



QUICK FACT FRIDAY



Christ Church Mount Pleasant

The Church Act of 1706 created Christ Church Parish. The first church, a small wooden structure built in 1708, was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1725. The present church on Highway 17 was finished in 1727. Again in 1782 the Church building was burned by retreating British troops and then was rebuilt six years later. During the Civil War, it was destroyed yet again to the point of only four blackened walls remained at the end of the war. The building was used as a stable and the pews were burned during the winter of 1865 by The Union Army's 21st Massachusetts Colored Regiment who bivouacked on the church grounds. Currently on display at the Charleston Museum are the Church's silver chalice (1680), paten (1763), flagon, and other communion vessels. They were all hidden and preserved during the years of war and occupation. The brick Vestry House, built in 1751 was restored in 1939 and again refurbished after Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Also on the 26-acre property dating back to the mid 1700's is the Cemetery. A Confederate earthwork zigzags across the property as well and was constructed in 1862 by field hands from neighboring plantations. It was part of the picket line that guarded Charleston from Boone Hall to the coastal marshes. A new sanctuary was constructed and dedicated in early 1996 as well as other buildings to meet the needs of its growing congregation.



St. Andrew's Church

Reverend Andrew Fowler was elected rector of Christ Church in 1828. He bought a village home on Whilden Street where he held services for 40 people from June to Advent to avoid the malaria-plagued sickly season. Services were held at Christ Church during the rest of the year. In 1833, the congregation proposed to build a village chapel for summer services. Governed by Christ Church, St. Andrew's Chapel was consecrated on September 29, 1835. By 1855, the growing congregation needed a larger church. A new Whilden Street lot was purchased for \$250. James M. Curtis built the church, designed by distinguished Charleston architect Edward Brickell White. The cornerstone was laid on May 20, 1857, and the church was consecrated one year later. The old building was sold for \$500 to the Etiwan Masonic Lodge No. 95. Over the next 130 years, St. Andrew's overcame many trials. During the Civil War, when Union shelling drove most residents to the Upstate, the chapel was closed from October 1863 until February 1866 when it re-opened as the only place for public worship. The building withstood destructive hurricanes in 1885, 1893, and 1989, and the earthquake in 1886. Earthquake bolts were added to stabilize the church. The congregation grew steadily in the next century as ferries and the Cooper River Bridge opened in 1929 connected Mount Pleasant to Charleston. St. Andrew's Chapel gained independence from Christ Church in 1954. The Ministry Center designed to match the historic chapel was completed in 1996.

See also: Historical Markers (Markers #28 and 59) in the *Our History* Section of the Town website and search for [Christ Church](#) and [St. Andrew's Church](#) on mountpleasanthistorical.org.

Image credits: Town of Mount Pleasant.



The Town of Mount Pleasant Historical Commission releases Quick Fact Fridays about the history of Mount Pleasant and about the Commission, its programs and activities. Historical facts are drawn largely from the *Our History* section of the Town's website. Follow the link below to discover what makes Mount Pleasant such a distinctive historical place! To receive Quick Fact Friday messages and other Town notifications, sign up for *Notify Me* alerts [here](#).

Our History

STAY CONNECTED:

