

A History of Investing in Our Community



Founder Simon Spatz

Southwest Properties was founded by Simon Spatz, who emigrated to Canada in February 1950. Upon settling in Halifax, Simon worked in local grocery stores to learn English and later formed a store partnership with his brother-in-law. In 1952, Simon bought the **Southend Market** and worked to build his business into a thriving market.

While still managing his grocery store, Simon launched his real estate business, **Spatz Rentals and Real Estate**. He started with a few houses, bought his first apartment building on Tobin Street, and later built a brand-new building just a few doors down.

Motivated by his success and his newfound passion for apartment building management, he purchased the Westminster Apartments on Morris Street in 1965. In the late 60s, Simon sold his grocery store, changed the name of his company to **Southwest Apartments**, and went into real estate full time.

Simon learned enough about the construction business to be his own general contractor. He bought buildings in good locations and, when he renovated or built, it was always with the best materials. His apartments were noticeably nicer than those owned by other landlords—and he kept them that way, year after year.



Jim Spatz – Chairman & CEO

Simon respected his residents, trusted them, got to know them, and liked them. The result was that his apartments were always in demand, and the company has always achieved high occupancy levels and customer retention rates.

Since joining Southwest Properties in 1988, Simon's son Jim has spearheaded Southwest's transformation from a successful Halifax-based apartment business into a leading regional company operating in the retail, office, warehouse and hospitality sectors of the property industry.

1950s

Simon bought the Southend Market. He worked to build his business into a thriving market and, within a few short years, it quadrupled in size.

In Halifax, Simon worked in local grocery stores to learn English language and the grocery business.

1960s

In the late 60s, Simon sold his grocery store, changed the name of his company to Southwest Apartments, and went into real estate full time.

He built his first apartment building on Tobin Street and later bought the Westminster Apartments on Morris Street in 1965.

1980s

He has spearheaded Southwest's transformation from a successful Halifax-based apartment business into a leading regional company operating in the apartments, condos, retail, office and hospitality sectors of the property industry.

In 1988, Jim Spatz joined his father's company.

2010s

Jim Spatz continues to share his family story, joining author Michael Cobden to profile Simon's early beginning, his story of success and the legacy he left behind.

Source: Southwest <https://southwest.ca/our-story/>