

Indian Affairs  
School Files

(RG 10, Volume 6434)

File 877-5, part 6	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1938 - 1941
File 877-5, part 7	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1941 - 1944
File 877-5, part 8	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Supplies - Accounts. 1944 - 1947
File 877-5, part 10	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1947 - 1949
File 877-5, part 11	West Coast Agency - Alberni Residential School - Building Maintenance - Supplies - Accounts. 1950

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VOL. 6 CLOSED

VOL. 7

NO. 150

877-5104 6

IN AN ATTEMPT TO REACH

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

ALBERNI RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

BUILDINGS, ACCTS. &C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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OFFICE OF THE  
INDIAN AGENT



CANADA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

DEC 13 1938

PLEASE QUOTE  
FILE 3541/38/D.

West Coast Agency,  
Port Alberni, B.C.,  
December 8, 1938.

COPY  
Placed on  
File 31159-211

*Mr. Ashbridge  
but you will have  
to pay transportation expenses*  
*14/12/38*  
*P. B. Ashbridge*

Sir:

I have the honour to inform the Department that at the site of the late Alberni Residential School there is a quantity of two inch iron pipe, which was salvaged from the fire.

I would respectfully request permission to transfer this pipe to Uchucklesaht, where I wish to improve the domestic water system. The cost would only be that of transportation and necessary couplings, approximately \$15.00.

This would give the Uchucklesaht Band a good water supply from a natural dam to the village, whereas at the present they have to carry water for all purposes about 500 yards.

All labour in connection with installation would be done by the Band without cost to the Department.

Your obedient servant,

*P. B. Ashbridge*

P. B. Ashbridge,  
Indian Agent.

PBA/AM

The Secretary,  
Indian Affairs Branch,  
Department of Mines and Resources,  
Ottawa.

*copied  
e.B.*

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*gth*

Ottawa,  
May 18, 1938.

EX'D.

Memorandum:

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TREASURY

With reference to your memorandum of the 17th instant regarding voucher 639 I may say that from 1935 the water for the Alberni School has been secured from the town of Alberni. When the Residential School was in operation the cost of the water service was paid from school funds. Since the destruction of the school by fire the water is used by the day school which is being conducted at that point. The water has been used for two purposes:

*2/18/38*

- (a) On the land, part of which is used for a school garden.
- (b) For drinking purposes by the pupils attending the Alberni Day School.

*W.A.H.*

*R. A. Hoey*  
R. A. Hoey,  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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TREASURY OFFICE

Ottawa, May 17, 1938.

MEMORANDUM - *W* HOEY

West Coast Agency Vr.639, Jan.21/38 - \$30.00  
The Corporation of the City of Alberni, B.C.

I attach herewith the above noted paid voucher, which was returned to this office by Mr.C.J.Allan, Chief Examiner, Auditor General's Department, with the following comment,-

"City of Alberni, cheque 61293. Rent for water meter for months January to December, 1937. As this school was apparently burned last year is this account in order?"

Kindly return the voucher to the undersigned under cover of a memo. with any comment you may see fit to make.

Chief Treasury Officer.

HMG/B

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159-1-5

December 16, 1938.

Dear Sir,-

EX'D.

COPY

Placed on

file 31159-24

I have your letter of the 8th of December advising that there is a quantity of two inch iron pipe salvaged from the ruins of the Alberni Indian Residential School.

In reply I beg to say that you may have this pipe transferred to the Uchucklesaht Reserve to be used in improving the water system there. It is noted that the cost of transferring the pipe will be about \$15.00 including the purchase of the necessary couplings, and this sum may be expended providing the Indians are willing to do the work free of charge.

The accounts should be forwarded to the department for payment, and you should quote this letter and the file number as authority for incurring the expenditure.

*AW*

Yours very truly,

General Superintendent of Agencies.

P.B. Ashbbidge, Esq.,  
Indian Agent  
Port Alberni, B.C.

*Leopold  
E.P.*

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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Ottawa,  
February 23, 1939.

Memorandum:

DIRECTOR

Surveys & Engineering Branch

Re: Proposed New Indian  
Residential School,  
Alberni, British Columbia.

While a definite decision has not yet been made the Department is considering the erection of a new Indian residential school to replace the Alberni Indian residential school which was destroyed by fire on February 21, 1937. In the meantime I considered it advisable to bring the matter to your attention in order that a preliminary sketch might be made of the proposed building and other arrangements made in connection with it so that in the event of funds being provided there will be no unnecessary delay in commencing construction.

As a first step I would suggest that you arrange, at the earliest possible date, for a visit to Alberni by one of your engineers or an architect, if the services of the latter are available at the coast, with a view to examining the basement of the former school. Your representative should ascertain the size of the basement of the old school and all other information that would be of assistance in preparing plans.

In erecting a new residential school at this point provision will have to be made for 200 pupils and a staff of approximately 12 persons. The building should, of course, be fireproof.

*Howell*

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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I am under the impression that if a building with four class rooms with full basement accommodation were erected separate from the main building, it would involve less expense and at the same time provide other advantages. The building containing the class rooms would not necessarily have to be of fireproof construction. The class room building would contain a hall in the middle with two class rooms on each side. Sliding partitions should be placed between the two class rooms on either side of the building. This would enable these rooms to be opened into one room if necessary. As stated above full basement should be provided under this building for vocational training purposes.

If the suggestion made in the preceding paragraph were put into effect it is quite possible that the present basement would be sufficiently large to permit the erection of the main building which should be a building with full basement, two stories high with dormer roof and a residence for the Principal at one end.

As soon as your representative forwards his report it would be appreciated if you would submit it to me for consideration by the officials of this Branch.

*Alvord*

Director.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, CANADA  
DOMINION WATER POWER AND HYDROMETRIC BUREAU

R E P O R T

on

SITE AND OLD FOUNDATION WALLS  
ALBERNI INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL  
WEST COAST INDIAN AGENCY

ALBERNI, B.C.

by

G.H.WHYTE

C.E.Webb, Esq.,  
District Chief Engineer,  
Dominion Water and Power Bureau,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C.,

April 6, 1939.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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R E P O R T  
on  
SITE AND OLD FOUNDATION WALLS  
ALBERNI INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL  
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Vancouver, B. C.,  
April 6, 1939.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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Vancouver, B. C.,  
April 6, 1939.

Sir: Report on Site and Old Foundation Walls,  
Alberni Indian Residential School,  
Alberni, B.C.

In accordance with your instructions of recent date, I inspected the remains of the Alberni Indian Residential School on March 20th, and beg to report as follows:-

SITE

The school site consists of a block of land on the north or right shore of the Somass river about one mile from Alberni and three miles from Port Alberni. Adjoining the site on the west is Tsahaheh Indian Reserve and on the east property owned by the United Church. The portion of the site adjacent to the river is low clay land suitable for garden purposes. At an elevation about 35 feet above this is a level bench of sandy gravel on which the old school was located. This flat bench area is about 500 feet by 350 feet and is a very suitable site for a school, with sufficient area for small playing fields. Back of this bench the land rises to the north edge of the property. The eastern part of this slope is cleared agricultural land on which is situated a large barn. The western edge is uncleared land with rock exposures at about same elevation as the bench on which school was located.

DRAINAGE

The old school had a basement floor two feet below the ground level and no trouble from water was reported. The heating plant floor was four feet below ground level and considerable trouble

C.E. Webb, Esq.,  
District Chief Engineer,  
Dominion Water and Power Bureau,  
Vancouver, B.C.

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from water was experienced. With precipitation to be expected at this point (Port Alberni 70.65 inches per year) it will therefore be necessary to provide for proper drainage. With the lower land in front of the building construction of drains from the building site to this lower land is an easy problem.

OLD WALLS ETC.

The foundations of the old school are still standing but an examination of them indicates that the mortar and concrete is of very poor quality, either due to the fire or as a result of using poor mixtures during construction. These walls extend nine feet above ground level and consist of one course of brick with a five inch face of field stone and cement blocks. The bricks about windows, doors etc. are badly broken and the whole can be easily removed from position by hand or with a hammer. The mortar does not adhere to the bricks as it should and I would therefore suggest the whole of this masonry be removed. Some of the brick can be used again although it is generally of poor quality. The boiler room has a concrete lining inside the brick work to keep out seepage through the walls but this also is of very poor quality, it being possible to penetrate the concrete almost an inch with a pointed 1" bar about 8 inches long held in the hand. The chimney for the boiler is still standing but the mortar is so poor that it is probably not safe. This chimney is four feet by four feet at the base and about 50 feet or more high.

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WATER SUPPLY

In December, 1935, this Bureau installed a new 4" water main from the City of Alberni's 4" main to the school where it connected to the school 2" system. This pipeline appears in good order and could be used for the domestic supply of the new school but is not suitable for fire fighting purposes owing to the limited supply of water available through the 4" mains of the City of Alberni which can supply 100 U.S. gallons per minute at 30-lbs. pressure.

Report of E.H. Tredercroft made December 5, 1935(our number 407) on "Improvements to Fire Protection System at Alberni Indian School" goes into this phase of the water supply system at some length. This report suggests a 6" wood stave fire main be run from the Somass river to the school, water to be pumped by a 50-60 h.p. Gasoline engine housed in a wooden pump house near the river and above a concrete intake well connected to the river by means of a 14" Vitrified supply pipe. This system would supply 500 U.S. gallons per minute or enough to keep two fire streams of 240 U.S. gallons per minute in operation. The system of partial monotor hydrants and partial ordinary hydrants to which hose may be connected is worthy of consideration in connection with this project as the monotor type hydrants are available without delay and can thus be put in service before the hose lines can be run out. The estimated cost of this system as then proposed was \$3600.00.

LIGHT SUPPLY

Electricity was previously supplied to the school by the National Utilities Corporation of Alberni who had a 2200 volt power line from their

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transmission line along the Alberni-Great Central Lake road. This supply is considered to be more satisfactory than would be the construction and operation of a private system at the school. Charges for light are 9¢ for first 30 K.W. hours and 3¢ per K.W. hour for the balance with \$1.50 per H.P. standby charge for any motors which may be installed. The charges at the old school ran from \$5.50 to \$40.00 per month and maximum consumption was 1321 K.W. hours. At the old school there was a 2 H.P. motor in the laundry.

#### HEATING SYSTEM

The old boiler and hot water tank at the school are still in place and it is probable that this boiler could be put in shape to handle the heating of the proposed school. It is an 84 H.P. Horizontal Return Tubular boiler 66" x 12'0" built in 1920 by Vulcan Iron Works of Vancouver and designed to operate at 100 lbs. pressure. The boiler normally worked at 10 lbs. and as it is brick encased it is probable that it would be suitable for the new school after overhaul.

A number of the old radiators are in the ruins but it is probable these are of little value except as scrap iron.

The fuel for the new building could be crude oil, coal, wood or sawdust (hog fuel). It is probable that a heating unit burning sawdust or hog fuel would be the most economical at the moment as there are two large sawmills at Port Alberni and others nearby from which fuel could be obtained at a reasonable cost at present. It is probable this type of fuel will be available at reasonable cost, if storage is provided, for a number of years to come.

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SEWAGE SYSTEM

At the old school there is a sewage disposal system consisting of pipe lines to a septic tank with necessary filter beds. The filter beds located on the side hill washed out and after further consideration were not considered necessary and overflow from the tank was then carried direct to the Somass river by means of a 6" vitrified pipe installed in 1930. The tank is 12 feet by 4.5 feet by 4.5 feet and was designed for a school of 125 occupants. After the new outlet was installed in 1930 this tank gave entire satisfaction. It is believed that if the waste water from laundry and kitchen of the proposed school were carried by a separate pipe direct to the outlet pipe by-passing the septic tank, the present septic tank would meet the requirements of the new school. The presence of laundry and kitchen waste in a septic tank materially decreases its efficiency and it is not desirable to pass such waste through the tank if at all possible. If the present system is used it might be found desirable to replace the pipe between the new school and the tank and in any case would require a new 4" pipe to convey laundry and kitchen waste from the school to the septic tank outlet pipe.

SALVAGE MATERIAL AT OLD SCHOOL

A considerable amount of brick could be salvaged from the old school site and while not of best quality could be used for certain purposes. There is also a considerable quantity of field stone and cement blocks in the walls and these look to be in fair condition and probably a good percentage could be used.

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The window sash weights have been salvaged and are neatly piled near the wall of the boiler room. These are in good condition and can be re-used.

A good deal of scrap iron such as pipes, broken radiators, fire escapes etc. could be salvaged.

PROPOSED TYPE OF SCHOOL

Three possible types of schools might be considered for this site.

- (1) School similar to that destroyed, with residence and class rooms under one roof.
- x (2) Separate school building and residence building.
- (3) Separate school building with several cottage residences and administration building.

The apparent advantages and disadvantages of these are considered hereafter.

1. A building of this type would have to be fireproof throughout and unless of about three stories would cover a considerable area. Heating of such a building would be least costly and supervision would be easiest although such a building would of necessity have day students in it as well as residents, which is possibly a disadvantage.

2. Separate school and residence would permit of the school functions being entirely separate from the dormitory which is said to be an advantage. The heating of the two buildings would be probably more expensive than of one combined building although a central heating system could be installed. If this layout is desired it is suggested the new dormitory building be to the west and the school to the east so that sewage disposal can be readily handled. The school buildings might be slightly forward or south of the old site to leave more playground space to the back and north of the buildings. The boiler house

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could be adjacent to the dormitory building making access easy at night to check over fires. Sketch shows suggested location of new buildings.

3. At the request of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs a visit was paid to the Fairbridge Farm School near Duncan and the system of cottage residences was looked into and very much impressed the writer. Here they have a large school building, 14 cottage residences, a main building with kitchen, dining hall and laundry as well as separate building for manual training, office, principal's residence, farm buildings etc. In each residence are housed 14 students of various ages under control of a matron. The most modern of these cottages are double buildings and each section contains small sitting room, bedroom and bathroom for matron, dormitory room, kitchen and small dining room on one floor with play room under dormitory, bathroom, locker room in basement with one hot air wood burning heating unit, drying room and fuel room for the two sections. Thirteen of these cottages are used as residences and the fourteenth as a hospital. Breakfast and dinner (noon) are obtained at the main dining hall and supper in the cottage. The Alberni site would be very suitable for such a school system as the cottages could be built on the side hill to the northwest of the old school site.

As the cottages are all small they need not be of fireproof construction and therefore would probably not be expensive to build, although due to having additional matrons it would probably make the cost of operation heavy as compared with a single dormitory building. If this type of school was decided on it might be considered each cottage should house more than 14 and to do this it is suggested only part of building have basement and the playroom as at Fairbridge

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school be built with floor above ground level and used as one dormitory with a second dormitory above.

GENERAL

The provision of adequate and suitable fire protection for the proposed buildings is desirable and it is also desirable that fire escape provision be of such a nature that they cannot be cut off from ease of access. It is probable that chutes would be most suitable as they do not permit of easy access to the upper stores which is an objection to the usual type of fire escape. The school itself should be so designed as to permit of more than one outlet in case of fire to each portion of the building.

The wash and bathrooms for the school should be adjacent to the dormitories themselves and on the same floor. Provision should also be made for toilets adjacent to the school rooms for use of day students as it is not desirable that they have access to the dormitory building or portion of the building.

The small building shown on plan as school room was formerly used as a manual training room and it could be converted into a shop to be used for boat building which it is understood is desirable at this school. If boat building is to be carried on in the basement of the school proper adjacent to the manual training shops provision should be made to permit the boat being removed when completed.

Reference reports on this school are:-

- Our No.237 Report on proposed repairs to Sewage Disposal System, Port Alberni Indian School by A.L.McNaughton, April 30, 1930.
- Our No.269 Report on Installation of Septic Tank Outlet Drain at Alberni Indian Mission School by A.L.McNaughton, Aug.27, 1930

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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Our No. 407 Report on Improvements to Fire Protection System at Alberni Indian School, West Coast Agency, by E.H.Tredcroft, Dec. 5, 1935.

Our No. 410 Report re repairs to Domestic Water Supply, Alberni Indian School, Alberni, B. C. by E.H.Tredcroft, Dec. 4, 1935.

The several possible arrangements of school and residence in connection with this project have been covered in some detail as such information may be of value to the officials in charge of the educational phase of the Indian Affairs Branch activities, to enable them to decide on which type of school would be most suitable to meet the requirements of the Alberni locality.

Your obedient servant,



G.H. Whyte  
Asst. District Chief Engineer

APPROVED:-

  
District Chief Engineer

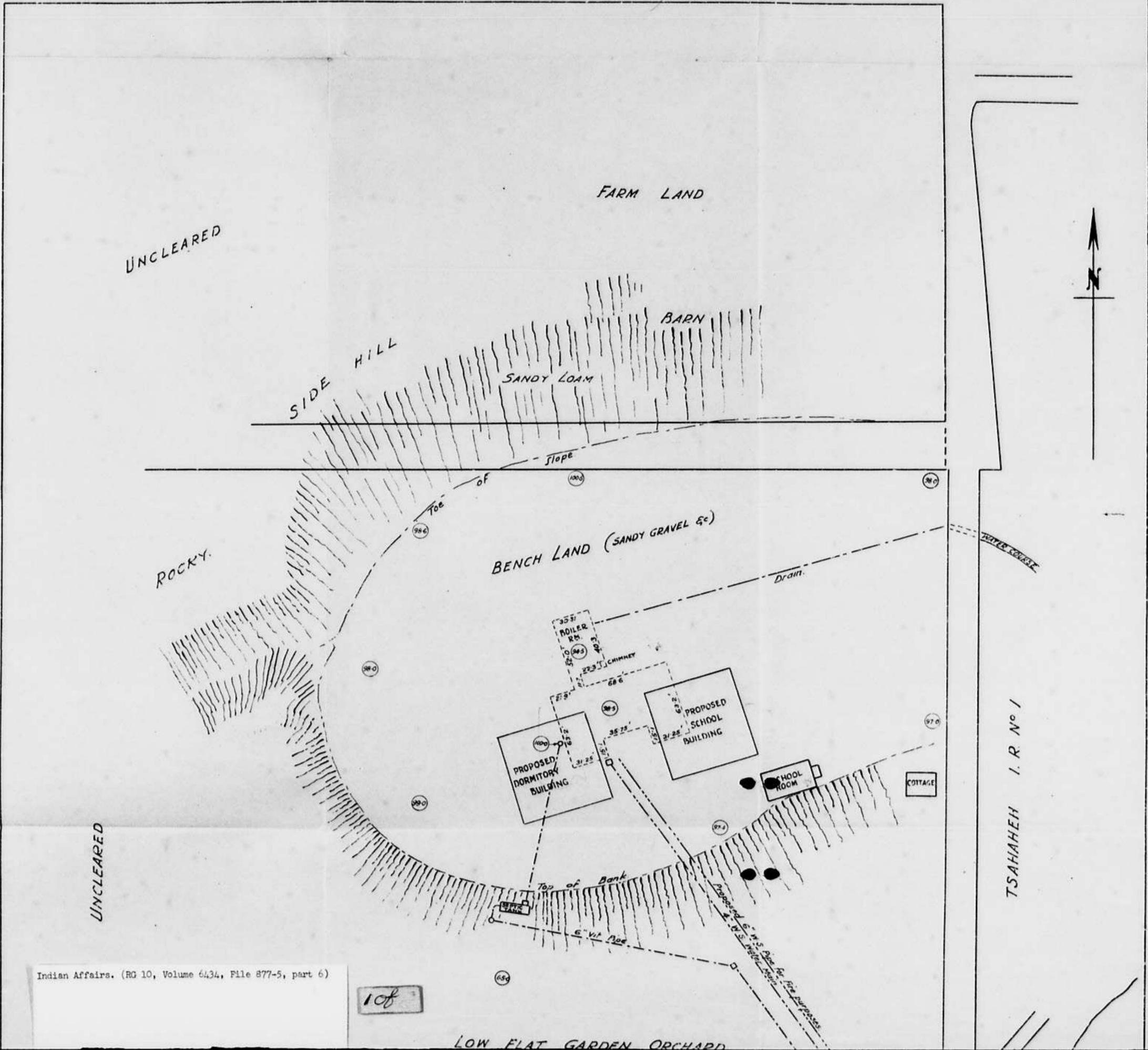
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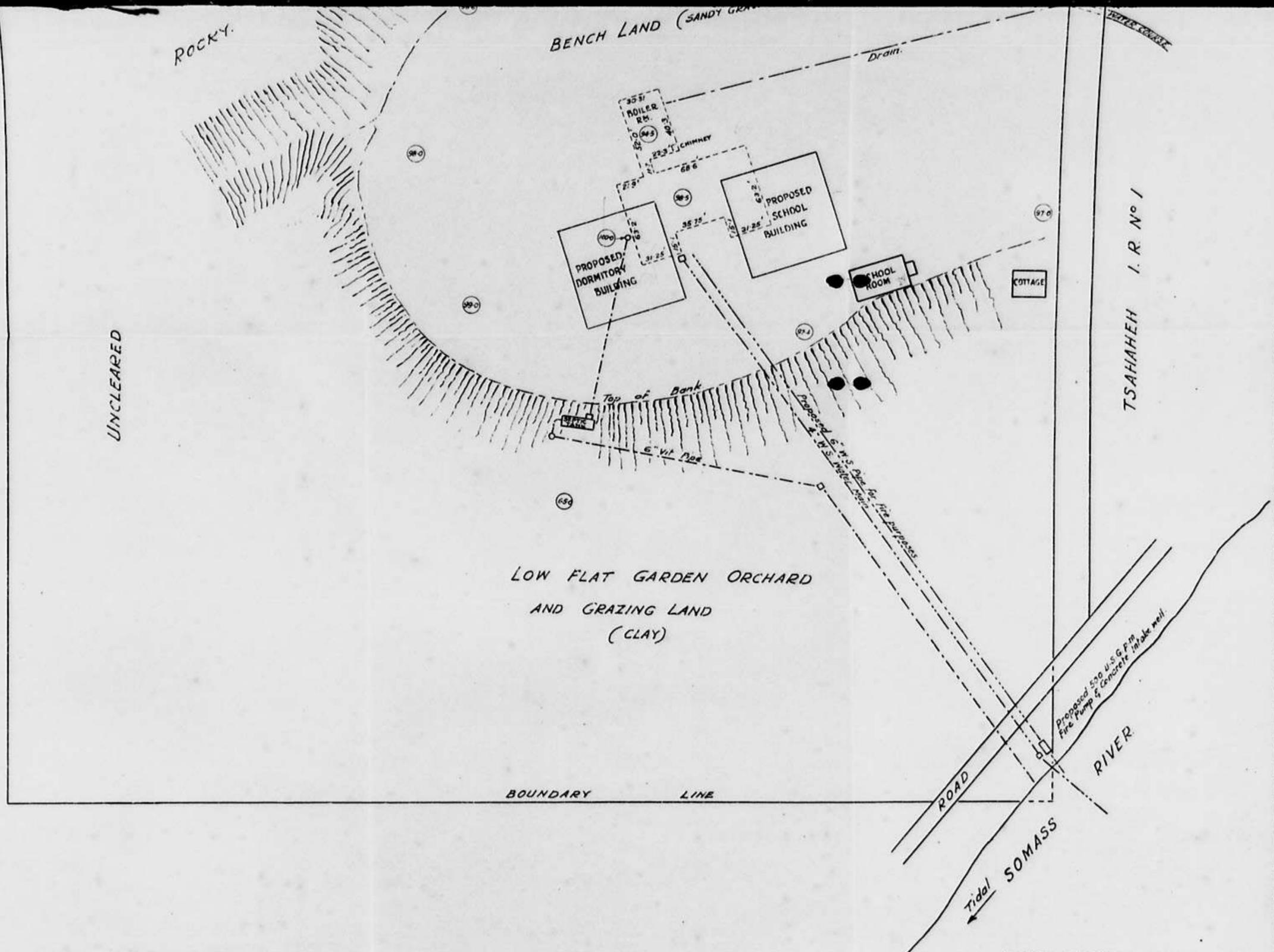
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Elevations shown thus.  $\odot$   
 Manholes " "  $\circ$   
 Cut-off Valves " "  $\square$

SCALE: 1 INCH = 50 FEET

DOMINION WATER AND POWER BUREAU VANCOUVER B.C.	
PLAN OF SITE ALBERNI RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ALBERNI, B.C.	
Survey by G.H.W. Plan by A.J.P. Approved <i>G. Storb</i> Chief Engineer	Plan No 31 Report No 470 Corres File No 33615-1 Date. Apl. 6. 1939.

Ottawa,  
May 18, 1939.

EXD

Dear Sir:

I desire to refer to your letter of the 3rd instant in which you request authority to sell a large quantity of scrap iron, piping etc. at present on the site of the Alberni residential school in order to pay the Indians for their labour in clearing the site. I agree with you that your suggestion would be a simple and convenient method of cleaning up the old site preparatory to the erection of the new building, but unfortunately, the procedure suggested would be contrary to the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act. To dispose of the old material and use the proceeds would really be supplementing any parliamentary appropriation provided for the re-erection of the building. The proceeds of the sale should of course be deposited to actual revenue. At the same time, the Chief Treasury Officer would no doubt decline to pass the accounts for the labour involved. I am confident that we would be severely criticized by the Auditor General's Department and the Treasury Board if the circumstances became known that we were using the proceeds of material sold, to meet other expenditures.

Under the circumstances, I think that the only legitimate course open to us is to ask the Salvage Officer to dispose of the old scrap iron, piping etc., by tender in the usual way, crediting any proceeds to Casual Revenue of your Branch. The cost of clearing the debris would have to be borne by the appropriation for the re-erection of the building.

In view of the above you should not take any further action toward clearing the site of the Alberni school.

F. E. Ashbridge, Esq.,  
Indian Agent,  
Port Alberni, B. C.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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You might let me know the approximate quantities and kinds of scrap iron, piping etc. that is at present on the site and also advise if you consider it marketable and if it could be sold locally. If so, you might let me know the names of the persons who would possibly purchase it. I require this information for the Salvage Officer.

Yours truly,

R. A. Hoey,  
Supt. of Welfare & Training.

*[Handwritten initials]*

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(C O P Y)

Ottawa, May 12, 1939.

Memorandum:

DR. MCGILL  
Indian Affairs Branch

Re: Alberni Indian Residential  
School, Alberni, B. C.

Your File 5159-21

I wish to acknowledge your memorandum of the 8th instant, in which you recommend that the Indian Agent be authorized to sell the large quantity of scrap iron, piping, etc., in the ruins of the old building, using the proceeds to pay the Indians engaged in clearing the site.

I agree with you that your suggestion would be a simple and convenient method of cleaning up the old site preparatory to the erection of the new building, but unfortunately, the procedure suggested would be contrary to the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act. To dispose of the old material and use the proceeds would really be supplementing any parliamentary appropriation provided for the re-erection of the building. The proceeds of the sale should of course be deposited to actual revenue. At the same time, the Chief Treasury Officer would no doubt decline to pass the accounts for the labour involved. I am confident that we would be severely criticized by the Auditor General's Department and the Treasury Board if the circumstances became known that we were using the proceeds of material sold, to meet other expenditures.

Under the circumstances, I think that the only legitimate course open to us is to ask the Salvage Officer to dispose of the old scrap iron, piping, etc., by tender in the usual way, crediting any proceeds to Casual Revenue of your Branch. The cost of clearing the debris would have to be borne by the appropriation for the re-erection of the building.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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If you wish me to proceed with the disposal of the old material please let me know to whom interested parties should apply and any necessary information which might now be submitted to the Salvage Officer.

(Sgd.) W. M. Bailey,  
Departmental Purchasing Agent.

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Ottawa,  
April 26, 1939.

Memorandum:

DIRECTOR

Surveys & Engineering Branch

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum of April 20 enclosing copy of report on the site and old foundation walls of the Alberni Indian residential school.

It is noted that Mr. Webb's report suggests three possible types of school and it has been decided that the most suitable type for Alberni is a residence building with a separate school building.

The executive officers of the Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada, under whose auspices this school is conducted, were in Ottawa yesterday and I requested Mr. Buck and Mr. Dudley to come to Mr. Hoey's office in order to discuss with these officials the layout of the buildings desired.

Complete information was given to Messrs Buck and Dudley and I hope that it will be possible to have a rough sketch of the proposed buildings prepared at the earliest possible date in order that we may submit this sketch to the officers of the United Church Missionary Society.

As I pointed out to you previously the Department desires to have the construction of this school commenced as soon as possible.

The amount provided in the special supplementary estimates for the erection of this building is \$150,000.00.

Director.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR



CANADA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MINES AND RESOURCES

159-1-5  
SURVEYS AND  
ENGINEERING BRANCH

April 20, 1939.

R

Memorandum:

Dr. McGill.

I am forwarding herewith, for your information, copy of a report on the site and old foundation walls of the Alberni Indian Residential School received from District Chief Engineer Webb.

*J. M. Wardle*

Director.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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159-1-5

Ottawa, May 25, 1939.

Memorandum:

DIRECTOR  
Surveys and Engineering Branch

I enclose letter which has just been received from the Custodis Canadian Chimney Company, Limited, Chicago, Ill. I should appreciate it if you would reply to this letter.

Philip Phelan,  
Chief, Training Division  
Director.

*P.P.*

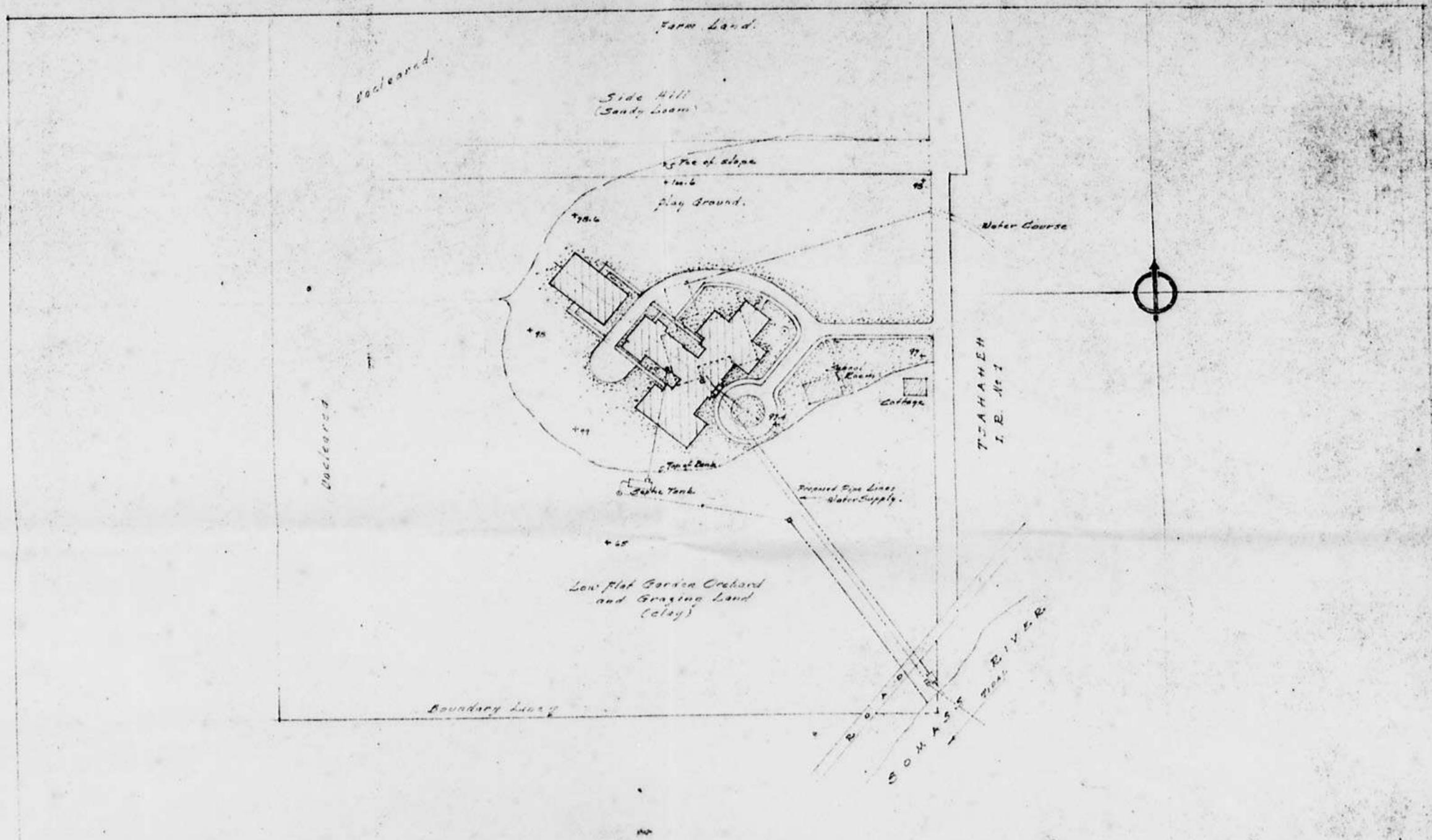
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Engineering & Construction Service  
 Survey & Engineering Branch  
 Department of Mines & Resources  
 Ottawa, May 1939 QD.

**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL**  
 WEST COAST INDIAN AGENCY - ALBERTA B.C.

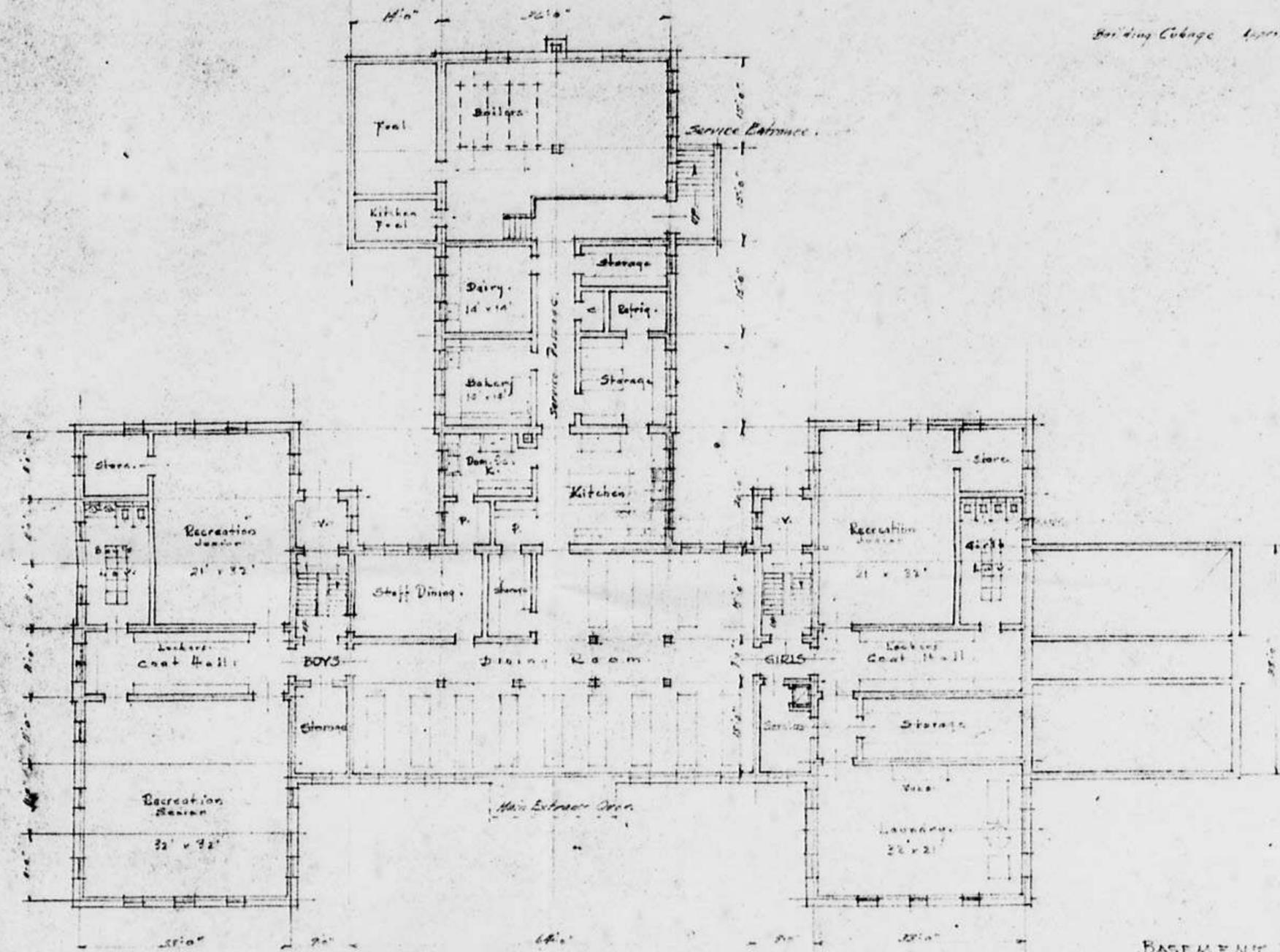
SITE PLAN  
 Scale: 1" = 100'.0"

1/6

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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Building Cubage approx 473,000 cu. ft.



Engineering & Construction Service  
Surveys & Engineering Branch  
Department of Mines & Resources  
Ottawa, May, 1939. B.

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL  
WEST COAST INDIAN AGENCY, ALBERTA, D.C.

BASEMENT PLAN  
Scale: 1" = 16'-0"

2/6

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 6434, File 877-5, part 6)

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