

Information for Guides  
of Historic Charleston

house varies from the single-story to the five-story. The entrance on the street side and a side hall with adjoining first floor rooms. A twin formerly stood at 95 Wentworth.

(Thomas, DYKYC, March 2, 1970)

100 Wentworth St. -- Grace Protestant Episcopal Church was founded in 1846. The purpose of the founders was to establish a church in the center of Charleston; at the time Wentworth Street was in the center of the city. The initial 60 members worshiped in the College of Charleston chapel until the church was completed. Built in 1847-48, it was designed by architect Edward Brickell White, and is one of his most beautiful Gothic Revival buildings. E.W. Brown was the contractor. The church was closed in January 1864 due to the Federal bombardment of the city. A shell crushed one of the central columns and destroyed 12 pews. The church reopened in March 1865, the first and for some time the only Episcopal church open in the city. The rector, the Rev. Dr. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, was ordered to pray for the President of the United States, and Federal soldiers stood at attention in the aisle

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to enforce the order. Dr. Pinckney complied, stating, "I know of no one who needs praying for more than the President of the United States." The church was heavily damaged by the 1886 earthquake and repairs cost more than the original construction. Members of the congregation have included the late Congressman L. Mendel Rivers.

(Ravenel, Architects, 187, 191, 195. Legerton, Historic Churches, 12-13. Way, Grace Church, passim.)

99-105 Wentworth St. -- This row of late Victorian houses was built in 1910 by the Mutual Real Estate Company as rental units. They are now part of the College of Charleston.

(Stockton, DYKYC, June 8, 1981.)

107 Wentworth St. -- This house was built c. 1858 by Wil-

**89½ Wentworth Street**

**Dr. Charles M. Rees's Office**

*Constructed 1900*

St. Michael's Church built this tiny one-story frame structure in 1900 for lease to Dr. Charles M. Rees, physician, as his office. The building replaced a one-story brick building of about the same size, which had been occupied by James B. DeCosta, an African American cobbler, as his shop. The building is a type of vernacular structure that was once common in Charleston, but has now become rare.

**92 Wentworth Street**

**St. Philip's Church Tenement**

*Constructed c. 1850; altered 1880s*

This frame house was built by John Commins and John Daly on land leased from St. Philip's Church. It formerly was turned lengthways, with the piazza facing the street.

Jacob Knobeloch, a flour dealer who bought the property in 1881, turned the house sideways to the street and remodeled the exterior, adding a mansard roof with cast iron cresting, new piazza elements and a new entrance door. The interior, however, retains plasterwork and mantels typical of the 1850s.

**97 Wentworth Street**

**St. Michael's Tenement**

*Constructed between 1830-40*

This two-and-a-half story brick house with sandstone window sills was built on land leased from St. Michael's Church, which retained ownership of the lot until 1945. The house varies from the single house plan by having an entrance on the street side and a side hall with adjoining first floor rooms. A twin formerly stood at 95 Wentworth St. Today the house is used as fraternity housing by the College of Charleston.

**100 Wentworth Street**

**Grace Church (Episcopal)**

*Constructed 1847-48; 20<sup>th</sup> century additions;  
restored 1991*

*Edward Brickell White, architect; E. W. Brown,  
contractor*

Grace Protestant Episcopal Church was founded in 1846 by founders wishing to establish a church in the center of Charleston; at the time Wentworth Street was in the center of the city. The initial 60 members worshiped in the College of Charleston chapel in Harrison Randolph Hall until the church was completed.

Designed by architect Edward Brickell White, Grace is one of his most beautiful Gothic Revival buildings in the city. E.W. Brown was the contractor.

The church was closed in January 1864 due to the Federal bombardment. A shell crushed one of the central columns and destroyed 12 pews. The church reopened in March 1865, the first and for some time the only Episcopal church open in the city. The rector, the Rev. Dr. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, was ordered to pray for the President of the United States and Federal soldiers stood at attention in the aisle to enforce the order. Dr. Pinckney complied, stating, "I known of no one who needs praying for more than the President of the United States."

The church was heavily damaged by the 1886 earthquake and repairs cost more than the original construction. Likewise, a 1911 hurricane extensively damaged the building. The steeple underwent extensive repairs in the 1970s and '80s. Hurricane Hugo repairs after the 1989 storm resulted in the restoration of the exterior paint scheme and the restoration of gilding in the chancel.

Perhaps the most significant architectural addition to a historic historic church in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the completion of the columbarium and bell tower in 1999. The practice of extensive churchyard burial has been abandoned in modern times where urban churches are pressed for land. At Grace Church, this practice was restored with the construction of a columbarium. Constructed of reinforced concrete in the Gothic Revival style to complement the existing church, the ground floor of the structure contains approximately 900 niches on both the interior and exterior walls, each of which can hold the remains of two people. The front of the

structure is a glass wall set in English Perpendicular tracery. A ring of antique bells was placed in the columbarium's bell tower of the. They are rung on Sundays and for weddings and funerals upon request.

### **99-105 Wentworth Street**

*Constructed 1910*

This row of late Victorian houses was built as rental units. They are now part of the College of Charleston's fraternity row.

### **107 Wentworth Street**

#### **William Johnson House**

*Constructed c. 1858*

This house was built by William Johnson, a dealer in grain, building materials and coal, on a lot leased by his family since 1771 from St. Philip's Church. The facade was rebuilt after the 1886 earthquake. According to family tradition, the Johnson women sat on the roof and prayed for Grace Church's steeple not to fall. In 1890, the family purchased the lot from St. Philip's. From 1873-1934, it was the home of Dr. William Henry Johnson, who started the orthopedic school at the Medical College and brought the first X-ray to Charleston. Dr. Johnson exercised by throwing an anvil about the yard and invented a pressure cooker that fitted to the radiator of his automobile.

The property is now part of the College of Charleston's fraternity row.

### **112 Wentworth Street**

*Constructed before 1888*

This two-story, stuccoed brick building was built as a store. It is used as faculty offices for the College of Charleston.

### **114 Wentworth Street**

#### **Jonas Beard House**

*Constructed c. 1805; altered 1980s*

Jonas Beard purchased a 30-year lease on this glebe lot from St. Philip's Church, and built this two-and-a-half story wooden building. It was converted to a store during the Victorian period, and its second floor had been stuccoed over.

It was purchased the College of Charleston and restored in 1975 by preservation contractor Herbert A. DeCosta, in collaboration with Frances R. Edmunds, executive director of Historic Charleston Foundation. The college felt the building should be torn down and DeCosta agreed — at least at first. Then he took a closer look and restored it to something more akin to its original residential function.

"We thought the best thing was to take the stucco off, and it has just made all the difference in the world," DeCosta said in an interview before his death in 2008. "Of course, the people who don't remember that don't appreciate that, but every time I drive by and see that, I remember." Today it serves as faculty offices.

### **120 and 122 Wentworth Street**

#### **John Burckmeyer Houses**

*Constructed c. 1791-1800*

These two frame dwellings were built by John Burckmeyer, a butcher, after he purchased the property in 1791 and before his death about 1811. He is listed as living on this part of Wentworth Street in the city's 1796 directory. According to tradition, Burckmeyer lived at 122 Wentworth while 120 Wentworth was under construction. Both houses were built as two and a half stories of wood on high brick basements and retain late 18th century features. Both, however, have been remodeled and expanded more than once.

### **128 Wentworth Street**

#### **Henry Cobia House**

*Constructed c. 1840s*

Henry Cobia, an auctioneer and commission merchant on Vendue Range, built this two-story, stuccoed brick Italianate style house. The interior has carved white marble mantels and elaborate plasterwork and woodwork.

### **137 Wentworth Street**

#### **Alexander Black House**

*Constructed 1837-38*

Built speculatively by merchant Alexander Black, this two-story frame house was first occupied by Catherine Lopez, a "free woman of color," who