

Miss Vivian Simpson Becomes Maryland's Secretary Of State

Annapolis, Dec. 15 (AP)—Vivian V. Simpson today became Maryland's first woman Secretary of State and 500 women agreed it was "a great moment" in history.

Miss Simpson, champion of female rights, was sworn in at the State House by Governor Lane, who appointed her to the highest position ever held by a woman in Maryland.

A crowd of some 700 Democrats and Republicans from throughout the State overflowed the House of Delegates chamber for the ceremony. Most were women.

Great Moment For State

Mrs. India Edwards, director of the women's division of the Democratic National Committee, expressed the views of the audience when she said: "It is a great moment in the history of Maryland."

Smiling Miss Simpson, 46-year-old attorney and president of the Montgomery County Bar Association, wore a black wool suit, a picture hat surmounted by pink roses and blue satin bows and a corsage of orchids.

"I am deeply gratified by the confidence which the Governor has reposed in me," she told the crowd.

Was Expelled By U. Of M.

"I am not the kind of woman that uses the word 'thrilled,'" she said later at a reception given by Governor and Mrs. Lane, but she was obviously filled with emotion.

Twenty-six years ago as a student at the University of Maryland, Miss Simpson was ordered expelled for refusing to conform to school discipline.

She was described as a professed



MISS VIVIAN V. SIMPSON

"man-hater" and a student who violated rules by making fudge after lights-out.

Fighting back, Miss Simpson went to court for a writ of mandamus, said she sought only the privileges already given to male students and lost the case finally in the State's highest court.

She transferred to George Washington University and in 1927 graduated from the George Washington Law School.

She succeeded Bertram L. Boone, 2d, who resigned to take a State Department position.