

Condon Building



| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Alternate Name | Jimmie's Corner |
| Address | 1609 14 ST SW click here to view on google maps |
| Community | Sunalta, Ward 8 |
| Year Constructed | 1966 |
| Type | Commerce, shops and office |
| Current Owner | Arlington Street Investments |
| CHI Watch Risk¹ | High (4 out of 5) |
| Designation² | Not protected |
| City Inventory | City Inventory Condon Building |
| Significance³ | The Condon Building is an excellent example of a mid-century mixed use retail and office building, valued for its distinctive Modern style. Built as a three-storey modern commercial and office building, the building expresses modern design through its distinctive blue pagoda-style flared roof design, ribbon windows and blue tile cladding at the retail level of the building. It is a landmark and recognizable modern building in the Sunalta neighbourhood on 17th Avenue and 14th Street. Several prominent businesses and professionals occupied the office suites over the years. The building typifies the Modern Era of development, part of Calgary's second real estate boom following the Leduc oil discovery. City Wide Historical Significance |
| Who³ | The building is associated with original owner, Jimmie Condon (1889-1981), a Greek Orthodox immigrant from Turkey, via New York. Jimmie was well known for his entrepreneurship, sports promotion and philanthropy throughout Calgary. The Condon family owned and operated businesses in two prior buildings on this site. The first began |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| | in 1913 as the Mount Royal Tea Room. The second (1954-1964) was the Jimmie Condon Block, home to "Jimmie's Store", destroyed by fire in December 1964. |
| Status | The developer has proposed a high density mixed-use development, which would accommodate retail on the lower levels, an urban market and approximately 400 residential units above arlingtonstreet17.com . A land use application (LOC2018-0087) to redesignate the site to allow for a maximum 28 story building is under review. An amendment to the Sunalta ARP would be required to allow the additional density and height. |
| CHI's Position Statement | CHI feels the Condon building with its unusual roofline, tiled exterior and local landmark status is worthy of adaptive reuse and preservation. It is a highly visible, unique and iconic example of mid-century architecture that defines the character of the 14 th St and 17 th Ave SW intersection. It is a reminder of the Modern Era of development, typified by the contrasting architecture of Calgary Tower, built one year after the Condon. Its use as a retail and office building continues to be relevant. Cities like Palm Springs revere and celebrate similar modern architecture to promote tourism. Calgary is slow to value Modernism, despite the character-defining influence of this boom era on Calgary's development. |
| Upcoming | Dates for consultations and public hearings can be found at calgary.ca/17project |
| Public Call to Action | Please email, tweet, phone, write your Councillor, Evan Wooley the Councillor of Ward 8 and Mayor Nenshi. Email or call Jenna Dutton. Planner, Planning & Development, City of Calgary (403) 268-3634 Jenna.Dutton@calgary.ca to voice support for exploring options for retaining the building, elements thereof, and appropriate commemoration of the Condons. |
| Related articles | October 10 2018 Avenue Magazine April 13 2018 CBC News April 11 2018 CBC News April 12 2018 CHI Post May 22 2015 Calgary Herald |
| Historic Photos | Glenbow Museum http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesPhotosSearch.aspx Image No: NA-5600-6522b |

Updated: October 26 2018 KP

www.calgaryheritage.org



© Calgary Heritage Initiative Society, 2018

1. CHI Heritage Watch Rating

| | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| 5 | Imminent loss | Active plans for demolition |
| 4 | High Risk | Risk factors + negative intentions / dormant demolition plans |
| 3 | At Risk | Risk factors |
| 2 | Possible Risk | Unknown intentions or mix of negative and positive factors |
| 1 | Monitoring | Positive intentions but still possible risk |

2. A designated Municipal Historic Resources is legally protected against demolition or inappropriate changes.

3. Primary Source: City of Calgary Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources