

St. Phillip's Church  
Charleston  
Charleston County  
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-75

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SC  
10-CHAR,  
58-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office  
for Southeast Unit

HABS  
S.C.  
10-CHAR  
58-

Saint Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church  
Charleston  
Charleston County  
South Carolina

Historical Data:

The first Episcopal Church in Carolina was built in Charleston about 1682. It was stately and large, built of black cypress upon a brick foundation at the S.E. corner of Broad and Meeting Streets. It was usually called the English church, but its distinctive name was "Saint Philip". This church became too small for the increasing population and an Act of Assembly was passed about 1710 for building a new church of brick. This was erected in Church Street. The old wooden church was taken down in 1727. The town was divided into two parishes by an Act of Assembly June 14, 1751. All south of the middle of Broad Street was formed into a separate Parish, called Saint Michael's and its Church was built upon the spot on which the old Saint Philip's stood.

A description of the early Saint Philip's Church is given in B. R. Carroll's Historic Collections of South Carolina written by George Milligan in 1763, as follows:

"Saint Philip's Church is one of the handsomest buildings in America. It is of brick plaistered and well enlightened on the inside; the roof is arched except over the galleries; two rows of Tuscan pillars support the galleries and arch that extend over the body of the Church; the pillars ornamented on the inside, with fluted Corinthian pilasters, whose capitals are as high as the cherubims over the center of each arch, supporting their proper cornice: The west end of the Church is adorned with four Tuscan columns, supporting a double pediment, which has an agreeable effect; the two side doors, which enter into the belfry, are ornamented with round columns of the same order, which support angular pediments that project a considerable way, and give the Church some resemblance of a cross: Pilasters of the same order with the columns are continued round the body of the Church; over the double pediment is a gallery with bannisters; from this the steeple rises octogonal, with windows in each face of the second course, ornamented with Ionic pilasters, whose intablature supports a balustrade; from this the tower still rises octogonal, with sashed windows on every other face, till it is terminated by a dome, upon which stands a lanthorn for the bells, and from which rises a vane in the form of a cock."

Saint Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church

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This Church was destroyed by fire in 1835. The present edifice was opened for worship in 1838.

Bibliography:

- Carroll, B. R. - Historical Collections of  
South Carolina
- Dalcho, Frederick - An Historical Account of  
the Protestant Episcopal  
Church in S. C.
- Curtis, Elizabeth Gibbon - Gateways and  
Doorways of Charleston
- Johnson, John - Historic Points of Interest  
in and around Charleston

  
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TW 6/27/91  
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Addendum to:

St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church  
146 Church Street  
Charleston  
Charleston County  
South Carolina

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

ADDENDUM TO <sup>PROTESTANT</sup>  
SAINT PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
146 Church Street  
Charleston  
Charleston County  
South Carolina

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1845 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240