Inventory of the
St. Mark's Episcopal Church Records, 1862 - 2006

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Descriptive Summary

Title: St. Mark's Episcopal Church Records,

Dates: 1862 - 2006

Creator: St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.).

Abstract: St. Mark's Episcopal Church was organized as an independent parish in 1865 by a group of prominent black Episcopalians who were without a place to worship- since most of the white Episcopalian churches were evacuated in Charleston as a result of the city's occupation by Union Forces. The church's first service was held on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865. The congregation continued to grow and in 1870 a lot at the corner of Warren and Thomas Streets in historic Radcliffeboro was purchased for the erection of a permanent church building, which was designed by architect, Louis J. Barbot. The cornerstone of the building was laid on October 26, 1877, and the completed structure was consecrated on November 8, 1878. St. Mark's early membership included leaders and families from the community, business and professional persons, and skilled artisans who contributed to the building of the city.

The collection contains materials relating to the establishment, development and operation of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church; including administrative records such as a register of church services, meeting minutes and proceedings, and a Sunday school roll book; financial records that include account books, ledgers and treasurer reports; and items documenting church membership, such as parish registers. Also present in the collection are materials relating to the acquisition and maintenance of the church. The St. Mark's Episcopal Church Records date from 1862 - 2005, with bulk dates spanning the years 1965 - 1984.

Extent: 3.48 linear feet (10 archival boxes)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 1121

Language of Material: Material in English

Historical Note

St. Mark's Episcopal Church was organized as an independent parish in 1865 by a group of prominent black Episcopalians who were without a place to worship- since most of the white Episcopalian churches were evacuated in Charleston as a result of the city's occupation by Union Forces. The church's first service was held on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865. Immediately after the service an organizational meeting was held and the following were elected to manage the affairs of the congregation: S. L. Bennett, Chairman; J. N. Gregg. Secretary; R.E. DeReef, Treasurer; as well as B.K. Kinloch, J. Wheaton, R Holloway, S. O'Hear, J. B. Mushington, and Lydia Frost. Based on an Act of the Legislature passed in February of 1863, the Vestry and Wardens of St. Mark's applied for incorporation as a legal entity with the "Rights, Power and Privileges of a Congregation according to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this State." This charter was duly registered in Charleston on October 24, 1866. In 1870 a lot at the corner
of Warren and Thomas Streets in historic Radcliffeboro was purchased in the sum of about $5,000 for the erection of a permanent church building. The congregation accepted a temple form design by Louis J. Barbot, which had been used by seven other churches in Charleston. However, St. Mark’s may have been one of the last of that style built in America—and was the only one in the city of Charleston built of wood. The cornerstone of the building was laid on October 26, 1875, and the completed structure was consecrated on November 8, 1878. St. Mark’s was served by a number of eminent priests during its first years; not the least of whom was Rev. A. Toomer Porter, founder of the Porter Military Academy and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion in Charleston. By the end of the 19th century, St. Mark’s had the second highest membership and ranked fifth in its diocese for monetary contributions.

St. Mark’s early membership included leaders and families from the community; business and professional persons; and skilled artisans who contributed to the building of the city of Charleston. Other members have included the owner of one of the largest wholesale and retail seafood businesses in Charleston; photography studio owner, Walter N. Boags; Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr. (1923-2008), renowned African American architect and contractor; numerous educational leaders including a principal of Avery Institute, Florence A. Clyde; the first black faculty members of the College of Charleston and the Baptist College, such as Dr. Eugene C. Hunt; as well as officers and participants of organizations like the N.A.A.C.P.

Collection Overview

The collection contains materials relating to the establishment, development and operation of the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church; including administrative records such as a register of church services, meeting minutes and proceedings, and a Sunday school roll book; financial records that include account books, ledgers and treasurer reports; and items documenting church membership, such as parish registers. Also present in the collection are materials relating to the acquisition and maintenance of the church. The St. Mark’s Episcopal Church Records is 5.2 linear feet and consists of materials dating from 1862 - 2005, with bulk dates spanning the years 1965 - 1984.

Series 1. Institutional History, 1862-1988, undated is 0.21 linear feet and consists of materials related to the founding and history of the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. It includes legal documents, church histories and studies, architectural descriptions, literary productions, and photographic and printed material.

Series 2. Administrative, 1865-1991, undated is 0.8 linear feet and encompasses records pertaining to the development and operation of the St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. It includes vestry meeting minutes, notes and documentation of proceedings; registers of church services; a Sunday school officers and teachers roll; and literary productions and printed materials from the Diocese of South Carolina.

Series 3. Membership Records, 1864-2005, undated is 0.6 linear feet and consists principally of parish registers containing information on members of the church, i.e., their baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths, donations and attendance. Also present in the series is a typed remembrance of St. Mark’s (1902 to 1918) from Nell Houston Chisholm- the goddaughter of Alonzo McClennan, a noted African American physician from Charleston. Bound items and obituaries are also part of this series.

Series 4. Church Activities and Affiliations, 1903-2005, undated is 0.71 linear feet and comprised of general correspondence concerning church finances and leadership; printed materials from church anniversaries and celebrations, such as invitations, programs, souvenir journals and hymns. Also contained within the series are church bulletins and newsletters, as well as documents pertaining to the planning and implementation of St. Mark’s “Every Member Canvass” fundraiser in 1974.

Series 5. Legal and Financial Records, 1881-1989, undated is 0.64 linear feet. It includes cash and account books, ledgers, receipts and disbursements records, treasurer reports, church offering records, lists of contributors, correspondence from the church’s finance committee, plus investment reviews and meeting minutes. Also included in the series are insurance policy documents from the Church Insurance Company and Church Agency Corporation.
Series 6. Property Records, 1974-1986, undated is 0.4 linear feet and consists primarily of materials relating to building repairs for the exterior rehabilitation and stabilization of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The project was funded by the Fiscal Year 1983 Emergency Jobs Act Historic Preservation Grant and a Department of Interior Historic Preservation matching grant from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The series includes cost estimates for building repair and renovation; bids for repair work from local Charleston contractors; floor plan proposals; invoices, bills and receipts for work completed; copies of checks including one from renowned Charleston blacksmith, Phillip Simmons who assisted with repairs to St. Mark's fence and gate; and correspondence from Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr. of H.A. De Costa Company: General Contractors, who served as project director for St. Mark's renovations. Other items in the series include correspondence to St. Mark's Treasurer, Henry P. Hutchison concerning tax exemption claims for the church and property committee meeting minutes.

Series 7. Photographic Material, 1865-1990, undated is 0.02 linear feet. It includes cash and account books, ledgers, receipts and disbursements records, treasurer reports, church offering records, lists of contributors, correspondence from the church's finance committee, plus investment reviews and meeting minutes. Also included in the series are building fund pledges and insurance policy documents from the Church Insurance Company and Church Agency Corporation.

Series 8. Miscellaneous 1877-1977, undated is 0.1 linear feet and consists of printed material and literary productions relating to Charleston County, and the dedication and consecration of churches. Also part of this series is microfiche, ephemera and notes from educator and congregation member, Dr. Eugene C. Hunt, which mention St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Collection Arrangement

1. Institutional History, 1862-1988, undated
4. Church Activities and Affiliations, 1903-2005, undated
6. Property Records, 1974-1986, undated
7. Photographic Material, 1865-1990, undated
8. Miscellaneous, 1877-1977, undated

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

Related Material

Avery Photograph Collection, circa 1890s - 2008 (AMN 1112)
Craft and Crum Families, 1780 - 2007 (AMN 1102)
DeCosta Seabrooke Family Collection, 1879-1994 (1101)
H. A. DeCosta, Jr. Papers (AMN 1084)
Walter N. Boags Papers, 1945 - 1980s (AMN 1053)

Subject Headings

Architecture-Conservation and restoration-South Carolina-Charleston.
African American architects-South Carolina-Charleston.
African American churches-South Carolina-Charleston County.
African American Episcopalians-South Carolina-Charleston County.
African American families-History-Sources.
African American families-Religious life.
Charleston (S.C.)-Church history-Sources.
Charleston (S.C.)-Religious life and customs.
Church records and registers-South Carolina.
Contractors-South Carolina-Charleston.
DeCosta, Herbert A. (Herbert Alexander), 1923-2008
Episcopal Church-South Carolina-Charleston County-History.
Hunt, Eugene C.
H. A. DeCosta Company.
Historic buildings -Conservation and restoration-South Carolina-Charleston.
Historic preservation-South Carolina-Charleston.
Nonprofit organizations-South Carolina-Charleston.
Porter, Anthony Toomer, 1828-1902
Registers of births, etc. -South Carolina-Charleston County.
St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)
St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)-History.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)-Records and correspondence.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)-Registers.

South Carolina-Churches and religious affairs-Episcopal.

**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], St. Mark Episcopal Church Records, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Ardra Whitney, 12, 2012

Encoded by Ardra Whitney, 1, 2012

**Bibliography**


Sources consulted by Ardra Whitney
## Detailed Description of the Collection

### 1. Institutional History, 1862-1988, undated

This series contains documents pertaining to the creation, organization and history of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church. It includes an act of incorporation, constitution and canons, articles of association, church histories and studies, architectural descriptions, photographs of clergy and church leaders, news clippings, an autograph from the church's architect, Louis Barbot and photocopied pages from Rev. Anthony Toomer Porter's autobiography, *Led On!: Step by Step, Scenes from Clerical, Military, Educational, and Plantation Life in the South, 1828-1989*. Porter helped raise money for the establishment of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church in order to help his community recover following the aftermath of the Civil War.

| Box 1 Folder 1 | Act to Incorporate the Protestant Episcopal Congregations in South Carolina, 1862 |
| Box 1 Folder 2 | Constitution and Canons, 1891 |
| Box 1 Folder 3 | Articles of Association, 1954 |
| Box 1 Folder 4 | A Study of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina, [1965] |
| Box 1 Folder 6-7 | Magazine and Newspaper Clippings, 1969-1988, undated |
| Box 1 Folder 8 | Parish Histories, 1983, undated |
| Box 1 Folder 9 | An Architectural Description, 1983, undated |
| Box 1 Folder 10 | Essays, 1990, undated |
| Box 1 Folder 11 | Autograph of Louis Barbot, undated |
| Box 1 Folder 12 | Church Self-Study, undated |

### 2. Administrative, 1865-1991, undated

This series encompasses records documenting the governance structure and activities of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. It includes vestry meeting minutes, notes and proceedings; registers of church services; a Sunday school officers and teachers roll; and materials from the Diocese of South Carolina, such as an annual parochial report, articles and newsletters, and a wardens and vestrypersons conference schedule.

| Box 1 Folder 13 | Vestry Minutes Book, 1865-1870 |
| Box 1 Folder 14 | Vestry Meetings: Journal, 1871-1888 |
| Box 2 Folder 1 | Vestry Notes, 1900 |
| Box 2 Folder 2 | Vestry Business: Repairs to Church Building, 1903-1907, undated |
| Box 2 Folder 3 | Sunday School Officers and Teachers Roll, 1906-1939 |
| Box 2 Folder 4-5 | Vestry Proceedings, 1918-1920 |
| Box 2 Folder 6 | Vestry Minutes, 1919 |
**3. Membership Records, 1864-2005, undated**

This series consists predominantly of parish registers containing information on congregation members' baptisms, confirmations, marriages, deaths, attendance and offerings. Also included is church member, Nell Houston Chisholm's typed remembrances of St. Marks from 1902 to 1918. Chisholm was the goddaughter of Alonzo McClenann, a noted African American physician from Charleston. Sunday school and choir attendance roll books, as well as obituaries are also part of this series.

Box 3 Folder 6  Parish Register: Microfiche, 1864-1965
Box 10 Folder 1  Parish Register (Folio), 1866-1965
Box 3 Folder 7  Parish Register, 1878-1884
Box 3 Folder 8-9  Rector's Parish Register, 1891-2005
Box 7 Folder 1  Marriage Register, 1905-1965
Box 3 Folder 10  Marriage Register: Microfiche, 1905-1965
Box 3 Folder 11  Roll Book for St. Mark's Sunday School, 1941-1942
Box 3 Folder 12  Roll Book for Choir Attendance, 1962-1965
Box 3 Folder 13  Obituaries, 1988, undated
Box 3 Folder 14  List of 91 Men's Names, undated
Box 3 Folder 15  “Some of My Recollections of Dear Old St. Marks” by Nell Houston Chisholm, undated

**4. Church Activities and Affiliations, 1903-2005, undated**

This series constitutes general correspondence concerning church finances and leadership, as well as the installation of parts the church organ. It includes printed materials such as church bulletins and newsletters; invitations, programs and souvenir journals from church anniversaries and dedication celebrations; and documents pertaining to
the planning and implementation of the church's "Every Member Canvass" fundraiser. Materials from the Society for the Preservation of the Book of Common Prayer, St. Helena's Episcopal Church, Homebuilders Association of Greater Charleston, Boy Scouts of America, Gibbes Art Gallery, Charleston Opera Company and Kiwanis Club of Charleston and TV5 Auction are also contained within the series.

Box 9 Folder 12  Sunday School Bible, 1866
Box 3 Folder 16  General Correspondence, 1903-1938, undated
Box 3 Folder 17  Church Programs, 1939-1995, undated
Box 3 Folder 18-21  Anniversary of St. Mark's Episcopal Church: Historical Facts, Invitations, Programs and Souvenir Journals, 1941-2005
Box 4 Folder 1  Dedication of the Parish House of St. Mark's Episcopal Church: Photocopy of Souvenir Journal, 1949
Box 4 Folder 2  Boy Scouts of America Pack Charter, 1963
Box 4 Folder 3-7  Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina: Agendas, Budgets, Committee Arrangements, Correspondence, Information Sheets, Journals, Memoranda, Minutes of the Convention, Newsletters, Newspapers, Pamphlets, Registration Forms, Reports and Resolutions, 1965-1980
Box 4 Folder 8  Homebuilders Association of Greater Charleston: Agenda, By-Laws, Committee Report Forms, Contact Lists, Correspondence, Meeting Minutes and Program, 1973-1974, undated
Box 4 Folder 9-10 "Every Member Canvass", 1973-1979, undated
Box 4 Folder 11  St. Helena's Episcopal Church: Analysis and After-Action Report, 1974
Box 4 Folder 12  Society for the Preservation of the Book of Common Prayer, 1976, undated
Box 4 Folder 13  Church Bulletins and Newsletters, 1976-1980
Box 4 Folder 14  Charleston Opera Company Program Advertisement Orders, 1982
Box 4 Folder 15  Gibbes Art Gallery: Correspondence and Loan Agreement, 1984-1987
Box 4 Folder 16  Kiwanis Club of Charleston and TV5 Auction: Donor Forms, Flyers, Lists and Pamphlets, 1985-1986, undated
Box 4 Folder 17  Celebrating the Holy Eucharist: Directions, Hymns and Outline, 1990, undated


This series contains cash, account and ledger books, budgets, receipts and disbursements records, treasurer reports, record books documenting church offerings, lists of individual contributors and contribution amounts, correspondence from the church's finance committee-plus investment reviews and meeting minutes. It also includes insurance policy documents from the Church Insurance Company and Church Agency Corporation.

Box 4 Folder 18  Record of Monthly Receipts and Disbursements, 1881-1891
Box 5 Folder 1  Cash Books: Microfiche, 1906-1961
Box 5 Folder 2  Cash Books, 1906-1961
Box 5 Folder 3  Monthly Treasurer's Report, 1912-1925
6. Property Records, 1974-1986, undated

This series consists primarily of materials relating to building repairs for the exterior rehabilitation and stabilization of St. Mark's Episcopal Church- a project which was funded by the Fiscal Year 1983 Emergency Jobs Act Historic Preservation Grant and a Department of Interior Historic Preservation matching grant from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The series comprises bids for repair work from local Charleston contractors; as well as bills for work completed, contract change orders, cost estimates, invoices, reports and reimbursements. Correspondence from Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr. of H.A. DeCosta Company: General Contractors, who served as project director for St. Mark's renovations; a funding agreement between the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and St. Mark's Episcopal Church for the exterior stabilization and repairs to the church, as well as other materials related to the grant funded project are also included in the series. Other items include documents pertaining to a similar funding agreement between New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church and South Carolina Department of Archives and History to aid in repairs of the church's exterior, roof and gutters; a South Carolina inventory of historic places; materials produced by St. Mark's property committee, such as building repair and renovation cost estimates; as well as meeting minutes. In addition, the series contains correspondence and contracts for the sale of real estate; floor plan proposals; notes and financial material for renovations to the residence of Dr. Edward Parker at 128 Tradd Street; and a plat map of no. 173 Coming Street.
Box 6 Folder 12  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Invoices, 1983-1984
Box 6 Folder 13  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Agreements, 1983-1984, undated
Box 6 Folder 14  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Checks, 1984
Box 6 Folder 15  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Contract Change Orders, 1984
Box 6 Folder 16  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Correspondence, 1984
Box 6 Folder 17  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: The Herbert Company, Inc., 1984
Box 6 Folder 18  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Job Cost Variance Reports, 1984
Box 6 Folder 19  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Notes on Project Costs and Repairs, 1984
Box 6 Folder 20  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Reimbursements, 1984
Box 6 Folder 21  New Tabernacle Fourth Baptist Church Grant Funding, 1984
Box 6 Folder 22  Sale of Real Estate, 1984
Box 6 Folder 23  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Bids, 1984, undated
Box 6 Folder 24  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Notes on Project Costs and Repairs, 1984, undated
Box 9 Folder 1  South Carolina Inventory of Historic Places, 1986, undated
Box 9 Folder 2  Exterior Stabilization and Repairs: Estimates for Repairs, undated

7. Photographic Material, 1865-1990, undated

This series includes photographs and photocopied of images of St. Mark's clergy, such as the Rev. Edward N. Hollings with altar boys, George L. Lawrence and Fred Plumeau. A portrait of Louise Elizabeth Condol, Charleston native and benefactor of St. Mark's Episcopal Church is also part of the series.

Box 9 Folder 3  Photographs of Clergy, 1865-1990
Box 9 Folder 4  Condol, Louise Elizabeth, 1914-1998: Photograph, undated
Box 9 Folder 5  Photocopy of Photograph of George L. Lawrence, Rev. Edward N. Hollings and Fred Plumeau, undated

8. Miscellaneous, 1877-1977, undated

This series includes a Charleston City Directory from the late 19th century; a record book belonging to J.A. Carroll; and a report on the growth trends in Charleston County from the Charleston County Planning Board. Additionally contained within the series are items such as, microfiche, Christmas cards, photocopied pages from a book on the dedication and consecration of churches; notes from educator and congregation member, Dr. Eugene C. Hunt, which mention St. Mark's Episcopal Church; and essays on the early history of St. Mark's, as well as Charleston aristocrats Edward McCrady and his son Edward McCrady Jr.'s opposition to black representation in the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.

Box 9 Folder 6  Charleston City Directory, 1877-1887
Box 9 Folder 7  J.A. Carroll Record Book, [1945]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Growth Trends in Charleston County: A Report of the Charleston County Planning Board, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Greeting Cards, 1988, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Microfiche, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>