

5.4 Ontario Street, west side10 Ontario Street

- Two-storey, commercial building with metal-clad top floor and boomtown parapet (c.1890).
- Front Elevation – Traditional building with ground-floor commercial is compromised by later alterations and cladding. Entry, at LH side, is reached by cast-in-situ concrete steps and small landing leading to fully glazed, aluminum-framed door with small transom-window. Wall below windows has concrete render on unknown substrate, while modest stall risers on either side are clad in narrow, vertical v-jointed boards. Similar boards clad piers at either side of façade, and older material (i.e. brick) is assumed to exist behind. Shopfront itself is angled relative to street, having window frames in profiled (painted) aluminum with attached corner pieces, typical of 1950s. Ground floor ends with very deep band of ribbed metal cladding which projects beyond lateral piers and presumably hides other finishes below, including perhaps older shopfront glazing and fascia. At second floor, horizontal band of profiled metal flashing spans full-width at window-sill height. Replacement windows are metal-framed units, with large top-sash over small bottom-sliders. Window-heads are concealed in boxy metal canopies and entire wall surface is, again, clad in vertical ribbed metal, presumably over brick. Band of profiled metal at wall-head probably conceals older cornice within. Stepped parapet is also metal-clad and rises some two feet at either side and a further two feet at centre, presumably to hide pitched roof. Parapet is capped with pre-painted metal flashing.
- Comments – Building appears to be the Sleeping Beauty of Ontario Street. Although shopfront may retain little heritage fabric aside from, perhaps, high-level glazing, there seems a strong possibility that original fabric remains behind extensive metal-cladding above. Selective removal of finishes is encouraged to see what exists behind, and in what condition this may be. Historic photos may also exist. Upper floor window canopies should be removed and windows should be replaced with period facsimiles. If sufficient 1950s material remains at shopfront level a composite approach to this restoration might be considered. *(NAH much of this restoration work has been completed since the photograph was taken)*