

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 6 1980**

DATE ENTERED

NOV 28 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Albion Normal School Campus

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *off Id 77*

CITY, TOWN

Albion

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Cassia

CODE

031

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 Albion

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Albion

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albion

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cassia County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Burley

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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Albion Normal School district consists of eight buildings situated within the historic boundaries of the campus at the west end of the town of Albion. The campus is met by open land to the west and nudges the last rise of hills toward Burley on the north. One of the extant buildings (site #1) has been previously listed in the National Register. Two buildings, the first administration building and a women's dormitory (sites #2, 4), have been lost as of this writing, the latter in the last month.

The eight buildings range in construction date from 1901 to 1930. With the exception of the heating plant (site #8) and the presidents' home (site #11), they are all made of brick. Local stone is a significant secondary material on the gymnasium (site #6) and women's dormitory (site #7). The buildings were plotted to encompass two quadrangles and the spacious academic fields are still clearly felt between the building faces. These quadrangles have not been intruded upon, but several temporary classroom buildings stand just beyond the road marking the western campus boundary. These structures probably date from the use of the site by the Magic Valley Christian College in the late 'fifties and 'sixties. There are also miscellaneous utilitarian structures to the west, which cannot be dated but which are not visually incompatible with the historic campus.

The grounds are presently overgrown, though still resplendent with aging evergreen and deciduous trees, and classicized lampposts. The buildings endure in varying states of disrepair but there is active local interest in reusing more than one of them, with special attention being given the gymnasium.

INVENTORY:

1. This rock building dates from 1894 and was the first structure built on campus. It has already been listed in the National Register as Swanger Hall.
2. Swanger Hall proper was burned in 1947. This brick and sandstone structure was attached to the rock building (site #1). It was constructed in 1897 as the first administration building, from plans by Boise architect W. S. Campbell.
3. Miller Hall was built in 1901 as a men's dormitory and was designed by J. E. Tourtellotte of Boise. In its original form, this rectangular, two-story brick building was embellished with pinnacled dormers and an octagonal turret embedded into a steep, flared, hipped roof. In 1938, the building was "completely modernized." The roofline was stripped of ornament but fortunately, the substantial bracketed cornice was left unchanged. The distinctive parapetted front portico survived with minor alterations: a compatible second story was added to it, topped with a pedimental extension. The classicizing rhythm of the slightly inset window bays and the fairly low and solid proportions give Miller Hall continued visual stature in its simplified state.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	-------------------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Albion Normal School Campus is architecturally and historically significant as one of two such educational institutions in Idaho and as the only one in the state which has so closely retained its compositional and visual integrity. Both Normal Schools in Idaho--at Albion and at Lewiston, in the north--were founded in the same year, 1893, by legislative act. The Albion Normal School opened in 1894 and served as a state institution until 1949. In that year the school was closed by the Idaho Legislature after a decade of legislative debate over retaining the Albion campus as a normal school. The legislators later rejected an attempt to reinstate the normal school, but the state continued to maintain the property until 1957, when the Church of Christ leased the campus for the Magic Valley Christian College, which opened the following year. The campus has had various uses since 1971 under the ownership of the City of Albion.

Once established in 1893, with the land donated and the rock building (site #1) built by the town of Albion, the Normal School entered into six decades of training teachers, most of whom went on to serve in Idaho schools. Although offering a curriculum similar to most liberal arts colleges, normal school classes were designed to support the idea that "teachers must be educated and trained to teach."

The campus is particularly impressive because it reflects clearly a belief in the value of an esthetically pleasing environment for educational pursuits. A number of the state's most prominent architects were repeatedly chosen to contribute building to the developing school. Working often in brick and locally-obtained sandstone, Campbell, Tourtellotte, Hummel, Wayland, Fennel and Morse created some of the most worthy examples of academic architecture in Idaho.

In dates from 1897 to 1929, these buildings offer various institutional versions of an ample range of styles: Queen Anne-going-classical in Swanger Hall (site #2) and Miller Hall (site #3); Colonial Revival in Hansen Hall (site #4), Comish Hall (site #7) and in a minimal way, McMurray Hall (site #10); eclectic Victorian Romanesque Revival in Axline Gymnasium (site #6); highly schematic neo-classicism in Bocock Memorial Hall (site #9); stylish utilitarian in the central heating plant (site #8); bungalow in the president's residence (site #11); and even a hint of Prairie in the Training School (site #5). Most significantly, these architects all seemed to have demonstrated a sensitivity to the campus plan as a whole and to the compatibility of style, placement, and materials of each new building to its predecessor.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albion State Normal School Bulletin 1939-40, Albion, Idaho.

Idaho Daily Statesman, 23 July 1895, 18 April 1905.

Capital News 4 June 1907, 29 June 1907, 11 May 1909, 4 July 1909.

Twin Falls News 15 March 1928, 22 June 1928.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 40 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Albion

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	28,7	5,4,0	4,6	9,8	6,9,0	B	1,2	28,7	5,4,0	4,6	9,8	4,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,2	28,7	2,4,0	4,6	9,8	5,2,0	D	1,2	28,7	2,5,0	4,6	9,8	6,9,5
E	1,2	28,7	3,9,5	4,6	9,8	9,9,0	F						
G							H						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Albion Normal School Campus consists of the core of the historic campus, southwest of Highway 77, in the northwest quarter of Section 6, T12, R25. The northeastern, northwestern, western and southern boundaries follow the inner edge of existing roads appearing on the accompanying USGS map. The

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Lisa B. Reitzes, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

10 Jun 80

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

334-2120

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

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

Mark Wells

10 Jun 1980

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Coral Shuel

DATE

1-28-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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4. Hansen Hall, a dormitory for women is currently being demolished. It was built in 1905 by the Boise firm of Wayland and Fennel. It was a two-and-a-half story, brick and stone, U-shaped building which was distinguished by apsidal bays on the sides and rear.
5. The Training or "model" school was built to house grade school classes which would provide practice in teaching for Normal School students. It was designed by Wayland and Fennel and built in 1907 by Ernest White. The one-story building with full basement has a flared hip-and-ridge roof with wide, filled eaves, arched entrance on the north side and a single shingled dormer over the doorway. Ells extend on both sides and to the front. It was constructed in brick and was said to have a "picturesque exterior."¹ The main level has been stuccoed to resemble half-timbering, but the original fabric is visible on the west side and rear. This building is being restored by the Albion Senior Citizens.
6. The Axline Gymnasium is the most impressive building on the Normal School campus, both in terms of its scale and detail, and in the attention given its planning. The design for the combination gym and armory was by J. E. Tourtellotte and Company. R. C. Alloway of Twin Falls was awarded the general contract, in 1909, for \$25,000. The three-story building has a base, arched doorways and trim of locally quarried ruddy sandstone and a body of red brick fired on the site. The overall massing of the structure can be reduced to a broad gabled block with two hip-and-ridge wings crossing it at the ends. The parapetted outset "dormers," sword-like niches and attenuated stone keystones above the arched windows are elements distinctive of Tourtellotte and relate this design closely to his women's gymnasium commission at the University of Idaho at Moscow (1903). A Boise newspaper commented, "the general appearance of the structure when finished will be one of rough beauty exhibiting crude strength in keeping with its purpose. The style will be what is known as the early frontier post style and will be in harmony with the rest of the buildings."²

The interior includes a second-floor athletic floor, 101x54, which also served as drillroom, auditorium and roller skating rink. A balcony rings this lofty space and once featured a "saucer-shaped" running track with composition cork floor and "easy curves," 23 laps to the mile. The room is extremely well-lit. The first floor contained locker and shower rooms for women and men and held the gymnasium equipment which President

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William Axline personally bought in Chicago for \$4000. Axline boasted that the gymnasium was fireproof and "panic-proof," with numerous exits and "no balustrades to fall."³

The building has been abandoned for some time, but the structure seems sound. Local efforts to restore the space are with the intention of making recreation facilities for Albion.

7. Hannah Comish Hall, a residence for women students and faculty bears some similarities to Hansen Hall. It is also C-shaped and sits on a stone base. Comish Hall was constructed in two stages, in 1918 and 1926. The center block was designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel of Boise and executed by W. G. Reed of Twin Falls. It has a hip-and-ridge main roofline and hipped, multi-light dormers. The first level is brick, but the upper story of this middle portion simulates half-timbering around pairs of rectangular windows. There were wooden balustraded outset porches in the Tuscan order on three sides; one remains on the south elevation as the main entrance. Two outset brick chimneys also survive on this side. The hip-and-ridge wings which frame this block are similar to the earlier structure, though fully in brick. Dormers facing front and side on the eaves are shingled, with a single arched window framed by Tuscan pilasters. There is a brick portico on the east side. There is no documentation to the effect that Tourtellotte and Hummel were responsible for the additions but they do closely resemble aspects of institutional commissions done by the firm in the 'twenties at Gooding and St. Anthony.
8. The central heating plant was added to the campus in 1925 at a cost of \$50,000. The structure is built into a slope near the east entrance to the school. It is constructed of concrete block sheathed in a layer of cement stucco in which indentions have been cast to form simple geometric patterns. Parapetted gable ends mark the roofline on the east, above a two-vehicle garage at highway level and on the west, overlooking a concrete loading platform. A tall and elegantly-topped smokestack surmounts this utilitarian building.
9. Bocock Memorial Hall was constructed in 1927 to replace Swanger Hall as the administration building. The architects were Wayland and Fennell and Bird Findlayson of Pocatello was the contractor. The building was funded as a public works project for \$83,000. The structure is basically

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H-shaped with a two-story laterally disposed forewing. This area contained offices on the first floor and the main library occupied the entire second floor. Extending north from this block is an auditorium, with 650 seats. Behind the playhouse is a two-story scenehouse which provided the stage and dressing rooms. The exterior is distinguished by inventive brick patterning and by a "wealth of big windows" which allowed the high-ceilinged upper reading room to be "flooded with daylight." The auditorium has three large arched windows on each side. According to a Twin Falls paper, Bock Hall is utilitarian in style, "plain and modern with no cornices or ornamentation."⁴ The base of this building is the familiar brown sandstone and the trim and slender dropped cornice is of grey cast stone.

10. McMurray Hall, dormitory for men, was built in 1928-29 from plans by Twin Falls architect Burton E. Morse. It is a two-story structure C-shaped of brick and reinforced concrete whose facade is well-hidden by trees. The main block has a hipped roof, with filled eaves, pierced by semi-circular louvered vents. There are two hipped, shingled dormers on each side wing. The ornament is limited to an applied wooden neo-Colonial doorway, featuring a broken segmental pediment sans urn supported by fluted Tuscan pilasters. The double front doors are multi-light. The foundation is of sandstone, capped with an outset sill of cast concrete.
11. This residence for Normal School presidents was completed in 1930. It was built, with state funds, for \$10,000 and designed by Wayland and Fennell. The house sits on the southeastern edge of the campus, near the entrance road. It is vaguely T-shaped, a complex of gable roofs, with the entrance facing north across a spacious lawn toward the academic buildings. Its style is both "modified Spanish" and bungalow, evident in the use of stucco over hollow-tile walls, the tile roof, and the overall horizontal profile. There is a matching garage to the left of the house.

¹Idaho Daily Statesman, 4 June 1907.

²Idaho Daily Statesman, 11 May 1909.

³Ibid

⁴Twin Falls News, 15 March 1929.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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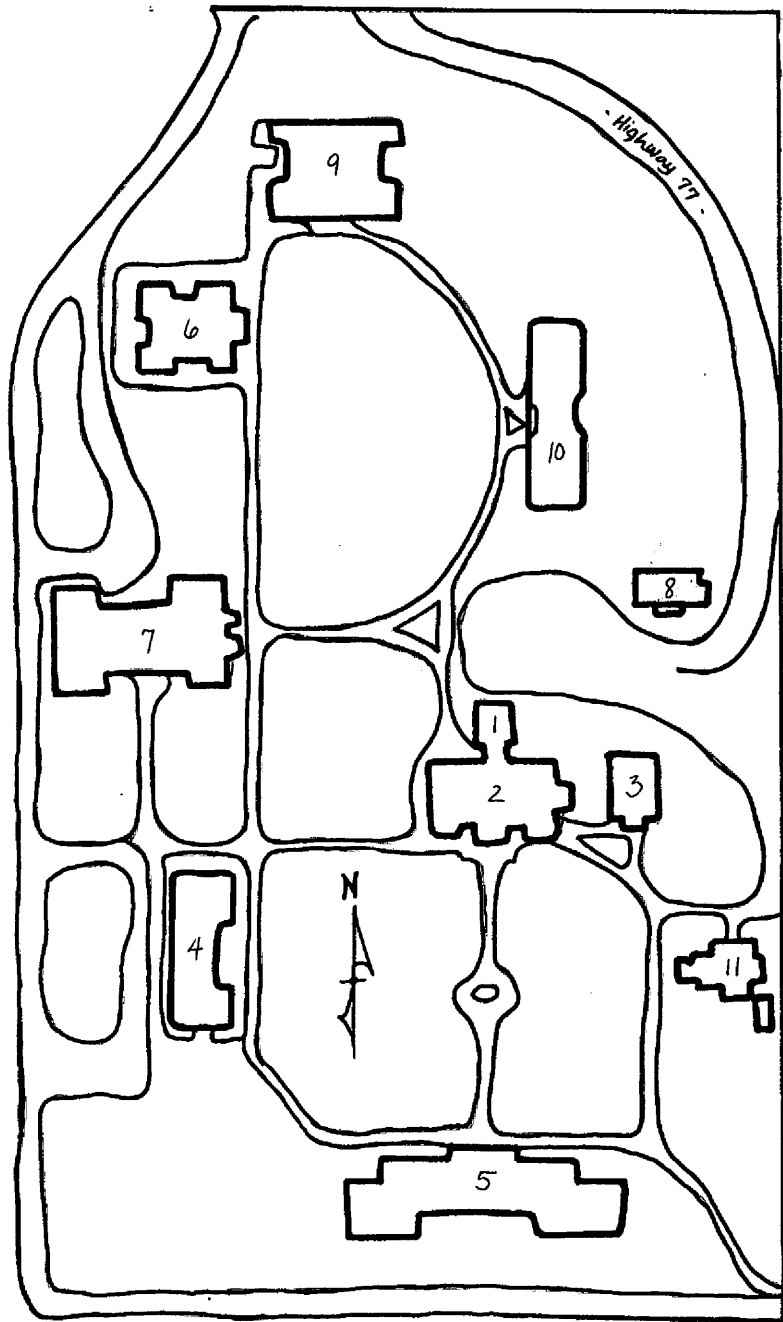
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eastern boundary

is represented by a line originating at the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 77 and the main campus drive, which does not appear on the USGS map but enters the campus immediately south of the central heating plant (site #8, see attached sketch map) the line proceeds due south past the presidents' residence (site #11) to the described southern boundary.



ALBION, IDAHO
1980

OCT 6 1980

ALBION NORMAL SCHOOL CAMPUS

(CREDIT: ALBION STATE NORMAL SCHOOL BULLETIN, 1939)

~ not to scale ~