

1.14 Heritage Conservation & Statement of Significance

Maxine's College of Beauty, 1211 Bidwell Street, is a two-storey Mission Revival style concrete building now known as Maxine's Hideaway Restaurant located in Vancouver's West End. The building is listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register in the "C" category.

Heritage Value

With its distinctive Mission Revival style front dating from the 1930's and the core of an Edwardian house, Maxine's represents several aspects in the evolution of Vancouver's West End. The building is notable as the work of two noted BC architects Thomas B. McArray and Ross Lort. Thomas McArray is best known for his Art Moderne style Nanaimo City Hall, while Ross Lort's work spanned many decades and different building styles.

Mission Revival

It is the 1936 Mission Revival style central portion of the building with its three Gothic arches and metal roof tile parapet designed by McArray and the slightly later two storey baroque parapeted eastern section (with mission bell) by Lort which give the building its primary architectural character. The early Edwardian wood frame is still intact although covered by a Mission style façade added sometime after 1936.

Rare in Vancouver

The original house is also covered in stucco and numerous external staircases and appendages. As such, the Mission style ensemble, as a rambling and picturesque composition, is of heritage value, as this style is relatively rare in Vancouver. The commercial use as a beauty school is related to its location just off Davie Street in the West End.



Original 1930's Mission Style Façade



To be removed

To be retained

Element	Condition	Conservation Work
Roof	fair to good	repair metal roof tiles and repaint in original colours
Flashing	poor	to be replaced with painted metal flashings
Concrete	fair to good	inspect for condition clean w. low pressure water washing / natural bristle brush sandblasting and other abrasive measures not permitted; coatings subject to review by preservation consultant
Tile	fair	inspect for condition clean and regrout where necessary
Windows	fair to good	detailed inspections of each window to be done repair existing wood windows or replace with replicas matching profile, type and single glazing paint in original colour
Metal grilles	good	retain, clean and repaint
Canopies/Marquis	fair	not original consider retention (non conforming?)
Lighting		exterior light fixtures and floodlighting TBD consider retention (non conforming?)

Maxine's Character-Defining Elements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location in West End in residential neighbourhood on the edge of commercial Davie Street 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent parapet gables – including elaborate baroque element – fronting simple gable roofs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Revival style front on a simple architecture shape behind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal roof tiles overhang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rambling façade composition of single and two storey elements showing additions over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gothic arches on main level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building extends to sidewalk with setback towards lane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission style “façade” fronting Edwardian house rear, evident along lane

Bidwell street elevation showing McArravy section in centre and left and Lort addition to right



Spanish parapet gable designed by Ross Lort.



Lane elevation showing Spanish façade on Edwardian house.



Davie Street view show rear of upper part of Lort addition and Edwardian house.

