

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

ALBION NORMAL

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In 1890, Idaho received 100,000 acres of federal land as an endowment to support normal schools, two of which opened in 1894. One of these was in a Mormon community, Albion. Located in a farm valley high enough above Snake River's arid plains to make farming more practical, Albion featured a pleasant rural environment isolated from outside pressures. Beginning with twenty-six students, it finally turned out more than 6,500 teachers before closing in 1951 for lack of state funding. Since it never turned into some kind of state university with a lot of new functions and buildings, its campus survived as an example of a traditional normal school for teacher education. Its campus provides an interesting contrast with more recent centers of higher education, and as an early town located above large irrigated twentieth century tracts, Albion also has retained much of its old pioneer heritage.

(This information has not been edited.)

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