

106 N.H.L.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky	
COUNTY: Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old State House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
State House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE: Kentucky CODE: COUNTY: Franklin CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Kentucky (Kentucky Historical Society)

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old State House

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Franklin County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[Abridged and adapted from The Capitols of Kentucky, Baylers E. Hardin]

The front elevation of the building presents an Ionic Hexastyle Portico, the proportions of which were taken from the Temple of Minerva Polias, at Priene, in Ionia.

The columns are of marble, being four feet in diameter and thirty-three feet high, supporting a marble pediment and entablature, which is continued entirely around the building.

The basement of the cupola is formed by a square pedestal, in the middle of the roof, twenty-five feet square, which rises two feet above the apex, and on which is placed a circular lantern, twenty-two feet in diameter and twenty feet high, surmounted by a hemispherical dome.

The flanks of the building have side doors, entering a passage extending across the first floor, and entering the room appropriated for the Federal Court and the Court of Appeals.

The length of the building, including the Portico, is one hundred and thirty-two feet; it's width is seventy feet. The main entrance is from the South, by a flight of steps, extending along the whole front, and rising four feet high to the Portico, which projects eleven feet from the front wall of the building.

The main door opens into a vestibule, twenty by thirty-three feet, having a Committee room of similar size on either side, and a lobby leading to the stairway.

The stairway is of marble and is enclosed by a circular wall, having an entrance in front and from either side, and is lighted from the cupola above by twelve large windows.

While many people have marveled at the circular stairway, supported by the keystone and the arch action of each stone step upon the other, few know that to move the keystone one-tenth of an inch would destroy the entire structure. Such was the genius and ability of the young architect who hesitated to compete with older and more experienced builders of his day.

He worked out all the lines for the templates of each stone step, when he made the original drawings of the building. These lines are the same as those in the voussoirs for an arch in a circular wall, the top joint at the angle of tread and riser, running below to the proper center; ten straight steps approach a landing on the rear wall of the circular rotunda, forming the springer of the arch; circular steps extend to the right and left around the wall to a platform at the front of the rotunda on the second floor, forming the keystone. A straight development of one flight would represent one-half side of an elliptical arch. Lines, soffits and easings are graceful, and pronounced perfect by all experts in stairs, who have seen them.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1827

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itorian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old State House in Frankfort, Kentucky was designed and built by Gideon Shryock from 1827 to 1830. This building is the third of four State Houses in Kentucky; it replaced the second State House which burned down. Gideon Shryock was twenty-five years old when he entered this design for the State House competition. When he was twenty-one he had trained for a year in Philadelphia with the nationally prominent architect, William Strickland.

Shryock's State House is a severely simple temple form stone building with a hexastyle Ionic portico. The building is two stories high and has the Senate and House of Representatives chambers across the full width of the building on the second floor. The ground floor is given over to offices and courtrooms. In the center of the building is a beautifully designed circular staircase in stone with simple iron railings. This stair rises to a square hall on the second floor and is crowned by a beautifully executed plasterwork dome supported on decorated spandrels. The dome is lit by a tall circular lantern on a narrow drum. From the exterior the dome is hidden in the roof and the lantern alone projects above the ridge. The lantern itself is capped by a smaller dome. By placing the legislative chambers on the second floor, Shryock made it possible for the South portico to serve as the principal entrance on the ground floor. This overcame the chief defect of Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Capitol plan which placed the legislative chambers on the ground floor with the result that one of them occupied the full width of the building at the portico end. Hence there was no provision in Jefferson's Capitol for an entrance under the portico where one would expect it, and the portico was reduced to a purely visual role.

Aside from the well thought out Shryock plan, the really outstanding feature of the Old State House is the brilliant design of the central circular stairway and the dome above it. The purity of this space and the chasteness of the decoration are so exceptional that they lift the building from mere competence to greatness. Gideon Shryock captured in the design of this building the essence of the American contribution to the Greek Revival style.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Baltimore, 1963), 84; Fisk Kimball, American Architecture (Indianapolis 1928), 99; Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York, 1955), 138; James G. VanDerpool, "Historical Development of Architecture in the U.S.A., 1632-1912," (N.P.S. Ms., 1966), 135; Talbot F. Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York, 1944), 244-245; Rexford Newcomb, Architecture in Old Kentucky (Urbana, 1953) 8, 68, 85, 110-13, 121, plates 1A, 41C, 48; Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes, South, (New York, 1956), 191; Kentucky, A Guide to

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 12' 01"	84° 52' 24"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 10 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Brown Morton III, Architect

ORGANIZATION: N.P.S., O.A.H.P., Historical Survey DATE: 8/27/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

Old State House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Continued

page 1

The ascent is by a straight flight of steps to a large landing, from each end of which there is a circular flight traversing the wall and meeting in a key-stone at the top. The stairway leads to a lobby thirty-five feet square, having the well hole of the stairway in the center, which is enclosed by an iron railing.

From the lobby there are doors communicating with the several apartments on the second floor. This part of the building is arched with a spandrel dome; the angular spaces are filled with pendentives, terminating in a circular ring, on which a cylindrical wall is built, supporting the cupola.

The interior of the dome is finished with raised panels and ornaments in stucco, superbly executed, which produce that pleasing magic effect usual with such vast a concave in such a situation.

The Senate Chamber is on the second floor, in the front of the house, being thirty-two by sixty-two feet, having a spacious lobby with elevations for seats at one end, separated from the Chamber by two Ionic columns, supporting a full entablature; the frieze and cornice is continued entirely around the room, and the ceiling is richly ornamented with square sunk panels.

The Representative Chamber is also on the second floor, in the back of the house, being forty-eight by sixty-two, having a gallery and lobby, with elevations for seats, on the side of the room adjoining the entrance. The ceiling of this room is also elegantly finished with square panels and other ornaments in stucco.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

Old State House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Continued

page 1

[Abridged and adapted from The Capitols of Kentucky, Bayless E. Hardin.]

In 1827, over two years after the second Kentucky State House had burned, the state legislature approved a bill which provided for the rebuilding of the Capitol. On January 31, 1827, the following notice appeared in a local newspaper.

NOTICE
THE COMMISSIONERS FOR BUILDING A
STATE-HOUSE
IN THE TOWN OF FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

Will meet on the 20th of February, next, for the purpose of adopting a plan of said House, to be constructed upon the following dimensions, viz; 100 by 62 feet (the dimensions of the old building) or disregarding that boundary, not exceeding 120 by 70 feet. The building to contain a Senate and Representative Chamber, with Lobbies and Galleries attached to each; two Court Rooms, one of which with two Jury Rooms attached thereto; and two or more Committee Rooms. The whole to be so constructed as to be as nearly fireproof as practicable.

Persons presenting plans are expected also to present estimates of the costs, and details of workmanship and materials.

A premium of ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS will be allowed for the plan which shall be adopted.

The plans designed for the consideration of the Commissioners, should be forwarded to John Harvie, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The plans and estimates of Gideon Shryock were accepted by the Commissioners. Young Shryock had had no thought of contesting for so important a piece of work, when the premium was offered for plans of a new State House at Frankfort, but was prevailed upon to do so by his friends, who thought that to submit plans would, at least, bring his name before the public as an architect. He was born in Lexington, Kentucky, November 15, 1802, the eldest son of Mathias and Mary Elizabeth (Gaugh) Shryock and, at the age of twenty-one, had had a years study in architecture and engineering in Philadelphia under William Strickland.

His plans accepted, Shryock moved to Frankfort in the Spring of 1827 and began superintending the erection of the Capitol.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Kentucky	
COUNTY	Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

Old State House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Continued

page 2

Work on the Capitol, begun at once, was carried on without delay, but the procedure was necessarily slow. The stone was furnished by Harrison Blanton, one of the contractors for the brick work of the Capitol built in 1814-1816, and quarried from the river banks adjacent to the City by Humphrey Evans and Jack Holbert. It is a species of Limestone, familiarly known as "Kentucky Marble." Joel Scott, Keeper of the Penitentiary, invented a sawmill to cut the rough stone.

When completed in 1830, it was, though not the most costly, yet the most magnificent edifice which had been erected in the Western Country, and had been built at the cost of about \$85,000. It was first occupied by the General Assembly in December, 1829.

Few changes have been made on the Old State House in its many years of existence. In 1897 a plan was proposed to discontinue the use of the fire-places, and install a furnace for heating the building. While excavating under the building for this purpose, however, the workmen struck a bold stream of water, which prevented the installation of the furnace. Many repairs on the old building have been necessary. The stone floor and steps of the portico have been covered with concrete. The storm doors at the main entrance of the building have been removed; the small paned windows have given way to the large paned variety; new floors were necessary in the Committee rooms on the lower floor, the dome was restored, and the original copper roof has been replaced twice with a tin covering, with the exception of the dome. In 1944 more extensive repairs were made, when new maple flooring was laid over the entire second floor; the plastered walls, ceilings, woodwork, windows and doors were repaired, and the entire building painted inside.

After the completion of the New Capitol in 1910, the old building saw little usage until 1920, except as quarters for the State Board of Control and the Frankfort Public Library.

In 1920 the old building was assigned to the Kentucky Historical Society. The Historical Society immediately put into use the Committee rooms on the first floor as quarters for the library and archives, and devoted the hall and second floor to museum exhibits. The large rooms in the rear of the building on the first floor are used as working quarters.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Old State House: Floor Plans

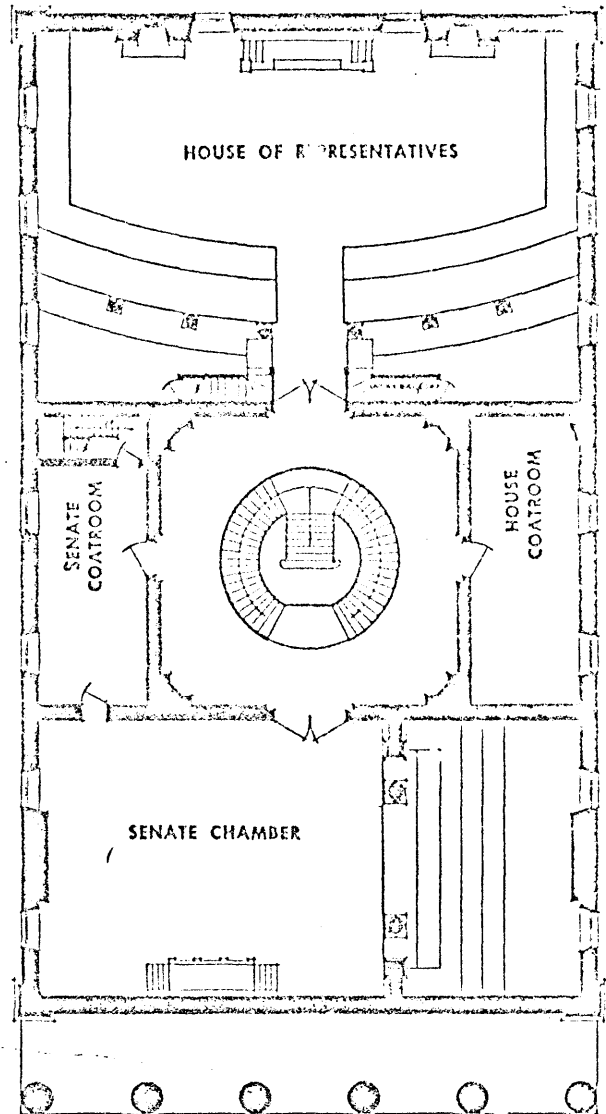
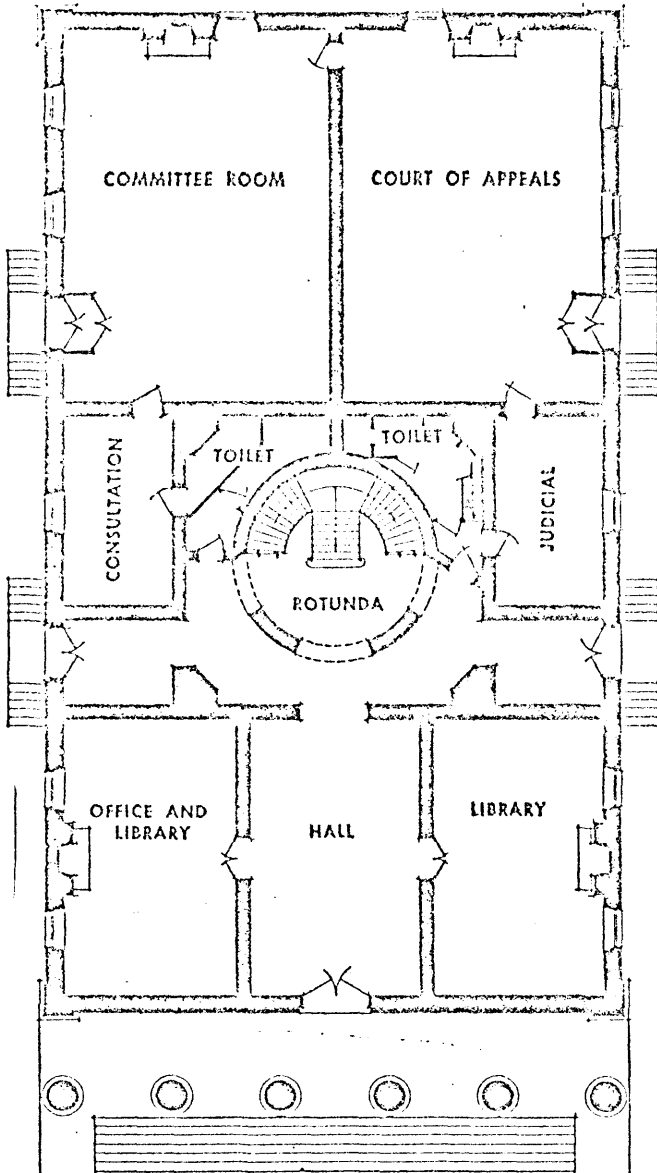


FIG. 15. First- and second-floor plans

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Kentucky	
COUNTY Frankfort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Old State House

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Continued

page 1

the Bluegrass State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1947), 130, 162-64;
Christopher Burchard and Albert Bush-Brown, The Architecture of America, A
Social and Cultural history (Boston and Toronto, 1961), 95.