



# CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

## Vieux Carré Commission

### Guidelines for Storefronts



#### COMMERCIAL STOREFRONTS

One of the unique features of the French Quarter is the intermingling of commercial and residential uses in its historic buildings. Many buildings were constructed to be multi-use, such as ground-floor retail and residential above, or for a craftsman, like a blacksmith or woodworker, on the ground-floor of a service building with housing for domestics above.

As building uses in the Vieux Carré continue to evolve to serve the needs of the property owner, some change may be required. The VCC will work with the new owner of a business to facilitate the establishment of the business' presence within the historic context of the building and surrounding streetscape.

**All applicants must obtain a Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) permit as well as all other necessary City permits prior to proceeding with any work.** Reviewing and becoming familiar with these *Guidelines* during the early stages of a project can assist in moving a project quickly through the permit approval process, saving an applicant both time and money. Staff review of all details is required to ensure proposed work is appropriate to a specific property.

*Guidelines* addressing additional historic property topics are available at the VCC office and on its website at [www.nola.gov/vcc](http://www.nola.gov/vcc). For more information, to clarify whether a proposed project requires VCC review, or to obtain a property rating of significance or a permit application, contact the VCC at (504) 658-1420.

#### SECTION INDEX

The Vieux Carré Commission (VCC) reviews all modifications to a commercial building including those items at the interior of a storefront that are intended to be viewed from the street. This section includes:

- Commercial Building Types – 13-2
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- Storefront Components – 13-4
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- Accessibility; Building Equipment – 13-8
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The first step in using these *Guidelines* is to understand a property's color rating. The rating corresponds to the historical and/or architectural significance and then determines what type of change will be permitted and the review process required for each property under the jurisdiction of the VCC.

**Review boxes provided throughout the *Guidelines* indicate the lowest level of review required for the specified work. Staff can forward any application to the Architectural Committee (AC) and/or the Commission for further consideration.**







*Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, a National Historic Landmark, was built in the Spanish Colonial period with the dormers added later. Originally a shop was located in the right half and a residence in the left half. The interior spaces have been combined, and the building is now used as a bar.*

## COMMERCIAL BUILDING TYPES

Commercial buildings are structures designed to accommodate uses that provide goods or services such as a store, restaurant, hotel and/or office. In the Vieux Carré, there are a variety of commercial buildings of different styles, scales and types including:

- Former residences converted into a commercial use, such as a restaurant or bar
- Buildings with a storefront on the ground-floor and residential use above – Examples include corner stores and those found on commercial corridors such as along Royal and Decatur Streets
- Buildings designed for purely commercial use, such as a hotel or a bank

For a commercial building there is often a challenge balancing the need for a business to function and attract customers, while maintaining the historic character of the building and streetscape. This can include the modification of a storefront as well as the installation of a sign or awning. (Refer to *Guidelines for Signage & Awnings* for additional information.)

*Some recent buildings in the Vieux Carré were designed and constructed for commercial use such as the Hotel Mazarin.*



*Many townhouses have retail at the ground-floor and residential use above.*

## INFORMATION FOR NEW BUSINESSES

The VCC encourages the economic development and revitalization of the Vieux Carré's historic retail and entertainment areas and the commercial properties within them. The VCC recognizes that vibrancy of the Vieux Carré is linked to the viability of its businesses and makes every effort to assist a commercial building owner and/or tenants with revitalizing retail streetscapes and buildings. This helps to attract new customers while promoting an appreciation of the historic architecture and its surrounding context.

If considering opening a new business in the Vieux Carré, City representatives are available to discuss zoning, construction and other requirements applicable to a specific project. Please contact the VCC at (504) 658-1420 for more information.





## STOREFRONT DEVELOPMENT

A storefront typically is defined as a ground-level façade constructed with a large expanse of glass to display merchandise. The development of storefronts was driven by the desire to increase commercial visibility and merchandise display possibilities.

As technology progressed through the middle of the 19th century, the use and configuration of storefronts changed. Beginning in the second half of the 19th century, smaller windows were replaced with large sheets of glass to increase merchandise display and new materials, such as cast iron, were introduced into Vieux Carré architecture as a structural and decorative component. The advances in structural design allowed new building configurations, including a corner entrance with a wrap-around storefront, to maximize commercial visibility. A commercial storefront can:

- Serve a key role in the identity of a commercial building
- Enhance a pedestrian's visual experience and create a sense of transparency at the ground-floor level
- Attract potential customers with an eye-catching merchandise display

## STOREFRONTS

The storefront is one of the most significant features of a retail commercial building, whether it was originally constructed for a commercial purpose or converted to retail from another use. Most people experience a building at the ground-floor level, and the attractiveness and overall appearance of a storefront can greatly influence a casual observer's perception of a building and the business within. Because a favorable impression can help draw potential customers, careful design and regular maintenance can have a positive affect on the success of a business.

Although the specific configuration of a storefront can vary greatly depending upon the style, size and location of a building, the typical construction includes one or more windows to display merchandise and one or more entrances. A historic storefront was constructed of wood, metal (cast iron, bronze, copper, tin, galvanized sheet metal, cast zinc and/or stainless steel) and/or masonry (brick or stone), and one or more large display windows. It could also include one or more transom windows with clear or decorative glass.



## STOREFRONT COMPONENTS

A storefront is made up of a number of different components. One of the key aspects of a successful storefront is that it is designed holistically, with all of the various pieces and parts forming a unified expression. It should be noted, however, that all storefronts do not necessarily include all components.

A **Storefront Cornice** is the projecting molding located at the top of a storefront. The cornice provides a visual cap or termination to the storefront, a separation from the upper floors and a “drip edge” protecting the storefront below. Cornice materials can vary widely and include wood, pressed metal, limestone, terra cotta and decorative brick patterns. Cornice details include brackets, dentils and panels.



*The storefront cornice visually separates the storefront from the upper building levels. This example includes applied decorative ornament.*

An **Entresol** is located above the transom bar of a ground-floor door at the entresol or mezzanine level of a commercial storefront. The entresol level historically was used for storage and the windows, typically half-round, opened inward to provide light and ventilation. Exterior, vertical bars set within the masonry opening provide security.



*The half-round entresol openings above the entrance doors include exterior security bars inset into the window frame. The entresol windows are a visual extension of the door openings from the exterior, making a building with an entresol level appear to have a taller ground-floor level than its neighbors.*

A **Transom Window** is located above a display window or doorway to provide additional daylight and can be either fixed or operable for ventilation. It can be single or multi-paned and often is glazed with leaded, stained, pigmented or textured glass. A transom window can include signage, the street number or other ornamental details.



*These multi-light wood and leaded glass transom windows provide light to the interior and add detail to the exterior storefront. Many transom windows originally were operable allowing additional ventilation.*

A **Vitrine** is a specific type of display window, generally three-sided, projecting from the first floor street elevation of a commercial building. Typically a vitrine includes a metal roof and paneled wood base and can be supported by heavy, ornamental wooden brackets. Often a vitrine was added at a later date by removing the original window sash and shutters at a ground-floor opening.



*A vitrine is a projecting commercial display window, similar to a bay window. It can be supported by heavy, ornamental wooden brackets. Many of them, such as this example, display a high level of craftsmanship and detailing.*



*At a Greek Revival storefront that includes granite piers, display windows or doors are located at the interior face of the piers within each bay.*



**A Display Window** is used to present merchandise within a shop. Display windows often flank the entrance alcove to a store and can include additional merchandising to further entice a potential customer.

**Structural Supports** at a storefront are necessary to carry the weight of a building and roof above and are often decorative, reinforcing a storefront's style. Typically, structural supports flank the entrance and display windows and are either fronted with a granite post and lintel system or a cast iron post and lintel design attached to masonry piers. Most of the granite street-fronts have simple Greek Revival detailing, while cast iron versions tend to be more ornamental and used at more high-style buildings, such as an Italianate building.

**A Bulkhead** acts as the base for a display window and, at the interior, can provide a raised platform for merchandise display or seating. Historically, bulkheads were constructed of a variety of materials, but paneled wood is the most prevalent in the Vieux Carré. Other historic finishes include brick, marble, granite and tile.



*In the Vieux Carré, most of the bulkheads under a display window are painted, paneled wood.*



*Greek Revival  
Granite Pier*



*Decorative Cast  
Iron Window  
Support*



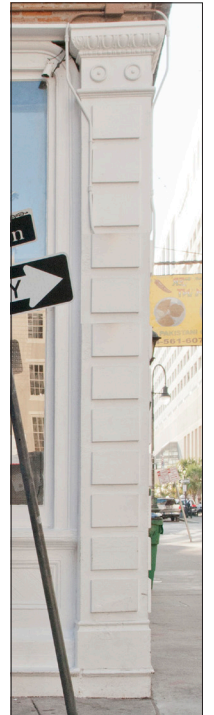
*Tuscan Cast Iron  
Column*



*Cast Iron Pilaster  
With Applied  
Ornament*



*Fluted Cast Iron  
Pilaster With  
Paneled Plinth*



*Cast Iron Pilaster  
With Applied  
Quoins*



**The Entrance** at a storefront can be located flush with the outside wall of a building or recessed within an alcove to provide additional display areas and shelter from the elements. In addition to a commercial entrance, there can be a secondary entrance door that provides access to upper building levels.



*The oval lights, or windows, in this paired entrance door are unusual for the Vieux Carré and likely date to the early-20th century. Note the large transom window with street number above and the decorative tile alcove flooring below.*



*This paired, corner entrance door includes sidelights and a transom above. Note the granite corner support column.*

#### **Bi-Fold & Tri-Fold Store Doors with Night Blinds or Grilles:**

Bi-fold or tri-fold store doors typically are found on a mid-19th century commercial building. They resemble French doors in that they have a paneled lower portion and are glazed above the lock rails. The difference is that a store door often incorporates a night blind or metal grille to cover the glazed portion for security and, when opened, allow the entire bay to be open. Grilles were permanently fixed and usually reserved for a warehouse or similar building. Night blinds are removable and put into place after hours and removed when the shop is open.

**The practice of attempting to simulate the appearance of store doors with night blinds by routing a groove around the glazed portion of conventional French doors is prohibited by the VCC.** When located between piers, the doors were hung behind the piers and swung inwards with no visible exterior frame. The number of doors per opening varied from 2 to 6, with multiple doors hinged onto one another. Because store doors were equipped with night blinds, exterior shutters were never used.



*Door opening with night blinds installed and removed. Due to the rabbet or groove necessary to hold the night blind, and because doors of this type were often 11'-0" to 12'-0" tall, they were very thick (on the order of 2-1/2"). Shorter doors were sometimes thinner, with details varying slightly because of the reduced thickness.*

#### **KEEP IN MIND...**

- An existing storefront, which is stylistically dissimilar to its building, might have gained historic importance in its own right and should be retained – Please contact the VCC at (504) 658-1420 for information regarding a specific property
- A property owner seeking to return an existing, historically important storefront or façade to an earlier period will be required to provide documentation of the previous appearance, such as clear photographic evidence
- Property owners are encouraged to consult with the VCC early in the application process if contemplating a storefront modification



**A Storefront Entrance Alcove** acts as a transitional space from the sidewalk to a commercial entrance. It provides shelter from the weather and often is designed to increase the display area of a storefront to draw in potential customers. Entrance alcoves frequently include a decorative ceiling and floor and are flanked by large storefront display windows leading to a central entrance door. (For security issues, refer to *Storefront Security*, page 13-10, and *Security Cameras, Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras*, page 11-10.)

**A Decorative Ceiling** within an entrance alcove often is articulated with a pattern, texture and/or material, including lighting, that reinforces the architectural style of a building and geometry of the space. The material used within an entrance alcove ceiling may be repeated on the ceilings of the flanking display windows. Historically these materials included paneled wood, beadboard and/or pressed tin, with stucco gaining in popularity in the early-20th century.



*The alcove ceiling is beadboard and the ceramic tile flooring includes the street number and former business name.*

**Decorative Flooring** within a storefront entrance alcove often is composed of small ceramic tiles in a square or hexagonal shape. In the early-20th century, a composite material called terrazzo became popular. Historically, the configuration of tile or terrazzo was only limited by the creativity of the installer and included decorative borders and patterns of various colors. It was not uncommon for the tiles within the alcove flooring to include the street number and name of the business occupying the store.



*This canopy provides protection for pedestrians along the sidewalk. It has a standing seam metal roof and is supported by decorative metal brackets.*

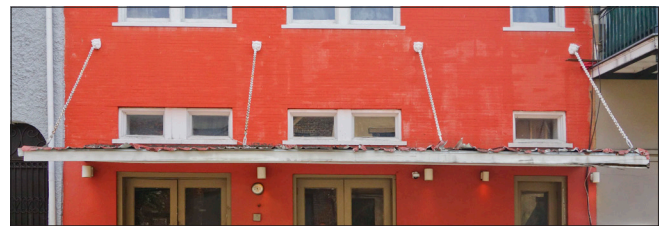
## STOREFRONT CANOPIES

Many warehouses and stores feature a simple canopy topped with standing seam metal roofing. These canopies are supported in one of two ways: with cable stays from above or by wall mounted brackets from below, located between the transom and display windows.

The VCC recommends maintaining an existing canopy and inspecting the support system periodically to verify the canopy is secure. Additional fasteners might be required to provide adequate strength in the event of a storm with a high wind.

Some of the important considerations related to the construction of a new storefront canopy include:

- **Height:** The required minimum height under a canopy and distance from the street curb is regulated by the City Code
- **Materials:** Typically coverings are standing seam or corrugated metal roofing over tongue and groove boards and tend to have a low slope
- **Support:** The type, material and style of the support system, cable stays or brackets must be consistent with a building's character and style
- **Approvals:** Prior to installing a new canopy over a public right-of-way, an air rights lease must be obtained from the City (Refer to *Lease of Air Rights, Guidelines for Balconies, Galleries & Porches*, page 08-11)



*This canopy is suspended from above by cables and is located between the transom windows and doors below.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the following *Guidelines* sections for additional information:

- *Guidelines for Balconies, Galleries & Porches*
- *Guidelines for Roofing*
- *Guidelines for Signage & Awnings*



*The sidewalk has been adjusted to slope up to the door. A push-button door opener has been installed to open the paired doors simultaneously.*



## ACCESSIBILITY

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) strives to improve the quality of life of people with a disability. The ADA recognizes that for a person with a disability to participate in everyday activities in their community such as going to work, eating in a restaurant or shopping in a store, they need to have access to the goods and services provided by businesses. Almost all of the business and institutional facilities in the Vieux Carré were constructed prior to the 1992 enactment of the ADA and lack features to accommodate people with a disability, including those who use a wheelchair.

The renovation of an existing building may require wheelchair accommodations for the physically challenged. One of the most visible exterior alterations required by ADA is the installation of a wheelchair ramp or a lift, to provide access to the building. In many locations, these ramps or lifts have successfully been incorporated at the interior of a building envelope with modification of an existing door sill. When installing a ramp, it is important to remember that if the ramp is too steep, or its railing is not secure, a potentially hazardous condition may be created. Although the most appropriate means of providing accessibility will vary at each property, some issues to consider include:

- Retaining historic entrance stairs and door(s)
- Providing an accessible entrance that is respectful when access to the front door is not possible — located close to the principal entrance and designed in a manner that is visually unobtrusive and compatible with a building's style
- Complying with all aspects of accessibility requirements, while minimizing alteration of the primary building façade and architectural features
- Modifying the sidewalk or walkway elevation a few inches, where possible, to provide an entry at grade and meet all code requirements
- Installing a ramp and/or a lift within a building envelope where it is possible to modify an existing door sill to allow entry at grade
- Installing a lift in lieu of a ramp where it would be less obtrusive
- Selecting a ramp or lift style that is compatible with the building
- Installing a railing that is simple and visually unobtrusive
- Selecting accessibility hardware and devices that are visually unobtrusive

## BUILDING EQUIPMENT

Modern mechanical equipment includes HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) equipment, restaurant exhaust fans, electrical supply, generators and energy vaults. Although they represent necessities of modern life, the design and location of equipment can have a significant negative impact on the historic integrity of a building and its surrounding area.

Most buildings in the Vieux Carré are constructed to the property line fronting the sidewalk, and the opportunity to locate equipment in a rear or side yard is not always viable. In such situations it might be necessary to locate items like HVAC equipment and/or restaurant exhausts on a roof or in an energy vault at ground-level. In either instance, the equipment should be made as compact and unobtrusive as possible. (Refer to *Roof Mounted Equipment, Guidelines for Roofing*, page 04-11, and *Mounted Equipment, Guidelines for Site Elements & Courtyards*, page 10-11.)

If modification of a storefront is necessary for the installation of equipment, care should be taken to maintain the major structural components and the rhythm and patterns of openings. If equipment ventilation is required, wood louvered screens, resembling shutters, should be installed and painted to be as unobtrusive as possible. Also, it is recommended that original doors, windows or other architectural features that are removed be stored on-site for use by a future owner.

A restaurant often requires a ventilation system to conduct cooking equipment exhaust out of a space. Restaurant vents and/or exhausts should be installed within the building envelope where they are minimally visible from the public right-of-way. (Refer to *Roof Vents, Guidelines for Roofing*, page 04-8.)



*Mechanical equipment has been installed behind the louvered screens. There are a variety of louvers installed, with different size slats and multiple paint colors. The sidewalk is depressed in front of the opening and the condensate water is pooling on the sidewalk. Louvers should be visually consistent and water should not pool against building foundation.*



## STOREFRONT INTERIORS

In many ways, a window display and/or an entrance is as much a part of the interior of a commercial building as part of the street scene. Although physically inside, the objects placed within that are visible from the exterior become part of the pedestrian experience from the sidewalk.

**The City Code regulates the location of merchandise within a display window. The VCC regulates all signage at the exterior of a building as well as any interior signage that is directed to the exterior of a building.** (Refer to *Signage Allowed in the Vieux Carré, Guidelines for Signage & Awnings*, page 12-5.)

Lighting within a storefront can play a large part in the perception of the environment of the Vieux Carré, particularly in the evening. Storefront lighting can allow merchandise to be highlighted or complement the mood or atmosphere of a restaurant or bar. It can serve to improve surveillance within a store when closed and provide spill light to illuminate a sidewalk. As a result, storefront lighting should be considered part of an overall façade lighting design. (Refer to *Designing With Light, Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras*, page 11-4.)

Similar to exterior lighting concerns, storefront lighting intensity must be controlled to avoid over-lighting and to minimize glare from an individual fixture. Lights should be directed towards merchandise with the lamps, or light bulbs, hidden from view of sidewalk pedestrians and a maximum of 30 footcandles (fc) on merchandise. It is important to select bulbs with good light quality, such as a LED lamp, to provide accurate coloring of merchandise. (Refer to *Lamps, Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras*, page 11-6.)

*The evening illumination of this storefront encourages pedestrians to view merchandise offered for sale and provides spill light onto the sidewalk. Multiple, small, low-wattage lamps provide even light intensity while minimizing glare.*



*Louvers have been installed at the interior of the glass allowing the building's occupants to regulate natural light and privacy.*

## NON-RETAIL STOREFRONTS

Some residential uses and non-retail businesses, including a restaurant or professional office, can be found in former commercial buildings with storefront windows. Although many of these uses do not require a large display window, the VCC encourages maintaining unobstructed glazing when feasible. Businesses are encouraged to use alternate means of providing privacy when using a former display area, for example:

- Installing display materials related to the business or service being offered
- Installing blinds, curtains or other semi-transparent or translucent screening that can be opened or closed during the course of the day
- Placing plants, seasonal displays or decorations in the merchandising display area

Additionally, businesses are encouraged to retain transom windows and maintain their operability.



*Loading docks are necessary at some businesses like a hotel. They should be sensitively designed to minimize their visual prominence, without bright lighting or clutter that attracts the attention of passers-by.*



## STOREFRONT SECURITY

Traditionally, one of the best means of securing a property was to close its shutters or apply night blinds. (Refer to page 13-6.) Commercial buildings with large expanses of glass, however, did not historically have shutters. In these cases, the installation of shutters is not appropriate. The VCC recommends installing tempered or safety glass, which provides a barrier that is difficult to break or shatter. An electronic security system, motion detector(s), lights and/or a warning device can be installed at the interior of doors and windows without altering the historic appearance of a building's exterior. (Refer to *Lighting & Security, Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras*, page 11-9, and *Storm Protection, Guidelines for Windows & Doors*, page 07-16.)

A challenge for securing a storefront is paired entry doors, which can be found on the majority of commercial buildings in the Vieux Carré. If a paired door is not properly secured, an intruder can push the doors where they meet causing the door leaves to open. In addition to potential intruders, this can be an issue in the event of a storm. Installing slide bolts with deep throws at the top and bottom of each door leaf can help secure the doors. (Refer to *Storm Protection, Guidelines for Windows & Doors*, page 07-16.)

If metal bars or a grille is considered the only acceptable method for securing a building, the VCC encourages the property owner to install them at the interior of the window, door or display window. **The VCC only allows the use of simple barrier grilles without decorative detailing.** The bars or grille should be properly sized to fit the opening and align with the frame opening and muntin configuration. **The VCC does not allow the installation of an exterior roll-down security grille.**



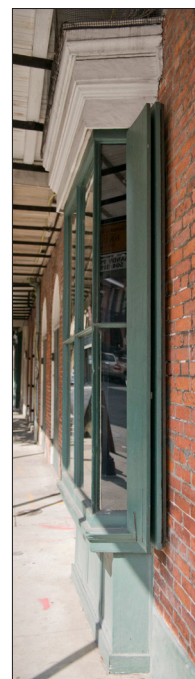
*This opening is secured using traditional materials. The half-round window has inset metal bars and the solid wood shutters cover the entry.*



*The interior pair of doors creates a vestibule. When the wood paneled shutters are closed, the shutters provide enhanced security from intruders. When the shutters are open during operating hours, the interior doors allow natural light to enter the business.*



*The wood-paneled blinds covering the vitrine in the left photograph can be unlocked and folded back to allow visibility of merchandise during store hours. The right photograph shows the paneled blinds folded open at a similar window.*







*The decorative metal security grille at this projecting display window is historic and an integral part of the original design.*



*The padlocked bar extending across the doors is removed when the store is open. The bar provides added security from a potential intruder who might consider pushing the paired doors open.*

*Exterior metal security grilles are installed in lieu of night blinds at these doors on Bourbon Street, obscuring the view of the interior. The grilles and padlocks should be removed during hours of operation.*



*The shutters have been modified for the installation of this ATM between the granite piers. The shutters can be closed to provide additional security and conceal the ATM from view.*

## WALK-UP SERVICES

Walk-up services include automated teller machines (ATMs), pay telephones and vending machines. The installation of these services should not cause the removal of historic building fabric or negatively impact the historic character of a building.

Open air ATM services are allowed only on the premises of a bank or similar financial institution. When considering the addition of a walk-up service, the VCC prefers it to be located at the interior of a building, such as an ATM lobby. The modification of exterior building materials should be avoided and the features installed should be sympathetic to the historic building. The location of a walk-up service should be discreet and unobtrusive, with consideration to the overall building design. In addition, power and other supply services, such as conduit and junction boxes, should be concealed and not mounted on the exterior of a building.

It should be noted that many of these services require a protective covering, such as an awning or a canopy, in addition to lighting and/or a security camera. (Refer to *Storefront Canopies*, page 13-7, *Awnings*, *Guidelines for Signage & Awnings* page 12-8, and *Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras*.)

## CITY WALK-UP SERVICE REGULATIONS

The City of New Orleans does not allow the sale of food or beverages onto a public street or sidewalk from a window, doorway, etc.



## CITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to VCC review, a commercial business owner must comply with all other City requirements including use and zoning.

### THE CITY DOES **NOT** ALLOW:

- Hanging, leaning or attaching clothing, art, merchandise or printed material to the exterior façade of a building, a shutter or within 3-feet of a window or door opening
- Opening, expanding or converting a business into a t-shirt, novelty, gift or souvenir shop in the Vieux Carré
- Selling food or beverages from a window, doorway, etc., onto a public street or sidewalk, from a movable temporary bar or structure located within 6-feet of a window, door, etc., which opens onto a public street or sidewalk, or in an open space, alley or patio
- Storing a trash receptacle on a sidewalk (Refer to *Refuse & Recycling, Guidelines for Site Elements & Courtyards*, page 10-10)

## Storefront Review

Repair or maintain the exterior of a storefront or storefront component; Install an exterior electronic sensor security system

**1 2 3** Staff

Install an exterior security device

**1** Architectural Committee  
**2 3** Staff

Modify or remove a storefront or storefront component

**1** Commission  
**2 3** Architectural Committee

Install a walk-up service

**1 2 3** Commission

## STOREFRONT GUIDE

### THE VCC REQUIRES:

- Maintaining the rhythm, size and shape of windows and associated trim and moldings
- Retaining and maintaining all building cornices, features and details

### THE VCC RECOMMENDS:

- Reopening a previously infilled window or doorway
- Replacing a missing storefront feature
- Retaining residential characteristics of a former residence converted into a commercial building, or vice versa
- Integrating security mechanisms into the design where required (Refer to *Storefront Security*, page 13-10)
- Installing compatible lighting where needed (Refer to *Guidelines for Lighting & Security Cameras*)
- Including appropriate signage and/or awnings in the design (Refer to *Guidelines for Signage & Awnings*)
- Providing for ADA accessibility without installing an exterior ramp or lift (Refer to *Accessibility*, page 13-08)

### THE VCC DOES NOT RECOMMEND:

- Installing built-in furniture or a wall that visually blocks the inside of a display window or French doors
- Installing any material other than clear glass within a display window
- Installing a shade, curtain or plastic strip drape inside a door or display window

### THE VCC DOES **NOT** ALLOW:

- Introducing a new storefront or element that alters or destroys a historic building material or where none existed
- Enclosing or removing an element, such as a building cornice or storefront
- Installing an inappropriate building material at a storefront
- Installing a stylistic element from a period that is different from the storefront, or building or does not complement its overall stylistic expression
- Altering the size or shape of a major building form, such as a window, door or transom opening, or altering a door to swing out unless required by the Building Code
- Altering a historically important storefront without sufficient evidence or documentation to provide an accurate representation of the historic condition
- Altering a façade from commercial to residential character, unless the building was previously residential and there is sufficient evidence or documentation to provide an accurate representation of the historic condition
- Installing a through-wall air conditioner or removing a window or transom to install an air conditioning unit
- Installing exterior shutters at a large display window or a night blind or a grille where such did not previously exist such as at French doors
- Using bright or glaring lighting or signage at the interior of a storefront (Refer to *Storefront Interiors*, page 13-9)

This material is funded by the Vieux Carré Commission Foundation on behalf of the Vieux Carré Commission.  
[www.nola.gov/vcc](http://www.nola.gov/vcc)

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