

LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING REPORT

August 18, 2025



Agenda Item #: 8

Project Title: 302 E Washington Avenue - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a commercial building (District 2)

Legistar File ID #: 89434

Prepared By: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner

Members: Present: Richard Arnesen, Ald. John Duncan, Molly Harris, Jacob Morrison, and Maurice Taylor
Excused: Edna Ely-Ledesma and Katie Kaliszewski

Summary

John Rolling, registering in opposition and wishing to speak
Duane Johnson, registering in support and available to answer questions

John Rolling spoke in opposition to the demolition. Assuming the commission would make a finding of (b), he encouraged them to recommend that the Plan Commission condition their approval of a demolition permit on receiving documentation of the building through photos and measured drawings.

Bailey discussed staff recommendations for the property, as outlined in the staff report.

Morrison said that Philip Homer is an architect of note who has designed many notable buildings in Madison, though this is not one of Homer's more notable works. He mentioned that the building was not landmarked, and he would support recording the site for posterity. Harris appreciated Rolling's public comment and was leaning toward wanting to record the site. Arnesen pointed out that the interior has been modified and nothing historic currently remains.

Action

A motion was made by Duncan, seconded by Morrison, to recommend 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, and as the work/product of an architect of note, 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. The motion passed by voice vote/other.