PLANNING DIVISION STAFF REPORT

June 22, 2026

PREPARED FOR THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Project Name & Address:	**502 Pflaum Road**
Application Type:	Demolition Historic Value Review
Legistar File ID #	93593
Prepared By:	Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Date Prepared:	June 18, 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.

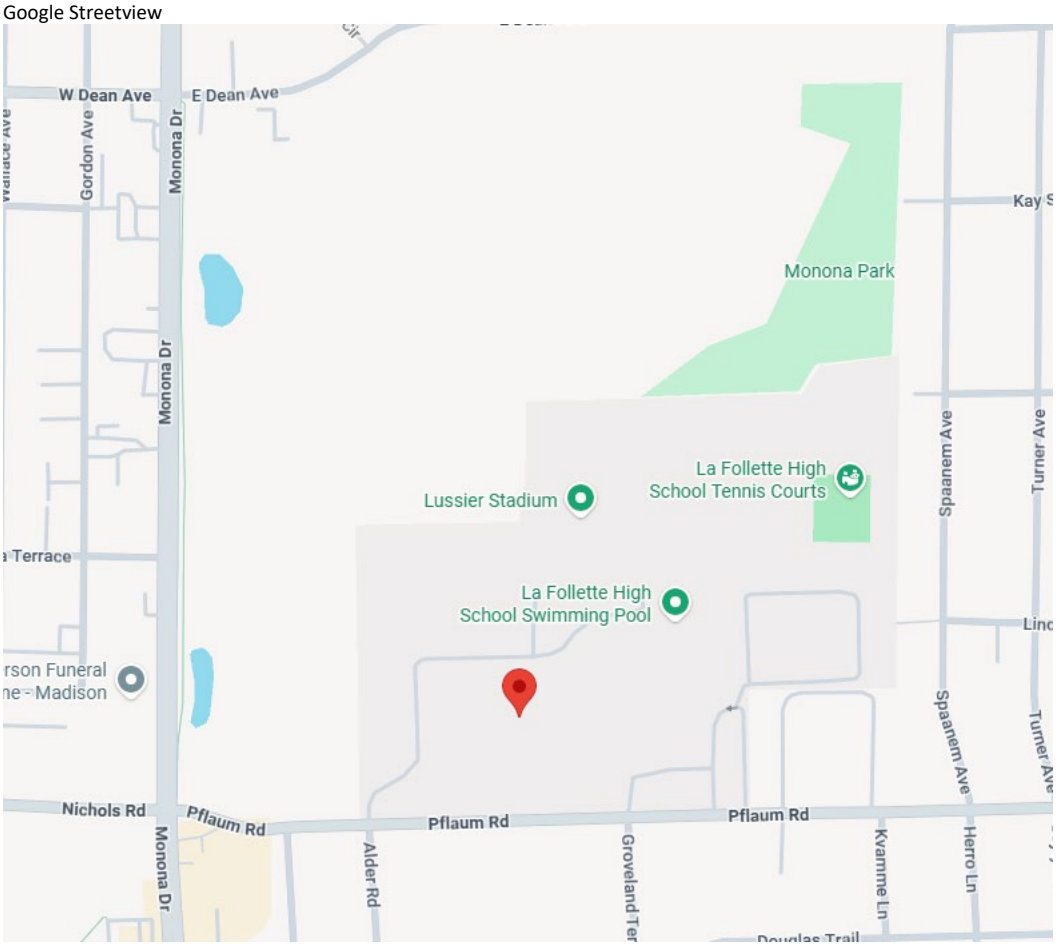
(c) Category C Demolitions: denotes that the Landmarks Commission finds that the building has no known historic value. This category may also denote sites or properties that have historic value, and the significance will not be negatively impacted by the removal of the building itself. This category 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.

502 Pflaum Road

School building with unknown date of construction for rear wing to be demolished.

Google Streetview



Google Earth

Applicant: Madison Metropolitan School District

Applicant's Comments: Madison Metropolitan School District is proposing to construct a new Middle School on the existing site located at 502 Pflaum Rd, Madison, WI 53716. The new school will be constructed to the West portion of the existing school while it is in use. Upon completion of the new construction the existing building will then be demolished with additional parking and green space constructed on the site between the middle school and La Follette High School.

Staff Findings: There is no preservation file or state site file for this property. The proposal is to demolish the rear portion of the school complex, not LaFollette High School. The rear wing that will be demolished is not individually architecturally significant and there are no known historic associations. There is no previous identified archaeology. The application materials do not provide any history of the development of this property, identify the architect, or give the dates of construction.

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