



VENTRESS HALL

The University of Mississippi




Constructed in 1889 at a cost of \$35,000, Ventress Hall served first as the University library and then housed the School of Law from 1911 to 1929, the State Geological Survey from 1929 to 1963, and then was assigned to the Department of Geology. Thereafter, it was used as a classroom facility and, from the 1970s, for the Department of Art & Art History.

In 1993, the State Legislature appropriated approximately \$1 million in capital improvement funds for the restoration of Ventress Hall. At that time, the building was designed to house the offices of the College of Liberal Arts. When the restoration was completed in March 1998, Ventress Hall became the home of the College of Liberal Arts.



The University of Mississippi
**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS**

Founded in 1848, the College of Liberal Arts is the oldest and largest division of the University of Mississippi.

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THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
VENTRESS HALL
1667 UNIVERSITY CIRCLE
UNIVERSITY, MS 38677

VENTRESS HALL





TIFFANY STAINED GLASS WINDOW

In 2018, the University of Mississippi Chancellor's Advisory Committee on History and Context unveiled a plaque contextualizing the Tiffany window located above the main staircase in Ventress Hall.

UNIVERSITY GREYS MEMORIAL WINDOW

In 1889, the Psi chapter of Delta Gamma gave a memorial to the University of Mississippi campus. The memorial honored the "University Greys," a name that referred to Company A of the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army. The company was primarily composed of students from the University who left their alma mater on May 1, 1861.

The memorial in the form of a stained-glass window from the Tiffany Glass Company, New York, was placed here in the University Library in 1891. The \$506.50 cost was raised by Delta Gamma and the University Alumni Society.

The window, twelve feet high and nine feet wide, was designed to have three main panels. The first panel depicts the students drilling as soldiers in front of Barnard Observatory. The middle panel portrays a battle scene, with the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia flying amid the carnage. Some newspaper reports stated that the battle scene was the first battle the "Greys" fought at First Manassas. However, the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia was not present at that early battle. Others believe the battle scene is the famous Pickett's Charge on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, in which the "University Greys" suffered one hundred percent casualties—killed, wounded, or captured. The third panel depicts the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.



The smaller panels include an anchor, which is the Delta Gamma badge with the Psi chapter guard, and one with the Latin phrase, "Cum Pictate Alumnorum," in honor of the University of Mississippi who served in the Civil War."

HISTORIC GRAFFITI

From the earliest years, student graffiti appeared on the interior walls of the turret. The renovation to restore the Victorian building respectfully left the area untouched.

During the earliest years of the School of Law's residency in Ventress Hall, student graffiti began to appear on the interior walls of the building's turret. An elderly Civil War veteran from Arkansas scrawled his name and military unit near the top of this tower after the turn of the century, and hundreds of students left their mark on the walls in the following decades.

While renovations of the building restored Ventress Hall to its original Victorian splendor, this area was left alone, allowing the memories to live on.