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The Old Library, an integral part of the Franklin College Campus, was built in 1903 and was used as a library until 1964. A new library was built then to accomodate the growing needs of the college. The interior of the Old Library was then remodeled to fit the needs of the Art, Music, and Sculpture departments without destroying the feeling of the original architecture.

The symmetrical Neo-classical building is one story with a half exposed basement defined by a limestone belt. Stretcher bond brick masonry supports the square plan with protruding wings on all four sides. The cross gabled roof is pedimented on the ends and is accented by small circular windows. The classical cornice is boxed and supported by small brackets. A dome with an octangonal base is at the intersection of the gables and is sheathed in copper. The double hung windows are paired by stone lintels and lugsills. Transoms above are capped by an inlaid stone design. The main entrance has Ionic columns engaged on either side and is capped by an inlaid stone lintel.

A stained glass skylight below the dome highlights the interior space, which has been modified to incorporate more classrooms yet retains the original grandeur.

Shirk Hall, commonly referred to as the Old Library adds to the dignity of one of oldest educational institutions in Indiana. Despite the constantly changing philosophies on education, the Old Library remains a functioning structure admired by both students and faculty.

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW ___PREHISTORIC ___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC --- COMMUNITY PLANNING - __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE -RELIGION __1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION ___LAW ___SCIENCE ___AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS ___LITERATURE ___SCULPTURE XARCHITECTURE X EDUCATION __1600-1699 __MILITARY ___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ABT ___ENGINEERING __MUSIC ___THEATER ___1800-1899 ___COMMERCE ___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY ___TRANSPORTATION X1900-.....COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY __OTHER (SPECIFY)INVENTION **BUILDER/ARCHITECT** SPECIFIC DATES 1903 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE a charged 43

The Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute had become a four year liberal arts college and for over fifty years practically all of the school's activities had taken place in three joined halls collectively called Old Main. In 1903, however, a new library was constructed in the then popular Neo-Classical Mode. It's materials, brick and limestone were chosen to blend in harmoniously with Old Main yet from a design standpoint it was a separate entirely. It's perfect proportioning and detail provided the campus a dignified presence that was thought necessary to insure the way of the excellent academics being taught within the walls. A magnificent stained glass dome is the center from which the various functions of the library radiated. Today, the interior of this has been modified to house the Fine Arts cirriculum yet the grandeur of the interior has not been sacrificed. The exterior remains intact as handsome as it was when the building was dedicated.

The Old Library provides a delightful contrast the somewhat incongruous Gothic Old Main and the new modern structures constructed to house Franklin College's growing diversity. It also serves as a constant reminder to Franklin's students and others, the accomplishments of many of Franklin's distinguished alumni who undoubtedly benefited from the educational resources of Shirk Hall.

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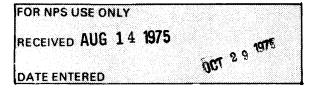
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The Old Library - Franklin College

CONTINUATION SHEET



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