



L O N G S T R E E T H A L L

This building was dedicated in honor of Augustus Baldwin Longstreet (1790-1870), second president of the University of Mississippi.

Born in Augusta, Georgia, Longstreet graduated from Yale and studied at Tapping Reeve's Litchfield, Connecticut, law school, before being admitted to the Georgia bar in 1815. He entered politics briefly, was elected to the Georgia legislature, but was soon appointed judge of a state superior court. Throughout this period, Longstreet was an author and newspaper editor, with his most renowned work, *Georgia Scenes*, published in 1835.

In 1838, he retired from law to become an itinerant minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Six years later he played an important role in fostering the split among Methodists over the issue of slavery. Longstreet presented to the national conference a petition from slaveholding states decrying the continuing agitation of northern Methodists on slavery and its abolition. Such policy, the petition stated, threatened division by embracing policy inconsistent with Methodist ministry as practiced in the South. The Methodist Episcopal Church split over the issue of slavery in 1844.

In 1840, Longstreet embraced another career when he was elected president of Emory College. He served there until 1848, when he became president of Centenary College in Jackson, Louisiana. Less than a year later, he was elected the second president of the University of Mississippi in 1849. Longstreet also taught and in 1853 was listed as professor of mental and moral science, rhetoric, logic, political economy, international law, and evidences of christianity. Among his responsibilities as president, Longstreet, a slaveowner, managed a number of enslaved laborers, both on the University campus and on a farm near Abbeville, the latter owned by his son-in-law, L. Q. C. Lamar. Resigning from the University in 1856, he returned to administration when elected president of the University of South Carolina the following year, a position he held until the Civil War. In 1861, he returned to Oxford, Mississippi, to reside with family until his death in 1870.



G E O R G E H A L L

In 1920, this building was dedicated in honor of James Zachariah George (1826-1897). Born in Georgia, George moved with his family to Mississippi in 1834, settling two years later in Carroll County.

At the outbreak of war between the United States and Mexico, George volunteered for service with the First Mississippi Rifles. Upon his return, he completed his study in law and was elected reporter of the state Supreme Court in 1854 and again in 1860. In 1861, he served as a delegate to Mississippi's Secession Convention and later served in the Confederate Army as well as commanded Mississippi state militia.

From 1875 to 1876, George chaired Mississippi's Democratic Executive Committee. During this time, George was most responsible for crafting the "Mississippi Plan," a program of voter intimidation, violent repression, and riot aimed at returning his state to white Democratic rule. Mississippi historian Dunbar Rowland later described the struggle as "bitter and bloody." In 1878, George was appointed to the University of Mississippi Board of Trustees. In that role he attended one meeting and then resigned the following year to serve as a trustee for what would become Mississippi State University. In 1879, he was appointed to the state's Supreme Court, and there elected to serve as chief justice. He resigned from the bench after being elected to the U.S. Senate in 1880, a post he would hold until his death.

While in the Senate, George returned to Mississippi to become the chief architect of the 1890 state constitution. Alarmed that African Americans comprised a majority of Mississippians, George and others crafted a new state constitution that effectively reduced the number of qualified black Mississippi voters from 147,205 to 8,615. As a result, whites gained an electoral majority in every county. So successful was the denial of voting rights of African Americans, the pattern of constitutional exclusion pioneered by George was repeated in Alabama, Louisiana, Virginia, and the Carolinas. The franchise would not be restored to African Americans in Mississippi until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



L A M A R H A L L

In 1977 this building was dedicated in honor of Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar II (1825-1893).

Born in Putnam County, Georgia, Lamar moved to Mississippi in 1849. He joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi as adjunct professor of mathematics from 1850 to 1852, and again in 1861 as chair of ethics and metaphysics. During this period, he established himself as a lawyer, planter, and slaveowner, owning thirty-one slaves by 1860.

His political career began when he was elected to the Georgia state legislature in 1853 and then to the U.S. House of Representatives from Mississippi in 1856. Resigning from Congress in 1860, Lamar served as delegate from Lafayette County to Mississippi's Secession Convention and was chiefly responsible for writing the state's Ordinance of Secession. He helped raise the Nineteenth Mississippi Infantry Regiment and another state regiment, the Fourteenth, was named the Lamar Rifles in his honor. Following the Civil War, Lamar returned to the faculty of the University of Mississippi, serving as professor of law and governmental science from 1867 to 1870.

After Congress restored his political rights in 1873, Lamar represented Mississippi in the House until 1877, and in the Senate from 1877 to 1885. His 1874 eulogy for abolitionist Senator Charles Sumner made him a national figure in postwar sectional politics. Anxious Northerners, fearful of a renewal of sectional conflict, seized upon his assurances of Southern fidelity. Lamar's national prominence obscured the active role he played in dismantling Reconstruction in Mississippi to the detriment of the state's African American citizens.

In 1885, President Grover Cleveland named Lamar Secretary of the Interior, where he was instrumental in the preservation of national park lands, especially Yellowstone National Park. In 1888, he was nominated to the United States Supreme Court where he served until his death in 1893. He remains the only Mississippian to have served on the Supreme Court, and one of two Americans to have served on that Court as well as in a cabinet post, the House, and the Senate.



B A R N A R D O B S E R V A T O R Y

Frederick A. P. Barnard (1809-1889) was the third president and first chancellor of the University of Mississippi, serving from 1856 to 1861. He joined the University of Alabama's faculty in 1838, and he started a Phi Beta Kappa chapter there. In 1854 Barnard accepted a position with the University of Mississippi as a professor of mathematics, physics, civil engineering, and chemistry. In 1858 Chancellor Barnard, who was committed to making the University a respectable academic institution, addressed an "open letter" to the trustees of the University urging the creation of a "Universitas Scientarium," a university that taught students and was dedicated to research across the spectrum of human knowledge, from science and literature to agriculture, law, and medicine. Barnard Observatory was built in 1859 using slave labor with the intended function of housing the world's largest refracting telescope, but the outbreak of the Civil War prevented the telescope from ever being delivered.

Barnard also found himself enmeshed in a significant controversy regarding slavery. While he was away from his campus residence in 1859, one of his slaves, Jane, was beaten and sexually assaulted by a student. Jane described the incident to Barnard's wife, Margaret. A professor who saw the student leaving their house corroborated Jane's account. Chancellor Barnard expelled the student and would not allow him to be readmitted. The Mississippi state legislature and University board of trustees launched an investigation to determine if the student was expelled based on the testimony of a slave, which under state law was inadmissible against a white person. Although Barnard was exonerated by the board and given a vote of confidence, the inquiry led to accusations that he was insufficiently proslavery, and he left the University in 1861. Barnard later served as president of Columbia University from 1864 to 1889.



T H E U N I V E R S I T Y ' S E N S L A V E D L A B O R E R S

The first buildings on this historic circle were constructed using the labor of enslaved African Americans. From July 1846 to the opening of the University on November 6, 1848, local slaveholders received payments to rent their slaves to the college in order to clear land, create roads, dig wells, and build the original campus structures: two dormitories, two faculty residences, a steward's hall, and the Lyceum. Other buildings were soon added including the Chapel (1853) and the Observatory (1859). Work done by the enslaved included both unskilled tasks and highly skilled tasks such as masonry, carpentry, woodcarving, blacksmithing, and making the kiln-fired bricks on site. Of the original ten antebellum structures constructed in this fashion, three remain today and are within view of this spot: the Old Chapel (now Croft), Barnard Observatory, and the Lyceum.

In addition, a large number of slaves performed the massive work required to dig Hilgard Cut (which lies 400 yards east of this marker) for the Mississippi Central Railroad in 1856-1857. They were rented from Oxford slaveholders who received railroad company stock in exchange for the work done by their slaves.

Enslaved men and women, owned by faculty and students, were housed on campus during the antebellum period and could not leave the grounds without permission. The University also maintained an enslaved labor force under the proctor. While their names were rarely recorded in historical documents, we do know that George, Jane, Henry, John, Squash, Moses, Will, and Nathan were among those who performed the work of farming, maintaining the buildings and stables, and laboring for the benefit of students and faculty as cooks, waiters, housekeepers, and groundskeepers. Slavery was a system underpinned by exploitation and violence, and slaves also suffered beatings and other abuses documented in University records. The University of Mississippi today honors the legacy of these enslaved individuals and acknowledges the injustices under which they lived and labored.



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. This 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 Pietate Alumnorum,” in honor of the University of Mississippi alumni who served in the Civil War.