

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park 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 NPS use only

received JUL 8 1982  
date entered

1. Name

historic Star Theatre/Carbon Theatre

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 20 East Main Street not for publication

city, town Price vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Carbon code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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
	N/A <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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Duane W. and LaVern Steele

street & number Box 760

city, town Price vicinity of state Utah 84501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carbon County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Price state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date Summer 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

## 7. Description

<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		

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

The Star Theatre is a two-story flat roof brick building whose facade is an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style which was a common stylistic choice in twentieth century commercial architecture in the early decades of the twentieth century. Elements of that style include: fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals; bands of round arch windows; an elaborate entablature with modillions on the cornice; egg and dart molding and dentils on the frieze and an architrave; and a parapet.

The facade is divided vertically into three bays by four fluted pilasters which have Corinthian capitals. Horizontally the building is further divided into three sections by floor, a broad cornice making up the third section. The first floor is unremarkable architecturally, consisting of show windows which probably reflect a major alteration made in 1964 when the theatre was changed to a commercial establishment. On the second story there are three round arch windows per bay accented with concrete moldings which contrast with the plum colored brick of the theatre. The piers of the window openings have capitals with egg and dart molding and simple bases. Cast masks which harken to the original purpose of the building are set into panels below each window. There is also a cast iron mask set into each of the two central pilasters at the second story level. The cornice of the building is divided into two sections: an elaborate variant of a Corinthian entablature; and a parapet with a blind balustrade. The entablature has an architrave with three fascia, a frieze ornamented by evenly spaced projecting vertical lines and capped by dentils and a band of egg and dart molding, and a cornice complete with modillions. The division of the facade by the Corinthian pilasters is continued in the entablature by monumental pairs of brackets which rest on the architrave above each capital.

The facade of the theatre above the ground floor appears to be unchanged except perhaps for the type of glass used in each of the round arch windows, and is well preserved.

# 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 checked="" 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) Ethnic history
<b>Specific dates</b>	1923-24	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	J. A. Headlund	

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

The Star Theatre built in 1923-24, is an extremely fine symbol of Greek immigrant success in America. The building's facade contains many design elements derived directly from Greek theatrical tradition, and the solid construction and central location of the structure are emblematic of immigrant accomodation to new surroundings. In addition, the building is significant as an outstanding and well preserved example of the Classical Revival style in a small commercial building in Utah.

The Star Theatre, later called the Carbon Theatre and now Office Equipment was built in 1923-24 by the five Georgedes brothers: Pete, Angelo, Charlie, George and Harry. They took great pains to insure an attractive, substantial building for the beautification of Price and the hope of its future expansion. After purchase of the land from Frank Grosso et. al. in 1923, they concluded party wall and right-of-way agreements with P.O. Silvangi, whose building abuts on the right. They hired a Salt Lake architect, J.A. Headlund, to "furnish designs, plats, plans, specifications, drawing, and superintendence" for construction of the theatre for 4% of the cost of the building, which equalled \$2,267.31<sup>1</sup> (This fee means that the building itself cost \$56,682.75, exclusive of the land. Pete Georgedes estimated the entire cost of land, structure and equipment at \$70,000,<sup>2</sup> a very substantial investment for a building at that time.) The Georgedes family retained possession of the theatre until 1964, when they sold it to the present owners, Duane W. and LaVern Steele, who converted the building to the present retail use.

The Star Theatre has retained many features that contributed to its permanence and attractiveness. First, the Georgedes Brothers insisted on a strong foundation and thick walls. In the early 1920's Price was in the grip of Booster Fever, and the brothers reasoned that as Price grew, they could build another story on top of their theatre to expand its uses. However, this idea never materialized.

The theatre's most outstanding feature, for which the Georgedes Brothers were directly responsible, is its impressive facade. As Greek immigrants less than two decades in America, the Georgedeses wanted an architectural style that reflected their homeland and its ancient theatrical tradition. They chose the Corinthian, the most ornate of the greek architectural styles, for the columns on the front elevation. The masks on the second story represent muses, or figures from Greek theatre, from dramas they had seen performed in their homeland. One of the brothers, George, made several trips to Denver to oversee the actual production of the theatre facade. The elegant front

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Carbon County Records.

Pete Georgedes, interview August 29, 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Price

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	5	1	6	3	7	0	4	3	8	3	1	3	0
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. 80 feet E, of NW. corner of Lot 3, Block 27, Price Township Survey; thence E, 46 feet; S, 114.5 feet; W, 40 feet; N, 15 feet; W, 6 feet; thence N, 99.5 feet to beg.

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Taniguchi, Research Assistant/Debbie Temme, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date November 1980

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah 84101

# 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 30, 1982

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

Rose Lee Dwyer  
Keeper of the National Register

date 7-9-82

Attest: Emma Jane Saxe  
Chief of Registration

date 8-5-82

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OMB NO. 1024-0018

EXP. 12/31/84

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 2

elevation itself, with its direct connection to the ancient traditions of the land of its original owners, is reason enough for this building's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Even the name of the theatre was not idly chosen and revealed traditional Greek attitudes. The men consulted the Greek Orthodox priest, Father Smyrnopoulos, the leader of the immigrant Greek community. He suggested the name "Star", as he said that everyone saw the stars in the sky so it was a name that would appeal to all people.<sup>3</sup> The sign for the theatre, already commissioned, was changed from "G.B.(Georgedes Brothers) Theatre" to "Star Theatre" and a lyre, another ancient Greek symbol, was added to the marquee.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to its architectural features, the importance of the Star Theatre derives from its role in the life of eastern Utah. It was the second theatre to open in Price, providing increased recreational opportunities. From its inception the theatre was used both for moving pictures (originally silents, especially the popular cowboy films with William S. Hart or Tom Mix) and for live theatre productions. Two types of troupes performed in the original Star Theatre: traveling burlesque and theatrical companies and local thespians. The traveling companies were hired by the theatre's manager; the building was let free of charge to local groups as a community service. The theatre was equipped for many types of live performances judging from the scenery purchased by the Georgedes Brothers. These included one fancy drop curtain and one pair of heavy drapes, scenery for a fancy parlor, a rustic kitchen, a garden, a light wood (as opposed to a dark wood), a modern street, one set of rocks, two sets of balustrades, foliage and other borders, in addition to the movie screen.<sup>5</sup> Many of these sets and the movie screen could be "flown," ie. raised by a cable and pulley system into the empty second-story space at the rear of the building above the stage. For this reason, the only second-story rooms were in the front of the theatre.

The Star Theatre, although owned by the Georgedes family, was managed by others. The Georgedeses first rented it to Mr. Littlejohn, who also ran the theatre in Helper. A later manager was Charles Huish, who renamed it the Carbon Theatre. When he died, Pete Georgedes' daughter, Mary, and her husband, Joe Santi, took over the building's management. They ran it until the building was sold, a second generation to be involved in the commercial success of this building.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Notice of Lien, Carbon County Recorder's Records, Book 31, p.326.

<sup>2</sup>Pete Georgedes, private interview with Nancy J. Taniguchi, Price, Utah, August 29, 1980.

<sup>3</sup>Georgedes interview.

<sup>4</sup>Notice of Lien, Carbon County Recorder's Records, Book 31, p.167.

<sup>5</sup>Mechanic's Lien, Carbon County Recorder's Records, Book 31, p. 157.