

For Immediate Release
UMKC Schedules Demolition of the Dickey Mansion Carriage House!
Contact: Lisa Lassman Briscoe, Executive Director
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of the Dickey Mansion Carriage House!**
Community Interest And Feedback High

Kansas City, MO, August 14, 2018 - September 24th will mark the end of the large stately carriage house on the UMKC campus that was built in 1912 by Walter S. Dickey. As the carriage house for what is now known as Scofield Hall, the stone building sits just off Rockhill Road on 51st Street.

The historic structure is being demolished to create an enhanced driveway for a planned addition to the School of Computing and Engineering. The carriage house was part of the 20 acre Dickey estate and served as a garage, power plant and caretaker's home. The stone was quarried on the site and the architect for the estate was Roger Gilman of Kansas City. Mr. Dickey died in 1931, and William Volker, who was interested in establishing the University of Kansas City (UKC), financed the purchase of the property to be given to the University. The mansion, greenhouse and carriage house were the first buildings operated by the University. In the 85 years of University ownership, the carriage house has been used for classrooms, offices, campus security and maintenance functions.

As an organization that works to create public awareness of endangered historic buildings of significance, the community has spoken loudly about their disappointment in the University's intent. In response to Historic Kansas City's release of the demolition plan last Friday, the information has reached over 45,000 individuals across platforms, with 200 comments, 200 shares of our post, and growing.

Historic Kansas City's objective in sharing this information is to raise public awareness in the hope that feedback may help UMKC rethink a simplistic demolition plan to meet their educational space or driveway enhancement needs. The community needs to help them think more creatively to save a significant building related to the history of UMKC and the City. Further, more imaginative institutions have preserved their historic buildings while continuing their growth. They are not inconsistent.

Let us also not forget Epperson House, placed on HKC's Most Endangered List for 2018. The once magnificent mansion now sits empty on a hill at 52nd and Cherry Streets overlooking the UMKC campus. Epperson slowly deteriorates with minimal maintenance work being done to keep it from falling apart entirely and will remain vacant for the foreseeable future. Restoration estimates range from \$8 – \$10 million for a potential alumni center or other use. A collaboration among philanthropic, state and local officials, developers, and preservationists will be necessary for a full restoration and 21st century adaptive reuse of this local landmark.

Many have asked HKC what they can do, and we have encouraged them to express their concerns and disappointment about both structures directly to Chancellor Agrawal at chancellor@umkc.edu or 816 235-1101. As an institution supported by your tax dollars, tuition and alumni support, it is important that institutional leadership hear directly from constituents vested in preserving the historic fabric on the UMKC campus. Let your voice be heard.

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