

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | The Graduate School

**Alfred K. Chittenden Hall — Home of MSU Graduate Education**

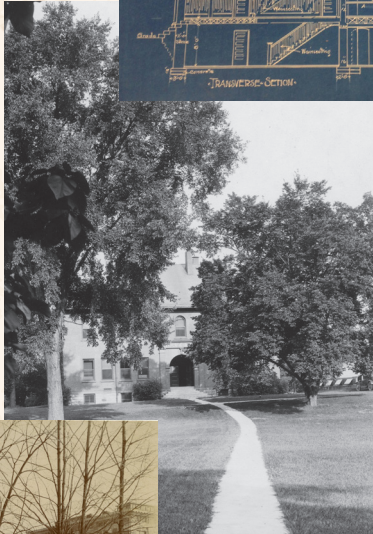


**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# A SACRED SPACE

The location for Michigan State University was chosen in part for convenience. Representatives in charge of choosing the campus home wanted it in the Mid-Michigan area with proximity to the Capitol. They were fortunate enough to find a gap in an existing wooded lot, the Forest of Arden. This gap came to be known as the Oak Opening. This location was convenient because fewer trees would have to be cut down to build the campus. This Oak Opening is the old part of our campus, around the current West Circle Drive near Beaumont Tower.

Chittenden Hall is part of Laboratory Row, a semi-circle of buildings consisting of Eustace-Cole Hall, Albert J. Cook Hall, Old Botany, Marshall Hall, and Morrill Hall (which was torn down this past summer). These buildings were all built between 1888 and 1902 along the road we now call West Circle Drive. This road was, at the time, the main road on campus. The entrance to Linton Hall, furthest to the west of the Laboratory Row buildings, faced the Oak Opening. As campus began to grow, decisions were required regarding the layout and general plan of the campus. In 1905 Ossian Cole (O.C.) Simonds was hired to conduct a survey of the campus and make recommendations for its future layout. He rechristened the Oak Opening as a “sacred space” – resulting in a de facto ban on construction within the circle. “It became something to be appreciated, preserved and studied.” It is for this reason that Beaumont Tower stands alone among the grove of trees that many believe is the most beautiful part of campus – particularly in the autumn.



Photos (top to bottom): 1900 Transverse section, original blueprints by architect George Lohman; 1922 Wolverine (yearbook) photo of Chittenden Hall, showing vintage cars parked next to the building and a long sidewalk where we now have West Circle Drive; postcard featuring Chittenden Hall (on left), Cook Hall, and Agriculture Hall. Cover photo: Chittenden Hall, July 12, 1905. All photos courtesy: MSU Archives & Historical Collections.

# CHITTENDEN HALL



*Photos (top to bottom): 1951 Wolverine (yearbook) photo of Chittenden Hall, featuring a black & white Forestry sign above the door and ivy-covered walls; 1955 Wolverine photo of a couple talking in front of Chittenden Hall; later photo showing plaque replaced by carved stone "Forestry" sign.*

*All photos courtesy: MSU Archives & Historical Collections.*

# ALL'S HISTORIC PAST

Chittenden Hall was originally constructed to serve as the dairy for what was then known as State Agricultural College. This building description appeared in the 1902 edition of the State Agricultural College Catalogue:

*“The Dairy Building was erected in 1900, at a cost of \$15,000. It contains a large room properly equipped with separators, churns, and workers of the latest and best types for instruction in butter-making. This room is 50 by 26 ft. in horizontal area and is well lighted by windows on the north and east. The cheese room is furnished with cheese vats, presses, curd mills, a curing room and testing room, while a Farm Dairy room, offices, classrooms, and cold storage room are also included in the dairy building.”*

After a new dairy building was constructed, the Dairy Building was renamed the Forestry Building 1913. The Department of Forestry would occupy the building until the 1960s. In 1969 it was renamed for Professor Alfred K. Chittenden. Chittenden had directed the academic forestry programs from 1914 to 1930. He conducted research on reforestation and maple sugar, and developed a nursery on campus. This nursery has been credited with supplying most of the tree seedlings planted on private lands in the state.

Various offices occupied the building through the 1990s, and is then stood vacant before being renovated to house the Graduate School. The building is listed on the State Register of Historic Sites.

# THE ROAD TO **RENOV**

While the renovation process of Chittenden Hall took nearly a year, the process of creating Chittenden Hall as a home for the Graduate School actually goes back much further than that, and many individuals and organizations were involved in bringing the idea to fruition. Here are some of the highlights in the campaign to “Get Chitt Done,” as the Council of Graduate Students would say.

- **1999**: Then-Provost Lou Anna K. Simon expresses her desire to have the Graduate School move to Chittenden Hall, creating a home for all-things related to graduate education
- **9/8/2011**: COGS President Stefan Fletcher and COGS Vice President for Internal Affairs Adam Lovgren submit a letter to the Board of Trustees encouraging them to lend their support for the renovation project
- **12/5/2011**: COGS Resolution 11-12.01 “Supporting the Purposing, Funding, and Renovation of Chittenden Hall as a site for the Graduate School in order to provide for enhanced services & support for Michigan State University Graduate & Professional students” passes
- **3/25/2012**: COGS 1st Get Chitt Done 5K Run/Walk
- **4/27/2013**: COGS 2nd Get Chitt Done 5K Run/Walk
- **5/17/2013**: COGS President Stefan Fletcher submits a letter to the Board of Trustees urging them to plan & proceed with the renovation of Chittenden Hall
- **10/25/2013**: Board of Trustees approves building plans and budget for renovation
- **11/18/2013**: Renovation begins
- **9/10/2014**: The Graduate School begins moving in to Chittenden Hall

# VATION



CHITTENDEN HALL | FUTURE HOME OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

## ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION

- Brick with Lake Superior sandstone lintels, rockfaced
- Sills - Lake Superior sandstone lintels, rockfaced
- 13,489 square feet
- Cost \$15,000 to build
- Cost \$1.00 per square foot
- Built in 1901
- 1901 construction architect: George Lohman
- 2014 renovation architects: Hopkins Burns Design Studio
- 2014 renovation construction: Christman Company

# THE MODERN CHITTE

## Terrace Level

- Graduate student, graduate professional student, and postdoc resource center and lounge
- Kitchenette
- Personal health room

## First Floor

- PhD Career Services office
- Graduate Student Life & Wellness office
- Teaching Assistant Program office
- Council of Graduate Students office
- Conference and workshop rooms

## Second Floor

- Dean, associate & assistant deans and staff offices
- Postdoc and Faculty Fellows Program office
- Conference room

## Outdoors

- Terrace space with picnic tables





# CHITTENDEN HALL



## MIXING OLD AND NEW

The restoration of Chittenden Hall included particular attention to the historic character of the building. Many original elements, such as blackboards, wood flooring and wainscoting, were retained. The dormers you see on the roof were part of the original 1901 construction and were removed sometime before 1912. The renovation project has restored these elements, which are now used as a source of air intake for the HVAC systems.

The renovation of Chittenden Hall achieved a sustainability performance equivalent to a LEED Silver rating.

# CHITTENDEN HALL THEN VS. NOW

A student in Chittenden Hall In 1909 would be participating in the dairy short course, including classes in business methods, bacteriology, chemistry and physics of milk, grading gathered cream, butter judging, and creamery principles, along with practical work in the butter room, testing milk and cream, or studying creamery mechanics.”

As home to the Graduate School, Chittenden Hall serves as office space for administrators and staff. Additionally, the building includes workshop space, conference rooms, and a student lounge. In addition to meetings and workshops, the building also hosts many events, such as write-ins, when students are invited to spend dedicated time in the building working on their thesis or dissertation. The Council of Graduate Students has space in Chittenden so that they can better serve graduate and graduate professional students.

*PHOTOS: Artifacts recovered from Laboratory Row digs conducted by CAP - a graphing compass, lab equipment and a light bulb.*



*PHOTO: CAP participants conduct a shovel test at the Chittenden Hall renovation site.*



## CAMPUS **ARCHAEOLOGY**

The Campus Archaeology Program (CAP) was developed by Professor Lynne Goldstein in 2008. It carries on the Land Grant tradition of learning by doing, using the entire campus as a laboratory. The University now comes to CAP when any land was about to be disturbed, from construction of a new building, remodeling an old building, excavating trenches for new fiber optic lines, replacing sidewalks, or putting in new trees or bushes. Several other universities have campus archaeology programs, but these only are allowed to work in situations when archaeology is required by law before construction, or when a particular historic building is about to be disturbed. While program funding is assured, the MSU Graduate School has regularly provided additional funds in the form of fellowship monies to allow graduate students to try new projects. CAP has worked to maintain the spirit of experimentation to allow students to question what they are doing and to develop new ways of teaching and communicating with our diverse stakeholders. CAP is also open to new field techniques and other opportunities that can potentially enhance what we do and what we can learn.

*Please flip this book over for information about the Graduate School at Michigan State University.*



*Photos (clockwise from top left): Cubicles in Chittenden Hall (August 2013, pre-renovation); an abandoned State News paper from 2004 left behind in the building; side entrance before the construction of the new terrace (October 2013); attic beams with original wood construction, pre-renovation (January 2014); Dean Klomparens in the room that is now her office (January 2014); attic during steel beam and HVAC system installation, May 2014. All photos courtesy: MSU Graduate School*