CHRONOLOGY OF HPER FACILITY PLANNING AND MAY 4 COALITION

1963 - 1969 The School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Long-Range Planning Committee considers at least eight different sites for a future HPER facility.

1966, 1969 Land on the corner of Allerton and Summit roads is purchased by KSU with a new HPER building in mind.

October 20, 1969 HPER Long-Range Planning Committee recommends site at Allerton and Summit.

April 16, 1970 HPER Space Planning Committee recommends site north of Memorial Gym.

1971 Plans to build a parking lot on the field where the National Guard maneuvered are dropped because of student opposition.

1973 Various construction sites are still considered.

March 4, 1974 President Olds indicates to HPER Dean Erickson that he has opposed building north of Memorial Gym. He is assured that the building would be a compact addition which would not interfere with the open space and that no trees would be disturbed.

March 1975 State legislature approves funds for KSU HPER facility.

June 1975 University administrators approve site north of Memorial Gym.

Fall 1975 KSU administrators hire Richard Fleischman as project architect.

Spring 1976 First discussion of gym site in a committee in which a representative of student government takes part - the possibility of a connection to Lake Hall is mentioned when a university architect incidently comes to Athletic Advisory Committee.

Summer 1976 Student Caucus members first become aware that proposed gym site would impair May 4 historical area when the summer Kent Weekly publishes a photo of the model and students observe soil samples being taken. Student Government contacts the American Civil Liberties Union (which is handling the May 4 family cases) and attempts unsuccessfully to get copies of building plans from KSU.

November 3, 1976 First Kent Stater article to say that proposed gym may impose on May 4 site and destroy large trees.
November 4, 1976

Kent Stater quote of Trustee Blakemore comment is first indication that trustees may vote on the issue at next meeting.

November 9, 1976

Concerned students meet and draw up list of concerns about gym plans to take to Board of Trustees.

November 11, 1976

A meeting, arranged between Student Caucus and KSU administration with architect Robert Fleischman, is held just prior to trustee meeting to discuss student concerns. Fleischman indicates that he had not been told where the shootings took place.

KSU Board of Trustees involved in decision on gym site for the first time. Concerned students and Student Caucus present several concerns and ask that a decision be postponed until these are addressed. Trustees express concern about trees and May 4 legaleities, but vote unanimously to send the plans on to the state architect.

December 6, 1976

May 4 Task Force requests that Ohio Historical Society declare the land a historical site.

January 1977

Vice President Biles proposes memorial chapel.

May 4 Task Force says it will look into this, but expresses concern about interfering with site and that the proposal was made to draw attention away from efforts to preserve site.

February 1977

Ohio Historical Society rejects application in 15-13 vote because the site is under 50 years old. They say they will write to the National Historical Society for instructions.

Winter 1977

Kent Interhall Council referendum: 70% of students polled oppose gym site. 61% disagree with method of student input used.

May 4, 1977

Occupation of Rockwell Hall, birth of May 4 Coalition, formulation of 8 demands.

May 5, 1977 (Thursday)

Mass rally of 2000 students reaffirms the 8 demands.

May 6, 1977 (Friday)

Coalition delegation meets with chair of the Board of Trustees George Janik and is granted permission to speak to the Board on some of the demands.

May 12, 1977 (Thursday)

1000 people attend board meeting. Coalition speakers present concerns, including one speaker in opposition to the gym site. Both an HPER student and a student working in the President's office are allowed to speak in favor of approving the site.
May 12, 1977
(Thursday)  President Olds says that the university has secured legal advice from judges and attorneys with the May 4 case that the building would not pre-empt "any element of the site." Trustee Dix suggests delaying the decision until June. V.F. Bruska says that if contracts are not let by June 30 the trustees could resubmit a formal request for the funds to the legislature. Vote 8-1 (Dix dissents) to authorize awarding of contracts.

May 19, 1977
New KSU Student Caucus opposes gym site.

Late May 1977  Attorney for the May 4 appeal, Stanford Rosen, writes to President Olds. He says that plaintiffs' attorneys were notified of construction plans but 1) were never asked for a legal opinion, 2) were not told how soon construction was planned, and 3) never approved plans.

May 21, 1977  State Rep. John Begala publicly voices dissatisfaction with gym site and expresses opinion that it would be possible for the state legislature to reappropriate funds if gym plans are changed.

June 4, 1977
(Saturday)  Coalition rally on proposed gym site.

June 9, 1977
(Thursday)  Board of Trustees name Brage Golding new KSU President. Trustees Quirk and Dix move to reconsider gym site; motion is tabled 3-2 until protesters leave the hill.

June 10 (Fri.)  Golding reportedly asks that protest stop.

June 21 (Tues.)  May 4 families meet in Cincinnati after court arguments and vote to support the Coalition fight.

June 27 (Mon.)  Gym contracts are finalized.

June 29 (Wed.)  Coalition pickets Gov. Rhodes in Ravenna and Canton.

July 3 (Sun.)  Families of the slain and wounded meet at Methodist Church in Kent, ask for reconsideration of site. President Olds says that the site will not be changed and KSU will seek a court injunction against the protesters.

July 6 (Wed.)  Coalition marches to Rockwell Hall (Administration building) and meets President Olds. Ohio Representatives Begala and Lehman introduce legislation for "suitable memorial".

July 7 (Thurs.)  Trustees Janik and Johnston and KSU V.P. Robert Dunn reportedly meet with legislators in Columbus seeking money to move gym site.

Trustee Robert Blakemore, in a speech, says Blanket Hill is "too attractive a site to be used for a gym", and that the Board erred in picking this site.
July 7 (Thurs.) Mark and Chic Canfora arrested by KSU police for trespass and disorderly conduct when helping paraplegic Ron Kovic enter Stophler Hall. The Coalition was meeting there in the Center for Peaceful Change with the permission of Dr. Dennis Carey. Mark and Chic were physically abused by police.

July 9 (Sat.) President Olds issues "notice to vacate" Freedom Hill area by 8:00 am July 10.

July 10 (Sun.) Coalition holds large rally on hill at 8:00 am. Trustees vote 6-1 (Quirk dissents) to authorize KSU to seek court injunction.

July 11 (Mon.) Portage County Common Pleas Court Judge Joseph Kainrad issues a temporary restraining order barring protestors from the site after 8:00 am Tues. prohibiting construction pending a July 21 hearing on a permanent injunction.

July 12 (Tues.) 193 people removed from Freedom Hill by police. Rope fence is put around site.

July 14 (Thurs.) Midge Costanza, President Carter's assistant for public liaison calls Coalition congratulating us for our conduct during the arrests and expressing concern for the controversy.

July 15 (Fri.) Lynn Stovall, Guardsman who was here on May 4, 1970 but did not shoot, goes onto hill and is arrested. Trustees have a meeting. Student Caucus is denied permission to speak. After an executive session, Quirk moves to reconsider gym site now that hill is vacated but motion gets no second. Michael Schwartz named interim president.

July 18-19 (Mon.-Tues.) May 4 Coalition delegates and May 4 families meet with Washington officials. Metzenbaum and Seiberling request Secretary of the Interior Andrus to commission a study of making the site a National Historical Landmark.

July 20 (Wed.) At 6:00 pm a 24-hour faculty vigil begins at site. Position papers are read by representatives of faculty, community and Kent Environmental Council.

July 21 (Thurs.) Hearings begin in Portage County court on KSU's injunction. United Faculty Professional Association enters as third party defendant.

July 22 (Fri.) Hearing continues. Afternoon rally culminates in large number of people going on the hill briefly; no arrests.

July 26 (Tues.) 6 foot high chain link fence replaces rope at site. Board of Trustees meet in Canton, vote 7-2 to begin construction immediately in spite of Interior study. On the way back from Canton, Coalition cars are stopped by county roadblock and three people are
arrested for going on the hill the preceding Friday. Albert Canfora, Sr. was also arrested but released when it became known that he was not listed as one of the 27 warrants issued that day.

July 27 (Wed.) Most of the remaining people for whom there are warrants turn themselves in and are held for $2000.00 bail.

July 28 (Thurs.) Coalition Attorney Whitaker appeals Kainrad decision.

July 29 (Fri.) 62 persons arrested for going on the hill. Later 6 members of the Cleveland religious community also go onto the site. Court of Appeals rules 2-1 not to reinstate injunction. Construction activity begins. It is halted 12 hours later by Federal Judge Lambros by temporary restraining order after the Coalition files lawsuit to Cleveland Federal District Court.

August 1 (Mon.) KSU seeks to vacate temporary restraining order.

August 2 (Tues.) At Judge Lambrose's insistence, representatives of KSU and Coalition begin negotiations. During the meeting Justice Dent, mediator Richard Salem ascertains that there would be a good chance of obtaining money from the Ohio Controlling board if the trustees would ask for it. Lambrose does not rule on the motion to vacate. Representing URBA, Staughton Lynd files appeal in 11th District Court of Appeals. Golding is reported to favor gym move after visit from Quirk, Dix and John Adams.

August 3 (Wed.) Negotiations continue in federal court. Judge Lambrose meets with KSU lawyers for several hours, then suggests a settlement in which the Coalition would drop its lawsuit in return for a ninety day delay in construction.

August 4 (Thurs.) The 27 make an appearance in Kainrad's court room. Ron Kovic turns himself in and is released on personal recognizance. The families hold press conference at Pagoda; statement read by Mrs. Schroeder is to effect that only proper memorial would be reservation of site, and that as a gesture of good faith President White is to be dropped from Krause v. Rhodes. Negotiations continue in federal court. The Coalition voted to explore the ninety day offer, but KSU rejected it and similar offers.

August 5 (Fri.) Negotiations continue in federal court. KSU refuses to consider any delay in construction. The only settlement they indicate they will consider is for the Coalition to agree to rotation of the gym if approved by the state and to drop lawsuit immediately. KSU would not say how far gym could be rotated until suit is dropped.
August 7 (Sun.) KSU V.P. Fay Biles reportedly admits that she has given out inaccurate information in public statements about the gym issue.

August 16 (Tues.) Coalition delegation goes to Columbus to lobby for support from state legislators.

Coalition rallies in afternoon to ticket site.

August 17 (Wed.) Federal judge Lambros dismisses Coalition suit. Coalition lawyers file appeal immediately.

August 18 (Thurs.) Judge Lambros extends temporary restraining order pending appeal. U.S. Sen. Abourezk, (D - S. Dakota) announces intention to introduce legislation to declare a moratorium on construction until the Dept. of Interior completes study. KSU Student Caucus votes to sue to force KSU to follow procedures for construction projects. Caucus also calls for resignation of Dr. Fay Biles.