

# **ATTACHMENT B**

## **S&W APARTMENTS HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Built in 1910, the S&W Apartment block is a very good example of an Edwardian era apartment-type commercial building. Its restrained appearance and simple massing set the tone for the architectural aesthetic in this neighbourhood and the form of the street's development as a commercial strip. The building remains substantially intact.

The S&W Apartment block, Nanaimo's first known apartment building, is significant because it represents the introduction of a new housing form in the city. Until its construction, housing forms consisted of single-family homes, boarding houses, dormitories or hotels. The construction of this commercial building with its self-contained apartment units on the second floor spurred the development of similar buildings in the area and signalled Nanaimo's move towards more sophisticated, urban housing options.

The ground-level shops have housed a variety of businesses over the years, including the Farmer's Market, and Perry & McGarrigle's Meats. Hyman Angel also had his Second Hand Goods business here until he built his own building at 426 Fitzwilliam Street. Several prominent businessmen made their residences in the apartments above, such as George Grigor, of Grigor's Dry Goods, and N.E. Carter, of the Sprott-Shaw Business Institute. The stores and apartments remain in full use today.

In order to design the building, owner T.J. Stephen engaged the services of William Arthur Owen, one of Nanaimo's early professional architects. Owen was born in Swansea, South Wales in 1881, and left England in 1904 due to "tubercular trouble;" he practiced in Nanaimo from 1911 until 1914, after which he served as City Engineer for three years.