

## HDC Residential Signage

The Ann Arbor Historic District Commission classifies signs as character-defining features that have significant impact on a building's appearance. Therefore, to avoid detracting from a district's character, some care must be exercised when introducing new or modified signage.

While signage is an integral part of historic commercial settings, the role of signage in historic residential districts is much less. Primarily consisting of integrated building signs depicting house numbers, property owner name, and/or year constructed, and temporary signage advertising the property for sale/rent, political views, ideologies, etc. are found in residential districts. Permanent signage within residential districts should be closely monitored and limited so as not to negatively affect the district's character or compromise the architectural integrity of structures.

**Design Guidelines for Residential Signs.** The following guidelines should be followed when replacing or installing new permanent signage in historic residential settings:

### Appropriate

- All permanent residential signage shall be in accordance with Chapter 61 of the Ann Arbor City Code, Signs and Outdoor Advertising.
- One permanent sign shall be allowed per ~~single family or two family~~ residential structure and limited to up to three square feet in area.
- ~~One permanent sign shall be allowed per multiple family residential structure limited to up to 12 square feet in area.~~
- Attaching signage through masonry joints, not masonry units, or through materials that can be easily repaired, such as wood, when the signage is removed.
- Painting signs on window glass, or using vinyl decal letters, that can be removed without damaging historic materials.

### Not Appropriate

- Installing signs that are too large or that are made from a material that is incompatible with the historic building or district.
- Obstructing character-defining features of a historic building with signage.
- Installing signs through brick, stone, or other masonry units in a manner that damages historic materials.
- Installing signs that are made of unfinished, pressure treated wood, or that have a rough, unfinished surface.
- Installing signs that have any external or internal lighting.
- Installing signs that are overly complex, use more than three or four colors or use fluorescent colors.

- Installing signs that use highly reflective materials that are difficult to read.
- Installing permanent freestanding signs.