

THOMAS V. MOSES, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

- 276 -



JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.
MAYOR

Department of Planning and Development

"Building Pride In Providence"

May 15, 1990

Ms. Rose M. Mendonca
City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
City Hall
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Annual Report - Historic District Commission

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

It has come to my attention that the Annual Report for the Historic District Commission has not been forwarded to you. Attached for your records are copies of the last three annual reports. In addition, copies of the Commission's design review standards are enclosed.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Regards,

Thomas E. Deller, AICP
Associate Director of Planning

TED/jp

Attachment

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 7 1990

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

CLERK

FILED

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DEPT. OF CITY CLERK
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

ANTOINETTE F. DOWNING
CHAIRMAN
MARY TURKEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JOSEPH R. PAOLINO, JR.
MAYOR

PROVIDENCE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

Procedures Relating to New Construction

December 6, 1984
Revised: March 22, 1989

Statement of Purpose: The Providence Historic District Commission (PHDC) has established the following guidelines and procedures for new construction within established Historic Districts in order to facilitate the application procedure, provide design standards and insure appropriate and compatible design of such new construction.

In order to provide adequate information on which the Commission can evaluate the project, it is strongly recommended that the Applicant retain the services of a registered architect for the design of any new construction within an historic district.

New construction is to be interpreted to include substantial additions or modifications to the exterior of existing structures as well as new building structures of any size or kind.

Design Criteria: The following architectural features are to be considered in relationship to surrounding structures when proposing new construction within an Historic District.

1. Height of Building
2. Scale
3. Massing, Form and Proportions of Building
4. Directional Expression - Horizontal or Vertical
5. Siting
6. Height of Foundation Platform
7. Sense of Entry
8. Roof Shapes
9. Rhythm and size of Openings
10. Color and Texture of Materials

It is the intent of the Providence Historic District Commission to promote good design which will complement the ambience and character of the surrounding Historic District. It is not the intent of the Commission to limit new construction to any one period of architectural style or restrict the design of contemporary architecture which is compatible with the nature and character of the Historic District.

Conceptual Consultation: A preliminary draft of the application for new construction should be submitted for discussion with the staff, who shall advise the Applicant and their Architect on the Design Criteria Guidelines and assist in the preparation of a formal application including required submission materials.

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PROVIDENCE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
44 WASHINGTON STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

SIGNAGE GUIDELINES
for the
College Hill, Stimson Avenue, and Broadway Historic Districts

According to the Rhode Island State Building Code (Article 19, Section 1900.0-1915.2), a building permit is required to erect a sign. Prior to obtaining a building permit, however, an applicant must first have the signage proposal reviewed and approved by the Providence Historic District Commission. The Commission reviews all plans affecting the exterior appearance of any structure in the historic districts including the erection of signs.

A sign should be considered an integral and related part of a building facade. In order to insure the use of the most appropriate signage for the districts, the following recommended guidelines have been developed to assist applicants with their signage proposals.

1. The lettering and graphics should be legible and simple. the size of the letters should be in proportion to the size of the sign. The type of lettering should be compatible with the architecture of the building and its use.

2. The colors used on a sign should be compatible with the building face as well as the surrounding buildings. Remember that a sign is more easily readable when the letters or graphics contrast with the background color.

3. The sign should be located on the building so as not to obstruct or obscure architectural elements. Depending on the particular building, a sign may be attached flush to the surface, hung perpendicular to the wall, painted on a window or door, free-standing, etc. The traditional placement of a sign (on a building fascia, for example) should be considered whenever possible. Take the entire facade of the building into consideration when deciding where a sign should be located.

4. The signage material should be appropriate to the historic fabric of the building or the surrounding structures. Wood is the most traditional sign material but a variety of other materials are available that may be equally as suitable. These may include awnings that function as signs, neon lighting that is sued graphically, cloth or paper banners hung in store windows, etc.

5. The type of lighting used is also an important factor to consider. The applicant must know what he or she wants to be highlighted. Is it just the sign? The window display? The entire building face?

Indirect lighting using spotlights has been sued successfully on a number of historic buildings. Generally, back lit plastic signs are not recommended.

6. Type of standard - How will the sign be affixed to the building surface?

7. The scale of the sign should be in proportion with the building elevation. The applicant should refer to the Rhode Island State Building Code and the City of Providence Zoning Ordinance for specific size restrictions for new signage.

Please submit a scaled plan of the sign indicating:

1. Type - wall, hanging, free standing, etc.
2. Dimensions
3. Color
4. Material

In addition, please submit a photograph of the building indicating where the sign will be located and a scaled drawing detailing the sign on the building elevation.

The Providence Historic District Commission meets regularly on the fourth Monday of every month in the Bureau of Licences Hearing Room, City Hall at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. George E. Downing, Chairman and the Executive Director have offices at the Department of Planning and Development, 44 Washington St. For more information or to request technical assistance, please call 351-4300 ext. 505. You may contact the Dept. of Inspection and Standards for questions regarding the State Building codes, and/or the Zoning Board of Review for questions regarding the City Zoning Ordinance at 421-7740.

Before a building or sign permit is issued, it is necessary to obtain approval from all state/city agencies which are applicable.

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