

2253 Washington Street - Agnew & Co.



Agnew & Co. 2009

Heritage Register - Building

- 1) **Historical Name:** Agnew & Co.
- 2) **Common Name:**
- 3) **Address:** 2253 Washington Street
- 4) **Date of Construction:** 1900
- 5) **Design, Style, Architecture, Architect:**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

The Agnew & Co. Building is located on the west side of Washington Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, in Rossland, B. C. It is a large, 2 storey building of wooden construction with a slightly sloping shed roof. The building is clad in blue, horizontal siding with white trim and is flush with Washington Street. There are three entrances from the street with two of

them recessed and under a canopy with a sign saying, “Rossland Inn”. The address is 2253 Washington Street.

Heritage Value

For 40 years, 1899-1939, the Agnew & Co., business served the community as a successful grocery, dry goods and mercantile store; built, owned and operated by George Agnew and then, his son-in-law, Oswald Bisson.

Its location is the northern limit of what has always been the commercial core of downtown Rossland. Strategically, a good business decision as the site was very close to the two railways (constructed in 1896) servicing Rossland and the store captured a large population living above the downtown commercial area.

Thanks to family research, we know details about the products, services and operation of Agnew & Co., which are representative of that period of Rossland business history.

The building has seen many different uses since the Agnew & Co. business closed in 1939. Part of it continued to be used as a family residence, then it was the home of Rossland Fuel & Supply, 1950-56, (lumber, coal and wood) and then for many years, an apartment block.

Exterior renovations have disguised the fact that the Agnew & Co. building was constructed in 2 stages, first in 1899 and then expanded in 1901. Demolition of a portion of the 1899 building happened in 1939, creating the footprint and building we see today, known as Agnew & Co.

Character Defining Elements:

- Location
- Original height and depth of building
- Frontage on Washington Street
- Heritage plaque on exterior identifying this building as one of Rossland’s significant heritage buildings