

The newly-formed Groton Community Historical Society cordially invites the public to an Open House Celebration at the Historic Trinity Church, 3rd Street at 3rd Avenue, Groton, on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, from 3 to 5 pm.

The Society has many reasons to celebrate! They include:

- 1) Formation of a local nonprofit organization (the Groton Community Historical Society) to maintain and preserve the Historic Trinity Church;
- 2) Transfer of ownership of the Church from the Brown County Historical Society to the Groton Community Historical Society;
- 3) Award of a Historic Preservation Grant from the SD State Historical Society, matched by the Brown County Historical Society, to repair the beautiful altar window in the Church;
- 4) May is Historic Preservation Month, and the SD State Historical Society encourages local communities to plan activities in celebration of their locally significant historic places. The Trinity Church, built in 1884, is the oldest historic monument in Groton. It was built as a community gathering place and an Episcopal Church, but several denominations held services in it until they could build their own churches. It was deconsecrated from the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota in 1975 when it was deeded to the Brown County Historical Society. It is now a historic monument, belonging to the entire community of Groton.
- 5) 2016 is the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, recognizing the value of historic preservation and creating the federal framework supporting the preservation of the irreplaceable buildings, landscapes, and archaeology across the United States. The Director of the SD State Historical Society said "This annual celebration serves as a showcase for local communities to honor their past and help build their future. It brings historic preservation to the forefront of our daily lives."

Visitors will be able to closely examine the beautiful stained glass windows and see for themselves the need for their repair. They will see the exquisite hand hewn ecclesiastical furnishings that Groton pioneers created with their own hands. They can learn about the history of this local landmark and about the famous architect who designed it. Visitors will have an opportunity to join the Groton Community Historical Society and to learn about how they can become involved in the preservation of this historic gem. Please join us!