Researching Charleston Historic Structures Publications and Websites

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The following is a list of books, other printed materials, and websites that may be useful sources of information for researching Charleston's architecture, historic buildings, and landmarks.

Books & Other Publications:

- Bates, Susan Baldwin and Harriott Cheves Leland. *Proprietary Records of South Carolina* (Charleston, SC: History Press). Land records (abstracts of grants, wills, other miscellaneous records) for the period 1675-1719. (Three volumes published 2005, 2006, 2007.)
- Bostick, Douglas W. *On the Eve of the Charleston Renaissance: The George W. Johnson Photographs* (Charleston, SC: Joggling Board Press, 2005). Collection of photographs by George W. Johnson, photographer at the turn of the 20th century, and accompanying narrative.
- Brenner, Betty and Francis J. *The Old Codgers' Charleston Address Book, 1990-1999* (Charleston, SC: Old Codgers, 2000). Information from City Directories about the residents/occupants by street address; goes up through K.
- Burton, Milby. *Units of Charleston* a/k/a *Charleston Streets* (S.l.: S.n.). Manuscript that explores the origins of street names and the various names they have had over time.
- Chamberlain, Samuel. *Southern Interiors of Charleston* (New York: Hastings House, 1956). Photographs of the interiors of 51 of Charleston's most significant houses.
- Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance. *Index to Deeds of the Province and State of South Carolina*
- Charleston Historic Preservation Plans
 - Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council. *Historic Preservation Plan, June 1972* (S.l.: Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Regional Planning Council, 1972).
 - City Planning and Architectural Associates, Carl Feiss, Russell Wright. *Charleston, South Carolina, Historic Preservation Plan* (Charleston, SC: City of Charleston, 1974).
 - Page & Turnbull, Inc. Vision, Community, Heritage: A Preservation Plan for Charleston, South Carolina (San Francisco, Calif.: Page & Turnbull, 2007).
 - Robert & Company: "Area Character Appraisals" for Byrnes Downs, Old Windermere, and Cannonborough-Elliottborough.
- City of Charleston tour guide training manuals: *Information for Guides of Historic Charleston* (1975, 1984) and *The City of Charleston Tour Guide Training Manual* (2011). Brief house/building histories from a number of sources, by street address. Also contains information on the founding and history of Charles Town; how the city grew; boroughs; parks, historic colleges, and harbor forts; African-American Charlestonians; botanical guide notes; Charleston architecture; historic preservation in Charleston; protective covenants and easements; and markers.

- Curtis, Elizabeth Gibbons. *Gateways and Doorways of Charleston, South Carolina in the Eighteenth and the Nineteenth Centuries* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1926). A photographic record of the gates and doorways of Charleston.
- Deas, Alston. *The Early Ironwork of Charleston* (Columbia, S.C.: Bostick & Thornley, 1941). A history of the early ironwork of Charleston.
- Earthquake Information, including *Report of Committee on Condition of Buildings After the Earthquake, with a List of Buildings that Should Come Down*" (a house-by-house assessment of damage from the 1886 Earthquake). Original at SC Historical Society; copies at Historic Charleston Foundation Archives and the South Carolina Room. (See also Websites, below.)
- Felzer, Lissa. *The Charleston Freedman's Cottage: An Architectural Tradition* (Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2008). Charleston's Freedman's Cottages are some of the most understudied and undervalued vernacular buildings in the city. This book hopes to elevate them to their rightful place in the history of Charleston architecture.
- Fick, Sarah. *Charleston County Historical and Architectural Survey: Survey Report* (Charleston, S.C.: Preservation Consultants, 1992). Architectural survey of various sites throughout Charleston County. Part of the Statewide Survey of Historic Places.
- Foster, Mary Preston. *Charleston: A Historic Walking Tour* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2005). A photographic "walking tour" of some of Charleston's most significant buildings and streets within Meeting Street Loop, Legare Street Loop, and Ansonborough.
- Hart, Emma. *Building Charleston: Town and Society in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic World* (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2010). Challenges the popular image of the pre-Revolutionary south as a society completely shaped by staple agriculture and places Charleston at the heart of a transatlantic process of urban development.
- Hudgins, Carter L., et al., eds. *The Vernacular Architecture of Charleston and the Lowcountry,* 1670-1990: A Field Guide (Charleston, S.C.: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1994). A comprehensive combination of historical research, measured drawings, graphic documentation, and architectural analysis of Charleston and Lowcountry architecture. Includes back buildings and the housing of the lower echelons of Carolina society.
- Hash, C. Patton. *Charleston: Alone Among the Cities* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2000). Visual history of Charleston shown through black-and-white photographs.
- Holcomb, Brent H. *South Carolina Deed Abstracts* (a continuation of the abstracts prepared under Clara A. Langley)
- Langley, Clara A. South Carolina Abstracts, 1719-1772
- Leland, Jack. 60 Famous Houses of Charleston and 62 Famous Houses of Charleston (Charleston, S.C.: News & Courier). Stories with photographs of houses; originally published in *The Evening Post*.

- Light, Sally. *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home* (Spencertown, N.Y.: Golden Hill Press, 1989). Guide for those who have questions about the origins, styles, materials, past owners of, and events surrounding old houses.
- Lincoln, F.S. *Charleston: Photographic Studies* (New York: Corinthian Publications, 1946). Black and white photographs of both the exteriors and interiors of many of the old buildings in Charleston and the vicinity. Also includes photos of various gardens, plantations, and other sites.
- Mazyck, Arthur. *Charleston in 1883* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1983, rev'd ed.). A record of Charleston architecture prior to the Earthquake of 1886, which damaged many of the buildings that are illustrated.
- Mazyck, Arthur. *Guide to Charleston Illustrated: Being a Sketch of the History of Charleston, S. C., With Some Account of its Present Condition, with Numerous Engravings* (Charleston, S.C.: Walker, Evans & Cogswell, 1875). "Snapshot" of Charleston in 1875. Includes many illustrations of buildings, description of Charleston businesses and industry, and advertisements. Also available online at University of Michigan's "Making of America" website, http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/.
- Post & Courier (News & Courier). "Do You Know Your Charleston" articles. For many years, this was a regular feature that focused on a particular house, building, or street, and provided historical information and often a photograph. Back issues of the newspaper are on microfilm available at the Charleston County Public Library and College of Charleston Library. Also, photocopies of articles may be filed in the building/property files that are maintained at many local repositories.
- Poston, Jonathan. *The Buildings of Charleston: A Guide to the City's Architecture* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1997). Focuses primarily on the buildings of the official "Old and Historic District of Charleston," organized into nine geographic areas. Includes detailed descriptions and illustrations of individual structures.
- Preservation Society of Charleston. *Preservation Progress* (Charleston, S.C.: Preservation Progress). Newsletter of the Preservation Society, featuring articles about historic buildings and preservation efforts throughout Charleston. HCF's holdings span from 1956-1979.
- Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien. *Architects of Charleston* (Charleston, S.C.: Carolina Art Association, 1964). Much has been written about the architecture of Charleston but the architects who brought it about have been largely neglected. This book commemorates those architects.
- Severens, Kenneth. *Charleston: Antebellum Architecture and Civic Destiny* (Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1988). Introduction to Charleston's architectural legacy and what its public and civic architecture reveals about political, social, and economic conditions.
- Simons, Albert, and Samuel Lapham Jr., eds., *Charleston, South Carolina* (New York: American Institute of Architects Press, 1927). Vol. 1 of the Octagon Library of Early American Architecture, later reprinted as *The Early Architecture of Charleston* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1970). A comprehensive record of Charleston's beautiful and famous buildings, including several that have been destroyed. Contains photographs, architectural drawings, and maps that illustrate the Pre-Revolutionary, Post-Revolutionary, and Antebellum periods.

- Simons, Albert and W. H. Johnson Thomas, *An Architectural Guide to Charleston, South Carolina,* 1700-1900 (Charleston, S.C.: Historic Charleston Foundation, 1971?). Manuscript. Includes the history and architectural description of many of Charleston's most prominent buildings, organized by period (Colonial, post-Revolutionary, Antebellum, and post-Civil War).
- Smith, Alice Ravenel Huger, and D.C. Huger Smith. *The Dwelling Houses of Charleston, South Carolina* (New York: Diadem House, 1974). Facsimile of the 1917 limited edition. A biography of a great city, done in the grand stately manner of the city itself. Includes photographs, maps, and other illustrations.
- South Carolina Historical Society. South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine.
 Index and bound versions available at SC Historical Society and SC Room at Charleston County Public Library.
- Steele, John Carson Hay. *Charleston Then and Now: Contemporary Photographs by Robert Pinckney Rhett (1990s), James Moore Rhett III (1970s)* (Orangeburg, S.C.: Sandlapper Press, 1996). Photographic record of the changes (or lack of change) which have occurred at 60 points of interest in Charleston between the 1890s and the 1990s.
- Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. *Plantations of the Carolina Lowcountry* (Charleston, S.C.: Carolina Art Association, 1938). Architectural and historical study of plantations and other historical buildings in the Carolina Low Country.
- Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. *This is Charleston: An Architectural Survey of a Unique American City* (Charleston, S.C.: Carolina Art Association, 1944). An inventory of the historic architecture of Charleston.
- Stockton, Robert. *The Great Shock: The Effects of the 1886 on the Built Environment of Charleston, South Carolina* (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986). The story of the effects of the Charleston Earthquake of 1886 on the built environment as well as its impact on the people. Includes photos of many damaged buildings.
- Waddell, Gene. *Charleston Architecture*, 1670-1860 (Charleston, S.C.: Wyrick & Co., 2003). Describes how the exceptionally high standard of excellence was achieved in Charleston architecture. Covers houses, religious buildings, public buildings, and architectural styles (Palladian, Adamesque, Greek Revival, Roman Revival, Italianate, and Gothic).

Remember: Not every printed publication is available online!

There are many other books available at area libraries, many of which would likely be available via interlibrary loan if you do not live in Charleston.

To find others, try searching on the following subjects:

Architecture--Conservation and restoration--South Carolina--Charleston

Charleston (S.C.)--Buildings, structures, etc.

Historic buildings--South Carolina--Charleston

Historic buildings--Conservation and restoration--South Carolina--Charleston

Dwellings--South Carolina--Charleston

Vernacular architecture--South Carolina--Charleston

Historic sites--South Carolina--Charleston

When you do find informative books, be sure to check their bibliographies for additional resources.

Other archives and library resources include:

- Building/property files. Organized by street address, they may contain a variety of sources including SC Architectural Inventory documentation and newspaper articles, photographs, and deed research. Available at various locations including Historic Charleston Foundations Archives, the SC Room at the Charleston County Public Library, and the SC Historical Society.
- Booklets, Guidebooks, Pamphlets: Many libraries and archives have smaller publications such as tourist guidebooks and souvenir booklets in their collections. These smaller publications may contain descriptions and photographs of Charleston buildings and landmarks.
- Archaeological Reports: Archaeological investigations of many of the most significant buildings and sites in Charleston have been conducted. These reports may be found in area libraries and other institutions, and can usually be found in a library catalog through a search of the name of the building (or plantation) or by searching on the following subjects:

Charleston (S.C.)--Antiquities Excavations (Archaeology)--South Carolina – Charleston

Internet Resources:

Some of these are local websites and searching for information will be straightforward. For resources with a national scope, you will need to phrase your search terms to include the geographic location Charleston, South Carolina (or Charleston County, South Carolina).

Bodley, http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/: Internet library of 18th and 19th century journals.

Charleston County, <u>www.charlestoncounty.org/</u>: See Online Services for access to maps, plats, deeds, mortgages, property records, and probate records.

Charleston County Public Library, www.ccpl.org

Sanborn Maps: Click on Resources / Research Tools / History & Geography / Digital Sanborn Maps. Home Access will enable you to access the maps remotely (note that you must have a library card for remote access).

The South Carolina Room and The Charleston Archive: Click on Services / SC History & Genealogy, then click on The Charleston Archive for their various collections. See also http://www.charlestonarchive.org for various research pathfinders and https://charlestontimemachine.org/ for historian Nic Butler's research and lectures.

Charleston Library Society, http://www.charlestonlibrarysociety.org/: The oldest library collection in the city, particularly known for its collection of early newspapers

City of Charleston, http://www.charleston-sc.gov: Departments and regulatory boards like BAR, Zoning, events, GIS Maps, and City Records Management Division.

Clemson University Libraries, http://www.clemson.edu/library/: Harper's Weekly; craftsmen database, MESDA, some historic newspapers (e.g., NY Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal), 19th century masterfile, Oxford English Dictionary, Sanborn maps. (Many of these require a student I.D. and password.)

College of Charleston Library, http://library.cofc.edu: Academic databases (e.g., JSTOR), Early American Newspapers and Imprints, etc. (Many of these require a student I.D. and password.)

Historic Charleston Foundation, http://www.historiccharleston.org: Preservation topics, archives/research, and maps.

Internet Archive, http://www.archive.org/index.php: Access to a huge collection of digitized and searchable books.

Library of Congress Digital Collections, https://www.loc.gov/collections/: A gateway to the Library of Congress's digitized historical American resources, e.g., Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Cities & Towns, Maps (general, panoramic, Sanborn, etc.), Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), and numerous prints and photograph collections.

Lowcountry Digital Library, http://www.lowcountrydigitallibrary.cofc.edu/: Digitized collections from several Charleston institutions. Includes photographs of buildings and other building/preservation resources. See especially http://www.lowcountrydigitallibrary.cofc.edu/: Digitized collections from several Charleston institutions. Includes photographs of buildings and other building/preservation resources. See especially https://www.lowcountrydigitallibrary.cofc.edu/: Digitized collections from several Charleston institutions. Includes photographs of buildings and other building/preservation resources. See especially https://www.lowcountrydigitallibrary.cofc.edu/: Digitized collections

Mormons Family Search, https://familysearch.org/.

National Park Service, http://www.cr.nps.gov/:

National Register Sites in SC, http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/charleston/nrcharleston.htm.

National Register Publications, Bulletins and Brochures, https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/. Of note, #39 "Researching a Historic Property."

National Historic Landmarks Program, <u>www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/.</u> Nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior for their exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the U.S.

HABS, HALS, HAER, www.nps.gov/history/hdp/.

National Portrait Gallery, http://www.npg.si.edu. Portraits of prominent men and women from American history.

Preservation Society of Charleston, http://www.preservationsociety.org: Property files, "Preservation Progress," and Halsey Map Project.

Political Graveyard, http://www.politicalgraveyard.com. Information about dead American politicians.

Saint Louis University Earthquake Center, "The 1886 Charleston, South Carolina, Earthquake," http://www.eas.slu.edu/eqc/eqc_photos/1886EQ/.

South Carolina Dept of Archives and History, http://scdah.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx:

Online Archives, http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/search.aspx. Search various collections like the McCrady plats (Series L10005), courts of equity, etc.

State Historic Preservation Office, http://shpo.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx. inks to several SHPO programs and services and to other preservation-related sites. Of note, Survey of Historic Properties which gives access to survey documentation of over 60,000 historic buildings, structures, sites, etc.

University of North Carolina, *Documenting the American South*, http://www.docsouth.unc.edu/.

Search the collection for "Charleston South Carolina" for the 1861 Census,

University of South Carolina Libraries

South Caroliniana Library (special collections), http://library.sc.edu/socar/index.html

Digital Sanborn Maps, http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/sanborn.html

Visual Materials, http://library.sc.edu/socar/visual.html. Search for photos, architectural drawings, blueprints, etc.

Yale University, "The Avalon Project," http://avalon.law.yale.edu/: Transcriptions of documents in law, history, and diplomacy.

<u>Journal Databases</u>: There is a variety of online research/journal databases that are available through area. public, and college libraries, e.g., JSTOR, Harper's Weekly, MESDA, 19th Century Masterfile, historical newspapers, and many more. If your library's catalog organizes the database by major/minor or by subject, look for databases for Architecture and/or Historic Preservation. JSTOR and the Bibliographic Database of the Conservation Information Network (BCIN) are particularly useful.

Maps

In addition to the map resources that can be found in the above research websites, other online sites for maps include:

City of Charleston GIS

Interactive Zoning, http://gis.charleston-sc.gov/interactive/zoning/

MapNet, http://gis.charleston-sc.gov/interactive/mapnet/

Halsey Map Project, Preservation Society Website, www.halseymap.com/Flash/map.asp

Library of Congress, http://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/

University of South Carolina Libraries, Digital Collections, http://sc.edu/library/digital/index.php

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, www.sc.edu/library/digital/collections/sanborn.html

Univ. of Georgia Hargett Library, http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/colamer.html

Univ. of Texas Castenada Map Collection, www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/south_carolina.html

Morris+Baily Industrial Design. *Charleston Illustrated: A Historic District Architectural Map*, www.charlestonillustrated.com/maps.htm. (Compilation of maps: The Development of Charleston, Panoramic Mapping, and Antique Maps of Charleston.)

SCIWay, http://www.sciway.net/hist/maps/mapscharleston.html. SC Information Highway map collection (good maps but most are unattributed).

Topographic Maps, http://www.topoquest.com/map.php

Other

Statutes at Large for SC, Google Books

http://books.google.com/books?id=_EYUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA248&lpg=PA248&dq=south+carolina+statutes+at+large+1704&source=bl&ots=1pORRZgzi2&sig=A93e-

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Archive.org, 1861 City of Charleston Census, http://archive.org/stream/censusofcityofch00char#page/n5/mode/2up