



Lewis Hall



Meriwether Lewis Hall

LCSC HERITAGE

Meriwether Lewis Hall

Date Constructed: 1970, 1977, 1981

The history of this building begins with Lewis Hall, completed in 1908 and first used as a women's dormitory. The glory years for Lewis Hall, however, were followed by years of neglect. During the period of the college's closure in the 1950s, vandals repeatedly broke into the building, destroyed furniture, and opened fire hydrants, completely ruining the hardwood floors. By 1971, although the college's need for a science building was growing desperate, the structural studies of Lewis Hall showed that renovating the building was impractical. At the time, the building had stood unused for twenty years.

Consequently, the school made plans to build one of the College's work-horse facilities—Meriwether Lewis Hall of Natural Sciences and Nursing—but to do that, it first had to remove Lewis Hall, which had been a landmark for many years.

Demolishing the old Lewis Hall was a difficult, but necessary, decision. As the wrecking crews began to raze the second-oldest building on campus, then President Jerold Dugger collected armloads of bricks that he subsequently stored in his office until another construction crew began to erect Meriwether Lewis Hall. Then he gave the bricks from the original Lewis Hall to the crew to incorporate into the background for the new science building's bronze plaque. Today, these same bricks provide a tangible link between the school's past and its present.

Meriwether Lewis Hall was built in four phases; the first was constructed on the site of Old Lewis Hall in 1970 and was conceived to be about 1/6 the size of the present building. Other phases, completed in 1977 and 1981, increased the total size, added an elevator to serve all floors, included the theater classroom, and provided for the Nursing program.

History taken from *Educating in the American West One Hundred Years at Lewis-Clark State College 1893-1993* by Keith Petersen and the *Lewis-Clark State College Campus Plan* 1981