

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

*Result*

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
MAY 21 1979  
DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1979

**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 Caldwell Carnegie Library

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1101 Cleveland Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Caldwell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Idaho

VICINITY OF CODE 16

COUNTY Canyon

First CODE 027

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input 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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME City of Caldwell

STREET & NUMBER City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Caldwell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Canyon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Caldwell

STATE

Idaho

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Caldwell Carnegie library is a modest one-story, ivy covered, brick building in a vaguely Renaissance Revival style. The building sits on a raised foundation with three windows on each side of a centered portico with Doric columns. Parapeted pediments top the porch and central bay, which has a compound round arch, a sandstone plaque that reads "Carnegie Library," and a disc of similar material inscribed "1913."

All windows have double-hung sash with mullions; the ends of the building employ similar windows. The building terminates with a low brick parapet with a metal cornice.

The massing of the Caldwell Carnegie Library accommodates the specifications for efficient library architecture set forth in James Bertram's "Notes on Library Buildings [sic] (1911), a publication designed to assist the recipients of Carnegie library grants. Architect Soule may have borrowed several ideas from the "Notes," as well as from the city's correspondence with R. A. Franks of the Carnegie Foundation: the building's rectangular shape with a rear "T" addition to accommodate extra stacks, the central vestibule leading to the circulation desk on the main floor and to basement stairs, the flanking wings providing two separate reading areas, and the relatively high-set windows that leave room for shelving underneath. Franks suggested specifically the simple entrance--"plain and dignified, without unnecessary ornamentation"--with few steps, and the modest proportions of the building.

The portico is a 1929 addition that replaced the pillared lamps characteristic of Carnegie libraries with the present, more elaborate entrance. A 1950 basement addition, designed by Hummel, Hummel and Jones of Boise and built by J. H. McNeel, Inc. of Caldwell, extends at the right rear of the building and is barely visible from the street.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 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

1913-14

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Soule

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Caldwell Carnegie Library is architecturally significant as an example of 1910s library architecture influenced by Bertram's specifications, which insisted that a small community library should be modest in size and highly efficient in its use of space. Among Carnegie libraries in Idaho, it is a smaller-than-usual example of the Renaissance Revival style typically associated with Carnegie buildings. Its local significance comes chiefly from its association with educational opportunity and culture in a sagebrush community on the reclamation frontier. As such it has served as a social center for the community and has become a local landmark.

The Caldwell library was founded as a private collection in 1887, four years after the creation of the city, by the local chapter of the Womens Christian Temperance Union. In the mid-1890s the Progress Club provided the city with its first reading room. This club, which was closely allied with the W.C.T.U., was followed in turn by the Village Improvement Society and the Forward Club.

The successful establishment of a publicly-funded library in Caldwell followed twenty-six years of negotiations first with the city council, which long resisted the idea of supporting a library, and then with the Carnegie Foundation. Correspondence between the library board and Bertram, and the wording of the 1912 city ordinance establishing annual funding for a Caldwell library, both indicate that the Carnegie offer of \$12,500--with its usual stipulation of community support in the amount of ten percent annually--is what prompted the city finally to approve public funding for the library.

With the erection of this building Caldwell was given a tangible icon of its cultural advancement that served as a community center until 1976 when a new library was built. The public school administration now used the building for its offices and wishes to preserve and restore it to its 1914 soundness.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mrs. A. E. Gipson, "A History of the Library and Reading Room Movement in Caldwell," 1914, Idaho State Historical Society vertical file.

Caldwell Public Library Archives: correspondence between City of Caldwell and Carnegie Foundation correspondence concerning additions.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Caldwell

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 5,2,5 3,8,0 4,8 3,4 2,0,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the Caldwell Carnegie Library on lots 21, 22, 23, and 24 of block 24 in Dorman's Addition to the City of Caldwell.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard and Jennifer Eastman Attebery, architectural historians

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

28 April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Merle Wells*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 28 Apr 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles H. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-18-79

ATTEST: *W. Ray ...*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE June 4, 1979