

Info for Guides of  
Historic Charleston  
(1984)

at a cost of \$5,500,000, including land and buildings. The main part of the auditorium seats more than 2,700 persons and the Exhibition Hall has 14,000 square feet and can accommodate 1,500 persons in banquet style. The building was designed so that separate events can be carried on simultaneously in the auditorium and hall.  
(Stockton, unpub. notes.)

85 Calhoun St. -- The Arch Building, so-called from the wide arched passage through the first floor, is believed to have been built c. 1800 and rebuilt in the 1850s. Tradition says it was built for the wagon trade, with a wagon yard behind it. The two and one-half story, stuccoed brick building was saved during the clearing of the auditorium site and restored by Historic Charleston Foundation, which leased it for use as the Visitor Information Center of the Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce.  
(Historic Charleston Foundation, unpub. notes. Jack Le-land, DYKYC, Oct. 21, 1983.)

110 Calhoun St. -- Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The original congregation of this church, consisting of free blacks and slaves, was organized in 1791 as the Free African Society, which built a church in the vicinity of Hanover and Amherst streets. The congregation joined in 1818 the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the name was changed to the Bethel Circuit. Morris Brown, a free black preacher, led the movement in Charleston to organize black Methodists into an independent organization. The Bethel Circuit, in 1818, had about 1,000 members. In 1822, after the alleged Denmark Vesey plot was discovered, the church was investigated because Vesey had been a founder. The church was burned as a result of the controversy. It was rebuilt and continued in operation until 1834, when a law closed all black churches. Morris Brown was found

innocent of any connection with the alleged plot, but he was pressured into leaving the state and went to Philadelphia. The congregation met in secret until 1865, when it was formally reorganized. The name, Bethel, was changed to Emanuel by the Rev. Richard Cain, a black minister from the North. A church was built in 1872 on the present site. It was damaged by the 1886 earthquake and was razed and replaced in 1891 by the present structure in the Gothic Revival style.

(Veal, DYKYC, July 17, 1950. Stockton, DYKYC, Jan. 26, 1981. Legerton, 52-53.)

115 Calhoun St. -- Otis Mills' Tenement, a two and one-half story wooden house in the Greek Revival style, was built after 1830. Mills, who built the original Mills House Hotel, acquired a large tract on the south side of Calhoun Street in 1830 and built a group of wooden tenements, of which 115 Calhoun is the sole survivor. In 1897-1904 it was the home, during his boyhood, of Ludwig Lewisohn, the noted novelist, editor and critic. The house is described in his novel, The Case of Mr. Crumbo, which was published in France, instead of the United States, in 1926 because of its explicit sex. Born in Berlin in 1882, Lewisohn immigrated to South Carolina in 1890 with his family. He was an honor graduate of the College of Charleston. He wrote or translated more than 80 books, edited New Palestine magazine, was associate editor of Nation magazine and a recognized drama critic. He died in 1955.

(Stockton, DYKYC,

121 Calhoun St. -- Edwin G. Harleston, a black rice planter and sea captain, entered the undertaking business in 1901 with his brother Robert, as Harleston Brothers. Originally on Meeting Street, the business subsequently was moved to this location. The present three story wooden build-

## CALHOUN STREET

Calhoun Street is named for South Carolinian John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), one of the nation's leading politicians during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and former vice president of the United States, serving under both John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson (under whom he resigned over political differences). He also served in the U.S. House and Senate, as secretary of war and as secretary of state. Although Calhoun died before the outbreak of the Civil War, he inspired secessionists. Calhoun supported states' rights and nullification, under which states could declare null and void federal laws which they deemed unconstitutional. He was an outspoken advocate of slavery, which he defended as a "positive good" rather than as a "necessary evil."

Originally the portion of this street east of its intersection with King Street was called Boundary Street because it marked the northern extent of the city after the Revolutionary War. The area above was known as Charleston Neck. The portion west of King Street was called Manigault Street for Peter Manigault, speaker of the house. The entire length of the street became Calhoun Street after the city limit was extended to Mount Pleasant Street in 1849.

### **47 Calhoun Street**

*Constructed or remodeled c. 1835*

This early 19th century building appears to have been built in the 1830s, however, it may be an 1830s' remodeling of an earlier building. If the former, it was probably built by Thomas Heath in 1835. If the latter, it was possibly built by Charles Cunningham, a King Street merchant, sometime after 1806. The two-and-a-half story frame house has interior woodwork typical of the 1830s.

## **77 Calhoun Street**

### **Gaillard Municipal Auditorium**

*Constructed 1966-68*

*Lucas and Stubbs, architects*

Charleston Municipal Auditorium, built by the City of Charleston, was dedicated in 1966. It was later renamed Gaillard Auditorium for former Mayor J. Palmer Gaillard. The building occupies

a 12-acre site between Alexander and Anson streets. As a result of construction, George Street was extended eastward from Anson to connect with East Bay Street at the point where Minority Street formerly intersected with East Bay.

The auditorium was designed by Charleston architects Lucas & Stubbs and built by McDivett & Street of Charlotte, N.C. The \$5,500,000 cost included land and buildings. The main part of the auditorium seats more than 2,700 persons and the Exhibition Hall has 14,000 square feet and can accommodate 1,500 persons in banquet style. The building was designed so that separate events could be carried on simultaneously in the auditorium and the hall.

Plans for the building's renovation and extension, using both private and public money, were unveiled in 2010.

## **85 Calhoun Street** **Arch Building**

*Constructed c. 1800; renovated c. 1850, 1967*

The Arch Building, so called because of the wide arched passage through the first floor, is believed to have been built c. 1800 and rebuilt in the 1850s. Tradition says it was built for the wagon trade and had a wagon yard behind before the development of the railroad. The building housed grocers, dry goods stores and taverns at various times. The two-and-a-half story stuccoed brick building was saved during the clearing of the auditorium site in the 1960s and was rehabbed by Historic Charleston Foundation. The foundation leased it for many years for use as the Visitor Information Center of the Charleston Trident Chamber of Commerce. The building now houses the city's Civic Design Center.

## **110 Calhoun Street**

### **Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church**

*Constructed 1891*

*Henry Zacharias, builder*

The original congregation of this church consisted of free blacks and slaves and was organized in 1791 as the Free African Society. They built their first church in the vicinity of Hanover and

Amherst streets. The congregation joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1818 and changed the name to the Bethel Circuit.

Morris Brown, a free black preacher, led a movement in Charleston to organize black Methodists into an independent organization. In 1818, the Bethel Circuit had about 1,000 members. In 1822, after the alleged Denmark Vesey slave insurrection plot was discovered, the church was investigated because Vesey had been a founder. The church was burned as a result of the controversy.

It was rebuilt and continued operating until 1834 when a new law resulted in the closing of all black churches. Morris Brown was found innocent of any connection with the alleged plot, but he was pressured into leaving the state and went to Philadelphia. The congregation met in secret until 1865, when it was formally reorganized.

The name Bethel was changed to Emanuel by the Rev. Richard Cain, a black minister from the North. A church building was constructed in 1872 on the present site. It was destroyed by the 1886 earthquake, was razed, and replaced in 1891. The present structure is in the Gothic Revival style and has been credited to builder Henry Zacharias. The exposed brick façade has since been stuccoed.

### **115 Calhoun Street**

#### **Otis Mills' Tenement**

*Constructed after 1830*

Otis Mills' Tenement is a two-and-a-half story wooden house in the Greek Revival style. Mills, who built the original Mills House Hotel, acquired a large tract on the south side of Calhoun Street in 1830 and built a group of wooden tenements, of which this is the sole survivor. From 1897-1904 it was the boyhood home of Ludwig Lewisohn, noted novelist, editor and critic. Born in Berlin in 1882, Lewisohn immigrated to South Carolina in 1890 with his family. An honor graduate of the College of Charleston, he wrote or translated more than 80 books, edited *New Palestine* magazine, was

associate editor of *Nation* magazine, and was a recognized drama critic. He died in 1955. The house is described in his 1926 novel, *The Case of Mr. Crump*, which was published in France rather than the United States because of its explicit sexual content.

### **121 Calhoun Street**

#### **Harleston-Boags Funeral Home**

*Constructed 1914*

Edwin G. Harleston, a black rice planter and sea captain, entered the undertaking business in 1901 with his brother Robert. Harleston Brothers was originally located on Meeting Street before moving to this location in 1914. The second floor contained a large hall for meetings, receptions and entertainments. A 150-person chapel was on the first floor.

Capt. Harleston's son, Edwin A. Harleston, was an accomplished portrait artist and a leader of Charleston's black community. He led efforts to establish the Charleston chapter of the NAACP in 1917. The chapter's meetings were held regularly at the funeral home and were attended by such visiting dignitaries as W.E.B. DuBois, James Weldon Johnson and Mary McLeod Bethune.

The business is still owned and managed by the Harleston family.

### **123 Calhoun Street**

#### **Site of Zion Presbyterian Church, now the Francis Marion Hotel**

The church that once stood here was designed by Edward C. Jones and built by contractor David Lopez in 1859. It was the largest brick church in Charleston, seating 2,500 people. Every door opened outward for easy exit in case of fire. It was described as a "barn-like structure" with twin high-arched porticoes. Jones became an elder in the church, which was largely devoted to mission work among blacks and had a predominantly black congregation. The property is now occupied by the Francis Marion Hotel, at 11 stories high one of the tallest properties in the historic district.