

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 21 1979

JUN 18 1979

DATE ENTERED

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☒ NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

☐ 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 ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ 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 _____

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

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☒ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ 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

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. Brown
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Ray*
for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6-18-79

DATE June 4, 1979



Caldwell Carnegie Library
Caldwell, Idaho

Photographer: Patricia
Wright

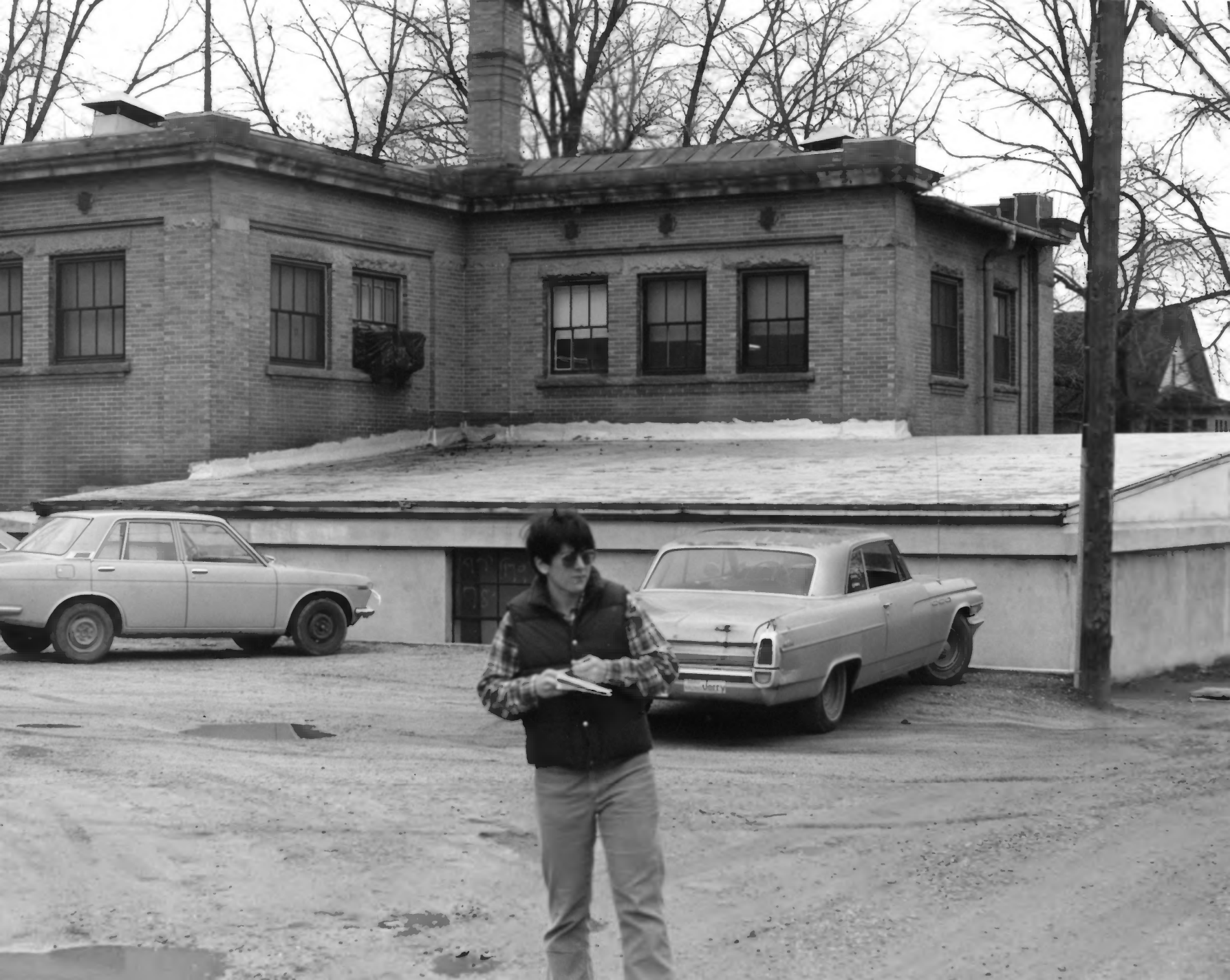
1979

Canyon County
JUN 18 1979

Negative on file at Idaho
State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View of front from south

#1073 MAY 21 1979



Caldwell Carnegie Library
Caldwell, Idaho

Photographer: Patricia Wright

1979

CANYON County
JUN 18 1979

Negative on file at Idaho State
Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

#2 of 3

View of rear addition from east

MAY 21 1979



MAY 5 1978

Caldwell Carnegie
Library

Caldwell, Idaho #3073

Photographer - J.M. Neil
1976

Idaho Historical Society

View of the front from
the south.

Site survey file.

Canyon County

JUN 18 1979