

ARTICLE XXIX

NON-CONFORMING USES

SECTION 1. NON-CONFORMING USES WHICH MAY BE CONTINUED:

1. The following lawful non-conforming uses of land may be continued:
 - a. A use of land which existed prior to the effective date of this Zoning Ordinance.
 - b. A use of land existing at the time of the annexation.
 - c. A use of land existing at the time an amendment is made to the Zoning Ordinance which changes such land to a more restricted district or extends the jurisdiction of the Zoning Ordinance to the land use.
2. The lawful use of a building located upon any land, except as provided in SECTION 2 below, may be continued although such use does not conform with the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance, and such use may be continued throughout the building if no structural alterations are made therein, except those required by law or ordinance. If no structural alterations are made in such building, a non-conforming use of the building may be changed to another non-conforming use of the same or more restricted use classification. The foregoing provisions shall also apply to any uses of buildings which may be made non-conforming by any subsequent amendment or change of this Zoning Ordinance.
3. Normal maintenance and incidental repair, or replacement, installation or relocation of nonbearing walls, nonbearing partitions, fixtures, wiring or plumbing, may be performed on any structure that is devoted in whole or in part to a non-conforming use.
4. Nothing in these regulations shall be deemed to prevent the strengthening or restoring to a safe condition of a structure in accordance with an order of a public official who is charged with protecting the public safety who declares such structure to be unsafe and orders its restoration to a safe condition.
5. Nothing in these regulations shall prevent transfer of ownership of a legal non-conforming use subject to the provisions of Section 2.

SECTION 2. NON-CONFORMING USES WHICH MAY NOT BE CONTINUED:

1. When a non-conforming use is discontinued or abandoned, for a period of six (6) consecutive months, such use shall not thereafter be re-established or resumed, and any subsequent use or occupancy of such land shall comply with the regulations of the City of Phillipsburg.
2. No use which is accessory to a principal non-conforming use shall continue after such principal use shall cease or terminate.
3. No non-conforming structure shall be moved in whole or in part for any distance whatever, to any other location on the same or any other lot unless the entire structure shall thereafter conform to the regulations of the zoning district in which it is located after being moved.
4. Whenever a non-conforming use of building has been changed to a more conforming use, such use shall not thereafter be changed to a less conforming use.
5. A non-conforming building which has been damaged to the extent of more than fifty (50) percent of its fair market value by fire, explosion, act of God, or the public enemy shall not be restored, except in accordance with all zoning regulations of the zoning district. In the event a question may arise on the fair market value of such a building, the same shall be determined by three (3) appraisers one (1) shall be selected by the Governing Body, one (1) shall be selected by the owner of the building, and the third appraiser shall be selected by the two selected appraisers. If the first two appraisers selected cannot agree on the selection of the third such appraiser, the Judge of the appropriate court shall be requested to appoint the third appraiser. The decision of the appraisers, or a majority of them, shall be final and conclusive and shall be binding upon all concerned to the purpose of determining whether the damaged property may be restored. The cost of such appraisal shall be paid by the property owner.