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THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CARVED DOORS OF MOMBASA  
AND THE EAST AFRICAN COAST  
IN TWO VOLUMES

BY  
JUDITH SOPHIA ALDRICK

VOLUME II

THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF  
ARTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MLitt

DATE: 1988

School of Oriental Studies  
Elvet Hill  
Durham



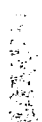
23 JUN 1990

PHOTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY OF THE CARVED  
DOORS OF OLD TOWN MOMBASA

PHOTO COPYRIGHT: Friends of Fort Jesus Photographic  
Collection, P.O.Box 32412, Mombasa,  
Kenya

## INTRODUCTION

The doors are listed under plot number and are marked for easier location on the map of the town included. Originally the town was divided into mitaa, or town wards, where families of the same clan and nationality tended to live together. The present plot numbering system dates only to the mid-twentieth century and cuts across traditional boundaries. However it is interesting to see the distribution of the doors and note that areas XXX/ and XXXI/ contain most of the finest framed doors and were formerly the Baghani and Shangani quarters of town, where the chief administrative Arabs lived. Areas XXXIV/ and XXXV/ contain many Indian doors, entrances to shops and warehouses, marking the old business centres of town. The town was once enclosed by a stone wall, which roughly followed the red dotted line, as marked on the map and continued along the sea front. Fort Jesus stood just outside the wall, guarding the entrance to the harbour. Most of the older buildings and carved doors are contained within these limits, as the Swahili families, who lived just beyond the town wall to the north and just within the town wall to the west, did not have carved doors and lived in simpler single storey makuti roofed dwellings of less durable construction





than the grand stone buildings of the merchants and administrators.

One of the problems with a study of the carved doors in Mombasa is that there are virtually no dates. Land and property was not registered until the twentieth century and consequently it is impossible to tell exactly when the older buildings were built, or indeed who owned them. Most of the information contained in this inventory is therefore oral and received from citizens of the Old Town, frequently descendants of Indian merchants still working and living there, who tend to be more forthcoming with information than the older Swahili/Arab residents, many of whom have since moved away, the wealthier returning to the Gulf states from where they originated. Information has also been taken from a 1904 street directory for Mombasa and an early handbook published in 1909, which lists the main commercial buildings. Various early photographs, which show doors, taken in the 1890's by missionaries living in Mombasa have also been consulted. Very few of the buildings are owner occupied and much of the property is rented and divided up into small flats, owned in trust by mosques and communities or by owners living overseas. This too makes research more difficult as the residents usually know nothing about

the buildings in which they live. Many of the old merchant houses had warehousing or factory premises below and accommodation above. These are now converted frequently into shops and offices. The most prestigious Arab mansions had reception areas below with seating arrangements and inner carved doors leading to the living areas beyond and the women's harem above.

When walking around Mombasa Old Town, one soon realises that there are several distinct styles of doors, which seem to correspond with the original ownership. An Indian merchant had a different style of door from an Arab official. The amount of elaboration depended on the status of the owner. The owners were almost without exception Muslim and the mosques had the largest number and most ornamental doors. For convenience sake the doors are divided into four stylistic categories as follows:

- Framed and unframed doors
- Gujerat doors
- Indian neo-classical doors
- Zanzibar doors

The oldest door type appears to be the framed and unframed doors, which date from c.1850-1900 and would seem to be of local manufacture. Framed doors are

found in the main mosques and in the properties of prominent Mombasa families. The less elaborate unframed doors are generally later and were probably owned by Arab and Swahili merchants and shippers who grew wealthy at the end of this period. Interior doors also tend to be simpler than main entrances. Nearly all Mombasa doors date to the latter half of the nineteenth century a time when carved doors became increasingly popular as status symbols in this part of the world and began to be acquired by a greater cross section of society. The earlier carved doors are by and large only to be seen in mosques and royal residences.

Gujerat doors are characterized by their distinctive structure and the use of tolla, projecting corbels which mark cross beams which connect the outer door frame to an inner frame, an unusual structural feature that is found in the domestic architecture of Gujerat, north west India. They are the largest and widest of all the doors and were owned by Indian merchants and used generally as entrances to warehouses and shops. The door panels are elaborately coffered and the finest examples have a central hinge so that only a part of one side of the door need be opened. The floral type date post 1890 and were probably carved in India and shipped

over by dhow. There is an earlier type with no lintel, uncarved tolla and simplified door panels. The rather cruder version of the later floral style occasionally seen, was probably made locally c.1900.

Indian neo-classical doors are usually made of teak and imported, dating post 1880. They are the plainest of the door types included and Quranic inscriptions at the centre or round the outside of the circular door head are their only ornamentation. This type of door was very commonly to be seen in British colonial India.

Zanzibar doors, so called as they are mainly to be seen there, are again of Indian origin and generally of Indian workmanship, to be dated post 1880. They are the grandest of the door styles and grace the houses of former officials of the Sultans of Zanzibar. The style was made popular by Sultan Barghash, who introduced these doors from India in his palace 'The House of Wonders' built on the waterfront in Zanzibar in 1883. They continue to be carved today in Lamu and in Mombasa and several modern examples are included in this inventory.

There are also several doors which do not fall into these categories and may be the result of a personal

preference of an owner or brought in from elsewhere.

The earliest door in Mombasa is probably the Fort Jesus door decorated with palms and niches, which was reused by Governor Mardinge for his office in 1895. This door may date back to the eighteenth century as the nichework recalls the fashion for plaster niches found in eighteenth century Lamu houses. The Mandhry mosque doors which have Quranic inscriptions and a door behind the old port with a long inscription divided into sections along the lintel may also belong to the first half of the nineteenth century. There are carved inscriptions on the beams of the eighteenth century Mazrui Hall in Fort Jesus and on one other beam in the fort carved to commemorate a victory in 1830. This last beam is decorated with a pattern of simple rosettes on one side, which has similarities to a design found on a door at the back of Mandhry mosque. Inscriptions as a form of decoration in their own right became less popular as the century progressed.

Ropework carved round the edge of the door and sometimes even across the doorstep is a particular feature of Mombasa doors. It is a traditional ornament and is found in the stonework of the medieval Swahili settlements. Chain decoration, on the other hand, was

introduced from India in the nineteenth century and bead and reelwork designs came in even later. Their appearance or non-appearance gives some indication of the age of the door. The earliest framed doors are studded with round headed nails and the panels hung in the door frame by means of a pivot construction. Hinges and brass ornament, including the chain locks were introduced from India late in the nineteenth century. The panels of the oldest doors were generally made from one piece of wood, the use of planking indicates inferior and generally more recent manufacture.

There are certain patterns which appear to be peculiar to Mombasa. The appearance of rose water sprinklers, marashi, along a lintel is most unusual and not seen elsewhere, while the design of semi-circular rosettes along a lintel is uncommon, though it is a motif with a long history. There is an old lintel now in Lamu museum which has this feature in simplified form and is dated 1785. The centreposts and frames follow a set pattern found in all the doors of the area.

There are approximately 100 carved doors still existing in Old Town Mombasa. Two have disappeared in the past year and others are endangered due to rebuilding and

modernisation projects. It is hoped that this inventory will bring attention to the fine doors still surviving in Mombasa and encourage their protection for future generations. Several are covered in layers of unsightly paint, which though providing protection of a sort, obscure the fine carving, others are masked by unnecessary additions and layers of dust and dirt. Many hours were spent walking round the Old Town locating these doors and then photographing them, no easy job due to their positions often in a dark alley or under a heavy shade. Rusted vehicles have been bodily removed and children and livestock were frequent hazards. My sincerest gratitude goes to Maurice Taffe, who took most of the photographs and printed them in the dark room of Fort Jesus Museum. Without his help this inventory would not have been possible. The owners of the doors have at all times been most understanding and helpful and I hope that this work will please them and encourage more appreciation of the cultural heritage with which they are so fortunate to live.

Judy Aldrick

Mombasa, 1988

## LIST OF SOURCES USED

### Written

1904 Handbook of East Africa, Uganda and Zanzibar

Fort Jesus Museum, accession book

Friends of Fort Jesus (1985): The Old Town Mombasa, a  
historical guide, Mombasa

JEWELL, J. (1976): Mombasa, the friendly town, Nairobi

KIRKMAN, J. (1974): Fort Jesus, a Portuguese fort on  
the East African Coast, London

MACMILLAN, A. (1930): East Africa and Rhodesia, London

SOMERSET-PLAYNE (1909): British East Africa its history,  
people, commerce, industries and  
resources, London

### Photographic

Friends of Fort Jesus, Photographic Collection, Mombasa

Gladys Beecher Collection, National Museums, Nairobi

Hollis Collection, National Museums, Nairobi

Photographs from the Royal Commonwealth Society, London

Photographs from the Kenya Railways Collection, Nairobi

### Oral

Information received from residents of Old Town Mombasa

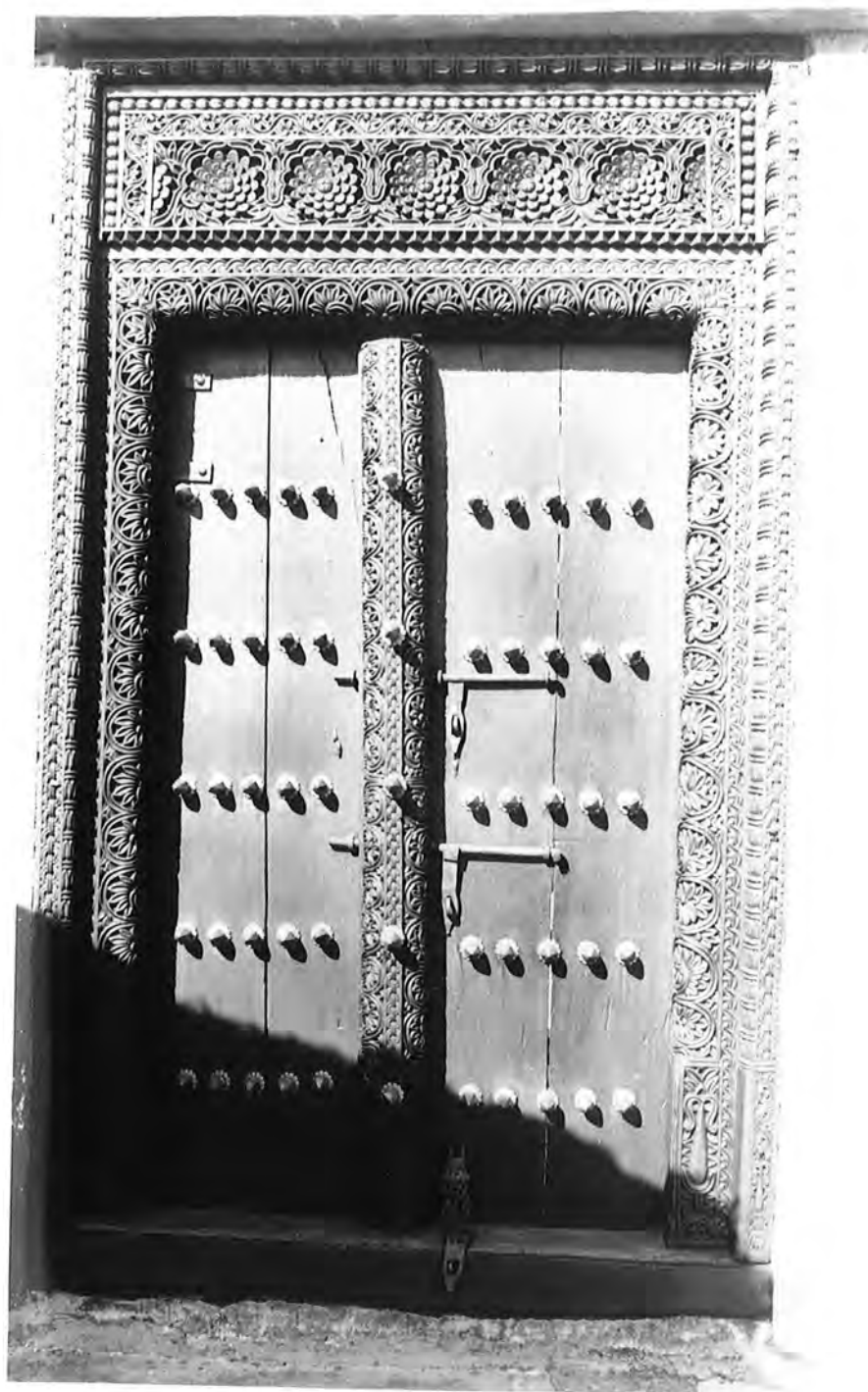




XXV/80 FORT JESUS

Door to the former office of Arthur Hardinge, first Commissioner of the British East Africa Protectorate. The door panels appear older than the frame and are decorated with the unusual design of palm trees set over arches to appear like niches. There were once iron spikes at the corners. The door was restored in 1985. See Kirkman (1974), 26.

Neg: 52/A/1



XXV/30 FORT JESUS

Fine framed door, from a go-down owned by Sheikh Khamis Muhammad b. Jumaa at east end of Hardinge Street, now Thika Street. Obtained in 1945 by Mr. Norman, when he was District Commissioner, Mombasa. (Museum acquisition no. 668). The rounded door frame and centrepост indicate a date late in the 19th century.

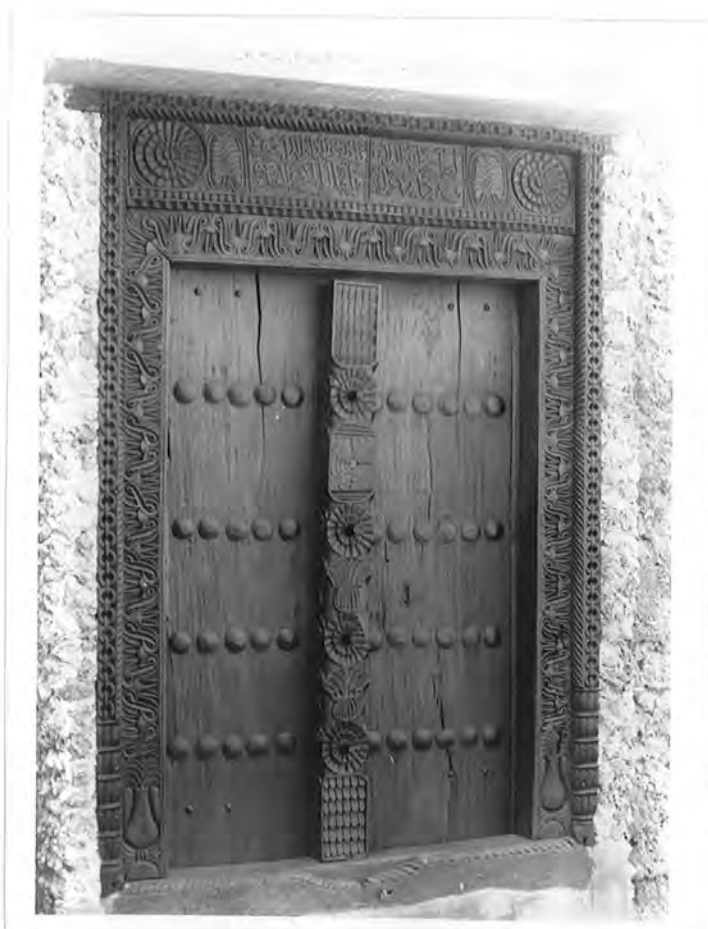
Neg: 58/F/36



XXV/80 FORT JESUS

Fine framed door from Zanzibar. The inscription reads: "Truly we have given you a manifest victory". Quran 48.1 Obtained for the museum by Mr. Norman. (Museum acquisition no. 669).

Neg: 28/B/28



## XXV/80 FORT JESUS

Taken from the former house of Mbaruk b. Rashid al-Mazrui at Gazi in 1984. Photographs in the Hollis Collection (Hol A/231-3) show the house and door in 1899. Inscription reads: "may God's peace be upon the owner of this door and bestow him tomorrow the Abode of Bounties and everlasting greatness without any humiliation and occasions for happy meetings until the Day of Judgement". Framed door with rope at threshold.

Neg: 31/A/2



XXV/80 FORT JESUS  
Framed door without lintel from Lamu. Presented by  
Mr. C.E. Whitton.

Neg: 28/F/1



XXV/80 FORT JESUS

Framed door with lintel from Lamu. Presented by Mr.  
C.E. Whitton. Lintel design of alternating  
palmettes.

Neg: 28/F/2



XXV/80 FORT JESUS  
Late 19th century door, rounded frame with rosettes  
across lintel.

Neg: 28/F/3



XXIX/10 OLD KILINDINI ROAD

Entrance door to the Dawoodi Bohra mosque, dated 1913 according to the son of the founder. Magnificent example of Indian door carving of the early 20th century.

Neg: 30/C/15





XXIX/52 SAMBURU ROAD

Indian style door to a go-down situated opposite house built for Indian civil servants c.1900. Plasterwork archway over wooden carved door. Gujerat style with ornamental tolla, carved lintel and centrepост.

Neg: 27/B/12



XXIX/106/105 & XXXVI/50

Essaji buildings. Esmailji Sheikh Essaji Trading Company. This family came from Cutch c.1885 and according to the present owners, descendants of the original family, the doors were carved in India and brought over by dhow. Indian neo-classical style with Quranic inscriptions and decorated edging. Door panels coffered and hinged, four doors.

Neg: 27/A/4 & 27/A/5





XXX/46 NDIA KUU

Kibokoni Bakery door. Boustead & Ridley established Mombasa in 1892 had an office here, they were agents for the Church Missionary Society. In 1930 Insurance Agent E.M. Cornwall had his office here. Unframed door, lintel design of central rosette and palmettes within weaving tendril.

Neg: 28/E/7 & 29/E/27



XXX/48

Shikeli House c.1905 according to family information.

Main door: lintel has unusual perforated design, no centrepost, frame uncarved.

Neg: 31/A/3

There are 3 inner doors leading off the central reception area with uncarved frames and no centreposts.

a: bead and reelwork edging, lintel with central rosette and palmettes within wavy line.

Neg: 31/A/4





XXX/48 cont.

b: heavy rope edging, lintel with alternating palmette design within weaving line.

Neg: 31/A/5

c: egg and dart edging, lintel with alternating palmettes.

Neg: 31/A/6

At Kisauni in a small farm house formerly owned by the Shikeli family is a fine carved door taken from one of their houses in the Old Town. Older than those in the house on plot XXXV/48, the frame is carved and the lintel decorated with rosettes.

Neg 31/C/17





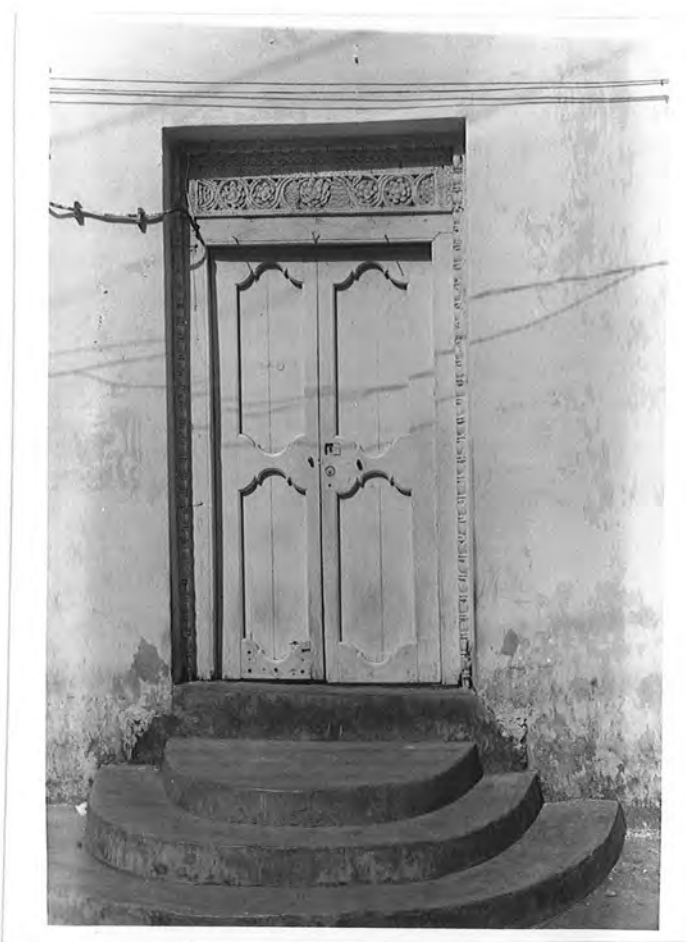


XXX/95 NDIA KUU

Fine framed door with elaborate centrepiece and lintel  
with central rosette and enclosed palmettes.

This door appears in a photograph dated 1897 in the  
Gladys Beecher Collection, when the house was leased by  
the Church Missionary Society. (GSBB 4073/J/0)

Neg: 23/A/26



XXX/96 NDIA KUU

Unframed door, no centrepost, lintel with encircled  
rosettes, door panels of more recent date.

Neg: 28/F/4



XXX/167 NDIA KUU

Modern door in Zanzibar style. Salim b. Muhammad  
Muhashamy's former house. He was the last liwali of  
the Coast, 1959-1964 and died in 1978.

Neg: 20/C/6



XXXI/2 THIKA STREET  
Modern Zanzibar style door, carved in Lamu, 1986.  
Neg: 58/F/35



XXXI/10 GOVERNMENT SQUARE

Fine Gujarat style door with carved lintel, decorated tolla, carved centrepiece and hinged and coffered door panels. Door photographed in 1908 (Somerset Playne), when the chief entrance to the Mombasa office of Allidina Visram, wealthy Ismaili trader who started his business in Mombasa in 1898. Later the carpet dealers Shatry & Sons had their shop here.

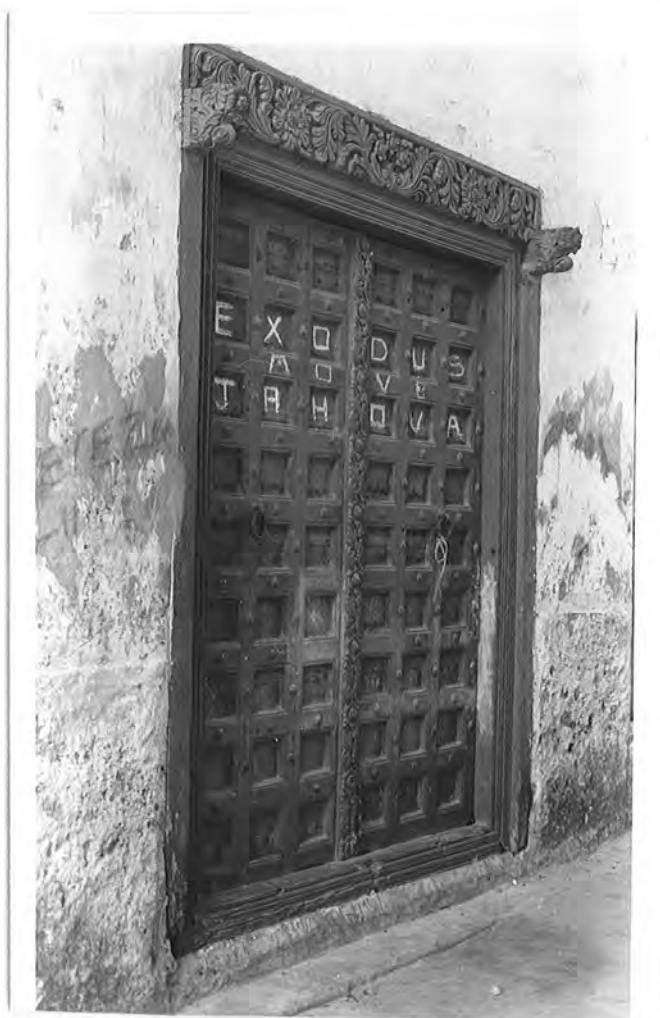
Neg: 11/C/1 & 23/C/11



XXXI/10 GOVERNMENT SQUARE

Fine Gujarat style door with carved lintel, decorated tolla, carved centrepiece and hinged and coffered door panels. Door photographed in 1908 (Somerset Playne), when the chief entrance to the Mombasa office of Allidina Visram, wealthy Ismaili trader who started his business in Mombasa in 1898. Later the carpet dealers Shatry & Sons had their shop here.

Neg: 11/C/1 & 23/C/11



XXXI/10 cont

Gujarat style door with carved lintel, decorated tolla, carved centrepost, hinged and coffered door panels. Side door to the Allidina Visram office, slightly less elaborate than the main door.

Neg: 11/C/2

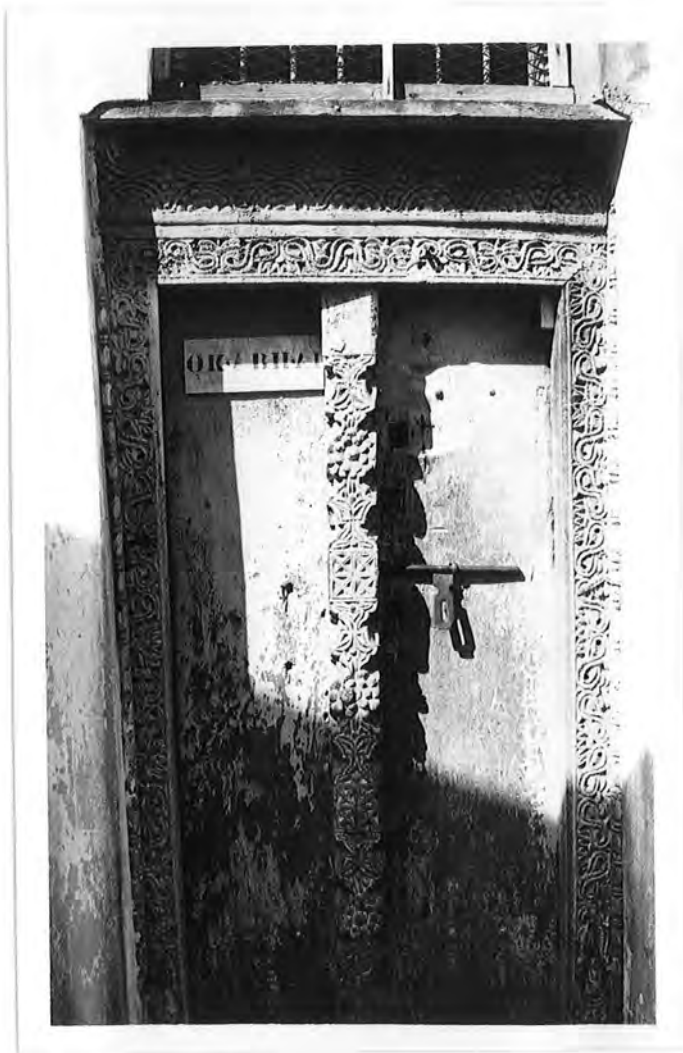


XXXI/10 cont

Gujarat style door with carved lintel, plain tolla, carved centrepiece, hinged and coffered door panels, set within plaster arch. To one side of the main entrance.

Neg 20/A/34





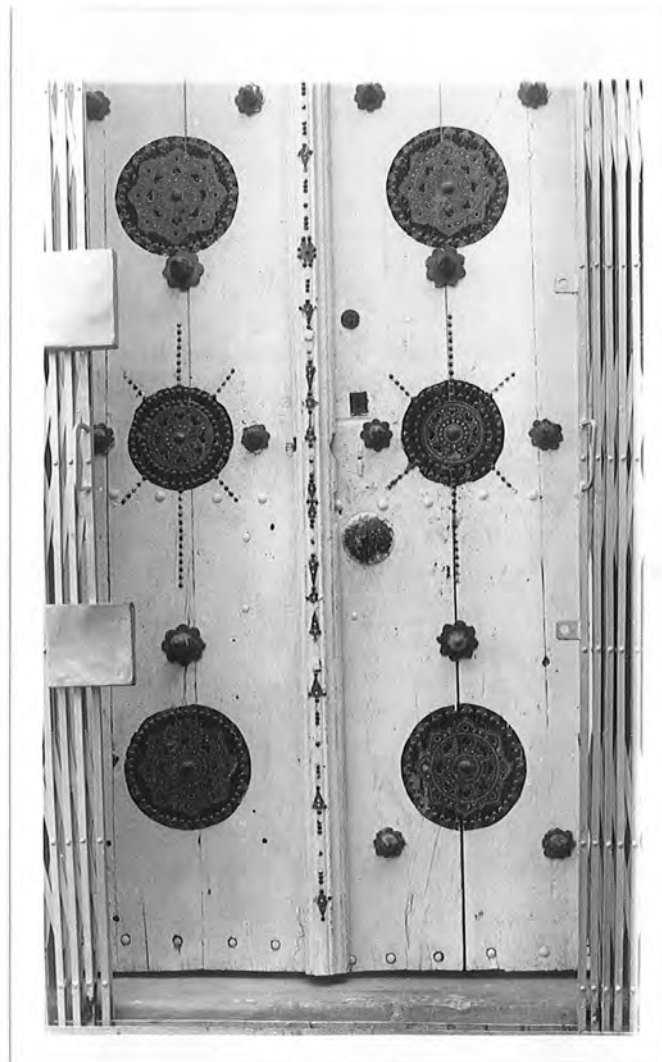
XXXI/10 cont.  
 Framed door with carved lintel and centrepost. Back  
 door to the Allidina Visram complex, this door is  
 clearly earlier in style than the doors at the front.  
 Neg 1/A/5



XXXI/14

Unframed door with carved lintel, central rosette and palmettes within a weaving tendril, rope and chain edging. The door panels have been decorated with brass medallions and studs. According to oral information this door dates 1850, though the door panels appear to be a more recent embellishment.

Neg 11/D/18 & 11/E/17  
31/E/26

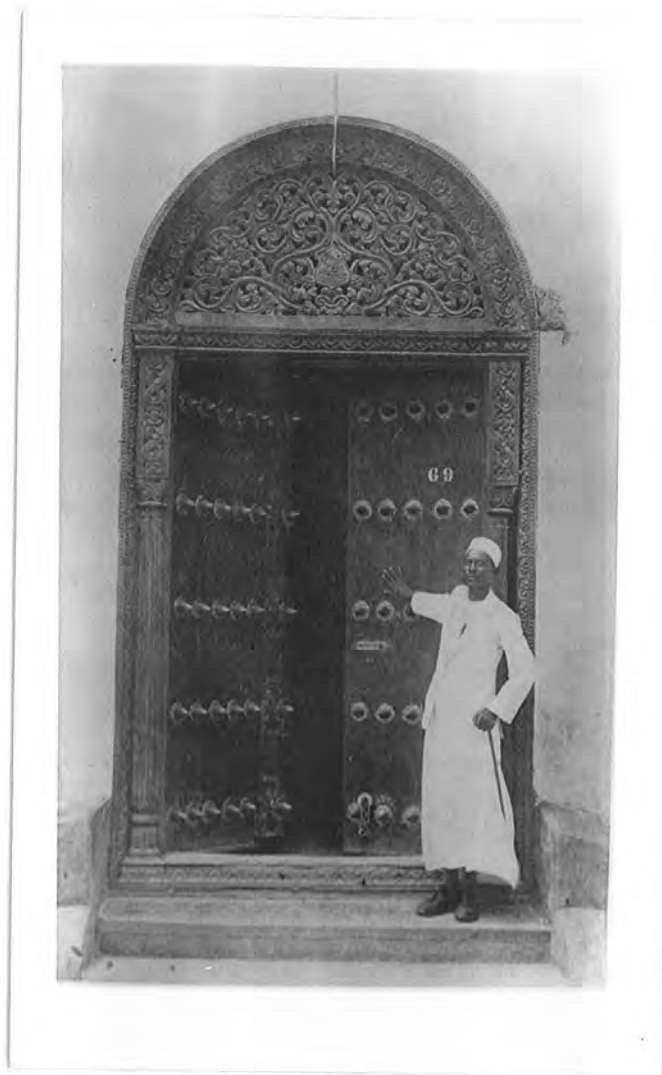




XXXI/15

Carved lintel with unusual linear patterns.

Neg: 4/E/15 & 20/D/13



XXXI/26 NDIA KUU REMOVED  
 Zanzibar style door. There is a photograph of it  
 in the Gladys Beecher Collection c.1890 (4073/D/26).  
 Ismailji Jivanjee property leased to the Church  
 Missionary Society for use by unmarried missionary  
 ladies during the 1890's.

Neg: 40/D/1-3  
 Taken from Macmillan (1930)



XXXI/28 NDIA KUU REMOVED 1986  
 window, carved lintel with central rosette and palmettes  
 within a wavy line, rope and chain edging, frame  
 uncarved. The house is said to have been rebuilt by  
 the Church Missionary Society in 1896, financed by the  
 IBEACo and opened by Bishop Tucker. This may  
 originally have been a door.

Neg 20/C/8



XXXI/31

Fine framed door with carved lintel and centrepост.  
Unusual motif of rosewater flasks (?) across lintel and  
carved rope at threshold.

Neg: 20/D/11 & 29/F/33

inside are 2 fine interior doors.

a: has lintel design of palmettes set within a wavy  
line and a carved centrepост.

Neg: 52/A/6

b: smaller door with rosettes across lintel and carved  
centrepост.

Neg: 52/A/3









XXXI/35

Fine framed door with lintel design of semi-circular rosettes, carved centrepост and chain and beaded edging. Situated directly behind the Mandhry mosque, on the second floor of this building there is also a carved window.

Neg 1/A/1 & 11/D/20



XXXI/37 MANDHRY MOSQUE

Sea facing door set within deep stone arch. Carved lintel of rosettes. The Mandhry mosque was founded in 1571, but rebuilt many times.

Neg: 1/A/0



XXXI/37 cont.

Door to prayer hall: round headed teak door in the  
Indian neo-classical style. Quranic inscription round  
the door head.

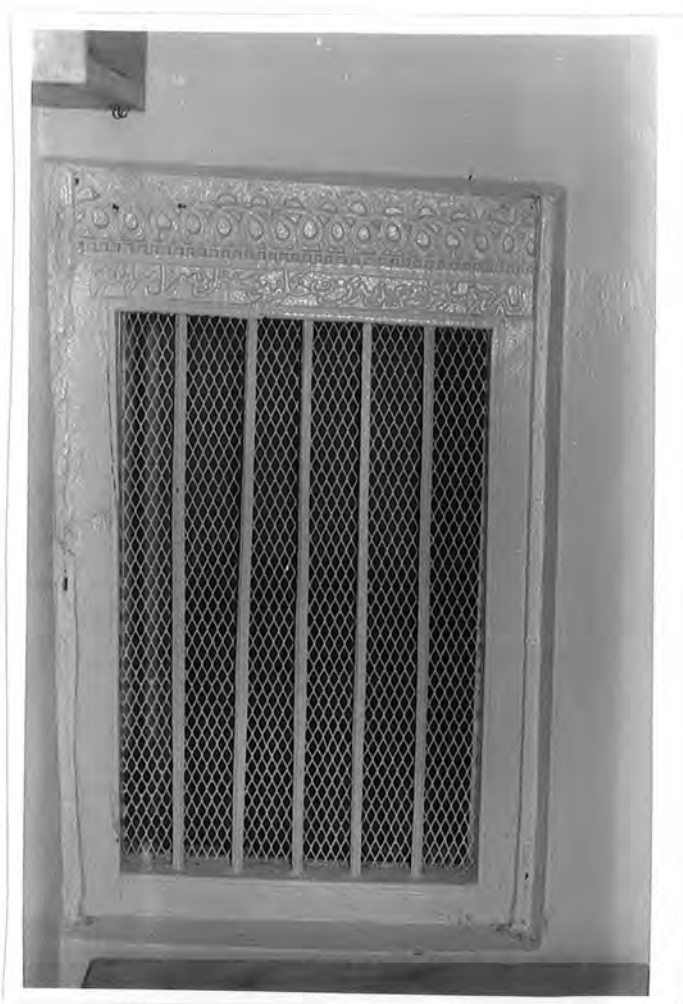
Neg 1/A/2



XXXI/37 cont.

Inner door has Quranic inscription carved within a semi-circle on the lintel and top of frame, which is otherwise left uncarved. Centrepost uncarved. This door does not seem to be in its original position and was probably once set under an arch.

Neg: 25/D/20 & 29/B/7



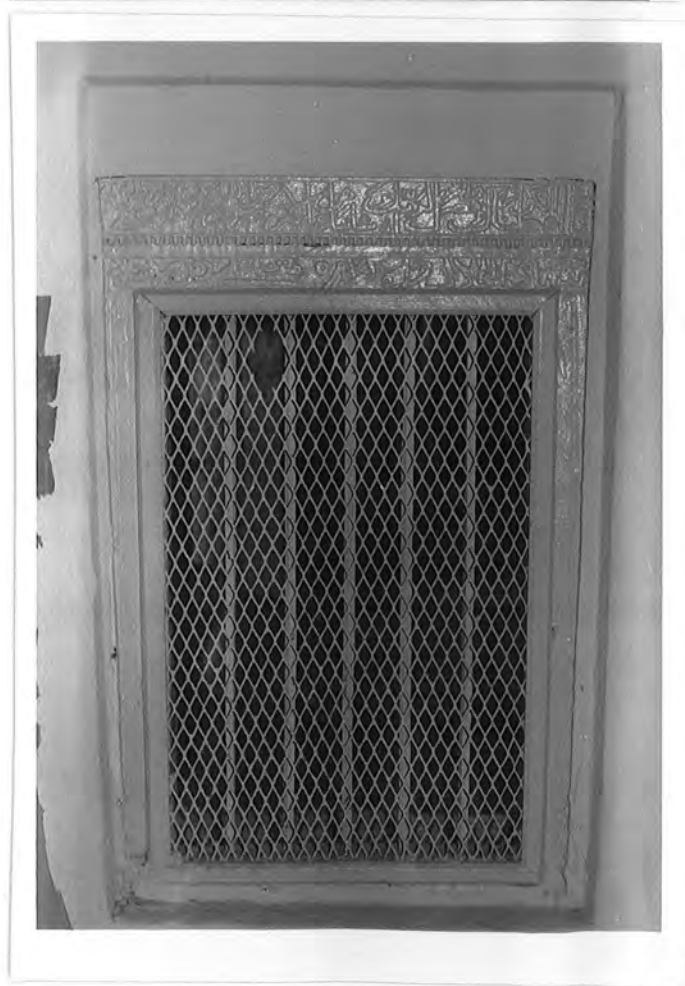
XXXI/37 cont.

Inside the mosque are four windows painted pale blue and barred and grilled with carved decoration at the top of the frames.

Inner room: window with interlocking circles and Quranic inscription carved below. Neg: 29/A/1

window with Quranic inscriptions. Neg: 29/A/2

Outer room: two windows carved with Quranic inscriptions. Neg: 29/A/5 & 6





XXXI/40 MBARAK HINAWY ROAD

Indian neo-classical door, fanlight top with inscription, the Basmalah "bi sin Allah al Rahman al Rahim". In 1904 this building housed the Government printing press and the Commissioners office.

Neg: 29/C/18



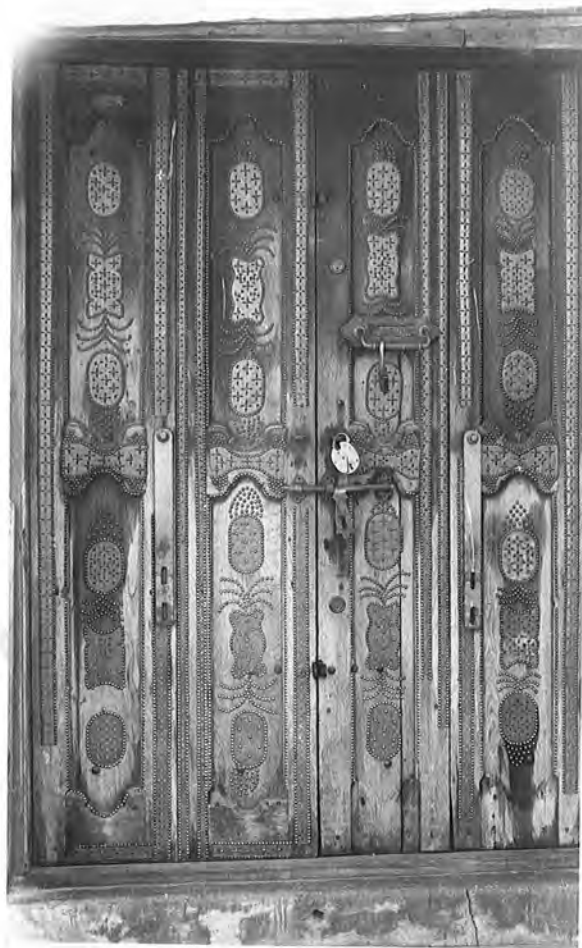


XXXI/46 NDIA KUU

Zanzibar style door. This house was built by Bohras using imported teak and was owned by Kayamali Hassanali Adamjee Walijee, whose business started in Zanzibar in 1866. From 1907 this was the office of Robitsek & Reis & Co.

Neg: 11/B/7 door  
28/F/5 window





XXXI/47 NDIA KUU

Elaborately bossed door belonging to Kenya Chest Craft shop, not old.

Neg: 20/B/5



XXXI/51

Dated door, lintel has inscription which includes the date 1304, the year beginning September 1886 in the christian calendar. The door is said to have come from Zanzibar and has a carved rounded frame. The centrepost and door are studded with iron spikes. The house is at present owned and lived in by a member of the Busaidi family.

Neg: 11/B/8 & 29/F/35



XXXI/53

Fine framed door with lintel carved with central rosette and palmettes within a weaving tendril.

Neg: 29/E/32

Inside are 2 interior carved doors

a: entrance to inner courtyard, carved frame and lintel.

Neg: 52/B/9 & 10

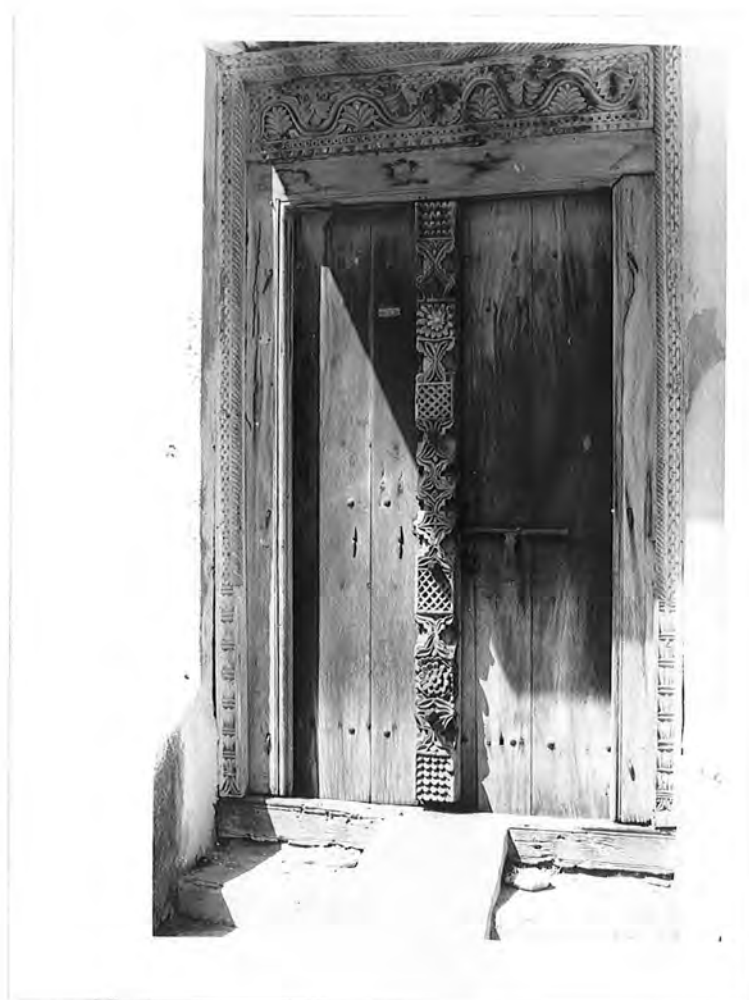
b: blocked in side entrance, carved frame and lintel with semi-circular rosettes, no centrepост.

Neg: 52/B/11 & 12

52/C/13







XXXI/56

Opposite dated door XXXI/51. Unframed door with chain and rope edging, lintel carved with a wavy line, carved centrepост.

Neg: 11/B/9 & 29/F/36





XXXI/58 NDIA KUU

Lookmanji Curio shop, Mr. Esmailji Lookmanji settled in Mombasa in 1880. This house was once owned by the Jivanjee family and door predates 1908 when Childs & Co. had an office here. Indian neo-classical style door with plain fanlight arch, coffered door panels and carved doorpost.

Neg: 23/B/29 & 30



XXXI/60

Framed door with unusual design of rosettes, lintel carved with central rosette and palmettes, rope and chain edging.

Neg: 29/E/31



XXXI/65 NDIA KUU

Ali's Curio shop side door. This is an example of a modern door carved in Mombasa using traditional motifs.

Neg: 29/E/29



XXXII/20

Fine Zanzibar door with carved centrepост, frame and door head. Formerly the house of Mbarak Hinawy, the Sultan of Zanzibar's representative in Mombasa between 1939-1959. The house is now lived in by his son. The building is said to have belonged to Tharia Topan an Ismaili Customs Collector to Sultan Barghash of Zanzibar.

Neg: 6/C/8, 9 & 10  
20/B/2 & 3



XXXII/35(40) MBARAK HINAWY STREET  
Arcaf House, built in 1977, door carved on the spot.  
This was once the site of the East African Stores and  
then Oswald & Co. general merchants had a shop here.

Neg: 6/B/1 & 20/C/7



XXXIIII/P1

Door to the Customs House, Government Square. Round headed door, carved with two lions. Fluted pilasters on the sides of the frame. Indian workmanship is apparent in the floreate decoration surrounding the lions. British official door, c.1900

Neg: 4/E/18



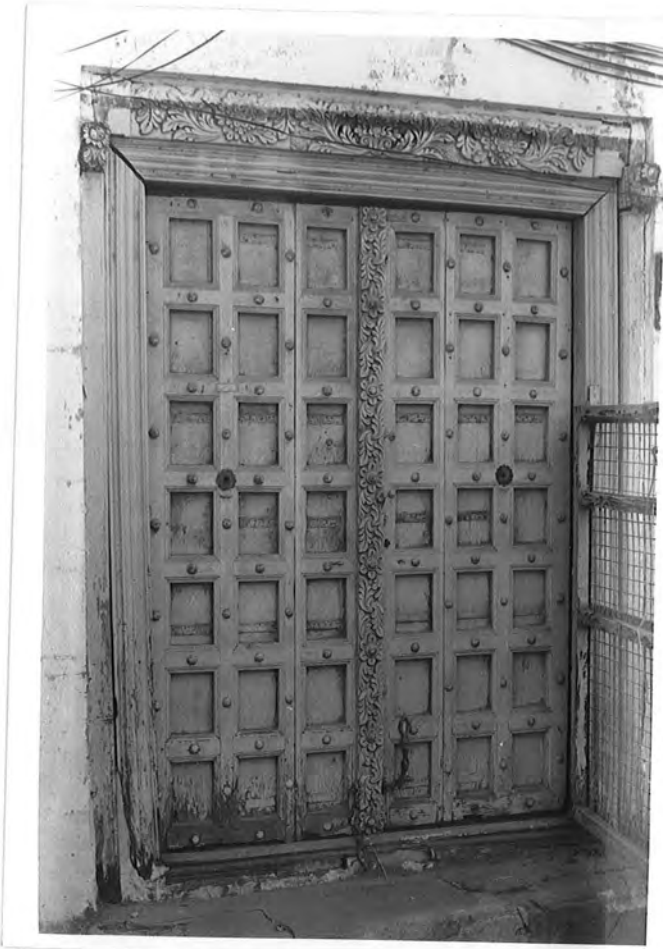
XXXIII/8 NDIA KUU

Main door: Gujarat style with carved lintel, decorated tolla, centrepost and coffered and hinged doors.  
c.f. Visram door XXXI/10

Neg: 28/D/13

side door: Gujarat style with carved lintel, decorated tolla, centrepost and coffered and hinged doors.  
The lintel has a central rosette rather than an oval plaque.

Neg: 28/D/12







XXXIII/8 cont.

In side street: Gujarati style door, no lintel, plain tolla, simple centrepost and abbreviated coffering on the door panels.

Neg: 29/C/17

First floor: window carved with rosettes above and below, remains of a carved rope surround can also be seen.

Neg: 25/C/16



XXXIII/29

Door in side street leading to Leven Steps. Fine framed door with carved lintel, chain and rope edging, heavy centrepost with iron spikes and a rope carved at the threshold. The lintel has the unusual motif of flasks carved below the more common alternating palmette design.

Neg: 29/D/23, 22 & 21



XXXIII/42 NDIA KUU

Plain door, dentil decoration below lintel. This is typical of several doors in Old Town Mombasa. Sometimes there is an inscription in the centre of the lintel and sometimes the centrepost has a slight shaping to it.

Neg: 28/D/15



XXXIII/48 BACHUMA ROAD

Old carved door frame situated next to the former Jeneby mosque behind the old port. The door panels are modern but the frame carved with a chequered diaper pattern surrounded by a rope appears old. There is a rope carved along the doorstep and extra row of egg and dart ornament along the top of the frame.

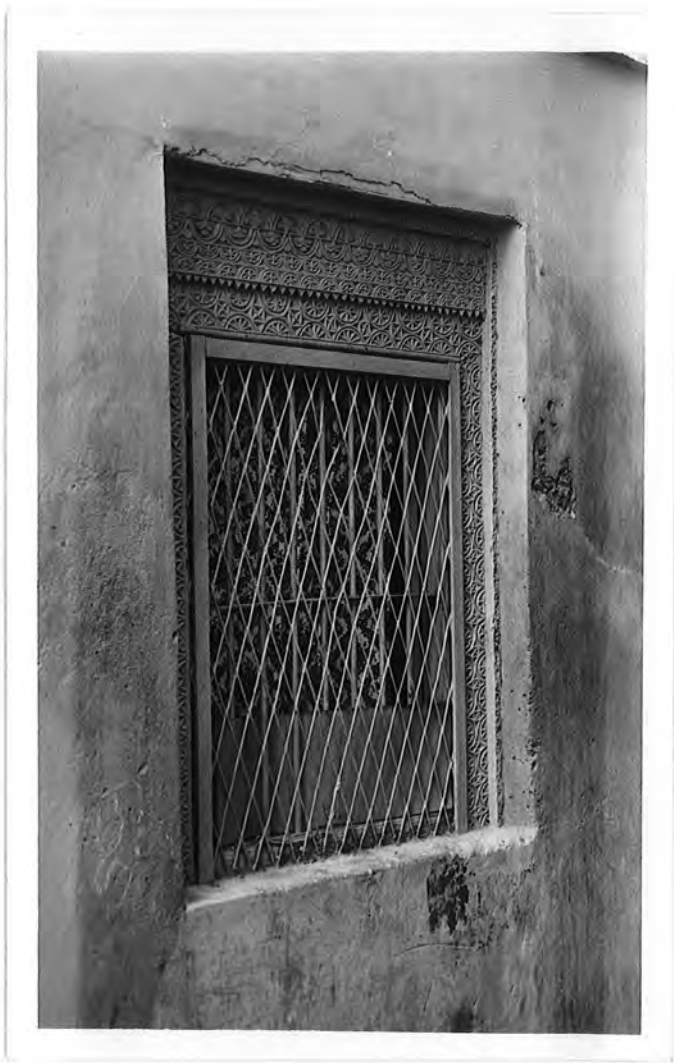
Neg: 6/B/2, 3 & 4  
28/C/20



XXXIII/51

Door in side street behind the Bohra mosque, half boarded in. Quranic inscriptions across lintel and carved centrepiece.

Neg: 52/C/14, 15 & 17



XXXIII/52

Window carved with fine geometric patterning of semi-circular rosettes and alternating palmettes. This has been reset at some stage and was originally larger.

Neg: 6/B/5 & 6  
23/C/14



XXXIII/55 NDIA KUU

Shop door, simple Gujarati style, with no tolla, which have been removed at some stage. The door panels are coffered but unHINGED, with a carved centrepost.

Neg: 28/A/31



XXXVIII/56  
Plain door with dentils below lintel, coffering and  
lattice swing doors.

Neg: 28/C/22





XXXIII/58

HOUSE DEMOLISHED 1987  
Indian style carved door, simply carved lintel and  
abbreviated coffering, centrepost obscured by an outer  
door frame.

Neg: 28/C/21



XXXVIII/76

Fine framed door to a warehouse in a side street near the Customs. Door panels recent. Lintel and frame carved with rosettes, chain and a type of bead and reelwork edging.

Neg 11/C/3

4/A/32 & 33 details



XXXIII/93 BERKELEY PLACE  
Carved centrepost and bead and reelwork edging, lintel  
replaced by barred window.

Neg: 20/E/20 detail  
28/B/26



XXXIII/94 BERKELEY PLACE

Almost identical door to XXXIII/93. Carved  
centrepiece, bead and reelwork edging. The lintel is  
being used as a shelf inside.

Neg: 28/B/25



XXXIII/96 THIKA STREET

Gujarat style door to a go-down. No lintel, plain tolla, carved centrepost and hinged and coffered door panels.

Neg: 5/D/8 & 9  
23/D/7

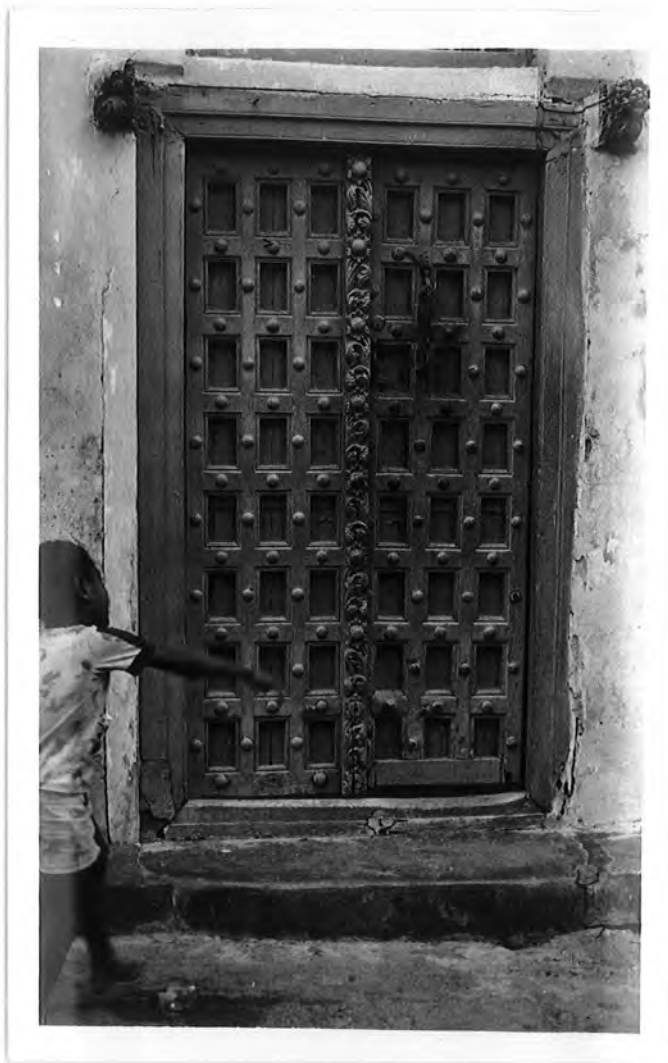


XXXIV/10

Door of Kassam Nurmohammed.  
with perforated design.

Indian round headed door

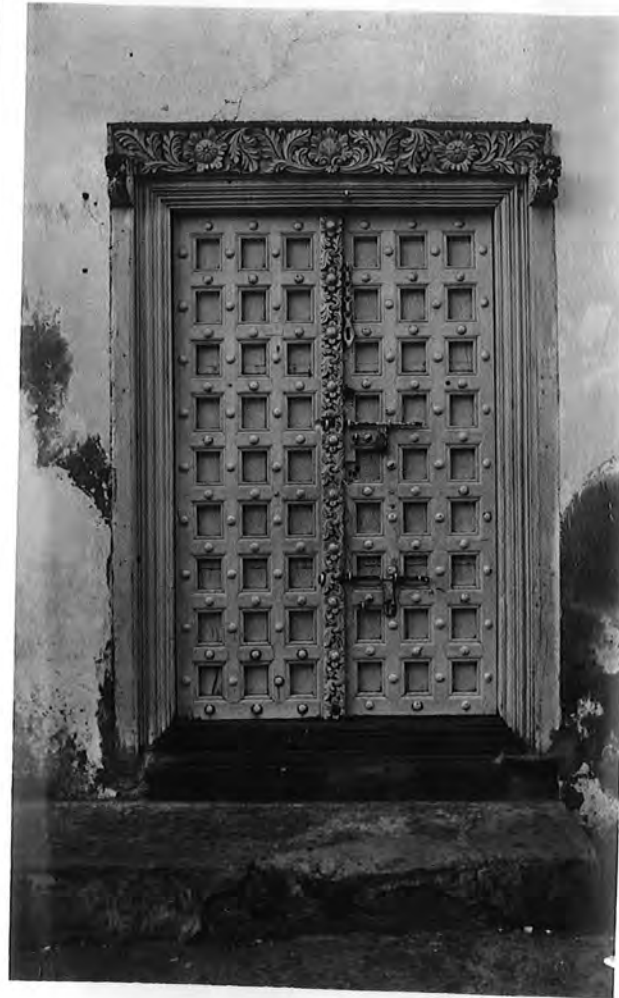
Neg: 26/A/37



XXXIV/37 NDIA KUU

Gujerat style door, no lintel but decorated tolla  
still remain. Decorated centrepost and coffered  
doors.

Neg: 23/D/21



XXXIV/38 NDIA KUU

Fine Gujarati style door, next to Ibadhi mosque.  
Carved lintel and tolla, centrepiece and coffered  
doors. In 1904 this house belonged to the grain and  
cloth merchant Abdul Amir.

Neg: 5/D/11 & 11/B/6  
23/B/22

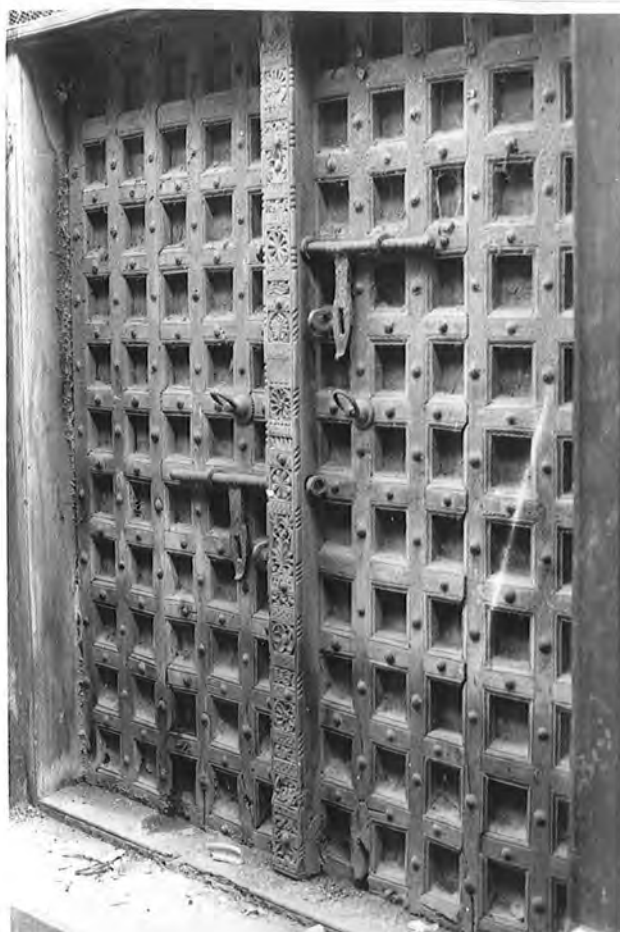




XXXIV/41

Salim Antar's house off Old Kilindini Road. Lintel has stylised pattern of semi-circular rosettes, simple geometric motif on the doorpost, bead and reelwork edging.

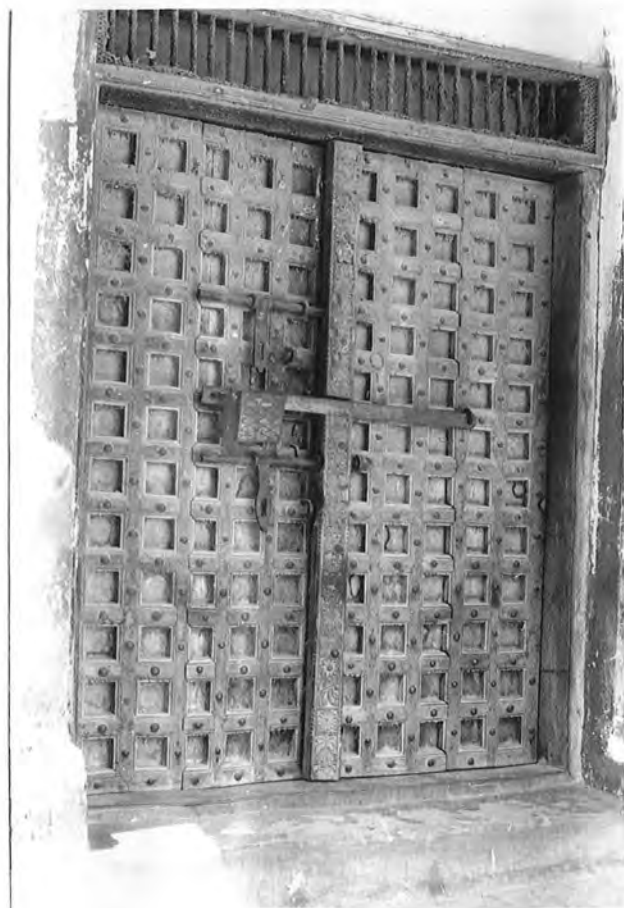
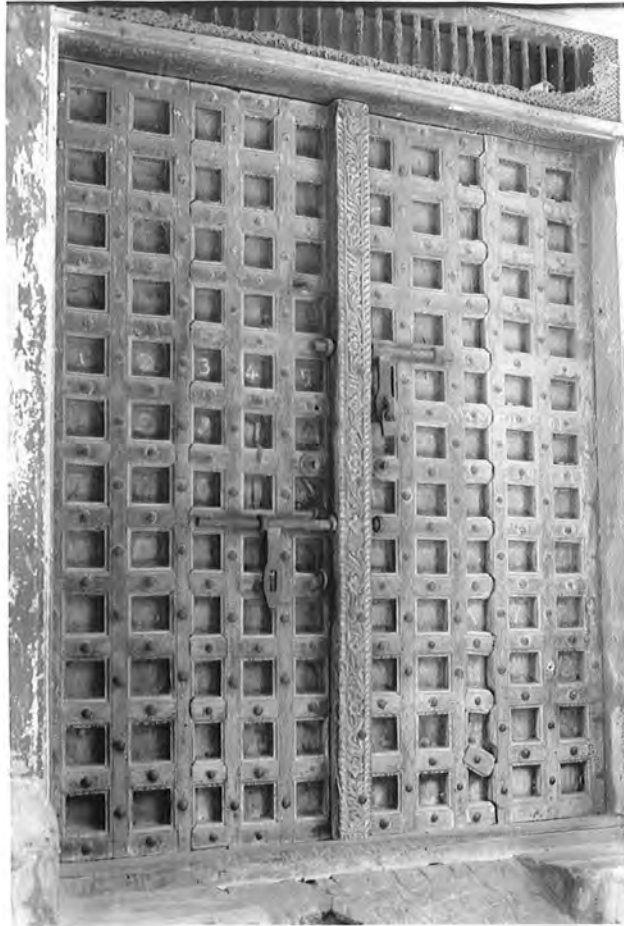
Neg: 25/C/17 & 25/D/21



XXXIV/55

Three large doors to stone vaulted warehouse. The doors are coffered and hinged with unusually intricate patterning on the centreposts. There are no lintels or tolla.

Neg: 26/B/27 R.H.S. door  
 26/B/28 L.H.S. door  
 26/A/32 side door  
 26/A/33 detail





XXXIV/56

This fine old house has pillars at the corners and baraza seats at the front. Indian neo-classical fanlight door with inscription.

Neg: 26/A/35



XXXIV/60

Part of an Indian style lintel, not in its original position.

Neg: 26/C/24



XXXIV/65 CORNER OF NDIA KUU AND NYERI STREET  
 Indian neo-classical style door, no inscription, no  
 centrepost. In 1904 this house was occupied by Jadewji  
 Dewji, grain merchant. Controller of customs to the  
 Sultan of Zanzibar in 1870, he built this house in 1882  
 and it is still occupied by his descendants (Jewell).

Neg: 11/C/4



XXXIV/73

Parts of old doors reassembled with modern additions.

Neg: 29/C/15



XXXIV/73

Parts of old doors reassembled with modern additions.

Neg: 29/C/15





XXXIV/74

Carved lintel with rosettes and floral motifs set within a wavy line, shaped centrepost decorated with a swirling design. Lattice swing doors.

Neg: 29/C/16



XXXIV/75 SHIKELI MOSQUE

Fine framed door, lintel carved with alternating palmettes, large carved centrepiece, edging of rope and chain, rope carved across doorstep.

Neg: 28/E/9 & 10



XXXIV/76 NYERI STREET  
Painted and carved centrepost, no lintel design.  
Neg: 26/D/18



XXXIV/77 NYERI STREET

Carved lintel with central rosette and palmettes within a weaving tendril, beaded edging, frame uncarved, plain door hidden behind swing doors.

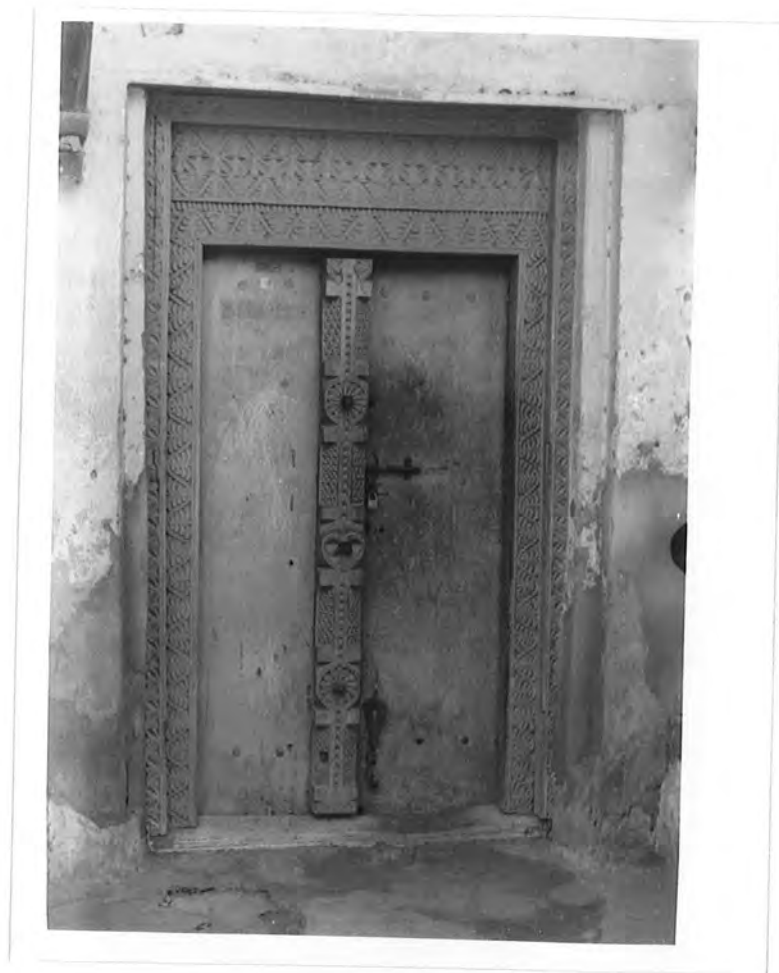
Neg: 26/C/19 & 20



XXXIV/84

The carved door has been removed from this house and all that remains is the rope carved surround. There is also some unusual tilework.

Neg: 26/C/22 & 23



XXXIV/90

Fine and unusual framed door. Palmettes within a regular zig zag line are carved both on the frame and on the lintel. The centrepost has spikes and is carved with bold geometric patterns.

Neg: 26/C/21



