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**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

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LINDY CASEBIER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

August 18, 2012

Bob Wiseman
Vice President for Facilities Management
University of Kentucky
225 Frank D. Peterson Service Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0005

RE: Potential Demolition of Structures at the University of Kentucky: 658 South Limestone Street (the Ligon House) and 660 South Limestone Street (the Matthews House and Garden)

Dear Mr. Wiseman,

The Kentucky Heritage Council, State Historic Preservation Office has been made aware of the potential demolition of two historic structures on the University of Kentucky campus. While each of the above referenced structures is significant in their own right, we are particularly surprised and dismayed that the university would consider the removal of the Matthews House and Garden. Having been built and occupied by the first Dean of the University's College of Agriculture, the Matthews House and Garden is a tangible connection to the university's past for all students, but particularly for those in the College of Agriculture. This heritage should be celebrated and passed on to future generations.

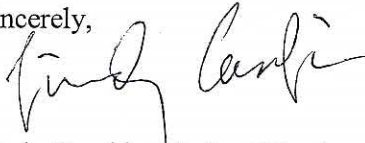
In an August 1, 2012 letter to Linda Carroll, President of the Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation, you stated that, "The University appreciates our historic assets. We have recently funded significant repairs to one of our houses along Maxwell Street, We likewise have put funds into Spindletop Hall repairs as well as into Carnahan House repairs." It seems reasonable to point out that University of Kentucky leadership, past and present, have made decisions that support the university's built heritage so that we can enjoy and learn from that heritage today. Perhaps the examples you reference in your letter would not be here for the university to appreciate today had past leadership not allowed them to survive in the face of perpetual growth.

For more than 40 years, the Kentucky Heritage Council has been assisting individuals, communities and local governments with making historic preservation an important component of comprehensive planning and economic development. The Kentucky Heritage Council is also charged with coordinating the federally mandated protection of historic properties listed in or eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA / 36CFR Part 800). In addition to our general comments above, we feel obligated to make you aware of possible regulatory requirements associated with the redevelopment of 658 and 660 South Limestone Street. We understand the financial constraints placed on the university by state budget cuts and the requirement that you “shepherd [your] resources strategically and carefully.” It therefore seems possible that federal grants or other federal funding or assistance could come into play as part of the university’s plan to expand the Law Building. We therefore formally request that no anticipatory demolition of historic buildings occur in conjunction with planning for the Law Building expansion if federal funding or assistance could be pursued. Such an action would jeopardize federal funding or assistance. Furthermore, any ground disturbing activities on these parcels, including demolition, would be subject to an archaeological assessment in compliance with the Kentucky State Antiquities Act (KRS 164.705 - KRS 164.735; KRS 164.990).

If you have any questions regarding these comments or if we can assist in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact Craig Potts of my staff at 502-564-7005 x 123.

Sincerely,



Lindy Casebier, Acting Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

CC:

Dr. Eli Capilouto, UK President
Dean David A. Brennen, UK College of Law
Linda Carroll, BGT President
John Rhorer, Jr., Historic Commission Chair