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Wausau Historical Hung Windows Preserve the Architectural Heritage of Vanderbilt University

Wausau, Wis. – For more than a decade, Wausau Window and Wall Systems® has engineered windows to match the original, steel and putty windows and gothic style of Vanderbilt University's Nashville campus.

For such Vanderbilt buildings as Benson Science Hall, Calhoun Hall, Jacobs Hall and Divinity Quadrangle, Wausau representative Gary Bowie works closely with the University's engineering department and glazing contractor Dale, Inc., to maintain the historic buildings' aesthetics while providing increased energy efficiency in the Southern heat.

Benson Science Hall

Standing in a grove of Vanderbilt's oldest and most majestic trees, Victorian style Benson Science Hall is a composite of two historic structures: Old Science (1880) and adjacent Old Central (circa 1859).

The trees were small and young when Old Science was built in 1880. Machine and forge shops and steam boilers for the new campus heating plant were in the basement, classrooms and laboratories for botany, geology, and engineering on upper floors. Over the years, Old Science provided classrooms and offices for English, philosophy and mathematics; housed the geology museum; and in the 1970s was a studio art center.

Old Central, once the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Foote, is the only campus building that pre-dates the University. Bishop Holland McTyeire lived here while overseeing construction of the first campus buildings. It was a faculty residence for many years, then housed female students. The departments of philosophy and mathematics were here; English and economic development departments were later residents.

Old Science and Old Central have survived more than one master plan for the campus that called for their removal, and in 1983, the two buildings were connected and restored with funds from Robert G. Benson and the Benson family. As part of the restoration, Wausau provided high performance windows to replace the previous steel units. With the completed renovation, Benson Science Hall now houses the English and history departments in one, combined structure.

Calhoun Hall

Named for Nashville businessman W. H. Calhoun, Calhoun Hall was built in 1928 with the architectural guidance of Henry C. Hibbs, Calhoun Hall underwent a major expansion in 1993, which included the replacement windows to seamlessly match the new addition. Wausau's historical windows were an ideal fit. Today, this five-story, 53,522-square-foot building houses communication studies and theatre, economics and business administration, political science, and the European Studies Program.

Divinity Quadrangle

Built in 1959, the quadrangle was designed by the architectural firm Brush Hutchison & Gwinn and showcases Christian symbolism in nearly every architectural detail. In 1966, the quadrangle was named to commemorate the merger of Oberlin College Graduate School of Theology with Vanderbilt Divinity School. Encompassing more than 60,000-square-feet, Divinity Quadrangle updated its windows with historic units from Wausau.

Jacobs Hall

When the new Engineering Building opened for classes in the fall of 1950, it housed all School of Engineering departments. Designed by Hart Freeland & Roberts, it was the first academic addition to the campus after World War II. Little more than a shell at the beginning, it has endured frequent modifications. Engineering alumnus A. J. Dyer, founder of Nashville Bridge Company, was a major contributor to the building fund and the principal donor of Mechanical Engineering Laboratories, added in 1958.

In 1996, the building was renamed Jacobs Hall in honor of Dillard Jacobs, Ph.D., Founder's Medallist of the School of Engineering's Class of 1932 and a professor of engineering at Vanderbilt for nearly 30 years. During the 1990s, Jacobs Hall was once again in need of renovation. Wausau contributed to the building's modernization by replacing all of the old steel and putty windows with more energy-efficient high performance units.

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation. For more information on Wausau Window and Wall Systems, please call (877) 678-2983, or visit www.wausauwindow.com.

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