

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MAY 20, 2019
APPLICATION FOR A HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGN PERMIT
SB-2019-052006
88 RAINEY STREET

PROPOSAL

Install a flush-mounted sign.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The proposed project includes installation of a flush-mounted sign on the building's primary façade. The sign will be manufactured of clear acrylic, with exposed neon graphics. It will be 36" in diameter, with an area of approximately 9 square feet.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

Standards for signs in historic districts include:

Number of signs. The Commission allows one sign per building, unless the building has multiple tenants; in this case, the Commission may allow one sign per façade module, if the façade modules correspond to tenant spaces. The Commission may also allow one sign for each street frontage if the building is at an intersection. A single directory sign is appropriate for a large building with multiple tenants.

The proposed project meets this standard.

Sign types. The Commission may allow window signs, awning signs, projecting signs, and flush mounted signs for most commercial buildings. Freestanding signs are allowed for office and retail uses in historic residential buildings.

The proposed project meets this standard.

Sign size. The maximum size for signs depends on the sign type. Flush-mounted signs may be up to 7% of the overall façade area, with a maximum height of 2 feet and a maximum area of 20 square feet. Projecting (blade) signs may be up to 6 square feet.

The proposed project meets this standard.

Sign Design, Coloring and Materials. Use simple shapes, such as rectangular or oval signs. The Commission recommends painted wood or metal signs with matte finishes for all signs; plastic, reflective materials, and unfinished surfaces are not allowed. Limit the colors used in a sign to no more than three. For sites with multiple signs, all signs should have corresponding or matching designs, coloring and materials. Signs should match or complement the existing color scheme of the building to the maximum extent feasible.

The proposed sign uses acrylic as its primary material, which does not meet this standard.

Lettering. No more than two typefaces are allowed. Avoid lettering which appears too contemporary in the sign.

The proposed project meets this standard.

Lighting. Lighting must be indirect, and may be accomplished through shielded incandescent lights attached to the top of the sign, "halo" lighting, or recessed can lighting in awnings.

Internally-lit cabinet signs are not allowed for signs on historic buildings or within the historic districts.

The proposed sign is lit with exposed neon, which does not meet this standard.

Neon Signs. *Neon signs are prohibited on pre-1950 building facades; an exception may be made for existing pre-1950 neon signage, or with photographic proof of a historic (pre-1950) neon sign on the building, but only if the neon sign does not detract from the historic character of the building or area. The Commission may consider limited neon on a post-1950 façade, but encourages backlit neon over exposed neon.*

The proposed sign's primary feature is exposed neon, which does not meet this standard.

Sign Placement. *Flush-mounted and projecting (blade) signs should be positioned near the business entrance immediately above the principal entry to the business. Single-tenant signs are not allowed over doorways serving multiple tenants. As required by the city land development code, the bottom of the sign shall be a minimum of nine (9) feet above the sidewalk. When feasible, place signs to align with others in the block. Signs should not obscure or cover architectural elements, such as windows, decorative banding, or other ornamentation.*

The proposed project meets this standard. If positioned over the principal entry, the sign would obscure the historic transom.

Sign Mounting. *New signs should utilize existing mounting apparatus whenever possible. If new bolt holes or brackets are necessary for sign installation, care should be taken to ensure that installation does not damage historic building materials in any way. Bolting through mortar joints avoids damage to historic stone or brick.*

The proposed project requires new aluminum brackets.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Deny the application as currently proposed, and encourage the applicant to modify the proposed design to fit the lighting and material parameters; e.g., a non-reflective brushed metal background with routed, push-through acrylic letters that are backlit, rather than exposed neon and a solid acrylic background.

Photo



Oblique view showing sign placement via Google images.