



LCSC HERITAGE

James W. Reid Centennial Hall

Date Constructed: 1896

James W. Reid Centennial Hall—also formerly known as the Administration Building, The Library, and Reid Centennial Hall—was completed in 1896 and remains the oldest building still in use in Idaho’s higher education system. The three-story brick structure previously served as the college’s library, as a laboratory school in which student teachers received supervised classroom experience, and, for many years, as the college’s first administration building.

The college was established on January 27, 1893, as Lewiston State Normal School. Less than a quarter of a century later, a major event in the college’s history permanently altered the appearance of its oldest campus structure when the 1917 fire claimed most of the administration building/lab school. Unfortunately, the fire also consumed important records from the college’s first two decades of progress.

Although the structure was rebuilt, the spired bell tower was left unfinished until 1993. As part of the college’s centennial project, the tower was restored with a steeple and four small similar spires on each corner of the tower. The refurbished tower also features an illuminated clock with electronic chimes.

The LCSC Centennial Commission, through college President Lee A. Vickers, recommended naming the first building on campus after James W. Reid, an outspoken advocate of locating a college in Lewiston. Reid, once a college instructor in North Carolina, drafted the bill that created Lewiston State Normal School in 1893. Reid served on the College’s first board of trustees who elected him board president when they convened later on that same year, a position he held until his death on New Year’s Day, 1902.

History taken from the *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, December 6, 1992, and *Educating in the American West: One Hundred Years at Lewis-Clark State College 1893-1993* by Keith Petersen