

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 22 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 16 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Chestnut Street Methodist Church, South

AND/OR COMMON

Brown Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

809 West Chestnut Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Louisville

VICINITY OF

3&4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky 40202

021

Jefferson 111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees, Brown CME Church

STREET & NUMBER

809 West Chestnut Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisville

VICINITY OF

Kentucky 40202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

517 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Louisville

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chestnut Street Methodist Church is situated on the western edge of the Central Business District of Louisville, in an area that was extensively cleared by Urban Renewal.

The Church is a interesting blend of Greek Revival elements with Romanesque Revival. The building faces Chestnut Street with an imposing two-story brick facade. The facade is marked by symmetry, order and classical articulation. The Chestnut Street facade has a slightly projecting central pavilion which contains the main entrance. Double doors are flanked by brick pilasters with white-painted stone bases and ornate capitals, topped with a pediment and modillions. The doorway, which has been modernized and altered, is topped by a semi-elliptical, traceried, stained-glass window which also appears to be of more recent vintage. On each side of the central pavilion is a long, narrow, round-arched window of stained-glass with tracery, stone surrounds and sills. Brick pilasters with large stone bases, painted white, are at each corner. The capitals are decorated with acanthus designs and egg-and-dart molding. The facade is completed by a classic pedimented gable with modillions and a brick tympanum.

Stained-glass windows on the sides of the building are round-arched and set within brick surrounds and multiple brick arches. Between the windows are brick pilasters with capitals that continue in a brick stringcourse. Above the course are a series of small recessed rectangular panels of brick.

The church sanctuary is on the second floor, reached by double stairways from a vestibule. The stairways are original and have cherry balusters and railings. The stained-glass windows are original and are in excellent condition. They are of the painted type, which is typical of the period when the building was erected, and their colors are soft mauve, blue, green and pink. Round-arched moldings with acanthus keystones are above the windows.

The chancel contains a pipe organ, set in paneled wood, behind a wood railing. The organ bears a nameplate, "Ferrand and Votey, Detroit, " and the date, 1891. Several pieces of furniture, especially chairs in an ornate Gothic style, with "Eastlake" motifs, may be original. Barely visible behind the organ is what appears to be a round-arched niche with pilasters having very ornate capitals. Evidently the organ and the paneled wood surrounding it were later additions to the chancel.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1864-1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gideon Shryock

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chestnut Street Methodist church is significant as the last known of work of the prominent Greek Revival architect Gideon Shryock. The structure is significant also for its blending of two distinct nineteenth century styles, the Greek Revival and the Romanesque Revival. The Chestnut Street Methodist Church, South was built in 1863-64 for the congregation previously located on Eighth Street. The Chestnut Street Church remained on this site until 1907 when the congregation merged with the Walnut Street Methodist Church. The building was sold to the Center Street Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, a Negro church, which was located on Center Street (now Armory Place) just south of Green Street (now Liberty Street).

The Center Street congregation moved to the Chestnut Street site in May, 1907 and became known as the Chestnut Street C.M.E. Church. At this time of the move, the pastor was Dr. L. H. Brown, who was minister for nine years and presiding elder for six years.

In May 1954, the church was rededicated and renamed the Brown Memorial C.M.E. Church as a tribute to Dr. Brown.

The Church was dedicated on September 17, 1865 and the following description appeared in a local newspaper article: "The building is one hundred and fifty feet long with fifty four feet front, leaving a space of thirteen feet on each side, with about thirty feet fronting the street. The Sunday school room is large and airy, while the class rooms and offices, four in number are comfortable and spacious. There is a large hall in front on the school room, with a beautiful winding stairway leading up each side into the magnificent room of worship above. The room is one of the best arranged we have ever seen. The pulpit faces the main entrance, over which there is a gallery, with a stairway on each side and accommodations for a large number of people. The seats in this room are large and comfortable while the room is airy and pleasant, even when it is filled with a large congregation.

"The architect of the building is Mr. G. Shryock. The brick work by Jno. Hales (deceased); carpenter work by Messers. Kell, Lewis and Root; painting outside by Spurrier and inside by Brentlinger and Peck; plastering by George Iurne; ornamental work by John Owen; carpets by Mathers; furniture by Stokes; gas pipes, etc.

"One of the largest and handsomest chandeliers in the West or South is in this room. It contains fifty-three burners, and when fully lighted up at night, gives the room

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Chestnut Street Methodist Church, Its Dedication, "Daily Democrat (Louisville), 17 September 1865.

Hamlin, Talbot: Greek Revival Architecture in Amerria. New York: Dover, 1964.

Jefferson County (Ky) Deed Book 3361

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. .12 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME New Albany Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,0,8,0,5,0 4,2,3,4,0,9,0

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

City of Louisville 13D Lot 5

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marty Poynter Hedgepeth, Director of Research 4/6/79

ORGANIZATION Historic Landmarks and Preservation District Commission DATE

STREET & NUMBER 727 West Main Street TELEPHONE 502-587-3501

CITY OR TOWN Louisville STATE Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Edward W. Muller*

TITLE DATE 5-15-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles E. ... DATE 7-10-79
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Jane H. Gilmore* DATE 7/11/79
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Chestnut Street Methodist Church, South

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princery and dazzling appearance. It was a present to the congregation from Mr. Henry Walton, of the firm of Walton and Brothers, Main Street, below Fourth.

" The entire cost of this beautiful edifice is \$11,000, all of which, with the exception of \$3000 or \$1000 has been raised by the congregation."

Gideon Shryock (1802-1880) was the leading exponent of the Greek Revival style in Kentucky. He was born in Lexington, Kentucky and was the son of Mathias Shryock, a builder. He studied architecture with William Strickland of Philadelphia.

Among Shryock's most important Greek Revival designs are the Old State Capital (1828) in Frankfort, Kentucky, and the Morrison College (c. 1830) in Lexington. He designed the Orlando Brown House (1835), also in Frankfort. In Louisville he designed the Jefferson County Court House (National Register, April, 1972) and the Louisville Medical Institute (destroyed). The Chestnut Street Methodist Church not only marks the latest known work of Shryock's but a definite stylistic change away from the pure Greek Revival which was on its way out of style at the time this structure was built. The only other structure by Shryock which remains in Louisville is the Jefferson County Court House.

The Chestnut Street Methodist Church is one of three churches which remain in the downtown area of Louisville. The Central Business District makes up the core of the original city of Louisville. The city was originally a comfortable mix of residential and commercial structures. The growth of the commercial enterprise pushed the residential development south of Broadway. Today only a few remnants remain of the once residential character of the area in the three churches and fine early houses.

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Johnston, J. Stoddard, ed. Memorial History of Louisville From Its First Settlement to the Year 1896. 2 Vols. Chicago and New York: American Biographical Publishing Co., c. 1896.

"Obituary, Gideon Shyrock." The Louisville Courier Journal, June 11, 1880.

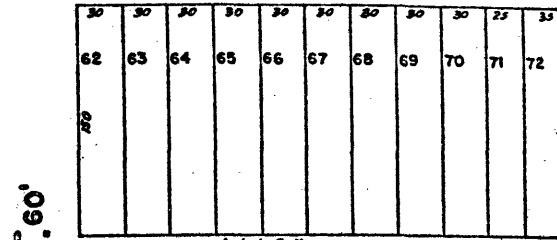
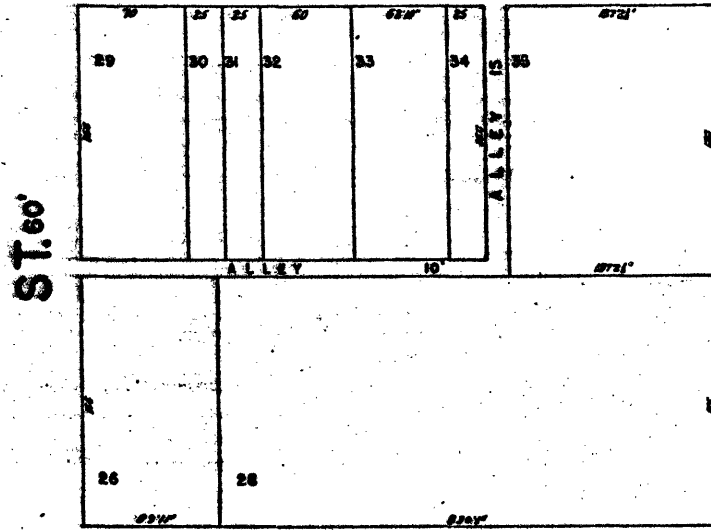
Porter, Maude Brown, Chestnut Street C.M.E. Church, interview May, 1978.

Withey, Henry and Elise Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970.

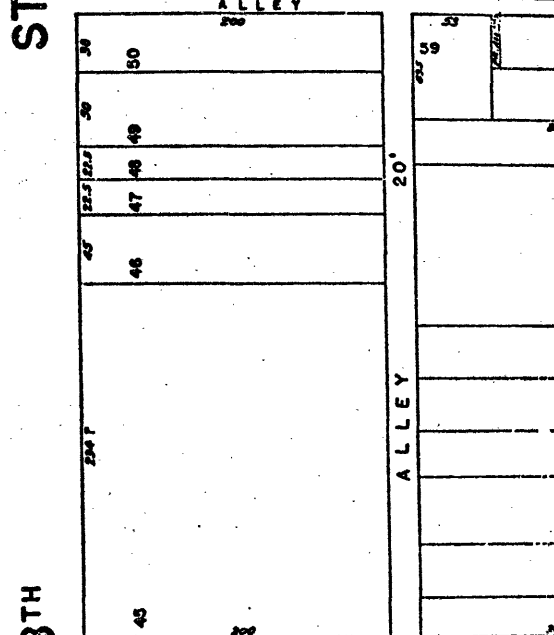
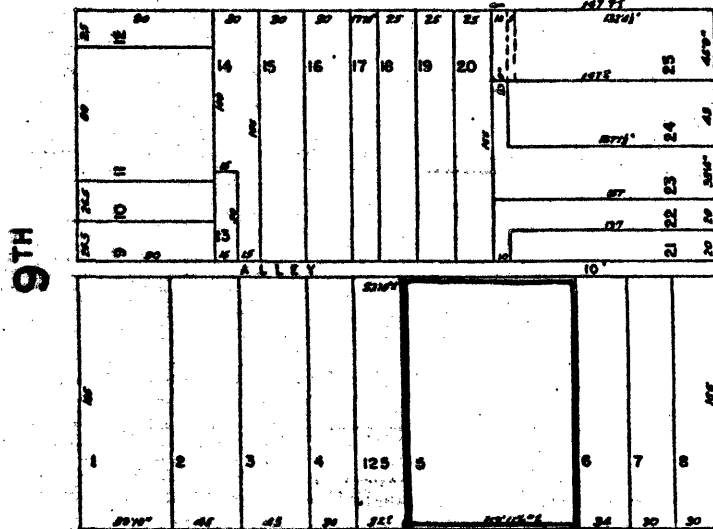
SCALE, 1" = 60'



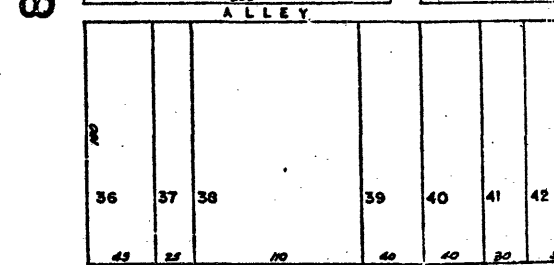
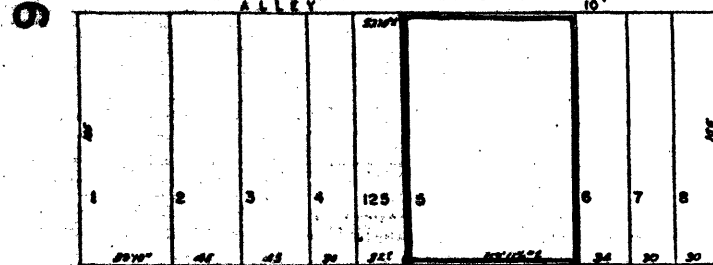
WALNUT



MADISON ST. 60'



CHESTNUT



Chestnut St. Methodist Church
809 West Chestnut St.
Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky
Map 2 - Real Estate Atlas
of Jefferson County Kentucky

MAY 22 1979

Sanborn Map

Scale: 1"=200'

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