

PH0686891

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 24 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 1 9 1978

**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

PEERY'S EGYPTIAN THEATRE

AND/OR COMMON

EGYPTIAN THEATRE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2439 Washington Blvd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ogden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

II

STATE

Utah

VICINITY OF

CODE

49

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Edith S. Broadbent

STREET & NUMBER

2635 St. Mary's Way

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Weber County, Ogden City Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 9699, Washington Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Ogden

STATE

Utah 84409

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

April 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Peery's Egyptian Theatre continues as a movie theatre. The building is two and a half stories tall; three vertical divisions in the facade are separated by bundled shafts. The street level facade has been remodelled. The central bay includes the box office and theatre entrance, in marble and aluminum framed glass. The main entrance is a series of six fully glazed, single leaf, one panel aluminum doors with plain aluminum surround and flush, light transom panels. The right and left bays house See's Candies (a white enamel facade) and Nick Pepe Mens Wear (a brown brick facade). A modern metal marquee projects over the sidewalk between the first and second story.

Above the marquee, the facade is the original polychromatic terra cotta tile. Its flat surfaces are imitative of smooth faced, coursed ashlar with a stretcher bond. Each bay contains a second story set of three metal windows with flat openings without headers. The larger central windows of each set are sided by figure sculpture of window height. The central window is a single fixed light with a tripartite transom. The side windows are double casement with divided transoms above with simulated ashlar surrounds.

The four decorated bundled shafts (two separating the bays and two on each end of the facade) rise to the top of the second story windows where enriched lotus flower capitals are topped by an undersized enriched abacus. The shouldered arch between the columns outlines a decorative vulture and sun disk symbol and volutes. The simulated smooth-faced, coursed ashlar architrave is topped with a roll-like molding. Sculpted Egyptian ornamentation is located above the columns on the enriched frieze. A cavetto cornice is faced with a smooth simulated ashlar fascia with a rope-like crown molding at the top.

The facade has a flared shed roof of tile with two "massive sculptured figures which . . . represent kings and dieties which were worshipped by the people of the early Pharoahs."¹ Each giant stone god cradled a bowl in crossed legs, from which wisped clouds of lighted steam.²

The rear of the building exposes the main structural element, reinforced concrete, which is treated to simulate smooth, massive coursed stonework. All exterior and interior windows and doors are metal.

The first floor facade has had several alterations. The original cement reinforced marquee was faced with poly-chromatic terra cotta tile and had elaborate ornamented panels "one of which represents a sunrise . . ."³, which may exist under the present marble veneer. The original steel doors were removed during a later remodeling but the entrance location is unchanged.

The facades of the store bays were originally fixed bay display windows with entrances between them. These windows had flat openings, plain surrounds and metal slipsills.

The entrance to the second story store was located on the south end of the facade and made the adjacent display windows small in comparison to the north bay. A 1974 photo shows the removal of the second story store entrance and the covering of the street level portion of the southern column (See's Candies remodeling). The only remaining access to the second story store is via the projection room.

A one story, rectangular heating plant originally existed west of the theatre. They were separated at street level by the alley but the two rear exits tunneled under the alley and came up through the boiler building, exiting in the alley. This building matched the Egyptian motif and had an 85 foot Egyptian smoke stack with a bell shaped cap. The total length of the theatre was reported to be 255 feet.⁴ This established the western wall of the boiler building. The boiler was two stories high, going from basement level to the first floor. The site of the furnace building was acquired by Homer and Klomp, Inc. August 3, 1964 and is now a parking lot. The rear exits presently open directly to the alley.

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Most of the elaborate ornamentation and painted and sculptured scenes in the interior have been painted over, in many instances a bland solid color. Where ornamentation is absent, the plastered interior walls imitate smooth, massive, coursed stonework. An early account stated that "the lower walls are finished and panelled in oil painted colors with gold paint predominating Egyptian gods and goddesses and ancient Roman and Egyptian figures are in evidence throughout the inside walls, in the frieze, over the stage and are right in harmony with the exterior."⁵

The auditorium was built to represent a temple court with a "dome ceiling decorated to represent a desert sky."⁶ The ceiling is painted dark blue but modern direct lights were added in 1961.⁷ The system of small electric lights, which once could "produce the effects of night, golden sunsets, the silver light of dawn or moonlight" is in disrepair.⁸ A cloud machine, mounted in the center of the interior, flashed clouds across the sky. These special effects would follow the mood of an organ song such as "I've Been Waiting for the Sunrise".⁹

The auditorium walls are "theatre pink" with acoustical tile added in 1961.¹⁰ Egyptian paintings have been covered over. The original balconies, covered with canopies stretched over spears, (one of which housed an unusual theater instrument, a piano) are blocked in.

The proscenium is completely covered by a large pink theater curtain. Its original elaborate treatment of the Egyptian hieroglyphics and figures, "noted for their color, authenticity and striking arrangement"¹¹, remains partially undisturbed.

Statuary, matching the existing roof statuary, were located on either side of the stage; they also produced lighted steam.¹² The date of their removal is unknown. The elaborate organ grill is located across the top of the proscenium, hiding the organ chambers. The figure of an Egyptian goddess remains only partially visible above the theatre screen. Four lath and plaster pillars originally flanked the proscenium area. The outer two pillars remain, the base of one partially eliminated in a remodelling of the exits.

On June 17, 1953, cinemascope was introduced and a wider screen was installed. The two pillars flanking the stage were removed. In 1961 the present (larger) cinemascope screen was added in front of the orchestra pit, eliminating some seating. At this time seating was redone. A new concrete floor was poured over the old and seats reduced from 1200 to 800.¹³

The pipes of original Wurlitzer Hope-Jones pipe organ were removed in the late 1950's to their present location in the Organ Loft, Salt Lake City. The location of the console is unknown. A ten rank organ with two manuals, it contains percussion effects "such as harps, chimes, xylophones, glockenspiels, vibrating bells, sleigh bells, drums; it produces also the music of a full symphony orchestra".¹⁴ Two of the ranks were located in the second floor echo chamber. With the organ, "the divinest of the arts has been welded to the universal language of the silver sheet, a musical counterpart mooded to and paralleling the drama's theme."¹⁵

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The large projection room was well equipped. A system of steel doors were designed to close in case of fire (early film was highly flammable). Although the electrical system is outdated, many of the impressive lighting and special effects controls still function.

Although Peery's Egyptian Theatre has been modernized several times, the building is largely intact. The removal of the boiler building has not been dated. The last major remodeling was in 1961 (new screen, paint, accoustical tile, ceiling lights, and seats). Much of the integrity of the street level facade appears to remain under the modernization attempts. The building is extremely well built and in excellent structural condition, but in need of a new roof.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME OGDEN

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES
A 12 418300 151631620
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

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

Bruce Bergstrom

ORGANIZATION

University of Utah

DATE

June 12, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

8086 Finlandia Way

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Sandy

STATE

Utah 84070

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

TITLE

J. Phillip Keene III, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE: Oct. 4, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 12.12.78

ATTEST:

Charles Obermeyer
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Abraham 12.12.78

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FOOTNOTES

1. Peery's Egyptian Theatre, (grand opening pamphlet), Chimes Press, Ogden and Los Angeles, n.d. (July 3, 1924).
2. Van Summerill, "Peery's Egyptian Theatre", Journal of the Theatre Historical Society, 6:4 (1974), p. 10.
3. "Ogden's Magnificent New Theater Shrine of Beauty Dedicated to the Best in Art", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.
4. Peery's Egyptian Theatre, p. 2.
5. "Commencing Today", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 3.
6. Peery's Egyptian Theatre, p. 2.
7. Van Summerill, interview, November 1977.
8. Peery's Egyptian Theatre, p. 4.
9. Ted Kirkmeyer, interview, December 4, 1977.
10. Summerill interview.
11. "Beauty Marks Fine Interior", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 5.
12. Summerill, "Peery's Egyptian Theatre", p. 10.
13. Summerill interview.
14. Peery's Egyptian Theatre, p. 5.
15. "Ogden's Magnificent New Theatre Shrine of Beauty Dedicated to Best in the Art", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.
16. "Peery Family Thanked for Pride and Confidence in City as Theatre is Opened", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 4, 1924, p. 1.

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Footnotes - continued

17. "Cry Room, Where Mothers with Cross Babes can See Show One Peery Feature", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

18. "Peery's Egyptian to Show Paramount Films at Same Time as Leading Cities", Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

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"The All Talking Fox Movietone Masquerade," The Ogden Standard Examiner,
Sept. 1, 1929.

"Beauty Marks Fine Interior," The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p.1.

Bray, Mr., (manager of the Organ Loft, owner of original Fox Egyptian organ),
interview, Salt Lake City, Utah, November, 1977.

Chamberland, Jim, (employed by Hodgson and McClenahan, architects), interview,
Ogden, Utah, November 1977.

"Commencing Today", The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 9, 1924.

"Culley Store No. 2 to Open," The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

"Cry Room, Where Mothers with Cross Babes can See Show One Peery Feature,"
The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

"R.M. Hoggan to Open Store," The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

King, Bill, (descendant of D.H. Peery), interview, Ogden, Utah, November 1977.

Kirkmeyer, Ted, (manager of Fox Intermountain Theatres 1940-56), interview,
December 4, 1977.

"Movie Machine is Fire-Proof", The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 2.

Ogden's magnificent New Theatre Shrine of Beauty Dedicated to Best in Art",
The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

Peery's Egyptian Theatre, (grand opening pamphlet), Chimes Press, Ogden and
Los Angeles, July 3, 1924.

"Peery's Egyptian to Show Paramount Films at Same Time as Leading Cities,"
The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

"Peery's Egyptian Theatre Grand Opening Thursday Eve, July 3, 8 O'Clock",
The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 8.

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"Peery Family Thanked for Pride and Confidence in City as Theatre is Opened",
The Ogden Standard Examiner, Friday evening, July 4, 1924, p. 1.

"Players Look Natural in All Color Film", The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924,
p. 4.

Summerill, Van, "Peery's Egyptian Theatre", The Journal of the Theatre Historical
Society, Vol. 6, No. 4 (Fourth Quarter, 1974), pp. 10-11.

"Theatre to Be Cool Inside", The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

"Theatre Built in Fast Time," The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 1.

"Two Architects Study Egypt," The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 2, 1924, p. 4.