

**STAFF REPORT FOR THE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING OF  
JUNE 18, 2009**

**AGENDA ITEM: F-1**

**FILE NO: HRC-09-051**

**STAFF AUTHOR:** Jennifer Pruitt, Principal Planner

**REQUEST:** To add one dual back illuminated sign of 46.5 square feet, on the second story of the eastern façade. The existing signage on site is approximately 399.5 square feet, on property zoned Downtown-Mixed Use (DT-MU).

**APPLICANT:** Jim Phalen owner Firkin & Fox

**OWNER:** Lopiccolo Investments LLC

**LOCATION/APN:** 310 South Carson Street (St. Charles Hotel building)/ APN 003-113-09

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** It is recommended that the Historic Resources Commission "Move to approve HRC-09-051, a request from Jim Phalen (property owner: Lopiccolo Investments LLC) to add one dual back illuminated sign of 46.5 square feet of exterior signage, on the second story of the eastern façade; on property zoned Downtown-Mixed Use (DT-MU), located at 310 South Carson Street (St. Charles Hotel building), APN 003-113-09, subject to the conditions of approval contained in the staff report. This approval is based on the understanding that any stipulations to the commission by the applicant may be considered as conditions to the approval."



**RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:**

1. All development shall be substantially in accordance with the attached site development plan.
2. All on and off-site improvements shall conform to City standards and requirements.
3. The use for which this permit is approved shall commence within 12 months of the date of final approval. An extension of time must be requested in writing to the Planning Division 30 days prior to the one year expiration date. Should this request not be initiated within one year and no extension granted, the request shall become null and void.
4. The applicant must sign and return the Notice of Decision within 10 days of receipt of notification. If the Notice of Decision is not signed and returned within 10 days, then the item will be rescheduled for the next Historic Resources Commission meeting for further consideration.
5. The applicant shall submit a copy of the signed Notice of Decision and conditions of approval with the building permit application.
6. The proposed signage shall not exceed 46.5 square feet in overall size. The overall signage on site shall not exceed 444 square feet.
7. Approval is based on upon the project complying with the Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation, Carson City Historic District Guidelines, the Historic Resources Commission Policies and that the plans as submitted comply in general conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
8. The project requires an application for a Building Permit, issued through the Carson City Building Division. This will necessitate a complete review of the project to verify compliance with all adopted construction codes and municipal ordinances applicable to the scope of the project.
9. The mounting of the sign shall comply with the 2006 International Building Code Appendix H, Section H112.
10. The electrical portion of the project shall comply with the 2005 National Electrical Code ('05 NEC) and 2006 International Building Code Appendix H, Section H106.
11. A Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) Encroachment permit is required.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The St. Charles Hotel site is composed of two historic buildings — the three-story Hotel St. Charles building on the Corner of Carson and Third Streets and the two-story Muller's or Pony Express Hotel, which directly abuts the former to the south. The St. Charles Hotel was known as the Page Hotel during the 1950s. Today both buildings are collectively known as the St. Charles Hotel and are located across the street from the Capitol complex.

Both structures were built in the early 1860's and, are two of the oldest remaining commercial buildings in Carson City. In terms of general character, age, style and material, the two appear to have been linked historically. Both hotels were remodeled in the 1930s to suit that era. The buildings were stuccoed and the cornices removed. An architectural-historical survey of 1980 included a review these two structures (see attached reports). Both were placed on the National Historic Register 27 years ago in September 1982.

By 1994 the buildings were under new ownership and underwent further renovations. That year building records indicate that 39 windows were replaced. In 1996 building records mention an addition was built related to Joe Garlic's restaurant. Also that year was when the now-present balconies and wooden sidewalks were added to the north and east elevations, along Carson and Third Streets.

## **PREVIOUS HRC APPROVALS:**

- On May 08, 2008, the subject site was chosen as the recipient of the 2008 Carson City Historic Preservation Award by the Historic Resources Commission.
- On May 08, 2008 the Historic Resources Commission approved HRC-08-052 for parking lot improvements, landscaping and paver-stone installation.
- On March 06, 2008 the Board of Supervisors approved HRC-07-207, the Historic Tax Deferment.
- On February 14, 2008 the Historic Resources Commission approved HRC-07-207, for a Historical Tax Deferment.
- On October 11, 2007 the Historic Resources Commission approved HRC-07-153, for new doors, fire pit and redwood decking.
- On September 13, 2007 the Historic Resources Commission approved HRC-07-130, for signage and exterior renovations.
- In May 1999 the Planning Commission approved a Special Use Permit request U-98/99-61, for special events from June-September annually.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Firkin & Fox opened their doors over 1.5 years ago; bringing back one of Carson City's most visible treasures. The historic landmark was remodeled by the Phalen family and opened the restaurant for the visitors and residents of Carson City. The restaurant owner wants to make sure passing customers know that the establishment is there and open to provide service. During regular business hours the applicant has noted that many motorists are **not** aware that the establishment is open for business.

Per the applicant, in these tough economic times, the restaurant is willing to try anything possible to drive business to the restaurant. The restaurant and bar with entertainment (Firkin & Fox) occupies the lower floor of the structures, which has provided a new life into this historic property.

A summary of the many exterior enhancements include the replacement and addition of new exterior signage (totaling approximately 399.5 square feet, plus window signage); exterior doors, gooseneck exterior lights for second-floor signage and lights on columns on the north, first-floor elevation; removed and replaced damaged column wraps; added awnings over second-floor windows; bricked-in south and first-floor windows.

The restaurant owner previously installed gooseneck lights to accentuate the existing signage on site. Unfortunately, the previously installed gooseneck light fixtures have continued to break and blow away and have **not** been effective on site. The Firkin & Fox have purchased a (Firkin & Fox) sign from Morgantown, West Virginia which is approximately 46.5 square feet in size and is dual back illuminated. The proposed signage will be located on the eastern portion of the site, on the second story above the balcony.

### **Carson City Development Standards (Historic District):**

CCDS Sections 5.23 (Guidelines for signs) states:

Signs in the historic district are governed by both this division and Division 4 of the Development Standards. Signage in the historic district is generally concerned with the conversion of original residential buildings to light office use or with new buildings which have been constructed as commercial buildings in a style compatible with the basic residential nature of the district.

- *All signs must have an appearance, color, size, texture and design which conform to the sign codes and to the historic character of the district. Additionally, the location and/or method of attachment of the sign will be considered. The HRC will review all sign applications within the context of the building and the location in the district.*

In addition to the Historic District Development Standards, as of August 2007, the Board of Supervisors adopted the new Downtown Mixed-Use zoning district and Development Code. The subject site is located within the Mixed-Use Main Street character area. The following sections of the Development Code are especially pertinent to this application signage:

**1. Intent:**

- To encourage a diverse and visually interesting streetscape environment along Carson Street by allowing a variety of types of business signage, as traditionally found; and
- To ensure that signage is compatible with the pedestrian-oriented scale of Downtown.

**2. Standards:**

a) GENERAL

(1) All standards contained in this subsection shall be applied in addition to signage regulations contained in Division 4 of the City's Development Standards.

(2) If a conflict between the two articles appears to exist, the standards contained in this article shall take precedence.

b) MATERIALS

(1) Signs shall be constructed of durable, low-maintenance materials that complement the design and character of the building they serve.

c) PREFERRED SIGNAGE TYPES

(1) The use of hanging signs is encouraged for non-gaming uses to reinforce the pedestrian oriented scale of Downtown. Hanging signs and other sign types attached to the front of buildings are permitted to project into the public right-of-way, over the sidewalk, subject to the issuance of an encroachment permit. Hanging signs shall not:

(a) Exceed 24 inches in height and 3 feet in length; or

(b) Be located where less than 8 feet of clear height can be provided above the sidewalk from the overhang or awning from which they are suspended.

(2) The creative use of symbols or other images indicative of the use contained within the building in the design of signs is strongly encouraged.

(3) The use of permanent window signs is encouraged for non-gaming uses to reinforce the pedestrian-oriented scale of Downtown.

The application submitted appears to meet all these criteria, with the exception of the 24 inches in height and 3 feet in length area limitation. The exception can be made by the Historic Resources Commission because of the following:

1. The proposed signage is still in keeping with the regulations notes in Division 4 of the Development standards.
2. The proposed signage will be located on the second floor portion of the structure, above the existing balconies. If the signage was proposed at a smaller scale, the inappropriate size could render the signage ineffective.
3. The proposed signage is compatible with the overall scale and massing of the existing structure, and will **not** overwhelm the historic façade.

4. Pursuant to the Carson City Municipal Code, Development Standards 6.3 (3) Exemptions: Parcels, property or structures located within the Historic District and subject to review by the Historic Resources Commission are **exempt** from the design-oriented elements of the standards of the Downtown Mixed-Use District.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Public notices were mailed on June 08, 2009 adjacent to property owners of the subject site. At the writing of this report no comments have been received in favor or opposition of proposal. Any comments that are received after this report is completed will be submitted to the Planning Commission prior to or at the meeting, depending on the date of submittal to the Historic Resources Commission.

**CITY DEPARTMENT / OUTSIDE AGENCY COMMENTS:** The following comments were received from City departments. Recommendations have been incorporated into the recommended conditions of approval, where applicable.

**ENGINEERING DIVISION COMMENTS:**

- The owner will have to contact NDOT District II headquarters Encroachment Permit Division at 834-8330 to get an NDOT encroachment permit.

**BUILDING DIVISION COMMENTS:**

**NOTE: These comments do not constitute a complete plan review, but are merely observations based on the information provided.**

***Scope of Application***

Scope of project involves the mounting of a sign with electrical that hangs perpendicular to the face of the building, on the Carson Street side.

***General Plan Submittal***

1. Project requires application for a Building Permit, issued through the Carson City Building Division. This will necessitate a complete review of the project to verify compliance with all adopted construction codes and municipal ordinances applicable to the scope of the project.
2. The mounting the sign shall comply with the *2006 International Building Code Appendix H, Section H112*.
3. The electrical portion of the project shall comply with the *2005 National Electrical Code ('05 NEC)* and *2006 International Building Code Appendix H, Section H106*.

With the recommended conditions of approval and based upon the project complying with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation, Carson City Historic District Guidelines, the Historic Resources Commission Policies, and that the plans as submitted are in general conformance, it is recommended that the Historic Resources Commission approve HRC-09-051 subject to the recommended conditions of approval within this staff report.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PLANNING DIVISION

*Jennifer Pruitt*

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Jennifer Pruitt, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal Planner

Attachments:

- Application (HRC-09-051)
- Building Division comments
- Engineering Division comments
- Architectural Surveys



**From:** Jennifer Pruitt  
**To:** Thompson, Rea  
**Date:** 6/11/2009 10:23 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: HRC 09-051 Firkin and Fox sign



Jennifer Pruitt, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal Planner  
Planning Division  
2621 Northgate Lane Suite 62  
Carson City, NV 89706  
(775)887-2180 ext. 30076

>>> Rory Hogen 06/09/2009 2:00 PM >>>

Jennifer - our encroachment permit is for the deck on the Third St. sign. We do not control the Carson St. side.

The owner will have to contact NDOT District II headquarters Encroachment Permit division at 834-8330 to get an NDOT encroachment permit.

This ends the engineering comments. Thanks. Rory



<b>File # (Ex: MPR #07-111)</b>	<i>HRC 09-051</i>
<b>Brief Description</b>	<i>Signage for the Firkin &amp; Fox</i>
<b>Project Address or APN</b>	<i>310 S. Carson St</i>
<b>Bldg Div Plans Examiner</b>	<i>Don Wilkins</i>
<b>Review Date</b>	<i>June 8, 2009</i>
<b>Total Spent on Review</b>	<i>0.5 Hour</i>

**BUILDING DIVISION COMMENTS:**

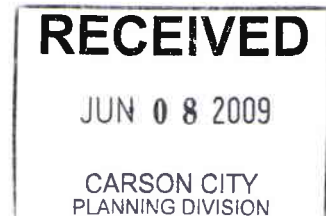
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JUN 04 2009

CARSON CITY  
PLANNING DIVISION

FILE # HRC - 09 - 051

**HISTORIC RESOURCES  
COMMISSION**

PROPERTY OWNER

Lopiccolo Investments LLC

MAILING ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP

123 W Second, Carson City, NV 89703

PHONE #

FAX #

E-MAIL ADDRESS

FEE: None

SUBMITTAL PACKET

- Application Form with signatures
- 12 Completed Application Packets-Application form, maps, supporting documentation (1 Original + 11 Copies)
- CD containing application data (pdf format)
- Documentation of Taxes Paid-to-Date

Name of Person to Whom All Correspondence Should Be Sent  
APPLICANT/AGENT PHONE #

Jim Phalan: The Firkin & Fox - 901-3477

MAILING ADDRESS, CITY, STATE ZIP

310 S Carson Street, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701

PHONE #

FAX #

Application Reviewed and Received By: *J Phalan*

Submittal Deadline: See attached HRC application submittal schedule.

E-MAIL ADDRESS jmp@highsierrafb.net

Project's Assessor Parcel Number(s):

Street Address

ZIP Code

3-113-09

310 South Carson St

89701

Project's Master Plan Designation

Project's Current Zoning

Nearest Major Cross Street(s)

DT-MU

DT-MU

3rd & Curry

Briefly describe the work to be performed requiring HRC review and approval. In addition to the brief description of your project and proposed use, provide additional page(s) to show a more detailed summary of your project and proposal. NOTE: The Historic District Ordinance and Historic District Design Guidelines, as well as Policy Statements, are available in the Planning Division to aid applicants in preparing their plans. If necessary, attach additional sheets.

Install One dual back illuminated sign on the second story, above the balcony on the East side of the St. Charles Hotel. Sign size 7'-2" X 6'-6"