

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received AUG 8 1984

date entered SEP 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic Trinity Church

and/or common Trinity Church

2. Location

street & number Churchyard Cemetery; Route 175 n/a not for publication

city, town Holderness n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Grafton code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Churchyard Cemetery Association, c/o Robert Rand

street & number 67-69 Main Street

city, town Plymouth n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grafton County Registry of Deeds (book 234, p281)

street & number Grafton County Courthouse

city, town North Haverhill state New Hampshire 03774

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Holderness Historic Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Lakes Region Planning Commission

city, town Meredith state New Hampshire

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Trinity Church is a small late 18th century church located in Churchyard Cemetery on Route 175 in the town of Holderness. The one story wooden building consists of three sections--the gable-roofed main block (28 feet by 36 feet), a hip-roofed vestibule (8 1/2 feet by 8 feet) attached to the main block's west gable end, and a shed roofed pulpit projection (7 1/2 feet by 6 feet) attached to the main block's east gable end. While the vestibule is centered on the long (east-west) axis of the main block, the pulpit projection is not similarly centered, being displaced a little to the north. All three sections are set on a cut granite block foundation, sheathed with clapboards, trimmed with cornerboards, close verges and close lateral eaves with friezes, and covered by asphalt shingled roofs.

The main block is three bays wide and three bays long. The main block's north and south facades each have three high twelve over twelve sash windows with plain trim and louvred shutters. In the center of the main block's west gable end is the lower hip roofed vestibule. In the vestibule's south facade (facing the road) is the church's only entry, a four panel door with plain trim, reached by two granite steps. The vestibule's west facade is blank, while its north facade contains a twelve over twelve sash window with plain trim and louvred shutters. In the main block's west gable above the vestibule is an attic louver, while a twelve over twelve sash window with plain trim and louvred shutters is found in the west gable end to each side of the vestibule. (A bronze plaque identifying the church and commemorating the first minister is mounted on the gable end near the southern window.) The walls of the pulpit projection on the east gable end are broken only by a six over six sash window with plain trim and louvred shutters in the east facade. The main block's east gable end received the same fenestration as the west gable end--a twelve over twelve sash window with plain trim and louvred shutters to each side of the projection, and an attic louver in the gable.

The vestibule is a small square room with a wide board floor, wide board wainscoating beneath plaster walls, and a plaster ceiling. Plain trim surrounds the entry door in the south wall, the twelve over twelve sash window in the north wall, and the six panel door in the west wall which leads into the church's main room in the main block.

The main block contains one large room, which again has a wide board floor and wide board wainscoating beneath plaster walls. Posts sheathed by plain boards project from the walls in the corners and between the three bays of the long (north and south) walls. Plain trim surrounds the twelve over twelve sash windows and the vestibule door. A simple but deep moulded cornice encircles the room to set off the plaster ceiling. The room is largely filled by box pews--two rows of six slip pews (twelve in all) in the center of the room, separated by narrow aisles from the larger box pews lining the walls, one in each corner, and three on each long wall (ten in all), making a total of 22 pews. The board floors of the central pews are raised four inches above the main floor. The central pews are distinguished by paneling on their doors, seat-backs, the central divider between the two rows, and the east and west aisle "walls". (No paneling is found between the doors on the north and south side aisles.) The board floors of the wall pews are raised fifteen inches above the main floor, so a plain narrow step was built along the front of all the wall pews. The wall pews have paneled doors, dividers and fronts. The paneling generally follows the same scheme

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on all of the box pews--a short rectangular panel above a taller rectangular panel. All of the pews' partitions and seatbacks are topped by simplified moulded copings.

The west wall of the main room has a central six panel door, flanked on each side by a twelve over twelve sash window. Three twelve over twelve sash windows are found in both the north and south walls. The east wall has a twelve over twelve sash window to each side of the pulpit recess, which is framed by plain trim. The pulpit itself is centered on the axis of the room, but the recess is not, as room was made to the north of the pulpit for the three steps needed to reach the high floored recess. Directly in front of the pulpit recess in the main room is a platform, raised one step above the main floor and set off by a railing with plain balusters, moulded rails, and square corner posts with moulded caps. (On the platform now stands the church furniture--alter table, lectern, organ and two chairs.) The pulpit has the most elaborate woodwork in the church. The pulpit's three sided center projects into the main room while its two wings are almost flush with the east wall. Starting from the floor, the pulpit front is ornamented as follows--a moulded baseboard, a row of panels (one in each of the five faces), a heavy moulded string course, another row of panels, and, finally, a deep moulded cornice. The walls and ceiling of the pulpit recess are also paneled. An inconspicuous paneled door in the back wall of the recess opens into the small closet that occupies the rest of the pulpit projection. Lit by a six over six sash window with plain trim, the closet has board floor, walls and ceiling.

The church stands on a small plot in the cemetery, bounded on the south and west by unpaved cemetery roads, and on the north and east by graves. This plot is grassed with one large maple tree and a few shrubs.

¹The paneling on the walls and ceiling of the recess appears to have been previously used elsewhere and, therefore, may well not be original.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1797 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Trinity Church is significant in the area of politics and government for its association with Samuel Livermore (1732-1803), an important figure in New Hampshire politics and government during the Revolutionary and Federal periods, and in the area of architecture as New Hampshire's best preserved late 18th century church.

Politics/Government. In the 18th century, Episcopalian churches were established in only four New Hampshire towns, Portsmouth, Claremont, Cornish and Holderness. One church historian has stated that the establishment of the Holderness church was due mainly to the influence of Samuel Livermore, the most prominent of the town's early settlers.¹ Livermore at first held services in his home. Sometime before 1789, Robert Fowle came to Holderness to tutor Livermore's children. From then on, Fowle conducted the services. And, in 1789, the Town, no doubt at Livermore's insistence, voted to make Fowle the first settled town minister. Services continued to be held in an unfinished room of Livermore's large house until 1797, when Trinity Church was erected. The small church was built on land owned by Samuel Livermore, near his home. There are unfortunately no surviving documents describing the construction of the church. But the general tradition has always been that the church was largely financed by the Livermores, particularly Samuel Livermore. As Arthur Livermore, Jr., Samuel's grandson, wrote a century after the event--"I once had the original subscription paper, signed by various persons and denoting their respective contributions to the building of the church. They were generally small and for specific articles and in their aggregate quite insufficient for the object. I seldom lose a paper and I must have given that to some one and forgotten it. But the effect upon my own mind was to remit to me the tradition that the Livermores amongst them substantially built the church and allocated the pews".² The church building and lot remained the property of Samuel Livermore until his death and was subsequently inherited by his sons and grandson. It was never conveyed to the parish or the diocese. The church property did not leave the Livermore family until June of 1854, when Arthur Livermore, Jr. deeded it with the adjoining burying ground and other land for one dollar to the Churchyard Cemetery. The Churchyard Cemetery Association has owned and maintained Trinity Church ever since.

(By the time Trinity Church was conveyed to the cemetery association, it was no longer in regular use as a church. The Episcopalian parish had diminished during the later years of Rev. Fowle's ministry and almost disappeared after his death in 1847. Trinity Church was essentially superseded in 1855 when St. Mark's Episcopal Church was established in Holderness village, now Ashland. Occasional services have been held (and continue to be held) in Trinity Church since its conveyance to the cemetery association. But, the only period of intensive use was from 1879 to 1884, when it served as the chapel for the nearby Holderness School, before the building of a larger chapel on the school grounds.)

¹ Calvin R. Batchelder - A HISTORY OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE (Claremont, 1876) Vol. 1, p. 262.

² Letter from Arthur Livermore, Jr. to Carlton Shepard, November 15, 1897 (manuscript in Livermore Papers, Manuscript Collection, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .088 acreea

Quadrangle name Plymouth

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	2	8	5	0	7	5	4	8	4	8	1	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet)

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

state	N/A	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Rue11

organization Lakes Region Planning Commission date February 16, 1984

street & number Main Street telephone 279-8171

city or town Meredith state New Hampshire

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 National Park Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]
title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Division of Parks and Recreation date 7/28/84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register date 9-7-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Samuel Livermore was born in 1732 in Waltham, Mass., where he grew up. He taught school and graduated from Princeton before taking up the study of law. Admitted to the bar in 1756, Livermore moved in 1757 to Portsmouth, N.H., where he established his practice. Two years later, he married Jane Browne, the daughter of Portsmouth's Episcopalian pastor. The Livermores moved to Londonderry (now Derry) in 1764. There his political career began in 1768, when he was elected as a representative to the colonial legislature. He had returned to Portsmouth by 1769, when he was appointed Attorney General of the Province of New Hampshire, a post he held until the Revolution established a new government. The Livermores moved back to Londonderry in 1774, and north to Holderness in the winter of 1775-6. Livermore had owned land in Holderness since 1761 and had begun intensively developing his property in 1774. Some historians have speculated that Livermore's move from the colonial capitol to a still primitive frontier town was prompted by a desire to avoid entanglement in impending Revolution. Whatever his motives, Livermore was soon the most prominent citizen and the largest landowner in Holderness. Here he would live the rest of his life.

Although Livermore spent the early days of the Revolution tending to his farm and gristmill in Holderness, he soon cast his lot with the new government. In 1776, he was again appointed Attorney General, this time for the new state. In 1779, Livermore was appointed a commissioner to represent the state before Congress in the controversy over the New Hampshire Grants (Vermont). This was followed by his appointment as a Congressman, a position he filled in 1780-2 and again in 1785. From 1782 to 1790, he also served as New Hampshire's Chief Justice.

In 1788, Chief Justice Livermore was a delegate to the state convention called to consider the proposed national constitution. He was a leader of the group seeking acceptance of the Constitution, and played a major role in gaining the approval of the convention.³ Indeed, it was on Livermore's motion of June 21 that New Hampshire became the ninth and ratifying state to approve the Constitution, thereby establishing the United States Constitution as the law of the land. Three years later, as president of the convention to revise the state constitution, Livermore was equally instrumental in establishing the present New Hampshire constitution.

Samuel Livermore was elected under the new Constitution as one of New Hampshire's first Congressmen, serving two terms from 1789 through 1793. He was then twice appointed United States Senator by the legislature, serving from 1793 until ill health forced his resignation in 1801. He died in Holderness two years later, at the age of 67, and was buried next to Trinity Church.

³Joseph B. Walker, in his history of the convention, not only listed Livermore with John Langdon and John Sullivan as the three leaders of the Federalist (pro-Constitution) group in the convention, but went on to describe Samuel Livermore as "clearly the leader of the Federal force in the Convention...in the vital struggle of the last two days" that ended in acceptance of the Constitution. Joseph B. Walker, BIRTH OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, A HISTORY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CONVENTION FOR THE INVESTIGATION, DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, 1788. (Boston, 1888) p. 52-3.

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There now appears to be only two buildings surviving in New Hampshire which have significant associations with Samuel Livermore--the Matthew Livermore House in Portsmouth and Trinity Church in Holderness. The Matthew Livermore House was built c. 1735 by Samuel's cousin, Matthew Livermore, who lived there until his death in 1776. Samuel lived with his relative for an unknown period after his arrival in Portsmouth in 1757. He is definitely known to have been residing in the house in 1758. But, in the same year, Samuel Livermore leased a house on Daniels Street, and, in the following year, married Jane Browne. It seems therefore unlikely that his association with the Matthew Livermore House was more than a temporary residence, while he was first establishing himself as a lawyer in Portsmouth.⁴

The Daniels Street house and the Portsmouth houses that Livermore later owned have all disappeared, as has his Londonderry house. His "great house" in Holderness burned in 1882. Livermore's mill and the other outbuildings of his Holderness estate are now all gone, with the exception of Trinity Church. Normally, an individual's association with any church is relatively insignificant. In this case, however, Livermore's association with Trinity Church was very strong, not limited simply to attendance at services. He was primarily responsible for the construction of the church, providing the lot and the bulk of the necessary funds. Livermore owned the building and the land on which it stood until his death. Although the town minister conducted services in Trinity Church and other pew owners had the right to use the building, the church was, in fact, Samuel Livermore's private property, and remained the property of his descendants for a half century after his death. Trinity Church is today the only known surviving building associated with Samuel Livermore's post-Revolutionary career. As such, it deserves recognition for its connection with one of 18th century New Hampshire's most important political figures.

Architecture. Trinity Church is a relatively modest building, with little architectural embellishment beyond the paneled woodwork of its pews and pulpit. It is an attractive example of the late 18th century vernacular, a clapboarded building with simple exterior ornament--cornerboards, plain window and door trim, close eaves and verges. The church is very well preserved. The only part of the building that does not appear to be original is the paneling of the pulpit recess, which seems to have originally been used elsewhere. Otherwise, Trinity Church probably appears today as it did in 1797.

Although a modest building, Trinity Church does occupy a rather unique place in New Hampshire's architectural history. During the 17th and 18th centuries, virtually all New Hampshire religious buildings were meetinghouses. The plan of the New England meetinghouse was significantly and deliberately different from the plan of the English

⁴The Matthew Livermore House has been moved twice since Samuel Livermore's residence. It originally stood facing Pleasant Street. In 1809, when Livermore Street was opened, the house was moved back on the lot and turned to face the new street. In 1898, when the lot became part of Haven Park, the house was moved to the other side of Livermore Street.

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church. The entry was set in the center of the long side of meetinghouse with the pulpit facing it in the center of the opposite wall. In the 19th century, the meetinghouse plan was superseded by the standard church plan, with the entry in one gable end, and the pulpit and/or altar at the opposite end of the building. In 18th century New Hampshire, however, only the Episcopalian churches broke from the standard meetinghouse pattern and used the church plan. The two surviving 18th century Episcopalian churches, Union Episcopal Church in Claremont and Trinity Church in Holderness, are therefore the only pre-19th century religious buildings in the state, erected with the plan that later became the standard layout for New Hampshire churches. Of the two, Union Episcopal Church is the earliest (being built in 1773), the largest in size and the more sophisticated in architecture.⁵ But, Trinity Church is the best preserved and the only one that still retains its 18th century appearance. Within a few decades of its construction, Trinity Church was no longer regularly used as a church, and was therefore left unchanged. Union Episcopal Church, by contrast, flourished and was, accordingly, subject to several modernizations. A tower and belfry was erected in 1801. The main body of the church was extended 25 feet (two bays) in 1825. In 1850, the interior, notably the chancel and vestry, were remodeled. And, the gallery was removed in 1875. So, today, while still an architecturally important building, Union Episcopal Church is no longer a purely 18th century structure. Trinity Church, simply by surviving unchanged, has come to be the only 18th century New Hampshire church that retains its original appearance.

⁵Union Episcopal Church was listed in the National Register on February 1, 1980.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Calvin R. Batchelder - A HISTORY OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE (Claremont, 1876).

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George Hodges - HOLDERNESS (Cambridge, 1907).

E.V. Moffett "Samuel Livermore" - DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY (New York, 1933) vol. XI, pp. 307-8.

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Edmund V. Sinnott - MEETINGHOUSE AND CHURCH IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND (New York, 1963).

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10. Geographical Data

The nominated property is bounded on the southwest by Western Avenue (a cemetery road), on the west by Livermore Avenue (a cemetery road), on the north by a line a line parallel with the north facade of Trinity Church at a distance of four feet from the north facade of the main block, and on the east side by a parallel line to the east facade of the church at a distance of nine feet from the east facade of the pulpit projection. The nominated property includes Trinity Church and a small grassed plot on which it stands, the property associated with the building and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Beyond these boundaries is the cemetery which does not qualify for listing.

(portion of Holderness Tax Map 7, Lot #181)

On the attached sketch Map (7-10-3), the boundaries have been highlighted in yellow on the property being nominated.

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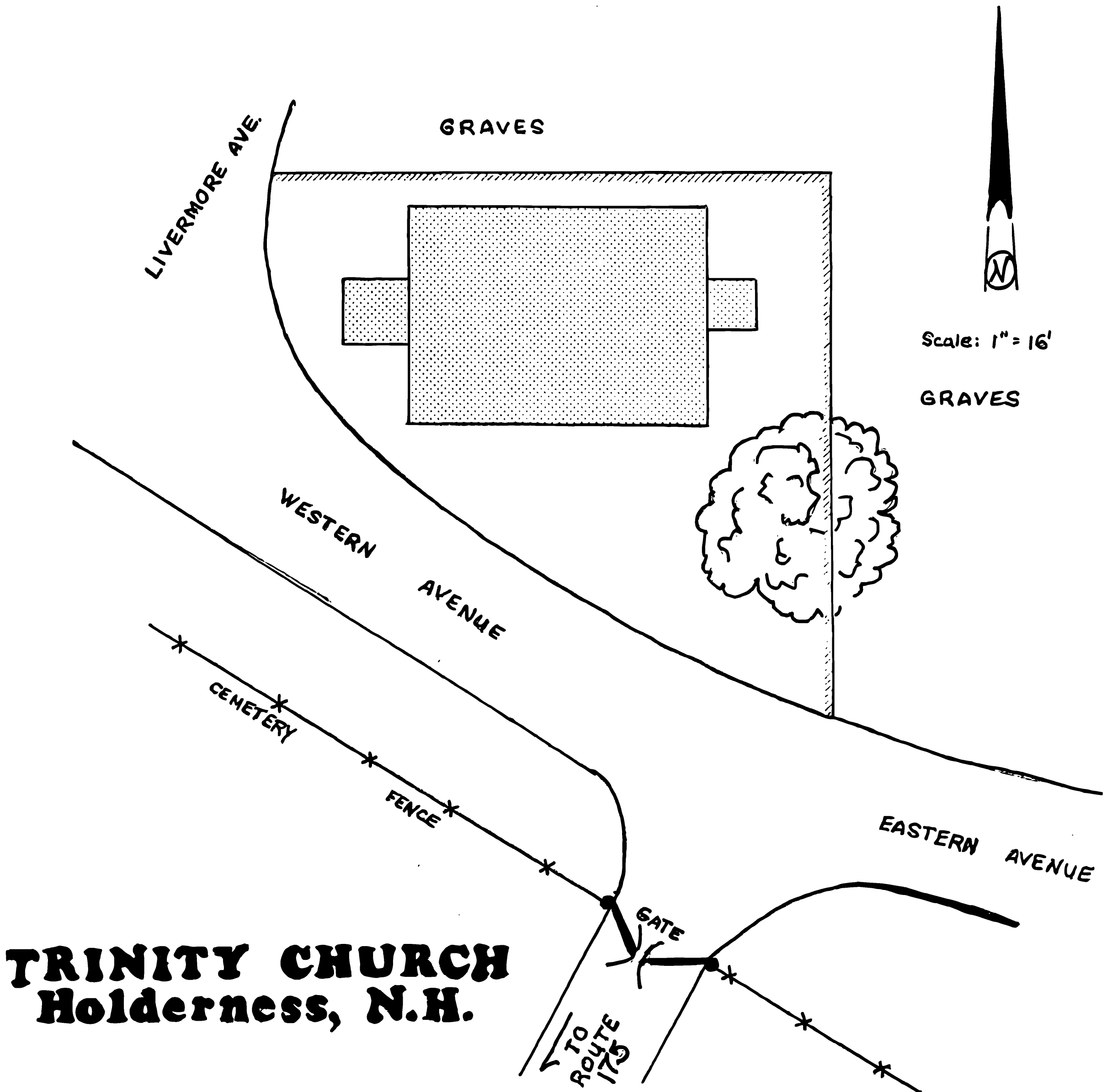
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TRINITY CHURCH Holderness, N.H.

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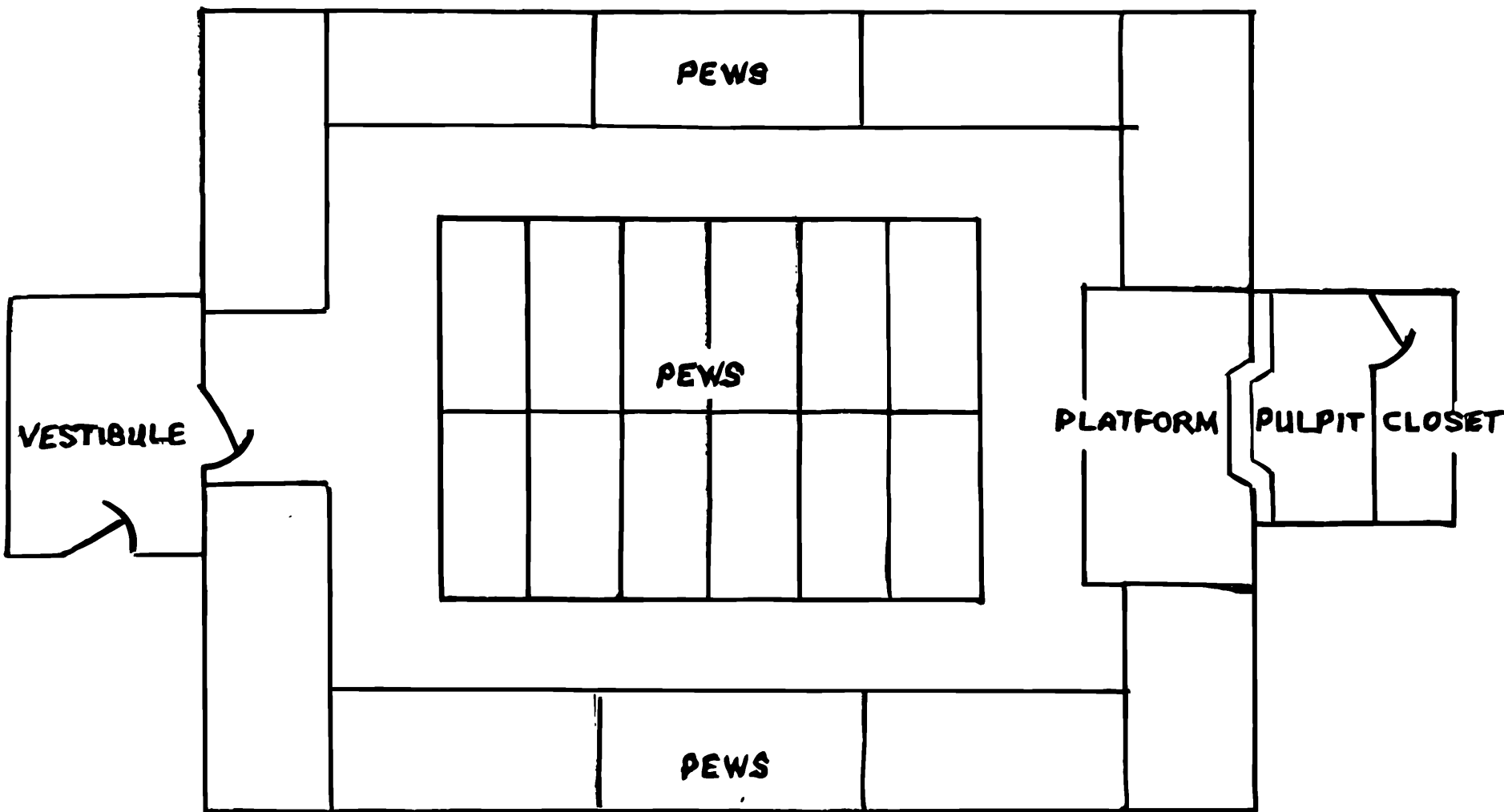
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**TRINITY CHURCH PLAN
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Scale 1" = 8'

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This certifies that the appearance of the Trinity Church photographs has not changed.