

**From:** [Noelle Jacquet-Morrison](#)  
**To:** [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward3](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward5](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward7](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward1](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward2](#); [ward4@ci.st.paul.mn.us](#); [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward6](#); [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Loras Hall, St.Thomas university  
**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021 4:16:45 PM

---

Dear Mitra,

As a Merriam Park resident, a University of St Thomas neighbor, and a co-chair of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee, I am supporting the demolition of Loras Hall to make way for the new STEAM building. I do not take this position lightly. Preservation is an important tool that allows us to ensure that history is present and helps guide us in making decisions for the present looking into the future.

While residents and both Union Park District Council and Macalester District Council supported the demolition of Loras Hall, the Heritage Preservation Commission opposed such action in the name of preservation, thus ignoring the voices of the people. So, the question is why save a building with no notable features, that is expensive to maintain and restore, and whose construction does not allow it to be transformed from cramped quarters into open spaces. The only argument against its demolition is because Cass Gilbert's name is attached to it.

Preservation should be mindful, with the understanding that not all can be saved from the wrecking ball. Preservation has the power to reflect a time in history, its impact on yesterday and to be used as a teaching tool for future generations. But preservation should be calculated, and not stand in the way of positive changes. With the proposal of the STEAM complex it will continue to help grow the area intellectually, financially with the mission of educating future leaders. The University has made it clear that it did not have the funds to move, restore or repurpose the building. Its board of regents have indicated that they will not approve additional funds to be dedicated for any initiatives directed to Loras Hall. The only option mothballing the building will serve no purpose and will make no statement in the name of preservation.

There are many ways to keep Cass Gilbert's work alive and well but preserving a building with no purpose is in my view not one of them. Keeping an outdated building, requiring constant maintenance, and saddling the University with costs that will not yield any returns is short sighted and is not preservation. As an elected official who represents the will of the people in Ward 4, where the building is located, I urge you to support the University of St. Thomas's request to remove Loras Hall and to vote as such. I am asking you to not only consider my voice, but those of the Union Park District Council and Macalester Groveland Community Council, which overwhelmingly recommended for the demolition of Loras Hall to make way for the STEAM building — a community-focused and sustainability-oriented structure that will be an asset to our neighborhood .

Respectfully,

Noelle Jacquet-Morrison  
[Quinnford01@gmail.com](mailto:Quinnford01@gmail.com)