Rainier Valley grew up around electric rail at the turn of the 20th century. In 1890, real estate developer J. K. Edmiston built a streetcar line from Seattle to the newly-platted town of Columbia, hoping to attract buyers for his lots. The strategy worked: in 1893 Columbia City incorporated as a town of its own, with a mayor, a school, two churches, a handful of businesses, and a few dozen families.

By the time Columbia City was annexed to Seattle in 1907, small communities had developed along the streetcar line stations. Later, a road was added alongside the rails, heralding the rise of the automobile as a rival mode of transportation. By the 1930s, many citizens considered the unpaved streetcar tracks on Rainier Avenue to be at best a nuisance, and at worst a “thoroughfare of death.” In 1937 the streetcar line, always financially precarious, went under and the last streetcar pulled into the car barns. The community celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example. In 2009, after 60 years, Columbia City celebrated the removal of the rails with a three-day festival. Some neighborhoods around the former stations retained their distinct identities, Columbia City being a prime example.
In 1920s Nick Vamkros' Columbia City's citizens watched a barbershop, a combination that provided a comfort place for men to relax in a town with no saloons. After 1969 the Rainier Lions Club has owned the building, housing other businesses, including a speakeasy, a dry goods store, and a soda fountain counter occupied the front.

The Columbia City's citizens watched movies here from 1920 into the 1950s. The theater's unusual T shape stems from a law requiring "amusement" businesses to be located more than 500 feet from a school. Thus the theater had a marquee on Rainier Avenue, but its official entrance was at the end of a ramp beyond the retail shops along Rainier.

The building appeared in the HBO Series "Six Feet Under." The building's early tenants were women, jewelers, and milliners Mrs. Brown & Jennie Sessions. In the 1920s and '30s, Ed Kinnee operated Columbia Drug store on the corner. Pharmacist Russ Nilsen dispensed medicines in the back, and a soda fountain counter occupied the front.

The building became the Wellington, a pioneering business in Columbia City's annexation to the City of Seattle in 1907. In 1941 a fire destroyed the second story, which had served as a dance hall.

In 1928打开 here in 1955. To open this Greek restaurant offered high tea complete with cream scones and other Southern delicacies.

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