

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 Westminister 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-Classical 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 meeting at City Hall given W. C. Jr. while he was employed as a professional planner differs in respects from the account of formerman Robert M. Hollings. Mr. Morrison says no reason exists for the analogy to Mr. Dutton, as was done in a News and Courier item.

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

England, the matter is virtually

settled, however, that if and when the City of Charleston again turns to professional planning, it will be more fruitful and we believe the city can benefit from careful planning, and that needs professional advice. The City of a Charleston Planning Commission has been in professional counsel for a year outside the city. We wish our 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 amount of time traveling to and from work. Many wives want their husbands home for mid-day dinner and also enjoy having a choice of shops nearby. They want to spend several hours with their children around the house, to school, dances and dancing class.

These facts of family need for city homes and the old city will not diminish in the years ahead. As we have said on occasion, new neighborhoods are to be opened up within the city. What is being done on the streets to restore fine old buildings 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.

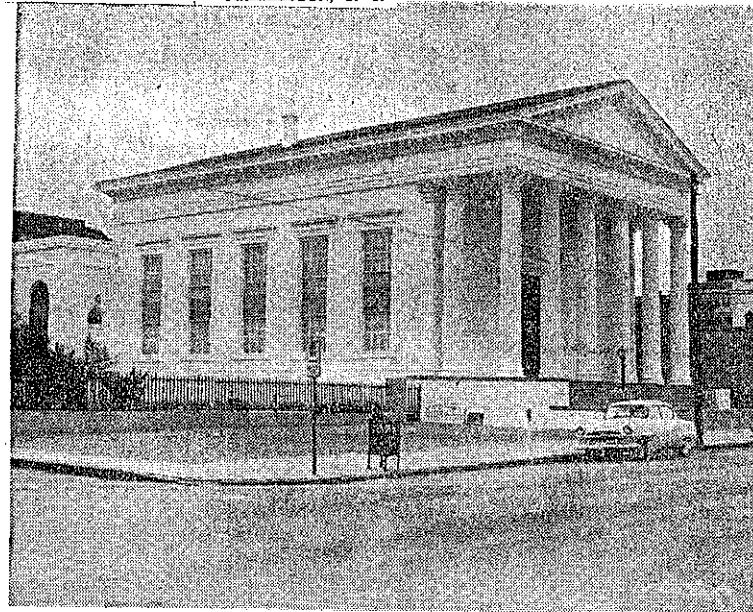
The project, announced by Riley Monday, includes construction of a bulkhead along the river from the U.S. Fleet Landing south to the Carolina Yacht Club property. The 2,300-foot bulkhead would surround an area in the water which could be filled in and converted to residential use. Riley said the S.C. 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 \$2.5 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 on 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 wor-

shipping in the Meeting Street Church since early 1928. The build-

ing 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

five 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 congrega-

tion 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 build-

ing that suffered considerable

damage during the Union bom-

bardment 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 con-

gregation until 1927 when the pre-

sent 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.