


Indian Affairs  
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6208)

File 468-5, part 10	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration - School Establishment. 1945 - 1947.
File 468-5, part 10A	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - Application Construction Inspector. 1912 - 1915.
File 468-5, part 10B	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Industrial School - Insurance. 1896 - 1935.
File 468-5, part 11	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - Building maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - General Administration. 1946 - 1947.
File 468-5, part 12	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1946 - 1947.
 File 468-5, part 13	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - Photos - Plans. 1947 - 1948.
File 468-5, part 14	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - School Establishment - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts - Photo - Plans. 1947 - 1949.
File 468-5, part 15	Caradoc Agency - Mount Elgin Day School - General Administration - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1949.

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7-0-5 (WT 1)

E.D.

Ottawa, March 10th, 1947.

Dear Doctor Dorey:-

Your letter of the 3rd inst., with reference to articles purchased or taken over by the Department at the time of the closing of the Mount Elgin School has been referred to this Division.

Inspector Arneil intends to visit Caradoc Reserve next week and will set a price on the articles on which a price has not already been agreed. As soon as he returns arrangements will be made to pay for them.

Please forward three accounts as follows:

1. Account for adding machine at \$25.00 and typewriter desk at \$10.00 purchased for the use of the Indian office.
2. Account itemized for book case, filing cabinet, office desk and chair and second office chair at a total cost of \$80.00. These items will be paid from the Training Division Vote.
3. Account for the forty cots with mattress and pillow at \$1.00 each - \$40.00, which will be paid from the Welfare Vote.

Regarding the coal, it is presumed that you have an account from the firm from whom this coal was purchased and you should make up a separate account for this item, charging us for the coal at the same rate as you paid for it.

Yours very truly,

Bernard F. Neary  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

Rev. George Dorey, D.D., Secretary  
Board of Home Mission, United Church of Canada,  
299 Queen St., W., Toronto, Canada.

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BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Department of Mines and Resources,  
Indian Affairs Branch,  
Welfare Division.

- in account with -

Board of Home Missions, The  
United Church of Canada.

To 2 Crosscut Saws	\$ 6.00
1 Post-hole Auger	2.00
15lbs. Axle Grease, Mica	1.00
1 Oil Pump (on drum)	5.00
1 Log Chain	3.00
1 Cordwood saw Blade, 28"	4.00
6 Pitch Forks	3.00
2 Scythes	3.00
2 Electric fence Chargers	5.00
1 Extension Ladder, 30 ft.	12.00
1 Step Ladder, 10 ft.	3.00
1 Truck Tarpaulin	50.00
1 Emery Wheel, 1 1/2 h.p. motor	<u>110.00</u>

AUDITED  
FOR PAYMENT  
JUN 18 1917  
Treasury Dept  
I. A. B.

\$207.00

Articles taken over by the Department  
on the closing of the Mount Elgin  
Indian Residential School.

(Signed) George Dorey.

P.O. VOTE  
AGENCY ALLOT.  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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7-0-5 (WT 1)

*Handwritten scribble*

Ottawa, November 21, 1947.

Memorandum:

Departmental Purchasing Agent

The Mount Elgin Indian Residential School in the Caradoc Indian Agency, has been closed since June 30th, 1946. In the basement of this building there is a wooden box refrigerator. It had been used by the school management for several years and if left where it is, it will soon need repair beyond its value.

Indian Agent Down states that he can secure \$50. for this refrigerator and I would appreciate it if the Salvage Officer would authorize its sale at the price mentioned.

*Handwritten signature*

*Handwritten signature*

Bernard F. Heary  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

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7-0-5

Ottawa, May 30th, 1946.

Mr. Howy

Memorandum

Re: Mount Elgin School.

When visiting the Caradoc Agency on the 22nd and 23rd of May, Mr. Arnell, Indian Agent Downe, and myself, discussed what should be done with the present Mount Elgin School, when the new school is completed.

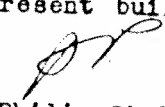
Mr. Downe suggested that we should remove the two top floors, leaving the ground floor of the building and use this partly for a recreational centre for the Indians, the balance for meetings of home makers clubs, etc.

My own opinion is, it would be a very expensive proposition to carry out Mr. Downe's suggestion, and when the work is completed, we would only have an old building, very difficult to heat, and likely, almost impossible to keep clean.

Mr. Downe has already had inquiries from wrecking firms wishing to quote a price on tearing down the building.

I feel very definitely that when the new school is completed, the old school should be demolished.

No doubt, a recreation centre for the Indians would be very advisable, and possibly it should be located on the site of the present Mount Elgin School, but I believe that a new building erected for this purpose would not cost as much as it would to endeavour to renovate the present building, and would be much more satisfactory.

  
Philip Phelan,  
Chief, Training Division.

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LEGAL DIVISION

CANADA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

7-0-5

*[Handwritten signature]*

OTTAWA 23rd December, 1947.

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. Hoey.

Department of Mines & Resources  
Indian Affairs Branch  
DEC 24 1947  
REGISTERED

Former Mount Elgin Indian Residential  
School Building.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of the 5th instant in connection with the above, together with files 7-0-57 and 7-0-57 closed.

It is noted that it has been recommended that the old main building (not the separate classroom block) be declared surplus and turned over to War Assets Corporation as surplus government property, the question in this connection being as to whether we have the authority to do this in view of the fact that some \$19,000.00 towards the erection of this school was paid from various Indian Band funds.

The monies so paid from band funds were paid by virtue of two Orders in Council dated the 12th day of June, 1893, and the 17th day of January, 1895, which said Orders were passed in accordance with the then provisions of the Indian Act. Under these circumstances I am of opinion that the Indians could not claim any equity in the old main building which it is now proposed to turn over to the War Assets Corporation.

I am returning your Branch files 7-0-57 and 7-0-57 closed.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Departmental Solicitor.

*Review  
Bureau  
from Mr. Hoey  
how many  
150 papers*

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OF THE  
INDIAN AGENT



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DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

7-0-5

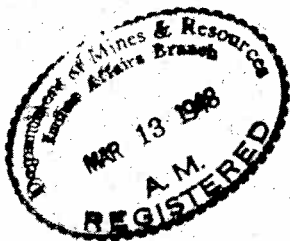
PLEASE QUOTE  
FILE 125-12

3931

Muncey, Ontario,  
Mar. 11, 1948.

As the Department is aware, some time during the year it is expected that the Crown Assets Allocation Committee will be arranging for the removal of the old Residential School building; therefore it is drawn to your attention that in the building there is a certain amount of movable equipment which belongs to the Department and which, it is assumed, would not normally be disposed of in the salvaging of the building.

Among the said equipment are cots, mattresses, pillows, kitchen range, walk-in refrigerator, washing machine, extractor and mangle. May this Office receive advice as to what the intention of the Department is regarding this equipment as it, of course, should be moved out prior to the demolition of the building. As far as the cots, mattresses and pillows go, if the Department has no place for them it would seem best to permit them being distributed among needy Indian families on the Reserve.



Yours truly,

E. P. Randle,  
A/SUPERINTENDENT.

Indian Affairs Branch,  
Dep't of Mines & Resources,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

EPR/JA

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1914  
1914  
1914

Re: Declaration by Department of Mines & Resources, Indian Residential School, Muncey, Ontario (formerly St. Michael's Indian Residential School)

LOCATION - In the Caradoc Indian Reserve, approx. 1 1/2 miles from Muncey, and approx. 21 miles southwest of London, Ontario.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION  
Consists of:

Main Centre Section  
Built in 1899, 107' long x 54' wide x 48' to eaves x 12' to peak, having basement, 3 floors, attic and super attic with two belfries each approx. 15' square rising approx. 20' above peak of building.

Two Wings  
One on the north end and one on the south end, attached and built onto main centre section, built in 1910 - 1914, each 48' long x 31' wide x 38' to eaves x 12' to peak, having basement, 2 floors and attic. The basement and first two floors are on the same level as the basement and first two floors of the main centre section, whilst the attic is on the same level as the 3rd floor of the main centre section.

Boiler House  
Attached to east side of main centre section 42' x 22' x 7'6" to eaves x 2'6" to peak.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Basement

Main Centre Section - cut stone, 2' thick, plastered and painted inside. Ceiling is lath and plaster. Floor is cement, approx. 3" thick.

Wings

- concrete 1'6" thick, plastered and painted inside, ceiling lath and plaster, floor is cement approx. 3" thick. Height of basement 12', basement floor 4' below ground level.

Walls

Exterior walls - solid yellow brick, 1'6" to 2' thick. Dividing walls solid brick average 12" thick. All window sills, solid cut stone.

Floors

The floors of each wing are supported by 10" x 10" wood beam running full length, 48', with three 6" diameter steel supporting columns. The second and third floors of the main centre section are supported by two 10" x 10" wood beams over width of 40', each with three 6" diameter steel supporting columns.

**GENERAL CONSTRUCTION - Cont'd.**

The building is approximately 207' x 10' x 12', divided into the following bays:

- 11 - **Roof**  
10' x 8' joists, 7/8" rough sheathing, heavy asphalt tiles, wood fiber board in steel guttering around all eaves.  
Fabric, painted.
- 12 - **Super Abbie**  
20' x 40' (irregular in shape), frame construction, 2" x 8";  
Floor: 2" x 6"; 2" x 4" 7/8" rough sheathing, 1" x 4" rough flooring.  
Contains 1 gravity tank, steel, 7' diameter x 10' high.
- 13 - **Railroad** x 12' having raised floor at one end 4" x 8" x 2" x 1/2";  
Frame construction 2" x 8", 2" x 6" and 2" x 4" with open  
shuttering outside. Roof, asphalt tiles. Lines fabric, painted.

**SERVICES**

Building is steam heated from central plant.

Water is pumped from springs.

Hydro Commission at Delaware supplies power.

Note: All wiring in building is run in conduit.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- 12 Durham bucket type return traps located in the wings and main centre section.
- 3 fire escapes, two attached to main centre section and one attached to south wing.

Ottawa, July 30, 1948.

Messrs. G.N. Weekes & Sons,  
Solicitors,  
396 Ridout Street,  
London, Ontario.

Attention - Mr. G.N. Weekes

Dear Sir:

Former Mount Elgin Indian Residential School

I have for answer your letter of July 23rd and your telegram of July 28th concerning the above school buildings and the property on which they are located.

The school buildings are located not on the 200 acres described in Surrender 58½C but on the 4 acres described in Surrender 58½B, copy of which is attached. Both these Surrenders were signed on February 13th, 1849. At the same time, Surrenders 58½D and 58½E were signed.

The dormitory block of the old school, erected by the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Conference and Missionary Society was destroyed by fire. In 1896 the Department built another dormitory block in order that a residential school could be continued at Mount Elgin.

A few years ago, this block was condemned by Departmental Engineers as it was in a condition dangerous to the school children. It was found that the brick arches were flattening and dislodging brick along

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the underside of the arch. This loosening was caused by the settlement of the building at the north end, thus removing the lateral support over the arches. Before building another dormitory block, it was decided to have a thorough educational survey made to determine the type of educational facilities which would best serve the Caradoc Indians.

This survey was made by a Provincial School Inspector and by the Reverend E.E.M. Joblin, M.A., of the United Church of Canada (now supervising principal of the Caradoc Schools). Acting upon the recommendations made in this survey, it was decided to close the Mount Elgin Residential School and to open a new consolidated day school.

Action was immediately taken to begin the erection of a four room consolidated school completely modern in every respect. This building is now practically finished. It is situated near the old residential school buildings.

We have provided two school buses both in charge of qualified Indian drivers. The children are transported daily to and from the consolidated school. A competent staff of qualified teachers has been conducting classes up to Grade X in the old classroom block. These classes will, of course, be conducted next year in the new building.

The Reverend Mr. Joblin who has an M.A., in Education from the University of Toronto, has been appointed Supervising Principal and is co-ordinating the work of the day schools and the new consolidated school. He has the confidence of the two Provincial School Inspectors who supervise the schools of the reserve and they have both expressed their pleasure at the manner in which progress is being made in our educational system at Caradoc.

In a report dated May 20, 1948, School Inspector Young made the following comments:

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"As the experiment advances, we see more and more benefits coming to the Indian Young People by reason of our policy. - - - - In the wider field of supervision of the Senior School, I think that Mr. Joblin has done a splendid piece of work - - - -."

We realize the need for agricultural instruction for these young Indians. At the present time we are negotiating with a qualified teacher who is a young veteran and a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and hope to add him to our Caradoc teaching staff next year.

In view of the condemnation of the old dormitory block erected by the Department and the building of a new school, it was decided to declare this building surplus and to request War Assets Corporation to have it demolished.

You will note that we have not declared surplus the old classroom block or so-called Annex Building. This was erected in 1851 and enlarged in 1856. It contains three classrooms and living quarters for the teaching staff.

With regard to the 200 acres of land in Surrender 58½C, it was our intention to operate a model community welfare farm to be farmed by the Indians for the benefit of the aged and indigent Indians and for the instruction of young Indians in farming methods and techniques. Because of the lack of a farming instructor and the illness of former Superintendent Down, it was decided to delay this project until a new Superintendent and farming instructor were appointed.

A farming instructor is now at Caradoc and the Civil Service Commission is advertising for a

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new Superintendent. Therefore, it is our intention, in due course, to discuss these proposals with the Caradoc Indian Council.

You will find that Section II of the Indian Act refers to the taking of lands for school purposes.

Yours sincerely,

Director.

BJH/MSD

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