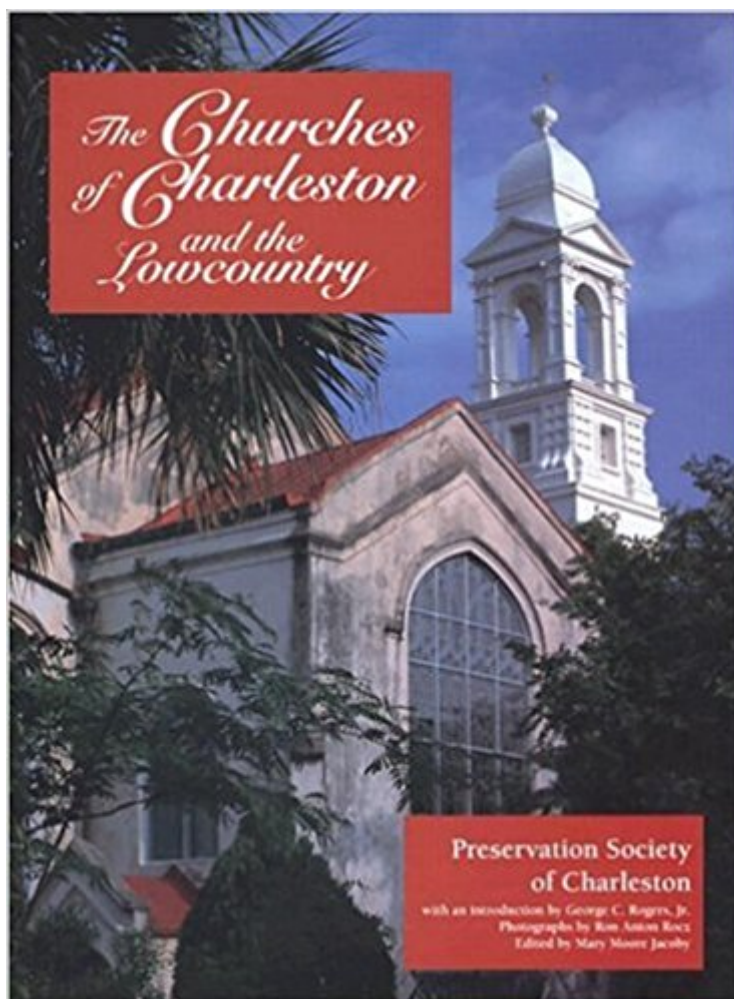




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# Churches Of Charleston And The Lowcountry



## Synopsis

Standing as a proud testament to Charleston's religious tolerance, churches and synagogues scattered throughout the historic port have defined Charleston's landscape since its founding. Built by Anglicans, Huguenots, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Quakers, Baptists, Lutherans, Jews, Catholics, African Methodist Episcopalians, and almost every other denomination found on American shores, Charleston's sacred structures comprise the finest collection of antebellum religious architecture in the country. In one grand photographic tour, *The Churches of Charleston and the Lowcountry* captures the drama, history, and architectural significance of the buildings that continue to draw architects, historians, architectural enthusiasts, and tourists to the city for study, reflection, and inspiration. From St. Michael's, a Charleston landmark, to such lesser known but equally impressive houses of worship as the Unitarian Church and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, the sixty structures spotlighted in this volume offer glimpses into the religious, social, and economic development of Charleston and into the architectural fashions of colonial, federal, and antebellum America. The Preservation Society of Charleston, America's oldest community-based preservation organization, documents the city's illustrious religious heritage through congregational histories, architectural descriptions, and stunning interior and exterior photographs. Palladian, neo-Gothic, Georgian, Federal, and neo-Romanesque churches tell the story of a city blessed not only with a variety of religious communities but also with an array of architectural styles. With its compelling blend of architectural, religious, and social history, *The Churches of Charleston and the Lowcountry* preserves a visual record of the structures that have earned Charleston's celebrated stature as the "Holy City."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A photographic tour of South Carolina's lowcountry antebellum religious architecture

Preservation Society of Charleston , founded in the 1920s, is the nation's premier community-based preservation organization. For more than seventy years, the Society has cultivated interest in the preservation of buildings, structures, and sites of historical and aesthetic significance throughout Charleston and the Lowcountry. The Society's previous publications include Charleston Houses and Gardens and Charleston Interiors.

I believe that in the United States, the most elegant, beautiful, gracious and historic city is Charleston, South Carolina. Religion has always played a prominent role throughout Charleston's history, and The Preservation Society of Charleston has compiled a beautiful coffee-table book entitled *The Churches of Charleston and the Low Country*. I have heard that there are more Episcopal Churches per square mile in Charleston than in any other U.S. city. While I'm not sure that this is true, it is evident that Charleston has a very large number of churches in various denominations. In fact, because of her abundance of churches and the many steeples that grace her skyline, Charleston has been nicknamed *The Holy City*. Charleston has a fascinating religious history. Although an English Colony with the Anglican Church being the official church, The Lord Proprietors enacted laws allowing for religious tolerance and the freedom to establish churches in other denominations. Charleston's early tolerance was a model for the rest of the colonies, and many groups including French Huguenots, Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Roman Catholics and even Jews settled here. Beth Elohim happens to be the oldest continuously operating synagogue in the nation. *The Churches of Charleston* gives a thumbnail sketch of the history of 63 churches and synagogues established prior to 1900. It also includes beautiful photographs of church interiors and exteriors. While many of the churches are in downtown Charleston, some are in the outlying low country including Edisto, Wadmalaw, Mt. Pleasant, Summerville, John's Island, Sullivan's Island, Rockville, and McClellanville. Some of the more prominent churches get several pages, while lesser-known buildings may get a page or less. For a prospective tourist or someone looking for a parish home in the Charleston area, this book is an excellent source for photographs and history. It is also a lovely book to own if you are interested in Charleston, or like reading about historic churches. If you want a real in-depth look at the history of

religion in Charleston or the specifics of a historic church (such as St. Michael's or St. Philip's), there are better sources to be found.

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