

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Trinity Cemetery

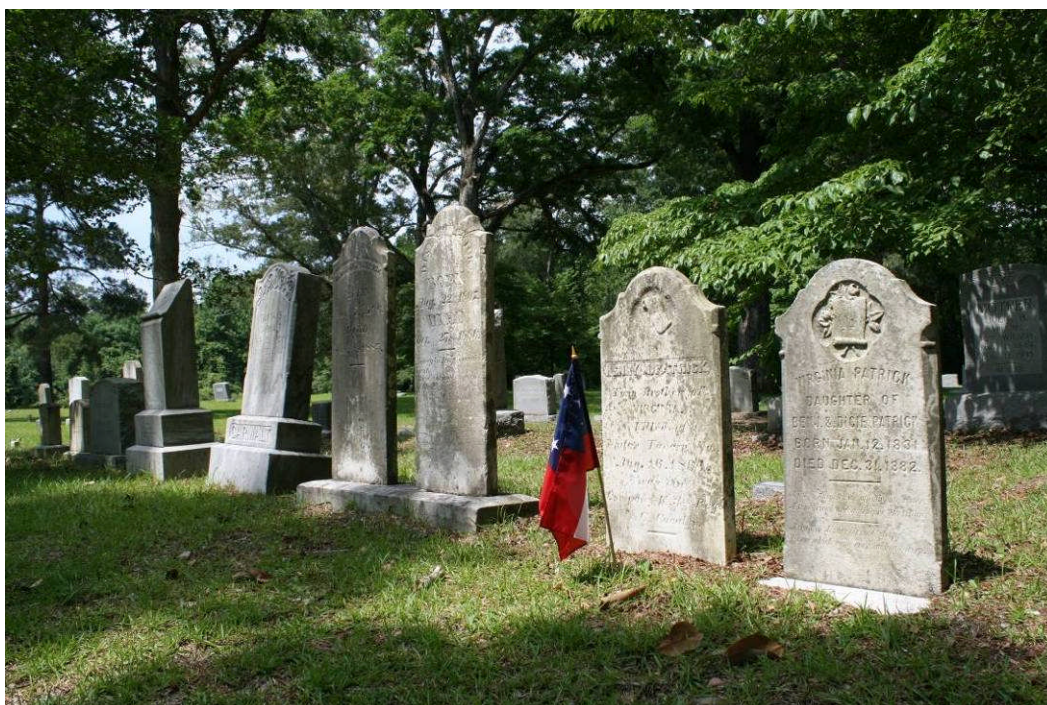
Chocowinity, Beaufort County, BF1103, Listed 8/19/2011

Nomination by Laura Blokker

Photographs by Laura Blokker, June 2010



Cemetery entrance and Grimes cenotaph in the distance



Late nineteenth-century gravestones

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Trinity Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number NC 33 .07 mile west of junction with SR 1157 not for publication N/A

city or town Chocowinity vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Beaufort code 013 zip code 27817

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
_____ entered in the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the National Register _____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Trinity Cemetery
Name of Property

Beaufort County, NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
39	2	objects
40	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Funerary Sub: Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Funerary Sub: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
other gravemarkers: granite
marble

Narrative Description

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

Trinity Cemetery
Name of Property

Beaufort County, NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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 individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Art

Period of Significance

1860-1938

Significant Dates

1860

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder -Stonecutters

Couper, J. D., stonecutter

Walsh, C. M., stonecutter

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous 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

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University; Trinity Episcopal Church; Eastern Office NC SHPO

Trinity Cemetery
Name of Property

Beaufort County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 18 307680 932100
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura Blokker, Principal

organization Southeast Preservation date July 20, 2010

street & number 11627 Hwy 37 telephone 225-222-3656

city or town Greensburg state LA zip code 70441

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Trinity Episcopal Church

street & number P. O. Box 332 telephone 252-946-9958

city or town Chocowinity state NC zip code 27817

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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MATERIALS CONT.

other – gravemarkers:

concrete
brick

fences: iron

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Trinity Cemetery is situated on a slight rise on the south side of NC 33 just east of Chapel Branch, which flows into Bear Creek, and west of present-day Chocowinity, a town on the south side of the Pamlico River in Beaufort County. This location was once home to the community of Godley's Crossroads and early Chocowinity, but today the cemetery is the most substantial physical remainder of the original settlement of the area. The cemetery's raison d'être, Trinity Episcopal Church (originally Blount's Chapel, then Trinity Chapel), was relocated from its site on the north side of NC 33 to modern Chocowinity in 1938, symbolizing the end of community viability at the site of Godley's Crossroads and early Chocowinity.¹

Penelope and Apsley Grist gave the land for the cemetery to the church in 1860.² Originally, the cemetery was comprised of approximately one acre of land with four nearly equal sides. During the twentieth century, families owning land on the east and west borders of the cemetery allowed burials on their land. The west side of the cemetery, which was expanded in this manner, was officially transferred to the ownership of the church in 1973 along with a small portion of the east side.³ Including these tracts, the cemetery today encompasses 1.965 acres. An additional tract on the east side of the cemetery remains privately owned though it is maintained by the church. The original section of the cemetery is being nominated exclusive of the extensions, which contain burials predominantly post-dating the period of significance ending in 1938.

¹ Some materials have stated that the church was moved in 1939, but this is incorrect. Notes and newspaper clippings in Box 5, Folders A and C of Trinity Episcopal Church Records (#858), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina document that the church was moved in 1938. The first services at the new site were held the third Sunday of November, 1938. The area around Trinity Episcopal Church was long known as Chocowinity, but for a period of time it was called Godley's Crossroads after a local family. The name Chocowinity is derived from a Native American term said to mean "fish from many waters." To distinguish the first area of settlement around Trinity Chapel (originally Blount's Chapel) from present-day Chocowinity, it is referred to as Godley's Crossroads or "early Chocowinity" throughout this text. Any use of the name Chocowinity not preceded by the word "early" refers to the present-day town site.

² Deed for Trinity Cemetery from Grist to wardens, vestry and trustees of Trinity Parish, January 1, 1860, Collection of Trinity Episcopal Church.

³ Deed for cemetery lots 1 and 2 from Mills to Trinity Episcopal Church, July 6, 1973, Box 1, Folder A, Trinity Episcopal Church Records (#858), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

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The entrance to the cemetery is framed by a cast iron arch bearing the name “Trinity Cemetery” supported on granite piers installed in 1999. This is at least the second design treatment to elaborate the entrance and is considered noncontributing. An early twentieth-century image depicts a different ironwork arch with both vehicular and pedestrian gates.⁴ The arch marks the north end of the cemetery’s central north/south axis, off of which several wide grass walkways extend to the east and west. These walkways reflect the original grid design of the cemetery indicated on an early plat of the site.⁵ On this plat, the site was divided into sixteen squares between walks, each of which was in turn divided into four plots, for a total of sixty-four plots. It was likely the original intention that each plot serve a family and today the groupings of family stones remain distinct, demarcating the plots. The family names engraved on the stones help to tell the history of the lost town of Godley’s Crossroads and early Chocowinity; among them are Godley, Archbell, Bright, Carrow, Harding, Hill, Hughes, Laughinghouse, Moore, Patrick, Respass, Satterthwaite, Shavender, von Eberstein, and Winfield.

Amid the groupings of stones are many mature trees, including oaks, pines, magnolias, and dogwoods. The remainder of the generally flat landscape is covered by grass. A total of 352 gravemarkers with thirty-nine contributing stones are arranged on the east west axis within the boundary of the original cemetery, with the foot of all of the graves facing east. Inscriptions appear on either the east or west – and sometimes both - sides of the headstones. The centerpiece of the cemetery is an ornate marble obelisk which forms the cenotaph of Major General Bryan Grimes. The west edge of the extended cemetery is wooded and descends downhill toward Chapel Branch. Immediately beyond the boundaries of the extended cemetery are cultivated fields. At one time the cemetery is said to have been surrounded by a fence to keep out “roaming cows and hogs” but this was removed in the twentieth century and today a non-contributing modern steel picket fence extends from either side of the front entrance gate across just part of the front boundary.⁶

⁴ Postcard, Box 5, Folder A, Trinity Episcopal Church Records (#858), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

⁵ Plat of Cemetery, Trinity Chapel, Box 2, Folder A, Trinity Episcopal Church Records (#858), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

⁶ Lucretia Hughes, Box 2, Folder B, Trinity Episcopal Church Records (#858), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

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Gravemarkers

There are 197 gravemarkers dating to the 1860 to 1938 period of significance. A 1937 survey of the cemetery's gravemarkers facilitated this enumeration.⁷ Among these, the thirty-nine individual gravemarkers and monuments considered to be contributing objects represent a range of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century mortuary designs. The most common type of marker is a marble headstone with a segmental-arched tympanum. Curvilinear, pointed, and rounded arch tympanums are also found throughout the cemetery. Examples of less common headstone shapes include diamonds, hearts, scrolls, and pulpits. Some stones are adorned by carvings of popular gravestone motifs such as flowers, crosses, lambs, and weeping willows. Many of the headstones are accompanied by footstones. One grave features a brick grave mound between the headstone and footstone. In addition to marble, granite is a prevalent material, particularly for stones of later dates. A 1986 survey of the cemetery reported the existence of two wooden markers which have been lost.⁸ It is likely that other wooden markers also existed at one time, but none survive today. A few homemade concrete headstones from the early twentieth century represent the vernacular memorial tradition. In addition to headstones, there are eight small obelisks scattered throughout the site, plus the grand obelisk dedicated to Major General Bryan Grimes that anchors the center aisle. One family plot features a cast-iron fenced enclosure. Three of the gravestones in Trinity Cemetery bear visible signatures of their stonecarvers. Many of the other stones throughout the cemetery display great artistic merit as well, but their creators remain unknown.

The variety of sparingly detailed, but handsomely-crafted gravemarkers well represent the community that Reverend Nicolas Collins Hughes is said to have described as "an agricultural people, independent, self-respecting and well-to-do."⁹ Among the more notable residents buried in Trinity Cemetery is Nicolas Collins Hughes himself (E111; 1822-1893), whose grave is marked by a plain granite obelisk. Another prominent priest in the church interred in the cemetery is Rev. Israel Harding (E68; 1829-1891). His marble headstone features a bell-curve tympanum crowning a carving of an open book. "Politician and statesman" Col. Samuel T. Carrow (E29; 1822-1887) and his wife Sallie (E28; 1833-1889) have substantial marble headstones on molded bases, with rounded tympanums on which sit a carved urn for Samuel and a carved vase of flowers for Sallie.¹⁰ Samuel's stone is also decorated by a finely carved wreath of flowers entwined with ribbons. The marble segmental-arched headstone of William Henry "Baron" von Eberstein (E73; 1821-1890) bears a carving of the family crest of this native of Germany.

⁷ Grace M. Hull, Gravestone survey of Trinity Cemetery, 1937, *Beaufort County, North Carolina, Works Progress Administration Cemetery Records, North Carolina State Archives* (Washington, NC: Beaufort County Genealogical Society, 1988).

⁸ James A. Pollard, Leslie F. House, and Martha Baynor, Gravestone Survey of Trinity Cemetery, Beaufort County, NC, May 12, 1986.

⁹ Mrs. A. C. D. Noe, "Historic Church Enters New Era," *Daily News*, December 11, 1938, Box 5, Folder C, Trinity Episcopal Church Records (#858), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

¹⁰ Edmund Harding, Address at Trinity Church Homecoming, October 3, 1965, Historic Sites and Museums Section, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina; C. Wingate Reed, *Beaufort County: Two Centuries of Its History* (USA 1962), 225.

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The centerpiece of the cemetery and by far its most elaborate monument is that dedicated to the celebrated Civil War veteran, Major General Bryan Grimes (1828-1880). It is a cenotaph which sits upon a raised bed encircled by a fieldstone retaining wall. The finely carved obelisk by an unknown artisan features depictions of a sword, cannon, and plow symbolizing Grimes' roles both as soldier and farmer. The epitaphs, which wrap the four sides of the monument's base, focus on his acts as soldier and list all twenty-nine battles in which he took part, including a special note about his role in Appomattox where it states "he planned, commanded and led the last charge."

Four gravestones from 1828, 1849, and 1857 (E21; W51; E27; E64) predate the January 1, 1860 deed which conveyed the land for the cemetery to the church. Each of these belongs to children whose graves could have been relocated from another location to their family's new plot after establishment of the cemetery. The first burial after the transfer of the cemetery land to the church may have been for Israel Harding (E67), the eight year old son of Rev. Israel Harding, following his death in June of 1860. His marble headstone reads "Little Israel's Grave" and is adorned with a carving of a lamb, a common symbol for children's graves.

Inventory List: The following inventory represents all of the contributing gravestones in Trinity Cemetery. It is arranged by east and west sections beginning at the front, central drive portion of each section. The first number is that assigned during the 2010 inventory executed for this nomination and the second corresponds to a 1986 survey conducted by James A. Pollard, Leslie F. House, and Martha Baynor, on which the full text of each marker can be found. An accompanying gravestone map created for the 1986 survey roughly depicts the locations of the gravestones in relation to one another. This map does not accurately reflect the grid pattern of the cemetery. The abbreviation "fs" stands for footstone.

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Numbers	Names & Notable Inscriptions	Dates	Description/ Notable Features
E8; 12	Thomas R. Crawford	d. Feb. 16, 1871	Marble headstone with round-arched tympanum and chamfered edges, signed J. D. C.; T. R. C. fs
E9; 13	Susan Fonville Crawford	d. Jan. 16, 1864	Marble headstone round-arched tympanum and chamfered edges, signed J. D. Couper, Norfolk; S. F. C. fs
E16; 20	Fenner Bryan Satterthwaite	Oct. 6, 1813 – Mar. 23, 1875	Marble headstone with curvilinear tympanum and rosette carving now laid flat and broken
E21; 21	Feuner S. Respass	June 11, 1820 – Sept. 15, 1828	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E27; 28	Bettie and Infant Son Carrow (“Little Bettie and Her Infant Brother,” “He gathered the lambs in his arms and carried them in his bosom.”)	May 1, 1861 – Aug. 19, 1861 and July 1, 1857 – July 30, 1857	Double marble headstone with bell-shaped tympanums and carvings of doves, on block base; two blank footstones
E28; 29	Sallie H. Carrow	Dec. 22, 1833 – Sept. 20, 1889	Marble headstone with round-arched tympanum and scrolls on shoulders topped by flower urn on molded block base, carving on back of stone also, epitaph on back of stone; S. H. C. fs
E29; 30	Samuel T. Carrow (“Affectionately Erected,” “Rest, thy sleep is sweet, Beyond all care and pain, We hope with thee again, And share thy smile again.”)	Oct. 22, 1822 – Feb. 5, 1887	Marble headstone with round-arched tympanum and carving of flower wreath topped by urn and adorned by carved wreath, on molded block base; S. T. C. fs
E46; 45	Harvey R. Bright	May 2, 1861 – Feb. 1, 1915	Granite rough-cut and polished rectangular headstone with Woodmen of the World emblem
Bright fence	Bright		Wrought and cast iron fence, gate of which is marked with a winged hourglass emblem and Bright family name
E64; 63	Wiley Grist Harding	Feb. 28, 1856 – Aug. 20, 1857	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; W. G. H. fs

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E67; 66	Israel Harding (“Little Israel’s Grave”)	June 1, 1852 – June 21, 1860 (dates presently obscured by ground)	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum and carving of lamb; blank fs
E68; 67	Rev. Israel Harding	May 29, 1829 – Jan. 3, 1891	Marble headstone with bell-shaped tympanum and carving of open book; blank fs
E70; 69	Carrie Harding Von Eberstein (“Our Baby is safe is Jesus arms.”)	July 31, 1885 – Sept. 6, 1886	Marble headstone with peaked and crossetted tympanum on tapered body and carving of dove carrying ribbon marked “Baby”; broken fs
E71; 70	Emily Brown Von Eberstein “Angels took our little darling.”)	June 26, 1883 – July 23, 1885	Marble headstone with peaked and crossetted tympanum on tapered body and carving of dove carrying ribbon marked “Brownie”; broken fs
E72; 71	Harriet Champion Von Eberstein (“Angels guard our loved one.”)	March 5, 1880 – Oct. 3, 1884	Marble headstone with peaked and crossetted tympanum on tapered body and carving of dove carrying ribbon marked “Etta”; broken fs
E73; 72	William H. Baron von Eberstein	Dec. 15, 1821 – Oct. 25, 1890	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum and carving of family crest; blank fs
E75; 74	Ernest Albert Von Eberstein (“He shall gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in His bosom.”)	Oct. 18, 1856 – May 12, 1857	Marble headstone with peaked and crossetted tympanum on tapered body and carving of dead rose; E. A. V. E. fs
E83; 82	Sarah A. Moore and infant Nellie (“In thee O Lord how I put my trust. Within this tomb sleeps also our infant Nellie.”)	Mar. 31, 1874 – Oct. 21, 1897	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum on block base; blank fs
E84; 83	Polly Moore	Feb. 29, 1820 – April 18, 1893	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum and brick vault; blank fs
E105; 106	Baby daughter Hughes (“Of such is the kingdom of God.”)	“Born, Baptized, & Buried” April 29, 1887	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum set in block base; blank fs
E106- E108; 107- 109	Paul Hughes, Adeline Williams Hughes, Susan Mary Hughes	Sept. 12, 1889 – Jan. 26, 1890; April 17, 1886 – Oct. 19, 1888; Sept. 20, 1888 – July 29, 1889	Triple marble headstones with segmental-arched tympanums (the taller central stone for the eldest child who lived the longest) set in a single block base; blank footstones for all

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E109; 110	Robinson Hughes ("Safely folded in the gentle Savior's loving bosom.")	July 18, 1891 – Oct. 22, 1891	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum set in block base
E111; 112	Rev. N. C. Hughes	Mar. 24, 1822 – May 20, 1893	Plain polished granite obelisk on block base
E112; 113a	Mary Margaret Hill ("Angels guard our little ones.")	April 20, 1889 – Aug. 17, 1889	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E113; 113b	James Griffin Hill ("Angels guard our little ones.")	April 20, 1889 – Aug. 16, 1889	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E114; 114	Apsly Elizabeth Hill ("Our baby is asleep in Jesus.")	May 16, 1890 – Sept. 29, 1890	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E115; 115	Foster Severence Hill ("Asleep in Jesus, Blessed sleep.")	March 25, 1875 – Sept. 5, 1884	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E116; 116	James G. Hill ("Of such is the kingdom of heaven.")	Nov. 4, 1879 – May 24, 1880	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E117; 117	Herbert G. Hill ("Early called.")	Jan. 21, 1877 – Jan. 3, 1878	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
E122; 99	Frederick Harding von Eberstein	Dec. 11, 1858 – Mar. 19, 1927	Rectangular granite in-ground marker with raised carved lettering
W19; 182	Martha F. Respass	Dec. 5, 1849 – Mar. 12, 1868	Marble headstone with round-arched tympanum with beaded edges and block base
W20; 183	Richard Respass ("Aged 3 yrs. 4 mo. 3 dys.")	March 6, 1868 – July 9, 1871	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum
W23; 179	Thomas D. Smaw	Nov. 30, 1804 – Jan. 13, 1881	Marble horizontal block marker with Masonic symbol on marble base
W24; 222	Martha W. Winfield	Aug. 1805 – Jan. 5, 1867	Marble headstone with curvilinear tympanum and floral motif carving, signed on back C. M. Walsh, Petersburg, Va.; M. W. W. fs
W51; 246	Robert C. Wolfenden	June 17, 1849 – July 17, 1849	Marble headstone with segmental-arched tympanum; blank fs
W78; 250	Minnie Rouse ("Safe in the arms of Jesus.")	Feb. 3, 1886 – Sept. 10, 1908	Homemade concrete rectangular headstone; M. R. fs

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W80; 248	Lacy Edwards and Lizzie Edwards (“Gone but not forgotten and Lizzie his wife.”)	Sept. 12, 1841 – Apr. 20 1914	Homemade concrete rectangular headstone; L. E. fs
W81; 247	Henry Edwards (“Gone but not forgotten.”)	Oct. 15, 1875 – March 9, 1935	Homemade concrete peaked headstone; H. E. fs
Grimes Cenotaph	Bryan Grimes (“His life was gentle; and the elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world this was a man.”)	Nov. 2, 1828 – Aug. 14, 1880	Ornate marble obelisk topped by urn. The obelisk and base are carved on all four sides and feature acanthus leaves, a plow, a sword, a cannon, and a list of all the battles in which he fought along with multiple epitaphs. It is set upon a raised grassy bed of earth retained by a low circular wall of fieldstone with a concrete cap.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Trinity Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D because its primary local significance is under Criterion A for social history and under Criterion C for funerary art. Located just west of present-day Chocowinity, it was established in 1860 to serve the congregation of Trinity Chapel in what was then Godley's Crossroads. When it was created it marked a significant shift in the burial traditions of the community from private family plots to a collective cemetery. Locally significant, Trinity Cemetery meets Criterion A for social history as the oldest physical remnant of the community of Godley's Crossroads/ early Chocowinity, which faded from existence in the first few decades of the twentieth century. It is the most substantial resource illustrating that settlement. The houses, school and other buildings of the community have long been lost and Trinity Episcopal Church, which stood across the road from the cemetery, was moved into present-day Chocowinity in 1938. That move signifies the official end of the community of Godley's Crossroads and early Chocowinity; thus the period of significance of the cemetery extends from the year 1860, when the land was deeded to the church for use as the cemetery, until 1938. Church leaders, civic leaders, and war veterans are among the many persons of importance to the community and state buried in Trinity Cemetery. The cemetery's gravestones relate facts of the community's history through the names, birth and death dates, and miscellaneous information of their engravings; such as the late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century high mortality rate for infants and children. Also reflected in the epitaphs are the traditional cultural feelings and religious beliefs of the community regarding death.

Trinity Cemetery meets Criterion C for the distinctive design features of its funerary art of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cemetery maintains much of its original grid design, which is delineated by grassy paths. It is a good example of a small, rural collective burial ground that contrasts with larger city cemeteries of the same period. Nearly 200 markers dating to the period of significance stand in the original, approximately one acre portion of the cemetery. The stones exhibit a range of ornament and carving styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; from vernacular, homemade pieces to signed professional commissions.

Historical Background:

Trinity Episcopal Church is believed to have been built in 1773 by Giles Shute and John Harrington for the Reverend Nathaniel Blount.¹¹ It was first known as Blount's Chapel after its founder. Nathaniel Blount was a native of Beaufort County and part of a very prominent North Carolina family. He studied the ministry at the closest Anglican church in the town of Bath, North Carolina, before traveling to England where he was ordained.¹² After ordination, he returned to his home and established the chapel that would eventually become Trinity Episcopal Church, the second oldest church in Beaufort County

¹¹ Reed, 139; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press), 183.

¹² Reed, 139.

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after that at Bath. As the head of one of the small number of Anglican churches in North Carolina during the eighteenth century, Blount was a leading religious figure.¹³ The other Anglican churches of the day were located in more prominent towns and the success and longevity of Blount's small, rather remote chapel on the south side of the Pamlico River was spurred by his zeal for the ministry. At the time of his death in 1816, he was the only resident member of the Episcopal clergy in North Carolina.¹⁴

Blount did not own the land on which the chapel was erected and it was not until 1826, that John and Rhoda Hagan deeded the property on which it stood, at the intersection of the main road between Godley's Crossroads and Greenville and the creek branch, to the church.¹⁵ In this location, the church was a physical, as well as a spiritual and social, anchor of Godley's Crossroads and early Chocowinity. The church also took the lead in education when in 1852, for the cost of a dollar, Edward Laughinghouse sold land on the other side of Chapel Branch to the wardens and vestry of the church for a school site.¹⁶ The school that was built on that site was first known as the "Big White School House."¹⁷ Under the direction of the Rev. Dr. N. C. Hughes, the building was named Trinity School and became the best known school in the county during the antebellum period.¹⁸ In 1860, sisters Penelope and Apsley Grist deeded a parcel of land across the road to the church for use as a cemetery and thus the church's central role in the community was further extended.

After the Civil War, Trinity School was reorganized and ca. 1877, it was moved to a new location in what is now modern Chocowinity to the east. There, led by Nicolas Collins Hughes Jr., its fine reputation as a private school continued to grow and it attracted students from around the region until it closed in 1908. Around the school's location at the intersection of the Greenville and New Bern Highways, related buildings were erected including a book store, dormitories and the houses of Hughes and a school teacher.¹⁹ The new center of Chocowinity continued to grow and expand from this location even after the school's closure. Town growth was aided by the arrival of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad in 1906, the tracks of which were situated between Godley's Crossroads/ early Chocowinity and present-day Chocowinity. As commercial enterprises were established, community activity became even more focused around the intersection of the Greenville and New Bern Highways. By the 1930s, the area surrounding Trinity Episcopal Church had become so abandoned, that the building was vulnerable to vandalism and the congregation reluctantly decided that moving the church into the busier town would be the only way to maintain its viability. In 1938, Trinity Episcopal Church journeyed east down the

¹³ Sarah McCulloh Lemmon, "Nathaniel Blount: Last Clergyman of the 'Old Church,'" *North Carolina Historical Review* 50, no. 4 (October 1973): 351-364.

¹⁴ Powell.

¹⁵ Deed for Trinity Chapel site from Hagan to Wardens of Trinity Chapel, August 21, 1826, Box 2, Folder M, Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

¹⁶ Reed, 155.

¹⁷ Ursula Fogelman Loy, *Washington and the Pamlico* (Washington-Beaufort County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), 263.

¹⁸ Reed, 155.

¹⁹ Hughes notes, vertical file, Brown Library, Washington, North Carolina, cited in Circa, Inc. *Phase I Beaufort County Architectural Survey-Municipalities* (2009), 5.7, Eastern Office, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Greenville, North Carolina.

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highway leaving behind the site that Nathaniel Blount had chosen, the heart of Godley's Crossroads, and Trinity Cemetery, where so many of that community's residents were buried.

Context for Criterion A: The Collective Burial Place of a Rural Community in North Carolina

Across North Carolina's coastal plain, as throughout much of the South, burials often took place in small family graveyards on yeoman farmsteads or plantations.²⁰ Although graveyards were established around the churches in some of North Carolina's earliest towns, the long distances and difficult transportation between farms or plantations and churches favored use of the family graveyard.²¹ Municipal cemeteries were not common in colonial North Carolina; the earliest known example is Beaufort's Old Burying Ground of 1731. More often, churchyards served as the de facto town burial ground and in some cases were later converted to a public cemetery.²² When Nathaniel Blount established Blount's Chapel (later Trinity Chapel, now Trinity Episcopal Church) in 1773 there was not a well-established town surrounding it, but rather a more widely dispersed agricultural community. Though a graveyard could have been started at the church, it is logical that families would have continued the tradition of burial in family graveyards. Blount, himself, is said to have been transported down the Tar River in a canoe, following his death in nearby Pitt County, to be buried at his family's graveyard in early Chocowinity.²³ By the mid-nineteenth century, both municipal- and church-associated cemeteries were becoming more numerous throughout the state. With the establishment of Trinity Cemetery, families in Godley's Crossroads had – for the first time – their own collective place to bury and remember their deceased. This marks a significant shift in their traditional burial customs. Today, while the buildings that sheltered life in Godley's Crossroads/ early Chocowinity have been removed from the landscape, the cemetery tells of the professions, accomplishments, relationships, and circumstances of birth and death in this small rural community.

The residents of the community were primarily Anglo-American and Trinity Cemetery reflects the tastes and traditions of that group of coastal North Carolinians, particularly Episcopalians. The Christian custom of placing the foot of the graves toward the east is maintained without deviation throughout the cemetery. The earliest gravestones are in keeping with the means of wealthier citizens, while later vernacular pieces represent residents of more modest incomes. As was typically the case in churchyards of this period, groupings of stones are organized by familial ties. Some of the family names found in Trinity Cemetery are Godley, Archbell, Bright, Carrow, Harding, Hill, Hughes, Laughinghouse, Moore, Patrick, Respass, Satterthwaite, Shavender, von Eberstein, and Winfield. The importance of this cemetery as the collective burial place for the local society is emphasized by the presence of several stones that predate the cemetery's 1860 establishment and were most likely relocated there. The 1828, 1849, and 1857 stones of

²⁰ Little, *Sticks and Stones*, xi.

²¹ Little, *Sticks and Stones*, 32; Janet Seapker, National Register Nomination for Faison Cemetery, Duplin County, North Carolina (2006), 8.10-11.

²² Ruth Little, National Register Nomination for City Cemetery, Raleigh, North Carolina (2008), 8.39; Seapker, 8.11.

²³ Joseph Blount Cheshire Jr., ed., *Sketches of Church History in North Carolina* (Wilmington: William L. DeRosset, 1892), 262.

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children Feuner Respass (E21), Robert C. Wolfenden (W51), Infant Son Carrow (E27), and Wiley Grist Harding (E64) indicate the value placed on keeping the family members together in the new churchyard. Likewise, although the commemorative marker of Revolutionary War Sergeant Israel Harding, which bears no dates, does not presumably mark the original grave of Harding, it was here that someone wanted it to stand to be seen by the community. The first actual burial in the consecrated graveyard may have been for Harding's grandson Israel Harding (E67), the son of the Reverend Israel Harding (E68) who served as Trinity's priest twice in the 1860s to 1880s. "Little Israel," as the grave is marked, died in June of 1860. If there were other burials in 1860, prior to his, the markers do not survive.

Trinity Cemetery contains the graves of many prominent Godley's Crossroads/ early Chocowinity residents who made recognized contributions in the history of the community and state. Rev. Dr. Nicolas Collins Hughes (1822-1893, E111) was a native of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, of Swedish descent.²⁴ Aside from his ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church and other congregations, Hughes is well known for his direction of the Trinity School. Prior to the Civil War, it is said to have been the best known private school in Beaufort County.²⁵ During the war, and for some years afterward, Hughes was sent to other congregations and accounts vary as to when he returned to early Chocowinity, but by the late 1870s, Hughes and his son, Nicolas Collin Hughes Jr. had reopened Trinity School as a coeducational day and boarding facility, which served students throughout the region. The well-respected school produced many ministers among its graduates.

Descended from British and German aristocracy according to his memoir, William Henry von Eberstein (E73; 1821-1890), or Baron von Eberstein as he was also known, was a celebrated resident of Godley's Crossroads. He was born in St. Servan, France, and began to travel the world as a mariner at age thirteen when he signed up as a midshipman on a vessel of the British East India Company, in 1835. His many different experiences on the sea included slave trafficking, seal hunting, whaling, and shipwreck.²⁶ It was in 1851 that he moved to the Godley's Crossroads area, became a merchant, and married into the local Harding family. Later, von Eberstein served in the Civil War as a sergeant in Captain Thomas Sparrow's "Washington Grays." Other people who shaped the community were Samuel T. Carrow (E29; 1822-1887), sheriff of Beaufort County three times in the 1860s to 1880s; Thomas D. Smaw (W23; 1804-1881) who served in the North Carolina Senate and Lower House in the 1840s; Fenner B. Satterthwaite (E16; 1813-1875) who served in the Lower House in the 1830s; and Frederick Harding von Eberstein (E122; 1858-1927) who became one of the first tobacco farmers in Beaufort County.²⁷

The most prominent position in the cemetery was given to the ornate obelisk of Major General Bryan Grimes. This indicates that Grimes held a position of importance in the community that reflects back on the community itself and its values. Grimes was born on his family's plantation, which lies to the west in

²⁴ Circa, Inc. *Phase I Beaufort County Architectural Survey-Municipalities* (2009), 5.6-7, Eastern Office, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Greenville, North Carolina.

²⁵ Reed, 155-156.

²⁶ William Henry von Eberstein, *Memoir*, William Henry von Eberstein Papers, 1851-1887 (#148), Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

²⁷ Reed, 128, 130, 132, 219, 225; Loy, 356.

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Pitt County and began his adult life as a planter. As political activities proliferated with the coming of the Civil War, Grimes took the position of a firm secessionist. When fighting began, he took his place on the battlefield where he persisted as a soldier and leader through the entirety of the war.²⁸ Following the war, Bryan Grimes returned to Grimesland and reestablished a prosperous operation there. He contributed some of his income to the University of North Carolina and was appointed a trustee there in 1877.²⁹ In 1880, Grimes was crossing Bear Creek, returning from business in “Little” Washington, North Carolina, when his life was taken by the bullet of an assassin. He was reportedly killed to prevent his testimony in a court case.³⁰ A service for Major General Grimes was held at Trinity Episcopal Church and he was buried at his family plantation “until such time as he could be safely moved and his grave be unmolested” according to family tradition, but no such move ever took place and the elaborate monument to the memory of this soldier and farmer remains a cenotaph.³¹

Another aspect of social history documented by Trinity Cemetery is the high mortality rate for infants and children. This was a tragic, but accepted part of life during the cemetery’s late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century period of significance; especially in rural communities like Godley’s Crossroads. Of the 213 individuals whose names are engraved on individual and combined gravestones dating to the period of significance, sixty-five are children under ten and thirty-five of those were infants. Rows of small stones tell of multiple losses within single families. Four marble headstones with matching peaked and crosstetted tympanums and carvings of doves and a wilted rose commemorate the lives of four Von Eberstein children who died in 1857, 1884, 1885, and 1886 (E75; E72; E71; E70) . The Rev. N. C. and M. E. Hughes lost five children - one each year from 1887 to 1891 (E105-E109) - who are remembered by a triplet of headstones set in one base and two individual headstones. Six small marble headstones with segmental-arch tympanums represent the lives of the six children of J. G. and M. M. Hill who died between 1880 and 1890 (E112-E117), including twins James Griffin and Mary Margaret who died a day apart at almost four months of age.

The also common incidence of death during childbirth for women is less evident from the stones, but was likely the case for Sarah A. Moore (E83), whose gravestone includes infant Nellie with no separate dates. A comparison of dates on the small stone of Richard Respass (W20), who died at age two, and his mother Martha Respass’ (W19) thick marble headstone with rounded tympanum and beaded border reveals that she died just six days after giving birth to her son. Imbued with sadness, hope, and acceptance - from the words “In thee O Lord how I put my trust.” to “Budded on earth to bloom in heaven.” to “Early called.” - the epitaphs engraved on all of these stones speak to the faith of the community.

²⁸ Some of his war experiences are contained in *Extracts of Letters of Major-Gen'l Bryan Grimes to His Wife: Written While in Active Service in the Army of Northern Virginia: Together with Some Personal Recollections of the War, Written by Him After its Close, etc.*

²⁹ Powell.

³⁰ Ibid.; Reed, 205-206.

³¹ Bob Grimes, e-mail to Randy Williams, July 12, 2010.

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Context for Criterion C: Funerary Art and Cemetery Design in Eastern North Carolina

Trinity Cemetery is unlike many churchyards of the same period in its region because it did not actually surround the church, but stood across the road on a separate parcel of land. Its physical separation from the church enabled a site design unencumbered by an existing building. The plan that was developed is a straightforward grid pattern with a central axis and crossing paths, a continuation of an earlier form of cemetery planning. In this way it contrasts with the organic designs of the “rural” cemetery movement found in larger cities during this period. With all of the right angles of its intersecting paths, Trinity Cemetery is the opposite of organic, but due to its situation on a slight rise of land, its grassy paths and its mature oaks, pines, magnolias, and dogwoods, it is endowed with a peaceful natural beauty that is in keeping with the landscaping often found in Anglo-American Tidewater graveyards of this period.³² The trees appear to have been part of the original intent of the design as indicated by the small circles in the center of each four plot block on the plan.

The cemetery’s collection of funerary art represents well the diversity of late-nineteenth-century to early-twentieth-century grave and gravestone designs for a rural burial place in eastern North Carolina. There are 197 gravemarkers in Trinity Cemetery that date to the period of significance from 1860 to 1938. Among these are many different types of markers, the most prevalent being marble headstones, often accompanied by marble footstones. Marble was the most common material for headstones of the nineteenth century in coastal North Carolina, and since marble is not found locally, these stones were all imported from elsewhere. The headstones display a variety of shapes with rounded, curvilinear, and segmental-arched tympanums. Many feature decorative borders and carvings of popular mortuary motifs, such as flowers, weeping willows, crosses, and lambs, along with the engraved name, dates and epitaph. The footstones are simply rectilinear or segmental-arched and usually bear the engraved initials of the deceased.

Some of the first stones a visitor to Trinity Cemetery sees upon passing through the gate are the 1864 and 1871 markers of Susan Fonville Crawford and Thomas R. Crawford (E8, E9). By selecting a plot on the main aisle close to the entrance, the Crawfords’ gravestones were clearly meant to be seen and an investment in the work of a very skilled professional stonecutter meant that they were of top quality. The Crawfords’ markers are two of the three signed pieces in Trinity Cemetery. They are the work of J. D. Couper of Norfolk, Virginia. Other known gravestones in North Carolina by a Couper of Norfolk are more complicated pedestal tombs and an elaborate 1860 box tomb in the Hertford Town Cemetery signed by T. D. Couper of Norfolk.³³ In comparison, the Crawford’s round-arched headstones are plain, but they display the finest quality of carving.

Another Virginia stonecarver, Charles Miller Walsh of Petersburg, executed the 1867 gravestone of Martha W. Winfield (W24). The marble gravestone “Erected by a friend,” is signed “C. M. Walsh, Petersburg, Va.” on the back side. This is the mark of Charles Miller Walsh, a master stonecarver who operated a monument business in Petersburg from 1865, following his discharge from the Confederate

³² Little, *Sticks and Stones*, 35.

³³ *Ibid.*, 15, 61.

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army, until his death in 1901. Most of his signed works are found in Petersburg's Blandwood Cemetery, but he also prepared stones for clients in other areas by mail order. In North Carolina, he is known to have had customers in Wilson, Fremont, and Charlotte. The signature of the Winfield stone is consistent with the mark he used for out-of-town work; in Petersburg he signed his works simply C. M. W. or C. M. Walsh.³⁴ The gravestone he prepared for Martha Winfield is unlike any other in Trinity Cemetery. It has a graceful tri-lobed tympanum with a flower over the word "Rest" engraved in a distinctive shallow carving style and the honoree's name emphasized by a tooled banner. Her maiden name is referred to with the French word *née*, meaning born, which was commonly used on nineteenth-century American gravestones, but is not seen elsewhere in this cemetery. Another relic of nineteenth-century language found on some of the gravestones is the word *consort*, meaning, in these cases, wife.

A select few headstones in Trinity Cemetery feature more unusual diamond or heart shapes and some have three-dimensional designs that take the form of scrolls and pulpits. The latter match designs found in tombstone catalogues of the turn of the twentieth century from companies like Sears and Roebuck.³⁵ The most ambitious types of markers are obelisks which appear in both marble and granite. Aside from marble, granite is the most common material used for gravestones in Trinity Cemetery, while there are just a few concrete markers. Those few homemade concrete markers with freehand inscriptions provide excellent examples of the vernacular memorial tradition (W78, W80, W81). At one time, there were also some wood markers in Trinity Cemetery. Other types of grave construction and enclosure found in the cemetery include a brick grave mound and a wrought and cast iron fence. The arched brick grave mound of Polly Moore (E84) is bookended by her marble headstone and footstone. This was a fairly common means of grave construction in the Coastal Plain, but it is the only example at Trinity.³⁶ Of all the family plots, just one is defined by a fence (E46). The iron picket fence features a gate adorned by a stylized winged hour glass and the Bright family name. Iron railings perpetuated an earlier tradition of wooden pailings around graves and provided a means to delineate family plots and keep out animals.³⁷ Though the iron fence is a common graveyard treatment, their use was limited by cost and the Bright fence is the only example found in Trinity Cemetery. Together, all of these elements constitute a collection of mortuary art of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries in rural eastern North Carolina possessing good integrity of design, craftsmanship, and arrangement.

³⁴ Martha Wren Briggs, "Charles Miller Walsh: A Master Carver of Gravestones in Virginia, 1865-1901," *Markers: Annual Journal of the Association of Gravestone Studies* 7 (1990): 139-172.

³⁵ Little, 27-28.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 45.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 6.

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BOUNDARIES

Verbal Boundary Description:

The National Register boundary of Trinity Cemetery is as shown by a heavy line on the accompanying Beaufort County tax map, PIN number 5654-97-5949, at a scale of 1 inch = 109 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the entire Trinity Cemetery as laid out in 1860. The cemetery was gradually expanded on family lands to the east and west during the during the twentieth century and a portion of that land was deeded to Trinity Episcopal Church in 1973, however as a majority of the gravestones in those sections postdate the 1938 terminus of the period of significance, they are excluded.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Trinity Cemetery

Chocowinity vicinity, Beaufort County, North Carolina

All photographs taken by Laura Ewen Blokker, June-July 2010.

Original digital files located at 11627 Hwy 37, Greensburg, LA 70441.

1. View of cemetery looking from the east section, northwest toward the west section. The iron fence enclosure of the Bright family plot appears to the left and two obelisks stand at the right.
2. Entrance to Trinity Cemetery off of Highway 33, showing Grimes cenotaph at end of main axis.
3. Selection of gravestones including pulpit form marker of Thomas J. Carmalt, d. 1896 toward left and the stones of twins Virginia, d. 1882 and Henry M. Patrick, d. 1864 at right. The later was killed at the battle of White's Tavern, Virginia.
4. Cenotaph of Major General Bryan Grimes, d. 1880.
5. Gravestones of Thomas R. Crawford, d. 1871, Susan Fonville Crawford, d. 1864, and Sidney Carney Nelson, d. 1872.
6. Detail of the stone of Susan Fonville Crawford showing the signature of J. D. Couper of Norfolk.
7. Gravestones of three von Eberstein children who dies in the 1880s.
8. Gravestone of Martha Winfield, d. 1867.
9. Detail of the stone of Martha Winfield showing the signature of Charles Miller Walsh of Petersburg.
10. Handmade concrete gravemarker of Lacy Edwards, d. 1914 and Lizzie, his wife.