



# City of Philadelphia

City Council  
Chief Clerk's Office  
402 City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**BILL NO. 080527  
(As Amended, 6/11/08)**

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**Introduced May 22, 2008**

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**Councilmembers Green, Greenlee and Reynolds Brown**

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**Referred to the  
Committee on Rules**

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## **AN ORDINANCE**

Amending Section 14-2007 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Historic Buildings, Structures, Sites, Objects and Districts,” to permit the historic designation of the public interior portion of buildings, and making technical changes, all under certain terms and conditions.

*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:*

Section 1. Section 14-2007 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended as follows:

§ 14-2007. Historic Buildings, Structures, Sites, Objects and Districts.

\* \* \*

(2) Definitions. The following words and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this Section:

\* \* \*

(b) Building. A structure, its site and appurtenances created to shelter any form of human activity, *including a public interior portion of a building.*

\* \* \*

(h) Design. [Exterior features] *Features* including mass, height, appearance, *volume* and the texture, color, nature and composition of materials.

\* \* \*

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(j) *Historic building.* A building or complex of buildings and site, or the public interior portion of a building, which is designated pursuant to this Section or listed by the Commission under the prior historic buildings ordinance approved December 7, 1955, as amended.

\* \* \*

(l) *Public Interior Portion.* An internal portion of a building that is, or was designed to be, customarily open or accessible to the public by invitation or otherwise. Does not include an internal portion of a building that was designed to be customarily open or accessible to the public, the design of which has been converted such that the space is no longer meant for public use, including through the legal use of such space as a private residence. Terminating use of an internal portion of a building by the public shall not in and of itself constitute conversion of the design of such internal portion.

[(1)] (m) \* \* \*

[(m)] (n) \* \* \*

[(n)] (o) \* \* \*

## (5.1) *Designation of Public Interior Portions of Buildings.*

(a) *No public interior portion of a building shall be considered designated for preservation pursuant to this section of the Code unless it has been specifically designated after the effective date of this subsection of the Code.*

(b) *A public interior portion, or any part of a public interior portion, of a building may be designated for preservation regardless whether the remainder of the building, structure, site or appurtenances with which it is associated has been so designated.*

(c) *The designation of a building or district shall not constitute designation of any public interior portion of such building or a building in such district, unless the public interior portion is specifically identified in such designation.*

\* \* \*

(7) *Permits.*

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(a) Unless a permit is first obtained from the Department, no person shall alter or demolish an historic building, structure, site or object, [or] *nor* alter, demolish, or construct any building, structure, site or object within an historic district, *nor alter or demolish a building or structure, a public interior portion of which has been designated historic.*

(b) When a person applies for a permit to demolish an historic building, structure, site or object or a building, structure, site or object located within an historic district, *or a building or structure, a public interior portion of which has been designated historic*, the Department shall post, within seven (7) days, notice indicating that the owner has applied for a permit to demolish the property; that the property is historic or is located within an historic district; that the application has been forwarded to the Commission for review. The notice shall be posted on each street frontage of the premises with which the notice is concerned and shall be clearly visible to the public. Posting of a notice shall not be required in the event of an emergency which requires immediate action to protect the health or safety of the public. No person shall remove the notice unless the permit is denied or the owner notifies the Department that he will not demolish the property.

(c) Before the Department may issue a permit to alter or demolish an historic building, structure, site or object, or to alter, demolish or construct a building, structure, site or object within an historic district, *or to alter or demolish a building or structure, a public interior portion of which has been designated historic*, the permit application shall be forwarded to the Commission for its review.

\* \* \*

## (8) Performance of Work and Maintenance.

(c) The exterior of every historic building, structure and object and of every building, structure and object located within an historic district, *and every historic public interior portion of a building*, shall be kept in good repair as shall the interior portions of *all* such buildings, structures and objects, neglect of which may cause or tend to cause the [exterior] *historic portion* to deteriorate, decay, become damaged or otherwise fall into a state of disrepair.

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### Explanation:

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted.  
*Italics* indicate new matter added.

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