

UNH Huddleston Hall Renovations: Honors College and Life Safety Improvements

RE: Site Plan Review – Town of Durham

To the Planning Board,

Huddleston Hall was constructed in 1919 and has achieved an iconic status on the UNH campus in Durham. Designed by the University's first architect, Eric Huddleston, it is a heritage building that anchors the east end of Main Street and its ballroom has been an important event space for over 100 years. Huddleston is a Georgian Revival style building as evidenced by its classical proportions, white cornice trim with dentils, double hung windows with small panes, and decorative fanlight window over the centered main entry just to name a few. It is constructed of masonry exterior walls and a wood framed roof clad with slate shingles and was originally built as a dining hall and dorm and later converted to an academic building for faculty offices, classrooms, and a 400-person ballroom to replace the dining hall. The building is approximately four stories/40 feet tall to the roof ridge and has a footprint of 11,000 SF with a total area of 40,000 SF.

The upcoming Huddleston Hall Renovation Project is targeted at modernizing life safety systems, bringing the existing building into current building, energy, and accessibility code compliance, and creating a new home for the University's expanding Honors College. In 2019, when addressing the future of UNH, President Dean identified four strategic priorities aimed at enhancing and strengthening the University community. This development of the Honors College is specifically aimed at *Expanding Academic Excellence* across campus and locating the Honors College at Huddleston will create a living/learning community within proximity to Dining (Holloway Commons), Living (Mills Hall), and Outdoor Spaces (Courtyard between Huddleston and Mills).

The scope of work for the project includes partial renovations to the original 40,000 SF building, and a two-story 3,500 SF addition that is adjacent to Quad Way at the west end of Huddleston. This addition will allow for a second main entrance to the building that will act as the new accessible entrance to the building, and as the primary entrance for the Honors College.

Interior Scope

- Full Renovations to the Second Floor
- Partial Renovations to the Ground, First, and Third Floors
- Life Safety and Building Code Upgrades
- Additional Bathrooms / Renovated Existing Bathrooms
- Installation of New Elevator
- Installation of New Fire Alarm System
- Installation of New Fire Suppression System
- Additions/Renovations to Mechanical Rooms
- Hazardous Materials Abatement
- Renovations to Existing Utility Infrastructure (Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing)

Exterior Scope

- New Two-Story Addition
- Replacement of Existing Roof Shingles
- Repair and Paint Trim/Moulding
- Removal of Roof Top Mechanical Equipment and Egress System
- New Landscaping and Walkways
- Reconfiguration of Parking and Utilities at the Rear of the Building

The University has partnered with Harriman Architects and Engelberth Construction to undertake the project with interior demolition of select areas to commence by the end of August 2022. It is anticipated that new construction will begin by the end of November and will continue for approximately 18 months with an expected completion date of approximately Spring 2024.

We thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KW', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Weston, AIA, LEED AP
Executive Director of Campus Stewardship and University Architect
University of New Hampshire