

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
c. 1847-1848
98 Wentworth Street

Edward Brickell White (1806-1882) was the pioneer in the Gothic Revival in Charleston. Having designed the Huguenot Church, he went on to the larger and more ambitious essay in this manner at Grace Church. Looking west on Wentworth Street the silhouette of the steeple as it rises and diminishes by successive pinnacles out of the body of the church recalls something reminiscent of the steeple of St. Mary-the-Virgin as it dominates High Street in Oxford.

The interior is well proportioned and is consistent in scale so that it seems larger than its actual dimensions. Here harmony is achieved by having stained glass in all of the windows which are consonant with the character of the architecture. Like the other Gothic Revival Churches in this city, the effect of stone vaults overhead is simulated by means of lath and plaster. Perhaps we can accept this device by considering the words of Kenneth Clark in Civilization, a Personal View: "Of course all art is to some extent an illusion. It transforms experience in order to satisfy some need of the imagination." And in this case the imagination is abundantly satisfied.

A.S.