



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR BULLETIN NO. 3

Dormer Windows

Section 307 of the Planning Code mandates the Zoning Administrator to issue and adopt such rules, regulations and interpretations as are in the Zoning Administrator's opinion, necessary to administer and enforce the provisions of the Planning Code. [Section 7.502 of the San Francisco Charter charges the Zoning Administrator with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the Planning Code.]

Date:
JUNE 1996

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OCTOBER 2009

Relevant Code Sections:
311 (Residential Permit Review Procedures for RH and RM Districts)
260(b)(1)(B) (Height Limit Exemptions)
101.1 (Master Plan Consistency)

Formerly known as: Zoning Administrator Bulletin No. 1996-02

TOPIC:

Dormer, exemptions from public notification. The following interpretation intends to exempt the size and height of dormers in residential alteration permits in RH and RM districts from the public notification as required by Section 311 of the Code.

DEFINITION:

A dormer or dormer window is usually a gabled extension of an attic room through a sloping roof to allow for a vertical window opening into the room (Source: Webster's Third New International Dictionary).

PURPOSE:

Dormers tend to serve two purposes:

1. To allow light and ventilation by incorporating vertical windows into a roof structure; and
2. To increase occupiable floor area by raising the vertical clearance of a room.

RULING:

The Planning Department has adopted and shall implement the standard of Dormer or Dormer Windows which would be exempt from public notification. The required standards are as follows:

The size of a dormer is limited to 8 by 8 feet;

The dormer shall be setback at least 3 feet from the side property line;

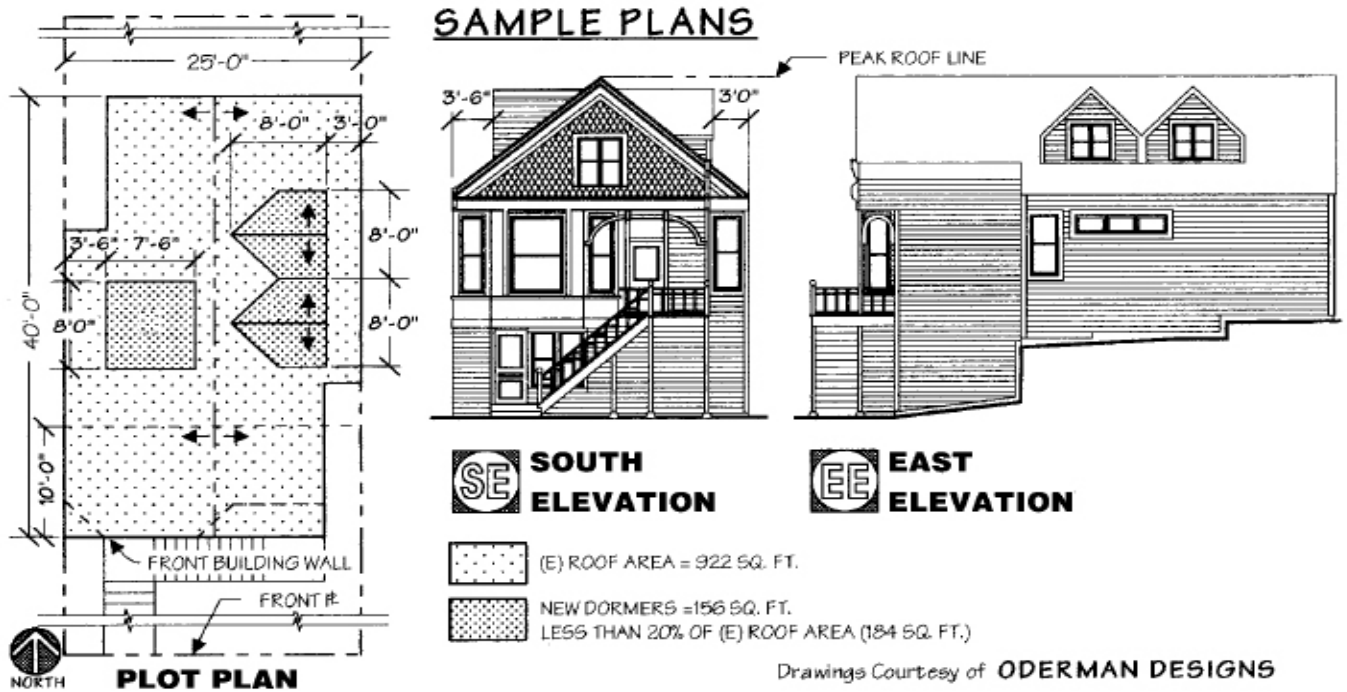
The dormer shall be setback at least 10 feet from the front building wall;

The height of the dormer cannot be higher than the peak roof line of the subject building and shall not exceed 10 feet over the permitted height limit; and

The total roof area of all dormers (existing and proposed) and other features exempted from the height exemptions shall not be more than 20 percent of the existing horizontal area of the roof.

Dormers that do not comply with this ruling require Section 311 Notification.

Figure I



Relevant Planning Code Sections

SECTION 311. RESIDENTIAL PERMIT REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR RH, RM DISTRICTS – They are intended to provide notice to property owners and residents for residential permits involving building expansions, so that concerns about a project may be identified and resolved during the review of the permit. Section 311(c)(1) indicates that modifications to an existing building shall be in conformity with the Residential Design Guidelines and with the Master Plan.

SECTION 260 (b)(1)(B). HEIGHT LIMIT EXEMPTIONS – They are intended to exempt features i.e. Dormer Windows, Elevators, Mechanical Penthouses from the height limits permitted by the code, provided that all such features may not exceed 20 percent of the horizontal area of the roof, and a height of 10 feet above the height limit.

SECTION 101.1 MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY AND IMPLEMENTATION – Master Plan Consistency and Implementation of the Code establish eight priority policies. These policies intend to resolve any inconsistencies in the Master Plan. Section 101.1(2) indicates that if there are inconsistencies in the Master Plan, priority shall be given to the conservation and protection of neighborhood character.



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