

CHAPTER 8. SIGN REGULATIONS

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CHAPTER 8. SIGN REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I. PURPOSE, FINDINGS AND INTENT.

Sec. 8-1 Purpose of Chapter 8.

The purpose of this Chapter is to provide minimum standards to support economic vitality through adequate identification of occupants and services; to safeguard life, health, property, property values and the public welfare; and to afford adequate opportunity for self-expression through free speech. These purposes are realized by regulating and controlling the number, location, size, sign type, and type of illumination of signs and sign structures located on private property so that all persons have ample opportunity to be equally heard.

Sec. 8-2 Statement of legislative purpose.

- (a) The Board of Commissioners recognize that signs provide an important medium through which individuals, businesses, and government may convey a variety of messages. However, left unregulated, signs can become a threat to the public health and safety as a traffic hazard, as a detriment to property values, and as an aesthetic nuisance affecting the overall economic growth of Crisp County. Numerous professional studies have been prepared that examine and establish the effect of signs on traffic safety, aesthetics and economic prosperity, including the following:
 - (1) Klauer, S.G., T.A. Dingus, V.L. Neale, J.D. Sudweeks, D.J. Ramsey. "The Impact of Driver Inattention on Near-Crash/Crash Risk: An Analysis Using the 100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study Data." National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. DOT HS 810 594. April 2006.
 - (2) Snyder, Jonathan, Samuel S. Fels Fund. "Beyond Aesthetics: How Billboards Affect Economic Prosperity." December 2011.
 - (3) Wachtel, J., 2009. "Safety Impacts of the Emerging Digital Display Technologies for Outdoor Advertising Signs." Prepared for AASHTO and the Standing Committee on Research of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), April 2009. The Veridian Group, Inc., Berkeley, California.
 - (4) Weitz, Jerry, Ph.D., AICP. "The Public Purpose of Roswell's Sign Ordinance and the Implications of Doing Without It: A Position Paper." December 7, 1999.
- (b) Based on a review of the cited materials and the studies referenced therein as well as other related studies, the Board of Commissioners find that unregulated signs:
 - (1) Can be a safety hazard to drivers and pedestrians;
 - (2) Can be a detriment to the public health;
 - (3) Can hamper economic growth;
 - (4) Can lower property values;

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- (5) Can adversely impact public investments;
 - (6) Can degrade the utility of public safety signs; and
 - (7) Can adversely impact the aesthetic quality of the community and surrounding environment.

Sec. 8-3 Findings of fact.

The Board of Commissioners find that:

- (a) Signs are a proper use of private property, are a means of personal free expression, and a necessary component of a commercial environment. As such, signs are entitled to the protection of the law. However, an improperly regulated sign environment imposes health and safety dangers to the public;
- (b) The result of effective sign regulation will be to lessen hazardous conditions, confusion, and visual clutter caused by the proliferation, improper placement, illumination, and excessive height and size of signs, which compete for the attention of pedestrians and vehicular traffic;
- (c) Proper regulation of signs is a necessary prerequisite to a peaceable, orderly, and safely designed business environment;
- (d) Through proper regulation of signs, the aesthetic attractiveness and economic well-being of the county will be enhanced as a place to live, work and conduct business.
- (e) Concerns about aesthetic and safety issues as balanced with concerns about freedom of expression or speech are reasonably promoted in the county by the provisions of this Chapter.

Sec. 8-4 Intent.

The intent of these sign regulations is:

- (a) To aid in the identification of businesses and other commercial establishments in the county for law enforcement, fire, and other emergency responders, and to avoid confusion and delay in response to such emergencies;
- (b) To protect the public health, morals, and welfare from the display of unconstitutionally obscene language and the advertisement of illegal activities.
- (c) To promote the mental and physical health, safety, and welfare of the public by providing for the orderly and harmonious display of signs within the county;
- (d) To maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment by minimizing visual clutter, encouraging a positive visual environment, and avoiding the erection of displays which produce deleterious and injurious effects to adjacent properties and to the natural beauty of the environment;
- (e) To provide for the safety of the traveling public, both vehicular and pedestrian, by limiting distractions, hazards, and obstructions; Crisp County Land Development Code page 8-3

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- (f) To maintain the County's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth and to aid in the identification of properties and enterprises for the convenience of the public;
 - (g) To encourage the effective use of signs as a means for communication in the county by allowing the maximum amount of expression or speech consistent with the compatibility of such expression or speech with other land uses and with the aesthetic and public health, safety, and welfare concerns which the Board of Commissioners is charged with preserving and protecting by law and the Georgia Constitution.

ARTICLE II. SIGN DEFINITIONS.

Awning: A roof-like cover that projects from the wall of a building for the purpose of shielding a doorway, walkway, or window from the elements. Awnings are often made of fabric or flexible plastic supported by a rigid frame, and may be retracted into the face of the building.

Awning Sign: See "Building Sign."

Banner: A sign other than a flag, made of paper, cloth, thin plastic or similar lightweight material and usually containing a message or logo.

Building sign: A sign that in any manner is fastened to, projects from, or is placed or painted upon the exterior wall, window, door, or roof of a building. The term "building sign" includes but is not limited to the following:

- (1) *Awning Sign:* A sign imposed or painted upon an awning.
- (2) *Building Marker:* A sign composed of concrete, bronze, or other permanent material which is built into the surface of the building at the time of its construction.
- (3) *Canopy Sign:* A sign imposed, mounted or painted upon a canopy, as defined herein.
- (4) *Facade or Wall Sign:* A sign that is fastened directly to or is placed or painted directly upon the exterior wall of a building and extends from the surface of the wall no more than 18 inches.
- (5) *Mansard Sign:* A sign imposed, mounted or painted upon the fascia portion of a mansard roof.
- (6) *Marquee Sign:* Any sign attached flat against the marquee or permanent sidewalk canopy of a building and not extending above the roof line.
- (7) *Projecting Sign:* A sign affixed to a wall and extending more than one foot from the surface of such wall, usually perpendicular to the wall surface.
- (8) *Roof Sign:* A sign that is mounted on, applied to, or otherwise structurally supported by the roof of a building (other than the fascia portion of a mansard roof.)
- (9) *Under Canopy Sign:* A display attached to the underside of a marquee or canopy and protruding over public or private sidewalks or right-of-way.
- (10) *Window Sign:* A sign that is placed on or behind a window pane and intended to be viewed from outside the building.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Building Signs by Type:



Wall Sign



Wall Sign



Wall Sign



Awning Signs



Awning Sign



Building Marker



Canopy Sign



Mansard Sign



Marquee Sign



Projecting Sign



Projecting Sign



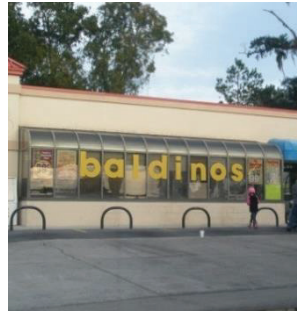
Roof (and Canopy) Sign



Under-Canopy Sign



Under-Canopy Sign



Window Sign



Window Signs

Canopy:

- (1) *Building Canopy:* A permanent roof-like structure projecting from a building and open on at least one side for the purpose of shielding a pedestrian walkway from the elements.
- (2) *Freestanding Canopy:* A freestanding roof-like structure supported by columns intended to shield a vehicular driveway or service area from the elements.

Channeled Letter Signs:

- (1) *Internally Channeled Letters:* Letters or other symbols cut into a sign face and located above a recessed background surface, often designed for the background surface to be illuminated by an artificial light source.
- (2) *Reverse Channeled Letters:* Letters or other symbols raised above a background surface designed to be illuminated from behind and within the letters or symbols by an artificial light source



Commercial Speech:

- (1) The expression of an idea, opinion, or message that directs or attracts attention to a business operated for profit; or to a product, commodity or service for sale, trade, barter, swap or lease; or to any other commercial interest or activity; or,
- (2) The solicitation for financial contributions or personal support for (a) any nonprofit organization, institution, committee, club or association of a social, political, religious, or charitable nature, or (b) for any nonprofit organization representing the opinions, viewpoint or interests of a particular group.

Days: The term “days” shall mean working days exclusive of holidays authorized by the Board of Commissioners and weekends, unless the term is stated as “calendar days” or the context implies otherwise.

Double-Faced Sign: A sign structure with two sign faces that are parallel (back-to-back) or that form an angle to one another of no more than 60 degrees, where each sign face is designed to be seen from a different direction and the two sign faces are separated from each other at their nearest point by no more than three feet. Sign faces on a single sign structure that are separated by more than three feet are treated as separate signs.

Electronic Message Board: A type of sign that presents its message through illumination of flashing, intermittent, or moving lights forming the letters, numbers, or symbols of the message, whether or not the message appears to move across the sign face.

Façade: The exterior vertical surfaces of a building that comprise the front, side or rear wall.

Feather Banner: A banner mounted on a pole, such as the examples shown to the right. Such signs may be wind activated (see “sign, animated”) or rigidly mounted in a stationary position. Feather banners are a type of “portable sign”, as defined herein.



Examples of Feather Banners

Festoons: Strings of light bulbs and strings of ribbons, tinsel, small flags, pennants, streamers, pinwheels or other similar devices designed to move in the wind.

Flag: A sign made of paper, woven natural or synthetic fabric, thin plastic or similar lightweight pliable material that is normally displayed by flying from a pole as a wind-activated device, but is not otherwise defined herein as a banner, pennant, or feather banner.

Fluorescent Color: A color that is intense, brilliantly colored and apparently giving off light, such as day glow (day-glo) colors.

Freestanding sign: A sign permanently attached to the ground and that is wholly independent of any building or other structure. The term “freestanding sign” includes but is not limited to the following:

- (1) *Pole Sign:* A sign that is mounted on one or more freestanding poles or columns or similar support such that the bottom of the sign face is at least 6 feet above the ground and such supporting poles or similar support are each less than 10% of the width of the sign body.
- (2) *Column Sign:* A sign that is mounted on one or more freestanding stanchions or columns, in which the bottom of the sign face is less than 6 feet above the ground but not directly in contact with the ground, and at least one of the supporting stanchions or columns is 10% of the width of the sign body or more.
- (3) *Monument Sign:* A freestanding sign in which the entire bottom of the sign face is in contact with the ground, providing a solid and continuous background for the sign face from the ground to the top of the sign structure; the base of which is as wide as or wider than the total width of the sign body plus any supporting columns.
- (4) *Hybrid Monument Sign:* A freestanding sign in which the entire bottom of the base of the sign structure is in contact with the ground, but a solid and continuous background for the sign from the ground to the top of the sign structure is not provided; the base of which is as wide as or wider than the total width of the sign body plus any supporting columns.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Freestanding Signs by Type:



Pole Sign



Pole Sign



Column Sign



Column Sign



Column Sign



Monument Sign



Monument Sign



Monument Sign



Hybrid Monument Sign

Holiday or Seasonal Event: A day established as a legal holiday by federal, state, or local law; a nationally recognized holiday such as Halloween or Mother's Day; a religious day or term of days such as Easter, Yom Kippur or Christmas, or Lent, Ramadan or Hanukah.

Illuminated signs:

- (1) *Internally-illuminated sign:* Any sign that is illuminated by an artificial light source from within the sign structure over any or all of its sign face.

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- (2) *Externally-illuminated sign:* Any sign that is partially or completely illuminated at any time by an artificial light source that directly or indirectly illuminates the face of the sign from outside the sign structure.

Incidental Sign: A small sign, emblem or decal no larger than one square foot. Such signs are normally located on doors, windows and gas pumps, or in parking lots or loading areas, may be freestanding or building signs, and are generally not readily visible or legible from public rights-of-way.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Incidental Signs:



Inflatable Sign: A sign that is either expanded to its full or intended dimensions through mechanical means of an air blower or supported by gasses contained within the sign, or sign parts, at a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure.

Internally Channeled Letters: See under "Channeled Letter Signs."

Kiosk: A freestanding sign structure, often cylindrical in shape, intended to be viewed from all sides and erected for the purpose of posting signs, notices or other public announcements. Kiosks that are composed of flat faces are treated as multi-faced signs.

Landscape Materials: Any combination of living plant materials and nonliving materials (such as rocks, pebbles, wood chips, mulch and pavers) and decorative features such as sculpture, patterned walks, fountains, and pools. This definition includes synthetic landscaping materials that are visually indistinguishable from natural materials.

Leased Sign: An agreement by which a property owner conveys, usually for a specified rent, to other persons, permission to erect and maintain a sign upon their property.

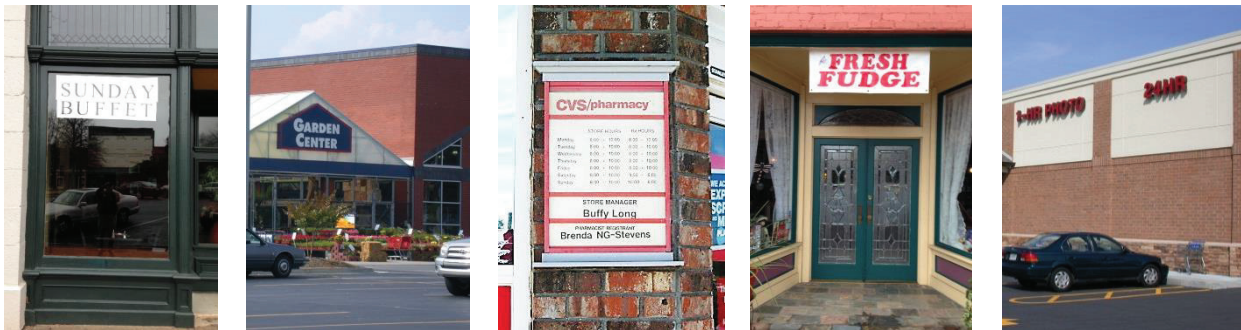
LED Sign: Any sign or portion thereof that uses light emitting diode technology or other similar semiconductor technology to produce an illuminated image, picture, or message of any kind whether the image, picture, or message is moving or stationary. This type of sign includes any sign that uses LED technology of any kind, whether conventional (using discrete LEDs), surface mounted (otherwise known as individually mounted LEDs), transmissive, organic light emitting diodes (OLED), light emitting polymer (LEP), organic electro polymer (OEL), or any other similar technology. An LED sign is considered to be a form of electronic changeable copy sign (see under “sign, changeable copy”).

Mansard: A steeply sloped, roof-like façade architecturally similar to a building wall.

Marquee sign: See under “Building Sign.”

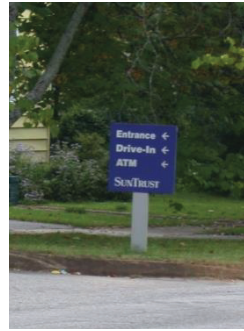
Miscellaneous Building Sign: A building sign (as defined herein), other than a principal building sign, a temporary event sign or an incidental sign, commonly found on the wall of a nonresidential use property.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Miscellaneous Building Signs:



Miscellaneous Freestanding Sign: A freestanding sign, other than a freestanding principal sign, temporary event sign or incidental sign, commonly found on multi-family and nonresidential use properties located at entrance and exit driveways, drive-through windows, internal driving lanes, parking lots, designated handicap parking spaces, etc.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Miscellaneous Freestanding Signs:



Mobile Sign: See “Sign, Portable”.

Monument sign: See under “Freestanding Sign.”

Multi-faced sign: A sign structure that contains two sign faces (see “double-faced sign”) or three or more sign faces that are located on different sides of the structure and are separated from each other at their nearest point by no more than three feet. Sign faces on a single sign structure that are separated by more than three feet are treated as separate signs.

Multi-tenant nonresidential development: A single office, commercial or industrial property that is designed or intended for occupancy by two or more businesses.

Parapet Wall: A building façade that extends above the eave line or edge of a roof.

Pennant: Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or similar material, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in series, designed to move in the wind. The term “pennant” shall not include a “banner” or a “flag” as defined herein.



A Parapet Wall

Personal (Noncommercial) Speech: The expression of an idea, opinion, or message that does not direct or attract attention to a business operated for profit; or to a product, commodity or service for sale, trade, barter, swap or lease; or to any other commercial interest or activity.

Planned Center: A single office, medical, commercial, or industrial property that is designed or intended for occupancy by two or more principal businesses that are separately owned and have no corporate relationship. A planned center may consist of a single building, such as a shopping center, or multiple buildings, such as an office condominium center.

Principal Building or Structure: The building in which is conducted the principal use of the parcel on which it is located. Parcels with multiple principal uses may have multiple principal buildings, but storage buildings, garages, and other clearly accessory uses shall not be considered principal buildings.

Principal Sign: The main, most prominent or largest freestanding or building sign on a property's street frontage or principal building, other than a project entrance sign as defined in this Article. Such signs are of permanent construction and not placed as temporary signage.

Project Entrance Sign: A sign located at a discernible entrance into a particular subdivision, development, or office or industrial park. Designs for project entrance signs are classified as three types:

- (1) **Single Sign, Double Faced:** A project entrance sign designed as a single sign structure with two back-to-back faces, oriented to be seen from both directions on the road adjacent to the development.
- (2) **Single Sign, Single-Faced:** A project entrance sign designed as a single-faced sign structure, oriented parallel to and directly facing the road adjacent to the development.
- (3) **Dual Signage:** Project entrance signage designed as two single-faced sign structures, one located on each side of the project entrance, with each sign oriented toward the intersection so as to be viewed from only one direction on the road adjacent to the development.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Project Entrance Signs:



Projecting Sign: See under "Building Sign."

Reverse Channeled Letters: See under "Channeled Letter Signs."

Roof Sign: See under “Building Sign.”

Sign: Any structure, display, or device that is used or is intended to be 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, and that is placed in such a way, whether out of doors or inside or near a window, as to be in the view of the general public from the exterior of any building on the property.

Sign, A-Frame, Sidewalk or Sandwich: A temporary, movable sign not secured or attached to the ground or surface upon which it is located. This type of sign is typically “A” shaped or in some variation thereof and which is usually double sided. This includes a sign displayed on an easel. A-Frame, sidewalk and sandwich signs are a type of “portable sign”, as defined herein.



A-Frame Sign

Sign, Aggregate Area: The combined sign area of all sign faces of a particular category on a single parcel. For example, the aggregate sign area of all freestanding signs on a parcel is the sum total of the sign face areas of all freestanding signs on such parcel.

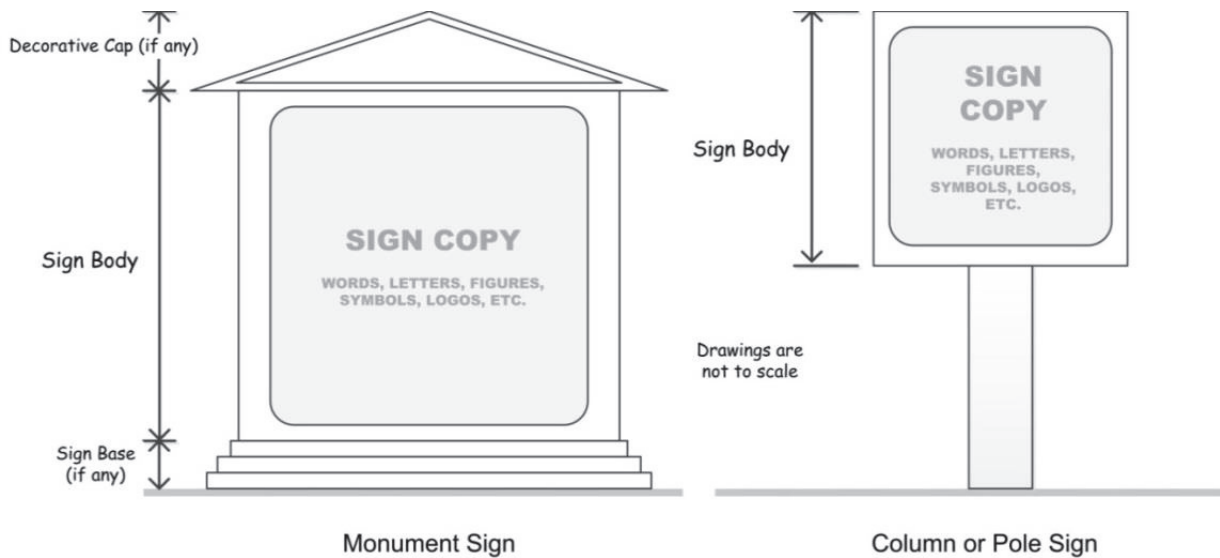
Sign, Animated: A sign that has moving parts or includes action, motion, or color changes, or the optical illusion of action, motion, or color changes, including signs using electronic ink, signs set in motion by wind or by mechanical means such as the blowing of air or motorized parts, or made up of a series of sections that turn, including any type of screen using animated or scrolling displays such as an LED (light emitting diode) screen or any other type of video display.

Sign, Awning: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign, Banner: A sign of fabric, thin plastic or similar lightweight material that is mounted to a pole or a building at one or more edges and is intended or displayed as commercial speech. Flags displaying noncommercial speech shall not be considered to be banners.

Sign, Billboard: Any monument sign erected on undeveloped property.

Sign Body: That portion of a sign structure that is intended or designed primarily to support or display the sign face, exclusive of the sign's base or decorative cap, if any.



Sign, Building Marker: See under "Building Sign".

Sign, Canopy: See under "Building Sign".

Sign, Changeable Copy: A type of animated sign that is capable of changing the position or format of word messages or other displays on the sign face or change the visible display of words, numbers, symbols and graphics by the use of a matrix of electric lamps, movable discs, movable panels, light apertures or other methods, provided these changes are actuated by either a control mechanism or manually on the face of the sign. Changeable copy signs include the following types:

- (1) **Manually Activated:** A sign whose alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content can be changed or altered by placing such letters or other message elements directly on the sign face by hand.
- (2) **Electronic:** A sign whose alphabetic, pictographic, or symbolic informational content can be changed and is displayed electrically or electronically. See also "LED sign".

Sign, Channeled Letter: See under "Channeled Letter Signs".

Sign, Column: See under "Freestanding Signs".

Sign Copy: The words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements that are to convey the message, idea or intent for which a sign has been erected or placed.

Sign, Dilapidated/Deteriorated: A sign that is structurally unsound, has defective parts, or is in need of painting or other maintenance.

Sign, Double-Faced: See "Double-Faced Sign".

Sign, Façade: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign Face: That portion of the surface of a sign structure where words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements are or may be located in order to convey the message, idea, or intent for which the sign has been erected or placed. The sign face may be composed of two or more modules on the same surface that are separated or surrounded by portions of a sign structure not intended to contain any advertising message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature.

Sign Face Module: Each portion or unit of a sign face that is clearly separable from other such units by virtue of the expression of a complete thought, message, logo, or idea.

Sign Height: The vertical distance to the highest point of a sign structure, as measured from the average grade at the base of the structure or directly below a projecting structure.

Sign, Hybrid Monument: See under “Freestanding Sign”.

Sign, illuminated: See “Illuminated Signs”.

Sign, Incidental: See “Incidental Sign”.

Sign, Inflatable: See “Inflatable Sign”.

Sign, Kiosk: See “kiosk”.

Sign, Mansard: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign, Marquee: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign Module: Each portion or unit of a sign face that is clearly separable from other such units by virtue of its individual or independent construction or framing.

Sign, Monument: See under “Freestanding Sign”.

Sign, Multi-Faced: See “Multi-Faced Sign”.

Sign, Neon: An illuminated sign containing a glass tube filled with neon or phosphors, which is bent to form letters, symbols or other shapes, or otherwise used to highlight, decorate or outline the sign.

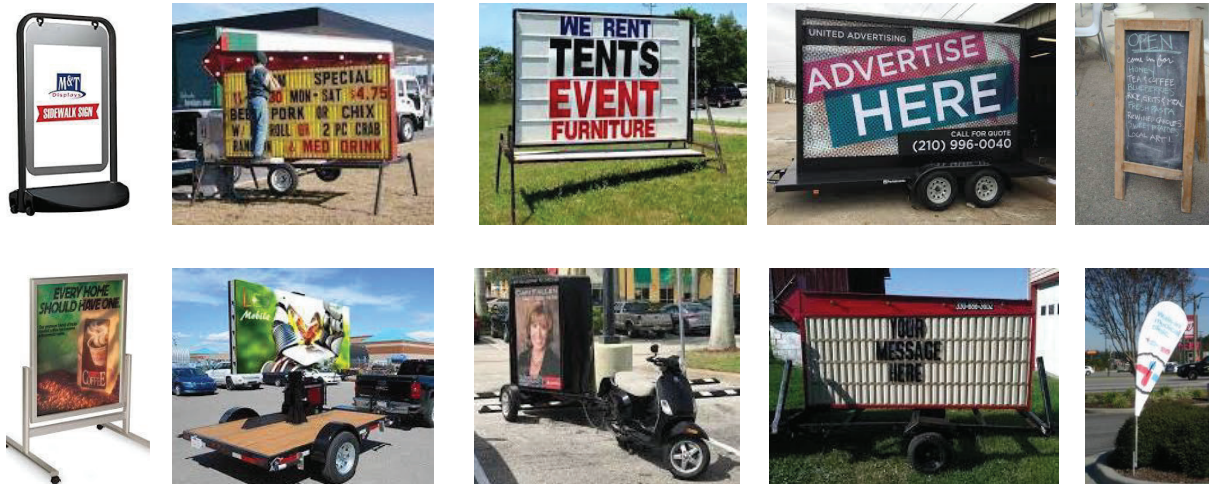
Sign, Nonconforming: A sign legally existing at the time of its placement or erection that could not have been approved under the terms of this Chapter.

Sign, Permanent: Any sign that is securely affixed to the ground or to a building and not readily removable. Temporary signs are not considered to be permanent signs.

Sign, Pole: See under “Freestanding Sign”.

Sign, Portable: A sign whose principal supporting structure is intended, by design and construction, to be used by resting upon the ground or another structure for support and may be easily moved or relocated for reuse. Portable signs include, but are not limited to, signs mounted upon a trailer, wheeled carrier, or other non-motorized mobile structure with or without wheels. See also “Feather Banner; Sign, A-Frame, Sidewalk or Sandwich”; and “Vehicular Sign”, which are types of portable signs.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Portable Signs:



Sign, Pre-Permanent: A temporary sign used for signage by a new business until their permanent sign is installed.

Sign, Principal: See “Principal Sign”.

Sign, Prohibited: Any sign, other than a non-conforming sign, not conforming to this Chapter.

Sign, Project Entrance: See “Project Entrance Sign”.

Sign, Projecting: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign, Roof: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign Structure: All elements of a freestanding sign, including the sign face, background or decorative elements related to the presentation of the sign’s message, and the structural supports.

Sign, Temporary: Any sign, the use of which is short-term in nature, that is affixed to or placed on the ground or to a building but is readily removable and not intended for permanent installation.

Sign, Under Canopy: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign, Wall: See under “Building Sign”.

Sign, Window: See under “Building Sign”.

Subtenant means a natural person, business, or other entity that subleases or is otherwise allowed to occupy a portion of land or a building, the majority of which is also occupied by a

tenant. For the purposes of these regulations, a subtenant is not treated as a “tenant” as defined herein.

Temporary Event: An activity, other than a special outdoor event as defined under this Code, having a specific duration or the end of which is related to a specific action, usually lasting for only a few days or months at a time. Temporary events, as contrasted to special outdoor events, include such activities as:

- (1) An election, political campaign, referendum or ballot proposition put to the voters as part of county, state or federal governance.
- (2) Special business promotions, such as “grand openings,” “close-out sales,” and seasonal sales events.
- (3) A yard sale.
- (4) The construction of a building or development project, or the rehabilitation, remodeling or renovation of a building.

Tenant: A natural person, business, or other entity that possesses or occupies land or buildings by title, under a lease, through payment of rent, or at will; the primary occupant, inhabitant, or dweller of a place. See also “subtenant”.

Tenant Frontage: The horizontal distance in feet between the walls that delimit an exterior façade of a tenant space. A “tenant space” may be a stand-alone building with a single occupant, or a portion of a planned center that is separated from all other tenant spaces for occupancy by a single tenant.

Under canopy sign: See under “Building Sign.”

Uniform sign plan: Coordinated drawings and specifications that establish a unified design concept with regard to the location, materials, size, letter style, and color of all signs to be placed on a property.

Use, Nonresidential: A principal use that is a business engaged in the sale of goods or the provision of personal, professional, business, entertainment or other services; an institutional or nonprofit organization; a business engaged in the fabrication, manufacture or production of durable or non-durable goods; an activity for the administration or support of a business or organization; or a place of lodging for the travelling public, such as a hotel, motel or bed and breakfast.

Use, Residential: A principal use that is intended for occupancy by an owner or lessee as their permanent place of abode.

Vehicular Sign: Any sign placed, mounted, painted on, or affixed to a motor vehicle or to a freight, flat-bed or storage trailer or other conveyance, whether motorized or drawn. Vehicular signs are a type of “portable sign”, as defined herein.

The following are Illustrative Examples of Vehicular Signs:



Wall sign: See under “Building Sign.”

Window Sign: See under “Building Sign.”

ARTICLE III. APPLICABILITY.

Sec. 8-5 Signs that are regulated.

The regulations and requirements of this Chapter apply to all signs that are or are intended to be viewed from a public right-of-way or adjacent property, or that are intended to be viewed from outdoor areas of public property, except as otherwise exempt under this Article. Such signs are allowed only in conformance with these sign regulations, or as otherwise provided for grandfathered signs under the provisions of this Code.

Sec. 8-6 Exemptions; general.

The following are exempt from all restrictions and regulations imposed by this Chapter:

- (a) Incidental signs.

Incidental signs (as defined in this Chapter) of no more than 1 square foot in area are exempt.

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- (b) A building design, color, or motif that is associated with a particular establishment or organization but which conveys no commercial message is not considered to be a sign and is exempt from these sign regulations.

Sec. 8-7 Signs that are exempt from regulation.

Each of the following types of signs are allowed in any zoning district and are exempt from the restrictions imposed by this Chapter:

- (a) Official signs.

Signs placed by a governmental body, governmental agency, or public authority, such as traffic signs, signals, or regulatory devices or warnings; official emblems, public notices, or official instruments; signs of historical interest; signs designating special events or areas of architectural or historic significance or gateways; or other similar signs or devices. Such signs are authorized within all rights-of-way or other properties controlled by such governmental body, agency, or authority.

- (b) Property address sign.

A sign limited in content to the street name and address number of the building or property to which it is affixed, provided that such sign consists of lettering no larger than 5 inches in height on a building or 3 inches on a mailbox.

- (c) Holiday decorations.

Displays or decorations related to a holiday or seasonal event (as defined in this Development Code) that are placed on a property by the owner or with the owner's permission as personal (noncommercial) speech (also as defined in this Development Code) are exempt.

- (d) Window displays

Window displays of goods available on a site are not considered to be signs and are exempt from these sign regulations.

ARTICLE IV. PROHIBITED SIGNS.

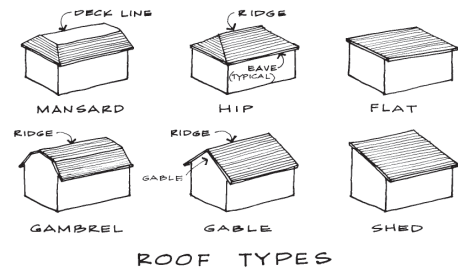
The following types of signs are prohibited:

Sec. 8-8 Animated signs.

A sign with action, motion, changing colors, flashing lights, or moving characters is not allowed. Such signs may require electrical energy, but also include wind-activated devices such as spinners, wind vanes and aerial devices. This prohibition does not include rotating signs that revolve no faster than 5 revolutions per minute or electronic message boards.

Sec. 8-9 Certain roof signs.

A building sign that extends above the top edge of the parapet or eaves of a flat or shed roof; the ridge line of a gable, hip, or gambrel roof; or the deck line of a mansard roof, is not allowed. All roof-mounted signs must comply with the Building Code.



Sec. 8-10 Festoons.

Strings of light bulbs and strings of ribbons, tinsel, small flags, pennants, streamers, pinwheels or other similar devices designed to move in the wind, are not allowed, except as temporary signage for a special business promotion event under Sec. 8-44 (a)(2) of this Article.

Sec. 8-11 Inflatable signs.

A sign that is intended to be expanded by air or other gas for its proper display or support is not allowed, except as temporary signage for a special business promotion event under Sec. 8-44 (a)(2) of this Chapter, or except as exempted as holiday or seasonal event decorations under Sec. 8-7 (c).

Sec. 8-12 Obstructions and distractions.

- (a) No sign shall obstruct any fire escape, window, door or opening usable for fire prevention or suppression, or prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof. No sign shall be affixed to a fire escape or interfere with any opening required for ventilation.
- (b) No sign shall hide from view or interfere with the effectiveness of any official traffic-control device.
- (c) No sign shall obstruct a clear view from any public road to any other portion of such public road, to intersecting or adjoining public roads, or to property abutting such public road in such a manner as to constitute a hazard to traffic on such roads.
- (d) No sign shall, because of its nature, construction, or operation, constitute a dangerous distraction to or interfere with the vision of drivers of motor vehicles.

Sec. 8-13 Portable signs.

A sign designed to be transported or easily relocated and not attached to the ground, such as the following, is not allowed:

- (a) A sign designed to be temporarily placed upon the ground and not otherwise affixed to it.
- (b) A sign mounted on a trailer, with or without wheels.
- (c) An A-frame or sandwich board sign.
- (d) An umbrella used for advertising.

A sign mounted or painted upon a parked vehicle that is positioned for the primary purpose of acting as a sign exposed to the public and is not in use in the ordinary course of carrying out its transportation function is not allowed. This prohibition shall not apply in the following circumstances:

- (1) When such conveyances are actively being used to transport persons, goods or services in the normal course of business;
 - (2) When such conveyances are parked in an inconspicuous area; or
 - (3) When such conveyances are actively being used for storage of construction materials for, and on the same lot with, a bona fide construction project for which building and other applicable permits have been issued and where construction is underway.
- (e) A sign mounted or painted upon a vehicle that is operated on public streets for the primary purpose of presenting a message or symbol and is not otherwise in use in the normal course of transporting people, merchandise, or freight.

Sec. 8-14 Private signs placed on public property.

Any sign posted or erected on utility poles, governmental signs, public rights-of-way or any other public property except those placed by agencies of the federal, state or local government is not allowed.

Sec. 8-15 Signs imitating public warning or traffic devices.

Any sign that displays intermittent lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance or rescue vehicles, and any sign that uses the words “stop,” “danger” or other message or content in a manner that might mislead or confuse a driver, is not allowed. No red, green or yellow illuminated sign shall be permitted within 300 feet of any traffic light.

Sec. 8-16 Snipe signs.

Any sign of a material such as cardboard, paper, pressed wood, plastic or metal that is attached to a fence, tree, utility pole or temporary structure is not allowed.

Sec. 8-17 Sound or smoke emitting signs.

A sign that emits or utilizes in any manner any sound capable of being detected on any traveled road or highway by a person with normal hearing, or a sign that emits smoke, vapor, particles, or odors, is not allowed.

Sec. 8-18 Home-made signs.

Except for a professionally hand-painted sign, hand written, handmade, and other unprofessionally fabricated signs are not allowed. A “professionally” hand-painted sign is one that has been prepared or created by a person engaged in the paid occupation of sign painting and generally reproduces font sets created by such foundries as Adobe, Microsoft, BitStream, etc.

The following are illustrative examples of “professionally” hand-painted signs that would not be prohibited:



Sec. 8-19 Certain illuminated signs.

The following types of illuminated signs are prohibited:

- (a) Signs containing, including, or illuminated by, any flashing, intermittent, or moving lights, scrolling lights, and/or utilizing changes in the intensity of lighting, are prohibited.
- (b) Any illumination of a sign that interferes with the effectiveness of, or obscures, an official traffic sign, device, or signal, is prohibited.
- (c) Any illumination of a sign that is not effectively shielded so as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled way of a street and which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interferes with the operation of any motor vehicle, is prohibited.
- (d) No red, green, or yellow illuminated sign shall be placed within 300 feet of any traffic signal light.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLYING TO ALL SIGNS.

Sec. 8-20 Conformance to Building Codes.

- (a) In addition to the Sign Permit required under this Code, a building permit shall be obtained from the Planning Director prior to installation or placement of any sign having electrical service. All electrical service to a sign shall be in compliance with the Electrical Code.
- (b) Plans required for issuance of a sign permit for a billboard shall be certified as to conformance with all structural and wind-load resistive standards of the Building Code by a qualified structural engineer, or be prepared using standard drawings prepared by a structural engineer or other qualified professional meeting or exceeding all requirements of the Building Code.

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- (c) All signs involving internal lights or other electrical devices or circuits shall display a label certifying it as being approved by the Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.
 - (d) Clearance from all electrical power lines shall be in conformance with the requirements of the Electrical Code.

Sec. 8-21 Conformance to State Law.

The following applies to any sign located or to be located within 660 feet of the nearest edge of the right-of-way of a U.S. or State-numbered highway (or any other road designated as a "primary highway" by the State of Georgia and approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation), or located or to be located beyond 660 feet of such highway but visible and intended to be read from such highway:

- (a) Such sign shall comply with all requirements of the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Act, O.C.G.A. 32-6-70 et seq.
- (b) Such sign shall comply with all requirements of this Chapter. Between the Georgia and Crisp County regulations, such sign must comply with the most restrictive requirements with respect to each and every item of regulation.

Sec. 8-22 Minimum sign setbacks and maximum heights.

- (a) All portions of a sign must be set back at least 10 feet from any street or highway right-of-way, except as follows:
 - (1) Miscellaneous freestanding signs allowed under Sec. 8-36 at driveways must be set back at least 5 feet from any street or highway right-of-way.
 - (2) Project entrance signs allowed under Sec. 8-38 must be set back from any street or highway right-of-way and any project entrance roadway by at least 5 feet.
 - (3) Billboards shall conform to the setback requirements of ARTICLE VIII.
 - (4) No set back from a right-of-way line is required for the following types of signs:
 - a. Special outdoor event signs allowed under Sec. 8-39 .
 - b. Temporary event signs allowed under ARTICLE VIII.
 - c. Real estate event signs allowed under Sec. 8-45 .
 - d. Real estate directional signs allowed under Sec. 8-46 .
 - e. Institutional and amenity directional signs allowed under Sec. 8-40 .
- (b) All signs must be set back at least 5 feet from any other property line other than a right-of-way line, except that principal freestanding signs shall be located at least 37 feet from any side lot line, or one-half the width of the lot frontage, whichever is less.
- (c) Any sign placed within a street-side utility easement shall not interfere with any utility within the easement. Any cost resulting from the removal, repair or replacement of such a

sign caused by the maintenance, repair, replacement or installation of a utility within the easement shall be the responsibility of the sign owner.

- (d) The maximum height of any freestanding sign shall be limited to the maximum height for buildings and structures allowed within the zoning district in which the sign is located, except for billboards under the provisions of ARTICLE VIII and for freestanding signs located within a visibility clearance area (see Sec. 8-28).

Sec. 8-23 Signs placed on vacant properties.

The following types of signs, when placed on vacant property, are not considered to be accessory uses:

- (a) Signs that are exempt from these sign regulations under Sec. 8-6 .
- (b) Project entrance signs (allowed under Sec. 8-38).
- (c) Special outdoor event signs (allowed under Sec. 8-39).
- (d) Temporary event signs (allowed under Sec. 8-44).
- (e) Real estate event signs (allowed under Sec. 8-45).
- (f) Real estate directional signs (allowed under Sec. 8-46).
- (g) Institutional directional signs (allowed under Sec. 8-40).

Sec. 8-24 Sign maintenance.

- (a) All signs, together with all their supports, braces, guys, and anchors shall be kept in good repair and, unless constructed of galvanized or noncorroding metal, shall be given a protective coating as necessary to maintain a clean appearance and safe condition.
- (b) All signs shall be maintained in accordance with all County ordinances, including ordinances concerning nuisances and vegetation.

Sec. 8-25 Principal freestanding signs—spacing.

Each principal freestanding sign shall be located at least 75 feet from any other freestanding sign on the same side of the street. This distance may be reduced upon approval by the Planning Director if it cannot be met due to the location of existing signs on separate but adjoining lots. Such reduction shall be the minimum required in order to maintain the greatest separation possible from such existing signs.

Sec. 8-26 Projecting and canopy signs.

- (a) Projecting signs shall not project more than 5¹/₂ feet beyond the face of the building. Projecting signs shall be a minimum of 10 feet above the level of any sidewalk from the bottom of the sign. Any projecting sign within 25 feet of a street or alley intersection shall be a minimum of 14 feet above the sidewalk from the bottom of the sign.

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- (b) Under-canopy signs of greater than 4 square feet shall be rigidly mounted, and there shall be 8¹/₂ feet of clearance between the base of any rigidly mounted under-canopy sign and the sidewalk. There shall be a minimum clearance of 7¹/₂ feet between the base of any non-rigidly mounted under-canopy sign and the sidewalk.
 - (c) Projecting and canopy signs shall be limited to no more than 1 per tenant on a property, and each tenant shall have no more than 1 projecting sign or canopy sign.

Sec. 8-27 Banners.

Banners shall be allowed only as wall or window signage and shall be placed flush upon the wall or window to which it is attached. Banners shall not be hung as canopy signs, flown as flags, or used as any other form of sign.

Sec. 8-28 Visibility clearance area.

No portion of a sign face, and no portion of a sign structure wider than 12 inches, between the heights of 2¹/₂ feet (30 inches) and 15 feet shall be located within a sight visibility triangle at the intersection of two streets or the intersection of a driveway and a street. See the Project Design Standards Article of this Development Code for delineation of the sight triangle at street and driveway intersections.

Sec. 8-29 Electronic message boards.

Electronic message boards are only allowed on commercial and industrial properties.

Sec. 8-30 Illuminated signs.

- (a) Traffic Control.

No sign illumination device shall resemble an official traffic control or warning sign, nor shall it hide from view or distract from any traffic or street sign or signal.

- (b) Hazards.

Illumination devices shall be placed, filtered and shielded so direct rays will not be cast into the eyes of drivers or pedestrians.

- (c) Light Pollution.

Illumination devices shall be so placed and so shielded that light from the sign itself will not be directly cast into any residential district.

- (d) Neon Tubes.

No sign that has exposed neon tubes or other exposed tubes containing luminescent gas shall be used outside a building unless the light source is shielded within the sign, such as a channeled letter sign or internally illuminated sign.

- (e) Exposed Wires.

No sign may have exposed electrical wires.

(f) Hours of Illumination.

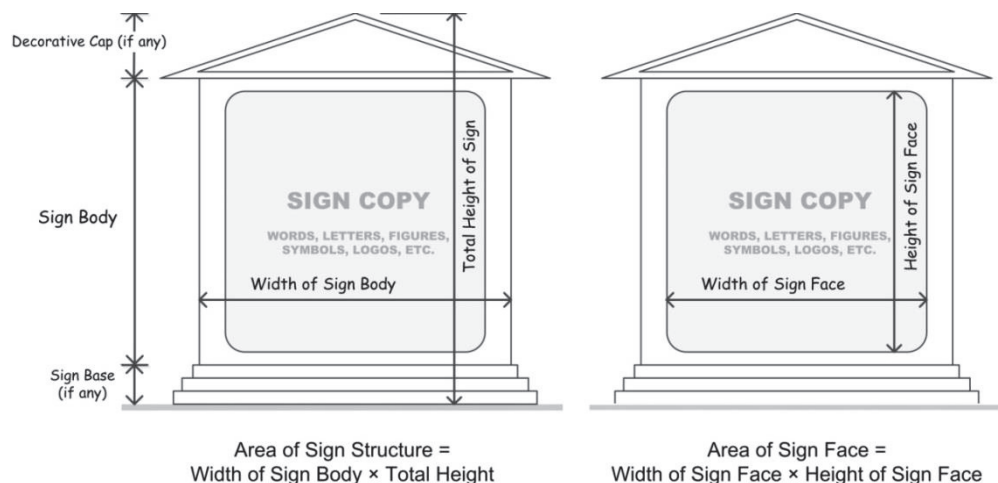
No sign shall be illuminated between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. except for those hours during which the premises on which the sign is located is open for business.

(g) Types of illumination.

- (1) *Externally illuminated sign.* An externally-illuminated sign, when permitted, shall have concealed wiring and controls, and shall have shielded and screened external light sources.
- (2) *Internally illuminated sign.* Internally-illuminated signs (including internally channeled or reverse-channeled letters), where permitted, must completely shield the source of light from direct view.

Sec. 8-31 Computation of sign area.

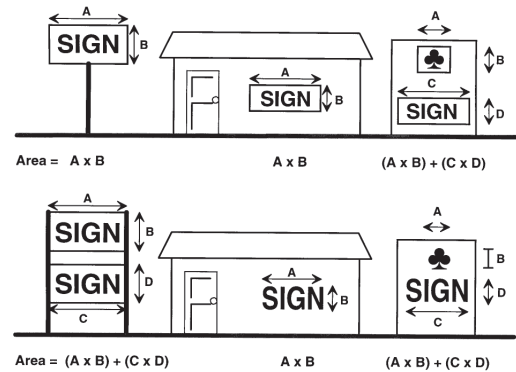
In order to determine compliance with the maximum allowable sign areas permitted under this Chapter, the area of a sign structure shall be computed as the width of the main structure times the total height of the structure upon which the sign copy is placed, and the area of the sign face shall be the area of the portion of the sign upon which the sign copy (the words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, etc. comprising the sign's message or information) is located.



(a) Sign face area.

The area of a sign face shall be computed as the area within the smallest rectangle enclosing the limits of a sign face, or the combination of the areas of all such rectangles delimiting each sign face module, together with any frame or material, texture, or color forming an integral part of the sign face or used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed.

- (1) The computation of the area of a sign face shall not include the structure, supports or uprights on which the sign face is placed or any portions of a sign structure that are not intended to contain any message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature, other than those portions contained within the rectangle that delimits the sign face or a sign face module

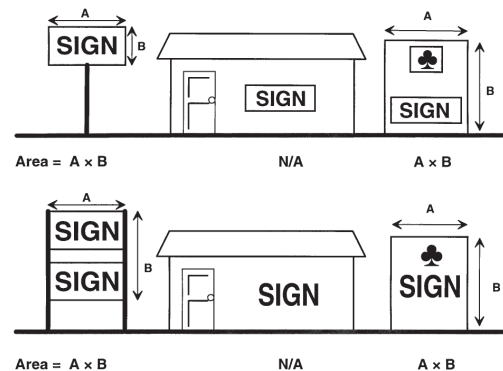


Examples of Sign Face Area Measurements

- (2) For any sign on which the words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements routinely change or are intended to be changed from time to time, the sign face area shall include the entire area within which any words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors, or other design elements may be placed, together with any frame or material, texture, or color forming an integral part of the sign face or used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed.

(b) Sign Structure Area.

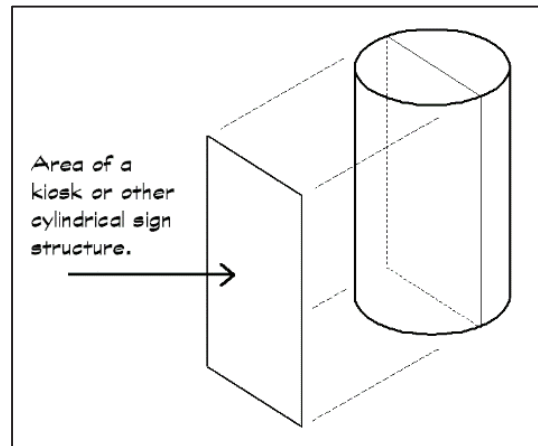
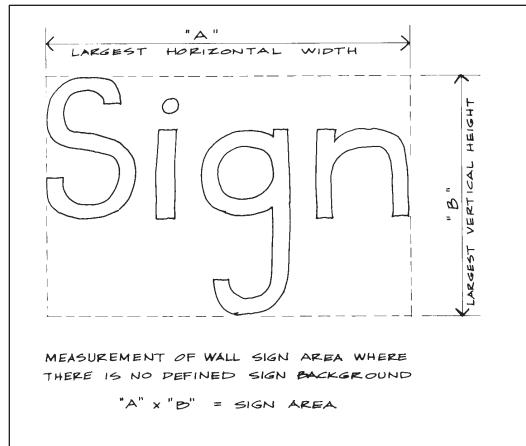
The area of a sign structure shall be computed as the area within the smallest rectangle enclosing the limits of the surface of a sign whereon the sign face or sign face modules may be placed, including all portions of a sign structure that provide a background for the sign face but are not intended to contain any message or idea and are purely structural or decorative in nature.



Examples of Sign Structure Area Measurements

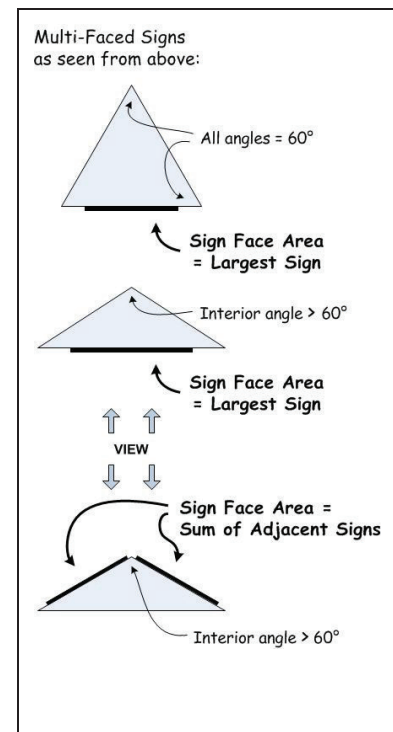
(c) Free-Form Signs.

- (1) For signs that have no identifiable frame or border, the smallest rectangle that includes all of the sign's words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements intended to convey the sign's message or information shall establish the area of the sign face.
- (2) Any open space contained within the limits of the rectangle delimiting the sign face, sign face module, or sign structure shall be included in the computation of the area of such sign face, sign face module, or sign structure.



- (d) For a kiosk or other cylindrical sign structure, the area of the sign shall be the largest measurement achieved from any view of the sign structure. Measurements shall be made as a flat plane rectangle projected on or bisecting the sign structure.
- (e) Multi-faced signs.

- (1) For double-faced signs, when the sign face surfaces are parallel (back-to-back), or where the interior angle formed by the faces is 60 degrees or less, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area on the largest side. For double-faced signs where the interior angle formed by the faces is more than 60 degrees, the area of the sign shall be the total area of both sides.
- (2) For sign structures having only three faces and the interior angle formed between all of the faces is 60 degrees, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the largest side. For all other multi-faced signs with three or more sides, the area of the sign shall be the largest total of all faces that are joined by an interior angle of more than 60 degrees that can be viewed from any one direction.



Sign Face Area
Three-sided Sign Structures

ARTICLE VI. SIGN TYPES PERMITTED BY ZONING DISTRICT.

The following table presents the maximum number, size, height, and other restrictions relating to specific signage that are permitted by right in each zoning district.

Sec. 8-32 Principal freestanding sign—one use on property.

“Principal Freestanding Sign—One Use on Property” on Table 8-1 applies to a lot where there is only one single or two-family dwelling, one multi-family complex, or one business occupant.

Sec. 8-33 Principal freestanding sign—two or more uses on property.

“Principal Freestanding Sign—Two or More Uses on Property” on Table 8-1 applies to a single office, commercial or industrial property that is designed or intended for occupancy by two or more principal businesses that are separately-owned and have no corporate relationship.

Sec. 8-34 Building signs.

For building signs permitted on Table 8-1 in the office, commercial and industrial zoning districts, the following shall apply:

- (a) For single-occupant buildings, the total sign face area for building signs on each side of a building shall be calculated on the basis of the horizontal length of the wall along that side of the building. Each side of the building shall be calculated separately.
- (b) In addition to the total sign face area calculated from the following table, one more square foot of sign face area shall be allowed on a wall facing a public street for each foot that the building is set back beyond the minimum required principal building front setback from that street.
- (c) For multi-tenant nonresidential developments (such as shopping centers), the total sign face area per wall for each tenant shall be distributed on the basis of the horizontal length of the wall along each tenant’s occupied space. The maximum sign face area on a particular wall for each tenant shall be calculated separately.
- (d) In no case shall window signs obscure more than 25% of a window.
- (e) Projecting and under-canopy signs shall be limited to no more than 1 per tenant on a property, and each tenant shall have no more than 1 projecting sign or under-canopy sign.

Table 8.1: Permitted Signs—By Zoning District¹

	RR, RS1, RS2, PRD, RD, RM			OI, NC	GC, HC	I
	Single- and Two-Family Residence	Multi-Family Project	Nonresidential Use			
Principal Freestanding Sign - One Use on Property:						
Max. Number	1 per lot	2 per entrance	1 per street frontage	1 per street frontage	1 per 200 feet of street frontage	1 per street frontage
Maximum sign area	6 sf	32 sf	32 sf	32 sf	100 sf	100 sf
Maximum structure area	6 sf	96 sf	96 sf	96 sf	130 sf	130 sf
Maximum height	5 feet	8 feet	10 feet	10 feet ²	20 feet	20 feet
Illumination	None	External only	External only	External Only	OK	OK
Principal Freestanding Sign – Two or More Businesses on Property:						
Max. Number	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 per street frontage	1 per 200 feet of street frontage	1 per street frontage
Maximum sign area				42 sf	200 sf	200 sf
Maximum structure area				60 sf	300 sf	300 sf
Maximum height				10 feet ²	20 feet	20 feet
Illumination				External Only	OK	OK
Building Sign: Wall signs and awning, canopy, projecting, incidental, roof & window signs, etc.³						
Max. number of all building signs	1	1 per building	1 per building	1 per facade, plus 1 per tenant	3 per tenant, total 2 sf for each lineal foot of wall length	1 per tenant, total 1 sf for each lineal foot of wall length
Maximum sign face area of the principal sign	1 square foot	12 square feet	½ sf for each lineal foot of wall length	½ sf for each lineal foot of wall length per tenant	1 sf for each lineal foot of wall length for principle tenant	½ sq. foot for each foot of wall length
Projecting or Under Canopy Sign	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	3 sf per firm	1 per tenant allowed	Not Allowed
Illumination	None	None	External Only	External Only	OK	OK

¹ See text on the next page for regulations relating to the PUD Planned Unit Development District and the PCID Planned Commercial-Industrial Development District.

² Monument sign only.

³ All building signs attached to a particular wall and its windows, doors, awnings, canopies, or roof, including signs that project from the wall, shall collectively not exceed the total square footage of sign face area allowed for the particular wall.

Sec. 8-35 PUD and PCID Planned Developments.

For signs in the PUD Planned Unit Development District and the PCID Planned Commercial-Industrial Development District, each development shall conform to the sign regulations established as part of the zoning approval for the PUD or PCID, respectively. If no such regulations exist, each portion of a Planned Unit Development or a Planned Commercial-Industrial Development shall conform to the regulations of this Chapter for the zoning district most comparable to each portion of the PUD or PCID with regard to permitted uses.

ARTICLE VII. ADDITIONAL PERMANENT SIGNAGE ALLOWED.

In addition to the specific signs permitted in each zoning district, the following signs shall be allowed in all zoning districts (or in the zoning districts as indicated) under the conditions noted for each type of sign. **Such additional signs shall not be restricted or regulated with respect to the message displayed on the sign**, but must comply with the applicable provisions of this Article.

Sec. 8-36 Miscellaneous freestanding signs.

Miscellaneous freestanding signs (as defined in this Chapter) not otherwise prohibited under ARTICLE IV of this Chapter, are permitted for any multi-family or nonresidential use in addition to the freestanding signs allowed under Sec. 8-32 or Sec. 8-33 if each sign complies with all of the following:

- (a) Within the minimum front yard setback for principal buildings required for the zoning district, signs may be located at driveways that provide access into or from the property. There shall be no more than 2 such signs per driveway and each such sign shall not exceed 9 square feet in sign area nor be more than 2¹/₂ feet in height.
- (b) Miscellaneous signs located farther from the street than the minimum required front yard setback for principal buildings shall be allowed as follows:
 - (1) One miscellaneous sign may be located on the property for each principal building on the lot. Each such sign is not to exceed 32 square feet in area nor be more than 8 feet in height.
 - (2) An unlimited number of miscellaneous freestanding signs may be located beyond the minimum front yard setback on a property developed for multi-family or nonresidential use, provided that each such sign is no more than 6 square feet in sign area nor more than 4 feet in height (except signs that are required by law to be higher than 3 feet, such as those marking a handicapped parking space).

Sec. 8-37 Miscellaneous building signs.

Miscellaneous building signs (as defined in this Chapter) not otherwise prohibited under ARTICLE IV of this Chapter, are allowed on nonresidential use properties in addition to the building signs allowed under Sec. 8-34 , as follows:

- (a) General miscellaneous building signs.

Miscellaneous building signs are allowed, provided that such signs shall be placed only on a tenant space façade fronting on a dedicated public street. Such signs are limited as follows:

- (1) For single-occupant buildings, the maximum aggregate area for all miscellaneous building signs shall be 1 square foot of sign face area per linear foot of the length of the tenant frontage (as defined in this Chapter) on which the signs are affixed, or 10% of the area of the façade, whichever is greater. No single such sign shall be larger than 6 square feet in sign face area.
- (2) For planned centers, the maximum aggregate area for all miscellaneous building signs for each tenant space shall be 1 square foot of sign face area per linear foot of the tenant frontage (as defined in this Article), or 10% of the area of the tenant's façade, whichever is greater. No single such sign shall be larger than 6 square feet in sign face area.
- (3) Such miscellaneous building signs placed in a window may not result in the obstruction of more than 25% of the window area in combination with all other signs in the window.

(b) Subtenant signs.

- (1) One business that occupies space within a principal business as a subtenant, such as a coffee shop within a grocery store, is allowed one wall sign in addition to the principal building sign allowed for the principal business under Sec. 8-34. -(c). The subtenant wall sign shall be in addition to and shall not exceed the size of the principal wall sign allowed for the principal business.
- (2) The following are examples of subtenant wall signs allowed by this Subsection:



(c) Convenience stores and service stations with pump islands.

Additional signage is permitted as follows:

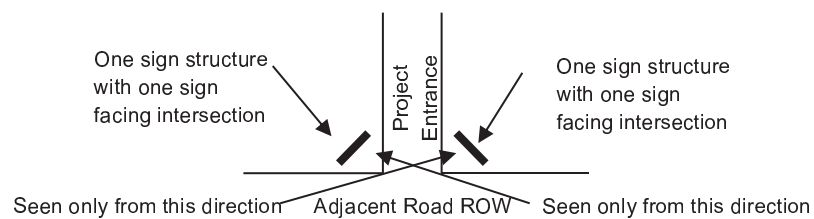
- (1) One sign per freestanding or building canopy face per public street frontage with a maximum of 16 square feet each is allowed. The canopy sign shall not extend above or below the edge of the canopy.

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- (2) Spreader bars (signs located under canopy over pump islands) shall be limited to no more than two signs per spreader bar, not to exceed 4 square feet per sign. However, total square footage for all spreader bars shall not exceed 24 square feet.
 - (3) On-site separate drive-through car wash building(s), shall be allowed one permanent wall sign, not to exceed 8 square feet with an approved sign permit. This sign shall be for incidental purposes only.

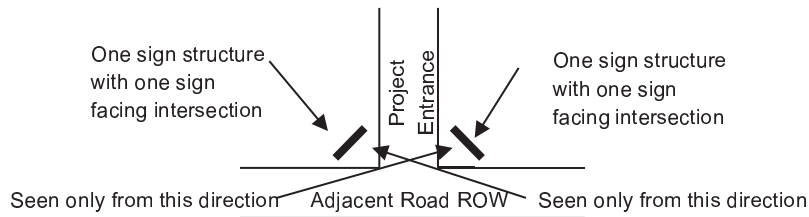
Sec. 8-38 Project entrance signs.

Freestanding monument signs may be located at each entrance into a residential subdivision or into an office or industrial park consisting of two or more buildings.

- (a) Such signs shall be configured either as dual signage (two single-faced signs, one on each side of the entrance), or as one back-to-back double-faced sign (with each face oriented in each direction along the main street) or as one single-faced sign oriented to the main street. Each project entrance sign shall not exceed:
 - (1) 32 square feet in sign face area.
 - (2) 96 square feet in sign structure area.
 - (3) 2¹/₂ feet (30 inches) in height if located within a sight visibility triangle (see the Project Design Standards Chapter) or 8 feet otherwise.
- (b) Project Entrance Sign Installations.
 - (1) Designs for project entrance signs are classified as two types:
 - a. Single Sign Installation: A project entrance sign designed as a single sign structure with two back-to-back faces, oriented to be seen from both directions on the road adjacent to the development.



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- b. Dual Sign Installation: A project entrance sign designed as two separate sign structures, each with a single sign face individually oriented toward the intersection so as to be viewed from only one direction on the road adjacent to the development, and each located on opposite sides of the project entrance.



- (2) Project entrance signs cannot be constructed in a center island of the project entrance roadway. signs cannot be constructed in a center island of any roadway

Sec. 8-39 Special outdoor event signs.

Signs related to a Special Outdoor Event as defined under this Code shall be allowed as specified as part of the special use approval of the event by the County, or as allowed in the zoning district in which the event is located if special use approval is not required.

Sec. 8-40 Institutional and amenity directional signs.

- (a) Purpose. The purpose of institutional and amenity directional signs is to provide assistance to persons in locating land uses that are important to the civic life of the community, the activities and facilities of which uses are open to and serve all residents of the County or a particular neighborhood.
- (b) Eligible Uses. Institutional and amenity directional signs may be used to provide directions to a specific use or subdivision amenity owned or operated by a non-profit, religious or eleemosynary institution for the purpose of providing educational, cultural, recreational, religious or social services to the general public or to the residents of a subdivision or development.
- (c) Need. A sign may be permitted only where the use identified on the sign is not visible from the major street on which the sign is placed or the route to the use identified on the sign is not apparent, for example, it may be visible from a limited-access road but accessible only from another street, from which it is not visible.
- (d) Location. Such signs for private uses shall be on private property, not more than 6 feet from the right-of-way of a street and within 100 feet of the intersection with the right-of-way of the street at which the sign directs that a turn be made.
- (e) Setback. No setback from the street right-of-way line shall be required for an institutional or amenity directional sign, except that any such sign shall not be placed within the street right-of-way and shall be placed at least 6 feet behind the edge of pavement of the street, whichever is the farther distance.

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- (f) Area. The area of such sign shall not exceed 6 square feet. Where more than one such sign is placed on a pole or other mount, total area of all such signs shall not exceed 12 square feet.
 - (g) Height. The height of such sign above the elevation of the adjoining street shall not exceed 8 feet.
 - (h) Number. Up to two such signs may be permitted on an arterial street where a turn is required to reach the use, one for traffic approaching from each direction. Similarly, one such sign may be placed on each approach at up to two additional intersections intermediate between an arterial and the use, providing directions where a turn is required.
 - (i) Only 1 sign structure—sign(s) plus a mounting post—shall be permitted on any street corner.
 - (j) Permanence. Only permanent lettering and only the sign specified in the permit shall be used.
 - (k) Lighting. Such signs shall not be illuminated.

Sec. 8-41 Flags.

- (a) Any cloth, paper, thin plastic or similar material that is displayed by hanging or flying from a flagpole is allowed as an accessory use on any property that is used in any land use category if it complies with all of the following:
 - (1) No more than 3 flags may be displayed on a single lot.
 - (2) On a lot located within a residential zoning district, no single flag shall be larger than 24 square feet in size (e.g., 4' x 6'), and the total area for all flags collectively shall not exceed 45 square feet (e.g., three 3' x 5').
 - (3) On a lot located within an office, commercial or industrial zoning district, no single flag shall be larger than 40 square feet in size (e.g., 5' x 8'), and the total area for all flags collectively shall not exceed 72 square feet (e.g. three 4' x 6').

Sec. 8-42 Multi-screen movie theater.

- (a) Freestanding changeable copy board signs.
 - (1) For a movie theater that is the only use on a property, a changeable copy board sign may be used as an allowed "principal sign" in accordance with Table 8.1.
 - (2) For a movie theater that is part of a multi-tenant nonresidential development (as defined herein), changeable copy board signs may be located on the property in addition to the "principal signs" allowed for such uses on Table 8.1, as follows:
 - a. One freestanding changeable copy board sign is allowed for each multi-screen movie theater for each street frontage.

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- b. The changeable copy board shall be constructed in such a fashion so as to prevent wind, rain or other elements from altering the position of the sign copy.
 - c. The size and height of the changeable copy board sign shall comply with the restrictions imposed for principal freestanding signs on Table 8.1.
 - d. The width of a freestanding changeable copy board sign face shall not exceed the width of the freestanding sign structure.
- (b) Building signs on a multi-screen movie theater.

In addition to the building signs allowed on Table 8.1, the following are allowed for a multi-screen movie theater:

- (1) One changeable copy board wall sign or marquee sign shall be permitted for each multi-screen movie theater; provided, however, if theaters are contained within separate buildings, then one such wall or marquee sign shall be permitted for each building.
- (2) A multi-screen movie theater may have 1 additional wall sign for each theater within the building, provided that the total area of all building signage shall not exceed 10% of the area of the wall.

Sec. 8-43 Rear entrance signs.

In planned centers that contain tenant spaces with rear entrance doors, a sign shall be located on each tenant's rear door as follows:

- (a) Rear entrance signs shall be required for each tenant within a planned center for the purpose of identifying each tenant for emergency service vehicles. The developer or owner of the planned center shall be responsible to the County for proper rear entrance signage of tenants, including proper maintenance.
- (b) The area of rear entrance identification signs shall not be less than 18 inches wide and 12 inches high, and the copy shall include the name of the business and the street address number. Lettering and numbering shall be at least two inches in height and shall be Helvetica medium style or an equivalent typeface.
- (c) The number and area of rear entrance signs shall be in addition to the building signs allowed on Table 8.1.

ARTICLE VIII. TEMPORARY SIGNAGE.

Additional signs are allowed during a Temporary Event (as defined in this Code), such as an election, a special business promotion, a yard sale, the construction of a building, and similar temporary events not otherwise defined as a Special Outdoor Event under this Code. **Such additional signs shall not be restricted as to the message displayed on the sign,** but must comply with the provisions of this Section.

Sec. 8-44 Requirements for all temporary signs.

(a) Duration.

The sign may be placed upon initiation of the temporary event, and must be removed upon the termination of the event. Initiation and termination of particular events shall be interpreted as follows:

- (1) *Election.* Initiation upon the last day of qualification of candidates, and termination upon the election of a candidate to office or resolution of a ballot question.
- (2) *Special business promotion.* Initiation upon announcement of the special sale or sales event, and termination upon its completion or 30 days after initiation, whichever occurs first.
- (3) *Yard sale.* Initiation five days prior to the announced date of the sale, and termination at the end of the announced date.
- (4) *Residential or nonresidential subdivision or condominium under development.* Initiation upon preliminary plat or site plan approval by the County, and termination upon the sale of 90% of the lots, dwelling units or buildings in the final phase.
- (5) *Building construction or remodeling.* Initiation upon issuance of a building permit authorizing the construction, interior finish or remodeling, and termination upon issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy or approval for connection to electric power for the work authorized by the building permit.

(b) Number of temporary event signs.

Only one temporary sign related to each temporary event may be located on a property at any one time.

(c) Size of temporary event signs.

- (1) *Single- and two-family zoning districts.* Temporary event signs located on properties occupied by or zoned for single-family or two-family residences shall not exceed 6 square feet in area and 5 feet in height.
- (2) *Rural residential, multi-family and nonresidential zoning districts.* Temporary event signs located on properties occupied by or zoned for agricultural, multi-family or nonresidential uses shall not exceed 32 square feet in area and 8 feet in height.

(d) Construction standards for temporary event signs.

Construction of temporary event signs shall meet the same engineering design and materials standards as for permanent signs, and must be authorized by a building permit prior to placement if required under the Building Code.

Sec. 8-45 Real estate event signs.

- (a) One additional freestanding sign per 500 feet of property frontage and one additional building sign per building or available tenant space may be placed on a site while the property, building or tenant space is for sale or lease.
- (b) Each such sign may be no larger than the following:
 - (1) Single-family and two-family residential zoning districts: 6 square feet in area, 5 feet high.
 - (2) Rural residential, multi-family and nonresidential zoning districts:
 - a. Along an Interstate Highway, 64 square feet in area, 10 feet high.
 - b. Along all other roads, 32 square feet in area, 6 feet high.

Sec. 8-46 Real estate directional signs.

A sign that conveys directions to a specific property for sale or lease, such as a real estate development, residential subdivision, apartment or condominium project, home for sale, apartment for rent, or any other real estate property for sale or lease, is permitted if it complies with all of the following:

- (a) Real estate directional signs may not contain any commercial message or advertisement, but may contain the name, trademark or trade symbol of the development or property to which directions are being provided or the real estate company offering the property.
- (b) Real estate directional signs are allowed in all zoning districts, except those within 660 feet of the right-of-way of any state, U.S. or Interstate numbered highway are only allowed on properties zoned for commercial or industrial use in accordance with the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Act.
- (c) Real estate directional signs shall be erected and maintained only with the permission of the owner of the property upon which the sign is erected.
- (d) Real estate directional signs shall not exceed a maximum size of 4 square feet.
- (e) Real estate directional signs shall not be illuminated.
- (f) Real estate directional signs shall be removed upon the consummation of the sale or lease of the property to which directions are provided.
- (g) There shall be no more than 4 real estate directional signs providing directions to any 1 residential, commercial, or industrial development; and no more than 2 signs providing directions to any 1 lot.

ARTICLE IX. BILLBOARDS.

Sec. 8-47 Billboard; defined.

A billboard is a freestanding sign that exceeds the maximum sign face or sign structure area permitted by right on a property under the provisions of ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 8-48 Billboards; where allowed.

A billboard may be allowed individually as a principal use or as an additional freestanding sign on a property under the following conditions:

- (a) The sign must be located in a GC General Commercial, HC Heavy Commercial or I Industrial zoning district within 660 feet of a State, U.S. or Interstate numbered highway
- (b) The billboard must comply with all requirements of the State of Georgia and the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Act.
- (c) Billboards located on a State or U.S. numbered Highway shall not exceed 384 square feet, and shall be v-shaped or back to back (to be viewed from each side, not double stacked).
- (d) Billboards within 660 feet of an Interstate Highway may be up to 672 square feet in area, limit of (2) sign faces per travel direction, or may carry one sign not to exceed 1200 square feet.
- (e) No billboard shall exceed 70 feet in height and shall meet approval from the local airport representative in reference to possible interference in fly zone path.
- (f) All portions of the billboard must be located on a lot 20 feet or more from the nearest edge of any public street or State or U.S. numbered Highway right-of-way, and at least 10 feet from any Interstate Highway right-of-way.
- (g) Billboards located on a State or U.S. Highway shall not be located within 1000 feet of any other billboard or any building displaying a mural on the same side of the road except when back to back or end to end, or within 200 feet of a zoning district where bill-boards are not allowed. Billboards located on an Interstate Highway shall not be located within 500 feet of any other billboard or any building displaying a mural on the same side of the road except when back to back or end to end. Distance measurements are to be made horizontally in all directions from the nearest edge of the sign structure.
- (h) Billboards located near expressway interchanges shall be limited as follows:
 - (1) No more than 2 billboards may be located in each quadrant of the interchange.
 - (2) Such billboards shall be restricted to an area in each quadrant 1,200 feet long beginning 500 feet from the road that crosses the expressway or 500 feet beyond the point where the pavement begins to widen on the main travelway of the expressway to accommodate an exit or entrance ramp, whichever is farther from the interchange.
- (i) The billboard may not be located on or over any building.

ARTICLE X. MURALS AND MONUMENTS.

Sec. 8-49 Mural; defined.

A mural is a building sign that exceeds the maximum sign face area permitted by right on a property under the provisions of ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 8-50 Murals; where allowed.

A mural may be allowed on a principal or accessory building under the following conditions:

- (a) The building on which the mural is to be placed must be located in a GC General Commercial, HC Heavy Commercial or I Industrial zoning district within 660 feet of a State, U.S. or Interstate numbered highway
- (b) Murals located on a State or U.S. numbered highway shall not exceed 384 square feet and shall be limited to no more than one mural per building.
- (c) Murals located within 660 feet of an Interstate Highway may be up to 672 square feet in area, limited to two murals per building, or may be up to 1200 square feet when limited to one such mural per building.
- (d) Murals located on a State or U.S. Highway shall be located at least 1000 feet from any other building displaying a mural or from any billboard on the same side of the road, or within 200 feet of a zoning district where murals are not allowed. Murals located on an Interstate Highway shall be located at least 500 feet from any other building displaying a mural or from any billboard on the same side of the road. Distance measurements are to be made horizontally in all directions from the nearest edge of the mural sign face.
- (e) A mural not in compliance with the provisions of this Section may be considered for approval by the Board of Commissioners as a special use, based on the artistic, historic or aesthetic merit, community-serving nature and proposed permanence of the sign.

Sec. 8-51 Monument; defined.

A monument is a statue or other structure erected 1) to commemorate a famous or notable person or event, or 2) to commemorate an outstanding, enduring, and memorable example of an event or location.

Sec. 8-52 Monuments; limitations.

- (a) A monument shall be of durable construction, using weather-resistant and impervious materials such as stone or metal.
- (b) No monument shall contain any form of commercial speech, as defined in this Land Development Code.

Sec. 8-53 Monuments; where allowed.

Monuments are allowed under the following conditions and circumstances:

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- (a) Monuments are not allowed on properties zoned PRD, RD or RM.
 - (b) No more than one monument is allowed on a vacant or agricultural property in any zoning district other than those listed in Sec. 8-53 (a), and only upon approval as a special use.
 - (c) One monument is allowed on a property that is zoned RS1 or RS2 and occupied by a principal building or structure upon approval as a special use. Two or more monuments on such properties are not allowed.
 - (d) One monument is allowed by right on an occupied property zoned OI, NC, GC, HC, I or PCID. Two or more monuments on such properties require approval as a special use.
 - (e) No monument shall be located on a property within the minimum front, side, or rear setbacks required by Table 5.2, *Minimum Setback: Principal Buildings and Structures*, of Chapter 5 of this Land Development Code for the zoning district in which the monument is placed.
 - (f) A monument allowed on any property shall not exceed 20 feet in height unless a Special Exception is granted, which may not otherwise exceed the maximum height allowed on Table 5.4, *Maximum Structure Heights*, of Chapter 5 of this Land Development Code.
 - (g) Monuments placed by Crisp County, including historical plaques or free-standing signs, are exempt from the restrictions under this Section.

ARTICLE XI. SIGN PERMITS; WHEN REQUIRED.

Sec. 8-54 Sign permit requirements.

In addition to a building permit as may be required under the Building Code, a sign permit shall be obtained from the Planning Director prior to installation or construction of any sign regulated under this Code except for those signs specifically exempted under this Section. The procedure to obtain a sign permit is found under the Procedures and Permits Article of this Code.

Sec. 8-55 Exemptions from sign permit requirement.⁴

- (a) Permits shall not be required under the following conditions:
 - (1) Replacing or altering the sign copy or other design elements that compose a sign's message, in whole or in part, shall not require a sign permit unless a structural or size change is made to the sign.
 - (2) Replacing or altering changeable copy on theater marquees, billboards and similar signs.

⁴ These exemptions apply only to the requirement of a permit and do not relieve the owner of the sign from compliance with all other requirements of this Code for the particular sign.

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- (3) Painting, repairing, cleaning or maintaining of a sign shall not be considered an erection or alteration which requires a permit unless a structural change is made.
 - (b) A sign permit will not be required for the following listed signs:
 - (1) Any sign that is otherwise exempt from regulation under Sec. 8-6 of this Chapter.
 - (2) Miscellaneous freestanding signs that are allowed under Sec. 8-36 of this Chapter.
 - (3) Flags that are allowed under Sec. 8-41 of this Chapter.
 - (4) Rear entrance door signs that are allowed under Sec. 8-43 of this Chapter.
 - (5) Temporary event signs that are allowed under CHAPTER 8.ARTICLE VIII of this Chapter.
 - (6) Any building sign that is less than 6 square feet in area.

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