



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 24, 2018

Statement by the President of Historic Kansas City, Jim Wanser.

Demolition looms over the Dickey Mansion Carriage House.

Today, September 24th may mark the end of the large stately carriage house on the UMKC campus 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 is in good condition, and 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.

HKC 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.

HKC encourages UMKC to 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.

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Press Release, letter to the Trustee Chair, and the proposed plans:
<https://www.historickansascity.org/downloads/>

Facebook page with three posts over the course of August: <https://www.facebook.com/HistorickKC/>