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YESTERDAY & TODAY

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Michael Trouche

HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION



Michael Trouche is a seventh-generation Charlestonian whose French ancestors immigrated to the city in the 18th century. As host of the acclaimed *Carolina Camera* television series for two decades, he won more than 40 journalism awards. Michael is author of *The Charm of Charleston*, and he is also a veteran local tour guide featured at www.charlestonfootprints.com.

Fact-checker **Michael Coker** served as a curator with the South Carolina Historical Society for nearly a decade. He is currently a tour guide and freelance writer whose works include *Charleston Curiosities—Stories of the Tragic, Heroic, and Bizarre* and the forthcoming title *The Battle of Port Royal, 1861*.

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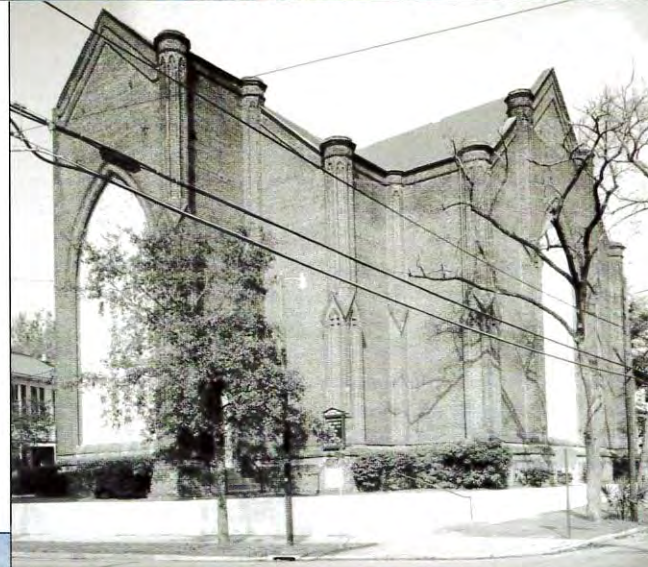
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A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES

Two famed Mazyckborough church buildings share legacies of lost congregations and finished structures that hide significant adjustments from the original designs.

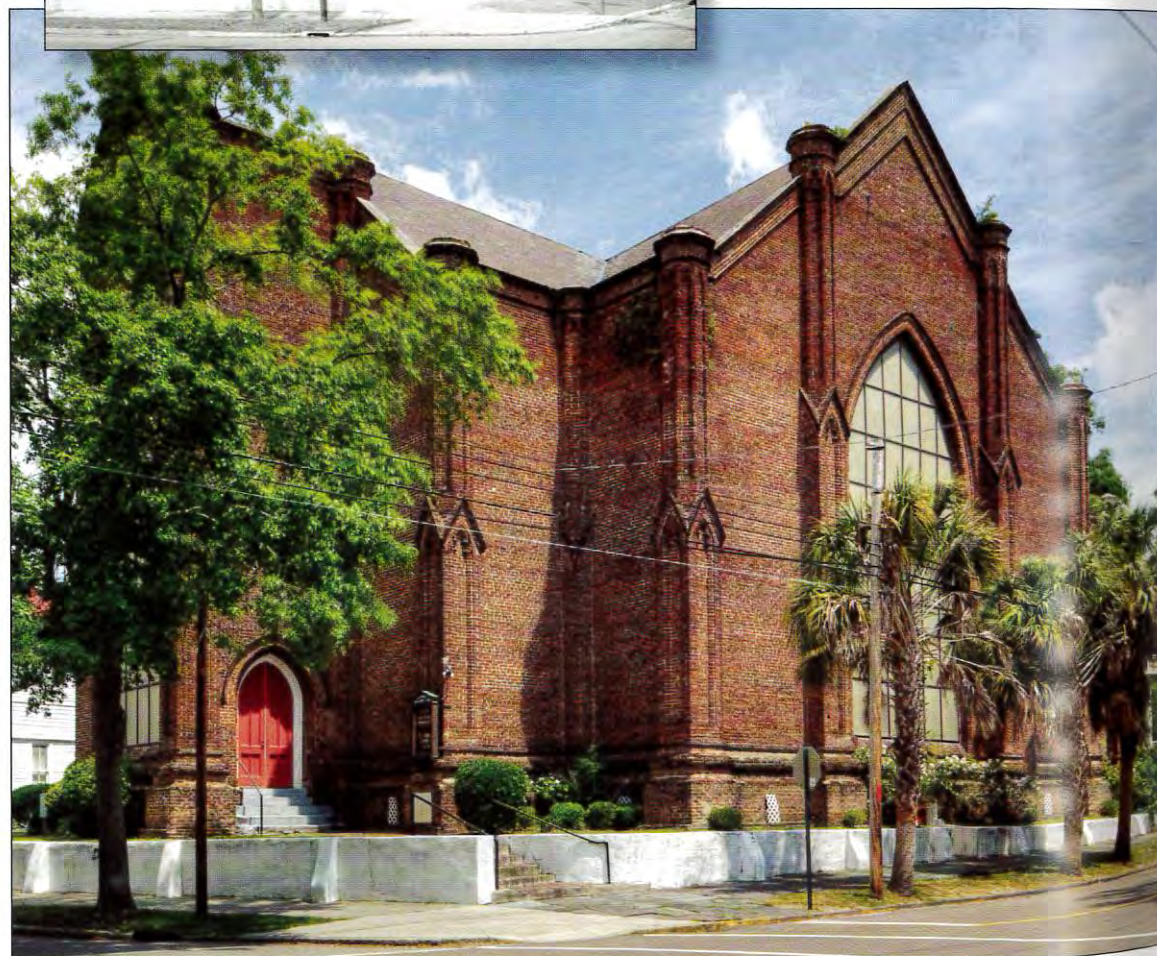
Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church traces its roots to 1817, when Charleston's first African American congregation was established in a Hampstead church. This church closed in 1834 after the threat of slave insurrection led to an ordinance stipulating that African American religious services be supervised. After the Civil War, the AME congregation was revived, and the wooden, two-story Emanuel Church was built on the present site in 1872. The 1886 earthquake destroyed that church, and in 1891, the current structure was erected with a brick facade and wooden steeple. White stucco was added in 1949, and after a hurricane toppled the spire 40 years later, it was replaced with a prefabricated steeple.

In 1950, the New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church was established in a building first opened during the Civil War. St. Luke's Episcopal Church was designed by noted Charleston architect Francis D. Lee in 1859, with plans for stucco over its brick walls and a 210-foot Gothic steeple. Unfinished when the Civil War began, the church plan was changed when money for stucco was donated to the Confederate cause. The steeple was scrapped for fear of providing a target for Union guns (which would nonetheless hit the building with shells). Membership at St. Luke's dwindled, and parishioners merged with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. In 1950, the church was sold to New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church—a congregation originally organized by ex-slave Reverend Daniel Jenkins. These changes could not solve an old problem, however, and in 2008, the financially strapped congregation leased the church for orchestral performances and offered it for sale.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Civil War altered the look of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, as its planned stucco and steeple never materialized.



New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church

Battles still rage over the future of this structure, which was put up for sale in 2008.



Emanuel AME Church

Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is known as "Mother Emanuel" by its parishioners.



Stewards of the Emanuel AME Church, pictured in 1916



The AME steeple features an inner core of steel.