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# 7 DESCRIPTION

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McIntyre Building is an eight-story commercial structure built of steelreinforced poured concrete. A strong vertical emphasis in the facade is created by pre-cast concrete mullions or piers which separate three identical parrels of "Chicago windows." The smaller mullions and spandrels feature cast iron facings filled with concrete. The double-hung windows contain wire mesh. Form lines showing each concrete pour are entirely exposed on the rear (west) exterior wall. The rear porches consist of cantilevered concrete beams and iron railings. All interior doors, casings and trim appear to be of fine wood but are actually baked enameled metal. The stairways are made of cast iron, again following the requirements of a "fireproof" building.

The building retains its original exterior condition with the exception of the facade on the main floor level which has been faced with a dark marble. The cartouches located in the bands between the windows, and on the flat portion of the cornice, are all intact, as are the graphics: "19 McINTYRE 09". The bracketed, projecting cornice is also unchanged.

The interior of the McIntyre Building has recently undergone renovation. The original I-shaped plan with its central corridor and flanking stores and offices has been altered only slightly. The main foyer and next four floors, as well as the curved entry stairway, are faced with Mt. Nebo marble (which is no longer quarried). Clerestory windows over the main stairway are intact, as are many of the heavy brass light fixtures. The original elevators have been replaced. Recent paneling detracts from the original condition of some interior partitions.

Owners of the McIntyre have recently repainted the front facade, accentuating the fine Sullivanesque character of the building.

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## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McIntyre Building is historically significant in two areas. First, the building is the physical symbol of the productive commercial career of Utah pioneer William H. McIntyre, Sr. Secondly, the building was designed by Richard K.A. Kletting, Utah's leading early modern architect, and is, aside, from the late Dooley Building, designed by Louis Sullivan himself, the earliest and best example of Sullivanesque architecture in the state.

William H. McIntyre, Sr., was born in Grimes County, Texas in 1848. His father, a Mexican War veteran, died in 1849 leaving the mother with three children. Mrs. McIntyre married a Mormon, a Mr. Moody, who moved the family to Utah. Here the three brothers grew up and worked as partners in the cattle business. Their largest success came when they purchased about 7,000 head of Mexican Longhorns in Texas for \$3.75 a head and drove them to Salt Lake City where they sold for \$24.00 a head. The brothers split up in the mid-1880's but William continued to pursue ranching interests. He invested his profits in the undeveloped Mammoth Mine in the Tintic Mining District and became wealthy as the mine developed into one of the most productive in the state. In 1894 McIntyre bought a 64,000 acre ranch in Alberta Canada which later became famous for its fine horses and purebred Hereford cattle which McIntyre imported from Wyoming In 1908, McIntyre had developed his financial empire in Utah and Canada to in 1902. sufficient strength to call upon architect Richard K.A. Kletting to design and build the present seven story McIntyre Building. According to one source, when the building was completed in 1909,

"It was the first all reinforced concrete and fireproof building west of the Mississippi River. All of the doors, windows, trim, etc. were made of steel. It is seven stories high and although a hazardous undertaking at the time it was built, it stands today without a major structural crack."

The building permit record (November 18, 1908) shows, in addition to the owner and architect, the builders--the Vanderhorst Brothers, and the estimated cost of construction--\$180,000.

Richard K.A. Kletting, the architect, was German born and trained and worked on several major European projects, including the Bon Marché, Credit de Lyanais, and Sacre Coeur at Monmarte, all in France, before coming to the United States and settling in Utah in 1883. Because of his excellent training and experience, Kletting soon rose to the top of his profession. Among his major works were the original Salt Palace, Saltair Pavilion, State Mental Hospital at Provo, Deseret News Building, Cullin Hotel, Board of Trade Building, Brigham Young Trust Company buildings, Karrick Block, Lollin Block, Hooper Block and a host of other major public commercial, religious, recreational and domestic structures. Kletting was initially a classicist but had a progressive mind

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drawings and photos from Richard K. A. Kletting collections. Biography of Richard K. A. Kletting. UTAH CENTENNIAL HISTORY, Volume III, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1949. Salt Lake City building records.

### **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE Two

and was capable of keeping abreast of the most current architectural trends of his time. His varied works show influences of Richardsonian Romanesque, some excellent examples of Sullivanesque, as well as his better known Beaux-Arts Classicism masterpieces. The McIntyre Building is a remarkable Sullivanesque building. Sullivan had himself introduced the style to Salt Lake City in 1894 via his modest Dooly Building (razed). Kletting's building, however, was in many ways superior to the Dooly, which was never personally supervised by Sullivan. The McIntyre Building is strikingly similar to the Gage Building (1898-99, Chicago) and has the soaring vertical effect created by unbroken piers which terminate under the cornice, typical of Sullivanesque architecture. The planes between the piers contain the windows and spandrels which are recessed behind the face of the piers. The ornamental cartouches between the piers show Sullivanesque influence but are distinctively Kletting's designs. Even Kletting's earliest buildings had classical cartouches with dates affixed. From a technological standpoint, the McIntyre Building was the prototype for later reinforced concrete skyscrapers in Utah. Kletting, a life member of the Utah Society of Professional Engineers, had always been an innovator in engineering. His Saltair Pavilion had a domed roof which spanned 140 feet by 252 feet and measured from tip to tip, 1,114 feet overall. The only comparable structure, the popular round pavilion at Manhattan Beach, New York; was only 95 feet in diameter. Kletting later developed iron-reinforced concrete systems before building the steel-reinforced McIntyre building. The handsome design, the mastery of the early modern architectural philosophy of Louis Sullivan, the personal accomplishments and contributions of both the owner and architect of the McIntyre Building assure its historical significance.