


Indian Affairs
School Files

(PG 10, Volume 6196)

File 464-1, part 1	Fort William Agency - Indian Residential School - General Administration. 1894-1933
File 464-2, part 1	Fort William Agency - Indian Residential School - Quarterly Returns. 1943-1952
 File 464-5, part 1	Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1895-1931
File 464-5, part 2	Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian Residential School - Building Maintenance - Accounts - Supplies - Plans - Building Accounts. 1932-1949
File 464-10, part 1	Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian Residential School - Admissions and Discharges. 1939-1944
File 464-10, part 2	Fort William Agency - Fort William Indian Residential School - Admissions and Discharges. 1944-1952
File 464-23, part 1	Fort William Agency - Fort William (St. Joseph) Residential School - Deaths. 1936-1940

From the Fort William
Daily Journal
Addressed to the Editor 1895

DISASTROUS FIRE
Fort William Reserve

St. Joseph's Convent, Orphanage,
and Catholic Church De-
stroyed

St. Joseph's Convent and Orphanage
and Catholic church took fire about
half past six o'clock this morning.

The fire originated in a bake oven
on the back part of the orphanage.
All the Indians were at prayers at
the time, which was very fortunate, as
their assistance in saving the furni-
ture was invaluable.

An alarm was sounded at a quarter
of seven from our Town Hall, to
which our Fire Brigade responded
promptly. They were unable to save
the Convent, and were driven from
the Church by the intense heat. All
their efforts were bestowed upon the
priests house and the outbuildings,
which they were successful in saving.
Although they repeatedly caught fire,
Mr. J. P. Donnelly, Indian Agent, says,
the Fort William people were quick-
ly there, and assisted in saving the
priests house and outbuildings, for
which they are much thanked.

The greater part of the furniture
was saved. All the children were
gotten safely out of the building.
Some of them lose part of their book-
ing which Mr. Donnelly has replaced
so that they are all comfortable. Some
of them have been sent to relatives
and friends and others will be cared
for in the Council House, which the
Indians have kindly given for a tem-
porary orphanage. The school build-
ing near by which was saved will be
used by the sisters for a residence
for the present.

If the fire had occurred in the night
or in severely cold weather the suf-
fering would have been very great.
There is real cause for thankfulness
that the fire occurred in day time
when the children were up, and that
the weather was fine.

The church was the oldest in the
district being nearly fifty years old.
The main part of the convent was
built about ten years ago. The con-
vent was insured for \$5,000 and the
church for \$1,000. This will assist
in rebuilding which the sisters of St.
Joseph's hospital intend doing. The
original cost of the buildings was
about \$15,000. At the time they were
built everything was expensive, but
building materials are cheaper now,
which is in favor of repairing the (con-

163192 1895. 15-3715-5

Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency on the 10th June, 1895.



advised to schools

On a report, dated 21st May, 1895, from the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, stating that on the 10th April, 1895, the Indian Orphanage school at Fort William was destroyed by fire. The building was valued at about \$10,000. and was insured for \$5,000. The authorities of the Roman Catholic Church propose erecting a new building, and as the new orphanage, like the old one, is to be conducted in the interest of the Indians of the Fort William Band, application has been made for assistance in its erection.

The Minister considers that no better use could be made of the moneys at the credit of Indian Bands than the expending of them in the erection and maintenance of schools; and he therefore recommends that under section 70 of the Indian Act authority be given for contributing \$2,000. towards the erection of the new Indian orphanage at Fort William from the capital at the credit of the Fort William Band, which amounts to \$14,354.77.

(Continued next page.)

The Honourable
The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.



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(Continued P. C. 1635, 10th June, 1895.)

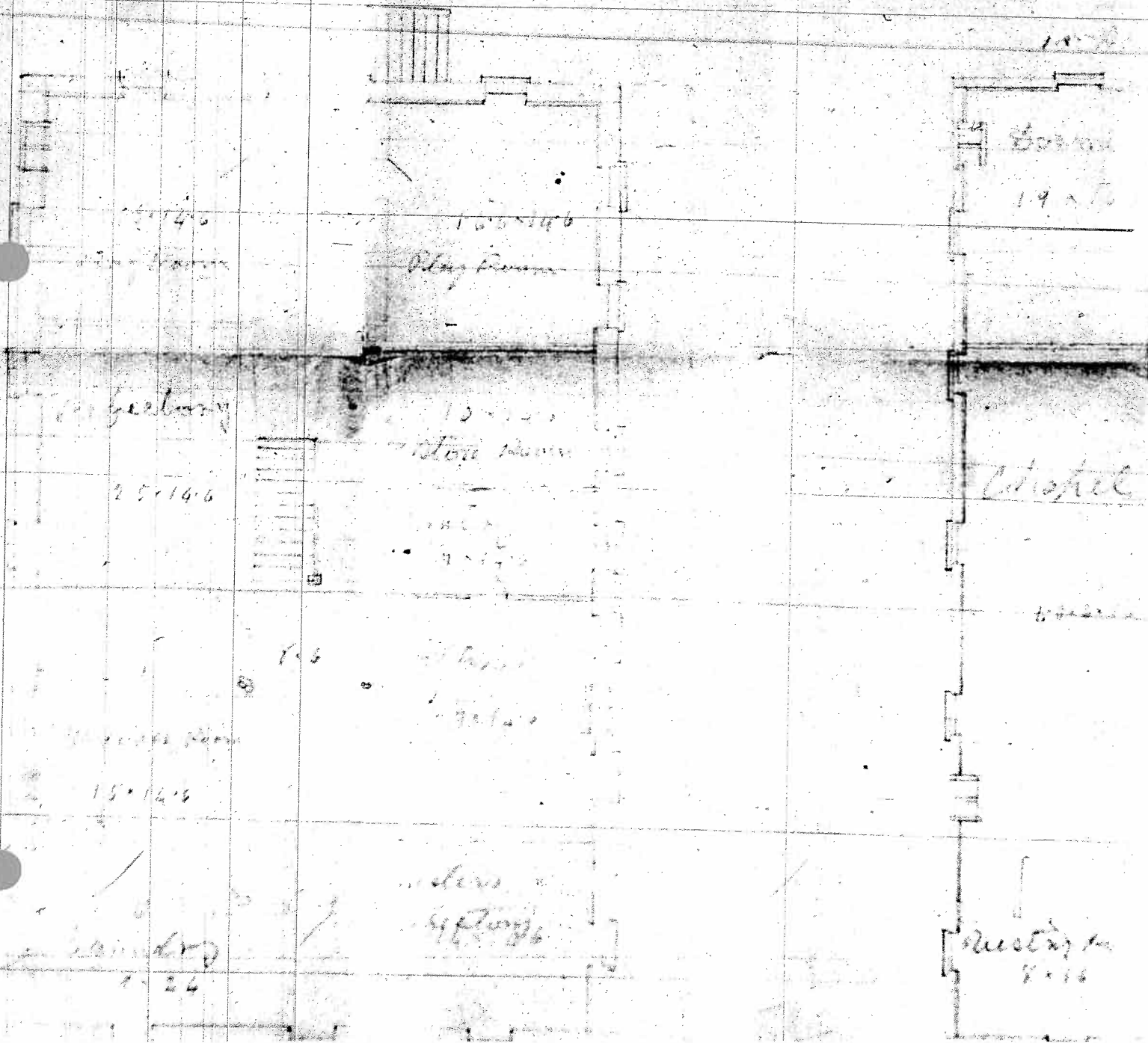
The Committee advise that the requisite authority be granted accordingly.

Johanna
Clerk of the Privy Council.

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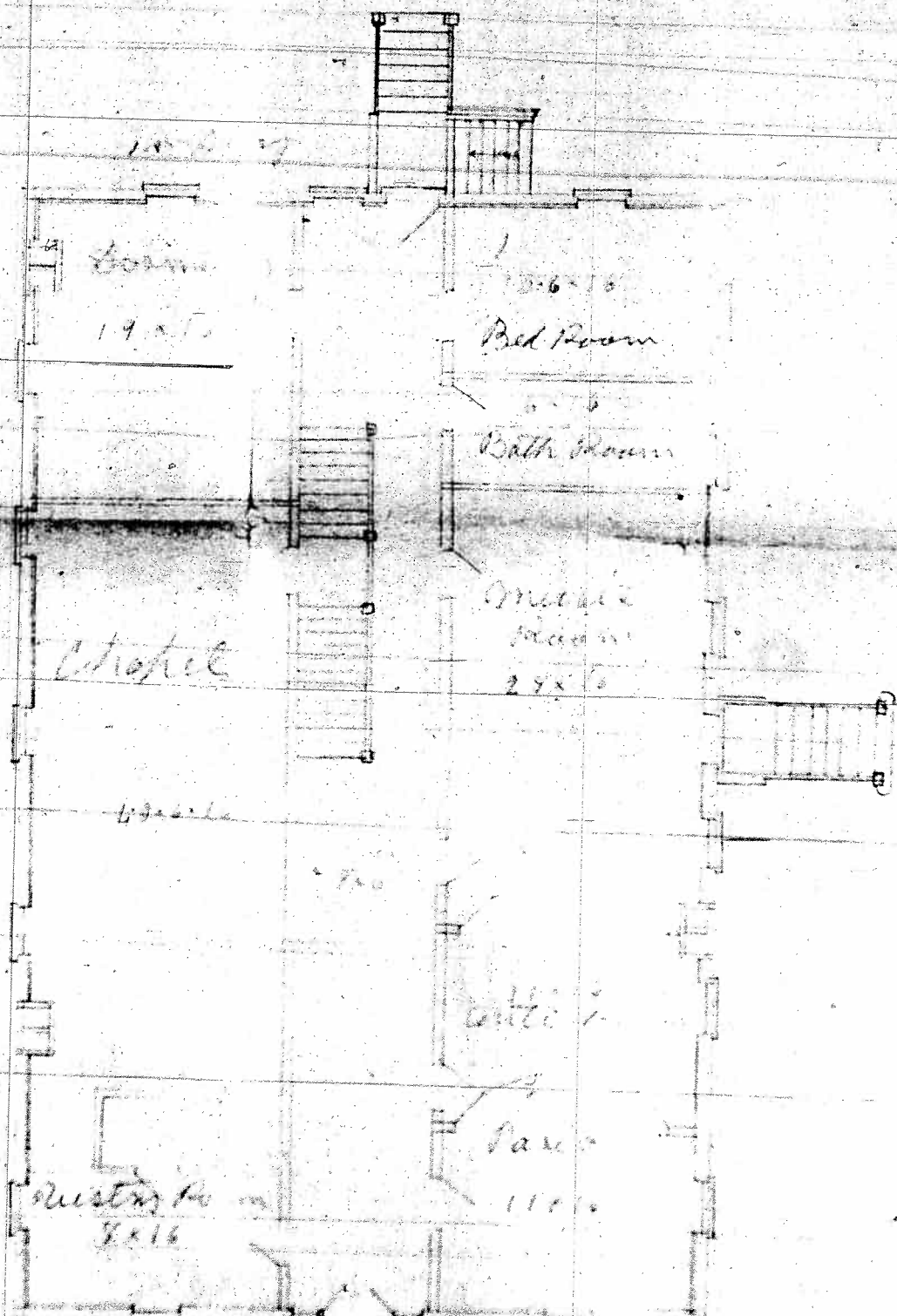
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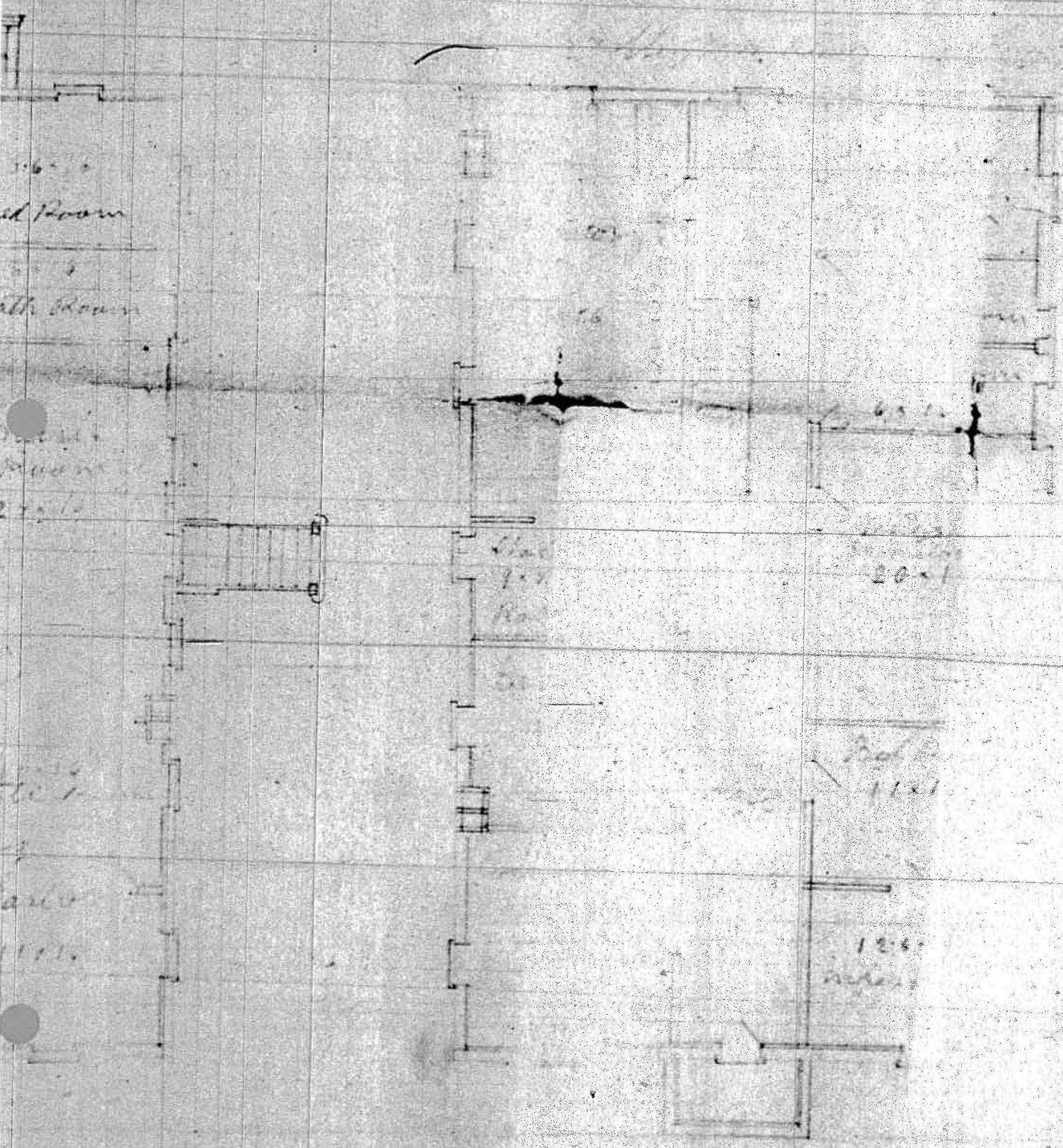
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 x 1 1/2
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Room
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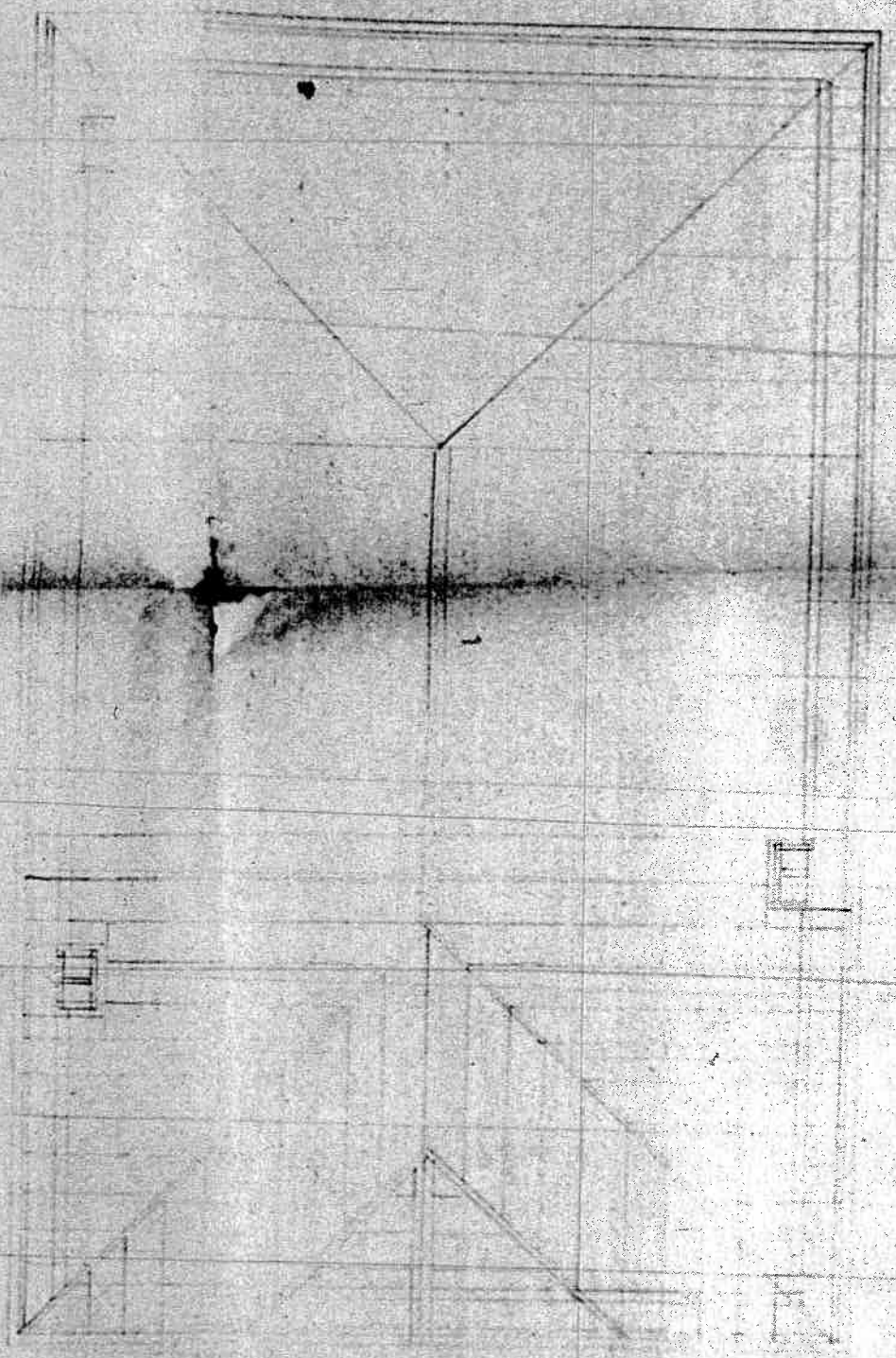
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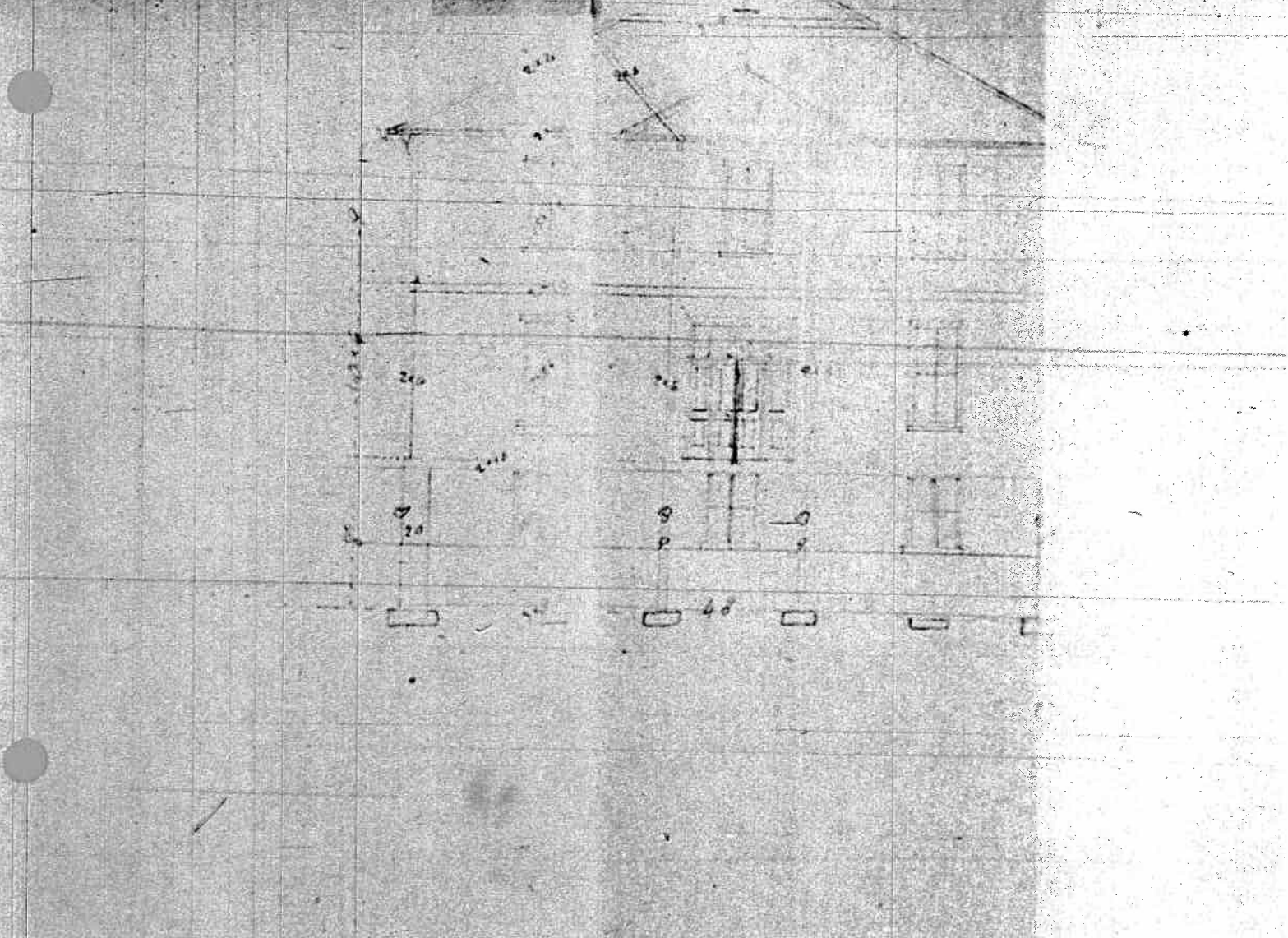
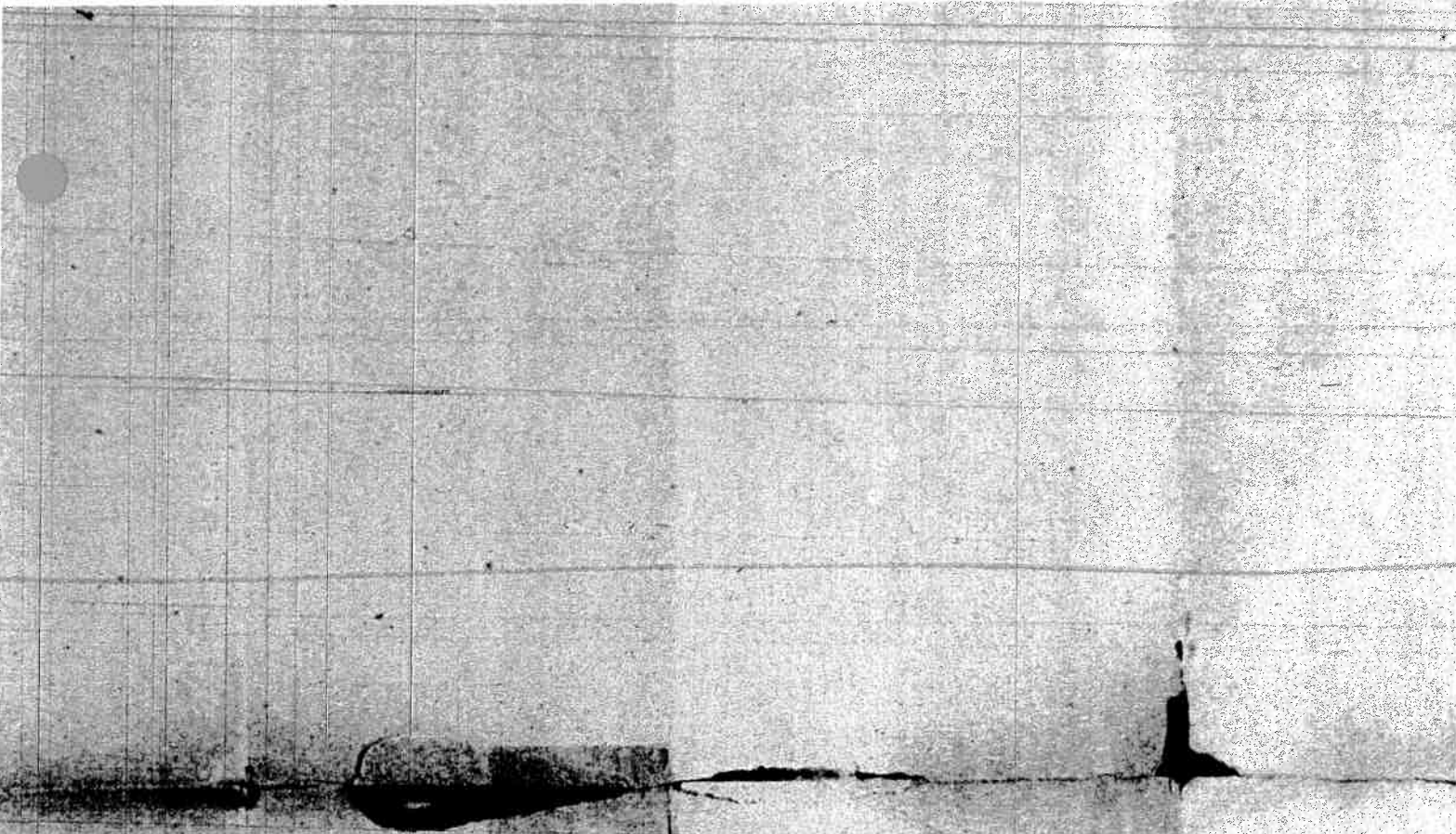
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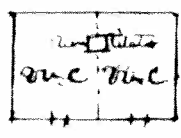
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193171

10 feet

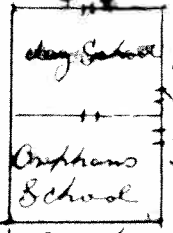


Girls play Ground

Boys play Ground

Poor house field with east poor house on it

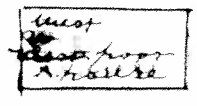
251 feet



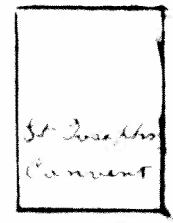
Orphan School

22 ft

51 feet

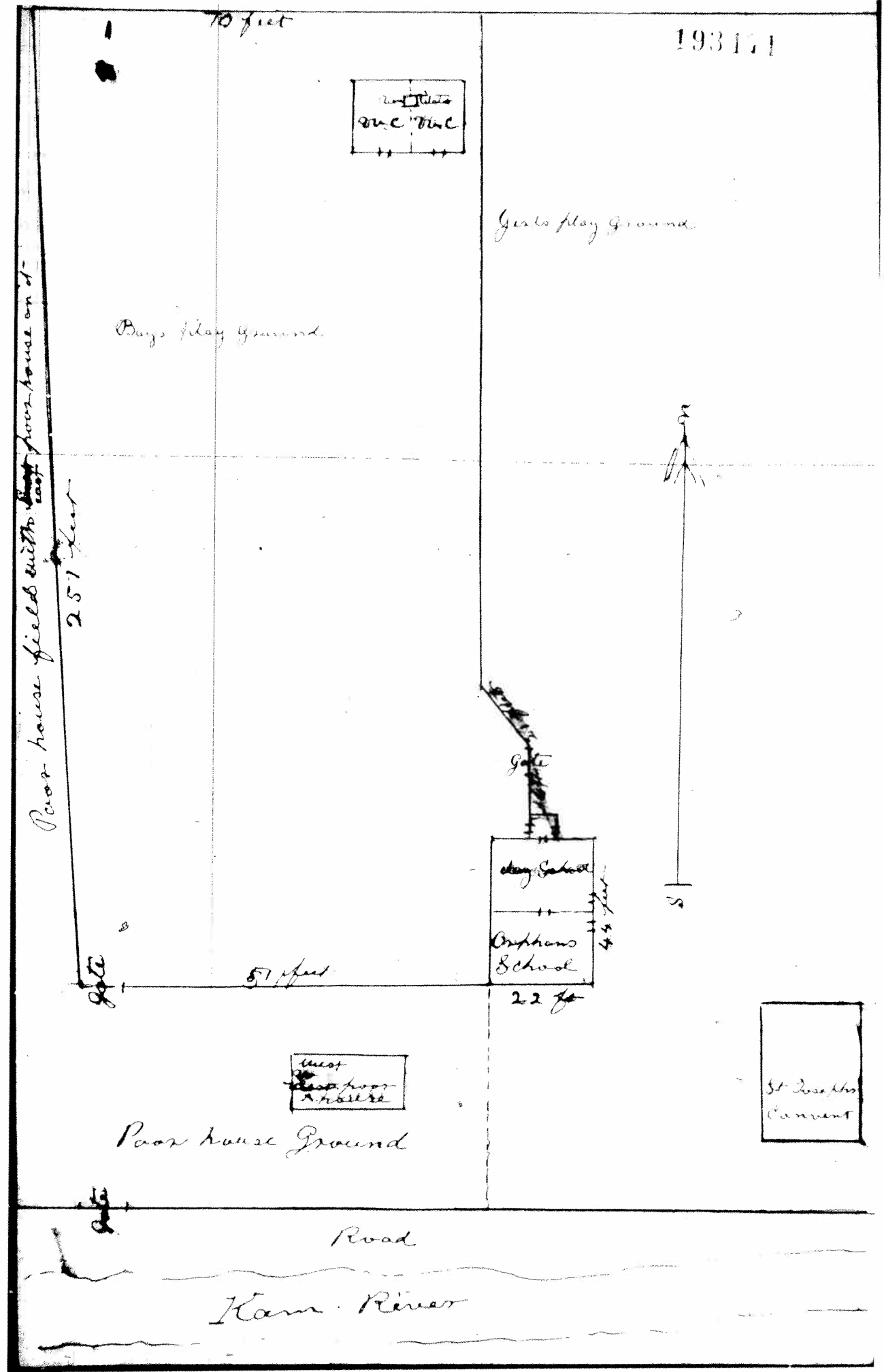


Poor house Ground



Road

Kann River



File 153815-5.

Department of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa, April 25, 1911.

Shawley
Mr. O'Brien
Have you prepared notes of mutilating of the St. Joseph's Orphanage?
W. J. Miller

Memorandum

for the Asst. Deputy and Secretary,

I beg to inform you that as instructed by your official letter, dated Dec. 5, last, I made an inspection of the St. Josephs' Orphanage, Fort William, Ont., on 27, and 28, February last, and report as follows:-

Building-

The boarding school known as St. Josephs' Orphanage is a solid brick structure, 78' by 40', three stories in height on stone and cement foundation, finished as basement and having attic full size of building.

There is also a rear wing built similar to main building, one story in height with full sized basement.

Site-

The building is a comparatively new one in good condition, is erected within the city in a ~~fine~~ central situation, on large lot, affording ample grounds for recreation purposes, school garden, etc.

Design-

The design ^{is} of modern school type and is suitable for purposed work, the ground floor having corridor from end to end of building with a main entrance in central front intersecting corridor the rooms being arranged on either side ~~of corridor~~. the back portion being utilized as dining room for boys and girls with dining room for sisters and kitchen pantry, etc., in extension. The front portion contains waiting room or office.

a combined class-room 16'2" by 35'0" by 11' and study and class-room 15' by 15' for girls.

The first floor contains- girls' dormitory 20' by 38', lavatory 6½' by 15', fitted up with 2 W.C.'s, 7 basins, 1 bath, private lavatory, containing, bath, basin and W.C., two bedrooms, community room, chapel, sacristy and large clothes closet.

The second floor is divided similar to first, excepting that, chapel and community rooms are replaced by five bedrooms and girls' workroom, the dormitory (also girls'), the lavatory adjoining and private lavatory, being of same size and fittings as described for first floor. The attic is fitted up as boys dormitory the ~~first~~ floor dimensions being 30' by 63' with partly diminished ceiling owing to wall in part being finished on under side of rafter. This flat is fairly well lighted and contains minimum area sufficient for 36 pupils.

Basement-

The basement contains, recreation room for boys and girls, each 21' by 21', adjoining the girls is a lavatory 14' by 21' fitted with 3 W.C.'s, adjoining boys, a latrine 5' by 21' fitted with 2 W.C.s and trough type urinal. The balance of basement is utilized as janitor's room, store room, coal room, heating plant, laundry and vegetable stores.

Class room-

The class-room (principal) 16'2" by 35'0" by 11' has a floor area of 566 and a cubical area of 6226 = minimum area for 24 pupils, the smaller one has an area of 2475 and accommodates 10. The smaller one apparently being seldom used, except as recitation room and study for girls.

Dormitory-

The dormitory accommodation here is excellent, two being furnished

furnished for the girls on first and second flats, each 20' by 35' by 11' = a minimum air space for 33 girls, and boys in attic contains 18144 cubic feet = minimum accommodation for 36 pupils.

Lavatories, etc.-

The washing and bathing facilities are ample, there being in boys' dormitory, 1 W.C., 1 bath and 18 basins, adjoining boys' recreation room 2 W.C.'s and urinal and for girls' use, 7 W.C.'s, 14 basins, 2 baths. In addition to these fixtures are two private lavatories with basin, bath and W.C. (used for children when required).

Recreation rooms-

The recreation rooms are well lighted having three windows each (see under basement for dimensions, etc.) and are ample for their use, the girls also have a workroom 16' by 22' well lighted by three large windows in addition to basement room. There are also for outside recreation two skating rinks maintained on the grounds during the winter, one in each of the play grounds.

Bedrooms-

The bedrooms, community rooms, etc., are all well and conveniently situated and are large light and airy.

Hospital and sick rooms-

No infirmary accommodation has been provided other than the private bedrooms as no sick children are kept in the school, being provided for in the hospital at Port Arthur which is maintained by the same Order as is the management of the school. This, in my opinion, is more advantageous for both school and pupils than maintaining an infirmary in the school, and fully meets the intention of the Department's regulations.

Sanitation and drains-

The drains, plumbing and plumbing fixtures throughout the building were sanitary and in good condition at the time of my inspection.

Water supply-

The water supply is from city connection, is portable and ample for domestic use and fire protection.

Laundry-

The laundry has six stationary earthenware tubs. Bakery has portable Gurney oven, capacity 100 loaves, cellar for vegetables, etc., and were all in good condition, ample and well provided.

Heating-

The building is heated by hot water, one of the Gurney R.I. heating boiler No. 1250, having a capacity of 6500 sq. ft. being used with Oxford Radiators throughout. The building was warm and comfortable at the time of my inspection.

Ventilation-

No special system of ventilation has been provided. It is the intention of the school authorities, however, to establish a system thoroughly ventilating the dormitories as soon as sketch of system required is provided.

Lockers and wardrobes-

There are fitted up in each of the dormitories individual lockers for pupils clothing in excess of actual requirement and also wardrobe closet adjoining each of the bedrooms and community rooms.

Fire escapes-

Fire escapes have been erected from the girls' dormitory, access thereto being given from balcony on each flat at left end (or dormitory end) of building.

I am not able to say, however, whether any has been provided

vided for the boys from attic dormitory, as I overlooked this at the time of my inspection, I am of the opinion, however, that none has been provided.

General-

The building, as designed, is on the whole excellent, is thoroughly equiped and maintained in a good and satisfactory manner. The school authorities appear thoroughly efficient and earnestly enthusiastic in their work; and are entitled to every commendation; excepting for a few minor details in the arrangement of the building, particularly the lack of sufficient window space in boys' latrine, ventilation in dormitories and contracted class-room space. With regard to the lighting of latrine, I understood the Mother Superior to say that it was their purpose to provide additional light as soon as weather would admit of doing the work also that ventilation would be provided as soon as sketch of Department's requirements was sent to them.

The principal class-room, while having a floor space to accommodate 36 pupils has air space for 24 only, this might be sufficient for their present needs as this school, like others of its class giving manual as well as scholastic training, a portion of the pupils taking the classes while the others are engaged in the practical work. Notwithstanding this, I am of the opinion that a well proportioned class-room separate from the building, properly lighted and ventilated is in the interest of the school and, I believe, that on the request of the Department, as soon as financial conditions are favourable, better class-room facilities will be provided.

Recommendation-

I would recommend that, providing the window in boys' latrine is put in, ventilation for dormitories installed, fire escapes from boys' dormitory (if not already in), the Building rank as in the first class. I would also recommend that the school authorities there be asked to provide, as soon as conveniently possible, a more suitable class-room as being in the best interests of the school.

Robert M. Caplin

Architect.