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**Ahousaht IRS
IAP School Narrative
November 2009
January 2010**

This School Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the school.

NAME OF SCHOOL AND VARIANTS

- Ahousaht School [AST-200130, AST-200110]
- Ahousaht Boarding School [AST-200051]
- Ahousaht Indian School [AST-200140, AST-200126]
- Ahousaht Indian Boarding School [AST-200119]
- Ahousaht United Church Residential School [AEMR-200152]
- Ahousat Mission [AST-200120-0001]
- Ahousat Residential School [AST-200140.AST-200148]
- Ahousaht Indian Residential School [AST-200060]

Years during which the school was operated solely or in part by the Federal Government as a residence for school age students:

- 1904 – January, 1940

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

- Ahousaht School opened in 1904 by the Women’s Missionary Society [AEMR-200432].
- In May of 1917 the Ahousaht Boarding School burnt down [ABR-000689].
- A roof fire occurred in the classroom on May 7th, 1931 [ABR-014795-0000].
- The main school building was destroyed by fire on January 26th 1940. All students were returned to their homes. It was recommended that a temporary day school be opened at Ahousaht to care for the education needs of 40 pupils whose homes were located in Ahousaht. [AST-200085-0001].

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL

Dates managed by Presbyterian Church

- The Ahousaht Boarding School was under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church from the 1904/1905 school year to the 1925/1926 school year [AEMR-

010016, AEMR-010017, AEMR-010018, AEMR-010019, AEMR-010020, AEMR-010021, AEMR-010022, AEMR-016307, AEMR-010034, AEMR-010035, AEMR-010036, and AEMR-010037].

Dates assigned to the United Church of Canada

- The Ahousaht Boarding School was owned and administered under the auspices of the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church from the 1926/1927 school year to the 1939/1940 school year [AEMR-010038, AEMR-010039, AEMR-010040, AEMR-010041, AEMR-010042, AEMR-010043, AEMR-010044, AEMR-010045, AEMR-010046, AEMR-010047, AST-200076-0000, AEMR-010049, AEMR-010050, and AST-200085-0001].

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

- An undated document describes the school. It has a large basement which includes a laundry as well as a bench for carpentering and plumbing, a main floor which includes a dispensary and a post office, and a classroom in a separate building outside. [AST-200051].
- 1904 - The school-house was occupied as of October 1904 and belongs to the Presbyterian Church on the Maktosis reserve; it is a frame building, 46 x 68 feet, two stories, with a basement and a large attic. The basement contains separate playrooms for boys and girls, a laundry and drying-room, and a workshop. Full descriptions of all three floors are included in this document [AEMR-010016].
- 1905/1906 – A woodshed measuring 24 x 18 feet was erected [AEMR-010017].
- 1906/1907 - A 16 foot addition was made to the woodshed during the year, making the building 40 x 18 feet [AEMR-010018].
- 1907/1908 - A bakehouse, 20 x 12 feet, was added to the west side of the main building [AEMR-010019].
- 1908/1909 - A barn, 26 x 18 feet, was erected for holding the crop and stabling stock; a henhouse, 17 x 15 feet was erected. There is a woodshed connected to the school building which measures 40 x 18 feet [AEMR-010020].
- 1908/1909 - There is a farm for school use. The new workshop, 18 x 25 x 12 feet was completed [AEMR-010021].
- 1909/1910 - The school building is a frame structure, 68 x 46 feet, with two stories, a basement and an attic. A workshop, 24 x 16 feet, was built. Other buildings consist of a barn measuring 26 x 18 feet, a henhouse measuring 17 x 15 feet, and a woodshed measuring 40 x 18 feet [AEMR-010021].

- 1910/1911 - A new launch-house and smoke house for drying salmon was built. A new boat-house, 12 x 30 feet, was erected [AEMR-010022].
- 1911/1912 -The outside playroom for girls was 12 x 30 feet [AEMR-010023].
- 1912/1913 – A large water tank was installed for the purpose of increasing the supply of water for the institution. A new cement floor was laid around the furnace in the basement to prevent fires. A new barn and chicken-house were built during the year [AEMR-010024].
- 1929 - Addition of a new power building, playrooms, classroom and dormitory [AST-200068-0001]. A 55' x 16' structure built to house the engine, light plant, the laundry machine, with room for ironing and other laundry-related activities. In addition, Church funds were used to enlarge the classroom, fitting up the boys' playroom, and to install a cable and winch system to assist with the landing difficulties [AST-200126]. Money was provided by the Woman's Missionary Society and the Indian Department for the following improvements: extensions to dormitories, dining-room, sewing-room, classroom, kitchen and playrooms, erection of laundry and engine room, purchase of engine, kitchen stove and bake oven, a winch and cable, the installation of a hot water heating system, and plumbing throughout the school building [UCB-005106].
- 1931- Erection of the carpenter shop and boat-building shop; addition of another classroom [AST-200142].
- 1931 - Placing of generating plant in the proposed carpenter and boat-building shop [AST-200143].
- 1931 - Measurements of girls and boys dormitories [AST-200073].
- 1934 - Details of school buildings: a manual training room on the ground floor, a boys' dormitory (24 x 48 feet) with accommodation for a supervisor's room on the first floor (12 x 16 feet). The old woodshed (24 x 48 feet) is only 12 feet from the wall of this new building and is falling down and a fire hazard. A new woodshed should be erected. A fine wooden playground made with cedar planks has recently been added (90 x 50 feet) [AST-200074-0001].
- 1937 – Work was being done regarding laundry building and principal's residence [No document #].
- 1938 – The school is listed as a fire hazard [AST-200077-0001].

- 1938 - It is suggested that the school is dangerous and a major fire hazard and that it should be closed, entirely rebuilt, or abandoned. Parts of the residential school building could be suitable for use as a day school [AST-200081-0000].
- 1939 – This document includes a description of three floors of the main building and the area surrounding the school buildings. The Inspector acknowledges that the school, being an old frame building, is a fire hazard [AST-200078-0003].
- 1940 – The main school building was destroyed by fire on January 26th 1940. Two classrooms were not destroyed and could be used for a day school [AST-200085-0001].

LAND

- 1905 - There are 140 acres of land belonging to the school; most of it is heavily timbered and is the property of the Presbyterian Church [AEMR-010016].
- 1910 - There is a farm of about seventeen acres of loamy soil ready for cultivation. It was recovered by draining a small lake about 100 yards away from the school [AEMR-010021]. The land itself is of very poor quality. One acre has been used for garden purposes [No document #].
- 1918 – The Presbyterian Church owns the land on which the Ahousaht Boarding School was built [ABR-000689].
- 1929 - The Church owns the whole school property, land and buildings [AST-200068-0001].
- 1930 – This document includes a description of the land and roads surrounding the school [AST-200138].
- 1940 - The building was the property of the United Church Missions [AST-200085-0001].

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

- Map showing Mission Road in 1931 [AST-200080].

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

School Year	Number of Students
1904/1905	31-36 children in residence
1905/1906	35-38 children in residence

1906/1907	40-42 children in residence
1907/1908	40-45 children in residence
1908/1909	40-48 children in residence
1909/1910	32-41 children in residence
1910/1911	35-40 children in residence
1911/1912	30-36 children in residence
1912/1913	25-33 children in residence
1913/1914	25-30 children in residence
1914/1915	31-37 children in residence
1915/1916	34-36 children in residence
1916/1917	29 children in residence
1917/1918	10-20 children in residence
1918/1919	9-19 children in residence
1919/1920	19-23 children in residence
1920/1921	22-24 children in residence
1921/1922	25-30 children in residence
1922/1923	28-31 children in residence
1923 /1924	33-36 children in residence
1924/1925	35-41 children in residence
1925/1926	39-42 children in residence
1926/1927	41-44 children in residence
1927/1928	41-43 children in residence
1928/1929	40-45 children in residence
1929/1930	42-43 children in residence
1930/1931	48-50 children in residence
1931/1932	53-54 children in residence
1932/1933	60-62 children in residence
1933/1934	60-63 children in residence
1934/1935	53-61 children in residence

1935/1936	48-54 children in residence
1936/1937	47-59 children in residence
1937/1938	70 children in residence
1938/1939	73 children in residence
1939/1940	68 children in residence

These figures are based on average ranges of number of children in residence for each respective year.

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES

Students from at least the following bands attended Ahousaht Indian Residential School:

- Ahousaht and Ehatishat bands [AEMR-010016]

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- The Ahousaht Boarding School was under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church (1904/05-1925/26). (See “Management of School” section for document references.)
- The Ahousaht Boarding School was under the auspices of the Women’s Missionary Society of the United Church (1926/27-1939/40). (See “Management of School” section for document references.)
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WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1911, April – Agreement between His Majesty the King and the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to support, maintain and educate, in a manner satisfactory to the Superintendent General, at the boarding school at Ahousaht in the province of British Columbia ... not more than Twenty-five (25) Indian pupils [BAX-000361] ¹

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO SCHOOL INCIDENTS

- To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Ahousaht IRS or of any convicted abusers present at the school.

¹ A document dated 1929 makes a reference to the school being operated at the time in accordance with section 9-11a of the 1906 Indian Act [AST-200065].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A document refers to complaints being made against the Principal of the Ahousaht Boarding School. No details are provided as to the nature of the complaints [AST-200034].
- In 1915, an unfortunate accident involving matches caused the death of a student at the school [AST-200026].
- In 1915/1916, there was a death at the school [No document #, dated 1916].
- In 1929, the school replaced the old building that had burned down years before [AST-200106].
- In 1938, an accident in the laundry room of the school caused a student to have an arm injury that required amputation [AST-200154-0001].
- In 1938, the school was described as a sanitation and fire hazard and a recommendation was made that it be abandoned at the earliest possible date [ABR-000701].

Comment [k1]: This is the 1916 unnumbered document

Health Matters

- During the 1905/1906 school year, an epidemic of whooping-cough and grippe passed through the school. An isolation room was used for any serious or contagious conditions and one of the staff was a trained nurse [AEMR-010017].
- During the 1906/1907 school year, some sickness was experienced from an epidemic of grippe. During the year, one boy died at the school [AEMR-010018].
- During the 1907/1908 school year there was an epidemic of measles in February; one girl, whose health had not been good for some time previously, died a couple of weeks after her recovery from the measles. One boy died in December from tubercular trouble. The school had a suitable room provided for isolation in cases of sickness [AEMR-010019].
- During the 1908/1909 school year, there was “an epidemic of measles at the close of the last year” – I don’t know what this means. 1907/08? December 1908?; one girl died from complications resulting from the disease and one boy died from tubercular trouble. Two pupils were dismissed on account of their health being unsatisfactory for school life [AEMR-010020].
- During the 1909/1910 school year, two girls were discharged on account of their health being unsatisfactory for school life. One of the girls discharged died from consumption [AEMR-010021].

Comment [k2]: This is a direct quote from the document. We are unable to clarify any further

- One pupil, who was discharged in 1911, died in August of 1912 [AEMR-010024].
- During the 1912/1913 school year, there was one slight epidemic of grippe during the winter [AEMR-010024].
- During the 1912/1913 school year, an ex-pupil, discharged a year ago in January, died from consumption in July [AEMR-010024].
- During the 1915/1916 school year, there was one slight epidemic among children of Ahousaht in January, which, at first was thought to be small-pox, but fortunately did not develop into anything more serious than chicken-pox [No document # dated 1916].
- During the 1926/1927 school year, a serious epidemic of flu disorganized the routine of the school [UCB-005101].
- During the 1927/1928 school year, two pupils passed away [UCB-005102].
- During the 1935/1936 school year, a female pupil was discharged from the school with incurable tuberculosis [UCB-005126].
- During November of 1938, thirty-two children were confined to bed with influenza and tonsillitis, which appeared to be found throughout the school [AST-200082].
- During May of 1939, children were recovering from influenza [AST-200161].

Day School

- By August 1917, the Ahousaht Day School was in operation [AST-200040].
- As of December 10th 1918, the Ahousaht Indian Day School was found not practical and was discontinued [AST-200050-0001, AST-200046].
- As of March 1939, an improved day school was suggested at Ahousaht in order to provide for a larger number of pupils in residential schools in the area [UCB-005137].
- In February of 1940, an Inspector indicates that a new day school should be erected at Ahousaht rather than using the old IRS classroom building [AST-200086].

- In September 1967, an Adult Education program was suggested for Ahousaht School [AST-200210]².

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS³

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
J.C. Butchart	Principal	1904-1905
Rev. J.L. Millar	Principal	1906-1909
Rev. John T. Ross	Principal	December 1909-1916
Vanderveen	Principal	September 1916
Rev. J.L. Millar	Principal	1919-1928
Rev. W.R. Wood	Principal	January 1928- October 1929
Rev. Joseph Jones	Principal	October 1929-1935
A.E. Caldwell	Principal	July 1935-1938

Date Updated: November 5, 2009

Date Updated: January 12, 2010

² Documents do not indicate a clear closing date for the Ahousaht Day School. It was still functioning until at least September of 1967.

³ Note that the principals and administrators listed are those for the Ahousaht Residential School only, not the day school.

The original school narrative document produced by Canada also contains a number of records that have been separated pending review.



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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA