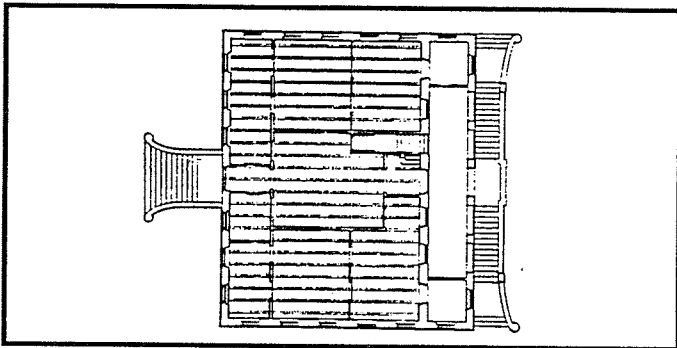
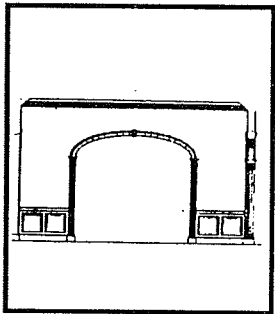


INTERIOR CHANGES

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.



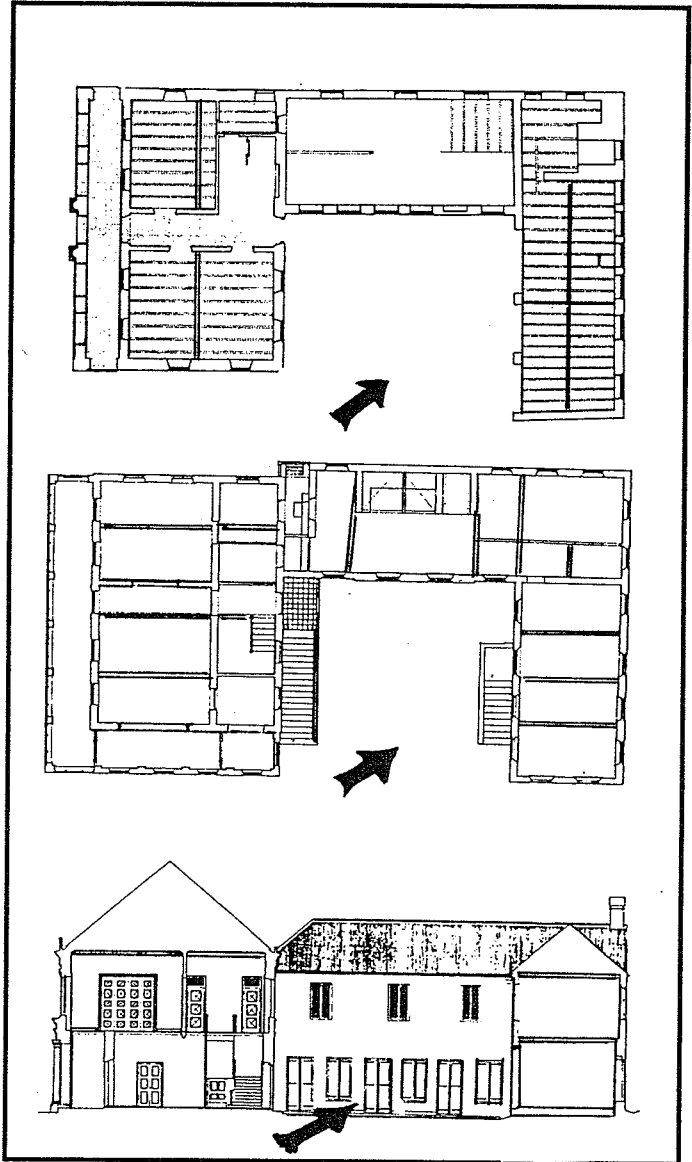
Interior details, such as plans, trim, ceilings, and floors, are often important to the value of historic buildings. While the Historic Preservation Commission is primarily concerned with exteriors, changes to interiors which have an impact on exterior appearance and clearly visible changes within courtyards and within visible ground floor spaces, are subject to Commission review.



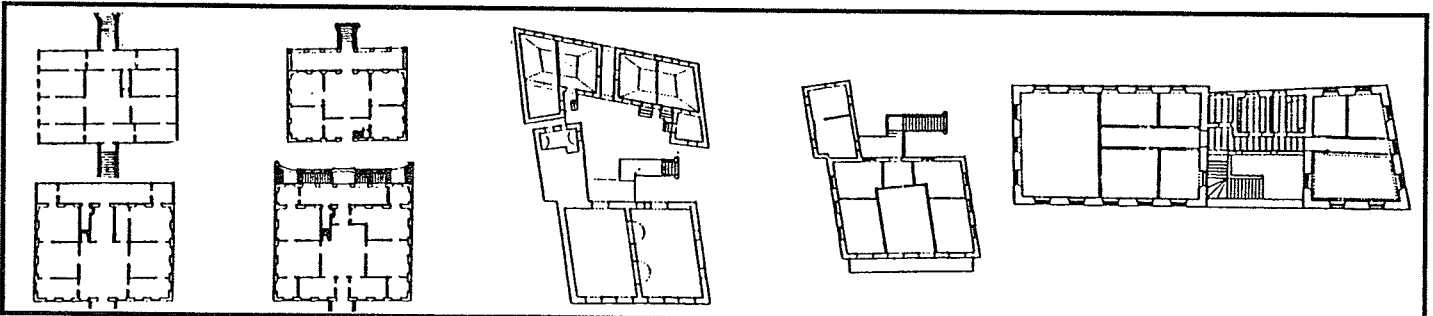
Details such as this decorative arch are enormously significant and should be carefully preserved by owners.

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.



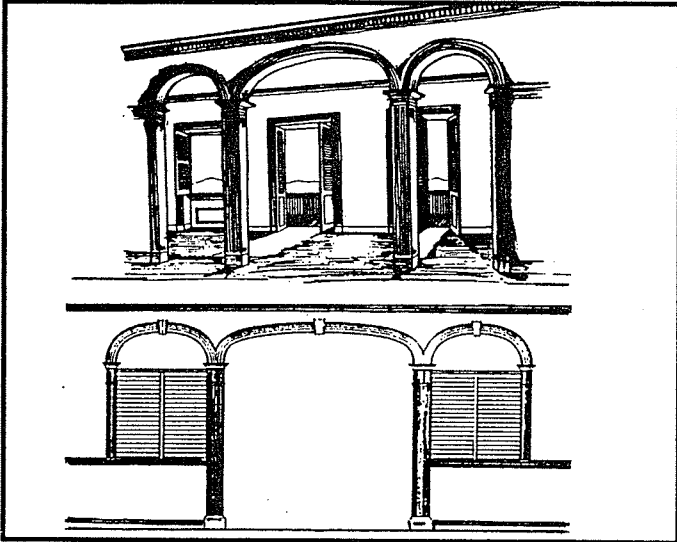
Visible areas in courtyards are subject to commission review.



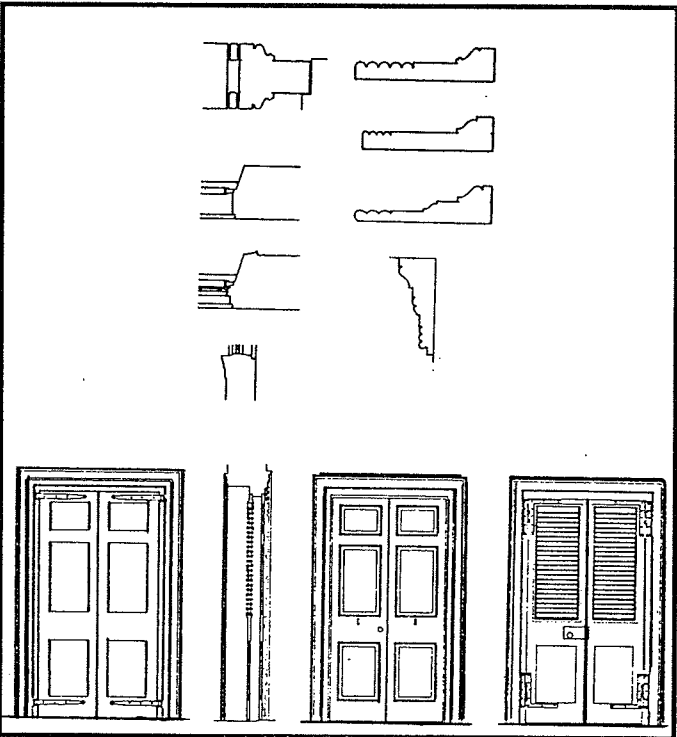
Historic plans are significant to older properties. Whenever possible, owners should strongly consider retaining original or otherwise historic room arrangements when undertaking major changes.

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.



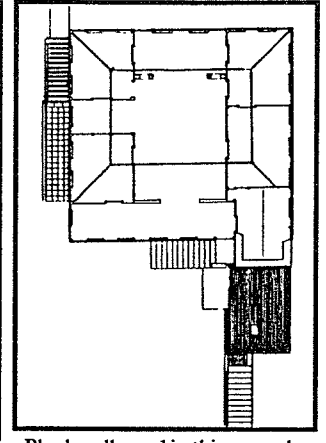
Doors and windows and decorative trim should be carefully preserved.

Walls/Ceilings

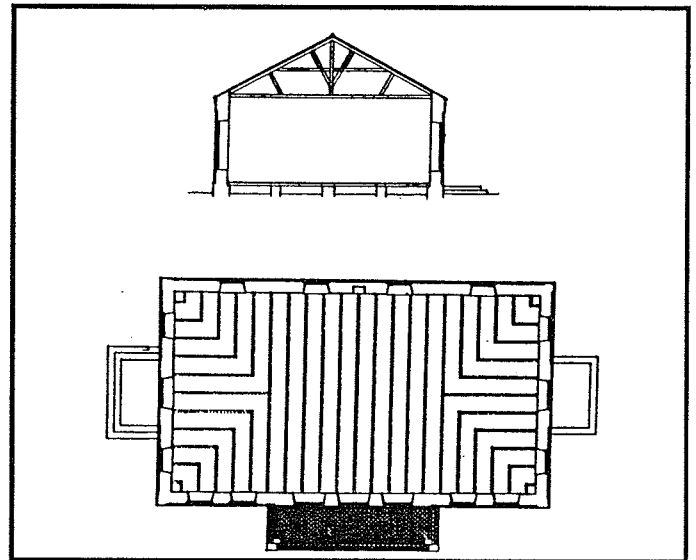
Existing wall treatments should be respected and repaired. Removal of plaster or vertical board panelling to expose rubble walls is strongly discouraged. (See the separate guideline on plaster-covered rubble walls). When materials are damaged, repairs "in-place" are recommended. Otherwise, replacement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



Original interior walls, both plaster and plank are important to a building's history and should be preserved.



Plank walls, and in this example, a single inverted tray ceiling over the separate rooms, are distinguishing characteristics of this building. Retention of such details is strongly recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission.



Exposed rafters and stud walls are typical of many Virgin Islands buildings. Whenever possible, such details should be retained and/or repaired in place.

For further information contact:

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