



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN SELLERS/THE CLARION-LEDGER

A collapsed, abandoned home sits on the corner of Canal and Poindexter streets Friday. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is positioned next door to 20 to 25 abandoned homes owned by the JSU Foundation. Members of the church and community members want the buildings gone, which they say have sparked an increase in illegal activity in the area.

Clean it up now

Neighbors frustrated with blight as JSU plans for property stall

ANNA WOLFE
THE CLARION-LEDGER

Several run-down, abandoned structures outside Jackson State University's campus in west Jackson are the result of stalled progress on a proposed dormitory.

For some of the school's 2016 graduates, the blight just off their campus is all they've known, because the issue has persisted on the property for four years.

State Sen. John Horhn, D-Jackson, said the student housing proposal, a \$65 million to \$75 million private-public partnership, wouldn't have cost the university a dime, but Institutions for High-

See Property, Page 6A



The Rev. Luther Ott, center, of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, speaks Friday during a news conference regarding the abandoned homes.

C
C
L
C
T
O
J
T
H
M
o
h
o
f
C
l
a
y
e
b
a
J
u
t
e
i
s
f
i
l
H
l
a
c
h
b
r
p
e
H
h
c
c
p
e
o
f
s
c
f
e
o
f
m
s
a
l
a
r
a
r
c
i
p
i
"r
t
r
s
a
u
e
w
i
d
e
h
a
r
i
a
r
t
i
c
l
e
g
e
p
e
s
i
k
r
c
a
c
e
r
t
h
S
c
S
e