

Background Information

The Brighton Block is a three-storey, brick, commercial building, constructed in 1912. It is significant for its Edwardian architecture and its association with Ernest Brown, a notable local photographer and the first owner of the building.

On June 12th, 2001, City Council approved Bylaw 12605 to designate the Brighton Block as a Municipal Historic Resource. Following the designation, the exterior of the building was restored with the assistance of a grant of \$150,000 from the the Historic Resources Reserve.

In 2003, the Brighton Block and the adjacent Pendennis Hotel, also a designated Municipal Historic Resource, were purchased by the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA). UCAMA's intent was to transform the Pendennis Hotel into a facility dedicated to the preservation of the history and culture of Canadians of Ukrainian heritage, while the Brighton Block was to serve as a revenue property to support the facility's operations. In 2012, UCAMA initiated a program of extensive upgrades to the interiors of both buildings. However, as the project progressed, costs escalated and in the fall of 2014 UCAMA suspended construction. At the time, the Brighton Block's roof had been removed and the building was left exposed to the elements. By the time City staff were made aware of the circumstances, the timber portions of the building's structure had been compromised. In the spring of 2016, City staff began working with UCAMA to ensure the buildings were adequately protected from further damage, and in the fall of 2016, UCAMA implemented a short-term mothballing of both buildings.

In 2017, the Brighton Block was purchased by Brighton Block Inc. They intend to redevelop the building; stabilizing its structure, retaining the historic facades where feasible, rehabilitating the interior and constructing a 3 storey addition above the historic building. Brighton Block Inc. is currently in the process of rezoning the site to allow for the redevelopment. Their application is scheduled to be considered at the July 9, 2018, Public Hearing.