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Turquetil Hall Student Residence (Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut)
IAP Student Residence Narrative
December 9, 2010

This IAP Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of the student residence.

NAME AND VARIANTS OF STUDENT RESIDENCE

- Roman Catholic Mission Hostel / Residence at Chesterfield Inlet (CIU-000576¹, NWT-003567²)
- St. Mary's Residence / Sainte-Marie Residence (CIU-002466, CIU-001484)
- Chesterfield Inlet Federal Hostel / Roman Catholic (Federal) Hostel at Chesterfield Inlet (NWT-000184[001-001])
- Turquetil Hall Hostel / Residence (RCN-006139³)

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

August 1, 1954 - June 30, 1969 [CIU-002466, CIU-001807]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

1954 Construction on the student residence begins in 1954. "Most of the work of construction was carried out by Brother Paradis [of the Roman Catholic Mission] and five Eskimos" [NWT-003567].

For the school year 1954/55, two dozen students are housed in the old mission residence (attached to the mission church) while construction begins on the residence [CIU-000299, CIU-000302].

1955 In 1955 the Catholic Church completes a 28-bed hostel in Chesterfield Inlet, which is replaced the following year by a 70-bed hostel [CIU-000485].

The hostel, at this time a Church-owned and -managed student residence, funded by the federal government, begins housing children as of 1955 and is named St. Mary's (Sainte-Marie) residence by the Catholic mission [CIU-002466, CIU-001484, NWT-000131[001-001]].

¹ Documents with the prefix CIU are from the Turquetil Hall document collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

² Documents with the prefix NWT are from the North-Northwest Territory (OLD) document collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

³ Documents with the prefix RCN are from the Northwest Territory and Nunavut Regional document collection. These are Crown-sourced documents.

- 1956 The official inauguration of St. Mary's Residence [Turquetil Hall] was held on August 14, 1956 [CIU-000762].
- In 1956, the Government inspects the hostel with the intention of arriving at a fair purchase price. The inspection finds that additional work would be needed to bring the building up to an adequate standard [NWT-003565 [001-001], NWT-003567[000-000]].
- 1957 A second appraisal is conducted in 1957 to determine the present state of the building; the utility of the building for continued use as a hostel; the repairs needed to bring the building up to good standard; the effect any defects might have on the long-term life of the building; and the likely costs to the department to continue to maintain the building [NWT-000131[001-001], NWT-000142 [003-003]].
- 1959 As of February 26, 1959 the Government approves the purchase of "a 75-student hostel at Chesterfield Inlet" and the Catholic Church authorities accept the Government's offer to purchase the hostel [NWT-000178].
- 1961 The residence in Chesterfield is officially renamed Turquetil Hall [RCN-006139].
- 1968 Outlying communities which had sent their children to board at Turquetil Hall are obtaining their own schools, eliminating the need to send children to Chesterfield Inlet [NWT-003594 [000-000]].
- 1969 On April 1, 1969, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) becomes responsible for education in the NWT [RCN-001236]. Some financial responsibilities continue to be divided with the Federal Government [RCN-001329-0001].
- On June 20, 1969, the Territorial Government advises the Church that "due to expanded education and housing facilities in various northern communities, especially Repulse Bay, Igloolik and Hall Beach, the number of students requiring accommodation will be so reduced by June of 1970 that it would be uneconomic to attempt to continue the facility [Turquetil Hall] after that date." The letter is offered as formal notice to terminate the contract for the management of Turquetil Hall effective June 30, 1970 [NWT-000537 [001-003]].
- 1969 No students are admitted to Turquetil Hall for the school year 1969-70. Instead, the residence is converted into an adult learning centre [CIU-001807].

JOSEPH BERNIER FEDERAL DAY SCHOOL

Joseph Bernier Federal Day School, located in Chesterfield Inlet, opens in September 1, 1951 [CIU-000485, CIU-000234]. In 1972-73, the Joseph Bernier school becomes part of the Territorial public school system and is renamed the Victor Sammurtok school [NWT-004056].

Students living at Turquetil Hall attended Joseph Bernier Federal Day School, the only school in Chesterfield Inlet while the hostel was in operation. Not all children attending Joseph Bernier Federal Day School lived at Turquetil Hall. [NWT-003584 [002-002], CIU-000388]

GRADES TAUGHT AT JOSEPH BERNIER FEDERAL DAY SCHOOL

School year	Level/ Grades
1951/1952	Grades 1, 2, 3
1953/1954	Beginners and Grades, 1, 2
1954/1955 - 1957/1958	Beginners and Grades, 1, 2, 3
1958/1959	Grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9
1959/1960	Beginners and Grades, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
1960/1961	Beginners and Grades 1 to 6
1961/1962	Beginners and Grades 1 to 6
1962/1963	“Opportunity” and “Ungraded”; Beginners and Grades 1 to 7
1963/1964	Beginners and Grades 1 to 8
1964/1965	Beginners and Grades 1 to 6
1965/1966	Beginners and Grades 1 to 6
1966/1967	Beginners and Grades 1 to 6
1967/1968	Beginners and Grades 1 to 7
1968/1969	Beginners and Grades 1 to 8
After 1969/1970	Beginners and Grades 1 to 8

MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENCE

From 1954 to 1959 Turquetil Hall is a Church-owned student residence, managed by the Roman Catholic Mission.

From September 1959 to its formal closure in June 1969, Turquetil Hall is a Government-owned, Roman Catholic Church-managed student residence.

As of April 1, 1969 the “agreement for the operation of Turquetil Hall [becomes] a territorial responsibility” [CIU-002374]. The Federal Government writes to the Church on April 3, 1969 to confirm the termination of the Memorandum of Agreement for the management of Turquetil Hall, and to confirm that the Territorial Government will be in contact to arrange for a new agreement, whereby the only changes will be to the signing authorities [CIU-001111].

RESIDENCE BUILDINGS

1954 Construction begins on the student hostel [NWT-003567].

While the residence is under construction, it is proposed to house two dozen children in the old Catholic mission house: the mission house adjoins the mission Church, forming an “L,” and has room to accommodate a girls’ residence and bathroom upstairs, and a boys’ residence, boys’ bathroom and a common room downstairs. It is proposed that meals for the temporary hostel would be prepared in the day school’s kitchen [CIU-000299].

1955 The Church completes a 28-bed hostel in 1955 and replaces it with an expansion to a 70-bed hostel in 1956 [CIU-000485].

1956 Students live in the residence starting in 1955, but as of September 1956 the hostel is estimated at only 70% complete and it is not expected to be finished until 1958 [NWT-003567].

A government inspection finds that the existing mission construction on the hostel is not up to an adequate standard and requires significant renovations, including to the structure itself [NWT-003565[001-001]]

In September 1956 the hostel building is described [NWT-003567]:

- It is a three-storey frame construction “well designed for the purpose for which it is intended and is of considerable dimensions.”
- The basement contains a 5000-gallon concrete water tank, a 5000-gallon septic tank, deep freeze, laundry, bakery and boiler rooms.
- “The first floor contains the children’s dining room, sleeping quarters, kitchens and other ancillary rooms. Much remains to be done on this floor for completion such as covering the plywood floors, interior lining etc. but enough finishing has been done in order to carry out the functions required of this floor.”
- “The second floor accommodates the Sisters’ rooms and the chapel. There are also the children’s recreation room and lavatories. This floor is nearer completion than the first floor or the basement area.” A hand-written note beside this description indicates that the girls’ sleeping quarters and recreation room are on the second floor, while the boys’ sleeping quarters and recreation room are on the first.
- “Water supply within the building is by means of pump and pressure tank, and the storage tank is a 5000-gallon concrete installation situated in the basement area. Water supply to the building is by means of hauling from the nearby lake.”
- “Sewage is collected in a 5000-gallon septic tank which is also situated in the basement.”

- 1957 The hostel is described as having dormitories, a dining room, recreation rooms, kitchen, washrooms, laundry, store rooms, a furnace room, staff quarters and a basement [CIU-000485].
- 1961 When the hostel at Chesterfield Inlet was purchased in 1959 it was agreed that the Government would also purchase from the Church all furniture, materials and supplies in the hostel once a complete inventory was taken. This inventory is not completed until March 1961 [NWT-000181]. In 1961 the Government approves the acquisition of the furniture and equipment, etc., on hand at the hostel in Chesterfield Inlet as of the 1959 purchase [NWT-000180].
- 1963 A memorandum indicates that the student residence's capacity is 80 students, but that it has at times functioned adequately with 85 or more residents. The hostel is constructed with two large dormitories, one for girls and one for boys, with about 40 children in each. The document notes that "the staff were finding a problem in that the 14 to 16 year old boys did not want to live in the large dormitory and it was felt that they would be lost to the school altogether if better living conditions with more privacy were not provided" [NWT-000184[001-001].
- 1969 Government correspondence from 1969 informs of the closure of the hostel in June of 1969 and of the fact that the residence is converted into an adult learning centre [CIU-001804; CIU-001807].

LAND

Turquetil Hall was located in the community of Chesterfield Inlet, off the Northwest coast of Hudson's Bay. The settlement (as described in 1957) is:

...located on the southern coast of a small peninsula about two miles by four miles in size off the southern tip of the entrance to Chesterfield Inlet which extends inland in a somewhat north westerly direction for over 100 miles before connecting with Baker Lake. Exact location 63° 21' N.L. and 90° 42' W.L. The settlement is about 400 miles north of Churchill, Manitoba [CIU-000485].

- 1954 The Federal Government leases 51 acres of land at Chesterfield Inlet to the Catholic Church [NWT-000121, NWT-000122].
- 1959 With the federal purchase of the student residence in 1959, the government has to issue a new lease to the church for the "property covered by the old lease less the lands required for the hostel... This is really just a formality because the new lease will simply be for the balance of the term of the old one but covering a smaller area" [NWT-000177].

PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA

Date	Item No.	Description
1954	CIU-000584	Rough Sketch, Proximity of Mission Buildings, School and proposed hostel
1955 (circa)	CIU-000644	Map showing Mission, Hospital, School, Hostel
Undated (circa 1960)	NWT-000595	Sketch, Floor plan, Joseph Bernier School
Circa 2003-2009	Unnumbered	http://www.chesterfieldinlet.net/walking_tour_map.pdf map of Chesterfield Inlet, showing locations of Turquetil Hall, school, mission buildings, etc

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME- Turquetil Hall

Year	Number of Students in Residence
1954 [in temporary quarters]	27
1955	26
1956	74
1957	no records
1958	73
1959	82
1960	82
1961	89
1962	84
1963	80
1964	82
1965	80
1966	85
1967	76
1968	46
1969	46

For 1963-64, 12 children lived in the hospital due to overcrowding at the hostel. Enrollment statistics for this group appear in a special group at the end of the Turquetil Hall quarterly returns for the 1963-64 school year.

STUDENTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS

Students from the following communities/regions resided at Turquetil Hall. This list may not be complete.

Eskimo Point, Rankin Inlet, remote parts of Chesterfield Inlet, Repulse Bay, Igloolik, Pelly Bay, Spence Bay and Gjoa Haven, Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, Eskimo Point, Cam 4, Cape Dyer, Foxe Main (Hall Beach)

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Hudson's Bay / Vicariate Apostolic of Hudson's Bay [CIU-000978-0001]

The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate [CIU-002466]

The Oblate Fathers Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission [RCN-008476, CIU-000949, RCN-005843]

The Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) [CIU-002466]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1950 Memorandum of Agreement for the construction of the Chesterfield Inlet day school and hostel. The agreement stipulates that the Church will agree to build a student residence using its own funds, to be owned and operated by the Church [CIU-000543-0001].
- 1955 The Memorandum of Agreement dated February 1955 transfers responsibility over Indian Education from the Indian Affairs Branch to the Commissioner of the NWT / Northern Affairs and consolidates all educational authority in the NWT under Northern Affairs. The agreement further transfers (at no cost) all existing Indian Affairs school buildings, equipment, residences and all Indian Affairs staff ("teachers, welfare teachers, caretakers, and other employees") to Northern Affairs effective April 1, 1955 [RCN-011649].
- 1959 Memorandum of Agreement for the management of Turquetil Hall student residence dated October 1, 1959, effective September 1, 1959, between the Federal Government and the Catholic Church [CIU-000978-0001].
- 1969 Unsigned Draft Memorandum of Agreement for the management of Turquetil Hall. The contract is identical to the original 1959 agreement, except that the signing authority for the government has been changed from the Federal to the Territorial Government [NWT-000198].

Instructions [Operations] Manuals

- *Supplementary Instructions for the Management of Hostels Owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Operated Under Contract, Effective January 1, 1960 [RCN-010565].*

- *Supplementary Instructions for the Management of Pupil Residences in the Northwest Territories Owned by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Operated Under Contract, Revised Edition November 1968 [RCN-001154].*

DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO HOSTEL INCIDENTS

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Turquetil Hall Student Residence, Chesterfield Inlet or of any convicted abusers present at the hostel.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Food

1957 The food used in the hostel is “country food”: seal, fish, white whale (beluga). This is supplemented by imported food: flour, milk, tea, oats, cocoa, sugar and meat [CIU-000485].

Overcrowding

1963-64 In 1963 there is overcrowding at the school and residence. Possible solutions include: expanding the residence; sending some students to hostels/schools in the Mackenzie District (especially in Yellowknife, to Akaitcho Hall / the John Franklin School); housing some students in a warehouse which could be converted for this purpose; and housing some students in St. Theresa’s hospital. The Government and Church cannot agree on sending children to the Mackenzie District. The interim solution is to house 12 students in St. Theresa’s Hospital for the 1963-64 school year [NWT-000184[001-001], NWT-000185[000-000], NWT-000190[000-000], NWT-003584[002-002], NWT-003587[001-001]].

1967 An inspection of the student residence is conducted by government officials. The residence is described as “grossly overcrowded” with hygienic standards neglected. Recommendations are made to reduce the number of residents for the school year 1967-68 to 40 pupils. Later correspondence indicates that the Department of Health and Welfare recommends the number of pupils to be reduced to 60 students [CIU-001776-0001, CIU-001783].

Extra-curricular Activities

1957 Recreational nights were held at the day school and at the hostel. These involved board games, singing, listening to music and bingo. It appears that extra-curricular activities were held at the day school for local students and other community members, including adults; these activities included English classes and sewing classes. Choir practice for all of the students was held at the residence, because there was no piano or organ at the day school. Separate activities were held at Turquetil Hall for hostel residents. Movie night entertained “the whole population” [CIU-000444, CIU-000454].

- 1959 A Boy Scout Group is formed for the boys of the community [CIU-000521].
- 1959 The management agreement for Turquetil Hall signed in 1959 by the Government and the Church refers to extra-curricular activities [CIU-000978-0001].
- 1959 The day school Principal's Welfare Report dated February 6, 1959 indicates that "The Teachers, on their part, willingly also accepted the coordinated program for the hostel children's recreations. This program, with the help of [a] Brother ... from the R.C. Mission and [a] Sister ... from the Residence, consist for the most of prepared games or other activities which will be instructive as well as recreational." It is not clear whether the activities took place at the day school or at the residence [CIU-000523].
- The Principal's Welfare Report for February 1959 states with respect to recreational activities for the hostel pupils that "The Teachers, [a Sister] from the Hostel and [a Brother] from the Mission take turns and enjoy their evenings with the youngsters" [CIU-000522].
- 1961 The Government asks that the Hostel Administrator use some of the "Extra Curricular Activity Fund" to purchase books and promote reading amongst the hostel residents [CIU-001081].
- 1965 In 1965 the Government employs a Professor of the University of British Columbia to formally study and assess the success of the coordinated program for pupil residences in the Mackenzie [RCN-002663-0001]. In the survey proposal, the relationship of the school and hostel in this region is explained:
- ...the administrator of a residence is in charge of the internal operation of his residence. The general supervision of the residence and the articulation of school-residence programs are under the broad general supervision of the school principal [RCN-002663-0003].

Chesterfield Inlet Industrial Home

The Chesterfield Inlet Industrial Home was established in 1949 to provide shelter for those with physical disabilities as a result of a polio epidemic [NPC-620094, CIU-001114, CIU-001217-0001]. By 1956, the Industrial Home functions as a home for the indigent, rather than an actual "Industrial Home," due to the lack of substantial training and rehabilitative programs [CIU-001354, CIU-001390-0001]. By 1958, the Government decides to no longer support the Chesterfield Industrial Home and makes plan to relocate the indigent families to Churchill, where they can obtain actual rehabilitative services [CIU-001395].

ADMINISTRATORS

We have limited knowledge as to hostel administrators from 1955-59, when the residence was church-owned and -managed.

Name	Position	Dates
Unknown	Administrator	1954 to c. 1957
Fr Roland Courtemanche	Hostel Superintendent	c. 1957-59
Sr. Therese Hebert	Hostel Superintendent	1959 – March 1965
Sr. Therese Arcand	Hostel Superintendent	June 1965
Sr. Genevieve Rocan	Hostel Superintendent / Hostel Administrator	Sept 1965 – June 1968
Sr. Edna Chabot	Hostel Administrator	Sept 1968 – May/June 1969

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



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