Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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| 4 OV    |                             | F PROPERTY  James W. and Susan  | K. Stacev  |   |  |
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#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

EXCELLENT

\_\_GOOD

\_\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNALTERED

\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED

DATE\_\_\_\_

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

The New Brigham Hotel is a three story, orange-red brick U-shaped building in the Commercial style. This style, according to the anonymous editor of Industrial Chicago, published in 1891, "is the title suggested by the great office and mercantile buildings now found here. The requirements of commerce and the business principles of real estate owners called this style into life." Like many buildings in this style, the New Brigham Hotel is devoid of any ornament. Pattern and variation are created by the fenestration and The U-shaped plan is filled in on the first floor to create a lobby. and the exterior of the first floor is done in rusticated brick. Most of the first floor fenestration is intact. The central and south bays each have a recessed central double door entry, with large plate glass windows and a full-width transom above. The north bay has the entrance in the corner of the hotel which is beveled on the first floor, with a rusticated brick column supporting the corner. Second and third floor windows are one-over-one wood sash, with a continuous rounded stone belt course making the lintels of the second floor. A simple metal cornice projects above the third floor windows and is continuous around all seven facades of the U-plan.

#### PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW \_\_PREHISTORIC \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION \_\_1400-1499 \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_LAW \_\_SCIENCE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_\_EDUCATION \_\_ARCHITECTURE \_\_1600-1699 \_\_MILITARY \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_ART \_\_1700-1799 \_\_MUSIC \_\_THEATER XCOMMERCE \_\_1800-1899 \_\_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_X RANSPORTATION X\_1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_\_INDUSTRY \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

1912-1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. L. Eckert Construction Co.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the New Brigham Hotel can be found in its ability to legitimately represent and document the style of the "commercial" or "travellers" hotels that once spanned the nation to provide food and lodging for the patrons of the railroads. The utility and simplicity of design are an indication of its intended purpose, for a hotel of this kind could not afford to be either lavish or impractical if it were to be a productive investment for local investors. The New Brigham Hotel is one of two remaining Ogden "commercial" hotels, yet at the time of its construction the city had over twelve.

The city of Ogden prospered because of the railroad. Following the joining of the rails at nearby Promontory, Ogden rapidly became a hub of the transcontinental railroad and of a major regional rail network. It was a city that flourished by providing labor and services for the railroads and for the countless millions who used the rails over the decades.

From about 1880 until the thirties "commercial" hotels principally served the needs of the "drummer" or commercial traveller. These men were an important force in the creation of the kind of consumer society we know today. They not only peddled necessities throughout the urban and rural areas of the nation, but also merchandised aggressively all kinds of new products and thus directly spurred the growth of the United States' huge home market that made possible the creation of the mightiest industrial power in the world. The humble stimulus to all this activity, the salesman, travelled incessantly on the nation's rails, and hotels like the "New Brigham" were their only home. Also their showroom, since these hotels often provided display space for their wares in what were called "sample rooms."

Of course, less affluent immigrants and tourists were equally welcome at low cost hotels like the "New Brigham." The more prosperous travellers would put up at fancier hotels several streets away from the noise and bustle of the railyards. The poor traveller or the salesman welcomed the fact that "commercial" hotels were so conveniently located in the immediate vicinity of the railroad station.

Within the last three decades the "New Brigham" has suffered the fate of so many similar hotels. With the abrupt decline in the travelling public, and the salesman's adoption of the automobile, commercial hotels generally declined to providing cheap lodging and becoming centers for prostitution and vice. The chain of title of the "New Brigham" mirrors the fortunes of the hotel, and after beginning ownership within a local investment trust passes through several hands before its current purchase for restoration purposes. With the rejuvenation of the area around Ogden's Union Station (a National Register site) the "New Brigham" has an opportunity to contribute to the overall historicity of the Union Station area.

|  | ct, <u>Partial Bibli</u>   | iography of Source   | Material on Weber County and  |    |
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| Ogden City (Ogden, 19<br>Ogden City Directories  | 938) <b>.</b>  |  |   |    |
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