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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON BEGINS RECLAMATION OF RIVERFRONT LAND; SAVES ARCHITECTURAL REMNANTS, REMOVES BUILDING 26

DAYTON, Ohio – The University of Dayton is beginning to remove Building 26 at the corner of Patterson Boulevard and Stewart Street in preparation for cleaning up the soil and readying an 11-acre riverfront parcel for redevelopment.

A demolition permit was issued today by the city of Dayton.

The mothballed building served as a top-secret site for NCR during World War II for the development of a code-breaking machine, but was heavily altered over the years. Twice in the past year the Ohio Historic Preservation Office concluded that the building did not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Steve R. Rauch Inc. has extracted architectural remnants, such as crown molding from the front vestibule, decorative limestone and art deco curves and finishes around the roof. In addition, pallets of stone lintels and original bricks were salvaged. UD is teaming with Dayton History to tell the story of NCR engineer and UD alumnus Joseph Desch and the work that occurred in the building. UD is donating the remnants to Dayton History for an interactive display at Carillon Park, has commissioned an oral history project and is planning a commemoration on the site. In recent weeks, the block walls of what's believed to be Desch's office have been removed and may be used to help tell the story.

Since 2005, the University of Dayton has met frequently with preservationists and studied the building from environmental, architectural, historic and development perspectives. According to Martin-Beachler Architects Inc., it would cost about \$3 million just to demolish the three additions to the building and replicate the original façade. A complete restoration would cost millions more.

"We remain committed to a lasting, meaningful commemoration on the site. We will help ensure that history lives on in a way that will educate and inspire future generations," said Daniel J. Curran, University of Dayton president.

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