

2110 First Avenue - St. Andrew's Church



St. Andrew's Church 2009

Heritage Register - Building

- 1) **Historical Name:** St. Andrew's Church
- 2) **Common Name:** St. Andrew's United Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- 3) **Address:** 2110 First Avenue
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1898
- 5) **Design, Style, Architecture, Architect:**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

St. Andrew's Church is located on the northeast corner lots of the intersection of First Avenue and Queen Street in upper Rossland, British Columbia. The large, white stuccoed building with its red metal clad, peaked roof and steeple make it a prominent heritage building overlooking the downtown. The main entrances to the Sanctuary and the adjoining Annex were originally reached by two sets of stairs coming from First Avenue.

Heritage Value:

St. Andrew's Church is valued as a place of spiritual and religious importance to many Rosslanders since its construction and consecration in 1898. Originally built as a Presbyterian church, St. Andrew's became a United Church of Canada in 1925 when the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational faiths amalgamated.

The Annex, adjoining the Sanctuary on its western side, is of social and cultural significance to Rosslanders since its construction in 1912. It was built to meet the recreational and social needs of both the congregation and the community and its large, open space (30'X50') has continued to be well used by a diversity of user groups for activities, events and gatherings.

Additions to the original Church, the Large Annex (1912) and the Small Annex (1920s) reflect increasing church attendance and involvement in a time when the population of Rossland was fairly static. Perhaps the greatest increase was in the number of children - when the final additional space was created at St. Andrew's by digging out a basement under the Large Annex for Sunday school rooms in the 1940s, there were close to 300 children attending St. Andrew's Sunday school.

Architecturally, St. Andrew's Church is a typical church of its time and the early churches of Rossland - pitched roof, steeple on the front of the building with a bell and windows of colored or stained glass. St. Andrew's embodies religious, spiritual, social and cultural aspects of the community's past and present. The red metal roof and white stucco siding were installed on the building around 1951. These changes have made it an iconic presence in Rossland.

Character Defining Elements:

- Footprint including the Sanctuary, Large and Small Annexes.
- Steeple with bell.
- Colored glass in windows.
- First Avenue entrances.
- Red metal roof and white stucco siding.
- Sitting on elevated property above the intersecting roadways.
- Plaque identifying St. Andrew's as one of Rossland's significant heritage buildings.



St. Andrew's Church c.1907

HISTORY

The Presbyterian Church was started by a young Presbyterian student, Hugh J. Robertson and the following is his account;

“Unable to secure lodging for the night, I applied to Constable Jack Kirkup persuaded a bartender to find a cot for me in the back room of the War Eagle Hotel. On Saturday afternoon my stuff arrived by freight wagon from Trail Landing and I soon had my tent pitched and my cot set up. The next thing was to see about holding a service. I managed to secure the use of a building that Mr. MacNaughton was building on the corner of Sourdough Alley and Spokane; it was to become a butcher shop. Some carpenters who were erecting it consented not to work on Sunday, so that I might hold a service there. I worked in the building arranging boxes and planks for seats, and a board across an empty barrel for a desk to give the place a semblance of a meeting house. Not yet able to get lamps for an evening meeting, we held an afternoon service. A congregation of about 35 persons assembled at 3:30. At that hour the teamsters were coming down from the LeRoi and War Eagle mines with their 6 and 8 horse teams, hauling ore to Trail for shipment to a smelter in Montana. The clatter made by these outfits, so heavily laden as they came down the street opposite our place of meeting, the sound of loud voices, popping of corks and tinkling of glasses in the barroom just behind me opening into Sourdough Alley all combined to make a strange melody to accompany the preaching of the first sermon in this new

town. Thus, was our mission inaugurated on the last Sunday of May 1895."

In 1895, there was also a Methodist congregation under Rev. D. D. Birks and Rev. Thomas Gee. Under their pastorate, a small church was built on the east side of Washington Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues. In mid-summer 1896, Rev. Charles Lander, President of B.C. Conference became the resident pastor in Rossland and he enlarged the church and turned it around to face Washington Street. Freshly painted and papered, with wooden benches for seats, it was ready for dedication on May 4, 1897. This church was taken down in 1918.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church was built in 1898, under the stewardship of Rev. D. N. Gardiner. In 1916 discussions took place about amalgamating the Presbyterian and Methodist congregations in St. Andrew's and in 1917 this union took place and a Methodist minister was chosen to lead the congregations on July 1st, 1917. Also at this time, the bell from the Methodist Church was moved to the steeple at this location. After this time the Methodists used the Presbyterian Church for their services. Interestingly, there were two entrances into the church. One entrance was used by the Methodist's and the other by the Presbyterian's. In 1918, the original Methodist church on Washington Street was taken down. In 1925 when the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches amalgamated across Canada, the church became St. Andrew's United Church and the west entrance was closed off.

The building has a footprint of 45'X60' with an open ceiling rising to approximately 30' and a steeple with bell, rising to approximately 45'. The roof was shingled and there were two large entrance doors to the Sanctuary that face First Avenue. Windows in the Sanctuary and Vestibule give the appearance of stained glass but the color has been painted on the glass.

The "Large Annex", attached to the Sanctuary, was built in 1912 to meet the recreational and social needs of the congregation and the community. Its footprint is 30'X50'. In the 1920s, the "Small Annex" (18'X30') was built as a Sunday School facility and meeting room. In the 1940s a basement was dug out under the Large Annex to create still more Sunday School space for the 300 children attending. The large open area of the Annex has never been altered and has served Rossland for a hundred years as an activity center for a very diversified group of community users - Cubs, Scouts, Playschool, Rossland Radio, etc., as well as the place for Church related events such as teas, dinners, funerals and wedding receptions.

In the early 1950's, the original shingled roof was replaced with the hallmark red, metal roof and the wood siding was changed to white stucco. The "Stairway to Heaven" project to replace the steps leading to the Sanctuary was completed in 2000. At some time in the past, the concrete walls on the frontage of Queen Street and First Avenue were constructed.

Due to a declining congregation in the early 2010's, a committee was formed to investigate leasing opportunities for the building. In 2017 Seven Summits Centre for Learning became long term tenants in the church, filling the building once again with children grades 8 to 12. Some cosmetic renovations updated the inside of the building making it suitable for classroom space. However, planning and grant applications also began at this time to upgrade the building to maintain it as a community hub acknowledging its special heritage value in the community.

In 2018 the congregations of St Andrew's United and Trail United formally amalgamated under the name Communities in Faith Pastoral Charge (CIFPC). Services alternated each month between the Rossland and Trail buildings.

Thanks to ongoing support from Columbia Basin Trust and Heritage BC, phase 1 of construction began in April 2020, digging out and stabilizing the foundation of the Sanctuary and leveling the floor to allow multi-use of the space. Ongoing planning will address accessibility, mechanical and electrical upgrades as well as preserving key heritage features.

List of Ministers 1895 - 2020

The chronological order of Presbyterian, Methodist and United Ministers known to have served in Rossland is as follows:

Rossland Methodist

1895 – Rev DD Birks/Rev Thomas Gee

1896-98 – Rev Chas Ladner

1898-1901 – Rev G.H. Morden

1901-1903 – Rev A.M. Sanford

1903-1904 – Rev R.F. Stillman

1904-1905 – Rev G.E. Smith

1905-1909 – Rev J.D. Knox

1909-1912 – Rev W.P. Ewing

1912-1913 – Rev George Kinney

1913-1915 – Rev J.J. Nixon

1917 Rev Gordon Tanner

1922-1925 – Rev Wm. Arnett

St Andrew's Presbyterian

1895 – Rev. Hugh .J. Robertson

1895-1896 – Rev J.E. Wallace

1897 - vacant

1898-1900 – Rev D.M. Gandier

1901-1903 – Rev J.M. Robinson

1909-1911 – Rev J.L. Dow

1912-1914 – Rev S.H. Sarkissian

1917 - Rev Wm. Robertson

Union in Rossland Before 1925 United Church of Canada formation

1917-1921 – Rev E.A. Chester

1921-1922 – Rev Wm. Scott

1925 United Church of Canada

1925-1927 – Rev H.J. Armitage

1927-1936 – Rev Charles Daly

1936-1939 – Rev T.W. Reed

1939-1944 – Rev Wm. Cameron

1944-1946 – Rev H.K. Johnson – renovations for more Sunday School space,
basement under Annex dug

1946-1951 – Rev T.B. McMillian

1951-1960 – Rev A.J. Lawton – ATOS formed, popular smorgasbords fundraiser for
new Manse build in 1955 at 2432 1stave, old manse at 2054A St Paul's,
sanctuary interior refurbished

1960-1965 – Rev H.P. Collins – finances

1965-1970 – Rev W.P. Morrison

1970-1978 – Rev Theo Roberts

1978-1981 – Rev Cameron McGuire

1981-1985 – Rev D.B.Jackson

1986-1994 – Rev Kent Israel

1994-2000 – Rev Bob McDowell

2000-2002 – lay leaders

2002 - Rev Shelley Stickel-Miles half time

2003-2005 - Rev Shelley Stickel-Miles/Rev Kent Israel – Oct joined with Trail,
Beaver Valley, Salmo to form Communities in Faith Pastoral
Charge

2005-2008 – Rev Shelley Stickel-Miles/Rev Louise Skibsted

2009-2013 – Rev Keith Simmonds

2009-2011 – Rev Liz Bowyer

2013-2016 – Rev Michael Hare – Interim Minister

2016-2020 – Lay ministry – CIFPC re-organized with Rossland & Trail officially
merging 2018, Salmo closed, Beaver Valley became own Pastoral Charge

2020-present – Rev Sue Breisch