

ARTICLE XIII– SIGNS, BILLBOARDS, AND INTERSTATE SIGNS

~~3.38– Signs.~~

~~The purpose of this section is to:~~

13.1 Purpose and Intent.

It is the purpose of this article to promote public health, safety, and general welfare through a comprehensive system of reasonable, consistent, and nondiscriminatory signs, billboards, and interstate sign standards and requirements. This includes the following:

- A. Promote the safety of persons and property by providing signs that do not create traffic hazards or hazards due to collapse, fire, collision, decay or abandonment.
- B. To protect the public welfare and county property values by preserving the aesthetic quality of the natural environment.
- C. Promote efficient commercial and non-commercial identification or information by improving the legibility and effectiveness of signs through the control of their number, location, size, appearance, illumination, and animation.
- D. Preserve the right of free speech and expression.

~~3.38.1 Sign permits. All signs on commercial or industrial property must have a sign permit issued by the Effingham County Zoning Department. Multiple similar signs such as real estate or political signs shall only be required to have a single sign permit. All signs other than temporary event signs shall be required to get a building permit and meet all required wind load and building regulations.~~

13.2 Permits, Administration, and Enforcement.

- **A. Building and Electrical Code Standards.** All permanent signs must meet the structural and installation standards of the International Building Code and electrical standards of the National Electrical Code as enforced by Effingham County.
- **B. Businesses that apply for permits must have an active business license in the County.**
- **C. Sign Permit.** All signs on commercial or industrial properties must have a sign permit issued by the Effingham County Zoning Department. Multiple similar signs such as real estate or political signs shall only be required to have a single sign permit. All signs are required to obtain a building permit and meet all required wind load and building regulations.

- D. Temporary Business Signs are **not allowed** in the County. A Temporary Business Sign is not permanently attached to the ground or an object, and typically advertises a business or service, promotes a business, service, or seasonal sale, and can be used to announce a new business or service. Typically, these signs can be installed or removed quickly.
- E. Community Event Temporary Signs require a permit. Community Event Temporary signs are not permanent and used only temporarily (typically 30 days or fewer).
- F. No sign shall be erected unless a sign permit has been issued by Development Services in accordance with the procedures of this Ordinance.
- G. No sign permits shall be valid for more than six months unless work at the site commences within such a period.
- H. No signs are allowed in GDOT Right of Way or County Right of Way except government signs.

13.3 - Sign Definitions.

The following definitions refer to the County's sign standards.

- **Abandoned Sign:** A sign structure that has ceased to be used, and the owner intends no longer to have used, for the display of sign copy, or as otherwise defined by state law. **(ADDED)**
- **Animated Sign:** A sign employing actual motion or the illusion of motion. Animated signs, which are differentiated from changeable signs as defined and regulated by this ordinance. **(ADDED)**
- **Architectural Projection:** Any projection that is not intended for occupancy and that extends beyond the face of an exterior wall of a building, but that does not include signs as defined herein. See also "Awning;" "Backlit awning", and "Canopy, Attached and Free-standing." **(ADDED)**
- **Awning:** A cloth, plastic, or other nonstructural covering that either is permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use. A sign on an awning is considered a projecting sign.
- **Backlit Awning:** An awning with a translucent covering material and a source of illumination contained within its framework. **(ADDED)**
- **Back-to-Back or V formation Sign.** A sign constructed on a single set of supports with messages visible on any side, provided that double message boards are physically contiguous. **(ADDED)**
- **Banners, Pennants, and Balloons.** A lightweight material that is secured or mounted to a building and/or any animated rotating, fluttering or non-stationary device made of flexible materials designed to attract attention.
- **Billboards.** Billboards are large signs erected along a state or interstate highway and intended to be viewed from travelers on said highway. They are outdoor signs which advertise firms, organizations, goods, products, or services which are not located on the

same premises as the sign and which are sold, rented, owned, or leased for the display of advertising messages.

- **Canopy (Attached):** A multisided overhead structure or architectural projection supported by attachments to a building on one or more sides and either cantilevered from such building or supported by columns at additional points. The surface(s) and/or soffit of an attached canopy may be luminated by means of internal or external sources of light. See also “Marquee”. (ADDED)
- **Canopy (Free-standing):** A multisided overhead structure supported by columns, but not enclosed by walls. The surface(s) and or soffit of a free-standing canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light. (ADDED)
- **Development Complex Sign:** A free-standing sign identifying a multiple-occupancy development, such as a shopping center or planned industrial park, that is controlled by a single owner or landlord, approved in accordance with Section 1009.2 of this chapter. (ADDED)
- **Directional Sign:** Any sign that is designed and erected for the purpose of providing direction and/or orientation for pedestrian or vehicular traffic. (ADDED)
- **Electrical Sign.** A self-illuminated sign or sign structure in which electric wiring, connections and/or fixtures are used as part of the sign property. (ADDED)
- **Existing Sign.** Any sign that was erected, mounted or displayed prior to the adoption of this Ordinance. (ADDED)
- **Flat Wall Sign:** A Sign that is parallel to the wall of a building to which it is attached but does not extend more than twelve (12) inches from the building face. (ADDED)
- **Freestanding Sign** A sign principally supported by a structure affixed to the ground, and not supported by a building, including signs supported by one or more columns, poles, or braces placed in or on the ground. (ADDED changed definition)
- **Frontage (Building):** The length of an exterior building wall or structure of a single premise orientated to the public way or other properties that it faces. (ADDED)
- **Frontage (Property):** The length of the property line(s) of any single premise along either a public way or other properties on which it borders. (ADDED)
- **Frontage Wall Face.** The building facade, excluding parapet, fascia, soffit, mansard and roof, which faces a frontage of the premises. (ADDED)
- ~~**Graphic:** Written or pictorial representation.~~
- **Height of Sign.** The vertical distance measured from the average elevation of the nearest road centerline to the top of the sign face or sign structure, whichever is greater. (ADDED)
- **Illuminated Sign:** A sign characterized by the use of artificial light, either projecting through its surface(s) (internally illuminated); or reflecting off its surface(s) (externally illuminated). (ADDED)
- **Interior Sign:** Any sign placed within a building, but not including “window signs” as defined by this ordinance. (ADDED)
- **Historic or scenic area:** An area that contains unique historic or scenic characteristics that require special regulations to ensure that street graphics displayed within the area are compatible with its visual character.

- ~~**Illuminated Sign, External.** The Illumination of a sign that is affected by an artificial source of light, not contained within the sign itself.~~
- ~~which is directly lighted by an external source.~~
- ~~**Illuminated Sign, Internal.** Any sign which transmits light through its face or any part thereof.~~
- ~~**Incidental sign:** A sign of one square foot or less.~~
- ~~**Indirect Illumination:** A source or external illumination located away from the sign.~~
- ~~**Institutional uses:** Schools, hospitals, churches, and government facilities.~~
- ~~**Multi-use building:** A building consisting of more than one commercial use.~~
- **Marquee:** See “Canopy (Attached).” (ADDED)
- **Marquee Sign:** See “Canopy sign.” (ADDED)
- **Monument sign:** A sign that is permanently affixed to the ground at its base, supported entirely by the base structure, and not mounted on a pole.
- **Neon sign:** A sign that is created by bending a neon filled glass tube to form text or graphics.
- **Nonconforming Sign.** A sign that was lawfully constructed or installed prior to the adoption or amendment of this ordinance and followed all ordinances at the time of installation, but which does not presently comply with these regulations. Any sign which has a valid permit, was erected or displayed prior to the effective date of this Ordinance or any subsequent amendment hereto and does not conform with any provision of this Ordinance.
- **Non-permanent Sign.** See “Temporary Sign” (ADDED)
- **Off-Premises Sign:** See “Outdoor advertising sign.” (ADDED)
- **On-Premise Sign:** A sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of messages appurtenant to the use of, products sold, on or the lease of, the property on which it is displayed. (ADDED)
- **Outdoor Advertising Sign:** a permanent sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of commercial or non-commercial messages not appurtenant to the use of products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed. (ADDED)
- **Parapet:** The extension of a building façade above the line of the structural roof. (ADDED)
- ~~**Pole sign:** A freestanding sign other than a billboard that is permanently supported in a fixed location by a pole(s), uprights, or braces from the ground and not supported by a building or a base structure.~~
- **Permanent Sign.** A Sign that is constructed in a manner and of materials that will withstand long-term display and is intended to be displayed for an indefinite period of time. A permit must be obtained prior to installation. (ADDED)
- **Pole sign:** See “Free-standing sign.” (ADDED)
- **Political Sign:** A temporary sign intended to advance a political statement, cause or candidate for office. A legally permitted outdoor advertising sign shall not be considered to be a political sign. (ADDED)

- **Portable sign:** A sign not permanently attached to the ground or a building or designed to be permanently attached to the ground.
- **Projecting sign:** ~~Any sign other than a wall~~ sign attached to and projecting from a wall more than 18 inches from a building face or a wall, and is not in the same plane as the wall. (ADDED)
- **Roof Sign.** ~~A sign erected over or on, and wholly or partially dependent upon, the roof of any building for support, or attached to the roof in any way. It is a sign that is displayed above the peak or parapet of the building.~~
- ~~**Shopping center:** A commercial development under unified control consisting of four or more separate commercial establishments sharing a common building, or are in separate buildings that share a common parking area or entryway.~~
- **Roof Line:** The top edge of a peaked roof or, in the case of an extended façade or parapet, the uppermost point of said façade or parapet. (ADDED)
- **Roof Sign:** A sign mounted on, and supported by the main roof portion of a building, or above the uppermost edge of a parapet wall of a building and that is wholly or partially supported by such a building. Signs mounted on mansard facades, pent eaves and architectural projections such as canopies or marquees shall not be considered to be roof signs.-(ADDED)
- ~~**Sign.** Any structure, display, or device that is used to advertise, identify, direct, or attract attention to a business, institution, organization, person, idea, product, service, event, or location by any means, including words, letters, figures, design characteristics, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, movement, or illumination that is attached to premises, real property, structures on real property, or a vehicle.~~
- **Sign:** Any device visible from a public place that displays either commercial or non-commercial messages by means of graphic presentation of alphabetic or pictorial symbols or presentations. Non-commercial flags or any flags displayed from flagpoles or staffs will not be considered to be signs. (ADDED)
- ~~**Sign Face.** The part of the sign that is or can be used to identify, advertise, communicate information or for visual representation which attracts the attention of the public for any purpose. Sign face includes any background material, panel, trim, color and direct or self-illumination used that differentiates the sign from the building, structure, backdrop surface or object upon which or against which it is placed. The sign structure shall not be included as a portion of the sign face provided that no message, symbol or any of the aforementioned sign face criteria are displayed on or designed as part of the sign structure.~~
- ~~**Signable area:** An area within a single continuous perimeter composed of a single rectangle, circle, or triangle enclosing the extreme limits of characters, lettering, illustrations, ornamentations, or other figures.~~
- **Sign, Area of.** The square foot area enclosed by the perimeter of the sign face. With respect to signs which are composed of individual symbols, letters, figures, illustrations, messages, forms or panels, sign area shall be considered to include all lettering, wording, and accompanying designs and symbols together with the background on which they are

displayed, any frame around the sign and any "cutouts" or extensions; but shall not include any supporting structure or bracing. (ADDED)

- ~~• **Sign, Location.** A Sign which portrays a logo, symbol, name, or address to identify the location of the building or use.~~
- **Sign, Wall.** Any Sign that is attached to the wall of a building. There are two (2) types of wall signs: (ADDED)
- **Sign Projecting Wall.** A Sign that is attached to a wall of a building and extends more than twelve (12) inches from the building face. (ADDED)
- **Sign Structure.** Any structure supporting a sign. (ADDED)
- **Temporary Sign:** A sign that is not permanently installed in the ground or affixed to any structure or building, and which is erected for a limited period of time. A temporary sign is intended to be displayed for 30 days or fewer. (ADDED)
- **Temporary Business Sign.** Temporary Business Signs are **not allowed** in the County. A Temporary Business Sign is not permanently attached to the ground or an object, and typically advertises a business or service, promotes a business, service, or seasonal sale, and can be used to announce a new business or service. Typically, these signs can be installed or removed quickly. (ADDED)
- **Under Canopy Sign or Under Marquee Sign:** A sign attached to the underside of a canopy or marquee. (ADDED)
- **Variance.** A modification of the terms of this Ordinance granted by the Board of Commissioners, where such modification will not be contrary to the public interest, and where, owing to conditions peculiar to the property and not as the result of any action on the part of the property owner, a literal enforcement of the Ordinance would result in unnecessary and undue hardship, and where such modification will not authorize a principal or accessory use of the property which is not permitted within the Zoning District in which the property is located. Hardships shall not be construed so as to include financial burdens or hardships that are created by the landowner or developer of the particular property. (ADDED)
- **Window Sign:** A sign affixed to the surface of a window with its message intended to be visible to and readable from the public way or from adjacent property. (ADDED)
- **Yard, Front.** A yard situated between the front building line and the front lot line extending the full width of the lot. (ADDED)

~~3.38.3 Signs.~~

~~The purpose of this section is to:~~

~~A. Promote the safety of persons and property by providing signs that do not create traffic hazards or hazards due to collapse, fire, collision, decay or abandonment.~~

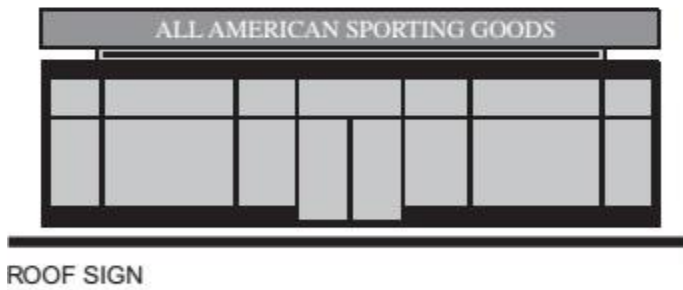
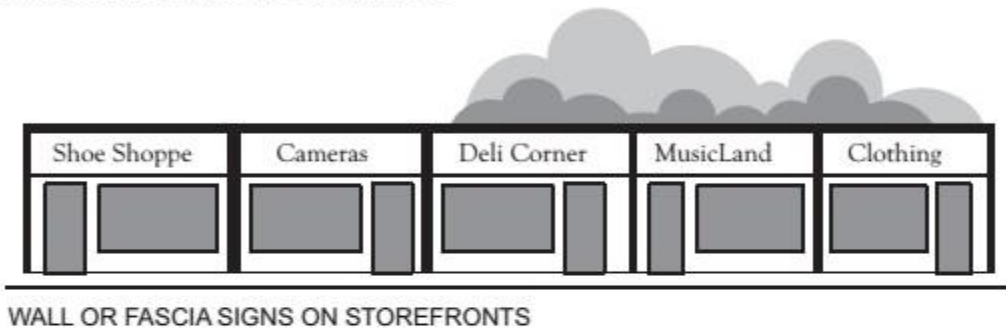
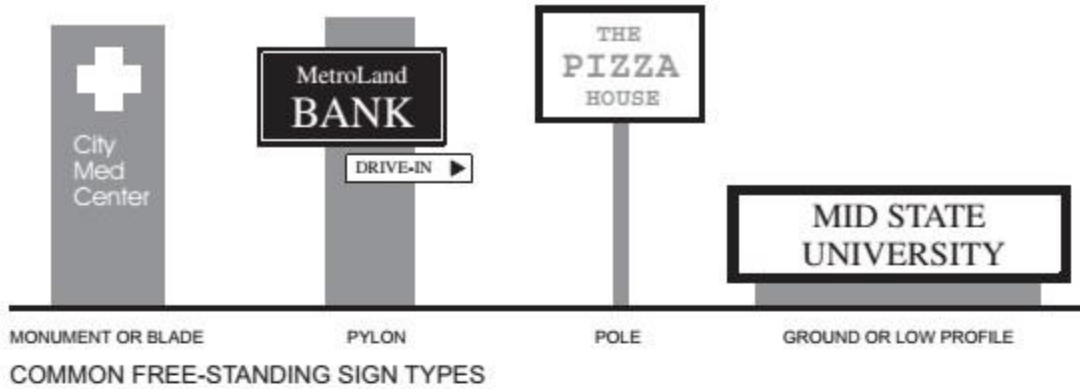
~~B. To protect the public welfare and county property values by preserving the aesthetic quality of the natural environment.~~

~~C. Promote efficient commercial and non-commercial identification or information by improving the legibility and effectiveness of signs through the control of their number, location, size, appearance, illumination, and animation.~~

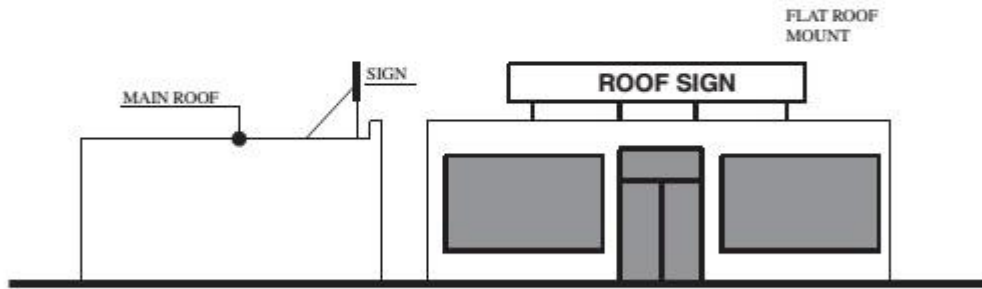
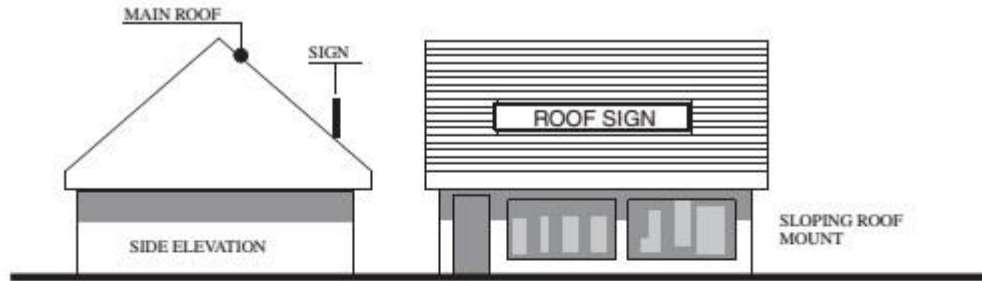
~~D. Preserve the right of free speech and expression.~~

~~3.38.1 Sign permits. All signs on commercial or industrial property must have a sign permit issued by the Effingham County Zoning Department. Multiple similar signs such as real estate or political signs shall only be required to have a single sign permit. All signs other than temporary event signs shall be required to get a building permit and meet all required wind load and building regulations.~~

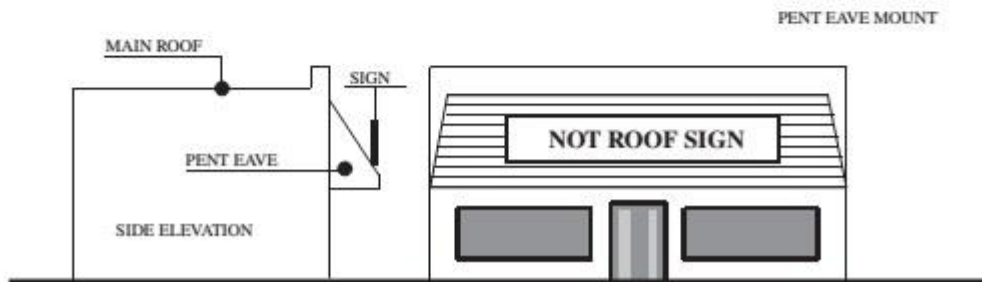
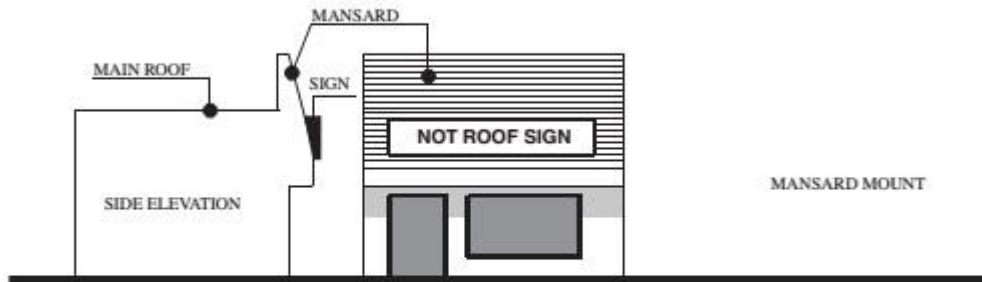
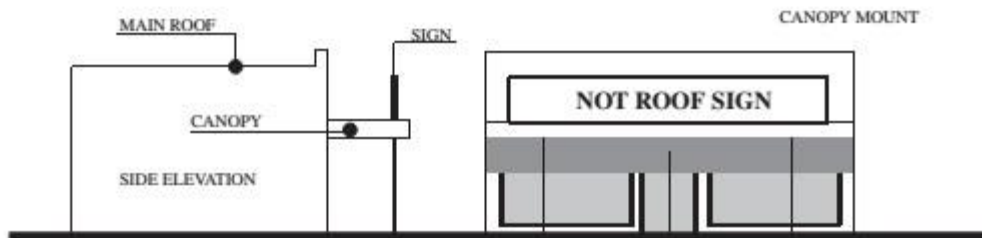
13.4 General Sign Types.



ROOF SIGNS

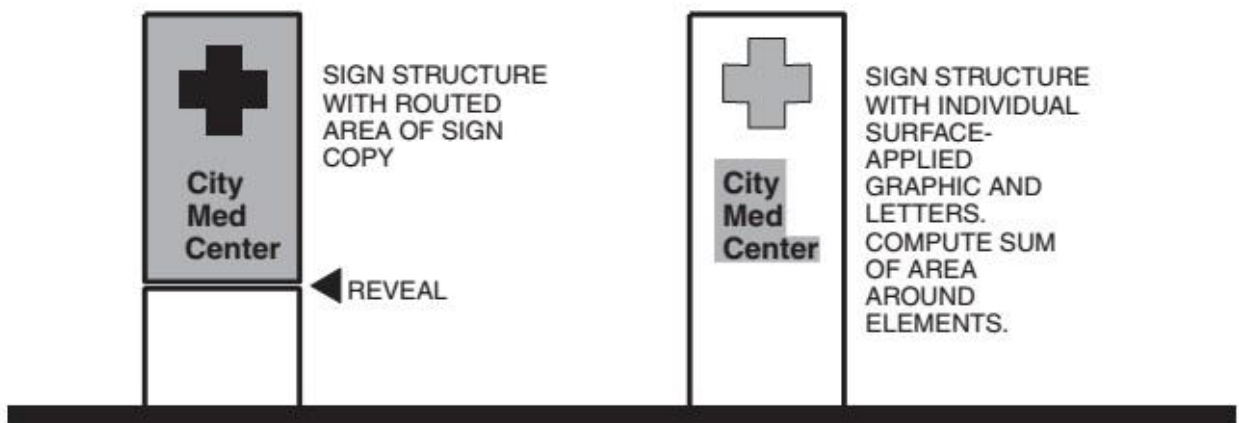


FASCIA SIGNS ON ROOF-LIKE PROJECTIONS

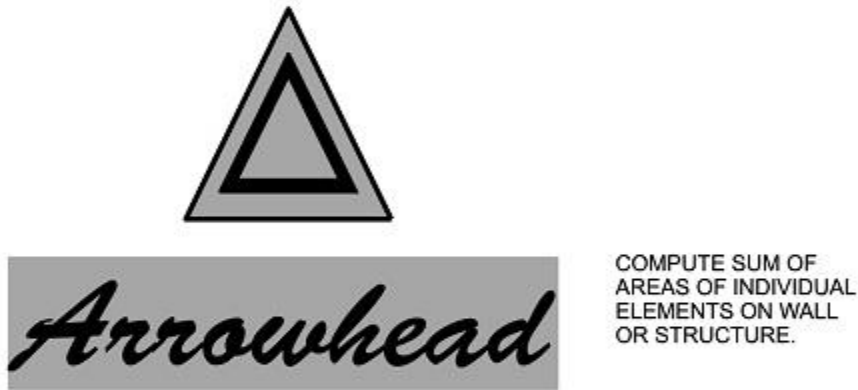




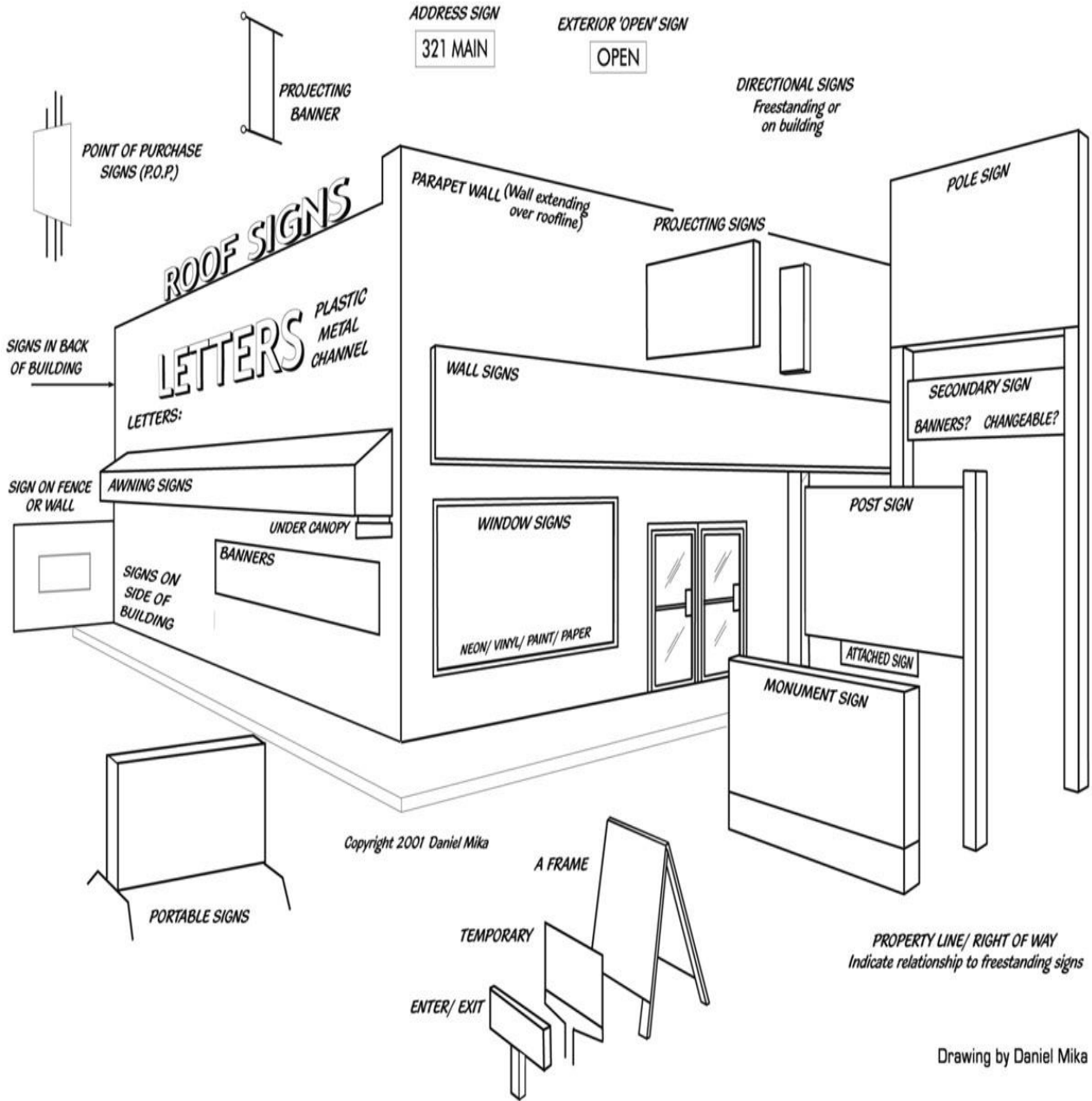
SIGN STRUCTURES



SIGN AREA—COMPUTATION METHODOLOGY



Notes: Sum of shaded areas only represents sign area for code compliance purposes. Examples of signs consisting of individual letters, elements or logos placed on building walls or structures.



13.5 Legal signs.

A. Any permitted sign which complies with the provisions of this article, and any subsequent amendments hereto, is hereby deemed to be a legal sign. Any proposed alteration to or relocation of such sign shall require a new permit pursuant to this section.

B. Any legal sign which does not comply with the provisions of this article solely due to the enactment of an amendment shall, upon the effective date of such amendment, become a nonconforming sign and shall be considered an illegal sign unless it is relocated or altered.

13.6 Illegal signs. Any commercial, residential, or existing sign that does not have a permit issued by Effingham County pursuant to this section is hereby deemed to be an illegal sign and such sign and the person or persons responsible for such sign shall be subject to the enforcement and penalty provisions in this ~~title~~ **article**.

13.7 Signs exempt from regulation.

- A. Governmental agency signs
- B. Property addresses up to 12 inches in height
- C. Incidental signs one square foot or less
- D. Political/Election Signs (see section 13.2)
- E. Realtor Signs (see section 13.2)

13.8 Prohibited signs.

A. Any sign, except those erected by a governmental agency, in a public street or highway right-of-way.

B. Temporary Business Signs. (See Definition)

C. Inflatable signs.

D. Fluttering ribbons, Pennants, Streamers, Banners, and other Animated Signs ~~and banners~~ are prohibited.

E Signs mounted on a roof extending 25 ft above the elevation of the roofline.

~~D. Ribbons, and pennants.~~

F. Signs imitating **Traffic Devices (Signals)** or warning signals are prohibited. No signs shall display lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic

signals or in police, fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicles; nor shall any signs use the words, slogans, dimensional shape, and size, or colors of the governmental traffic signs.

~~E. Any sign resembling the shape, size, or color of a governmental traffic sign.~~

~~F. Any sign with lights that resemble the lights used by police, fire, and emergency vehicles.~~

G. Any light source on a sign that is directly visible from a vehicle or residence.

H. Any flashing or intermittent light.

~~I. Any sign attached to a natural feature such as a tree or rock.~~

I. Any sign attached to a telephone pole or utility pole.

J. Any unpermitted sign attached to a permitted sign.

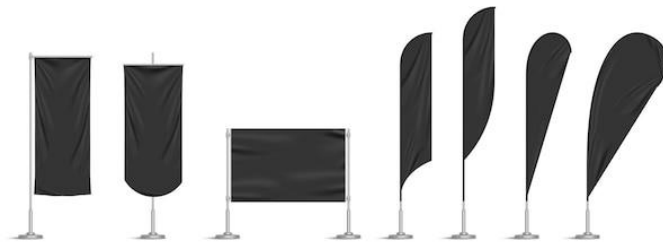
K. No sign shall be placed in or obstruct the view of an area of designated historic interest.

L. Signs within 300 feet of any officially designated historical site or monument, except signs pertaining to that particular site or monument, are prohibited

M. Signs painted or attached to natural features, or man-made, such as trees or rocks, telephone poles, utility poles, or fence posts are prohibited.

N. Signs in Wetlands unless appropriately delineated as required by this ordinance.





~~• Sec. 62-32. Prohibited signs.~~

~~(a) Signs imitating warning signals are prohibited. No sign shall display lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicles; nor shall any signs use the words, slogans, dimensional shape, and size, or colors of the governmental traffic signs.~~

~~(b) No signs, except traffic signs and signals and informational signs erected by a public agency, are permitted within any street or highway right-of-way.~~

~~(c) Signs painted or attached to natural features such as trees or rocks, telephone poles, utility poles, or fence posts are prohibited.~~

~~(d) Fluttering ribbons and banners are prohibited.~~

~~(e) Signs within 300 feet of any officially designated historical site or monument, except signs pertaining to that particular site or monument, are prohibited.~~

~~M. Signs imitating Traffic Devices (Signals) or warning signals are prohibited. No signs shall display lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicles; nor shall any signs use the words, slogans, dimensional shape, and size, or colors of the governmental traffic signs.~~

~~N. No signs, except traffic signs and signals and informational signs erected by a public agency, are permitted within any street or highway right-of-way.~~

13.9 Community Event Temporary Signs. Community Event Temporary signs are signs that are intended to strengthen social bonds, encourage local involvement, functions, festivals, events, non-profit functions, charities, cultural events, religious events, fairs, etc., and provide a platform with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility. Community Event Temporary Signs DO NOT include local business advertisements, commercial advertisements, sales, promotions, etc., and those signs must comply with all appropriate permitting, approval, etc.. Community Event Temporary Signs must be permitted and must be displayed for a limited time. These signs must be constructed of wood, metal or other durable materials in such a manner as to resist high winds. Electricity or another power source is not allowed. Freestanding Community Event Temporary Signs shall be constructed in such a manner that incorporates a base from which no support or feet extend out or in such a way that may cause pedestrians to trip. No external cables, brackets, wires or props shall be permitted as support.

A. In the B-1, B-2, B-3, I-1, R-3, or R-4 Zoning Districts, one Community Event Temporary Sign may not exceed 24 square feet in size and shall not to be displayed for more than 30 days on each parcel. Temporary event signs in these districts must be secured to a building.

B. In all other zoning districts, each parcel is entitled to one Community Event Temporary Sign which shall not exceed six square feet in size. Such signs may be displayed for the length of the event. Each parcel may have no more than three such events per calendar year.

C. When there is the threat of a serious wind event, the County reserves the right to remove any Community Event Temporary Sign that it considers to be a hazard to public safety. It will be the responsibility of the sign owner to retrieve any impounded sign from the County Zoning Office.

D. Signs not removed within ten days following the occurrence of an event or expiration of the permitted period may be removed by the County's Zoning Office and impounded. The costs of removal shall be charged to the person owning or using the sign, or the owner of the building or premises.

E. Impounded signs will be held for ten days, after which they will be destroyed.



13.10 Temporary Subdivision Signs. Temporary signs, not exceeding 40 square feet in an area announcing a land subdivision development, are permitted on the premises of the land subdivision. Such signs shall be spaced not less than 300 feet apart. They shall be removed when 75 percent of the lots are conveyed.



13.11 Temporary Business Signs. Temporary Business Signs are **not allowed** in the County. A Temporary Business Sign is not permanently attached to the ground or an object, and typically advertises a business or service, promotes a business, service, or seasonal sale, and can be used to announce a new business or service. Typically, these signs can be installed or removed quickly.



13.12 Billboards.

A. *Uniform size.* The outside measurements of all billboards shall be 12 feet in height and 25 feet in length.

B. *Location.* The billboard must be on commercial or industrial land. It must be located on a parcel with at least 200 feet of state or federal highway frontage.

C. *Illumination.* All illuminated billboards shall use base-mounted lights. The light source must not be visible from a vehicle or a residence. No additional lighting shall be allowed.

D. *Height.* All billboards shall be a minimum of ten feet above grade and a maximum of 30 feet above grade.

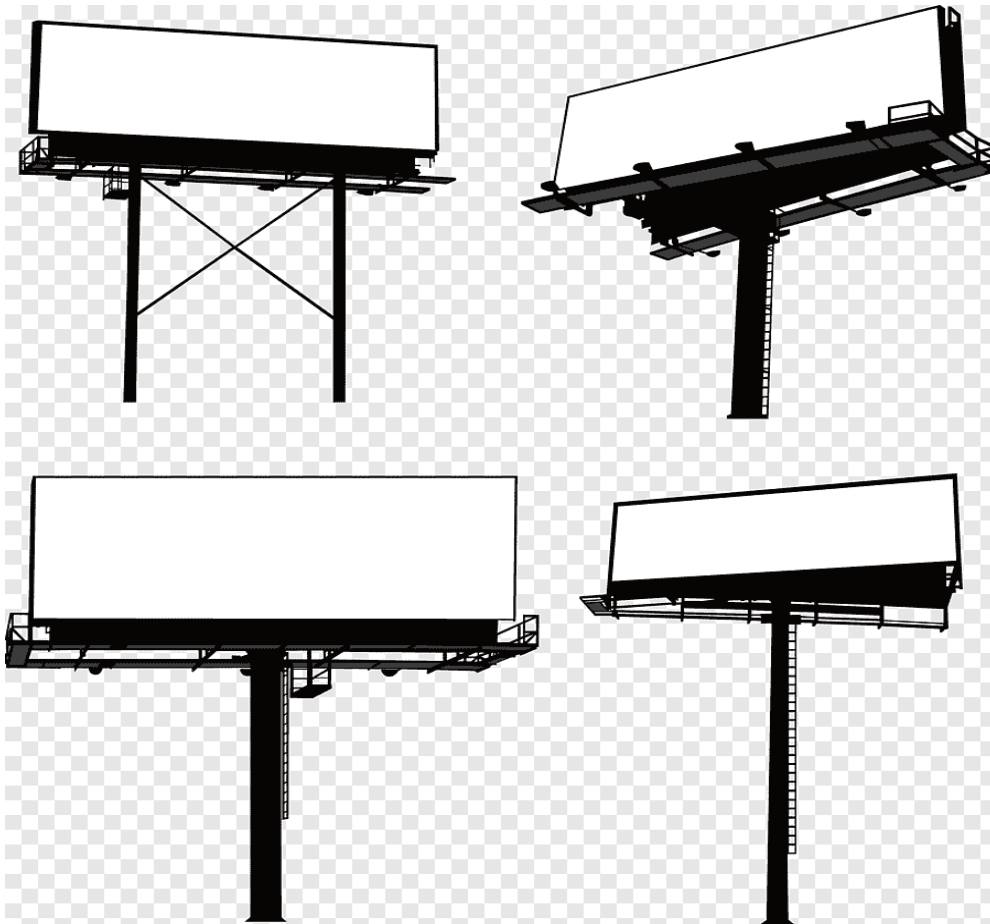
E. *Extrusions prohibited.* Extrusions beyond the face of the billboard, excluding aprons, are prohibited.

F. *Number of signs per location.* Only one billboard shall be allowed to face the same direction per location. This allows back to back or V formation billboards but prohibits two billboards facing the same direction.

G. *Spacing.* billboard location shall be no less than 500 feet from the nearest billboard measuring from the nearest point. No more than three billboards shall be permitted per mile when such billboards are located on the same side of the road.

H. *Distance from property line.* Billboard structures shall be no less than ten feet from any property line.

I. *State law.* All billboards must also comply with all aspects of the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Code.



J. Changeable copy signs.

1. General Rule — Animated or changeable copy signs shall be erected, posted, displayed or modified only in accordance with the criteria hereunder as well as all other generally applicable standards of this ordinance related to the location, height, size, and other characteristics. billboards that move, flash or simulate movement are prohibited.
2. Each message displayed on any changing billboard display shall remain static for at least ten seconds following the completion of its transition from the previous message. As used in this subsection "static" shall mean a display that is fixed in one position with no portion of the display being in motion or changing in color or light intensity.
3. Changing of image shall be substantially instantaneous, two seconds or less, as seen by the human eye and shall not use fading, rolling, window shading, dissolving or similar effect as part of the change.
4. No display or other effect from any electronically changed billboard shall cause a glare or other condition that impairs the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle or which otherwise interferes with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

5. Video technology in billboards shall use automatic level controls to reduce light levels at night and under cloudy or other darkened conditions, in accordance with the

following standards. All electronic or digital display unit message boards shall have installed ambient light monitors, and such monitors shall at all times automatically adjust the brightness level of the electronic billboard based on ambient light conditions. Maximum brightness levels for electronic or digital display boards shall not exceed ambient light levels by more than 0.3 foot candles.

6. Any billboard using video technology which malfunctions, fails, or ceases to operate in its usual or normal manner causing therein motion, movement, flashing or any other similar effects shall be repaired or disconnected within 48 hours by the owner or operator of such billboard, and shall be equipped so that it may be turned off by the county in the event of such malfunction or failure.

7. The county shall be permitted to post emergency notices on electronically changeable billboards on 24 hours' notice.

8. Conversion of an existing billboard to an automatic changeable copy video billboard or to add an automatic changeable copy video element to it is allowed only if the billboard as modified will conform with all standards in this section and with all other applicable standards related to the height, size, location and other characteristics of the billboard.

13.13 Signs in commercial zones.

A. Each parcel in a commercial zone is entitled to one freestanding sign for up to 200 feet of street frontage.

B. Each parcel in a commercial zone may have an additional freestanding sign for each additional 200 feet of street frontage and must be separated by at least 200 feet from any other sign on the property.

C. A multi-unit building on a single commercial parcel may have multiple tenant panels on a single sign.

D. No sign shall encroach into the street right-of-way or be within 25 feet of an established street intersection and no sign or support thereof shall obstruct driver visibility.

13.14 Number of signs. In addition to any potential free-standing sign, each business in a commercial or industrial zone shall be limited to one facade sign, one projecting sign attached to the building and one wall sign for each exposed side of the building other than the front.

13.15 Freestanding sign size.

The maximum size of the signable area of a freestanding sign is as follows:

- A. In the B-2, B-3, and I-1 districts: 64 square feet for a single tenant parcel or 100 square feet for a multiple tenant parcel.
- B. In the B-1 zoning district: 32 square feet.
- C. In the R-3 and R-4 zoning districts: 50 square feet.
- D. In the R-1, R-1A, and R-2 zoning districts: Six square feet excluding signs at the entrance to neighborhoods which may be up to 24 square feet.
- E. In the CP zoning district: 16 square feet.
- F. In the PD zoning district: Sign regulations not less stringent than the regulations herein must be included in the written development text required by section 5.15.3.3 of the Effingham County Zoning Ordinance.

13.16 Height.

- A. *Maximum height.* In all commercial and industrial districts no freestanding sign shall exceed 30 feet from grade.
- B. *Clearance.* No hanging, suspended, or projecting sign shall have a vertical clearance of less than 14 feet over any vehicular public way, nor less than nine feet over any pedestrian public way. Public ways include privately owned sidewalks and drives customarily used by the public.

Permitted Freestanding Signs - By Land Use						
	Agricultural Property	Single and Two Family Residential	Multi-Family Residential	Commercial Property	Industrial Property	Public or Community Use Property
Principal Freestanding Sign — Depending on Zoning District						
Maximum Number	1 per lot	1 per lot	1 per street frontage	1 per 200 feet street frontage	1 per 200 feet street frontage	1 per 200 feet street frontage
Maximum Signable Area	16 square feet	6 square feet	50 square feet	64 square feet for single tenant, 100 square feet for multiple tenants	64 square feet for single tenant, 100 square feet for multiple tenants	64 square feet for single tenant, 100 square feet for multiple tenants
Maximum Height	6 feet	5 feet	30 feet	30 feet	30 feet	30 feet

13.17 Institutional uses. Institutional uses are allowed one sign per 200 feet of street frontage with a maximum signable area of 64 square feet regardless of which zoning district they are located in.

13.18 Projections. No sign shall project more than six feet from the wall of a building.

13.19 Flags. In the B1, B-2, B-3, and I-1 zoning districts no more than three flags are allowed per parcel. The combined square footage of all flags displayed on a parcel in these districts shall be no more than 64 square feet.

13.20 Sign conditions.

A. *Unsafe signs.* Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe or otherwise endangers the safety of the building or the public, the zoning administrator shall order that such sign be made safe or removed. The person owning or using the sign or the owner of the building or premises on which such unsafe sign is affixed or erected shall comply with such order within ten days of receipt thereof.

B. *Unmaintained signs.* Whenever a sign is physically damaged or is not maintained and is determined by the zoning administrator to negatively impact the visual character of the surrounding area or pose an unsafe condition, the zoning administrator shall order that such sign be properly maintained or removed. The person owning or using the sign or the owner of the building or premises on which such unsafe sign is affixed or erected shall comply with such order within 60 days of receipt thereof.

13.21 Nonconforming signs. No nonconforming signs may be relocated or altered other than for routine maintenance without bringing the sign into conformance with the current sign ordinance. A temporary sign may not be considered as a nonconforming sign for purposes of grandfathering.

13.22 - Traffic visibility across corner lots. On any corner lot in any district, no fence, structure, **sign, or vegetation** more than 30 inches high measured from the center of the road shall be erected or maintained within 20 feet of the corner so as not to interfere with traffic visibility across the corner.

13.23 INTERSTATE SIGNS.

A. This article shall apply to all outdoor advertising Signs abutting or visible from the Interstate 16 and 95 right-of-way in the County.

B. No sign shall be erected or maintained unless it follows the regulations of this article.

C. Signs must be constructed of durable materials, maintained in good condition, and not permitted to become dilapidated.

D. All signs located on sites abutting or visible from the Interstate 16 and 95 rights-of-way shall conform with O.C.G.A. § 32-6-70 et seq., the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Code, and

shall meet all federal and state requirements necessary to obtain a permit under that code. In instances where the sign controls of this article are stricter, these regulations shall apply.

E. This article shall also apply to any sign which advertises an activity, business, product, or service.

3.38.20 Prohibited signs The following signs shall be prohibited:.

A. ~~Signs imitating Traffic Devices (Signals) or warning signals are prohibited. No sign shall display lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicles; nor shall any signs use the words, slogans, dimensional shape, and size, or colors of the governmental traffic signs.~~

B. ~~No signs, except traffic signs and signals and informational signs erected by a public agency, are permitted within any street or highway right of way.~~

C. ~~Signs painted or attached to natural features such as trees or rocks, telephone poles, utility poles, or fence posts are prohibited.~~

D. ~~Fluttering ribbons, Pennants, Streamers, and other Animated Signs, and banners are prohibited.~~

E. ~~Signs within 300 feet of any officially designated historical site or monument, except signs pertaining to that particular site or monument, are prohibited.~~

13.24 Regulation for specific types of signs.

~~(a) Home occupation signs. One nonilluminated professional or business nameplate not exceeding one square foot in area is permitted for a home occupation.~~

(a) Home occupation and residential business signs. Only one nonilluminated sign not to exceed 8 square feet is permitted, location to be approved by the zoning administrator. Said location must be at least 15 feet from all property lines.

(b) Rural business signs. Only one nonilluminated sign not to exceed 16 square feet is permitted, location to be approved by the zoning administrator. Said location must be at least 15 feet from all property lines.

(c) *Signs of work under construction.* One nonilluminated sign not exceeding 40 square feet in area displaying the name of the building, the contractors, the architects, the engineers, the owners, the financial, selling, and development agencies is permitted upon the premises of any work under construction, alteration, or removal. Such signs shall be removed from the site within 30 days after the completion of the project.

~~(e) *Temporary subdivision signs.* Temporary signs, not exceeding 40 square feet in area announcing a land subdivision development, are permitted on the premises of the land subdivision. Such signs shall be spaced not less than 300 feet apart. They shall be removed when 75 percent of the lots are conveyed.~~

(d) *Roof signs.* Not more than one roof sign structure may be erected on the roof of any one building. No roof sign structure shall extend ~~more than 25 feet~~ above the elevation of the roof.

(e) *Wall signs.* Signs on the walls of a building, including signs attached flat against the wall, painted wall signs, and projecting signs, shall meet the following requirements:

(1) *Signs on the front surface of a building.* The total area of signs on the exterior front surface of a building shall not exceed 25 percent of the front surface of the building.

(2) *Signs on the side and rear surface of a building.* The total area of signs on a side or rear surface of a building shall not exceed 50 percent of the exterior side or rear surface of the building, respectively.

(3) *Projecting signs.* Wall signs attached flat against a wall may extend not more than 24 inches from the wall. Signs attached at an angle to a wall may extend outward from the wall of a building not more than five feet.

(f) *Illuminated signs.* Illuminated devices shall be so placed and so shielded that light from the sign itself will not be cast directly into any residential district, sleeping rooms in any district, or the eyes of an automobile or vehicular driver.

(g) *Outdoor advertising signs.* Outdoor advertising signs shall meet the following requirements:

(1) *Uniform size.* The outside measurements of all such signs shall be 12 feet in height and 50 feet in length, with or without trim.

(2) *Illumination.* All illuminated signs shall use base-mounted lights and shall be activated by photoelectric cells. Additional lighting, including but not limited to neon, animation, and running lights, is prohibited.

(3) *Height above interstate grade.* All signs shall be a minimum of ten feet above adjacent interstate pavement measuring from the lower portion of the sign face. Signs shall not exceed 30 feet in height. Two signs in the same location (back-to-back) or V formation shall be the same height above the interstate's surface.

(4) *Extrusions prohibited.* Extrusions beyond the face of the sign, excluding aprons, are prohibited.

(5) *Number of signs per location.* Only one sign shall be allowed to face the same direction per location. This allows back-to-back or V formation signs but prohibits two signs (side-by-side) facing the same direction.

(6) *Spacing.* The sign location shall be no less than 500 feet apart measuring from the two closest points.

(7) *Distance from property lines.* Sign structures shall be no less than ten feet from any property or right-of-way line.

(8) *Number of signs per interchange quadrant.* Three outdoor advertising signs per quadrant of any interchange adjacent to the interstate highway are allowed. These signs must be within commercially or industrially zoned area as specified in state law and are restricted to an area 1,200 feet long beginning 500 feet from the point where the pavement widens on the main traveled way to accommodate the longest entrance or exit ramp.

(9) *Historic area locations are prohibited.* No sign shall be placed in or obstruct the view of an area of designated historic interest.

(h) *On-premises signs.* On-premises signs located within 100 feet of a regularly used part of the activity being advertised and located on the same property and for sale or for lease signs located on the property being advertised are permitted.

(i) *Nonconforming signs.* Any legally erected sign that would become nonconforming as a result of this article will be allowed to remain until purchased by the department of transportation or the county, provided that the sign owner meets the requirements of state laws and rules and regulations governing such signs.

(Ord. of 10-4-83, § III)