

St. Mary's R. C. Church
Charleston, Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-48

HABS
SC
10-CHAR,
97-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of South Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey
Prepared at Survey Headquarters for
Samuel Lapham, Jr., District Officer
42 Broad Street, Charleston, South Carolina

1135 10/1/50

Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church
 Charleston
 Charleston County
 South Carolina

HABS
 SC
 10-CHAR
 97

Historical Data:

Saint Mary's congregation was organized in 1794, and in 1798 bought a frame building from a Protestant congregation. In 1836, this was burned and on the site, the present fine brick edifice was erected and completed in 1838.

In the late 1890's, the interior was improved. Memorial stained-glass windows were emplaced.

Bishop John M. England who came to Charleston in 1820 (finding two Catholic churches occupied and two priests on duty) wrote: "The cemetery of this Church which is now in the center of this city affords in the inscriptions of its monuments, the evidence of the Catholicity of those whose ashes it contains. You may find the American and the European side by side." According to David Ramsay "prior to the American Revolution in 1776, there were very few Roman Catholics in Charleston, and they had no ministry, but of all other countries, none has furnished the Province with so many inhabitants as Ireland."

Saint Mary's Church was the first Roman Catholic Church in Carolina. The site has been in occupation since 1789.

Bibliography:

Lesesne, Thomas Petigru - Landmarks of
 Charleston

L. England

TW 6/27/41

Addendum to:

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
89 Hasell Street
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-48

HABS
SC,
10-CHAR,
97-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

ADDENDUM TO
ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
89 Hassell Street
Charleston
Charleston County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-48

HABS
SC
10-CHAR,
97-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1845 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240