

Morris Brown A. M. E. Church

13 Morris Street

Between King and St. Philip Streets

Organized 1867

Erected c. 1875



Lilly, Edward G., ed. *Historic Churches of Charleston, SC.* [54]
Comp. Clifford L. Legerton. Charleston, SC: John Huguley.
1916. Print.

In 1867 a few of the members of the Emanuel A. M. E. Church on Calhoun Street which had grown a great deal, withdrew and established the Morris Brown A. M. E. Church as it is called today.

The first pastor, the Rev. R. H. Cain, rented a hall in 1873 at 13 Morris Street, which had once been used by soldiers as a meeting place. Then, the lot was purchased, the hall moved to the back of the lot and a chapel built at the front of it. Their second pastor was the Rev. Morris Brown and the name of the pastor was chosen as the church became the Morris Brown A. M. E. Church.

The Rev. Daniel Payne who later served as the third pastor was known as a great educator, and the Rev. Dr. B. J. Glover who is president of Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, had served three years as pastor prior to 1953. Four former pastors of this church have later become bishops. This is a higher number than

that of any other church in the city so far as is known. These were the Rt. Rev. R. H. Cain, Morris Brown, M. B. Salters and W. W. Beckett.

The original building was a wooden structure. This was enlarged by increasing the width, and this space served as adequate for a time. In November, 1953, the Rev. J. C. Quarles led the movement to renovate the structure. The church was brick veneered and other changes made. This work was completed on April 7, 1957 during the celebration of the church's ninetieth anniversary.

The Rev. Dr. Z. L. Grady was sent to this church in 1962. Under his leadership new pews were installed and facilities for broadcasting the services by remote control were added and a new lot purchased. The new Z. L. Grady Educational Building was completed in 1966 and the dedication was held June 26, 1966. Plans are being made for the celebration of the centennial of the Church in 1967.

