

Board Meeting  
May 21, 2009

APPROVE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING MUMFORD HOUSE

WHEREAS, the Mumford House, designed in 1870 as a model farmhouse and located one block east of the corner of Sixth Street and Lorado Taft Drive in Urbana, is the oldest building in existence on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus, and

WHEREAS, the Mumford House stands near the center of what once was the Experimental Farm of the Illinois Industrial University (IIU) and was originally the home for the experimental farm's livestock manager, and the former home to three deans of the College of Agriculture (1880 to 1938), and

WHEREAS, the Mumford House is a significant building associated with persons who established the IIU in 1867 and is associated with John Milton Gregory throughout his Regency, and

WHEREAS, the Mumford House is a two-story dwelling having characteristics of the Victorian Gothic style reflecting the influences of Andrew Jackson Downing, Lewis F. Allen, Henry W. Cleaveland, and William and Samuel D. Backus, and

WHEREAS, current University students, alumni, members of the Urbana-Champaign community, and citizens of the state of Illinois have expressed strong sentiments in preserving the Mumford House *in-situ*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Board of Trustees recognizes the need for and the importance of the Mumford House *in-situ* at Illinois to make its students, faculty, staff, and community aware of the University's founding principles and agricultural history, and
2. THAT the Board of Trustees fully supports the continued planning and fundraising for this project to restore and preserve the University's oldest building in existence on its campus, including a maintenance endowment fund to maximize the utility of the facility in perpetuity, for the future of the citizens of Illinois, and
3. *THAT the Board of Trustees, due to the importance of this structure to the University, states that this matter is one of policy and therefore controlled by Board decision. No action shall be taken to demolish, alter to a point that restoration is made impossible or impractical, or to allow the structure to further deteriorate. The administration is directed to formulate a plan for restoration of the structure by October 1, 2009, and forward such plan to the Board.*