

Group aims to save old school

he said.

Frieze was built in 1907 as Ann Arbor High School. U-M bought it in 1956 and has used it for classroom and theater space. The citizens group wants to save the Beaux Arts exterior, and says U-M could gut the interior. (A glass and metal addition, built in 1957 on the southeast side has few fans.)

Members of the group believe the building's foundation is solid enough to allow U-M to add several floors to it. And, they said, U-M could add much more space by building a tower rising perhaps 10 stories immediately next to the old building's footprint.

"The only way we can connect to our past is the buildings," Susan Wineberg said at the meeting Thursday night. "The people wear out faster than the buildings."

Like many of the people who attended, Wineberg said, she

did not attend school at the building, but is concerned about its loss to the city's character and its history.

One of the speakers at the regents meeting was Christine Crockett, president of the Old Fourth Ward Association, who reiterated concerns that the university's project won't be good for the nearby neighborhood. Parking isn't being built for the dorm, and neighbors fear students' cars will take up already scarce street parking.

Also weighing in against the plan were representatives of the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission, and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, who believe the Frieze Building could be rehabilitated.

"I will really feel badly if they take it down," said Sandy Schulz, another class of '55 member. "Ann Arbor wouldn't be the same to me."

Grads gather to save their old school



ROBERT CHASE, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

Graduates of the Ann Arbor High School Class of 1955 gathered Thursday at the University of Michigan Frieze Building, former home of the high school, to emphasize their opposition to demolition of the building by U-M to make room for a residence hall. Standing at the rail, from top, are Bill Shaw, Bill Darwin, JoAnne Darwin, Joanne Kennedy, Maxine Harrison and Sandy Schulz. Standing at left, from front, are George Kempf, Eleanor Shaw and Len Coleman.