The following is a list of books, other printed materials, and websites that may be useful sources of information for researching Charleston’s architecture, historic buildings, and landmarks.

**Books & Other Publications:**


- Brenner, Betty and Francis J. *The Old Codgers’ Charleston Address Book, 1990-1999* (Charleston, SC: Old Codgers, 2000). Information from City Directories about the residents/occupants by street address; goes up through K.

- Burton, Milby. *Units of Charleston a/k/a Charleston Streets* (S.l.: S.n.). Manuscript that explores the origins of street names and the various names they have had over time.


- Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyance. *Index to Deeds of the Province and State of South Carolina*

- Charleston Historic Preservation Plans

- City of Charleston tour guide training manuals: *Information for Guides of Historic Charleston* (1975, 1984) and *The City of Charleston Tour Guide Training Manual* (2011). Brief house/building histories from a number of sources, by street address. Also contains information on the founding and history of Charleston; how the city grew; boroughs; parks, historic colleges, and harbor forts; African-American Charlestonians; botanical guide notes; Charleston architecture; historic preservation in Charleston; protective covenants and easements; and markers.


• Earthquake Information, including *Report of Committee on Condition of Buildings After the Earthquake, with a List of Buildings that Should Come Down*” (a house-by-house assessment of damage from the 1886 Earthquake). Original at SC Historical Society; copies at Historic Charleston Foundation Archives and the South Carolina Room. (See also Websites, below.)


• Hart, Emma. *Building Charleston: Town and Society in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic World* (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2010). Challenges the popular image of the pre-revolutionary south as a society completely shaped by staple agriculture and places Charleston at the heart of a transatlantic process of urban development.


• Holcomb, Brent H. *South Carolina Deed Abstracts* (a continuation of the abstracts prepared under Clara A. Langley)

• Langley, Clara A. South Carolina Abstracts, 1719-1772


• Lincoln, F.S. *Charleston: Photographic Studies* (New York: Corinthian Publications, 1946). Black and white photographs of both the exteriors and interiors of many of the old buildings in Charleston and the vicinity. Also includes photos of various gardens, plantations, and other sites.


• *Post & Courier (News & Courier).* “Do You Know Your Charleston” articles. For many years, this was a regular feature that focused on a particular house, building, or street, and provided historical information and often a photograph. Back issues of the newspaper are on microfilm available at the Charleston County Public Library and College of Charleston Library. Also, photocopies of articles may be filed in the building/property files that are maintained at many local repositories.


• Ravenel, Beatrice St. Julien. *Architects of Charleston* (Charleston, S.C.: Carolina Art Association, 1964). Much has been written about the architecture of Charleston but the architects who brought it about have been largely neglected. This book commemorates those architects.

• Severens, Kenneth. *Charleston: Antebellum Architecture and Civic Destiny* (Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 1988). Introduction to Charleston's architectural legacy and what its public and civic architecture reveals about political, social, and economic conditions.


• South Carolina Historical Society. South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine. Index and bound versions available at SC Historical Society and SC Room at Charleston County Public Library.

• Steele, John Carson Hay. Charleston Then and Now: Contemporary Photographs by Robert Pinckney Rhett (1990s), James Moore Rhett III (1970s) (Orangeburg, S.C.: Sandlapper Press, 1996). Photographic record of the changes (or lack of change) which have occurred at 60 points of interest in Charleston between the 1890s and the 1990s.


Remember: Not every printed publication is available online!

There are many other books available at area libraries, many of which would likely be available via interlibrary loan if you do not live in Charleston.

To find others, try searching on the following subjects:

Architecture--Conservation and restoration--South Carolina--Charleston
Charleston (S.C.)--Buildings, structures, etc.
Historic buildings--South Carolina--Charleston
Historic buildings--Conservation and restoration--South Carolina--Charleston
Dwellings--South Carolina--Charleston
Vernacular architecture--South Carolina--Charleston
Historic sites--South Carolina--Charleston
When you do find informative books, be sure to check their bibliographies for additional resources.

Other archives and library resources include:

- **Building/property files.** Organized by street address, they may contain a variety of sources including SC Architectural Inventory documentation and newspaper articles, photographs, and deed research. Available at various locations including Historic Charleston Foundations Archives, the SC Room at the Charleston County Public Library, and the SC Historical Society.

- **Booklets, Guidebooks, Pamphlets:** Many libraries and archives have smaller publications such as tourist guidebooks and souvenir booklets in their collections. These smaller publications may contain descriptions and photographs of Charleston buildings and landmarks.

- **Archaeological Reports:** Archaeological investigations of many of the most significant buildings and sites in Charleston have been conducted. These reports may be found in area libraries and other institutions, and can usually be found in a library catalog through a search of the name of the building (or plantation) or by searching on the following subjects:

  - Charleston (S.C.)–Antiquities
  - Excavations (Archaeology)–South Carolina – Charleston

**Internet Resources:**

Some of these are local websites and searching for information will be straightforward. For resources with a national scope, you will need to phrase your search terms to include the geographic location Charleston, South Carolina (or Charleston County, South Carolina).

Bodley, [http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/): Internet library of 18th and 19th century journals.

Charleston County, [www.charlestoncounty.org/](http://www.charlestoncounty.org/): See Online Services for access to maps, plats, deeds, mortgages, property records, and probate records.

Charleston County Public Library, [www.ccpl.org](http://www.ccpl.org)

  - **Sanborn Maps:** Click on Resources / Research Tools / History & Geography / Digital Sanborn Maps. Home Access will enable you to access the maps remotely (note that you must have a library card for remote access).

  - **The South Carolina Room and The Charleston Archive:** Click on Services / SC History & Genealogy, then click on The Charleston Archive for their various collections. See also [http://www.charlestonarchive.org](http://www.charlestonarchive.org) for various research pathfinders and [https://charlestontimemachine.org/](https://charlestontimemachine.org/) for historian Nic Butler’s research and lectures.


Clemson University Libraries, [http://www.clemson.edu/library/](http://www.clemson.edu/library/): Harper’s Weekly; craftsmen database, MESDA, some historic newspapers (e.g., NY Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal), 19th century masterfile, Oxford English Dictionary, Sanborn maps. (Many of these require a student I.D. and password.)

College of Charleston Library, [http://library.cofc.edu](http://library.cofc.edu): Academic databases (e.g., JSTOR), Early American Newspapers and Imprints, etc. (Many of these require a student I.D. and password.)


Library of Congress Digital Collections, [https://www.loc.gov/collections/](https://www.loc.gov/collections/): A gateway to the Library of Congress’s digitized historical American resources, e.g., Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Cities & Towns, Maps (general, panoramic, Sanborn, etc.), Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), and numerous prints and photograph collections.


Mormons Family Search, [https://familysearch.org/](https://familysearch.org/).


*National Register Sites in SC, [http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/charleston/nrcharleston.htm](http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/charleston/nrcharleston.htm).*


*National Historic Landmarks Program, [www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/).* Nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior for their exceptional value or quality in illustrating and interpreting the heritage of the U.S.

*HABS, HALS, HAER, [www.nps.gov/history/hdp/](http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/).*


South Carolina Dept of Archives and History, [http://scdah.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://scdah.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx):

*Online Archives*, [http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/search.aspx](http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/search.aspx). Search various collections like the McCrady plats (Series L10005), courts of equity, etc.

*State Historic Preservation Office*, [http://shpo.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://shpo.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx). Inks to several SHPO programs and services and to other preservation-related sites. Of note, *Survey of Historic Properties* which gives access to survey documentation of over 60,000 historic buildings, structures, sites, etc.


University of South Carolina Libraries

*South Caroliniana Library* (special collections), [http://library.sc.edu/socar/index.html](http://library.sc.edu/socar/index.html)

*Digital Sanborn Maps*, [http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/sanborn.html](http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/sanborn.html)

*Visual Materials*, [http://library.sc.edu/socar/visual.html](http://library.sc.edu/socar/visual.html). Search for photos, architectural drawings, blueprints, etc.


Journal Databases: There is a variety of online research/journal databases that are available through public, and college libraries, e.g., JSTOR, Harper’s Weekly, MESDA, 19th Century Masterfile, historical newspapers, and many more. If your library’s catalog organizes the database by major/minor or by subject, look for databases for Architecture and/or Historic Preservation. JSTOR and the Bibliographic Database of the Conservation Information Network (BCIN) are particularly useful.

Maps

In addition to the map resources that can be found in the above research websites, other online sites for maps include:

City of Charleston GIS


Halsey Map Project, Preservation Society Website, [www.halseymap.com/Flash/map.asp](http://www.halseymap.com/Flash/map.asp)


Univ. of Georgia Hargrett Library, [http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/colamer.html](http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/colamer.html)
Univ. of Texas Castenada Map Collection, [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/south_carolina.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/south_carolina.html)


SCIWay, [http://www.sciway.net/hist/maps/mapscharleston.html](http://www.sciway.net/hist/maps/mapscharleston.html). SC Information Highway map collection (good maps but most are unattributed).


Other

Statutes at Large for SC, Google Books
[http://books.google.com/books?id=_EYUAAAYAAJ&pg=PA248&lpg=PA248&dq=south+carolina+statutes+at+large+1704&source=bl&ots=1pORRZgzi2&sig=A93e-TPqhEDlpLGfSgaOR4vYu-w&hl=en&sa=X&ei=cBrWT86uBoeg8QTR_O3UAw&ved=0CGAQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=_EYUAAAYAAJ&pg=PA248&lpg=PA248&dq=south+carolina+statutes+at+large+1704&source=bl&ots=1pORRZgzi2&sig=A93e-TPqhEDlpLGfSgaOR4vYu-w&hl=en&sa=X&ei=cBrWT86uBoeg8QTR_O3UAw&ved=0CGAQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Archive.org, 1861 City of Charleston Census,
[http://archive.org/stream/censuseofcityofch00char#page/n5/mode/2up](http://archive.org/stream/censuseofcityofch00char#page/n5/mode/2up)