

Signs

Staff Letter - No Certificate Necessary:

1. Removal of the following, if non-historic:
 - a) Advertising billboards or freestanding business signs.
 - b) Signs that are not a permanent feature of the building.
2. Temporary signs – in place less than six months --advertising the following and not permanently affixed:
 - a) Real estate (located on the same property).
 - b) Construction projects (located on the same property).
 - c) Political campaigns.
 - d) Special events involving the neighborhood or general public.
 - e) Sales of merchandise and services when located on the inside of a commercial store window.
 - f) Building permits.
3. Repair of a sign, provided here is no change in color, pattern, message, or material.

Staff Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Incidental signs mounted on buildings or other structures on properties in commercial zoned districts.
2. Window signs permanently affixed to, painted on, or hung from the interior of a display window, and directing a message towards the outside.
3. Changes of message on existing signs other than those allowed above.
4. Repainting or restoration of an existing historic sign.

Commission Level Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. Business, advertising, and incidental signs within any Historic Place or area zoned residential.
2. Freestanding business, advertising, and incidental signs.
3. Any action deemed inappropriate by Staff.
4. Historic sign removal or alteration.
5. Business signs for legally established home occupations.
6. Historical markers and plaques.
7. Church sign location, size, material, and design; when on the premises of the church.
8. Use and placement of external illuminating devices.

Recommended:

1. Signs made of historically appropriate materials.
2. On residential buildings, signs should be attached flat on to buildings and should not obscure or deface character-defining features.
3. On buildings zoned as and whose primary use is commercial, perpendicular signs attached to the building may be considered.

Not Recommended:

1. Any internal or back-lit sign.
2. Billboards.
3. Any design, coloring, composition, or images that are overtly contemporary or not in keeping with the historic character of the building to which it is associated.
4. Permanent free-standing signs in yards, signs hung from buildings.
5. Signs over two (2) square feet in size.
6. Signs with startling or arresting colors.

Amended 10 August 2005, 1 April 2009