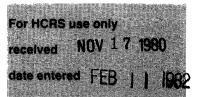
### **United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



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

Beaver Opera House

Salt Lake City

city, town

#### 1. Name

historic

and/or common				
2. Loca	ition			
street & number	55 East Center			not for publication
city, town	Beaver	vicinity of	congressional district	02
state	Utah 049 Beaver code county		Beaver	001 code
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status occupied _X unoccupied _X work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: vacant
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name	Beaver County D	evelopment Company		
street & number				
city, town	Beaver	vicinity of	state <sup>[</sup>	Utah
5. Loca	ition of Lega	al Descriptio	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Beav	er County Courthous	е	
street & number				
city, town	Beaver		state	Utah
6. Repr	resentation	in Existing	Surveys	
title Utah Hist	toric Sites Survey	has this pro	perty been determined ele	gible? yes no
date Septer	nber 1978/1980		federal X state	e county loca
depository for su	rvey records Utah	State Historical So	ciety	
S	alt Lake City		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Utah

state

# 7. Description

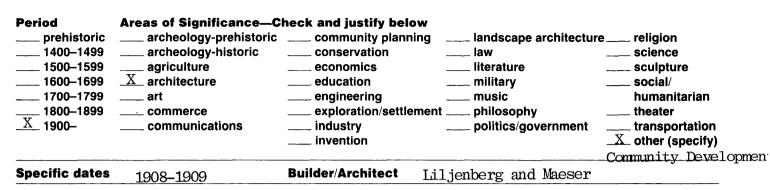
Condition   _X excellent deteriorated   good ruins   fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X_ original site moved date	
---	-------------------------------------	---	--

### 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



#### 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. 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.

<u>9. Majo</u>	r Bibliograp	hical Refer	ences			
Merkley, Air	d G., ed. <u>Monuments</u>	of Courage, A His	tory of Bea	aver County.	Beaver, 194	48.
Beaver Count	y Records, Beaver, U	Jtah				
		AG	RAGE MO			
10. Geo	ographical D	ata	ITH MAT			
	ated property Less that	B	<u>r na tribil</u>			
	Beaver, Utah			Quadrangle scale	e1;62500_	
IMT References						
<b>1</b> 235 <b>Zone Eastin</b>	6 6 0 0 0 4 2 3 7 3 g Northing		Dine Easting	North	ing	
					i l i i l	
		F				
		ці н				
	y description and justifi					
Beg. at a po Beaver City :	int 66 ft. west of t Survey, thence west et to point of begin	he southeast corne 66 feet, thence ne	er of Lot 1 orth 138 fe	, Block 29, et, thence e	Plat A of th ast 66 feet,	ne , the
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	nd counties for properti	0	or county bo	undaries		
ate	coc	de county			code	
ate	coc	de county			code	_
II. FOR	m Prepared	Ву				
ame/title Line	da Bonar, Architectu	ral Historian/Fre	d Aegerter,	Historian		
ganization <sup>U</sup>	tah State Historical	Society	date 197	8/1980		
reet & number	307 West 200 Sou	th	telephone	(801) 533-6	017	
ty or town	Salt Lake City		state	Utah		
	te Historic P	Procervatio		or Cort	ficatio	
				er vert	IICALIO	
ne evaluated sig	nificance of this property wi					
	_ national state					
65), I hereby nom	State Historic Preservation linate this property for inclu-	ision in the National Reg	ister and certif	y that it has been	evaluated	<del>)</del>
	riteria and procedures set f	orth by the Heritage Con	servation and	Hecreation Servic	:e.	
ate Historic Pres	servation Officer signature	Mulum	Sm	uh_	·····	
le Melvin T.	Smith, State Histor	ic Preservation O	ffiœr	date Octobe	r 21, 1980	
For HCRS use o	一、"你们是不是你,你们就是你的你?""你们是你?""你们们你?""你们的你?""你们的你?"					
I hereby cert	ify that this property is incl	uded in the National Reg	ister			
Jan	An Orige			date 2/11/5	2	
Keeper of the Na						
Attest: Chief of Registra			Section Street	date		
<b>Chief of Registra</b>						