



August 27, 2018

James A. Polsinelli, Chair, University of Missouri - Kansas City Trustees
Polsinelli
900 W. 48th Place Suite 900
Kansas City, Missouri 64112

Re: Dickey Mansion Carriage House – Proposal Demolition September 24th

Mr. Polsinelli:

As a trustee and steward of UMKC we would ask your attention to correct a short-sighted decision by university leadership. Specifically, the scheduled September 24th demolition of the Dickey mansion carriage house. As part of the planned addition to the School of Computing and Engineering, the historic structure is being demolished for an enhanced driveway and loading area.

The Dickey carriage house, which is in good condition, is one of the two original buildings of the University of Kansas City (UKC). It was built in 1913 as the power plant, maintenance facility and caretaker's residence for the Dickey mansion, now named Scofield Hall. Walter Dickey was a prominent Kansas City business man who also owned two historically important newspapers in Kansas City, The Kansas City Journal and the Kansas City Post. The demolition of the building would be a significant loss to UMKC's history, as well as the history of Kansas City.

Historic Kansas City posted the scheduled demolition on our social media platforms on August 10th and August 14th, the response has been overwhelming. The news has reached over 54,000 individuals, resulted in 420 comments and been "shared" well over 200 times. As taxed payers, alumni, donors, employees and students, the community is applauded. It has reminded all constituents about the poor track record of preservation by the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Everyone appreciates the importance of UMKC to the City of Kansas City and the region, the need to expand growing educational programs and have great facilities for student learning. What is not understood is the insensitivity to the history and built environment of the campus. Many other institutions have experienced significant growth while finding creative and innovative ways to protect their historical buildings and heritage. When you think of great college campuses, great old buildings are an integral part of that experience. Historic Kansas City encourages you as leaders of UMKC to help university administrators think more creatively to address their educational needs while protecting the historic structures of the campus and the history they represent. Growth and preservation are not inconsistent, but require vision, innovation and sound leadership.

For your review, please find pictures of the Dickey mansion carriage house, as well as a site plan of the enhanced driveway intended to replace the building.

We would be glad to discuss this issue and assist in rethinking what is considered a poor decision on behalf of UMKC.

Thank you for your service to UMKC.

Jim Wanser, President, Historic Kansas City

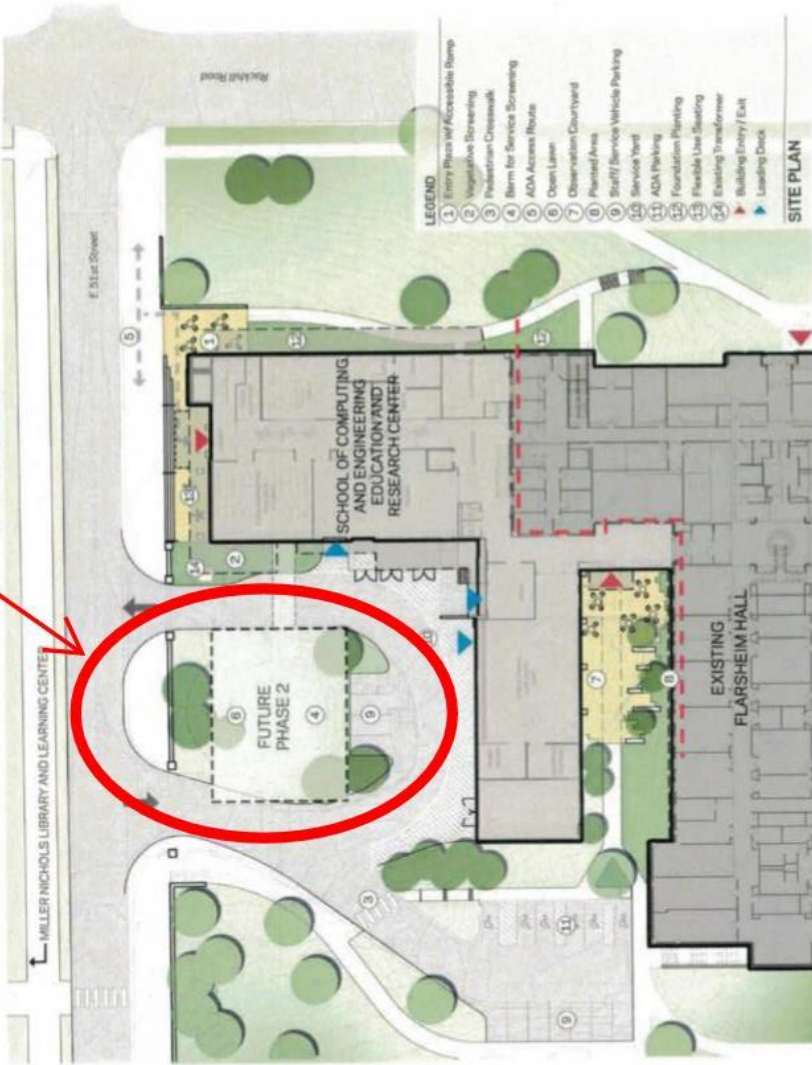
cc:

UMKC Chancellor C. Mauli Agrawal, Ph.D.
Troy Lillebo, Director of External Relations, Liaison to the UMKC Trustees

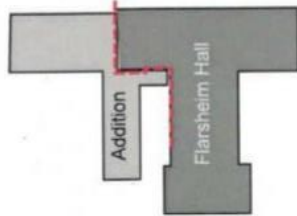




Dickey Mansion Carriage House Location



Site Plan



Key Plan