

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH  
c. 1848-1850  
275 Meeting Street

The congregation of Trinity Methodist Church had its origin in 1791 as an offspring of Cumberland Church, the first Methodist Church in Charleston. The Blue Meeting House, their original building, was destroyed by fire in 1838 and a second church was built on the same site at the corner of Hasell Street and Maiden Lane. After the Confederate War, when the Cumberland congregation was without a building, its members joined with Trinity and in 1874 were formally united as Trinity congregation. The edifice at 275 Meeting Street was purchased by this congregation in 1926. (The foregoing information is derived from an account published by Trinity Methodist Church.)

This building had been erected in 1848-50 for the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church and was designed by Edward C. Jones. See Ravenel Architects of Charleston.

The exterior has been compared to that of the Church of the Madeleine in Paris. While nearer to this Napoleonic shrine in years, its physical appearance is closer to the Roman Temple at Nimes known as the Maison Carrée, in that the Madeleine has free standing columns continued along both sides. Neither the Madeleine nor the Maison Carrée have windows which must have been required by the building committee but have been an embarrassment to Jones in carrying out a Neo-Classic design.

On the interior the apse, flanked by twin columns behind the podium, gives a strong architectural focus and center of interest on the function of the preacher. While a good deal of ornamental plaster has been applied, it is appropriate in character and being light in color does not appear unduly aggressive.

The building being set back from the sidewalk and approached by two flights of steps interrupted by a spacious landing adds much to the appearance of the street.

A.S.

# News and Courier

Carolina's Most Outspoken Newspaper

CHARLESTON, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1957

## Planning

Mr. Morrison's version of the plan at City Hall given W. C. Dutton, Jr. while he was employed as a professional planner differs in many respects from the account given by City Engineer Robert M. Hollings. Mr. Dutton says no reason exists for the discrepancy, as was pointed out in a News and Courier article.

Based on our comment on Mr. Dutton's account, which indicated that Mr. Dutton had received shabby treatment. It is not for us now to judge the relative accuracy of Mr. Morrison and Mr. Hollings, but to the same city administration. Since Mr. Dutton is leaving Charleston to take a position in

London, the matter is virtually

settled, however, that if and when the City of Charleston again employs a professional planner, the outcome will be more fruitful. We believe the city can do better planning, and that it needs professional advice. The appointment of a Charleston Planning Commission has been in professional counsel for some time outside the city. We wish the planning service could include as well.

# News and Courier

Carolina's Most Outspoken Newspaper

CHARLESTON, S. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1957

## Living

The growth of Charleston's population is certain to be great in the years ahead, we do not believe the old city will be abandoned as a residential area. Many Charlestonians don't want to spend a large part of each day traveling to and from work. Many wives want their homes for mid-day dinner. They also enjoy having a variety of shops nearby. They want to spend several hours of their children around the family car, to school, dances and dancing class. Some of these facts of family life need for city homes and this will not diminish in the future. We have said on occasion, new neighborhoods should be opened up within the city. What is being done on the waterfront to restore fine old homes to be done on other streets. Imagination combined with hard work will create pleasant residential neighborhoods.

## Waterfront Redevelopment Project Plan Facing A Cut

Plans for redeveloping a section of the lower Charleston Cooper River waterfront will be curtailed slightly due to the unavailability of about one-fifth of the land involved.

Joseph P. Riley, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce's Urban Redevelopment Committee, announced the necessity of reducing the plan at yesterday's chamber directors' meeting. As originally planned, the project would prepare about 25 acres of

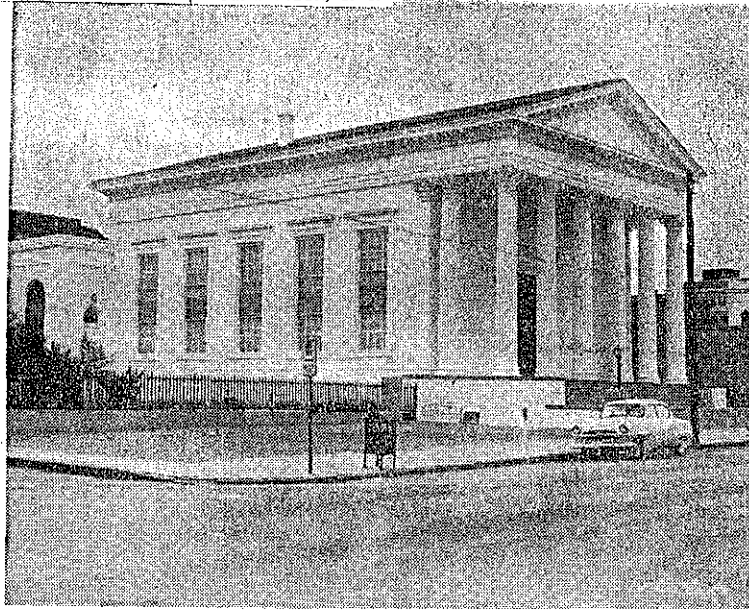
land along the waterfront for redevelopment.

The project, announced by Riley Monday, includes construction of a bulkhead along the river from the U.S. Fleet Landing south to the Carolina Yacht Club property. The 2,300-foot bulkhead would surround an area in the water which could be filled in and converted to residential use. Riley said the S.C. State Ports Authority informed him it could not release the space between the

Fleet Landing and Vendue Range because of "anticipated future commercial needs of the port."

Loss of the authority property would mean cutting back the proposed bulkhead by about 350 feet, Riley said. In total land area available for the project, it amounts to a loss of about five acres. Riley told the directors yesterday the cost of the project could be revised downward to about \$2½ million from the \$3 million planned originally.

14 The News and Courier, Monday, Jan. 6, 1958  
CHARLESTON, S. C.



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH HAS UNDERGONE EXTENSIVE RENOVATION  
Razing Of Shirras Home Has Bared "New Look" To Charlestonians (Staff Photo)

## Restoration Project Gives Trinity Church 'New Look'

The congregation of Trinity Methodist Church—the oldest Methodist group in Charleston—has added still another bright chapter to its 167-year history. The church building, located at Meeting and Society Streets, has undergone a complete renovation that included the razing of the Alexander Shirras home immediately adjacent to the church and the cultivation of the property of a neat and well trimmed lawn.

In the process of the renovation, the church's southern face has been exposed to full public view for the first time. And the building, which was constructed about 1850 and patterned after the Church of the Magdalene in Paris, is well worth the viewing. Gleaming in new coats of clean white paint, the building, with its handsome columns and long vertical lines, already has been called by some "one of the most beautiful churches in Charleston."

Nor has the renovation of the church been limited to its exterior. The interior of the church has been repaired and redecorated and the building, as well as its auxiliary buildings, have been completely air-conditioned.

The congregation of the church

undertook the renovation in 1954 when a fund for the purpose was created by the church. The project when entirely completed is expected to cost about \$125,000.

The congregation of Trinity Methodist Church has been worshipping in the Meeting Street Church since early 1928. The building previously had served as the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Founded in 1791 by the Rev. William Hammet, who had been driven ashore on Edisto Island while en route from Jamaica to

England, the church has survived fire, wars and even "occupation" of its property. Originally located at Hasell Street and Maiden Lane, the church at that site once was sold from under its congregation by a none-too-popular pastor. It was reclaimed when the congregation occupied the building after it supposedly had passed into the hands of a Protestant Episcopal congregation.

In 1838, the original church building at Hasell Street and Maiden Lane was destroyed by fire, but a new church was built on that site and it was this building that suffered considerable damage during the Union bombardment of Charleston during the War Between the States.

The last Trinity Methodist Church to stand at the Hasell Street location was built in 1903. It served the church's congregation until 1927 when the present building was purchased.

## Bids For Razing Old Citadel Wing To Be Opened

Bids for demolition of the west wing of the Old Citadel to make way for a new Charleston County Free Library will be opened Tuesday.

A new \$750,000 library will be built on the site which fronts on King Street. The west wing now scheduled to be torn down was constructed about 70 years ago.