

1 historic preservation commission with date of submission to the
2 planning department.

3
4 b. Reserved.

5
6 c. Signs shall initially be reviewed by staff of the planning department as to
7 completeness of the submitted documents. Incomplete applications will
8 not be accepted by the staff of the planning department or reviewed by the
9 Historic Preservation Commission. Planning Staff shall have the authority
10 to approve any sign in the Historic District that matches exactly the
11 existing sign regarding size, shape, and location. Text and color are not
12 within the authority of the HPC or Planning Staff to review or approve. All
13 other signs must be reviewed by HPC review and approval.

14
15 d. Complete applications for any signs that are either new, or a revision to
16 the size, shape, or location, shall then be submitted to the Historic
17 Preservation Commission for review in public session with the Historic
18 Preservation Commission voting to approve or disapprove the submitted
19 sign. The owner of the sign or representative authorized in writing to
20 represent the owner, is required to be in attendance to present the
21 application to the Historic Preservation Commission. Owner or
22 representative shall be authorized to make decisions for or on behalf of
23 the owner.

24 e. Signs must not distract or detract from the visual historic character of
25 the St. Marys Historic District and shall not obscure architectural details
26 of the building and property.

27
28
29 (6) Permitted Signs and Specific regulations:

30
31 a. No more than two (2) exterior signs per lot are permitted. Of the two
32 exterior signs, only one may be a push-in sign, and one may be wall
33 mounted. For purposes of this Chapter 62, a push-in sign is a free-
34 standing sign no greater than four square feet held in the ground by legs
35 which penetrate no greater than one foot into the ground.

36
37 b. All freestanding or pylon signs shall be considered a special permit use,
38 under the requirements of a special use listed in Ordinance Chapter 110.
39 Applications for a special permit use for a freestanding or pylon sign within
40 the Historic District shall be made to the Historic Preservation
41 Commission. Any person adversely affected by the decision made by the
42 Historic Preservation Commission relative to a special permit use may
43 appeal such determination to the mayor and city council; the appeal must
44 be applied for within 15 calendar days after the date of the Historic

1 Preservation Commission's decision. The mayor and city council may
2 approve, modify or reject the determination made by the Historic
3 Preservation Commission. In the application for a special permit use,
4 applicant shall provide information about the height, size (not to exceed 25
5 square feet on one side), location, photographs of the location, type of
6 construction, whether the pylon sign will block any historic features,
7 illumination, and whether the sign would create a safety or visibility
8 problem with pedestrians or vehicles as well as other factors that the
9 historic preservation commission would need to consider before granting
10 approval. Materials for freestanding signs should use materials that
11 coordinate with the surrounding properties construction design. The base
12 of said signs shall be shielded by plants. Materials for freestanding signs
13 should be of wood or a material that closely resembles wood in
14 appearance.

15 c. Other exterior wall signs shall either be attached flat against the wall or
16 project at 90 degrees from the wall for maximum of 36 inches. Signs flat
17 on the wall shall not project out from the surface more than six inches and
18 not create a safety or visibility problem with pedestrians or vehicles. The
19 total size of all wall and projecting signs is 40 square feet.

20 d. Multi-tenant buildings with separate doors to the exterior may post one
21 sign at each main entry not to exceed two square feet.

22 e. Multi-tenant buildings with one main door to the exterior may post one
23 sign at the main entry not to exceed six inches by 18 inches, for each
24 tenant stacked vertically below the building name which shall not
25 exceed 12 inches by 18 inches.

26
27 f. Signs may be illuminated from ground mounted up-lamps with no spillover
28 of light that will affect pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

29 g. Except as noted herein, push-in signs may not be located on sidewalks
30 or on street right-of-ways or in medians.

31
32 h. Reserved.

33
34 i. Reserved.

35
36 j. Reserved.

37
38 k. Reserved.

39
40 l. Reserved.

- 1
- 2 m. Reserved.
- 3
- 4 n. Signage related to alcohol or alcohol containing products shall be in
5 compliance with applicable state laws.
- 6
- 7 o. Flags. Display of United States and any state or other flag are permitted
8 within the St. Marys Historic District. Maximum size of any flag shall be 4
9 feet by 6 feet.
- 10
- 11 p. Reserved.
- 12
- 13 q. Street address numbers attached to buildings (maximum letter height 12
14 inches) to ensure visibility for public service recognition shall be permitted.
- 15
- 16 r. Any sign not visible from a public street or sidewalk does not require
17 Historic Preservation Commission approval.
- 18
- 19 s. Signs pertaining to the time a business, activity, or establishment is
20 open, and conditions under which patrons may receive service,
21 including credit card identification signs or stickers are permitted on or
22 adjacent to the main entry door.
- 23
- 24 t. Signs with menu messages not located on the right of way are permitted up
25 to a maximum size of 2 square feet.
- 26
- 27 u. Banners not exceeding a maximum size of 18" x 60" may be placed for the
28 first time only after approval of HPC and may be displayed only for the
29 duration of a special event. Any sign or banner regarding any event held
30 on private property shall not be placed within the right of way. Such signs
31 shall be permitted to be placed only on the parcel containing the event a
32 maximum of fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the event, with
33 removal on or before five (5) calendar days after the event. No Banner
34 shall be erected under this subparagraph unless an Application therefor
35 shall be made to the City accompanied by a \$50.00 fee.
- 36
- 37 v. Future banners may be located in the same position, of the same size and
38 attachment method as the initial banner which received approval. No other
39 banners will be permitted. No Banner shall be erected under this
40 subparagraph unless an Application therefor shall be made to the City
41 accompanied by a \$10.00 fee.
- 42
- 43 w. Reserved.
- 44
- 45 x. Reserved.
- 46

- 1 y. Reserved.
- 2
- 3 z. Reserved.
- 4
- 5 (7) *Prohibited signs.* The following types of signs are prohibited in all zoning
- 6 districts of the city, except as otherwise specifically provided by this section:
- 7 a. Animated signs.
- 8 b. Automated changeable copy signs.
- 9 c. Backlit, flashing, or digital, signs or signs with changing illumination or
- 10 signs with lettering composed of lights are prohibited whether located on the
- 11 exterior or interior behind glass and visible from the sidewalk or street.
- 12 d. Any air- or gas-filled balloons.
- 13 e. Portable signs. A portable sign is one which is designed to be moved.
- 14 f. Pylon signs not otherwise permitted per this section.
- 15 g. Roof signs not permitted.
- 16 h. Sidewalk signs not otherwise permitted per this section.
- 17 i. Streamers and pennants.
- 18 j. Signs that imitate an official traffic sign or signal. This includes signs that use
- 19 colored lights at any location or in any manner so as to be confused with, or
- 20 construed as, traffic control devices.
- 21 k. Signs within the right-of-way, including those attached to traffic signs or
- 22 telephone poles, trees, the ground, or vehicles of any wheeled or wheel-less
- 23 type.
- 24 l. Signs attached to trees, other natural features and utility poles.
- 25 m. Signs attached to courtesy benches, trashcans, and similar devices, with the
- 26 exception of signage related to the ownership of such items.
- 27 n. Reserved.
- 28 o. Except as noted in Section 62-114 (b)(6) (u) & (v), banners are not
- 29 permitted.
- 30 p. Any sign or outdoor advertising display that depicts any material which is
- 31 obscene as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-12-80.

1 q. Any sign or outdoor advertising display that shows a lewd exposure of the
2 sexual organs.

3 r. Signs illuminated in such a way that they cast intense light onto any residential
4 premises or public roadways, or impair motorist vision, as determined by law
5 enforcement personnel.

6 s. Reserved.

7 t. Signs shall not be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire
8 escape, any window, door or opening used as a means of egress.

9 u. State law prohibits the placement of any sign on city rights-of-way, including
10 political signs. Signs on the city or state rights-of-way are considered littering and
11 a misdemeanor and are subject to the fines for littering and for removal costs as
12 noted herein.

13 v. All signs prohibited by the Laws of Georgia.

14 w. Reserved.

15 x. Reserved.

16 y. Signs with changeable or moveable letters/messages are not permitted.

17 z. Roof signs are not permitted.

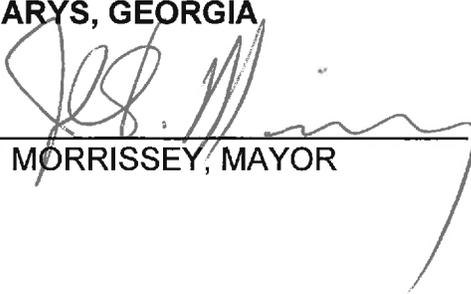
18 aa. Billboards are not permitted.

19
20
21
22 bb. Signs advertising businesses or activities not located on the same site as the
23 sign are not permitted.

24
25
26 **This Amendment** shall become effective upon passage.



**ST. MARYS CITY COUNCIL
ST. MARYS, GEORGIA**



JOHN MORRISSEY, MAYOR

34 ATTEST:

35
36
37
38 

NICOLE GOEBEL, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
39 CITY OF ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

1 **EXPLANATION OF CHANGES**

2 **NOTE:** Deletions are ~~stricken through~~, additions are underlined.

3
4
5 **Section 62-114. Guidelines and criteria**

6
7 (b) Signs located within the St. Marys Historic District.

8
9 (5) *Criteria.* When considering applications for certificates of appropriateness
10 for new or revised signage in the historic district, the Historic Preservation
11 Commission (HPC) shall use the criteria contained within this ordinance.

12
13 a. For the purposes of this section, the term signs shall include banners,
14 fixed signage, free standing signage, flags, sandwich board signs, push-
15 in signs, streamers, balloons, canopy advertising, umbrella advertising,
16 mobile parked vehicle signage (but not including signs on vehicles doing
17 business within the district), and similar advertising media. Sign
18 requests shall be submitted on an application form as approved by the
19 historic preservation commission with date of submission to the
20 planning department.

21
22 b. ~~Signs shall strictly comply with this section of Ordinance No. 62.~~
23 Reserved.

24
25 c. Signs shall initially be reviewed by staff of the planning department as to
26 completeness of the submitted documents. Incomplete applications will
27 not be accepted by the staff of the planning department or reviewed by the
28 historic preservation commission. Planning Staff shall have the authority to
29 approve any sign in the Historic District that matches exactly the existing
30 sign regarding size, shape, and location. Text and color are not within the
31 authority of the HPC or Planning Staff to review or approve. All other
32 signs must be reviewed by HPC review and approval.

33
34 d. Complete applications for any signs that are either new, or a revision to
35 the size, shape, or location, shall then be submitted to the historic
36 preservation commission for review in public session with the historic
37 preservation commission voting to approve or disapprove the submitted
38 sign. The owner of the sign or representative authorized in writing to
39 represent the owner, is required to be in attendance to present the
40 application to the historic preservation commission. Owner or
41 representative shall be authorized to make decisions for or on behalf of
42 the owner.

43 e. Signs must not distract or detract from the visual historic character of
44 the St. Marys Historic District and shall not obscure architectural details
45 of the building and property.

1
2 (6) Permitted Signs and Specific regulations:
3

- 4 a. No more than two (2) exterior signs per lot are permitted. Of the two
5 exterior signs, only one may be a pylon or freestanding push-in sign, and
6 one may be wall mounted. For purposes of this Chapter 62, a push-in
7 sign is a free-standing sign no greater than four square feet held in the
8 ground by legs which penetrate no greater than one foot into the ground.
9
- 10 b. All freestanding or pylon signs shall be considered a special permit use,
11 under the requirements of a special use listed in Ordinance No. Chapter
12 110. Applications for a special permit use for a freestanding or pylon sign
13 within the Historic District shall be made to the Historic Preservation
14 Commission. Any person adversely affected by the decision made by the
15 Historic Preservation Commission relative to a special permit use may
16 appeal such determination to the mayor and city council; the appeal must
17 be applied for within 15 calendar days after the date of the Historic
18 Preservation Commission's decision. The mayor and city council may
19 approve, modify or reject the determination made by the Historic
20 Preservation Commission. In consideration of the application for a special
21 permit use, applicant shall ~~not~~ provide information about the height, size
22 (not to exceed 25 square feet on one side), location, photographs of the
23 location, type of construction, whether the pylon sign will block any historic
24 features, illumination, and whether the sign would create a safety or
25 visibility problem with pedestrians or vehicles as well as other factors that
26 the historic preservation commission would need to consider before
27 granting approval. Materials for freestanding signs should use materials
28 that coordinate with the surrounding properties construction design. The
29 base of said signs shall be shielded by plants. Materials for freestanding
30 signs should be of wood or a material that closely resembles wood in
31 appearance.
- 32 c. Other exterior wall signs shall either be attached flat against the wall or
33 project at 90 degrees from the wall for maximum of 36 inches. Signs flat
34 on the wall shall not project out from the surface more than six inches and
35 not create a safety or visibility problem with pedestrians or vehicles. The
36 total size of all wall and projecting signs is 40 square feet.
- 37 d. Multi-tenant buildings with separate doors to the exterior may post one
38 sign at each main entry not to exceed two square feet.
- 39 e. Multi-tenant buildings with one main door to the exterior shall may post
40 one sign at the main entry not to exceed six inches by 18 inches, for

- 1 each tenant stacked vertically below the building name which shall not
2 exceed 12 inches by 18 inches.
3
- 4 f. Signs may be illuminated from ground mounted up-lamps with no spillover
5 of light that will affect pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- 6 g. ~~Backlit, neon, digital, LED, flashing, or changing illumination is~~
7 ~~prohibited whether located on the exterior or behind the glass and~~
8 ~~visible from the sidewalk or street. Except as noted herein, push-in~~
9 ~~signs may not be located on sidewalks or on street right-of-ways or in~~
10 ~~medians.~~
- 11
- 12 h. ~~Non-illuminated signage in the windows of exterior windows shall be no~~
13 ~~more than 20 square feet to enable visibility into the building for security~~
14 ~~purposes. Reserved.~~
- 15
- 16 ii. ~~Signs with changeable or moveable letters/messages are not permitted.~~
17 ~~Reserved.~~
- 18
- 19 j. ~~Roof signs are not permitted. Reserved.~~
- 20
- 21 k. ~~Billboards are not permitted. Reserved.~~
- 22
- 23 l. ~~Freestanding signs (similar to sandwich signs) may not be located on~~
24 ~~sidewalks or on street rights-of-way or on medians. Reserved.~~
- 25
- 26 m. ~~One push-in real estate sign not to exceed four square feet located OFF~~
27 ~~of the public ROW is permitted. Reserved.~~
- 28
- 29 n. ~~Political signs not to exceed two square feet per sign for any registered~~
30 ~~candidate (for any city, county, or federal election), one per candidate,~~
31 ~~only on privately owned property with consent of the property owner but~~
32 ~~NOT within the right-of-way (ROW). Signage related to alcohol or alcohol~~
33 ~~containing products shall be in compliance with applicable state laws.~~
- 34
- 35 o. ~~Yard sale signs are not permitted anywhere within the historic district.~~
36 ~~Flags. Display of United States and any state or other flag are permitted~~
37 ~~within the St. Marys Historic District. Maximum size of any flag shall be 4~~
38 ~~feet by 6 feet.~~
- 39
- 40 p. ~~Signs advertising businesses or activities not located on the same site~~
41 ~~as the sign are not permitted. Reserved.~~
- 42
- 43 q. ~~Businesses or activities located outside of the historic district are not~~
44 ~~permitted to post signage of any type within the historic district. Street~~

1 address numbers attached to buildings (maximum letter height 12 inches)
2 to ensure visibility for public service recognition shall be permitted.
3

4 r. ~~Intensive holiday displays (such as but not limited to festivals/activities~~
5 ~~relating to Christmas, New Years, Easter, July 4th, Rock Shrimp, Mardi~~
6 ~~Gras) shall receive a COA from the historic preservation commission, as~~
7 ~~well a city review based on the assembly portion of the city ordinances~~
8 ~~prior to 60 days of the event. Any signage regarding sponsorship shall be~~
9 ~~limited to eight inches by 24 inches. Any sign not visible from a public~~
10 ~~street or sidewalk does not require Historic Preservation Commission~~
11 ~~approval.~~

12
13 s. ~~Paintings or works of art that do not convey a commercial message are~~
14 ~~permitted upon approval of the historic preservation commission. Signs~~
15 ~~pertaining to the time a business, activity, or establishment is open, and~~
16 ~~conditions under which patrons may receive service, including credit~~
17 ~~card identification signs or stickers are permitted on or adjacent to the~~
18 ~~main entry door.~~

19
20 t. ~~There shall be no signs advertising alcohol or products containing alcohol.~~
21 ~~Signs with menu messages not located on the right of way are permitted up~~
22 ~~to a maximum size of 2 square feet.~~

23
24 u. ~~Official flags. Official U.S. or GA. flags shall be flown in accordance with~~
25 ~~protocol established by the Congress of the United States for the stars and~~
26 ~~stripes, or State of Georgia, as applicable. Banners not exceeding a~~
27 ~~maximum size of 18" x 60" may be placed for the first time only after~~
28 ~~approval of HPC and may be displayed only for the duration of a special~~
29 ~~event. Any sign or banner regarding any event held on private property~~
30 ~~shall not be placed within the right of way. Such signs shall be permitted to~~
31 ~~be placed only on the parcel containing the event a maximum of fourteen~~
32 ~~(14) calendar days in advance of the event, with removal on or before five~~
33 ~~(5) calendar days after the event. No Banner shall be erected under this~~
34 ~~subparagraph unless an Application therefor shall be made to the City~~
35 ~~accompanied by a \$50.00 fee.~~

36
37 v. ~~Traffic safety and traffic directional signs installed within the right of way of~~
38 ~~a public street, and traffic safety and traffic directional signs along private~~
39 ~~streets driveways, and in off-street parking lots that are installed per the~~
40 ~~requirements of the city engineer or per city, state, or federal ordinance~~
41 ~~shall be permitted. Future banners may be located in the same position, of~~
42 ~~the same size and attachment method as the initial banner which received~~
43 ~~approval. No other banners will be permitted. No Banner shall be erected~~
44 ~~under this subparagraph unless an Application therefor shall be made to~~
45 ~~the City accompanied by a \$10.00 fee.~~
46

- 1 w. ~~Street address numbers attached to buildings (maximum letter height 12~~
2 ~~inches) to ensure visibility for public service recognition shall be~~
3 ~~permitted. Reserved.~~
- 4
- 5 x. ~~Any sign not visible from a public street does not require historic~~
6 ~~preservation commission approval. Reserved.~~
- 7
- 8 y. ~~Signs pertaining to the time a business, activity, or establishment is~~
9 ~~open, and conditions under which patrons may receive service, including~~
10 ~~credit card identification signs or stickers up to a total of all such signs to~~
11 ~~a maximum of one square feet in area per main entry door. Reserved.~~
- 12
- 13 z. ~~Any signage regarding "official" sponsorship of any event held on a~~
14 ~~private property shall be limited to eight inches by 24 inches and not be~~
15 ~~placed within the ROW. Sponsorship signs shall be permitted to be~~
16 ~~placed only on the parcel containing the event a maximum of 30 days in~~
17 ~~advance of the event, with removal ten days after the event. Reserved.~~
- 18
- 19

20 (7) *Prohibited signs.* The following types of signs are prohibited in all zoning
21 districts of the city, except as otherwise specifically provided by this section:

22 a. Animated signs.

23 b. Automated changeable copy signs.

24 c. Backlit, flashing, signs, or digital, signs or signs with changing illumination or
25 signs with lettering composed of lights are prohibited whether located on the
26 exterior or interior behind glass and visible from the sidewalk or street.

27 d. Any air- or gas-filled balloons.

28 e. Portable signs. A portable sign is one which is designed to be moved. Signs
29 mounted on trailers are considered portable signs.

30 f. Pylon signs not otherwise permitted per this section.

31 g. Roof signs not permitted.

32 h. Sidewalk signs not otherwise permitted per this section.

33 i. Streamers and pennants.

- 1 j. Signs that imitate an official traffic sign or signal. This includes signs that use
2 colored lights at any location or in any manner so as to be confused with, or
3 construed as, traffic control devices.
- 4 k. Signs within the right-of-way, including those attached to traffic signs or
5 telephone poles, trees, the ground, or vehicles of any wheeled or wheel-less
6 type.
- 7 l. Signs attached to trees, other natural features and utility poles.
- 8 m. Signs attached to courtesy benches, trashcans, and similar devices, with the
9 exception of signage related to the ownership of such items.
- 10 n. ~~Trailer mounted signs.~~ Reserved.
- 11 o. Except as noted in this Section 62-114 (b)(6) (u) & (v), banners are not
12 permitted.
- 13 p. Any sign or outdoor advertising display that depicts any material which is
14 obscene as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-12-80.
- 15 q. Any sign or outdoor advertising display that shows ~~nudity as defined in~~
16 ~~O.C.G.A. § 32-6-75.~~ a lewd exposure of the sexual organs.
- 17 r. Signs illuminated in such a way that they cast intense light onto any residential
18 premises or public roadways, or impair motorist vision, as determined by law
19 enforcement personnel.
- 20 s. ~~No exterior outdoor advertising or interior advertising visible from the exterior~~
21 ~~shall be erected in the city advertising or promoting the sale of alcoholic~~
22 ~~beverages.~~ Reserved.
- 23 t. Signs shall not be erected, constructed or maintained so as to obstruct any fire
24 escape, any window, door or opening used as a means of egress.
- 25 u. State law prohibits the placement of any sign on city rights-of-way, including
26 political signs. Signs on the city or state rights-of-way are considered littering and
27 a misdemeanor and are be subject to the fines for littering and for removal costs
28 as noted herein.
- 29 v. All signs prohibited by the Laws of Official Code of Georgia.
- 30 w. ~~Consistent with the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 Rev. Rule 585-89(7)(b), a~~
31 ~~private club should not advertise its facilities for nonmember patronage since this~~
32 ~~would be prima facie evidence it was engaging in business.~~ Reserved.

1 x. ~~Push in signs for any purpose (except real estate signs and signs not to~~
2 ~~exceed two square feet per sign for any registered candidate for any city, county,~~
3 ~~or federal election) are not permitted within the historic district or on privately~~
4 ~~owned property or within the street right-of-way (ROW). Reserved.~~

5 y. Signs with changeable or moveable letters/messages are not permitted.

6
7 z. Roof signs are not permitted.

8
9 aa. Billboards are not permitted.

10
11 bb. Signs advertising businesses or activities not located on the same site as the
12 sign are not permitted.

13
14
15