



Morris Frederick Bell Architectural Drawings (C3632)

Collection Number: C3632

Collection Title: Morris Frederick Bell Architectural Drawings

Dates: 1883-1895

Creator: Bell, Morris Frederick, 1849-1929

Abstract: Elevations, plans, and details for the buildings of the University of Missouri Francis Quadrangle, the Missouri Industrial Home for Girls at Chillicothe, churches, private and public schools, and domestic architecture in Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic feet, 201 oversize items
(1 box)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Morris Frederick Bell Architectural Drawings* (C3632); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Fred Bruce Montgomery, Helen M. Beckley, and Helen Foster on January 18, 1971 (Accession No. CA3867).

Processed by: Processed by Kathleen McIntyre on June 23, 1981. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on September 16, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Architect Morris Frederick Bell was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, on August 18, 1849. Although little information is available relative to his architectural training, it is known that he

attended Duff's Mercantile College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, prior to moving to Missouri in May 1869. In 1871 he moved to Fulton, Missouri, where he married Maria Dreps in 1873. The Bells had two daughters, Katheryn and Beulah Beatrice.

In 1881, Bell was admitted to the American Institute of Architects, and by 1891 he was state architect of Missouri. As an architect he produced many monuments for state institutions: the Francis Quadrangle at the University of Missouri; the School for the Deaf and Dumb at Fulton; hospitals at Nevada, Fulton, and Higginsville; and correctional schools at Tipton, Boonville, and Chillicothe. He also drew plans for private schools such as Stephens College and Gallatin Baptist College and Central Female College at Lexington; public high schools at Centralia at Fulton; commercial structures; and domestic architecture.

In addition to his work as an architect, Bell assumed an active role in Fulton civic affairs and politics. He was councilman, president of the Fulton Commercial Club, a Rotarian, and general manager of the telephone company which he established in Fulton in 1882. Fulton had the first telephone service in Missouri outside of St. Louis and Kansas City.

Bell was a Democrat. He was appointed paymaster general of the state militia in 1893 and became adjutant general in 1897. There he revamped office procedures, redesigned buildings, and instituted various changes in the training of the militia. He was also assistant to the sergeant-at-arms at the 1908 Democratic National Convention.

Historical Note:

The first Academic Hall at the University of Missouri was designed by H.S. Hills and built in 1840. In 1883 the Missouri General Assembly appropriated monies for its enlargement and improvement. Morris Frederick Bell and H.W. Kirchner were commissioned to design plans for its alteration and additions. In January of 1892 fire destroyed old Academic Hall. Bell was then commissioned to design a new main building for the university as well as several other buildings. These, grouped around a quadrangle, included a Museum Building (also called a Biological and Geological Building), a Chemistry Building, a Law Building, an Engineering Building, a Manual Training Building, and a Boiler House.

In 1921 the quadrangle was named the Francis Quadrangle in honor of David R. Francis, former governor of Missouri. Locally it is also known as the "Red Campus," due to its red brick construction.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following four series:

- Aperture Cards
- University of Missouri Quadrangle
- Other Buildings
- Miscellaneous Drawings

Scope and Content Note:

The **Aperture Cards** series contains aperture cards for the oversize architectural drawings and the drawings are identified by their aperture card number.

The **University of Missouri Quadrangle** series makes up the bulk of the collection, and consists primarily of architectural drawings of the buildings of the University of Missouri Francis Quadrangle and of Academic Hall in particular. The Academic Hall drawings include an 1883 plan for additions and alterations to the then existing 1840 main campus building. Bell's plans for new Academic Hall (now Jesse Hall), built after the 1892 fire which destroyed old Academic Hall, exist as well.

The **Other Buildings** series includes drawings for dormitories, colleges, schools, hospitals, commercial buildings, and churches. Included are drawings for residential and school buildings at the Missouri Industrial Home for Girls in Chillicothe

The **Miscellaneous Drawings** series consists of unidentified drawings to incomplete plans for private and public schools, churches, hospitals, commercial buildings, and domestic architecture.

Container List:

Aperture Cards Series

Box 1 Aperture cards

University of Missouri Quadrangle Series

#1-76	1892-1895
#1-2	Layout of quadrangle buildings
#3	Main Building (second Academic Hall later named Jesse Hall)
#4	Quadrangle plan
#5-33	Main Building (Jesse Hall). Also included are early designs of the building. [NOTE: Item #6 reported missing on Sept. 6, 1989]
#34-43	Museum (Biological and Geological Building later named Swallow Hall)
#44-53	Chemistry Building (Pickard Hall)
#54-64	Law Building (Sociology)
#65	Detail of columns and I-beams for the Chemistry Museum, and Law Buildings.
#66-67	Engineering Building
#68-70	Manual Training Building (Engineering Building)
#71-76	Boiler House (Power Plant)
#77-116	University of Missouri, Academic Hall, 1883-1885. Elevations, floor plans, and specifications for additions and alterations to old Academic Hall. The Bell-Kirchner plan essentially added to wings to the existing 1840 structure.
#77-96	Academic Hall
#97-116	<i>Specifications for the Additions and Alterations to the University of the State of Missouri, Columbia</i>

Other Buildings Series

#117-120	University of Missouri Boarding Club (Benton Hall)
#121-123	Gallatin Baptist College
#124-126	Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City

#127-129	Stephens Female College, Columbia
#130	Westminster Hall, Fulton
#131-147	Missouri Industrial Home for Girls, Chillicothe
#148-150	State of Missouri Insane Asylum, Nevada
#151-156	School buildings, Potosi
#157-160	Herald Building, Columbia
#161-167	Columbia Presbyterian Church and other church buildings

Miscellaneous Drawings Series

#168-178	Domestic architecture
#179	Building front elevation
#180	Main Store Belt, top of first story, detail
#181	Gutter detail
#182	Topographical drawing of building area
#183	Institutional kitchen floor plan
#184-189	Unidentified buildings
#190-202	<i>M. Fred Bell's Architectural Works, Specifications for Workmanship and Materials</i> (for erecting a three-story business block, 1888)

Index:

Index Terms	Other	Image
Architects	aperture cards 1-202	
Architecture, Commercial	aperture cards 157-160,179	y
Architecture, Domestic--Designs and plans	aperture cards 168-178	y
Architecture--Designs and plans	aperture cards 1-96,117-189	y
Architecture--Details	aperture cards 27,29-33,43,63,65,95,180,181	y
Architecture--Missouri	aperture cards 1-202	
Bell, Morris Frederick (1849-1929)	aperture cards 1-126,131-202	
Cairns, J. G.	aperture card 130	
Church architecture	aperture cards 161-167	y
College students--Housing	aperture cards 117-120	y
Colleges and universities--Buildings	aperture cards 97-116	
Colleges and universities--Buildings	aperture cards 1-96,117-130	y
First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, Missouri	aperture cards 161-167	y
Gallatin Baptist College, Lexington, Missouri	aperture cards 121-123	y
Herald Building, Columbia, Missouri	aperture cards 157-160	y
Kirchner, H. W.	aperture cards 97-116	
Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Missouri	aperture cards 124-126	y
Miller, F. P.	aperture cards 127-129	
Missouri, Potosi. School	aperture card 151-156	y
Missouri. Hospital No. 3, Nevada	aperture cards 148-150	y
Missouri. Industrial Home for Girls, Chillicothe	aperture cards 131-147	
Psychiatric hospitals	aperture cards 148-150	y
Reformatories	aperture cards 131-147	
School buildings	aperture cards 151-156	y

Index Terms	Other	Image
Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri	aperture cards 127-129	y
University of Missouri, Academic Hall, 1883	aperture cards 77-96	y
University of Missouri, Academic Hall, 1892	aperture cards 3, 5-33	y
University of Missouri, Benton Hall	aperture cards 117-120	y
University of Missouri, Biology Building	aperture cards 34-43, 65	y
University of Missouri, Boarding Club Building	aperture cards 117-120	y
University of Missouri, Boiler House	aperture cards 71-76	y
University of Missouri, Buildings	aperture cards 1-96, 117-120	y
University of Missouri, Chemistry Building	aperture cards 44-53, 65	y
University of Missouri, Engineering Building	aperture cards 66-70	y
University of Missouri, Francis Quadrangle	aperture cards 1-2, 4	y
University of Missouri, Geology Building	aperture cards 34-43, 65	y
University of Missouri, Jesse Hall	aperture cards 3, 5-33	y
University of Missouri, Law Building	aperture cards 54-65	y
University of Missouri, Main Building, c. 1892	aperture cards 3, 5-33	y
University of Missouri, Manual Training Building	aperture cards 66-70	y
University of Missouri, Museum Building	aperture cards 34-43, 65	y
University of Missouri, Pickard Hall	aperture cards 44-52, 65	y
University of Missouri, Power Plant	aperture cards 71-76	y
University of Missouri, Sociology Building	aperture cards 54-65	y
University of Missouri, Swallow Hall	aperture cards 34-43, 65	y
Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri	aperture card 130	y
Wilkerson house	aperture cards 169-178	y