

### Sign Code Provisions: Historic District

Mixed use; commercial; and public, park, and open space zoning districts inside the historic district  
[C-I/MU, C-II/MU, C-I, C-II, C-II(H), C-III, C-IV, P/OS(A), P/OS(B), P-I]

#### Total Allowable Sign area:

- Each primary building or separate store front (separate store front must have own entrance) is allowed at least 40 square feet. If the length of the building or separate store front exceeds 40 feet, allowable sign area is one square foot of sign area for each lineal foot of frontage, (e.g., if your building is 30 feet long, you get 40 square feet of sign area; however, if your building is 45 feet long, you get 45 square feet in sign area). Outdoor businesses operating without a building are allowed 40 square feet. If more than one business shares an entry, an additional 6 square feet is allowed for a multiple-tenant directory.
- Total sign area includes all types of signs on all sides and all stories of the building or premises. Exceptions: parking lot identification signs, symbol signs, commemorative plaques, window sign letters less than 6 inches in height, window signs above the first floor (see Window Signs below), approved mural signs, signs not exceeding 2 square feet, window merchandise displays, and other signs generally exempt in the sign code.
- Within the total allowable sign area determined above, the total area of signs attached to any given wall shall not exceed 40 square feet or the sign area calculation derived from the street frontage of that wall, whichever is greater.

#### Sign Height

No sign may be placed higher than the second story windowsill level, or on or above the cornice line of any building. Exception: upper level window signs (see Window Signs below). Freestanding monument sign maximum height is 5 feet, sandwich board sign maximum height is 4 feet.

#### Projecting Signs

Projecting signs may be no larger than 12 feet per sign face. Projecting signs may be illuminated only by indirect lighting. Both sign faces count in determining total allowable sign area (as noted above). They may project no more than 4 feet from the building and must have a minimum clearance of 8 feet from the sidewalk and 6 inches from the vertical wall. Only one projecting sign, including symbol signs, is allowed for each main entry.

#### Window Signs

Require a sign permit if sign area is greater than 2 square feet, or if lettering affixed to the window is 6 inches or more in height. Window signs above the first floor are allowed only to businesses located exclusively above the first floor and are restricted to a total sign area of one square foot for each lineal foot of the width of the window glass. These signs are not included in allowable sign area for the building.

#### Illuminated Signs

Subdued, indirect lighting of signs is encouraged. The total area of signs illuminated by internal lighting may not exceed 6 square feet per separate store front. Neon signs shall not exceed a total sign area of up to 12 square feet per separate store front. (Note: In general, the Historic Preservation Committee guidelines discourage neon lighting; however, each sign is individually reviewed and its historical context considered).

#### Freestanding Signs

Monument signs may not exceed 12 square feet in sign area per side. Pole signs are permitted only if mounted on two poles placed at the outermost sides of the sign face. Please see "Sandwich Board Sign" flyer for complete guidelines for sandwich board signs.

#### Permits

All signs except those expressly exempt require a sign permit and design review approval from the Historic Preservation Committee. No sign except those exempted by the sign code shall be erected, re-erected, replaced, revised, attached, structurally altered, or relocated without a sign permit and design review approval from the Historic Preservation Committee.

*This is a summary of the provisions of the sign code for the mixed use; commercial; and public, park, and open space districts within the historic district. For complete details, consult the Port Townsend Municipal Code.*

