INTERIOR CHANGES

Changes to building interiors are not generally regulated by the Historic Preservation Commission. However, proposed changes to courtyards as well as changes to portions of buildings directly visible from public walkways, such as the ground floors of retail businesses, can and will be reviewed by the Commission for appropriateness. Also, owners of historic buildings should recognize that their properties are also an important legacy. Every effort should be made to retain the original or historic plan and materials of historic buildings, even if these are located in private areas.

Plans

Owners should respect the original or historic plans of historic buildings. The Virgin Islands possesses a number of significant plan types or types of room arrangement. Efforts should be made to retain existing door openings and passages, and avoid cutting up rooms for new requirements. Temporary or movable partitions should be considered when smaller rooms are required.

Visible areas in courtyards are subject to commission review.

Historic plans are significant to older properties. Whenever possible, owners should strongly consider retaining original or otherwise historic room arrangements when undertaking major changes.
Decorative Details

Decorative details, such as arched screens, molded door or window surrounds, original hardware, etc. should be retained whenever possible.

Arched "screens" such as these are a striking cultural legacy that should be valued.

Walls/Ceilings

Existing wall treatments should be respected and repaired. Removal of plaster or vertical board panelling to expose rubble walls is strongly discouraged. (See the separate guideline on plaster-covered rubble walls). When materials are damaged, repairs "in-place" are recommended. Otherwise, replacement "in-kind" is an alternative approach. Wherever possible, exposed stud-walls should be kept open. The same recommendations hold for existing ceilings.

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