

Tigerstedt Block



Calgary Heritage Initiative Jan 18 2018

Address	920 Centre Street NE Click here to view in Google Maps
Community	Crescent Heights
Year Constructed	1928
Type	Commerce (Shops)
Current Owner	Certus Developments
CHI Watch Risk¹	High (4 out of 5)
Designation²	None
City Inventory	City Inventory Tigerstedt Block
Significance³	The Tigerstedt Block is one of the remaining unaltered commercial streetscapes whose initial construction marked the early development of Centre St. North, south of 16th Avenue. This neighbourhood high street is typical of 1920s development, as the city began to expand outwards. The distinctive angled entry on the corner is framed by rounded glass block windows. The building is dominated by a 10 foot projecting neon sign (no longer in working order) featuring multi - coloured tubing in an inverted 'T', containing the lettering `Tigerstedt Block est 1932'. The sign features Art Moderne design elements and is regarded as a landmark, being one of the very few extant neon signs in the city dating to the early 1950s. City Wide Historical Significance
Who³	The property is associated with Albert Frederic Tigerstedt, a prominent Calgary photographer from 1932 to 1987 who specialized in portraiture and commercial photography. Tigerstedt Photo Studios was responsible for a large number of the photos in the Glenbow Museum Archives. Albert apprenticed under W.J. Oliver and served in the Royal Canadian navy as a photographer between 1943 and 1945. Tigerstedt maintained his studio in the basement and a retail store on the ground floor. Even after retiring,

	Tigerstedt occupied space in the building until about 1992. The building was also home to Jensen Radio and Television, which served Calgarians for 40+ years.
Status	The building's retail bays are currently occupied under short term leases. It shares the block with a small turn-of-the-century-style 2 bay commercial structure, and an early to mid century two story wood frame commercial building. Redevelopment plans began surfacing in 2010 and again in 2014 but were put on hold due to the economy. It is now anticipated that construction will commence in 2019. A mixed use, retail and residential building, to be named the Tigerstedt Block, is planned. The developer's web site says "As part of the design, the Tigerstedt sign will be restored to its original condition and placed on the building facing centre street at the main residential entry." http://www.certusdevelopments.com/work-1/#/tigerstedt/
CHI's Position Statement	To honour the landmark status of the Tigerstedt, distinctive elements such as the original corner entry with curved glass should be incorporated into the new structure, and the sign should be installed closer to its original location on the block. Talks have been initiated with the developer.
Upcoming	Demolition and redevelopment. DP DP2015-3884 (New: Dwelling Unit (1 building, 89 units), Liquor Store, Financial Institution, Supermarket, Restaurant: Licensed - Medium, Sign - Class D, Sign - Class B.) is "Pending Release".
Public Call to Action	Advocate for the awareness and retention of Calgary's neon signs by taking photos, day and night, and posting on social media. Celebrate the Tigerstedt sign once it is relit.
Related articles & posts	2017 http://calgaryherald.com/business/commercial-real-estate/parker-partnership-supports-centre-street-businesses 2015 http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/an-effort-is-underway-to-save-calgarys-neon-signs-once-theyre-gone-theyre-gone Swerve Magazine April 30, 2010
Historic Photos	University of Calgary, Canadian Architectural Archives, Calgary Civic Trust http://contentdm.ucalgary.ca/cdm/ref/collection/p22007coll5/id/356

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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