

5.4 Ontario Street, west side26 Ontario Street

- Georgian, three-storey, pitched-roof, painted-brick building (c. 1855) with large rear addition having lower floor levels. Building is **Designated** under the Ontario Heritage Act, Part IV.
- East Elevation – Tall, symmetrical building is a dignified presence towards the end of Ontario Street. Ground floor appears extensively reworked, having been re-clad in stucco, with bands of rustication in varying widths. Doors at right- and left-hand ends are recent, half-glazed doors with single, horizontal lower panels. Shopfront windows are two large, single-pane, fixed sashes without intrinsic merit. Apertures have half-gambrel-shaped, plastic-clad canopies, and fascia above, with simple signage, consists of strip of painted sheet-metal top-lit by 5 spun-metal light-fixtures. Second and third floors are of painted brickwork (assumed to be monochromatic red) with header courses typically every sixth course. Windows at both levels are four, uniformly spaced, old 6/6 units, some with stone sills but most with later concrete sills, and with flat-arches formed by single course of brick soldiers (rebuilt with steel angles at second floor, nos. 1, 2 and 4). There is evidence of settlement throughout façade. At wall-head, masonry corbels out slightly below top three courses, and modest wooden fascia is hidden by K-type aluminum gutter with modern downpipe to north. Roof is framed by parapet walls built of sloping-course masonry which rises well above roof-line and has flattened portion adjacent ridge. Masonry stumps visible within parapets indicate location of former chimneys at front and rear pitches. Roof is clad in black asphalt shingles.
- Maitland Street Elevation – Ground-floor sills at front block indicate former windows. Lower, 3½ storey addition, also of painted brick, extends along side street and has single-pane windows with wood, concrete or stone sills, and brick voussoirs often with metal angles.
- Comments – Building is in fair repair, with recent ground-floor stucco and shopfronts being foreign to original. Recent interventions should be reconsidered, and restoration might be suitable both to commercial needs and to character of original building. Paint should be carefully removed from brickwork. Four chimneys, once major and significant features, should be rebuilt to period details; and ideally a cedar-shingle roof should be installed, at least at front pitch. At Maitland Street, paint should be removed, vents and AC relocated, and a 3rd floor wood lintel seems to be failing. An open, commercial presence here would enliven lane.