

Variations on Definitions of Historic Signs

Draft dated 2/19/09

The following are samples of direct quotations from historic preservation ordinances or codes that provide definitions of 'historic signs'.

3.12 "Historic Sign" means a sign located within a Historic District or Historic Overlay Zone which meets all of the requirements of the Historic District Ordinance, and the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Template General Sign Regulations, New Mexico

Sec. 64.265. Designation of Landmark Signs.

The owner of any sign that has existed in its original location since 1965 may request that said sign be reviewed for its significance upon written application to the Historic Preservation Board. The Historic Preservation Board shall find that the sign meets all of the following criteria in making its recommendation for Landmark Sign designation:

- (a) The sign exemplifies the cultural, economic or historic heritage of the City of Orlando.
- (b) The sign merits recognition as an important example of technology, craftsmanship, materials or design.
- (c) The sign has not been significantly altered from its historic appearance.
- (d) The sign is structurally safe or can be made safe without substantially altering its historical appearance.
- (e) The sign is operable or can be made operable without substantially altering its historical appearance.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the owner from removing a Landmark Sign.

(Ord. of 9-16-1991, Doc. #25101; Ord. of 2-21-1994, Doc. #27277; Ord. of 10-9-1995, Doc. #28847)

City of Orlando, FL: Sign Code Regulations, 2D. Landmark Signs

Individual signs proposed for inclusion in the Area of Special Designation shall meet the following criteria:

- a. The sign has been in continuous existence at its present location for not less than forty (40) years, and;
 - b. The sign is of exemplary technology, craftsmanship, or design for the period in which it was constructed; uses historic sign materials or means of illumination; and/or is unique in that it demonstrates extraordinary aesthetic quality, creativity or innovation;
 - c. The sign is structurally safe or is capable of being made so without substantially altering its historical character or significance. If the sign has been altered, it must be restorable to its historic function and appearance; and
 - d. The sign complies with movement, bracing, and illumination requirements contained in other sections of this Chapter and/or the Land Development Code.
4. DESIGNATION. Once a sign is designated to be of historical significance, and is restored to its historic function and appearance, the historic sign will be included on a list of historic structures within the City of Flagstaff. Nothing in these provisions shall have the effect of prohibiting the owner of a designated sign from removing or altering such sign, subject to review by the appropriate review body.

City of Flagstaff, AZ: Sign & Lighting Code, 2D. Landmark Signs

23.02.255 Historic Sign.

“Historic Sign” means a sign that is listed as an historic resource on the Historic Resources Inventory of City or is a contributing feature to a building or structure that is listed as an historic resource on the Historic Resources Inventory of City pursuant to Chapter 13.48 of Title 13 of this Code.

City of San Jose, CA: Ord. 28144, Amendment to Title 23 Sign Code, 10/16/07

F. Historic Sign means a sign which the Historic Preservation Commission has evaluated for historical significance, determined to be historically significant and is listed on a Historic Sign Inventory on file in the Department of City Development and the Department of Neighborhood Services and Inspections. Historic Signs may include rooftop, projecting, freestanding, wall, obsolete, on-premises, off-premises, or nonconforming signs.

City of Kenosha, WI: Zoning Ordinance, Section 15.0 Historic Preservation