

Planer Hill – 1910 Second Ave.



Rossland Heritage Home Inventory

1) Address: 1910 Second Ave.

2) Property Description: Block 15, Lot(s) _____

3) Common or Historical Name: Deschamps Home, Topliff Apartments

4) Date of Construction: First structure: 1907, Second structure: 1918
1st Owner: Deschamps

5) Early History: Deschamps, a lumber man, built the present structure over top of the original, which was much smaller in size.

6) Design, Style, Architecture, Architect:

The architectural style is American Four-Square and Chas Wood of Spokane, Washington was the architect.

7) Description of Home:

-2.5 storeys

- 750 ft² on top floor
- Area of the main floor and 2nd floor is 2025 ft²
- Width is 45 ft. and depth is 45 ft.
- Exterior walls are wood siding
- Foundation is concrete
- Roof is fiberglass shingle

8) Interior Layout and Features:

- Originally, on the main floor there was a ballroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry and water closet. (The only known ballroom in any Rossland home)
- On the 2nd floor - 4 bedrooms, a sunroom and 2 bathrooms
- Heating was by hot water with a boiler in the basement and radiators in the rooms above.
- 3 fireplaces
- Main staircase from the ballroom to the 2nd floor and a service staircase from the kitchen area.
- The original finish for most of the interior walls in the home was unusual for its time - shiplap, nailed fabric to the shiplap and then wall paper. (Lathe and plaster was a more usual finish in Rossland's early days.) A few of the smaller rooms and kitchen area were finished with v-grooved boards.

9) Alterations/Restorations:

- When Dr. Topliff bought the home he practiced his medicine there with an office and patient area on the main floor. Sometime after his death, his daughter Valerie Nicol, the new owner, turned the home into 6 apartments - with major structural changes to the interior. For many years, the Deschamps Home was known as the Topliff Apartments.
- In the late 1980's, Judith McKenzie bought the home and started the restoration to its original layout. All the rooms on the main floor were "reconstructed" and 2 rooms on the 2nd floor were brought back to their original size and shape.
- Lora and Brian Fry bought the building in 1999 and began a major restoration project that is still going on (2013) - new roof, replaced veranda on south side of house and restored the impressive columns, made major upgrades to the sewer, water, heating and electrical systems, and repaired the high, cement retaining wall on Second Avenue.

10) Other Information: At one time there was a circular drive on the east side of the property leading to a most gracious and well-designed veranda.

11) Other Owners: C. B. Smith, Dr. Topliff, Valerie Nicol, Judith McKenzie, and Lorna and Brian Fry, the current owners.



East side of home



1983 Photo