The foundation was completed by March 15, 1878, masons commenced on the brickwork by April 12, and by August 1 the local newspaper reported it was a "very handsome building and a credit to the city." The church was dedicated on August 18, 1878, with the total cost being \$5,500 for the building and furnishings.⁶ According to the *Abilene Gazette*, the congregation collected over \$1,200 at the dedication ceremony after sermons by Reverend Crouse of Bucyrus, Ohio, in the morning and Reverend Dr. U. J. Knisely of Newcomerstown, Ohio, in the evening.⁷ That same year, the church became known as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, and on February 18, 1879, it was legally named

³ William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883). Available online at <u>www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/index.html</u>.

⁴ James C. Malin, *Winter Wheat in the Golden Belt of Kansas* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1944), 66-79. Available online at <u>http://www.skyways.org/orgs/fordco/malin/</u>

⁵ Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Internet Website. Available online at <u>www.trinitylutheran-ks.org</u>.

⁶ Abilene Chronicle, 8 February 1878; 15 March 1878; 12 April 1878; 28 July 1878; 28 August 1878.

⁷ Abilene Gazette, 24 August 1878.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

the same, incorporated under the laws of the State of Kansas. In 1883, they sold the parsonage to pay off the remaining loan for the church building.⁸

A booklet promoting Abilene in 1887 lists the Lutheran church with 13 other churches in the community, stating, "most of them have excellent and some of them very fine edifices...all have fine brick or stone churches."⁹ Early Lutheran church records show the building was a center of community activities, including high school exercises, funerals for dignitaries, and ordinations of pastors of other religious denominations.

The windows throughout the historic sections of the church bear inscriptions in memory of early church members who were prominent business people during Abilene's early days. Louise Mary Gore was proprietress of the Drover Cottage Hotel, where Eastern businessmen purchased Texas longhorns. Elizabeth Faulkner Bearce was the wife of an early Abilene haberdasher who operated a store on Broadway Street. David L. Pisle opened a harness shop on Broadway between 3rd and 4th Streets. Jacob Arthur Young was an early real estate tycoon, Thomas Emmet Dewey was an attorney; David and Sarah Metzger were farmers, and Christian and Alice Wood Johntz were partners in the Johntz and Rice Milling Company.

In 1905, George C. Sterl, a department store owner, donated land to the church for an addition to be built on the south side of the original building. This better accommodated the Sunday School program and the promotion of the social life of the church membership. W.E. Harris of Kansas City, Kansas, served as the architect of the addition and J.L. Kruger of Abilene was hired as the contractor. As the cornerstone indicates, the addition was completed in 1907.

An organ room and pastor's study were added to the west of the original structure in 1932. Interior modifications to the original sanctuary were made in 1937 when the pews, pulpit, and platform railings were replaced. In 1962, a tornado toppled the steeple with damage at \$25,000. The steeple was not rebuilt and insurance money was used to repair the church tower as well as repair, paint, and refurbish the interior.

⁸ Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Internet Website. Available online at <u>www.trinitylutheran-ks.org</u>. (The Lutheran Aid Society raised \$1,350 and purchased the property at 514 NW Third in 1897 to be used as the church parsonage. It was remodeled in 1927 and sold in 1961. A property was then purchased at 518 Hillside to serve as the parsonage. There is currently no church parsonage.)

⁹ Abilene Real Estate Company, *Abilene, A Gem, The City of the Plains, The Centre of the "Golden Belt"* (Burlington, IA: Burdette Company, 1887).

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

In 1970, members were presented with an option to buy land and build a new church. Plans of a new building were drawn, but voted down by the congregation. Instead, they voted to build a new building next door to accommodate expanding educational needs. It was erected in 1973.

In 1993, the original oak doors, worn after 115 years of use, were removed and replaced with exact reproductions. Realizing the church's historical value, the congregation voted in 2003 to conduct much needed restoration work, with a goal of retaining its historic fabric. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were repaired and restored to their original beauty. White trim that had weathered over the years and fallen into disrepair was used as a template for the construction of new trim. The bell tower and porches were also repaired and painted. An interior wall was removed, returning the 1907 addition to its original floor plan.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is an architectural gem with a rich history located in downtown Abilene. Its tall tower, open arch belfry, pointed arch stained glass windows, and decorative brickwork are the defining architectural elements that give the building a Gothic Revival appearance. This historic building retains its historic integrity and is a good example of a Gothic Revival-style religious building in Abilene, Kansas.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

Verbal Boundary Description

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is located on Lots 32, 34 and 36, Cedar Street in Augustine and Lebold's subdivision of Thompson and McCoy's Addition to the City of Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by Fourth Street, the east by Cedar Street, the south by an alley, and to the west by adjacent property lines.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource.

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Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas

Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

- 1. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2. Dickinson County, KS
- 3. Photographer: Sarah J. Martin
- 4. 18 July 2006
- 5. Digital photographs on file at the Kansas State Historical Society
- Photo #1: East (front) elevation, view from the northeast
- Photo #2: East (front) elevation, view from southeast
- Photo #3: East (front) elevation, close-up of brickwork, view from the east
- Photo #4: East (front) elevation, shows area between historic building and education building to the south, view from the east
- Photo #5: North (side) elevation, view from the northwest
- Photo #6: West (rear) elevation, view from the west
- Photo #7: Interior, sanctuary, view from the east
- Photo #8: Interior, sanctuary, view from the west
- Photo #9: Interior, sanctuary, close-up of pew, view from the south
- Photo #10: Interior, sanctuary, close-up of stained glass window
- Photo #11: Interior, sanctuary, looking into 1907 addition, view from the north
- Photo #12: Interior, entry vestibule (1907 addition), view from the northeast
- Photo #13: Interior, side room or narthex (1907 addition), view from the south