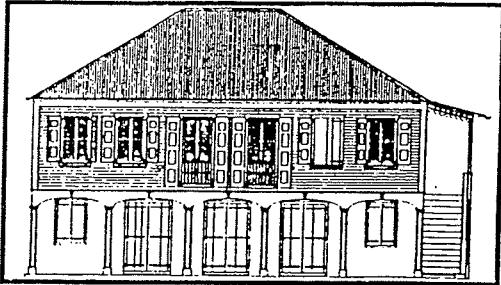
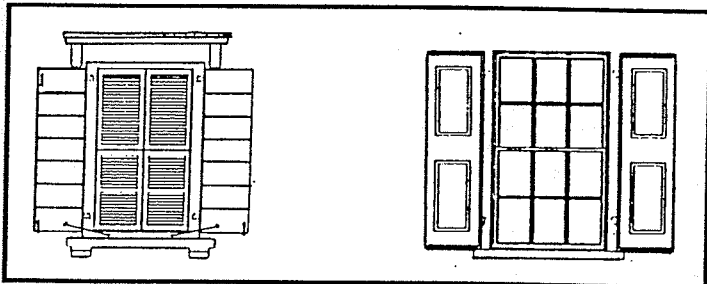


## WINDOWS AND DOORS



Original windows and doors are extremely important to the historic character of older buildings. Every effort must be made to preserve both openings and the types of doors and windows in each opening.

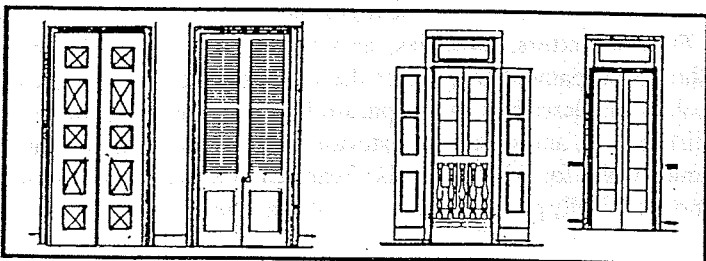
Windows and doors are extremely important to the appearance of older buildings. Traditional windows and doors in the Virgin Islands consisted of double-plank or solid-panelled exterior storm shutters and louvered blinds called "jalousies" on the inside. Some buildings had glass windows from an early period and some had true-panelled shutters and doors, although both are exceptions.



Jalousies and glazed sash are both historic window treatments.

### Preservation

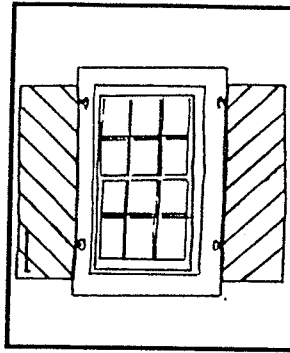
When undertaking window or door repairs, consideration should be given to retaining both external shutters and original jalousies. Both can often be repaired, many times requiring simply replacement of a few louvers or splicing in a piece where wood is damaged. If jalousies or shutters are badly damaged, they should be reproduced when possible. Both can be made by local carpenters and mill shops. Cheap, non-operable jalousies are not recommended. Their life-span is short, and they are usually not worth the expense.



Historic doors, both at second story levels.

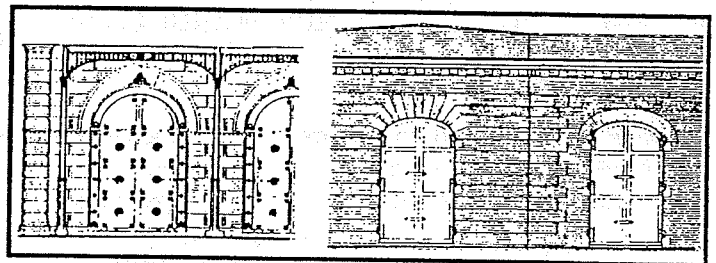
### Selecting New Shutter and Door Patterns

If the existing doors and shutters cannot be repaired or the building lacks any shutters or doors, new replacements will be necessary. Care must be taken, however, to select the correct pattern for shutter or door replacement. Most shutters and doors originally were solid (or "false") panelled, at least for upper stores, and of double-plank construction for groundfloors. (This is not always the case, however, as both double-planked and solid-panelled shutters are sometimes placed in just the opposite way or are uniform throughout a building). Modern chevron-patterned shutters and doors, particularly those using tongue-and-groove, "V-grooved", pine are definitely not recommended. These are modern renditions of traditional doors and shutters and are generally not in keeping with the historic character of buildings in the Virgin Islands.

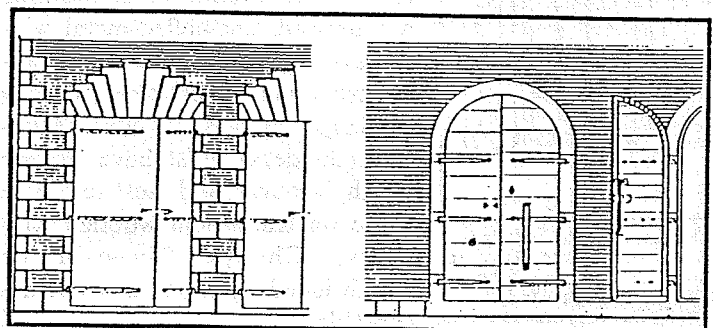


Avoid modern chevron-patterned shutters. While there is some historic precedent for shutters of this kind, combined horizontal and vertical plank shutters were more common. "V-grooved" boards were not used historically.

These are modern renditions of traditional doors and shutters and are generally not in keeping with the historic character of buildings in the Virgin Islands.



Metal doors, both cast-iron and sheet metal over wood, are extremely important features of many commercial buildings.

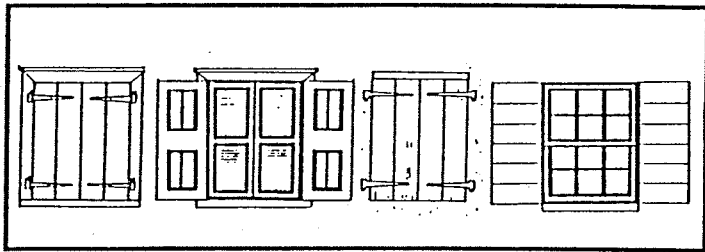


Retain existing wood and metal doors. Irregularities, as shown in these two examples, are often important to their character.

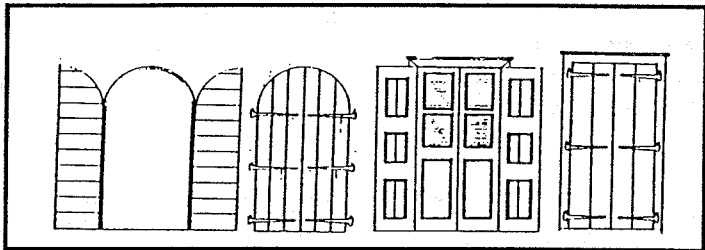
Metal doors, usually sheet metal over wood, were especially common in commercial areas of St. Thomas. Again, if repair is not possible, new metal doors following traditional patterns are recommended. Modern varnished mahogany doors, which have become increasingly popular, are not considered appropriate in the Virgin Islands historic districts -- especially on historic structures.

### Replacement Windows

As with doors, owners are encouraged to preserve and repair existing window treatments whenever possible. If the building has no jalousies or other historic windows, compatible treatments may be considered. Custom-made wood jalousies can be fitted with interior screens or glazing; screened or glazed "boxes" over jalousie louvers are ideal. In the case of historically glazed windows, interior storms can be installed to improve efficiency.

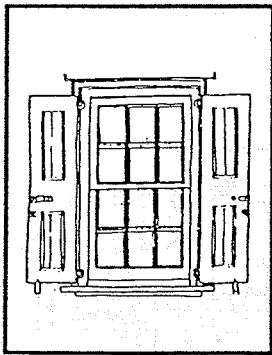


Recommended replacement windows and storm shutters. Either false-panelled or plank shutters are acceptable. Always attempt first to repair the originals.



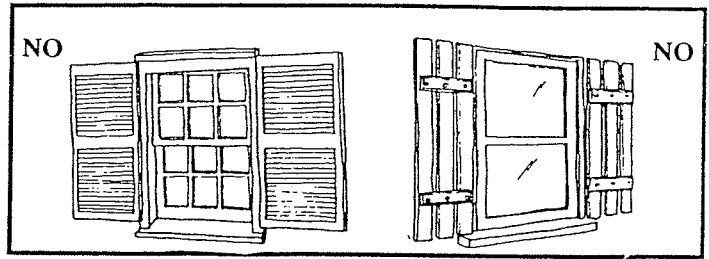
Standard door types for replacement.

If security or air-conditioning are a concern, glass windows may in most instances be substituted. Traditional glass windows are of two types: double-hung, multi-paned sash; or inward-swinging glass casements. Both are readily available from manufacturers or can be special ordered (or manufactured locally) for custom sizes. In some cases, especially when thermo-pane windows are desired, enamelled-metal windows or vinyl-clad windows, with appropriate muntin patterns (window divisions) can be substituted. Muntins (dividers) must have proper depth, however, and must resemble those on traditional wooden windows. Cheaper "snap-in" or "sandwiched" muntins are not acceptable.

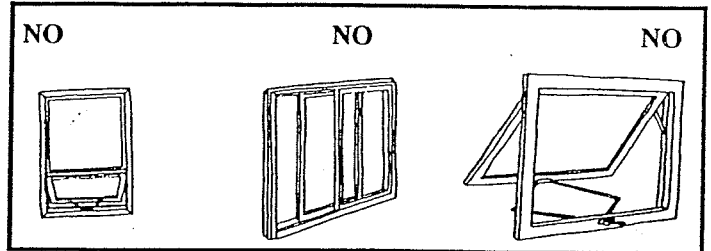


Pay attention to details such as the depth (reveal) of the muntions (dividers). When introducing glass windows be certain that they are in keeping with historic examples.

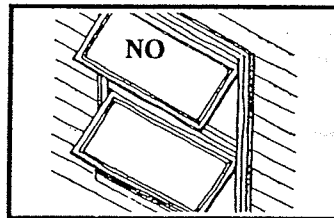
Modern glass jalousies, or metal jalousies should never be used on historic buildings. These take away significantly from



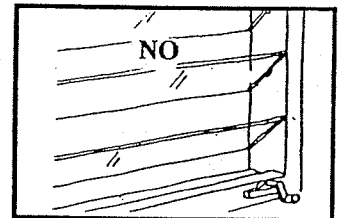
Inappropriate muntins, obviously inoperable shutters, all detract from the character of windows such as these.



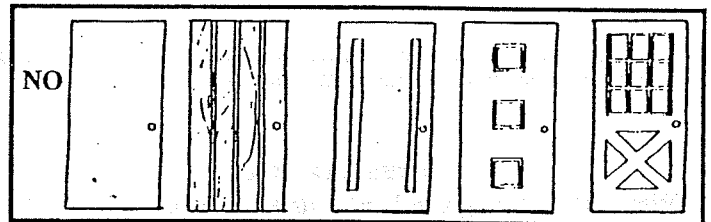
Avoid modern windows such as these. They should never be used on the fronts or visible sides of historic buildings.



Awning type windows can be used on rear elevations when changes are required and on new additions to historic buildings - again, on less prominent elevations.



Glass or metal jalousies (Miami louvers), should never be installed in historic buildings.



None of these doors is appropriate for historic buildings.

the historic appearance of a building. Their use can, however be considered for new construction (discussed in a separate guideline).

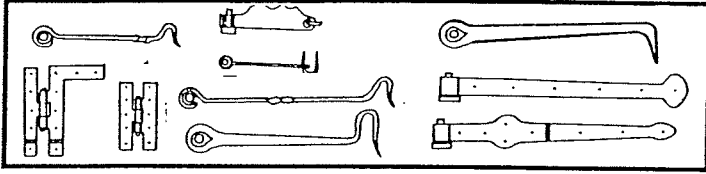
Single-paned, glass windows either for commercial fronts or for residential uses are discouraged.

### Painting

Doors, shutters, jalousies, and wood and metal windows should be painted to protect the original materials. Typical colors (as described in a separate brief) are white, gray, red-dish-brown, and green for exterior shutters; green and sometimes white for jalousies. Hardware can be painted black or, more typically painted the same color as the door or shutter.

## Hardware

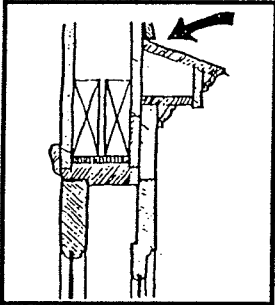
Existing hardware should in all cases be reused whenever possible. If new hardware is required, it should be of high quality, although it can be simple. Wrought-iron strap hinges and pintles, both available from local suppliers, should be used both for shutters and doors. Modern butt hinges, whether square or triangular, are not appropriate replacements, nor are especially ornate brass or other hardware.



Traditional hardware, hooks and hinges. Longer, strap hinges are for storm shutters and doors; "H" and "L" hinges are commonly used on interior jalousies.

## Storefronts/Display Windows

Few Virgin Islands buildings have traditional, European or North American type storefronts. Most modern businesses are located in older stores and warehouses, most of which lacked display windows or typical storefront entrances.



Be sure to install flashing over window heads (lintels) when making repairs.

In all cases, every effort must be made to retain existing warehouse type entrances. The introduction of display windows - even in the place of former entrances - is highly discouraged.

In instances where older (usually early 20th-century) storefronts do exist, they should be retained with the fewest changes possible. This would mean retaining plate glass windows, recessed entries, and other details. Reintroduction of multi-paned glass or the "recreation" of undocumented historic entrances is not encouraged, except in special circumstances.

*For further information contact:*

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**Virgin Islands Department of Planning and  
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**#45 Estate Nisky**

**St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802**

**(809)774-3320**

**or**

**115 Watergut Homes**

**Christiansted, St. Croix 00820**

**(809)773-7081**

**Prepared by William Chapman**

**Layout by Jeanne Strong**



Keep historic, early 20th-century storefronts.