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**Fleming Hall Student Residence, Fort McPherson NWT
Residence Narrative
October 2005**

NAME OF RESIDENCE AND VARIANTS

Fort McPherson Hostel [NWT-000337[000-000]

Fleming Hall [NWT-000614[000-000]]

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

Mission Hostel

1951 The Report to the Northwest Territories Council on Northern Education recommends that the need for a hostel, in Fort McPherson, be filled by the Anglican Church. This was in response to requests for a hostel from students' parents. The Anglican mission in Fort McPherson owned a house that they had offered to renovate and convert into a hostel for about 20 children. The students to reside in the hostel would be chosen by the church and teachers and the parents would have to contribute to the cost of their child's care. Future plans for a permanent residence are recommended. [NWT-003000[000-000]]

1957 A report on the hostel in Fort McPherson by the Anglican Church states:

The small twenty pupil (all boys) Hostel under the matronship of Miss N. Houldcroft is also operating under rather primitive conditions. This however will be the last term before the new Hostel, now under construction by the Department of Public Works is put into use. [ANGMSCC-90778]

1958 A memorandum discussing the management and operation of the Fort McPherson hostel states that from January 1 to July 1, 1958 the "old mission-owned hostel was operated without a formal agreement." The Government Hostel replaced the Mission Hostel for the 1958-59 school year. [NWT-000337[000-000]]

Associated Day School

1946 A newspaper article dated May 1956 states: "Bishop A. L. Fleming built the first day school at Fort McPherson in 1946." [NWT-002003[000-000]]

1951 A Report to the Northwest Territories Council on Northern Education states that there was a one room Indian Day School with 23 pupils. [NWT-003000[000-000]]

1953 A Classification of Pupils in Schools in the Northwest Territories states that Fort McPherson Indian Day School had an enrollment of 46. (Cover document date is March 23, 1959) [NWT-000718[001-001]]

1954 The Report on Education in the Northwest Territories states that Fort McPherson had an Indian Day School operated by the Federal Government. [NWT-000701[000-000]]

- 1955/56 Fort McPherson Federal School appears on a statement of attendance of “white children and of children of mixed blood who attend the Federal Schools of the Northwest Territories. (Cover document is dated Oct. 1956) [NWT-000706[001-001]]
- 1956/57 Enrollment for Fort McPherson FDS is stated as 86. (Cover document date is March 23, 1959) [NWT-000718[001-001]]
- 1957/58 Enrollment for Fort McPherson FDS is stated as 88. (Cover document date is March 23, 1959) [NWT-000718[001-001]]
- 1958/59 Fort McPherson Federal School appears on a statement of attendance of “white children and of children of mixed blood who attend the Federal Schools of the Northwest Territories.” (Cover document is dated Oct. 1959) [NWT-000717[001-001]]
- 1961 The name of the Federal Day School in Fort McPherson is changed to Peter Warren Dease School after Sir John Franklin’s commissariat officer of the second land expedition from 1825-27. [NWT-000614[000-000]]
- 1963 The day school in Fort McPherson includes grades 1-8 with plans to add grade 9 for the following school year. [ANGMSCC-84493]
- 1966 Construction was underway to build new buildings for the government day school. [ANGMSCC-84515]
- 1967 There was no grade 8 provided in Fort McPherson for the 1967-68 school year. [ANGMSCC-84516]

It is not known when or if Peter Warren Dease School closed. The only school currently operating in Fort McPherson, as stated on the Government of the NWT education website, is Chief Julius School. The school name may have been changed but we cannot confirm or deny this at this time. [http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/Schools_inthe_NWT/indexSchools.htm]

Government Hostel

- 1958 The “newly constructed Government-owned hostel” began operation on August 1, 1958. [NWT-000337[000-000]]

- Post 1959 A document detailing the relationship between the government and “Church Authorities and Pupil Residences” describes this relationship in the following excerpt:

By 1955 many of the residential schools operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican Missions had reached such a state of disrepair that they needed replacing. Discussions were held at which Church authorities and the Federal and Territorial Governments were represented. As a result of these discussions it was agreed by all parties that the Government should build pupil residences, to be operated by the two Churches concerned but with the schools to be operated by the Federal Government. Agreements

between the Churches and the Department were negotiated and signed for the operation of each of the pupil residences as they were constructed.

In 1958, a 100-bed pupil residence was opened in Fort McPherson. Since the majority of pupils attending this residence were Protestant, it was agreed that the residence would be operated by the Anglican Church. [NWT-000088[000-000]]

- 1963/64 Financial Statement showing the “Cost of Operating Large Pupil Residences” states Fleming Hall’s budget for that year. [NWT-000547[000-000]]
- 1965 A report by Joseph Katz titled “Educational Environments of School - Hostel Complexes in the Northwest Territories” includes an appendix, “Appendix A”, detailing the communities in which federal schools are located. The hostel is mentioned briefly with the following statement; “There is a 100-bed hostel - Anglican - which also acts as a hotel for visitors.” [NWT-000609[000-000]]
- 1966 Fleming Hall appears on a list of per pupil operating costs. [NWT-000089[000-000]]

At this time we do not have information stating the closure date of the residence.

MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENCE

Dates Managed by Church

- Undated The 37th Session in Council states that a formal written agreement regarding the operation of the pupil residence in Fort McPherson had been made with the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada (MSACC). [NWT-000540[000-000]]
- Circa 1955 An article details the plans for the 1955 student residence construction program in the NWT. In reference to the planned construction of hostels in communities including Fort McPherson it states:

These hostels will be built and owned by the Federal Government; those intended primarily for Indian and Eskimo children will be operated by the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches, as, virtually all Indians and Eskimos in the Northwest Territories are either of these faiths. All schools operated in conjunction with the hostels will be operated by the Government through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, which, on April 1st, became responsible for Indian as well as other education in the Northwest Territories.

The article also states that all the new schools and hostels will be financed by the government which will pay all costs with respect to the education and training of Indian and Eskimos since they are a federal responsibility. The Government of the Northwest Territories will be asked to finance a share of the cost of construction and operation of the hostels and schools in proportion to the attendance of children who are other than Indian and Eskimo. [NWT-000539[000-000]]

- 1969 The operating agreement between the government and the MSACC is terminated. All educational responsibilities including Fleming Hall are transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories. [NWTG-001339[000-000]]

RESIDENCE BUILDINGS

Residence

- 1958 The new Federal Government owned residence was opened in Fort McPherson with beds for 100 pupils. [NWT-000088[000-000]]
- 1958 Northern Affairs correspondence states that the Department also constructed a Chapel in the hostel in Fort McPherson and provided pews but other furnishings should be provided by the Anglican Mission. [NWTG-000607[000-001]]
- 1959 The auditorium in the hostel is divided by moving doors so the space could be used as separate rooms. [NWTG-000636[000-001]]
- 1962 A report from the Administrator of Fleming Hall states: "This summer saw the completion of a sewage and water system which services the hostel and part of the settlement." [ANGMSCC-84491]

The closure date of Fleming Hall is not known at this time.

Ownership

Church

- 1958 A memorandum, dated November 1959, discussing the management and operation of the Fort McPherson hostel states that from January 1 to July 1, 1958 the "old mission-owned hostel was operated without a formal agreement." [NWT-000337[000-000]]

Government

- Circa 1955 An undated article details the plans for the 1955 student residence construction program in the NWT. In reference to the planned construction of hostels in communities including Fort McPherson it states, "These hostels will be built and owned by the Federal Government." [NWT-000539[000-000]]
- 1960 The Report to the Treasury Board gives the following statement about the management of the government hostels, Fleming Hall included, in the NWT:

That in many respects these hostels are similar to Indian residential schools owned and operated by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and managed by various churches on behalf of that Department. The principal difference is that Northern Affairs' hostels are concerned only with out-of-school activities (the children attend the local day school) whereas in most instances the school is an integral part of Citizenship and Immigration institutions. As in Northern Affairs' day schools, however, the teachers in the Indian institution are hired directly by the Department and receive professional guidance from Departmental officers.

It is also stated that the government entered into the agreement to pay for all operating cost of the hostel to the managing church organization, who is in this case, the MSACC.¹ [NWTG-000667[001-001]]

1963/64 Financial Statement of Federal Hostels detailing the “Cost of Operating Large Pupil Residences” states Fleming Hall’s enrollment for that year. (Cover doc is dated June 1965) [NWT-000547[000-000]]

1968 A memorandum on government owned, Church operated hostels in the Northwest Territories contains a list of hostels in operation including Fort McPherson. [NWT-000231[000-000]]

Territorial

1970 It is known that in 1969 all educational responsibilities, including student residences, were transferred to the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Education. This memorandum states:

This activity (the Department of Education) is responsible for the planning, guidance, and operation of student residences in the Northwest Territories, including those operated under contract with the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

Fleming Hall is not mentioned specifically, but it is also not stated that Fleming Hall was not a part of this transfer. The Anglican Church would still operate the hostel but the funding and overall operation would fall under the Territorial Government rather than the Federal Government. [NWT-000556[000-000]]

GENERAL ENROLLMENT STATISTICS OVER TIME

Year	Number of Students
Undated	100
1958	99 [White: 9, Treaty Indian: 90, Eskimo: 0]
September 30, 1959	78
1960	79 [Treaty Indian: 74, Eskimo: 0, Other:5]
December 31, 1960	76
March 31, 1960	78 [Girls: 31, Boys: 47]
June 30, 1960	78 [Girls: 35, Boys: 43]
September 30, 1960	57 [Girls: 22, Boys: 35]
December 31, 1960	66 [Girls: 26, Boys: 40]
March 31, 1961	70 [Girls: 28, Boys: 42]
June 30, 1961	70 [Girls: 28, Boys: 42]

¹ The document details the roles agreed upon by the government and MSACC but it does not state who is in charge of hiring. As the hostel was managed by the MSACC it is conjectured that they would have determined their own staff.

Year	Number of Students
September 30, 1961	86 [Girls: 38, Boys: 48]
December 31, 1961	85 [Girls: 38, Boys: 47]
March 31, 1962	78 [Girls: 33, Boys: 45]
June 30, 1962	85 [Girls: 35, Boys: 50]
September 31, 1962	96 [Girls: 42, Boys: 54]
December 31, 1962	96 [Girls: 42, Boys: 54]
March 31, 1963	81 [Girls: 36, Boys: 45]
June 31, 1963	100 [Girls: 42, Boys: 58]
September 30, 1963	97 [Girls: 40, Boys: 57]
December 31, 1963	103 [Girls: 43, Boys: 60]
1963-64	105 [Indian/Eskimo: 82, Other: 13]
1966	84
1966 (March)	58
1968	75

LAND

Location

1965 The hostel is located in Fort McPherson which is within the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories. [NWT-000547[000-000]]

1965 A report by Joseph Katz titled “Educational Environments of School - Hostel Complexes in the Northwest Territories” includes an appendix detailing the communities in which federal schools are located. The report includes a three page section of information on the community of Fort McPherson, the school buildings, teacher’s residences, and community services. [NWT-000609[000-000]]

STUDENTS FROM OTHER RESERVES/LOCATIONS

1951 A Report to the Northwest Territories Council on Northern Education contains a chart titled Child Population in the Northwest Territories. The chart states that children in Fort McPherson and Aklavik come from the Loucheux Band No.7. [NWT-03000[000-000]]

1957 A report on the hostel in Fort McPherson by the Anglican Church states that the hostel would house “at least one hundred boys and girls of the Loucheux Tribe of the McKenzie Delta.” [ANGMSCC-90778]

1962 A report from the Administrator of Fleming Hall states: this year we have had small groups of children from Old Crow, Yukon, and Aklavik, N.W.T.” [ANGMSCC-84491]

ADMINISTRATION OF PERSONNEL

- 1960 The government states in a letter that the policy regarding nursing care at northern hostels is that only those hostels with an average attendance of 200 residents would justify the employment of a full time nurse unless the hostel was too far away from the nearest health services facility. In Fort McPherson, where the hostel capacity was 100, a nurse was not employed, as the services of the resident Matron were considered sufficient provided she was adequately experienced in this area. [NWTG-000654[000-000]]
- 1965 A memorandum on a training program for hostel supervisors and administrators states: "The staffs of all of the large pupil residences in the Mackenzie District, except Akaitcho Hall, are employees of the churches, Roman Catholic and Anglican."⁶ [NWT-000546[000-000]]
- 1965 A Sessional Paper titled "Responsibility for Education in the Northwest Territories" states:
In the large pupil residences which are operated under contract with either the Anglican or the Roman Catholic Church, the Churches recruit their own staff following certain standards established by the Education Division. The Churches are required to operate the pupil residences in a manner which will support the school program. The selection of children to be placed in a pupil residence is made by the administration. [NWT-000547[000-000]]

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- 1958 The Anglican Church officials responsible for the hostel in Fort McPherson are as follows: Bishop of the Arctic, the Rt. Rev. D. B. Marsh; Superintendent of Indian School Administration, the Rev. Canon H. G. Cook. [ANGMSCC-84688]
- 1960 Treasury Board Meeting Minutes state: The Board approves entry by the Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources into agreement with the Anglican Church of Canada, whereby the Crown is to pay to the church organization head office expenses incurred in managing the Crown owned hostel in Fort McPherson in the Northwest Territories. The Anglican Church is to distribute approved expenses to hostels managed by it for the year ending December 31, 1960. [NWTG-000692[001-001]]
- 1969 An MSACC letter states that, upon the termination of the operating agreement with the government and transfer to the Government of the Northwest Territories, the MSACC "will almost certainly refuse to authorize the signing of a contract with the Territorial Government, on the grounds that the MSCC (MSACC) will probably go out of existence by action of the General Synod in August, 1969. [ANGMSCC-90086]

WRITTEN AGREEMENTS

- 1958 A memorandum, dated November 1959, discussing the management and operation of the Fort McPherson hostel states that from January 1 to July 1, 1958 the "old mission-owned hostel was operated without a formal agreement." [NWT-000337[000-000]]
- 1959 Operating Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen and the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada for the operation and management of the student residence in

Fort McPherson. It states that the MSACC has operated and managed the residence since September 1958. [FHU-200601G]

1969 A letter from the government to the MSACC states:

As a result of the transfer of responsibility for the education program in the Mackenzie District to the Government of the N.W.T. on April 1, 1969, the three pupil residences which you have been operating under an agreement with the Crown will be transferred to the Government of the N.W.T. effective on the same date.

This letter is to confirm the termination of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Missionary Society of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Crown for the three pupil residence shown hereunder: Bompas Hall, Fleming Hall, Stringer Hall. [NWTG-001339[000-000]]

SUGGESTIONS OF ABUSE

1963 An article published in the University of Alberta's Journal of the Sociology Club by former Assistant Principal, Mr. D.W. Hepburn, from the school in Inuvik, contains heavy criticism of the educational system in the Northwest Territories in regard to Inuit and Native education. He heavily criticizes the curriculum as inadequate in that it does not teach what is relevant to these children:

The harm done in the process [of education] far outweighs the meagre good, the waste of years when other valuable life-skills should be developed as well as academic ones, the disintegration of pride in the cultural tradition, the deprivation of family life for many of the children, the resultant cultural vacuum and psychological insecurity. [NWT-000648[001-001]]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1960 The document titled "Supplementary Instructions for the Management of Hostels Owned by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and Operated under Contract" was submitted to hostel Administrators by the government. The document is an instruction manual detailing policies and procedures as well as rules, allowable expenses, and suggestions for extra-curricular activities. [NWT-000006[000-000]]

1960 Incidents of discord between the staff were documented by the government and stated in the following excerpt of a report:

There was, therefore, the general statement that the hostel was over-regimented in a most dictatorial manner and that this dictatorial manner was also being thrust on the maintenance staff, the teaching staff at the school, and, in some cases, the general public at Fort McPherson.

It was recommended that Canon Cook of MSACC intervene and ensure that the situation would improve. [NWTG-000723[001-001]]

- 1963 A report from the Administrator of the Fleming Hall states that enrolment levels at the hostel fluctuated seasonally as many local parents would leave the settlement to hunt resulting in more children from Fort McPherson requiring accommodation. Some older students were released from school and the hostel to accompany their parents on the caribou hunt.
The report also stated that students at Fleming Hall were able to participate in Cubs and Brownies clubs run by the Matron and Boys' Supervisor. [ANGMSCC-84493]

- 1964 A report from the Administrator of Fleming Hall states that the following activities are provided at the hostel: Ice skating, curling, Scouts, Girl Guides, and volleyball. [ANGMSCC-84494]

- 1966 A report from the Administrator of Fleming Hall states that the facility is operating near its capacity of 100 residents. However, the girls' dormitory was very full and facilities were "rather strained" as there was an attendance ratio of about 2 girls to each boy. [ANGMSCC-84497]

Admissions

- 1960 A statement on "Student Residences in the Northwest Territories" states the following regarding admissions policies for the government owned hostels:

Parental consent is required in all cases where students are removed from their homes and are maintained in such residences. If a parent does not wish his child to attend, no pressure is exerted upon him to do so. The only exception to this general rule applies to welfare admissions. In such admissions there may be evidence of parental neglect and if such neglect is proven students may be admitted on welfare grounds either through a court order or by the unanimous decision of a special committee set up for this purpose. In general however, most parents are anxious to have their children maintained in a hostel and many applications for admission are turned down because the rigid criteria for admission are not met. [NWTG-000696[001-001]]

Inspection Reports

- 1966 The Food Services Report for 1966 gives an overall positive report on the meals, food preparation, and kitchen services. [FHU-173218A]

PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Rev. T.D.W. Wootten	Administrator	unknown
Mr. A.A. Craig	Possible Administrator	unknown
Edgar H. Hyett	Administrator	1958-1960
Mr. A. Jackson,	Administrator	1961-1967 ²

² IRSRC has few documents after 1963. We cannot confirm the date of the end of tenure or if tenure was consistent from 1963 to 1966.

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

