

OMB NO. 1024-0018  
EXP. 12/31/84

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 NOV 21 1985  
date entered  
DEC 19 1985

1. Name

historic Browning Apartments

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2703 Washington Boulevard not for publication

city, town Ogden vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Weber code 057

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Kier Corporation

street & number 3710 Quincy Avenue

city, town Ogden vicinity of state Utah 84403

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Weber County Recorder's Office

street & number 2549 Washington Boulevard

city, town Ogden state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Browning Apartment building, constructed in 1916, is a three-story Prairie Style building with brick exterior walls, a concrete foundation, and a half basement. The building retains its historical integrity despite a few minor alterations attributable to the age of the building and its recent renovation. The rehab work was completed as an approved tax project, so the Secretary of Interior Standards were used as a guide for the work.

The building is rectangular in shape with the broad eastern facade serving as the front. The eight-bay facade is symmetrically composed, its most prominent features being the full-height projecting porches which frame the two entrances. Contrasting to the verticality of the large porch columns are the strong horizontal lines of the wide, overhanging cornice and the band of dark brick across the lower one-fourth of the exterior walls. In addition to the horizontal emphasis, other Prairie Style elements of the building are found on the projecting sun parlors, specifically, the geometric-pattern leaded glass in the upper portion of the sun parlor windows, and the simple rectangular pattern repeated in the panels. Successive "telescoping" bays along the sides of the building increase its overall width at the rear.

The interior of the building consists of four apartments on each of the three upper floors, and three apartments and laundry and maintenance rooms on the basement floor. The main entrance stairways are located at the front of the building between the first and second apartments and between the third and fourth apartments. There are also stairs at the rear of the building which are part of the frame porches. Portions of the rear porches have been enclosed to serve as bedrooms. An original exterior stairway at the southeast corner of the building provides access to the basement apartment at that end of the building.

The interiors of the apartments have undergone minor alterations in the course of renovation. Changes include carpeting on the floors, the replacement of some light switches and fixtures, the relocation of some bathroom doors, the painting of some interior woodwork, the replacement of some doors, and the complete refurnishing of all the kitchens and bathrooms. Most of the interior woodwork--staircases, baseboards, window and door frames, etc.--was well preserved and therefore was left in its existing condition. Only the wood trim and doors that were in poor condition or altered in some other way were replaced or painted.

The building was placed back into use as residential apartments in August 1985, after the renovation was completed.

Contributing Buildings on this property: 1

Non-contributing Buildings: 0

## 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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1916

**Builder/Architect** John G. Ellis/unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1916, the Browning Apartment building is historically significant for its association with George Emmett Browning, a prominent business, religious, and political leader in Ogden. It is also architecturally significant as a good example of the Prairie Style in Ogden, and as one of approximately 20 three-story apartment buildings in the community. Though Ogden has perhaps the best collection of Prairie Style buildings in Utah, there are, including this building, only four examples of three-story apartment buildings with that style in the city. Although the study of multi-family dwellings in Utah has not yet been completed, apartment buildings with three or more stories have been identified as an important component of Utah's architectural history. Examples of the type are found in Utah only in Ogden and Salt Lake City, the state's two largest cities. George Emmett Browning, who had this apartment building constructed and who lived there for eighteen years, served as mayor of Ogden for one term (1926-27), served sixteen years as president of the Weber Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and was involved in Browning Arms Company, Browning Brothers Sporting Goods, Browning Auto Company, and other significant business enterprises in the city and state. This is his only remaining residence in Ogden.

George Emmett Browning was born in Ogden, Utah, in 1866 to Jonathan and Ann Emmett Browning. Jonathan Browning was the founder of Browning Arms Company, established in 1831, which has been one of the leading firearms manufacturers in the United States and throughout the world for over 150 years. Jonathan settled in Ogden in 1858 and established his gunsmith shop, which he operated until his death in 1879. At least four of his seven sons were involved in the business, helping expand its operations from a local industry to one of international prominence. John M. Browning (1855-1926), the oldest son, was the primary figure in the company's successful operations. George, the sixth son, began working in the gunsmith shop at the age of thirteen, soon after his father's death. In 1886, he helped establish Browning Brothers Sporting Goods, which became one of the largest gun and sporting goods businesses in the area. George served as manager of the business from 1890 until 1916. He also helped found the Browning Automobile Company, and he served as postmaster of Ogden from 1919 through 1921. He was elected mayor of the city in 1925 and served a two-year term. He also served as a trustee of Dee Memorial Hospital and Weber College, both located in Ogden. His involvement in the LDS Church included serving as bishop of the Ogden Second Ward for three years and as president of the Weber Stake for sixteen years. (A stake comprises several wards or congregations.)

After resigning as manager of Browning Brothers Sporting Goods in 1916, George initiated two new business ventures. One was the establishment of a factory of the Peoples Sugar Company in Moroni, Utah, an operation which he headed until it went out of business in 1930. The other business venture was the

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ogden Standard Examiner, 1915-17.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Ogden

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	4	1	8	6	6	0	4	5	6	3	0	0	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** Commencing at the NE corner of Lot 10 Block 4 Plat A Ogden City Survey; thence W 57 feet, S 80 feet, W 75 feet, S 28.5 feet, E 8 rods, N 108.5 feet to beginning.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state		code	county		code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James W. Stacey/Consultant

organization The Kier Corporation

date August 1985

street & number 3710 Quincy Avenue

telephone (801) 621-0330

city or town Ogden

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Kent Powell*

title A. Kent Powell/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date November 4, 1985

### For NPS use only

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

*for Delores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 12-19-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Weber County, Utah

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construction of the Browning Apartments in 1916. In addition to serving as investment property for Browning, the apartment building was his home from 1930 until his death in 1948. He lived in apartment #3 for many years, then occupied apartment #4. This apartment building is George Emmett Browning's only remaining residence in Ogden.

A "twin" of this building is located at 579 Twenty-seventh Street in Ogden. That building was constructed in the same year (1916) by T. Samuel Browning, the older brother of George. The Browning Apartment structure is unique in Ogden City in that it is the only three-story apartment building located along Washington Boulevard, Ogden's principal business thoroughfare. The structure was continuously in use as a multi-family apartment building from the time of its completion in 1916 through mid-1983. In August 1985, after renovation, the building was once again placed back into use as residential apartments.

The Browning Apartment building is one of approximately 20 three- or four-story apartment buildings in Ogden.<sup>1</sup> Of those only three, including the Browning Apartments, are "horizontal blocks" with their broad side serving as the facade.<sup>2</sup> One- and two-story apartments are common both in Ogden and throughout the state, even in many of the smaller communities. Three- and four-story apartments, however, are found only in Ogden and Salt Lake City, Utah's two largest cities. In those cities, high land values, population pressures, and the strong demand for inner-city housing were the probable driving forces behind the construction of large apartment buildings such as the Browning. A thorough study of multi-family building types has not yet been completed in Utah, so more detailed information on this type of apartment building is currently unavailable.

The Prairie Style, though used throughout Utah during the early decades of the twentieth century, was especially popular in Ogden. Some of Ogden's prominent architects of that period--Hodgson & McClenahan, Eber F. Piers, and Shreeve & Madsen--are best known for their Prairie Style designs. The Prairie Style is found in Ogden on a variety of buildings, including religious, commercial, and residential structures. The Browning Apartments is one of only four examples of the style on three-story apartment buildings in the city.<sup>3</sup>

Upon completion of the Browning Apartments in 1916, the following article appeared in the Ogden Standard, detailing the features of "Ogden's New Model Apartment House."

"The new apartment house, just completed by George E. Browning and located on the corner of Washington and Twenty-seventh Streets, is one of the most modern structures of the kind in the state. Before building, Mr. Browning took care to personally inspect many of the best apartment houses in Salt Lake City, particularly the newer ones, with the intent to embody in his own building the latest and best ideas developed in the construction of apartments, and in the building of the Browning every known practical device for convenience and comfort has been included for the benefit of the tenants. The new house contains fifteen apartments, all of which were rented before the building was completed.

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"John G. Ellis, whose planing mill is located at 2658 Wall Avenue, was the general contractor for the building. Ellis has been in the general contracting and building business in Ogden for a number of years and has constructed large buildings which now ornament the city, and many residences. His mill on Wall Avenue is one of the best equipped in the state.

"Other contractors on the building are: Henry Bateman, 3049 Ogden avenue, concrete work; George H. Greenwell & Sons, 231 Twenty-second street, brick work; Halverson Bros., 2350 Grant avenue, heating and plumbing; Redfield Electric & Machine Company, 314 Washington Avenue, electrical work; D. M. Dills, 1130 Capital avenue, plastering; Peter Anderson, 452 Twenty-eighth street, painting; and George A. Lowe company, 2326 Washington avenue, building hardware. The beautiful red gum hardwood used in the interior finishing, the oak for flooring, etc., and much of the finishing lumber was furnished by the Overland Lumber company yards at Twenty-fourth street and Wall Avenue. The Overland Lumber company recently purchased the business of the Weber Lumber company, the same men who were associated with the Weber company now being with the Overland.

"The exterior aspect of the Browning as shown by the illustration gives the building an attractive and substantial appearance. The foundation is of a splendid quality of concrete, also the entire floor of the basement and the laundry room walls and floor. The concrete foundation walls extend above the surface of the ground level to a height of about three feet. Over this concrete for the outer wall is a finish in a very pretty mottled brick which extends some five feet above the concrete and the remaining height of the four-floor structure is of buff brick. These two styles of brick are products of the Harrisville yards. The mottled brick has a strikingly attractive appearance, a smooth finish and is of hard and firm texture. This brick is the result of a special process of continuous burning which holds the gases. The brick work for the Browning was done by George H. Greenwell & Sons, for many years brick contractors in Ogden.

"A prominent feature of the exterior plan is the large columns which ornament the front from the ground to the top of the building. There are four sets of these columns and each set is utilized as the exterior of the cozy sun parlors which they enclose. In each set from column to column there are pretty stucco panels which form ornamental details. Pretty bay windows at each end of the building and several fashionable appearing entrances constitute ornamental and useful features of the construction, and the casement windows with ornamental leaded glass tops used throughout the building add to the generally artistic appearance of the Browning.

"The house has in all fifteen separate apartments or flats, some of which have four rooms, others five. The interior arrangement of these flats is most convenient and the finishing elegant. The walls are plastered with a smooth hard finished cement plaster, the work of J. M. Dills. The floors of the living rooms and dining rooms are laid in Mississippi oak, the bed rooms in maple and the bathrooms in octagonal tiling. The finishing wood for the living rooms and dining rooms is Mississippi red gum, left in its natural color, and showing beautiful grain lines. Between the living rooms and dining rooms are very pretty colonades or buttresses, very modern and after pretty Southern California styles. The wood finish in the bed rooms, kitchens and bathrooms are all in triple ivory enamel. Each kitchen has installed in it a

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modern gas range which by a special device attached is ever lit. The bath rooms are dreams of elegance. With their tile floors, porcelain tile walls, floor-fitting porcelain tubs and the latest and best of fixtures they are sanitary models, the product of Halvorsen Bros., who also installed the heating system for the house.

"The bed rooms are very dainty, the doors are of very pretty natural hardwood, some having a full length mirror in front; the floors are in maple, the wood triple ivory enameled and the walls the prettiest kind of tints, elegantly done and different in each flat or apartment. The color scheme for all the walls, woodwork, etc., for all the apartments is a most admirably worked-out combination of light and soft tones beautifully harmonized. This painting and decorating is the work of Peter Anderson.

"The description of the pretty and artistic part of the structure, however, does not tell the whole story, for the useful, the necessary and the utility requirements for thoroughly up-to-date living abodes are worthy of special attention in describing the Browning. For instance, every room in the building, including bath rooms, has a radiator for heating. The very best of provisions have been made for heating amply the whole building and every room in it by a modern steam heating system especially designed by Halvorsens. Then there are the sleeping porches, modern and sanitary in every detail. The electric service for the whole building was planned with the utmost care. The system installed is the work of the Redfield Electric & Machine company, and is complete from the wiring to the vacuum cleaning and iron socket service.

"The lighting fixtures, consisting of dainty indirect bowls for the living rooms and dining rooms, are of very pretty patterns. Those in the kitchens, bath and bed rooms are specially designed and adapted to their use. All the fixtures were assembled and made in the plant of Redfields. The building hardware used in the construction of the Browning is of the best. The locks and door checks are the Russel & Irwin Manufacturing company's make, the same quality as those used on the great new State Capitol Building. These and the other hardware were furnished by the George A. Lowe company. All in all the Browning is an admirable structure and a creditable addition to the city's buildings."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The number of three- and four-story apartment buildings constructed in Ogden was derived from an examination of the Sanborn Insurance Maps and from a windshield survey conducted in Ogden on July 5, 1985 by Roger Roper of the Utah State Historical Society.

These were identified in a windshield survey of Ogden conducted on November 4, 1985, by Debbie Randall of the Utah State Historical Society.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid. These four buildings include the Browning Apartments, its "twin" at 579 27th Street, 2461 Adams, and 336 27th Street.

<sup>4</sup>Ogden Standard, September 30, 1916, p. 13.