

C Bell, Morris Frederick (1849-1929), Architectural Drawings, 1883-1895
3632 .2 linear feet

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INTRODUCTION

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.

DONOR INFORMATION

The collection was donated to the University of Missouri by Fred Bruce Montgomery, Helen M. Beckley, and Helen Foster on 18 January 1971 (Accession No. 3867).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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 SKETCH

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.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The drawings have been arranged into the following three series: **University of Missouri Quadrangle**, **Other Buildings**, and **Miscellaneous Drawings**.

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.

The drawings are identified by their aperture card number.

FOLDER LIST

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.
#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 *Specifications for the Additions and Alterations to the University of the State of Missouri, Columbia*

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
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 #181 Gutter detail
 #182 Topographical drawing of building area
 #183 Institutional kitchen floor plan
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 #190-202 *M. Fred Bell's Architectural Works, Specifications for Workmanship and Materials* (for erecting a three-story business block, 1888)

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