

5.4 Ontario Street, west side20 Ontario Street

- Two-storey brick building with original upper 2/2 windows and ornate brick cornice (c.1875).
- East Elevation – Imposing, commercial main-street building is similar to no. 24. Ground-floor entry consists of pair of replacement, tall entry doors, each with two upper panes over modest panel, set in recess at LH side. Original arched transom window remains, including capitals below, all apparently in cast-iron, and with unusual, vermiculated fretwork at spandrels above. Ceiling is finished in beaded boards, with crude metal patch at inner corner. Outer wall of recess is also clad in vertical, beaded boards. Shopfront has older portion extending into recess, with vertically boarded stall-riser, and large bottom sash, transom and smaller sash above. Main shopfront is recent, consisting of pair of round-arch French windows, each with stacked pair of vinyl casements having six panes per sash (formed by false internal muntins) with similar-type fanlights above. Low stall-riser, central mullion and spandrels are clad in v-jointed wood. At fascia level, simple wooden beam spans from brick pilasters at either side, with modest cornice at upper edge. Sign is narrow painted board attached near mid-span, and drops slightly below soffit of beam. Second floor is built of (painted) brick masonry laid in common bond, and contains two original, tall 2/2 windows with segmental-headed top sashes. Sills are of painted masonry and segmental-arch voussoirs are 1½ bricks high. Ornate cornice is entirely of brick, divided into four bays, each framed by paired corbels, like wooden brackets, set above stringcourse. Between corbels are band of headers with alternate recessed bricks, dog-toothed band, and corbelled course above. Cornice ends with several courses of projecting brickwork built off continuous course of headers. Wall-head is capped with modest, curved metal elements with deep flashing above.
- Comments – Building is generally in good repair, though vinyl shopfront windows are unsuitable. Transom window over doors and accompanying ironwork are, however, most rare. Masonry cracks at beam ends and upper floor voussoirs result from settlement of main beam, which should be monitored. Brickwork should be cleaned of paint, and old windows require repair at bottom rails, and repainting; but these tall beauties should absolutely be retained.