Pomerene Hall: A Historic Building

Pomerene Hall owes its existence to a minority group on campus during the early 1900s: Women.

Due to the small proportion of women attending, only a single room in University Hall served as women's social center and study room.

In 1917, the Women's Council lobbied the board of trustees for money to construct a women's building.

The “Gab Room” in University Hall. Source: University Archives.
An Important Purpose

Completed in two phases, Pomerene Hall opened in 1922 with social rooms, a teaching kitchen, a natatorium, and a gymnasium where women's physical education classes were held.

Source: University Archives
As time wore on, the building lost most of its original functions and purpose thanks to a new Ohio Union (est. 1951) serving both men and women.

Many departments moved in and out during the next 70 years.

By the early 2000s, the building was showing its age.
A Purpose Regained

With $42 million from the State of Ohio, the university has completely renovated Pomerene Hall – giving this historical building a new purpose and new life.

Rendering of restored building and Mirror Lake