



Project Name & Address: 110 E Rusk Avenue
Application Type: Demolition Historic Value Review
Legistar File ID # [91940](#)
Prepared By: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Date Prepared: March 5, 2026

Summary

Relevant Ordinance Section:

28.185(7) Review for Historic Value. Every application for demolition or removal of a principal structure shall be reviewed by the Landmarks Commission, which shall provide input to the Building Inspection Division regarding the historic value of the property with the building or structure proposed for demolition or removal.

- (a) If the Landmarks Commission determines that the property with the proposed demolition or the structure proposed for removal has no known historic value, the demolition or removal may be approved administratively under sub. (8)(b) below, provided that at least one of the standards for administrative approval have been met.
- (b) If the Landmarks Commission determines that the property with the proposed demolition or the structure proposed for removal has historic value, then the Plan Commission shall approve the demolition or removal under sub. (9) below, after considering input from the Landmarks Commission.
- (c) Nothing in this subsection eliminates the requirement in MGO Secs. [41.09\(1\)\(c\)](#) and [41.12\(3\)](#) that the demolition of landmark structures or structures in historic districts must also be approved by the Landmarks Commission through the issuance of a Certificate of Approval.

41.28 HISTORIC VALUE ADVISORY RECOMMENDATION

- (1) Review for Historic Value. Following a review of MGO Sec. 28.185 applications for demolition by the Landmarks Commission and based upon application materials, and a report by the City's Preservation Planner, and any public testimony, the Commission shall review [MGO Sec. 28.185](#) applications for demolition and assign one of the following Categories to each principal building proposed for demolition:
 - (a) Category A Demolitions: denotes that the Landmarks Commission finds that the building has historic value based on architectural significance, cultural significance, historic significance, as the work/product of an architect of note, its status as a contributing structure in a National Register Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and/or as an intact or rare example of a certain architectural style or method of construction.
 - (b) Category B Demolitions: denotes that the Landmarks Commission finds that the building has historic value related to the vernacular context of Madison's built environment, cultural practices, or as the work/product of an architect of note, but the building itself is not historically, architecturally or culturally significant.
 - (c) Category C Demolitions: denotes that the Landmarks Commission finds that the building has no known historic value. This category may also denote sites or properties that have historic value, and the significance will not be negatively impacted by the removal of the building itself. This category may also include sites or properties that have archaeological or other site findings of significance, but where removal of the building itself will have no impact.
- (2) Presence of Archaeology. When applicable, each finding shall also note the presence of an archaeological or burial site on the site of the building proposed for demolition.

110 E Rusk Avenue

Commercial building constructed in 1981, per Assessor.



Google Streetview



Google Earth

Applicant: Amy Landis, GRAEF

Applicant's Comments: We are submitting intent to demolish the William H Ferris Center at 110 Rusk Ave, Madison, WI. The Ferris Center is owned by Dane County and located on the Dane County property that is shared with the Alliant Energy Center. The demolition of the Ferris Center will clear space for future development by Dane County and the Alliant Energy Center. No additional construction projects are seeking permits at this time. The Ferris Center is a two-story building run by the Dane County Sheriff's Department. The facility was constructed by Dane County for their Huber work release program. Demolition is anticipated to begin in spring 2026 and conclude in the summer or fall 2026.

The Ferris Center (Previously called the Dane County Huber Facility) was designed in 1981. The design plans indicate the original architectural design was self performed by Dane County Department of Public Works. The original facility was a single story. The second floor was designed in 1991 by Durrant Architects and constructed in 1994.

Staff Findings: There is no preservation file or State site file for this building. The building is not architecturally significant and there are no known significant historic associations. There is no previously identified archaeology.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends a finding of (c) no known historic value.