

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received NOV 17 1980

date entered FEB 11 1982

## 1. Name

historic Beaver Opera House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 55 East Center \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Beaver \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Beaver code 001

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name Beaver County Development Company

street & number

city, town Beaver \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Beaver County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Beaver \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1978/1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The following elements of the opera house reflect the influence of the Classical Revival style of the early years of the Twentieth Century: the rectangular massing; the prominent entablature; the massive piers which support the entablature; and the pilasters which flank the monumental round arch openings on the facade. The gable of the fronticepiece which projects above the entablature is suggestive of a pediment, a common element of Classical and Classical Revival architecture. The gable echoes the gable roof behind it and its presence is accentuated by the use of a rough dressed stone which contrasts with the smoother stone used for the rest of the facade. The entablature is particularly heavy as are the piers that support it. The cornice of pressed tin has block modillions and is capped by a decorative band of simple geometric ornament. There are dentils on the frieze and series of bands ornament the architrave.

The building has a low base which tends to accentuate rather than alleviate its massiveness. The side walls are of coursed rubble. The windows on the sides of the building and the doors on the facade were boarded up or filled in when the building ceased to serve its original function, and was used for storage. The changes that have been made, however, are not irreversible, and have not destroyed the original integrity of the building.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Community Development
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates**    1908–1909                      **Builder/Architect**    Liljenberg and Maeser

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Beaver Opera House is locally significant as an indicator of the aspirations of the citizens of Beaver to build a "New Beaver" that would be the envy of other communities. The building, constructed during the 1908-1909 period, also reflects the special importance of community entertainment in the culture of Utah. Although there were as many as 30 "opera houses" in Utah, the Beaver Opera House is one of the few that have not been destroyed or severely altered. In addition, the building is an impressive example of a monumental public building constructed of tuff, the pink stone used in many Beaver residences.

The Beaver Opera House was built between March 1908 and March 1909. The building was designed and built by the architectural firm of Liljenberg and Maeser at a reported cost of \$20,000. The seating capacity of the building was 1000. The original proposal for the three-story building was of a grander scale than the actual building as constructed. The plans for the building included a balcony on the third floor, the auditorium and stage on the second and a dance pavillion on the first floor. When the building was completed, the auditorium was used as dance pavillion, a gymnasium and a theater offering live drama and later, movies.

The Opera House was one of the several buildings that constituted the beginning of what was termed "the New Beaver." The board of directors for this building was quoted as having said that "no money or labor will be spared in making this the finest playhouse south of Salt Lake, . . . nothing is too good for the people of Beaver . . ." The Opera House Company was headed by R. Tanner, who served as president. Other members included G. N. Greenwood, D. I. Frazer, J. P. Barton, J. R. Murdock, A. J. Hardy, and W. J. Robinson.

The Beaver Opera House served as the center for community and church affairs for two decades. Among the dramatists who performed in the Opera House were Ralph Cloniger, Luke Cosgrave, Shelby Roach and Walter Christensen. From 1929 until c. 1955, the building was used as offices and storage space for the Utah National Guard. The interior of the building is now barn-like, but plans are being made to use the building as a senior citizens's recreational center.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Merkley, Aird G., ed. Monuments of Courage, A History of Beaver County. Beaver, 1948.  
Beaver County Records, Beaver, Utah

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Beaver, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	2	3	5	6	6	0	0	4	2	3	7	3	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beg. at a point 66 ft. west of the southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 29, Plat A of the Beaver City Survey, thence west 66 feet, thence north 138 feet, thence east 66 feet, thence south 138 feet to point of beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Bonar, Architectural Historian/Fred Aegerter, Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date 1978/1980

street & number 307 West 200 South

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Melvin T. Smith*

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 21, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Samuel H. Dwyer*

date 2/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration