

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	AUG 6 1979
DATE ENTERED	SEP 14 1979

**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 Memorial Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast corner, Fourteenth and Juniper Streets

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Crete

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Nebraska

CODE

031

COUNTY

Saline

CODE

151

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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The Rt. Rev. James Warner, Bishop of Nebraska

STREET & NUMBER

Trustees of the Diocese of Nebraska, 200 North 62nd Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Saline County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

215 South Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Wilber

STATE

Nebraska

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the northeast corner of Fourteenth and Juniper Streets in Crete, Nebraska (1970 pop., 4,444), Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church is an 1872 board-and-batten building that received additions in 1889 and 1896. Several mature trees of various species are on the grounds. The surrounding neighborhood is composed mostly of comfortable but unpretentious residences.

The earliest portion of the church is the first four bays of the nave. To increase the seating, a fifth bay was added in 1889, and in 1896 a vestibule, chancel, and sacristy were appended. A square tower near the southwest corner may have been intended but was never built.

The gabled vestibule is entered through a double door with an equilateral-arched head. To either side of the projecting vestibule is a lancet window piercing the nave's west wall, and in the gable above the vestibule's roof is a somewhat affected quatrefoil window installed in 1896, surrounded by a wide molding. Atop the west end is the base of a bell cote.

Bays of the side walls are defined by lancet windows and by non-functional frame buttresses that were not included in the initial construction in 1872. Centered on the east is the gabled chancel, and to the chancel's north is a shed-roofed sacristy. The sacristy, entered from the east by an arched opening, is the only structural division whose corners are not treated with two-tiered buttresses.

The roofs of all sections have recently been covered with new cedar shingles to duplicate the original material. The foundation is of brick-faced tile and there is a full basement.

As articulated by its exterior massing, the interior of Trinity Memorial presents an uncomplicated arrangement of vestibule, nave, chancel, and sacristy. The original flooring has been covered with asphalt tiles and the ceiling and walls have been sheathed with celotex panels. An illustration in an 1889 church newsletter evinces the interior at that time: the ceiling was covered with narrow boards laid horizontally; wall surfaces were treated with diminutive strips of wood placed diagonally within simulated half-timbered sections. Intact throughout the interior is a low, widely beaded wainscot, installed in 1896, which meets the sills of windows whose surrounds are plainly executed.

Separating the nave and chancel is an ogee arch, and above the choir crossing is a rood beam. The arch was created in 1896, and the rood beam, which contains a scriptural verse, was placed in the church in 1905.

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Pews, choir stalls, chancel railing, the altar, and clerical chairs in Trinity Memorial are good 19th-century furnishings relevant to the scale and atmosphere of the church interior.

The nominated property consists of two lots which the parish has owned since 1872, the year of Trinity Memorial's initial construction.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1872, 1889, 1896 BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1872 and 1889 construction, unknown: 1896 additions planned by Bishop George Worthington and erected by W. T. Buchanan.

Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as part of an important group of churches influenced by the 1852 publication, Upjohn's Rural Architecture. In its location in a small town on the American Great Plains, Trinity Memorial exemplifies the ready and wide acceptance of Gothic tenets among churches of the Anglican Communion and the manner in which rural American builders treated these imported forms.

The first Episcopalian services in Crete were held in 1871, a few months after the community's founding. A parish was formally organized in 1872, with Episcopalians of Crete resolving that same year to build a church. The Rt. Rev. R. H. Clarkson, first Bishop of Nebraska, had at his disposal \$2,000 given by two sisters, Kate and Helen Dater of New York City, for the building of a church, to be given to a parish which would raise \$1,000 for the building of a rectory. "The Bishop, partly out of regard to the Rev. A. T. Whitten, who had recently moved to the vicinity of Crete [having been chosen first rector], gave the church people the benefit of the donation--the church receiving the name Trinity Memorial in commemoration of the parents of the Misses Dater" (Rev. E. S. Cross, "History of Trinity Memorial Church," Unpublished paper, 1893, pages unnumbered).

A church building was erected in 1872, lengthened in 1889, and expanded again in 1896 by the addition of a chancel, sacristy, and vestibule. An examination of the floor plan and elevations following the 1896 additions reveals that Trinity Memorial's appendages, and perhaps the initial construction, were most probably based on Plates 1, 2, and 3, "Wooden Church," of Upjohn's Rural Architecture. Richard Upjohn produced this book in 1852 after receiving more requests for church designs than he could furnish. In the book's preface he stated the following:

My purpose in publishing this book is simply to supply the want which is often felt, especially in the newly settled parts of our country, of designs for cheap but still substantial buildings for the use of parishes, schools, etc. In the examples given I have kept in view the use of each building and endeavored to give it the appropriate character; while at the same time care has been taken to make the drawings as plain and practical as possible.

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Plans were included for a church, chapel, parsonage, and schoolhouse--all to be of frame construction, and plans were included for church furniture also. Upjohn advised that with these plans, specifications, and bills of material, any intelligent mechanic would be able to carry out the design.

Essential similarities between the Upjohn design for a "Wooden Church" and Trinity Memorial following the 1896 additions are the arrangement of divisions, general proportions, and the pitch of gabled roof sections. The book may have served as the model from the start: like Upjohn's proposal, the Crete church's nave is 21 feet wide and was four bays long in its original state.

The 1896 appurtenances were planned by the Bishop of the Diocese at that time, the Rt. Rev. George Worthington, who paid for costs incurred through the Bishop's Fund (The Diocese of Nebraska, Vol. 8, No. 7, July, 1896, p. 4). Worthington was a native of Massachusetts and had served parishes in the East and Upper Midwest before accepting the Nebraska post. It seems reasonable that he would have been familiar with Upjohn's Rural Architecture.

The most emphatic difference between Trinity Memorial and Upjohn's "Wooden Church" is the absence of a tower from the former. However, Trinity originally had an entrance near the southwest corner; a tower may have been intended as an eventual addition, but dismissed due to excessive cost. Also, there is no triple lancet arrangement on the east wall as the Upjohn design called for, and Trinity has a quatrefoil window (added in 1896) in place of a lancet window in the west gable. Frame buttresses punctuate the side walls and define most of Trinity's corners, although the model was without such elements. Nor did the model contain a bell cote (which seems to have replaced a four-sided belfry). Such deviations from the Upjohn plates, many of them being part of the overall "improvement" planned by Bishop Worthington in 1896, are not surprising in the general context of the proposal's employment. In Richard Upjohn, Architect and Churchman, Everard Upjohn stated the following:

These drawings were more in the nature of general suggestions than rigid and fixed formulae. They were handled with much variation by Upjohn himself, both before and after the appearance of the book. Distant parishes took the same broad view and felt entirely free to modify these designs as local conditions and expediency might suggest (pp. 118-19).

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The only compromising alteration of Trinity Memorial Church has been the covering of interior spaces with non-original materials which could easily be removed. The exterior is essentially unaltered and the building's location on somewhat spacious grounds with several mature trees enhances the picturesque effect. Although Trinity basically follows Gothic tenets imported from England, the board-and-batten siding, made popular in this country by Richard Upjohn and others, renders to the building a distinctly American flavor. Phoebe B. Stanton has written the following eloquent statements on churches of this type:

The many small wooden churches inspired by or built from Upjohn designs are modest but important. They record the moment when American builders and architects, while improvising upon a foreign style and the ideas that came with it, displayed their capacity to comprehend aesthetic principles and repeat not correct detail but the essential constructive and spatial truths of the style in which they were working (The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, An Episode in Taste, p. 269).

After enjoying a flourishing era under the rectorship of the Rev. Mr. Cyrus T. Brady between 1889-92, Trinity Memorial's number of parishioners dropped steadily and a point was reached in the late 1890s when virtually entire congregations were composed of Czechs, a group that heavily populated Crete and Saline County, Nebraska. The building was closed seven times between 1896-1938, and the church was reduced to mission status in 1900.

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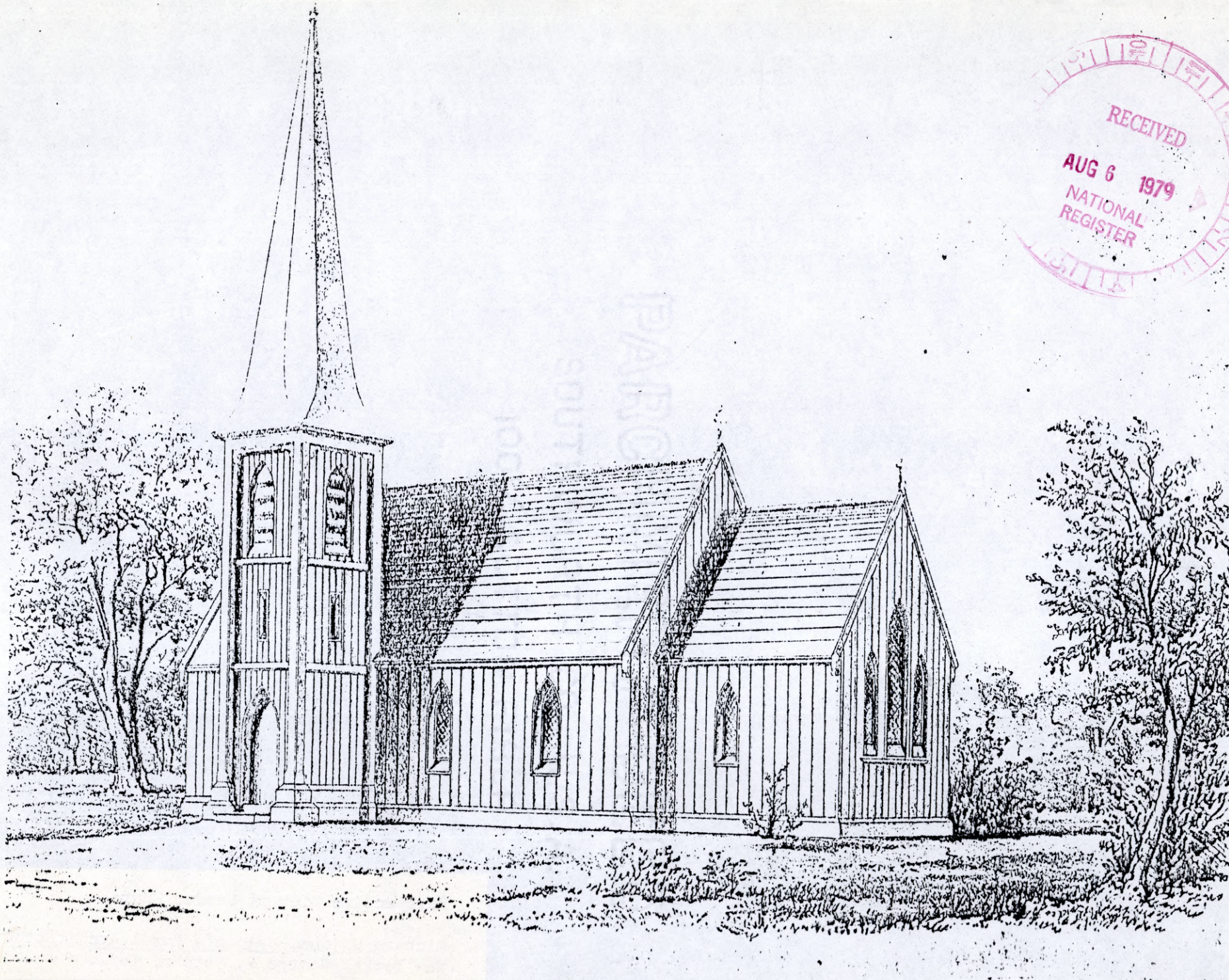
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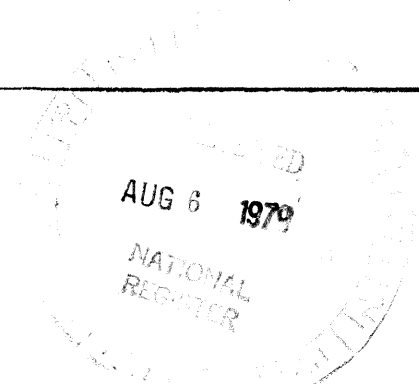
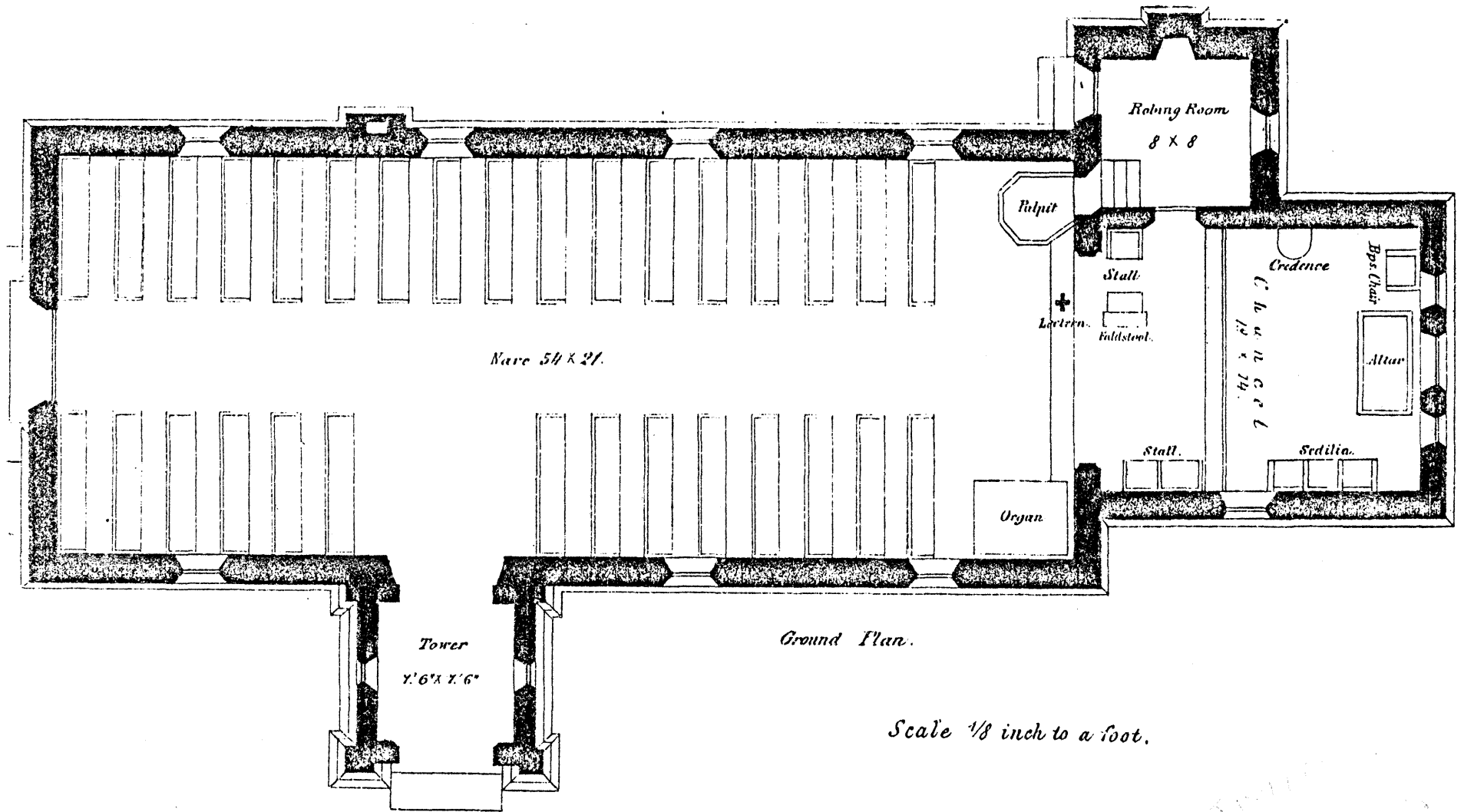


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Perspective View of Wooden Church.

Richard Upjohn, Upjohn's Rural Architecture,
New York: George P. Putnam, 1852.

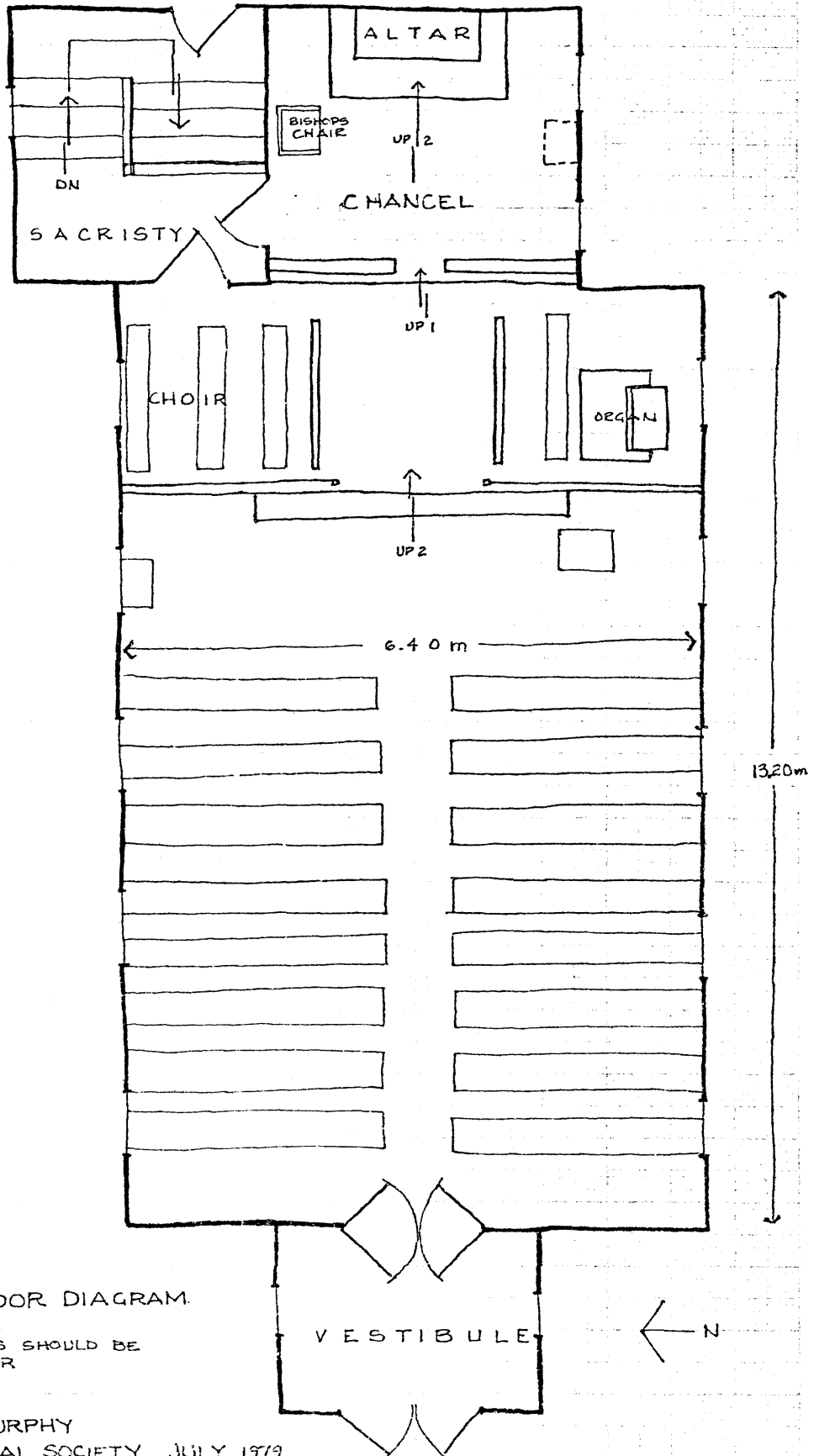
SEP 14 1979



Ground Plan of a Wooden Church.
Richard Upjohn, Upjohn's Rural Architecture,
New York: George P. Putnam, 1852.

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SAOI-18
 TRINITY MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH c(1872-73)
 CRETE, SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA



MAIN FLOOR DIAGRAM.

DIMENSIONS SHOULD BE
 INTERIOR

DRAWN BY L. SYVERSON
 FROM FIELD NOTES BY D. MURPHY
 NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY JULY, 1979

SEP 14 1979