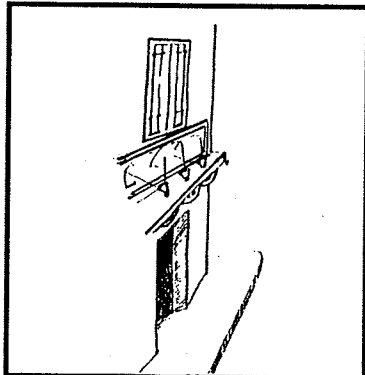


LIGHTING AND OTHER MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

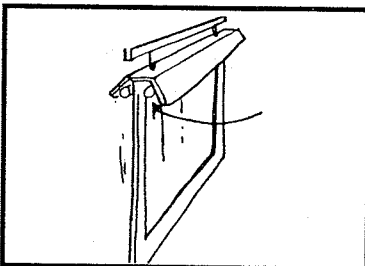
LIGHTING

Historically, there has been little public lighting in the Virgin Islands. Houses were typically lit internally, and the few street-



Lighting for business signs should be as simple as possible. Upcast lights for flush signs.

lights were maintained by the municipality, or more recently, by the Public Works Department. Business signs were traditionally often unlighted; and those signs that were lighted are lighted with one or two low-wattage bulbs. Internally illuminated signs-- neon signs or flashing signs -- have never been allowed under Virgin Islands Law.

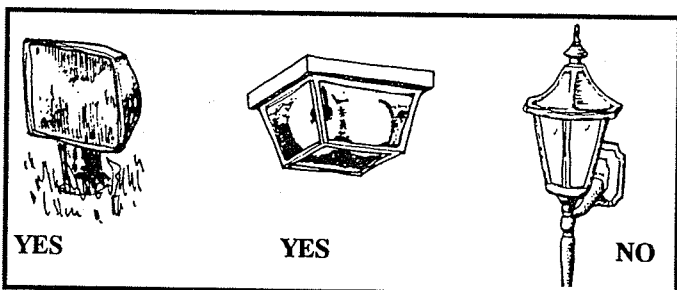


Shielded bulbs or florescent lights for hanging signs.

When adding new lighting to historic buildings, the best solution is the simplest one possible. Plain light fixtures, pointing upwards to avoid glare, should be used for hanging signs. Passageways can be lit with simple contemporary wall or post mounted lights (usually mounted low) or by wall sconces or canister lamps.

Indirect lighting, in the form of flood lights, is also a good solution for alleys and courtyards. Artificial looking historic coach lamps are definitely not recommended.

The main concern is that lighting should meet needs for safety and identification and little else.



YES

YES

NO

Indirect, spotlighting or ground-level, downcast lamps can be used to light alleys or courtyard spaces. Neither are permanent additions to historic buildings, nor do they alter historic buildings or materials. Simple boxed fixtures can be used in arcades. Do not use artificial-looking "coach-lamps". They detract from the historic character of Virgin Island districts.

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

General

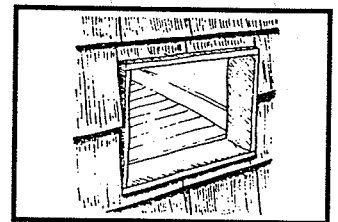
Traditional historic buildings had no modern mechanical systems. Fresh air was supplied through good design, making use of the breeze; light was provided by kerosene lamps, and plumbing facilities were in the backyard (probably the least acceptable of the three). Nowadays we expect more, but changes still need to be introduced in the least damaging way possible.

Air Conditioning

Before air conditioning is installed, natural cooling means should be explored. Traditional openings above partition walls



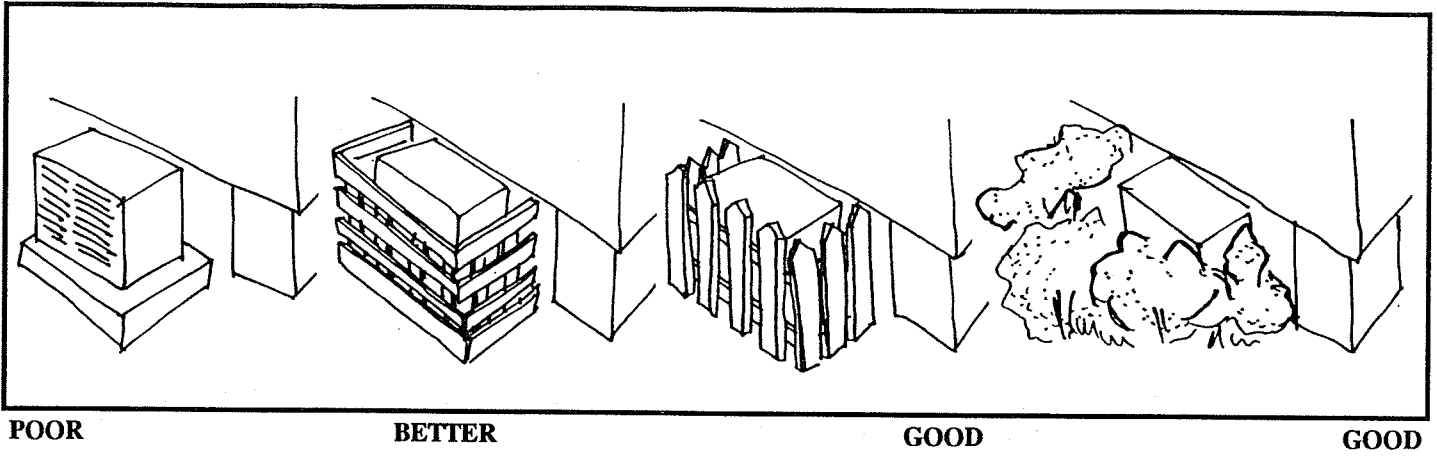
Avoid placing units on building fronts, where they can disfigure the building's appearance.



New openings can be provided for air conditioning units on rear elevations. Generally avoid such installations, however, on masonry buildings.

should be retained. High ceilings and open rafters should be kept exposed. Jalousies should be used; electric fans installed. If none of these measures meet cooling needs, then air conditioning may have to be installed. Since windows now will have to be glazed, one of the solutions described in the separate window guidelines should be used: ideally, specially fitted wood jalousies or double-hung sash windows or multi-paned casements. Glass louvers are definitely not recommended for historic buildings.

For individual air conditioning units, a number of factors should be considered. Units should be mounted on an unexposed side of the building, away from public view. They should be placed in an existing opening to avoid damage to original walls, or, if on rear or other less visible facades, may be specially installed in separate new openings. Through-the-wall units should be avoided in historic masonry buildings where damage to original materials would be necessary.



Consider screening condenser units for central air conditioning

For larger buildings, a central air conditioning system should be considered. The equipment for these should be located in the rear or hidden by other features. Traditional wood picket fences can be used to mask the condensing unit, or it can be hidden by shrubs. Specially designed louvered "hoods" may be considered for through-the-wall units on secondary facades.

Plumbing

New bathrooms, pipes, and fixtures should be added in the least obtrusive way possible. If the building is large enough, existing rooms should be used. Pipes should be installed in such a way as to cause minimal damage; vents should be carefully placed on less visible roof planes or on rear elevations

When adding a new bathroom -- a common occurrence on many smaller residences -- every effort should be made to make the addition blend in with the old building. If the building is wood, the bathroom should also be wood. If it is masonry, either wood or masonry is allowable. Ideally the new bathroom should be added to the rear of the building to cause as little impact as possible. *(See the separate guideline on new additions.)*

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