At an original cost of $75,000, this three-story building was completed in 1930 as a dormitory for the women of the Lewiston State Normal School and dedicated to Professor Henry Leonidas Talkington. The local chamber of commerce, the Rotary Club, the Lewiston City Council, the Izaak Walton League, the ministerial association—not to mention the students and staff of the college—all lobbied to name the building Talkington Hall.

Dr. Talkington came to Lewiston in 1899 to teach history and civics, which he continued to do until his retirement in 1939. By then, he had given the state 40 years of service. Dr. Talkington contributed much to Idaho and to Lewiston State Normal School. He was the school's first librarian and a founding member of the Idaho State Historical Society’s Board of Trustees. He wrote bulletins to assist the state's teachers and authored several books. For decades, he also wrote a newspaper column about Idaho history and the events at the Normal school. At his own expense, he accumulated one of the state's most valuable collections of books and articles on Idaho History, which the State Board of Education eventually purchased.
History (taken from *Educating in the American West One Hundred Years at Lewis-Clark State College 1893-1993* by Keith Petersen)