


ST. THADDEUS OF AIKEN


A CHURCH AND ITS CITY

HARBER ADDISON McCLEAREN

&

SILAS OWEN SHEETZ



THE REPRINT COMPANY, PUBLISHERS
SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA
1994

BX5980
A24
M37
1994

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4-18-95



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An original publication, 1994
The Reprint Company, Publishers
Spartanburg, South Carolina, 29304

ISBN 0-87152-481-3
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 94-7187
Manufactured in the United States of America



The paper used in this publication meets the requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

Color paintings of St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church used:
as frontispiece courtesy of Mrs. G.L. (Mary) Toole;
on page 187 courtesy of Mrs. J.L.E. (Bobbie) Cheatham.
Artwork used on endpapers courtesy of Ms. Nancy Wilds.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

McClearn, Harber Addison.

St. Thaddeus of Aiken : a church and its city / Harber Addison
McClearn & Silas Owen Sheetz.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p. 261-264) and index.

ISBN 0-87152-481-3 (alk. paper)

I. Saint Thaddeus Episcopal Church (Aiken, S.C.) 2. Aiken (S.C.)—
Church history. 3. Aiken (S.C.)—History. I. Sheetz, Silas Owen.
II. Title.

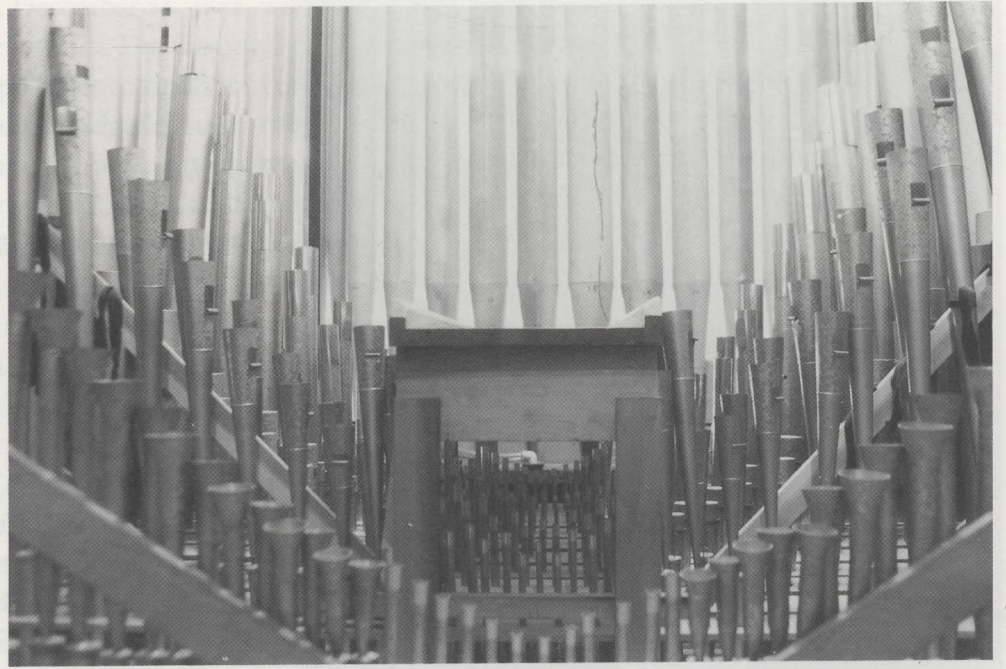
BX5980.A24M37 1994

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94-7187

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Estey Organ

Pipes (1,331 in all) of the organ which was installed in 1956

which was installed by the Estey Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont. The *Aiken Standard and Review* described it as an organ with “a swell, great, and pedal section including 1331 different pipes of varying sizes.” It is interesting to enter the organ chamber and see such an array of pipes ranging from a fraction of an inch in length to sixteen feet. In some exceptional cases a pipe may be thirty-two or even sixty-four feet long. They may be enclosed in a separate chamber or exposed to view. In St. Thaddeus the pipes that are exposed to view are for decoration and do not produce any sound.

After many years Mrs. Dickerson gave up her position as full-time organist and choir director for both youth choirs as well as the adult choir. On September 9, 1962, she committed to devote her time to the continued development of the children’s choirs and the music of the 9:15 A.M. family service.

At this time Mr. James Coombs, who had served as substitute organist and organist for evening prayer, assumed the duties of organist for the 11:00 A.M. service. Mrs. Joseph (Rosa) Harris was employed as director of the adult choir.

From an insert in a bulletin in October of 1964 we find that “a carillon consisting of twenty-three bells, to be manually operated from the carillon console in the upstairs vestibule of the church, was installed last week culminating several years of thorough study and negotiation.” The carillon was given to the church through the will of the late Mrs. Mattie C. Hall, and was installed by the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, at a cost of ten thousand dollars—the amount specified in the will. The largest bell is inscribed “To the Glory of God in loving memory of Marguerite Eulalie Chafee by her daughter, Mattie Chafee Hall.” Cast in Holland by Petit-

Fritsen Bellfoundry, the bells range from the Key of C to C chromatic and are in the bell chamber of the steeple beside the large 734-pound bell in the key of D, installed September 6, 1853. It is interesting to note that A. Meneely & Sons, West Troy, New York, suppliers of the old bell, have gone out of business and their records were purchased by the Verdin Company. Mr. Robert McKellar, chairman of the music committee for the vestry, made arrangements for the dedication concert of the carillon, which was scheduled for December 6, 1964.

At choir rehearsal one evening, when the carillon had been installed and while the ladders were still in place for the finishing touches to be completed, the choir decided to venture up the ladders into the bell tower—a rather dizzying climb, but well worth the risk to see the beauty of the bells in place beside the enormous old bell that had called people to worship since 1853.

In church music we often present pageants, folk masses, oratorios, and musical requiems. However, unlike earlier times, we seldom present dramas. At one time the chancel drama enjoyed

a rather prominent place in churches. In 1963 the Lenten emphasis was on the ancient



Adult Choir

and modern dramatic techniques of presenting the gospels. With the cooperation of

some members of the choir and many other parishioners, a two-part chancel drama was presented. *The Procurator of Judea* was written and adapted for the St. Thaddeus Players by Joseph Harris. Under the able direction of Parker Deans it was acclaimed a highlight of the Lenten season. Another excursion into drama was a filmed presentation of the Passion Play of Oberammergau.

In 1966 Mrs. Harris and Mr. Coombs resigned as choir director and organist, and Mr. Richard Lindell, who was director of music for Williston-Elko High School, joined the music staff as organist and choir director of the adult choir at the 11:00 A.M. service. Mrs. Henry Dickerson continued as organist for the family service and director of the junior and youth choirs for several more years before retiring.

Jack McCraney, who had served as substitute organist on many occasions, succeeded Mr. Coombs as organist for the 6:30 P.M. service of Evening Prayer, which was led by the youth of the church.

Mr. McCraney has provided the following information concerning the organ, purchased in 1919, which was mentioned earlier: