

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

For NPS use only

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

received OCT 27 1986
date entered DEC 1 1986

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

1. Name

historic Evangelische Lutherische Dreienigkeit Kirche (NehBS # HL06-9)

and/or common Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Complex

2. Location

street & number 512 East 2nd Street N/A not for publication

city, town Grand Island N/A vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Hall code 079

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

4. Owner of Property

name Shepherd's Way Baptist Church, c/o Ken Overmiller/Jerome Cash

street & number NA/512 E. 2nd Street

city, town Grand Island N/A vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Hall County Courthouse

street & number 1st and Locust

city, town Grand Island state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date On-going federal state county local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln state Nebraska

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	NA
<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

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Complex is located in Grand Island, Nebraska, the county seat of Hall County. The Complex includes the vernacular Romanesque Revival Church, a stone structure erected in 1894-96, and the frame school building and parsonage. All three buildings are contributing properties in this nomination. The property also includes a contemporary garage building, situated directly east of the school which is considered a non-contributing building in the nomination. Structural and historical integrity has been preserved, except for interior modifications.

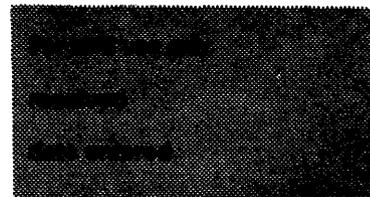
The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Complex is located in Grand Island, Nebraska (1986 population: 37,381) a city situated some 90 miles west of Lincoln, the state capitol. Located in a residential area of east central Grand Island, the church complex occupies a prominent corner along Highway 30, a major thoroughfare through the town, and stands as a landmark in the surrounding neighborhood.

Constructed in 1894-96 the limestone church, with dimensions of 40 x 60, represents a vernacular example of the Romanesque Revival style with Gothic Revival details. The semicircular arched window and door openings and the coarsely textured walls are hallmarks of this style. The structure is cross shaped in plan with a gable roof covered with wood shingles, and shows a central tower extension with a frame belfry capped with a pyramidal roof with pedimented cross gables. The belfry is elaborated with imbricated shingle siding, cornice trim and "tracery-like" work in the gables. Overall the church appears quite substantial in its design, utilizing both smooth-faced and rusticated cut stone in its construction. Subtle but elaborate details are found throughout the stone work, most evident in the window hoods and cornice trim of the transept bays.

The south (main) facade shows a central raised entry, recessed, and crowned with a round arched hood of stone voussoirs and keystone ornament. The double-leaf door is capped with a fanlight (original colored glass removed) and the large wooden doors show tracery patterning. Fenestration in this facade consists of a round arched window opening in the central bay with a hood of stone voussoirs and tracery set within creating paired Gothic windows. The central bay also shows a smooth stone wall cornice and the entire facade is trimmed with a stone band which follows the cornice line and makes gable returns with "rosette-like" ends. The year "1896" is carved in the stone band directly above the window unit. The cornerstone reads "Ev. Lutherische

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Dreieinigkeits Kirche Ungeänderter, Augsburgischer Confession, Erbaut im Jahre 1894" (Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, erected in the year 1894).

Primary window openings, found in the transept bays, are round arched and show hoods of stone voussoirs with embellished keystones. The stained glass shows tracery creating a unit of three pointed-arched openings. The stone cornice band found in the front facade is repeated in the transept bays. The secondary window openings, found in the front and rear bays are also round arched with round arched hoods of stone voussoirs and keystones. The north (rear) facade shows the pentagon-shaped apse and additional entry. The gable apex is covered with imbricated shingle siding and pierced by a small rose-like window. The same stone cornice band with returns is also evident. Additional entries are found on the east facade.

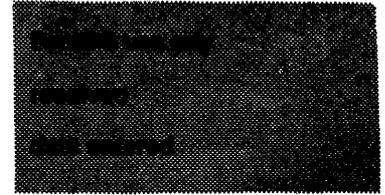
The interior plan consists of a nave, transept, and chancel. The vestibule and baptistry area are located at the south end of the church. Decorated with a repeating "mini-arcade" of Gothic arches (see photo #8) the balcony is U-shaped in plan and originally housed the pipe organ (no longer extant). The interior has undergone several remodellings. Originally the walls and ceilings were highly decorated with painting and stenciling, incorporating border patterns of geometric and stylized designs. The chancel area features a trefoil-shaped arch opening which originally housed the high altar. Neither the decorative wall treatments nor the high altar are extant.

The old stone church served the German congregation until 1953 when the new Trinity Lutheran Church was constructed at 12th and Wheeler Streets. The new church was dedicated on August 23, 1953. The parsonage (c. 1890), immediately east of the church, is a one-story frame dwelling of irregular plan with gable roof-lines and frontal porch, and incorporates Victorian detailing in its design (e.g. cut out bays, imbricated siding, ornate window-hoods).

The school building (1878, 1923) is located just north of the church and is a modest one-story building, rectangular-shaped in plan, with a gable roof, rectangular shaped window openings with lintel hoods and a front entry extension. The original frame church, which was constructed in 1878, was moved to the rear of the lot when the present stone church building was erected and was utilized as the school facility. In 1923 the building was remodelled and enlarged into a two-room school with

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a basement, giving the building its present appearance. School classes were conducted in the frame building until 1930, when a new school was constructed at 13th and Wheeler Streets. (Due to the location and later construction dates of the 1930 school and 1953 church, these buildings were not included in this nomination).

Subsequent to notification, the property occupied by the church and school (lot 5, west 16' of lot 6) was acquired by Shepherd's Way Baptist Church, and the parsonage property (east 50' of lot 6) was purchased by Reverend Jerome Cash, the present minister of the Baptist Church. This congregation is currently using the church building for religious services.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1923	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

1894-96/1878, 1923/

Specific dates c. 1890 **Builder/Architect** William and Jacob Scheffel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Complex is significant to the Grand Island community in the area of architecture as a well-preserved assemblage of German-American buildings. The stone church, the key building in the complex, gains significance as a result of its distinctive design qualities which make it a unique product of German-American Church architecture, sharing characteristics of the Romanesque Revival Style and German formal associations. The Trinity Church served the German pioneers in Grand Island beginning in the 1870's, providing social and religious opportunities to them. The period of significance is derived from the construction dates of the church (1894-96) parsonage (c. 1890) and school (1878, 1923).

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church history begins in the 1870's when German-Lutheran families settled in the newly incorporated town of Grand Island. Organized in January 1878, the congregation began plans for the construction of a new frame church, which was dedicated in November of that same year. Plans for the present church were adopted in 1890 but actual construction did not begin until 1894. The church building committee consisted of E. Wiederaenders, Jacob Scheffel, William Scheffel, F. Pribnow, J. Ruff, J. Schinkel and F. Eggers.

Brothers William and Jacob Scheffel served as the primary builders of the church. In the 1885 Nebraska Census of Grand Island, both Jacob and William are listed as masons. Born in Sulzfeld, Germany, the two men learned the trade of masonry and stone cutting from their father. William was the first to come to America in 1881, locating at Alexandria, Virginia for three years. In 1884, the brothers settled in Grand Island and established a masonry business. Jacob and William joined the Trinity Lutheran Congregation in the late 1880's. In the September 3, 1893 church minutes Jacob Scheffel gives an estimate for the cost of stone for the foundation of the new church (height 4'3", thickness 2', 40'x60') at \$282.00. Scheffel offers to do the work for the congregation at minimal cost. In the December 31, 1893 church minutes J. Scheffel is again reporting for the building committee, estimating cost of walls (20' high), roof and windows at \$3,695.52, with Scheffel offering to build of stone at no more cost than brick. Expenditures show labor costs going to

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Grand Island, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4	5	5	6	0	4	0	4	5	3	0	6	8	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

The property is described as Lots 5, 6, Block 71, Original Town, Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska, including all historically associated real estate.

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

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date September 1986

street & number 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554

telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln

state Nebraska

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

James A. Hanson

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 10/20/86

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

Entered in the National Register

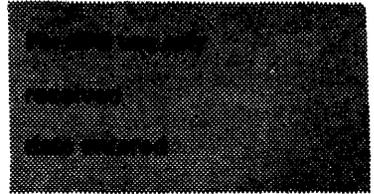
date 12-1-86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Significance

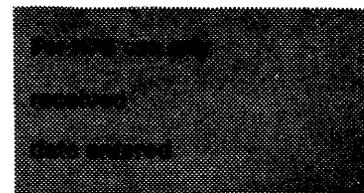
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William and Jacob Scheffel. The cornerstone was laid on Trinity Sunday, May 20, 1894 with the church building dedication held on February 28, 1897.

Jacob Scheffel left Grand Island c. 1898 and returned to Alexandria, Virginia where he died August 30, 1932. (The Jacob Scheffel house, a one and one half story brick and stone dwelling, located at 613 West 4th, was recorded in the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of Grand Island, see HL06-124). William Scheffel remained in Grand Island and continued in various contracting businesses. He served as the stone mason in the construction of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church (HL06-3), and is credited with the brick and stone work of numerous other residences and buildings in Grand Island. The Grand Island directory in 1906-07 lists William Scheffel as a stone and sidewalk contractor and in the 1912-13 directory an advertisement states that William Scheffel is a sidewalk contractor and proprietor of "Grand Island Stone Yards." In 1917 William established "Scheffel and Sons Monument Company" (incorporated 1928) with his two sons Karl and William Jr. William died in Grand Island on December 26, 1933.

Architecturally significant, the church is an excellent example of a vernacular immigrant version of the Romanesque Revival Style of architecture and is one of Nebraska's outstanding examples of small town church architecture built in stone. Trinity Lutheran Church offers subtle connections with German Church architecture, connections primarily manifest in its form--the cross-shape, a favorite style among Germans and distinguished as "Kreuz-Kirche." Its exceptionally solid, compact form also characterizes German-American taste in architecture (cf. Liederkrantz, Grand Island; St. John's Lutheran Church, Burt County; NRHP). On a local level the church represents an excellent example of German-American vernacular design and stands as a visual embodiment of the traditions and beliefs of the German Lutheran community. The small congregation erected the church building with the skill and labor of their own members and only as funds would allow. This accounts for the fairly long construction period of the building (1894-96). The stone construction, performed by the Scheffel brothers, reflects the training and expertise that these two men acquired in their homeland and which was carried over to America as a viable trade. In keeping with the popular style of the period, the brothers incorporated into the church's design elements of the Romanesque Revival, a style which became popular for American religious architecture in the mid 19th century. In Nebraska, the style was

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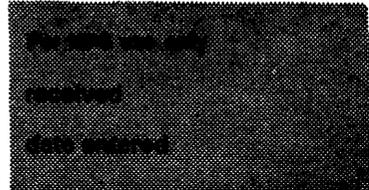
evident during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Romanesque Revival, a revival of the round-arched medieval style was carried over to America from Europe - principally from Germany, where the style had its earliest beginnings starting around 1830. Although the original style drew inspiration from Norman and Lombard Romanesque, the prevailing character of many church designs was German (Whiffen, 1969, p. 67). Romanesque features were sometimes combined with Gothic (Panek, 1976, p. 15-1) as is the case in the Trinity Church. Romanesque features of the building are most evident in the construction and treatment of walls and fenestration. Large expanses of rusticated stone masonry wall show round-arched windows typically isolated and uniformly arranged in the main body of the building. Semi-circular arched hoods crown the window and door openings. The steeply pitched gable roof and tower (over entry) with pyramidal roof also characterize Romanesque Revival churches (Panek, 1976, p. 15-1).

Elements of the Gothic Revival style are incorporated into the church's design as well. Tracery in window openings show Gothic arches, and ornamental patterning of pointed-arched designs is evident in the double-leaf door, belfry and balcony area. This combination of styling gives the church a sense of Eclecticism and when coupled with the vernacular German overtones the building becomes a distinct entity and one which does not fit comfortably into any conventional American stylistic category.

In the Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey of Grand Island, five other church buildings were identified. They include: St. Stephens Episcopal Church, built 1889-90 (HL06-3); Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, built 1908 (HL06-127); Trinity Methodist Church, date unknown (HL06-125); St. Mary's Cathedral, built 1927-28 (HL06-4, listed National Register of Historic Places); and the new Trinity Lutheran Church, built 1953 (HL06-131), which due to its age, will not be discussed in this nomination. These church buildings are constructed of stone and/or brick and represent examples of the Gothic Revival style, although they show stronger influences from Anglo-American designs. In comparison the Trinity Lutheran Church, although smaller in scale and less elaborate in its ornamentation, gains distinction by the very nature of its vernacular design. The stone construction and symmetrical plan give the church its distinctive form and together with the subtle but elaborate details the building gives one the feeling of "Old World" architecture--an element not otherwise found in Grand Island's ecclesiastical architecture.

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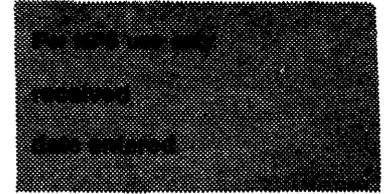
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The complex, as a whole, attains further significance as an intact grouping of German-American buildings. The church, school and parsonage represent the early endeavors of this German congregation to attain religious, social and educational opportunities. Early church complexes, especially those dating from the late 19th century, are somewhat of a scarcity in urban settings such as Grand Island. One may find the church ediface, usually the most substantial building in the "complex," still remaining however, "secondary" buildings, e.g. school, parsonage, are more likely to be non-extant, or extensively altered or remodelled so that they no longer retain sufficient historical integrity. Encroaching housing developments, maintenance costs and outdated uses of buildings are probable causes for the demise of these historic church complexes in Nebraska.

The Trinity Lutheran Church Complex gains significance then, as a unique and well-preserved example of an assemblage of German-American religious architecture, representing the endeavors of a small group of German immigrants who settled in the Platte River Valley of Nebraska in the late 19th century.

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Bibliography

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Scheffel, Lewis, telephone interview, dated July 15, 1986, notes on file, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grand Island, Nebraska, Minutes of the Board, 1889-1899.

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