

# Construction permit pulled for Universal Life building

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The planned \$6.2 million redevelopment of the historic Universal Life Building took another step this week with the request for a construction permit valued at \$500,000.

The permit describes the work as the repair and alteration to 30,000 square feet of office space for commercial use and development.

The 66-year-old building at 480 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Danny Thomas was designed and built by the African-American firm McKissack and McKissack, and housed one of the nation's largest black-owned insurance firms.

The Egyptian revival-style building has been vacant since 2001.

Architects Juan Self and Jimmie Tucker purchased the building in 2006, and plan to redevelop it as an environmentally sustainable office space with a green roof and solar panels.

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