



Project Name & Address: 302 E Washington Avenue

Application Type: Demolition Historic Value Review

Legistar File ID # [89434](#)

Prepared By: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner, Planning Division

Date Prepared: August 15, 2025

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

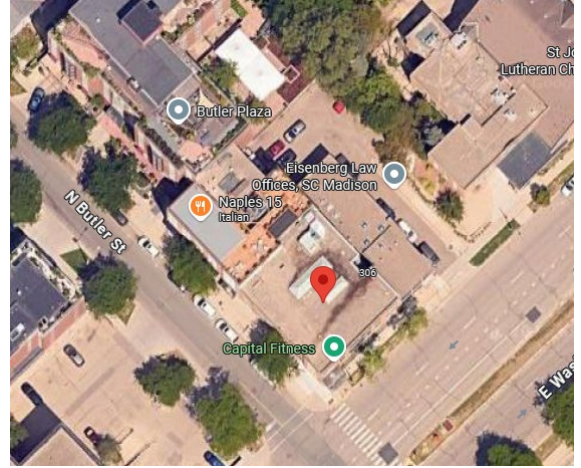
- (1) Review for Historic Value. Following a review of MGO Sec. 28.185 applications for demolition by the Landmarks Commission and based upon application materials, and a report by the City's Preservation Planner, and any public testimony, the Commission shall review [MGO Sec. 28.185](#) applications 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.

302 E Washington Avenue

Commercial building constructed in 1928



Google Streetview



Google Earth

Applicant: Duane Johnson, KBA

Applicant's Comments: This proposed project includes the redevelopment of the buildings located at 302 & 308 E Washington Ave located at the north corner of North Butler Street and East Washington Avenue. Located within the Capitol Neighborhoods, the buildings are currently occupied by Capital Fitness and Eisenberg Law Offices. This application requests the removal of these two existing buildings for the development of a new 11-story mixed-use building including 76 multifamily dwelling units, two levels of underground parking, and approximately 9,000 SF of commercial space.

302 E Washington Ave. is currently occupied by a 3-story brick building built in 1927 and renovated in 1997, at which time much of the brick detailing and corner parapet height changes were removed.

Staff Findings: The preservation file and State site file contain similar information. The Capital Times was located at 106 King St from 1917-1927, and then moved into this building in 1928, where it remained until 1949. This building has had several alterations over time, including replacement of all of the historic windows and removal of the more ornate parapet. The Capital Times has a long and significant history. While this building would not be eligible for its architecture due to the changes over time, it is still able to convey its historic associations.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends a finding of (b) as the building has historic value related to the vernacular context of Madison's built environment as the home of noted Madison newspaper, the Capital Times from 1928-1949, but the building itself is not historically, architecturally or culturally significant due to other locations being able to tell the story of the Capital Times and changes to the architectural integrity of the structure.