

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 16 1982

DATE ENTERED APR 15 1982

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Carrie Adell Strahorn Memorial Library

AND/OR COMMON

Strahorn Hall

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

College of Idaho

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Caldwell

N/A VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Idaho

CODE

016

COUNTY

Canyon

CODE

027

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**N/A ☐ IN PROCESSN/A ☐ 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

College of Idaho

STREET & NUMBER

2112 Cleveland Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Caldwell

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho 83605

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Canyon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1115 Albany

CITY, TOWN

Caldwell

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Strahorn Hall is a tall one-story building on a raised basement story. Built in the late neoclassicism of the 1920's, the hall is a carefully symmetrical and plain rendition whose use of the classical language is appropriate to its academic setting.

The buff-colored, coursed ashlar Boise sandstone walls of Strahorn Hall imbue the building with a warmth that complements the surrounding red brick and concrete buildings dotting the central Morrison Quadrangle of the College of Idaho's thirty-acre campus. The building's north-facing facade is divided into three vertical bays, the central bay outset several feet to form an entry and hallway. This central bay is graced on the main floor by a tall multi-paned, round-arched window with an upper fanlight and an enlarged, outset keystone. Flanking this window are two Tuscan columns supporting a plain lintel in which is carved the inscription "STRAHORN HALL" in Roman lettering. The columns have smooth shafts and enriched bases. Below this columned section is the basement-level entrance, accessible via three stairways that converge in a sunken, greenery-surrounded plaza with benches. This entry and the facade around the modern double doors were remodeled in 1967, when the interior of the building underwent complete renovation. The concrete used has been shaped to mimic coursed ashlar and colored to match the original sandstone. Its plain style, with pilaster-like setbacks, is compatible with the building's historical features and is similar to the original pilaster-flanked entry.

Either side of the central bay of the building's facade are identical three-bay wings in which the strong vertical lines of aluminum-framed windows are counter-balanced by the building's several horizontal planes. From top to bottom, these horizontal bands are an attic story with inset panels and a shallow parapet, a molded cornice with plain medallions, the main story, a molded watertable, the basement level, and an outset foundation topped with a molded watertable. The windows, also remodeled in 1967, preserve the original fenestration.

The west and east exposures of Strahorn Hall are identical: three bays with a shallow parapet above the same horizontal sections. On these sides, unlike the plainer rear exposure, the attic has inset panels. The building's decorative and functional horizontal units wrap around to the rear of the structure, where there is another shallow parapet, a plain attic, sixteen narrow windows in the main story, and several unobtrusive metal vents. Also visible from the rear is the low air conditioning unit, which is nearly invisible and unobtrusive from the front and sides. Two rear entrances lead to the basement and ground levels.

On the interior Strahorn Hall has been completely remodeled from its original plan to accomodate three floors of classrooms and offices. This has been accomplished with minimal disturbance to the exterior of the building.

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 1925-26 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wayland and Fennell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Strahorn Hall, built in 1925-26 as a college library and a memorial to Caldwell pioneer Carrie Adell Strahorn, is architecturally and historically significant as a local example of early twentieth century Neoclassicism and historically significant for its associations with Robert and Carrie Adell Strahorn and the College of Idaho.

Strahorn Hall is one of the few buildings surviving in Caldwell that were designed in the Neoclassical style. Other local structures of the period use the classical language, but few give the style its full expression. Strahorn is distinguished, too, as one of the few Caldwell buildings built of Boise sandstone.

The building was erected on the College of Idaho campus after a hiatus of thirteen years in the college building program. When Wayland and Fennell's plans for the hall were completed and a location chosen, college officials also produced the half-circle campus plan that has since been developed into the Morrison Quadrangle. The building design proved expensive, and bids required the approval of donor Robert E. Strahorn of a \$55,000 contract, which went to J. H. McNeel of Caldwell. Strahorn allowed the over-budget contract, saying he preferred Boise sandstone to the cheaper alternatives. The building was dedicated to the memory of Strahorn's wife Carrie Adell, who had died in the spring of 1925, on May 8, 1926, at the college's annual Founder's Day celebration. The cornerstone was laid by Strahorn on June 3, and the building opened October 11 as the new college library. A subsequent college librarian has written that, "On the day it first opened its doors in 1926 Strahorn Library was already a badly outdated building whose construction violated every theory of library architecture." The building did feature a basement level entry far removed from the main story circulation desk, poor lighting, a single large reading area, and insufficient space for stacks. By 1948 the college librarian was sending pleas to the dean for more space and interior remodeling. These problems, temporarily solved by introducing half floors, were compounded by the 1960's, when Terteling Library was built and Strahorn was remodeled into a very serviceable humanities classroom and office building.

Idaho-Oregon Land Improvement Company
 Robert E. Strahorn was the ~~Oregon Short Line Railway~~ representative who chose the site of Caldwell, formed the townsite company, and settled in Caldwell from 1883 through 1888. During those years his wife Carrie Adell was an active member of Caldwell society, serving as president of the Presbyterian Society, which

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Caldwell

UTM NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 5 2 6 1 3 0 4 8 3 3 1 6 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination includes the Carrie Adell Strahorn Memorial Library at UTM point 11/526/130/48/33/160 and the property on which it stands, with a margin of 20 feet around the Carrie Adell Strahorn Memorial Library.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

N/A

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

24 Dec 80

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

334-3356

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Merle Wells

24 Dec 80

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Bruce M. Dwyer
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/15/82

ATTEST

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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began the Caldwell Presbyterian Church, financed the church building, and brought Reverend William Judson Boone to Caldwell as its first pastor. Carrie Adell describes these early efforts in her book Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage. The Strahorns left Caldwell to foster other new towns along the Oregon Short Line, while Reverend Boone became the first president of the College of Idaho in 1891. In the initial efforts to found the college, Strahorn was a donor, and the Strahorns continued their interest in the college with subsequent gifts to the Laboratory and Library Fund and the General Fund, donated lectures, and, finally, the building and furnishing of the Carrie Adell Strahorn Memorial Library.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Grable, Alice Elizabeth. "A Descriptive Report of the College of Idaho Library, Caldwell, Idaho." Master's Thesis, University of Washington, 1959.

Strahorn, Carrie Adell. Fifteen Thousand Miles by Stage. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1911.

Caldwell Tribune. 1883-89, 13 November 1925, 6 November 1925, 19 March 1926, 9 April 1926, 14 May 1926, and 15 October 1926.

Letter from Librarians to Dean Ledru A. Williams. 23 January 1948. College of Idaho Archives.

Librarian's memo. 1961. College of Idaho Archives.



Carrie Adell Strahorn Memorial Library
College of Idaho
Caldwell, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by:
Idaho State Historical Society staff
1979

Negative on file at:
Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from northeast

Photograph one of one