

Riemer, Allison

From: Anthony Bruce <anthony@berkeleyheritage.com>
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2025 12:15 PM
To: Raphael Breines
Cc: Jessica Tai; Betsy Frederick Rothwell; baha@berkeleyheritage.com; Wendy Hillis; Jules Feher; info@berkhistory.org; Landmarks Preservation Commission; BerkeleyTogether@groups.io
Subject: Re: UC Berkeley Architectural Salvage Program - Demolition of City Landmark Buildings
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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This is unacceptable to me as a Berkeley resident. The two buildings were designated Berkeley Landmarks for good reason. They both significantly contribute to the historic character of Downtown, and especially now, as the historic buildings across University Avenue have been restored and incorporated beautifully into new development. One of the two buildings (the Heron Building) is the only known surviving commercial building designed by renowned architect John Hudson Thomas.

Any architect could easily incorporate these buildings, or their façades, into the new development replacing University Hall. It could make the development (which looks quite good from the renderings) even more interesting and preserve the character of our Downtown as well.

These two buildings ***must not*** be demolished!

Looking forward to seeing your architect's revised plans,
Anthony Bruce,
Berkeley
510-847-1379

On Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 11:30 AM Raphael Breines <rbreines@berkeley.edu> wrote:
Dear Bancroft Library, Environmental Design Archives and BAHA,

As part of the [Berkeley Innovation Zone project](#), which will redevelop the former University Hall site with two laboratory buildings, UC Berkeley will soon demolish two UC-owned commercial buildings located at 2136-2140 University Avenue (Ernest A. Heron Building) and 2154-2160 University Avenue (Martha E. Sell Building), which are both designated City of Berkeley Landmarks and are contributors to the Shattuck Avenue Downtown Historic. The Heron Building is approximately 5,000 gross square feet and comprises three commercial units. The Sell Building is approximately 16,523 gross square feet and contains four commercial units; Historic American Buildings Survey reports for the buildings are attached.

I am reaching out because prior to demolition of these two landmark buildings (University Hall is now demolished), UC Berkeley has committed to contacting local historical societies and architectural salvage companies to give them an opportunity to salvage individual architectural elements from the Heron and Sell buildings, to the extent reasonably feasible, for public information or reuse in other locations. If there is interest, UC Berkeley could make building resources available for removal. If no organization is able and willing to salvage any materials, demolition will proceed. Prior to reaching out to architectural salvage companies, I am contacting local historical societies to gauge interest in building materials and also to confirm whether the list of architectural salvage companies that UC Berkeley intends to contact is comprehensive. Please let me know your thoughts ASAP.

- [Building Resources](#) 701 Amador Street, San Francisco 94124 415-285-7814
- [Heritage Salvage](#) 1473 Petaluma Blvd. South, Petaluma CA 94952 707-762-6277; office@heritagesalvage.com
- [The Reuse People](#), 9235 San Leandro Street, Oakland CA 94603 510-383-1983; MichaelChambers@TheReUsePeople.org
- This & That 1701 Rumrill Blvd., San Pablo, CA 94806 510-232-1273
- [Placemakers](#) 1062 Center Street, San Carlos, CA 94070 650-421-1330; cart@placemakersinc.com
- [Whole House Building Supply & Salvage](#) 1000 S. Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo CA 94402 650-218-8596; paul@driftwoods salvage.com

Thank you for your time and attention, Raphael

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Raphael Breines

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