

Gideon Shryock and Morrison Hall

The following information was provided by A. J. Middleton, Jr., of Schiller Hardware to Steve Wiser, AIA. The translation was performed by Steve Wiser. Several words were difficult to interpret, and therefore a blank space was inserted.

Architect Agreement for the Design and Construction of Morrison Hall at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky.

Articles of Agreement made and entered into this 10th day of January 1831 between Gideon Shryock of this on part and the Trustees of Transylvania University of the other part. Witnessed: That the said Shryock has agreed and doth hereby covenant and agree to ____ the said Trustees of Transylvania University to put up and finish a building for College purposes upon the Transylvania University. Lot or such other lot in the town of Lexington as said Trustee may designate, agreeably to a plan laid by him before the Trustees of the following descriptions, ____: All the buildings to be of brick; the foundation of stone which is to show two feet above ground hammered: the center of the building is to be forty-eight feet in front by fifty eight feet back from out to out having in front a portico composed of four columns of the Doric order three feet six inches in diameter at the bottom and twenty three feet high, projecting ten feet six inches in front of the main building.



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The wings at each end of the centre building will be thirty six feet in front by thirty feet high from the lower floor to the eaves. Each of the wings is to contain on the lower level floor a passage thirty six feet by nine feet and a room twenty four by thirty six feet in the clear. The second story of the wing each to contain a passage as below and two professor's rooms twenty four feet by eighteen feet in the clear.

The chapel in the centre buildings is to be forty five by fifty five feet in the clear having a gallery at the front end twelve feet wide. The floor of the chapel is to be level at the back part with the floor of the wings and there is to be a fall of two and a half feet from the front to the commencement of the twenty feet level aforesaid.

A neat pulpit or ____ (similar to the one which was in the building consumed) is to be made at the centre of the twenty feet level of and rows of seats on each side. Also, complete sets of benches for the other part of the chapel and gallery.

The whole of the exterior is to be rough cast in a neat substantial manner which is warranted to stand for



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fifteen years after completion of the building. The wood work is to be painted with three coats of white lead and oil. The interior is to be plastered with two coats and white-washed so as to adhere and not rub off. The building is to be covered with yellow poplar shingles. All the floors are to be made of ash. There is to be a brick pavement six feet wide around the house. A good cellar under the whole building with good substantial doors and grates. Copper gutters and tin pipes spouts and stones under the spouts are to be made in every necessary place. The gutters to be of copper. The bricks are to be laid in sand and lime mortar and the stone work in lime and gravel. One coat of plastering is to be put on before the wood work is done. The windows above and below are to have each twenty-four lights of 10 by 12 and the lower sashes to be moved up and down secured by catches and good substantial locks and keys to be put upon all the doors.



Above: Second State Capital Building by Gideon Shryock, 1827.

Below: Hand written text of the original contract for Morrison Hall, of which this text is derived from.

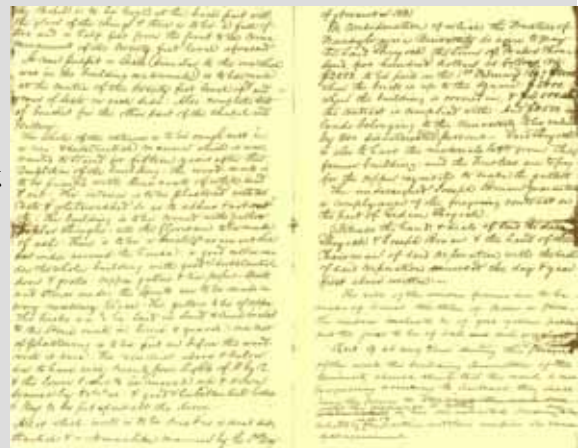
All of which work is to be done in a neat substantial workmanlike manner by the 1st day of November, 1831.

In consideration of which the Trustees of Transylvania University do agree to pay the Said Shryock the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars as follows: \$2,000 to be paid on the 1st February, 1831; \$2,000 when the bricks is up to square; \$2,000 when the building is covered in; and, \$4,000 when the contract is complied with. And, \$2,500 in lands belonging to the University to be valued by two disinterested persons. Said Shryock is also to be have the materials left from this former building and the Trustees are to pay for the copper requisite to make the gutters.

The undersigned Joseph Bruen guarantees a compliance of the foregoing contract on the part of Gideon Shryock.

Witness the hand and seals of said Gideon Shryock and Joseph Bruen and the hand of the chairman of said corporation with the seal of said corporation _____ the day and year first above written.

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(Note: the following text was added after the previous text was initially written.)

The sill of the window frames are to be made of locust and the stiles of cedar or pine. The window sashes to be of good yellow poplar and the joist to be of oak, ash, or walnut.

And, if at anytime during the _____ of the work of the building committee of the University should think that the work is not progressing according to contract, they shall have the power to stop it until the difference is settled by two disinterested persons, one to be selected by each of the parties, another umpire in case of disagreement.



Gideon Shryock was born in Lexington on November 15, 1802 and died in Louisville on June 19, 1880. He is buried in Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery.



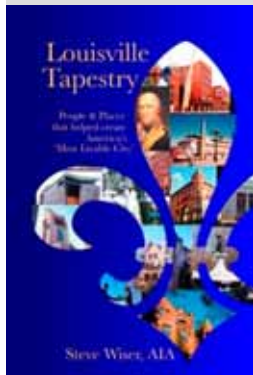
Shryock is perhaps best known for his design of Kentucky's second state capital (below). It features a skylite atrium with unique self-supporting spiral staircase (below right). Shryock also designed the Jefferson County Courthouse (left) in Louisville. It was also intended to serve as a state capital building, but the capitol was never relocated from Frankfort.

The First National Bank Building (lower left), which now houses Actor's Theater of Louisville, is often attributed to Shryock, but he just oversaw the construction. William Dakan actually implemented the design.



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Interested in learning more about Louisville architecture and history? Then purchase one or all 3 of the following items prepared by Steve Wiser:



“Louisville Tapestry: People & Places who helped create America's Most Livable City”, 144 pages, over 100 b & w images, 2009.

Cost: \$15 (includes shipping and handling)

From the Olmsted Parks and landmark architecture, to fascinating tales on notable businesses and personalities, this book explains how the city evolved to its current state. Great for both native Louisvillians as well as new residents!



“Louisville Landmarks & Legends”, 25 minute DVD video, over 200 color images, 2008

Cost \$10 (includes shipping and handling)

This DVD features Louisville’s legendary business leaders and landmark businesses such as Col. Sanders, John Schnatter, J. Graham Brown, Al Schneider, and Tom Simons, along with landmark businesses like Humana, UPS, Hillerich & Bradsby, and Churchill Downs, among many others. In 25 minutes you learn many important aspects of Louisville!



“Louisville 2035”, 144 pages, over 100 b & w images, 2008

Cost: \$8 (includes shipping and handling)

What will look like in 25 years? This is Steve Wiser’s conjecture of how the city will evolve. It also contains many historical backgrounds on the city’s past developments and civic leaders. Several of these proposals have already started to happen! Find out more in this intriguing futuristic vision.

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**Steve Wiser is a Louisville architect and historian.
For more info on Steve, click on his website
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