

5.4 Ontario Street, west side



30 Ontario Street

- Traditional, three-storey, hipped-roof clapboard hotel with altered ground floor (c.1870).
- East Elevation – Large, asymmetrical building is a significant presence adjacent Ganaskara River. Ground floor is much reworked, with elements of pseudo-Tudor framing, particularly at two round-headed, blind arches towards LH side. Wall between arches is recessed and contains slab-type doors in return walls at either side, with blank stuccoed wall between. Remainder of ground floor to right contains five, small, four-pane, single-sash, recent thermopane windows framed in rough-sawn wood and with segmental-arch heads. A Tudor-inspired, stucco frieze with band of spindles at either side, spans full width of building, with words “Ganaraska Hotel” centrally placed. At upper levels, wall is clad entirely in closely spaced, grained vinyl siding (assumed to cover old render) with 6 unevenly spaced windows at second floor and eight, more-regularly-spaced windows at top floor. Windows are old, 2/2 units, all with cases flashed in aluminum. All windows now have louvred aluminum shutters. Soffits are aluminum-clad, plain fascia has aluminum gutter, roof has black asphalt shingles. South wall retains original wall surface of plaster-on-lath, with plaster incised to simulate ashlar masonry. 5 randomly placed windows at upper floors are 2/2 units as at front, but have unusual, older wooden shutters formed of vertical boards with upper and lower diagonal bracing spanning to central rail. Rear elevation shows L-shaped plan of building, and bulk of plastered wall has similar 2/2 windows without shutters. North wall is half rendered, with vinyl siding towards front. Prominent metal fire-stairs exist at north and west elevations, and unobtrusive, one-storey addition spans length of west wall, extending from south wing.
- Comments – Old building combines interesting old features and less suitable recent elements. Although current aspect is one of an “olde” hotel, south elevation shows nature of original wall materials and these should be revealed, repaired and reinstated/replicated as appropriate. Thus aluminum and vinyl elements should be removed, render repaired, and ground floor altered to reflect either original configuration, or to a type more suitable to age and character of hotel. Diagonal line in front roof suggests presence of former hip, which is interesting, if only to the observant and curious historian. Hotel is well-placed next to Ganaraska River and holds various opportunities for outdoor terraces to north, to west and on Maitland Street to south. For possible future buildings on lots to west and north, see the Guidelines.