

p #0671398

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAR 25 1977**
DATE ENTERED **AUG 16 1977**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

**

HISTORIC

Keith-O'Brien Building

AND/OR COMMON

Keith Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

242-256 South Main

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

CODE

049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

—PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Walker Bank and Trust Co., et. al. Trs.

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1169

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Salt Lake City and County Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah State Historic Sites Survey

DATE

February 18, 1976

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Built in 1902 and designed by Salt Lake City architect Frederick Albert Hale, the Keith O'Brien Building is a three-story brick and stone business block which was a department and dry goods business. Erected at a cost of \$150,000, the Keith O'Brien Building is the newest of three adjoining commercial structures (including the Lollin Block and Karrick Block) on South Main, Salt Lake City's primary commercial street.

The Keith O'Brien Building has a brick superstructure with a smooth cut stone front facade. The front facade maintains its original appearance on the second and third floors but has experienced major alterations along the main floor. The architectural significance of the building is mainly in the facade, the interior containing many original details and spacial arrangements but not being particularly distinguished. The exterior facade is symmetrical and has three vertical divisions, the center section articulated from the identical side sections by its lower height and absence of Roman arches along the cornice band.

The cut stone facade has a consistently smooth texture and has a polychrome gray color scheme. The flatness of the facade is somewhat relieved by engaged pilasters, belt courses and, in the cornice band, Roman arches and classical cartouches which characterize much of Hale's other work. The cornice line is broken by small square finials and low-pitched pediments under which are ornamental inscriptions with the letter "K" for Keith. All window bays are square and contain a fixed transom and 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows.

The condition of the fabric of the Keith O'Brien Building is good, although stonework on the center section cornice and some window sills is deteriorating. Inside, original large retail sales rooms have been subdivided as numerous small businesses now utilize the structure. Offices on the second and third floor have been paneled in some cases but many have remained in original condition but now are vacant.

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 type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick Albert Hale

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Keith O'Brien Building is an important monument to a leading Utah developer, businessman, statesman, and philanthropist, David Keith. The building is also one of the most prominent commercial works of Frederick Albert Hale, an important Denver and Salt Lake City architect.

HISTORY:

David Keith was born at Mabou, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, May 27, 1847. As a boy he was employed in the mines at Nova Scotia and later spent a number of years at sea. In 1867 Keith went to Nevada where he identified with mining interests in the Comstock mines. At the decline of this prominent camp, he traveled to Park City, Utah, where, in 1883, he became foreman, and then superintendent of the Ontario No. 3 Mine. Here he formed an acquaintance with Thomas Kearns, one of Utah's leading mining figures. The two became loyal friends and business associates and together developed the lucrative Silver King Mine. The Silver King produced dividends of over 10 million dollars and made both men wealthy. Much of their wealth was spent in Utah developing various business and philanthropic enterprises. Keith and Kearns owned the Salt Lake Tribune. Keith was also president or director of numerous banks, railroads, clubs and fraternities. He was a member of the legislature which adopted the Utah Constitution.

In 1902, Keith employed local architect, F. A. Hale, to design and build the present Keith O'Brien Building. This large three-story brick structure, located on Main Street in the center of Salt Lake City's commercial district, was built as a business block to house the department store of the Keith O'Brien Company which sold shoes, carpet, millinery, and general dry goods. The holdings of that company were disposed of to David F. Walker in the 1940's, but the original name of the company was retained and exists to the present, though now in a different location. The building is now occupied by numerous small business concerns and is partly vacant on the upper floors.

Frederick Albert Hale, architect of the Keith O'Brien Building, was born in New York in 1855 but was raised in Colorado where his father had a gold mill. Hale obtained formal architectural schooling at Cornell University and returned to Denver where he began practicing in 1880. He designed numerous banks, churches, schools and residences in Colorado before coming to Salt Lake City in 1890 where he again maintained a private office. Among his notable Utah works are the David Keith Home (NR), Ivers Residence, Salt Lake Public Library (SR), Alta Club (SR), Eagle's Club, and Continental Bank. Hale worked mostly in the classical styles and seemed equally adept at Beaux-Arts Classicism, Neo-Classical Revival or Georgian Revival.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sutton, Wain, ed., Utah, A Centennial History, Volume III, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1949.
Biographical Record of Salt Lake City and Vicinity, National Historical Record Co., Chicago, 1902.
Salt Lake City building, sewer, and tax records, Salt Lake City and County Building, Salt Lake City, Utah.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	4,2,4,8,1,0	4,5,1,2,6,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allen Roberts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

January 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-5755

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

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

Michael T. Miller

TITLE

Michael T. Miller,
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 10, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Wm. M. Smith
Charles A. Jennings

DATE

8/16/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5.15.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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The Keith O'Brien Building is not really typical of Hale's work, most of which is very sculptural and richly decorated in classical motifs. The Keith O'Brien Building has a rather flat facade, a regular window schedule and a small amount of ornamental detailing. In contrast with the older adjoining Lollin and Karrick Buildings, Hale's facade seems somewhat austere and shallow. Hale appears to be experimenting with the new commercial style while at the same time retaining some of his favorite classical elements. The Keith O'Brien Building was considered very beautiful in its time. One reference called it "the most beautiful store in all the west." Whether or not we agree with that superlative, the building is important as a part of a grouping of historic commercial buildings as well as identifying the outstanding achievements of David Keith and F. A. Hale, two major contributors to Utah's heritage.