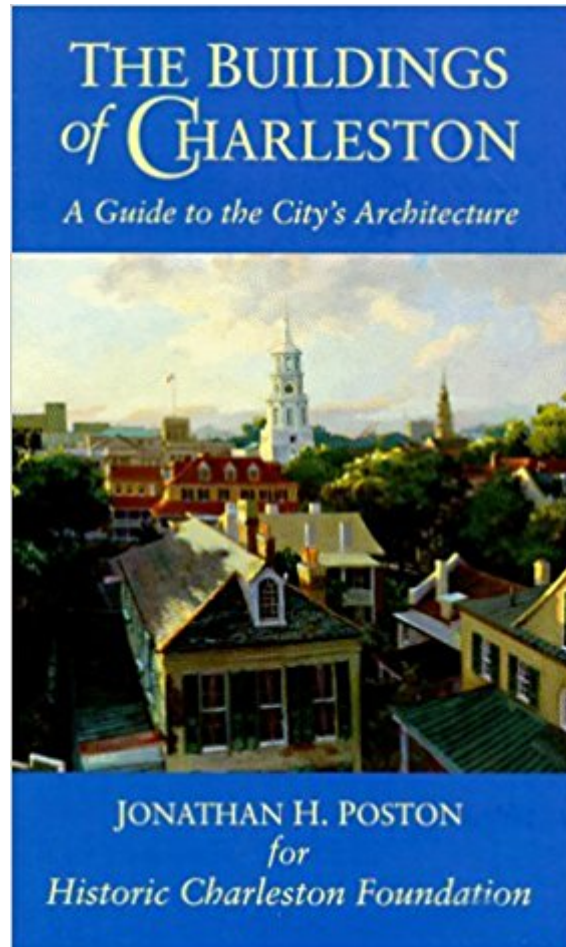




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The Buildings Of Charleston: A Guide To The City's Architecture



Synopsis

Offering the present-day traveller a portable, street-by-street guide to the town of Charleston, this illustrated book focuses primarily on the architecture of this preserved cityscape. The guide divides the city into nine geographic areas, with an introductory essay, maps, and illustrations.

Book Information

Hardcover: 717 pages

Publisher: University of South Carolina Press; 1st edition (December 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570032025

ISBN-13: 978-1570032028

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.8 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #909,910 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Travel > United States > South Carolina > Charleston](#) #1057 in [Books > Travel > United States > South > South Atlantic](#) #1199 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Residential](#)

Customer Reviews

A beautiful book of the architecture of one of my favorite cities--Charleston, SC. Charleston has so many historic buildings and this book illustrates the different architecture of this very old North American city. Lovely. You will enjoy looking at the pictures and reading about the styles and construction.

The Buildings of Charleston is a terrific resource for anyone seriously interested in the history and architecture of Charleston. I have used the information to put together my own walking tours when I visit the city.

Book received as described, on time, and in excellent condition. Book gives the ownership history of property in the city of Charleston.

As a local tour guide and author myself, I use this book as my #1 resource. A plethora of information given in a manageable and organized format.

Perfect just what I was looking for

Great item. No issues whatsoever.

Probably one of the most complete book of Charleston Architecture written. Interesting reading for those who have a passion for the structures of the South.

I am a committed amateur architectural historian, and I bought this book immediately upon its publication. It's a fine book, and an exhaustive, encyclopedic effort. This is as close to a complete modern survey of Charleston buildings you will find, but there are some things potential readers should know: First, the book is really limited to Charleston city. Don't come here looking for excursions to local plantations, churches and gardens. The buildings are all located within the city limit, and mostly south of Marion Square. Since this book's publication in 1997, further restoration and gentrification have occurred in the important antebellum suburbs of Harleston and Wraggborough. Cannonborough and Elliotborough, long considered no man's land, are quickly being restored and need to be cataloged. Second, inexplicably, Jon has excluded a section of Tradd Street (the important 60 block) that includes some of the most important surviving structures of the "Grand Modell." The magnificent 1731 Jacob Motte House, at 61 Tradd Street, is absent from the survey! What happened here? Third, dating of structures is still very much a subjective practice, since a definitive and universal standard has not been published or accepted. The tendency to post-date is a trend found in most of architectural history: Buildings are rarely found to be older than popular knowledge, but only newer. Some revisions can be properly attributed to dendrochronology, but in the case of this book, more often than not, it is the intuition of the author and his rejection of popular knowledge. Fires are assumed to have destroyed everything (they didn't), and architectural historians are too ready to dismiss public perception and common secondary sources, particular when that perception comes from oral history rather than the [often incomplete] written record. There are many date revisions from Stoney's "This is Charleston." Other dates included in this book conflict with the Preservation Society's historic markers, mounted directly on the houses. Jon is a member of the Historic Charleston Foundation. Some of this may seem like I'm being overly critical, but Charleston is such an enormously important ensemble of buildings that careful consideration is absolutely urgent. There are larger historic districts, but there are few as studied and beloved as Charleston. This is a good book. It's a relatively complete survey of the historic districts, printed in a familiar AIA-style format that includes good descriptive statements and small monochrome

photographs. The only book to approach it in breadth is Margaret Moore's surprisingly good COMPLETE CHARLESTON (2005), but that book is more of a travel guide than a reference book. Remember, as quickly as restoration occurs in Charleston, this book is getting a bit on the side of old. A new edition would be a real treat, and will eventually become a necessity.

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