

# The Salt Lake Tribune

Downtown SLC

## **Judge Building is sold**

The historic structure passes into new hands willing to give it new life

By Mike Gorrell  
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The historic Judge Building on the southeast corner of 300 South and Main Street in downtown Salt Lake City has been sold for an undisclosed amount.

A newly created entity called Judge Building LLC purchased the 100-year-old building from three companies - JB-DM, LLC; DM Kimball, LLC; and 300 Judge, LLC - in a deal brokered by NAI Utah Commercial Real Estate.

"We like the building. We think it's a good building. And we think it's a great location," said Wayne G. Petty, a Salt Lake City attorney serving as registered agent for the purchasing partners. "Old buildings have some challenges, but this one seems to have been built structurally well."

Listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places as a prime example of early 20th century commercial district construction in Salt Lake City, the seven-story building was erected in 1907 by Mary Judge. She was the widow of John Judge, a refugee from the Irish potato famine who emigrated to the United States, worked his way to Utah and made a fortune when he teamed up with David Keith and Thomas Kearns as owners of the Silver King Mine in Park City.

After John Judge's death in 1892 from "miner's consumption," Mary Judge increased the family wealth through mining and real estate investments. She became a philanthropist, donating money to the construction of the Cathedral of the Madeleine on South Temple and a miners' hospital that housed victims of the 1918 flu epidemic.

Two years later, it was converted into Judge Memorial Catholic High School.

Along with the Judge Building, Mary Judge built a mansion at 737 E. South Temple St. that was torn down long ago.

Petty said the new owners do not expect to make major changes to the structure, "just whatever is necessary to continue the upgrading the previous owners started a number of years ago." He also did not anticipate changes for the building's best-known tenant, Judge Cafe & Grill.