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# Grandin College Student Residence

## Hostel Narrative

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### Grandin College [Fort Smith, Northwest Territories]

This Hostel Narrative summarizes documents that provide an over-view of the history and administration of Grandin College and associated day schools. Grandin Home/Hall/College was a privately-run Roman Catholic student residence owned and operated in Fort Smith by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Mackenzie. Grandin provided a structured environment, academic support and religious training in hopes that its students would pursue post-secondary education or enter Roman Catholic religious orders. The original Grandin residence accepted only male students when it opened in September 1960. Female students were admitted beginning in September 1964 when construction of a second residence was completed. A third residence was opened in September 1966. The two newer buildings were sold to the government of the NWT in July 1971, after which time male students were accommodated in the original building and female students in a house. Grandin College closed in June 1985.

### NAME OF RESIDENCE AND VARIANTS

The Grandin Home for Boys opened in September 1960. In a new building, Grandin College for Boys opened September 1964, at which point Grandin Home was converted to a residence for girls. Although the two residences were separate buildings, they are most often referred to collectively as Grandin College and Grandin Hall in documentation from that date forward. After 1964/65, documents using the terms Grandin Home may be referring specifically to the residence for girls.

<b>1960</b>	Grandin Home [GCU-800001] <sup>1</sup>
<b>1961</b>	Grandin Home [GCU-000173] Grandin Home for Boys [GCU-000172]
<b>1964</b>	Grandin Home [GCU-000011] Grandin Hall [GCU-000023] Grandin College [GCU-000011]
<b>1975</b>	Grandin Home, (Roman Catholic Residence) [SLA-002784] <sup>2</sup>
<b>1976</b>	Grandin Home [FSU-000173] <sup>3</sup>

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1 The prefix GCU indicates that this document is from the NWT-Fort Smith Grandin document collection found in the National database.

2 The prefix SLA indicates that this document is from the Alberta-Saddle Lake-Athabasca document collection found in the National database.

3 The prefix FSU indicates that this document is from the NWT-Fort Smith General document collection found in the

## CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

**1958** Father Haramburu, Vicar of Missions of Mackenzie, in a letter dated 14 October advised the Department of Northern Affairs of his intention to build a house in Fort Smith to provide “proper guidance” for boys working there during the summer months.

[GCU-000168-0001]

**1959** The Grandin Chronicle states: “Construction work began on 11 May 1959 and finished in July 1960. The primary goal was to accept youngsters who wished to become priests.”

[GNN-000410-0002]<sup>4</sup>

**1960** A memorandum refers to “the Roman Catholic Seminary which is to be known as the Grandin Home.”

[GCU-000211]

The first six students arrived at Grandin Home 30 August.

[GCU-800001]

Twelve boys in Grades 5 to 8 were the first students admitted to Grandin Home in September.

[GNN-000687]

A report states that Grandin Home also served as the Oblate Provincial Home and indicates that, in addition to the younger seminary students, Grandin Home also accommodated six older high school students seeking “a more Christian atmosphere” than that available to them in Yellowknife.

[GCU-800155]

A memorandum dated 23 November advises the federal department that the Catholic Church was operating the Grandin Home for Boys as a seminary on church property adjacent to the new federal school. The memorandum also states that, where space permitted, students for Grandin were placed on aircraft transporting students to the Fort Smith Hostel.

[GCU-000172]

**1962** A memorandum states that “plans for the proposed Roman Catholic College” are well advanced and that an interim building permit has been issued.

[GCU-000008]

A report written by a subsequent administrator of Grandin indicates that a shift in philosophy circa 1962 away from “a seminary” towards the intellectual development of students made enrolment of female students at Grandin a possibility.

[GCU-800229]

**1963** All Grandin students in 1963/64 were enrolled in grades 6-11 at J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School.

[GCU-800169]

**1964** A letter from Bishop Piche states that the new Grandin College will be completed and ready for occupancy in September. The mandate of the new facility is to provide a better

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National database.

<sup>4</sup> The prefix GNN indicates that this document is from the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) collection found in the National database.

living environment in order to foster educational success for students in attendance at J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School. The long term goal is to provide post-secondary college and vocational courses and, eventually, an undergraduate programme designed primarily for boys. The letter notes that, dependent upon federal financial assistance, the Grandin Home facilities could be made available to accommodate Native high school girls.

[GCU-000011]

Bishop Piche, founder of Grandin College, made the following statement in June when the corner stone of the new facility was blessed:

The work of Grandin College will progress through three stages.

The first stage is that of a boarding home where students pursue their studies at the federal school: the J.B. Tyrrell School. They will be assisted in their studies by a teacher, priest or layperson who, at the same time, will monitor their progress in class. They will receive, at the same time, from the Father Director of the College moral and spiritual guidance.

The second stage: when the number of graduates permits, we will offer two additional years of secondary education to prepare for university-level studies.

The third stage: the expansion of the undertaking should lead to the organization of an academic programme leading to degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Science, which will permit admission to professional studies. [GNN-000410-0002]

Several Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) from Breynat Hall, the Fort Smith hospital and Provincial House assisted with the renovations required to make the original Grandin building ready to receive female students in September. [GNN-000410-0002]

For the school year beginning September 1964, all Grandin students were enrolled in grades 7-12. [GCU-800179]

The Commissioner of the NWT and members of the Territorial Council were guests at Grandin on 3 November. [GCU-800001]

**1965** The official opening of Grandin College was held 18 June 1965. [GCU-000054]

For the school year beginning September 1965, all Grandin students were enrolled in grades 7-12. [GCU-800182-0001]

The Grandin Chronicle records the following about changes in staff organisation:

At the beginning of this school year there are several changes in the organisation of the house. Last year, the “staff” of the boys’ residence and that of the girls’ residence were completely separate: supervisors, kitchen, laundry and linen. Essentially this doubled the staff without practical results. We have therefore reorganised the house. Staff who are in charge of students most directly work together, giving more cohesion to the purpose and practical organisation of the house. [GNN-000410-0002]

**1966** For the school year beginning September 1966, all Grandin students were enrolled in grades 7-12. [GCU-800024-0002; GCU-800024-0005]

**1967** For the school year beginning September 1967, all Grandin students were enrolled in grades 7-12. [GCU-800028]

**1968** For the school year beginning September 1968, all Grandin students were enrolled in grades 8-12. [GCU-800029]

Grade 7 students are no longer accepted as residents at Grandin. [GNN-000410-0002]

**1969** For the school year beginning September 1969, all Grandin students were enrolled in grades 9-12.<sup>5</sup> [GCU-800030]

Fewer students are accepted this year to allow for more individual attention. The girls' residence is re-arranged to accommodate all students on the second floor. Rooms in the basement formerly used as bedrooms are converted for use as a typing room, two assembly rooms, a television room, and a beauty salon. Two bedrooms are reserved for visitors. A laundry, an ironing room, a kitchenette and a lounge existed already. [GNN-000410-0002]

**1970** A letter from the Deputy Commissioner of the NWT dated 20 July 1970 confirms the intention of the territorial government to rent the newest of the Grandin residences from August 1970 to August 1971 for its Teacher Education Programme. The letter includes several details regarding the lease arrangements and terms of an option to purchase the building. [GCU-800203]

A letter from Bishop Paul Piche dated 25 July 1970 accepts the territorial government's offer to lease the newest Grandin residence. [GCU-800204-0000]

A letter dated 11 September 1970 from the acting assistant deputy minister of Northern Development to the Commissioner of the NWT requests clarification of rumours the territorial government may purchase Grandin College due to financial and staffing difficulties being experienced by the church management. The letter indicates the federal government would be "hesitant to agree" to such a takeover. It is mentioned that Grandin is considered an anomaly which cuts across "the normal patterns of education services in the Territories." [GCU-000164]

A telegram dated 21 September 1970 corrects an error in the letter of 11 September by stating the federal government's view that Grandin should NOT continue as a residence for secondary pupils drawn from various parts of the Territories. [GCU-000165]

A letter from the Director of Education to the Commissioner of the NWT states that an assessment of "the main administrative gymnasium centre and the new dormitory block" is expected and that a proposal for their use is being prepared. [BTU-001604]

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<sup>5</sup> From September 1969 until the closing of the institution in June 1985, Grandin College accepted only students registered in Grades 9 through 12.

A letter confirms that education authorities in the NWT have recommended the purchase of both Grandin buildings to address secondary school requirements at Fort Smith.  
[GCU-000167]

- 1971** A letter dated 29 March 1971 from the Commissioner of the NWT conveys an offer to purchase “the two Grandin College buildings and the entire unsubdivided area of Lot 186.”  
[GCU-800209]

An Agreement for Sale dated 01 July 1971 details the sale of Lot 186 and all “the buildings located thereon” to the Government of the NWT by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie. The Roman Catholic Corporation retained the right to “use and occupy” that portion of the main building used as a museum.  
[GCU-000222]

A newspaper article reports that the remaining building was subsequently used as the boys’ residence for Grandin College and that another building was purchased to serve as the girls’ residence.  
[GNN-000702]

- 1973** A year-end report expresses deep concern at the indifference to religion exhibited by students and makes recommendations to improve academic and behavioural standards.  
[GCU-800229]

- 1974** A letter from the Regional Superintendent of Education (Indian Affairs) for Alberta indicates that, due to the scheduled closure of Breynat Hall in June 1975, accommodation at Grandin College for several Grade 11 and Grade 12 boys from Fort Chipewyan is being considered for September 1975.  
[SLA-002784]

- 1980** In a newsletter, the administrator of Grandin states that the main purpose of the institution is “to prepare for the future good leaders, men and women that can be a real asset to their community and the Church wherever they are.”  
[GNN-000698]

- 1984** An article appearing in *Arctic Profiles* published by the University of Calgary states that, in conjunction with the retirement of Bishop Paul Piche in June, former students of Grandin College attended a reunion in Fort Smith.  
<http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic42-2-168.pdf>

- 1985** A meeting of the Diocesan Council in May 1985 decided that Grandin College would close permanently at the end of the school year.  
[GCU-800247]

- 1986** A letter from the minister of education of the NWT proposes to rent the former boys’ residence for a nominal amount in order to re-open the facility as a residence for senior high school students during the school year 1986/87.  
[GCU-800248]

A letter from Bishop Denis Croteau agrees to rent the Grandin building to the government of the NWT, but stipulates that a board of directors made up of Grandin alumni should operate the facility.  
[GCU-800249]

A letter from the minister of education to Bishop Croteau withdraws the government's proposal due to time constraints and the high estimated costs required to renovate the building to Fire and Safety Code standards. [GCU-800251]

## MANAGEMENT OF RESIDENCE

**1960** Notes from a meeting held in late November record that Canon Cook of the Anglican Church was assured that the federal Department did "not support the Grandin Home in any way." [RCN-000724]<sup>6</sup>

**1962** A letter to parents of Grandin students states that the residence receives no government assistance whatsoever and that the cost of maintaining a student at Grandin is over \$800 per year. [GCU-800165]

A report prepared by the college administrator states that Grandin Home is operated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and is staffed by one Father, one Brother and two domestic employees. [GCU-800151-0000]

The Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) from Breynat Hall form work crews for house cleaning at Grandin Residence in late July and again in late August and pray that the work of educating future priests for the North will be successful. [GNN-000410-0001]

**1963** The staff is comprised of one Father, one Brother, one supervisor and two female domestics. [GCU-800169]

**1964** A report on the school year 1963/64 states that Bishop Piche provides a per capita grant to the college. [GCU-800169]

A memorandum dated 2 September states that the Department of Northern Affairs could take no financial responsibility for transporting students to Grandin College since it "was a private venture and not within the scope of the federal school system." The memorandum also states the Department has "no authority to accept any responsibility" for Grandin students "beyond providing an educational program at the school in Fort Smith." [GCU-000012]

On 7 September Bishop Piche wrote the Commissioner of the NWT requesting payment of room and board at a specified monthly rate for the 46 territorial students then residing at Grandin College. [RCN-007458]

An extensive memorandum prepared for the Commissioner of the NWT in response to Bishop Piche's request strongly recommends that the policy towards Grandin College be "no help – no hindrance." [GCU-000018]

A memorandum indicates there had been no requests for financial assistance since the opening of Grandin Hall in 1960, that the government had not been consulted on plans to

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<sup>6</sup> The prefix RCN indicates that this document is from the NWT General document collection found in the National database.

develop a college, and that there were policy issues requiring attention before any payments to Grandin College could be considered. [GCU-000023]

The Council of the Northwest Territories at its November Session decided that it could not consider payment for students at Grandin until it had developed “a policy regarding the accommodation of students at Territorial Government expense in institutions operated by religious organizations.” [GCU-000032]

- 1965** A draft paper prepared by the Education Division of Department of Northern Affairs recommends that the Council of the NWT avoid involvement in the affairs of religious educational institutions. The paper further recommends that the Council decline the request for financial assistance from Bishop Piche and that some restrictions be placed on the number of Grandin children from other communities who may attend J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School. [GCU-000038-0001]

A report prepared by the administrator of the college states that the staff is comprised of two Oblate Fathers (one of whom was largely occupied teaching catechism classes at the federal day school), two Oblate Brothers who take care of maintenance, two lay supervisors and four female domestic staff. The role of the college is said to be to recreate “as far as possible the atmosphere and function of a Christian family.” [GCU-800149]

Memoranda and correspondence highlight a disagreement amongst federal officials about funding for Grandin College. The Commissioner of the NWT denied the request for payment, but the Deputy Minister of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources disagreed and argued that “the financial and moral responsibility for their (Indian and Eskimo students at Grandin College) educational well being rests with the Federal Government.” It is recommended that the Department work with the church administration on the issues of payments to Grandin and over-crowding at J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School. [GCU-000049-0000; GCU-000049-0001; GCU-000049-0002]

By the end of the year, the decision had been made to pay for the maintenance of students at privately operated educational institutions in general and at Grandin in particular and the conditions required for payments were almost completely finalised. Payments were to be made on the same basis as that applied to support students boarded in private homes. [GCU-000071; GCU-000071-0001]

In a letter to Bishop Piche, the administrator of the college urges the construction of an additional building to accommodate more female students and expresses his concern that the supervisory staff is poorly trained for the nature of the work required at Grandin. [GCU-800186]

- 1966** A letter from the Director of the Northern Administration Branch explains that a common policy for the two levels of government is essential because the federal government would be responsible for payments for registered Indian and Eskimo children at Grandin, while the territorial government would be responsible for the payments for White and Metis residents. [GCU-800188]



A memorandum indicates that, by March, Bishop Piche had accepted the conditions required for payments to begin, but was concerned that the amount offered was so much less than that paid at Fort Chipewyan. Piche requested that the grant be paid retroactively to the time of his written request in September 1964. [GCU-000079]

A letter from Bishop Piche notes the considerable annual cost of maintaining a student at Grandin and repeats the request for retroactive payment. [GCU-800190]

The Department in May approved of retroactive payments and agreed to consider increasing the amount of the monthly payment should its enquiries confirm such an increase was justified. [GCU-000083]

At its November Session, the Council of the Northwest Territories approved a document titled "Payment for Pupil Maintenance in Private Institutions" as its policy governing payments to Grandin College. The policy was intended to be general throughout the NWT and to be applicable to any organisation prepared to provide residential facilities of an appropriate standard. It confirmed that the federal government would pay the cost of maintenance for Indian and Eskimo pupils and that the territorial government would pay for the maintenance of non-Indian and non-Eskimo pupils. Payments were to be approved only if the following conditions were met:

1. Payment would be made for those eligible for government pupil residences and with the consent of the parent or legal guardian.
2. Those pupils to attend adjacent Federal Schools are selected by the District Superintendent of schools 3 months in advance of the start of school each September.
3. The residence that accepts a pupil must commit to providing accommodation for the duration of the school year.
4. Pupils must be examined medically prior to admission to the pupil residence.
5. The District Superintendent must be advised in advance of the expulsion or suspension of a child from the residence.
6. The Residence Administrator will ensure the regular attendance at school, act as a parent and would assist the school and the academic progress of the child.
7. Medical and nursing attention must be provided for pupils in accordance with regulations for government pupil residences operated by the churches.
8. All staff members who are in contact with the children must undergo medical and psychological examination.
9. The Residence building must meet all public safety, plumbing, fire and general safety standards for buildings in the Northwest Territories.
10. Payments will be made on the same scale as the per pupil allowance for local boarding in the Territories. The Territorial Government is responsible for white and Metis children and the Federal Government for Indian and Eskimo children.
11. Payments will be made for that period of time that the pupils are in regular attendance at the Federal School adjacent to the privately owned pupil residence.
12. That an agreement be entered into with an operator of a private residence only when a requirement exists that is in excess of the public-owned or public-leased residence facilities. [RCN-000991-0000; RCN-001141]

The supervisors hired for the school year 1966/67 were all young qualified teachers. [GCU-800193]

**1967** Notation on a memorandum dated 27 January shows that the Commissioner of the NWT approved an increase in the per diem payment for pupils accommodated at Grandin Hall, retroactive to 1 September 1966. [RCN-001136]

A considerable debate followed amongst federal officials, some of whom questioned the decision to increase the per diem rate. Others felt that paying for all students at Grandin was in conflict with the policy adopted by the Council of the NWT in November 1966, specifically with Condition 12 requiring that space in federally operated hostels must be unavailable before placement in privately run educational institutions could be considered. [RCN-001134-0000; GCU-000111; RCN-001127]

A letter from the Member of Parliament for the NWT suggests that payments to Grandin for 1966/67 were suspended while this debate was being conducted. [GCU-800198]

Recommendations prepared for the November Session of the Council of the NWT in November urged either that Condition 12 be interpreted broadly and “irrespective of intermittent vacancies in publicly-owned residences” or that it be deleted. It was also recommended that Council add to the conditions a requirement that operators of privately-run institutions be responsible for transportation costs in excess of those “from a pupil’s home settlement to the centre he would be assigned to if attending a publicly-owned pupil residence.” [RCN-002744-0001]

A letter from the Commissioner of the NWT indicates payments from both the federal and territorial governments were made by the end of November. The letter also expresses concern that plans to expand the capacity of Grandin College may place the institution in competition with government owned and operated hostels. [GCU-800199]

A report prepared by Bishop Piche states that the staff is comprised of two Oblate Fathers, two Oblate Brother, three teachers (one of whom was an Oblate), two nuns and four female domestics. The report states that the Oblates and the Grey Nuns donate their salaries to the Vicariate of the Mackenzie. [GCU-800194]

**1968** A letter from the administrator of the college states that long-range plans were to expand to seven residences (four for boys and three for girls) to accommodate 280 students. [GCU-800201]

Documentation hints at a re-examination of the decision to increase the rate, but after a delay of several months, the new rate was applied when payment was finally made. However, student lists for Grandin were analysed to establish federal and territorial responsibilities to pay maintenance. A letter dated 12 October describes the process:

To establish financial responsibilities, we have analyzed the enrolment lists and marked each student with the letter A,B,C, or D. These letters indicate the following:

A - Federal responsibility - Indian or Eskimo student who would normally be eligible for Hostel admission.

- B - Territorial responsibility - those students other than Indian or Eskimo who would normally be eligible for Hostel admission.
- C - Those students who are not eligible for Hostel admission as school facilities are available to them in their home settlements.
- D - Those students from outside N.W.T.

As many as 21 students for 1966/67 and 28 for 1967/68 were deemed to fall under category C, and payment was not made to Grandin for maintenance of these students.  
[GCU-000122]

As a result of a meeting with Father Pochat in October, federal officials learned that Grandin intended in future to accept only A and B students, that a new 40-bed dormitory was to be constructed during the winter of 1967/68, and that long-range plans were to expand the dormitory capacity of the college to accommodate 600 students.  
[GCU-000131]

A report written a few years later by a subsequent administrator of Grandin is critical of the quality of Grandin staff of the school year 1968/69. He also points to inadequate screening of students and a too rapid increase in student numbers as causes of ongoing discipline problems.  
[GCU-800229]

**1969** Effective 1 January, the per diem rates were raised for pupils over and under the age of 14.  
[GCU-000152; GCU-000153]

Effective 1 September, the per diem rate was increased. [GCU-000197]

In the report of her canonical visit, Sister Yvette Lapointe states that “Grandin College is financed by the Episcopal Corporation, assisted by a government grant and a contribution from the Propagation of the Faith.”  
[GNN-000422]

**1975** For the first time, an Oblate Brother, rather than a Father, is placed in charge of Grandin College.  
[GCU-800238]

**1977** In a letter to parents, the administrator of the College explains that the grant from the government of the NWT paid less than half the per diem operating cost for 1976. The letter asks parents to contribute a portion of the per diem cost for their children in residence.  
[GCU-800242]

**1979** A Roman Catholic report states that the Department of Education, in recognition of good academic results, has recently raised the per diem rate for Grandin students.  
[GNN-000697]

**1980** The per diem rate for boarding students was raised retroactive to 1 September.  
[GCU-000225-0001; GCU-000226]

**1982** A financial statement indicates the per diem cost to maintain a student at Grandin had risen considerably. The statement also shows that the Diocese of Mackenzie paid nearly half the year’s total costs of operation.  
[GCU-800243]

**1983** A document prepared by the new administrator of the college suggests that, for a number of reasons, Grandin students would be better served by attending the Catholic school in Yellowknife. [GCU-800245]

**1985** A meeting of the Diocesan Council in May 1985 decided that Grandin College would close permanently at the end of the school year. [GCU-800247]

## **RESIDENCE BUILDINGS**

**1960** The Grandin Chronicle states that construction work began on 11 May 1959 and finished in July 1960. [GNN-000410-0002]

The building is described as “a modern structure of three floors one hundred feet in length and 30 feet wide.” [GCU-800151-0000]

The building was able to accommodate 24 students. [GCU-800184]

**1962** The first Grandin Newsletter records that by Christmas the boys had constructed a new cabin (also known as “the shack”) on a piece of land “located near the Slave River.” [GCU-800119]

**1963** The Grandin Chronicle records that on 4 April construction began on “a new building which will serve to house the students and which will also include a gymnasium, a library and other necessities required for a student residence.” [GNN-000410-0002]

**1964** Construction of the new building, with accommodation for about 40 students, was completed in September of 1964. [GCU-000011]

Grandin Hall was transformed into a residence for girls with the assistance of the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) from the hospital, Provincial House and Breynat Hall during the summer months. [GNN-000410-0002]

**1966** The Grandin Chronicle records that in May construction began on another residence for male students. [GNN-000410-0002]

**1967** The 1966/67 Grandin yearbook states that the new residence was completed in the fall of 1966 and was located beside the main residence. It is described as follows:

It consists of two floors and a cellar. The main floor and second floor can accommodate 44 boys and 2 supervisors. Each room is identical, with plastic-coated floors and walls, overhead lighting for each desk, a fold-away bed which converts to a chesterfield, individual closets, and a sink. There is a lounge on each floor...The basement is of two parts: a future museum, (which held the skiing equipment for the first part of the year) and a recreation hall, with a movie screen and projector and a ping-pong table. [GCU-800003]

- 1968** A newspaper article states that Grandin College is comprised of “three modern buildings.” [GNN-000688]
- 1970** A report prepared for the Director of Education recommends the purchase of “the Grandin complex” and states there was probably not another building in the NWT “as solid and as durable” as the main building. The report includes descriptions of the design of each of the three floors of the main boys’ residence and details the renovations required to convert the building to a high school. Also included is a description of the interior of the newer boys’ residence (constructed in 1966), the purchase of which is recommended to accommodate the Teacher Education Programme. [FSU-000743]
- A newspaper article reports that the “two main buildings” of the Grandin complex were sold to the Government of the NWT in 1970. The article states that the third building was subsequently used as the boys’ residence for Grandin College and another building was purchased to serve as the girls’ residence. [GNN-000702]
- 1971** An Agreement for Sale dated 01 July 1971 details the sale of Lot 186 and all “the buildings located thereon” to the Government of the NWT by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie. The Roman Catholic Corporation retained the right to “use and occupy” that portion of the main building used as a museum. [GCU-000222]
- 1986** Following the closure of Grandin College in June 1985, the former boys’ residence remained vacant.<sup>7</sup> The government of the NWT considered leasing the building for use as a dormitory for high school students, but decided not to do so. [GCU-800251]

### **ASSOCIATED RESIDENCE: BREYNAT HALL**

The federal government operated a residence in Fort Smith between 1958 and 1975. Particularly during the 1960s, Breynat Hall (initially known as the Fort Smith Federal Hostel and the Fort Smith School Hostel) was closely associated with Grandin College in terms of staff and administration. For details, see the separate Hostel Narrative for Breynat Hall.

### **ASSOCIATED DAY SCHOOLS: JOSEPH BURR TYRRELL FEDERAL DAY SCHOOL and PAUL W. KAESER HIGH SCHOOL**

All Grandin students enrolled at Joseph Burr Tyrrell Federal Day School in Fort Smith, NWT. The main Grandin building (constructed in 1964) was purchased by the government of the NWT in July 1971 to house the high school grades of Joseph Burr Tyrrell Federal Day School. The high school had been named Paul W. Kaeser High School by 1980.

- 1956** The new Fort Smith Federal School (Fort Smith Federal Day School) was scheduled to open in 1957 in conjunction with the new federal hostel. [BTU-000841-0001; BTU-000849; BTU-000934]<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> No information was found pertaining to the disposition of the former girls’ residence.

<sup>8</sup> The prefix BTU indicates that this document is from the NWT-Fort Smith Breynat Hall document collection found in the National database.

**1957** Much consideration was given to the religious division of classrooms and to the propriety of religious symbols and resources in the classrooms. [BTU-001089-0001]

Protestant teachers were provided at the day school for Protestant students. The number of Protestant teachers was to be determined by the number of Protestant students in attendance. [RCN-000571]

A memorandum for the Director of the Northern Administration and Lands Branch states that “the high school facilities which will be available at Fort Smith will not in any way be comparable to those provided at Yellowknife. The high school being operated at Fort Smith is intended primarily for local residents.” [BTU-000055]

**1961** The Breynat Chronicle records changes in organisation at the school that were implemented in January:

The second term begins with a significant re-organisation. Grades 7 through 12 have been moved to the new school; Grades 4, 5 and 6 will be in the old school. This has been done to facilitate the delivery of high school courses.

[GNN-000410-0001]

In March, the Fort Smith Federal Day School was named Joseph Burr Tyrrell School after the noted geologist, miner and historian.

[RCN-002118]

**1963** In a letter to Bishop Piche, the administrator of the college is critical of the atmosphere of mediocrity and the low teacher expectations at J.B. Tyrrell School. [GCU-800168]

**1964** In a letter to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Bishop Paul Piche states: “Grandin College in its present stage is only a Hall where are housed students attending J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School.” [RCN-007458]

A memorandum for the Director of the Department of Northern Affairs indicates that the 55 students from Grandin attending J.B. Tyrrell have created unanticipated problems of overcrowding and organisation at the school. [GCU-000030]

**1965** A report states:

Joseph Burr Tyrrell School is a modern attractive building with thirty-three classrooms, and grades 1 to 12. There is a large auditorium, an industrial arts shop, and a home economics room. A wide range of extra curricular and sports programs are carried on among the students and the school is a centre for many community activities. [NWT-000609[000-000]]<sup>9</sup>

A memorandum indicates that Grandin students at J.B. Tyrrell FDS “comprise a separate group within the school” which has its own strong loyalties and which “does not mix as freely and completely with the general student group” as school officials would prefer.

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<sup>9</sup> The prefix NWT indicates that this document is from the North - Northwest Territory (OLD) document collection found in Summation LG Gold.

[GCU-000067]

**1966** A report dated January 1966 states there are 31 classrooms in the school.  
[FSU-000616-0001]

**1967** A letter dated October 1967 indicates that the school consisted of a primary school, a main building and seven portable classrooms. [FSU-000653]

**1970** A letter expresses the opinion that the “old school is not well designed..., is not in the best of shape” and indicates that as many as nine portables are in use. [GCU-000167]

**1971** A newspaper article reports that the high school component of J.B. Tyrrell moved to the main Grandin building in 1971. [GNN-000702]

**1973** The school was separated into two distinct administrative units—an elementary school and a high school—in September 1973. [FSU-000746]

**1980** The caption to a photograph indicates that, by 1980, the J.B. Tyrrell High School had been renamed Paul W. Kaeser High School. [GNN-000384]

### **OWNERSHIP**

**1964** A draft recommendation to the Council of the NWT states:

Grandin Hall has been planned and built and is entirely owned by the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Mackenzie. The Territorial and Federal Governments have not been asked to approve any plans for either the construction or operation of the Hall as it now exists, nor have they contributed to construction and operating costs.” [GCU-000038-0001]

NOTE: There is no evidence in available records to indicate that either the territorial government or the federal government owned or managed Grandin College at any time.

### **LAND**

**1958** The letter announcing the intention of the Roman Catholic Church to build a house in Fort Smith states that the house is to be located “on the northwest corner of Lot No. 163 belonging to the Corporation of Mackenzie” in Fort Smith. [GCU-000168-0001]

**1960** A memorandum states that Grandin Home is located “on church property adjacent to the new Federal School.” [GCU-000172]

### **PHOTOS, PLANS AND OTHER MEDIA**

Item #	Date	Description
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GNN-000682	Undated	Photograph of original Grandin Home as the girls' residence
GCU-000072	1966	Yearbook with photographs of the Grandin buildings and J.B. Tyrrell FDS
GCU-800126	1969	Yearbook with photograph of main Grandin residence and adjacent buildings

### **GENERAL ENROLMENT STATISTICS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
1960/61	20 boys
1961/62	18 boys January: 14 "seminary students" and 4 "high school students"
1962/63	17 boys December: 16 boys
1963/64	22 boys
1964/65	48 students 14 girls 40 boys, including 1 from Saskatchewan and 6 from Alberta 55 students, comprised of 29 "Treaty Indians," 7 "Eskimos," and 19 "Others." 13 had been resident at Breynat Hall in 1963/64
1965/66	24 girls 40 boys, including 9 "Eskimos" and 4 "Whites" 63 students, comprised of 9 "Eskimos," 35 "Treaty Indians," 19 "Others"
1966/67	85 students 30 girls 56 boys and 31 girls from Grandin in attendance at J.B. Tyrrell FDS 69 residents comprised of 31 "Treaty Indians," 9 "Eskimos," and 29 "Others"
1967/68	86 students 34 girls May: 80 students, including 5 "Eskimos" and 4 "Whites"
1968/69	82 students 30 girls December: 28 female students, including 1 "Eskimo" and 4 "Whites"
1969/70	September: 65 students, 22 of whom are girls December: 43 boys, 18 girls; numbers include 6 "Whites" May: 34 boys and 14 girls June: 41 students
1970/71	25 students
1971/72	30 students



1972/73	September: 22 boys and 12 girls June: 18 boys and 9 girls
1973/74	September: 15 boys and 11 girls October 13 boys and 9 girls November: 21 students February: 11 boys and 6 girls
1974/75	18 students February: 8 boys and 8 girls
1975/76	22 students October: 11 boys and 9 girls January: 13 boys
1976/77	September: 16 boys and 10 girls January: 19 students February: 24 students
1977/78	26 students
1978/79	30 students September: 11 girls January: 20 boys and 10 girls
1979/80	October: 18 boys and 11 girls
1980/81	25 students November: 12 boys, 10 girls
1981/82	24 students April: 9 girls
1982/83	31 students December: 17 boys, 11 girls
1983/84	October: 30 students December: 28 students
1984/85	29 students 32 students, of whom 5 graduated in the summer

### **STUDENTS FROM OTHER LOCATIONS**

Grandin College was not created to serve a local community. Only rarely will a student from Fort Smith (where the residence was located) be found on lists of Grandin students. Grandin College drew its students from all over the North and also accepted students from northern communities in Saskatchewan and Alberta, most commonly from Fort Chipewyan.

**1962** The first Grandin newsletter records that students came from McMurray, Fort Rae, Good Hope, Fort Chipewyan, Fort Simpson, Providence and Snowdrift. [GCU-800119]

- 1964** A newsletter records new students from Cape Parry, Colville Lake, Lac Labiche, Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik. [GCU-800122]
- 1966** A student list identifies the home communities of students in residence for 1966/67: Aklavik; Cape Parry; Eldorado, Saskatchewan; Fort Chipewyan; Fort Franklin; Fort Good Hope; Fort Providence; Fort Rae; Fort Resolution; Fort Simpson; Fox Lake, Alberta; Inuvik; McMurray; Snowdrift; Yellowknife; Tuktoyaktuk. [GCU-000081-0001]
- 1968** A student list includes students from Fort Liard, Paulaktuk, and Pine Point. [GCU-800133]
- 1969** A student list in a newsletter indicates students also came from Calgary, Trout Rock, Fort Smith, Norman Wells, Igloolik, and Arctic Red River. [GCU-800125]
- 1971** A student list includes students from Coppermine and Cambridge Bay. [GCU-800033]
- Correspondence indicates that two students transferred from Edmonton to Grandin College.<sup>10</sup> [FSU-000171]
- 1973** A student list includes students from Conklin, Alberta. [GCU-800040]
- 1975** Senior high school facilities were not available for students in Fort Chipewyan until September 1976. Before that date, students in grades 10-12 went to other communities in Alberta or to Fort Smith. In Fort Smith, students attended J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School and were accommodated at Breynat Hall. A letter from the Regional Superintendent of Education (Indian Affairs) for Alberta indicates that, due to the scheduled closure of Breynat Hall in June 1975, accommodation at Grandin College for several Grade 11 and Grade 12 boys from Fort Chipewyan was being considered in September 1975. [SLA-002784]
- A student list includes a student from Chard, Alberta. [GCU-800050]
- 1976** A letter from the administrator of Grandin College asks for clarification of the decision of the Department of Indian Affairs to stop sending students from Fort Chipewyan to Fort Smith for high school education due to the addition of Grades 10 to 12 at the Bishop Piche School in Fort Chipewyan in September 1976. He identifies two students from Chard and three from Fort Chipewyan as current residents of Grandin College. [FSU-000172]
- 1977** A student list includes students from Fort Liard, Pond Inlet and Hay River [GCU-800074]
- 1978** A student list includes a student from Jean Marie River. [GCU-800083]
- 1979** A student list includes a student from Kakisa. [GCU-800094]

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<sup>10</sup> Though the transfer occurred from Edmonton, the students were most likely from Fort Chipewyan.

**1984** A student list includes a student from Rae-Edzo and Fort Norman. [GCU-800116]

## **RELIGIOUS GROUPS**

All administrators of Grandin College from its inception in September 1960 at least until December 1983 were drawn from the Order of Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.).

[GNN-000701]

The Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) of Montreal accepted responsibility for supervision and the domestic operations of the residence for girls when female students were first accepted in September 1964. Involvement of the Grey Nuns diminished over the years, but as late as December 1982, a Grey Nun was the supervisor of the girls' residence.

[GNN-000410-0002; GNN-000700]

## **WRITTEN AGREEMENTS**

Grandin College was privately owned and operated. Therefore, there are no written agreements pertaining to ownership or operations with either the GNWT or the federal government. The only agreements for which documentation is available address the arrangements related to payments for accommodation of students and the Agreement for Sale through which the Diocese of the Mackenzie sold two buildings to the Government of the NWT in 1971, whereupon the buildings ceased to be part of Grandin College. Information about these arrangements is found in the section titled "Management of Residence" on pages 6 to 11 above.

## **DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO INCIDENTS**

To date, we are unaware of any convictions for abuse at Grandin College or of any convicted abusers having been present at the residence.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Recruitment**

**1961** The Administrator of the Mackenzie states in a Memorandum that student recruitment was handled by the church authorities and that "no official requests or arrangements were made for recruitment for the Grandin Home." [GCU-000006]

**1964** An article appearing in *Arctic Profiles* published by the University of Calgary states that Bishop Paul Piche travelled all over the NWT in the summer of 1964 to recruit Native students for Grandin College. <http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic42-2-168.pdf>

**1967** The Lapointe Chronicle records a visit by the assistant director of the college to Fort Simpson in July to meet parents of potential new students. [GNN-000483]

A report written by Bishop Piche states that the male students were "selected from amongst candidates at elementary schools recommended by missionaries and teachers. They must themselves write their applications indicating the reasons they wish to follow their studies at the college." [GCU-800194]

## School Life

- 1962** The boys from the Grandin residence were invited to a social evening organised for the older boys and girls of Breynat Hall in early November. [GNN-000410-0001]

The first Grandin Newsletter includes a description of daily and weekly routines. Students attended Mass daily and studied for two hours each weekday outside school hours. The gym at J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School was booked after school for basketball twice a week. On weekends, the Grandin students played hockey with boys from Breynat Hall and were always invited to the Sunday evening picture show at Breynat Hall. [GCU-800119]

A report prepared by the college administrator states that all Grandin students took their classes at the federal day school, but that four of the more advanced students also took Latin classes at the residence. [GCU-800151-0000]

- 1963** At the end of the school year, some students stayed in Fort Smith to assist with the construction of the new building; others attended a militia training camp in Calgary. [GCU-800150]

- 1964** A newspaper article reports that the Grandin College band practised hard under the direction of administrator Father Pochat and had its debut at Awards Night at J.B. Tyrrell Federal Day School in May 1964. The article also states that the older boys had private rooms and that the younger boys slept dormitory style with no more than four to a room. [IMR-000221]<sup>11</sup>

The Grandin Chronicle gives the following timetable of a typical day at both the boys' and the girls' residences:

7:15 a.m.	Get up.
7:45	Breakfast followed by manual chores, required for the upkeep of the building.
8:40	Students leave for school.
12:00	Students return from school and have lunch.
1:00 p.m.	Classes begin again.
4:00	Return from school.
4:00 to 6:00:	Various recreational activities and sports give students a chance to relax a little.
6:00	Supper followed by half an hour of recreation.
7:00	Study. At the same time, the Holy Mass is celebrated and students who wish to attend may take part.
9:30	A snack is served and is followed by time for recreation and evening prayers. [GNN-000410-0002]

Each residence elected a students' council. [GCU-800176]

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<sup>11</sup> The prefix IMR indicates that this document is from the Roman Catholic Indian Missionary Record document collection found in the National database.

**1965** The first Grandin yearbook was published. An outline of the year in review (1964/65) records frequent sports activities, dances and field trips. Five boys and a supervisor travelled to Edmonton for an educational tour in April. For one weekend during the 1964/65 school year, Grandin's fifteen female students were billeted throughout Fort Smith when the girls' residence was used for a retreat by local men. [GCU-800001]

A report prepared by the college administrator states that the students' council met twice each week to plan activities. The report also states that each day began and ended with supervised prayer. [GCU-800149]

**1966** The 1966 yearbook records the following activities: Band, Glee Club, cheerleading, girls' and boys' basketball, hockey, and cross-country skiing.

An article in the yearbook outlines the daily routine at the girls' residence. Awakened by the supervisor, the girls begin the day in the hall with exercises and prayers. Following breakfast and chores, the girls leave the residence for school at 8:45. They return to the College for lunch and then back to school until 3:45. They study from 4:30 until supper and then for another hour after supper before gym period, which is followed by a snack, evening prayers and a "nightly beauty treatment" before bed.

Another article in the yearbook indicates the boys generally followed the same schedule until after school hours. They played sports until suppertime, and after supper played basketball or pool until study time began at 7:00. Study continued until 11:00 with a snack break at 9:30. [GCU-000072]

**1967** Some students participated in the Quebec Winter Games in February in Quebec. [GCU-800003]

In September, a group of federal dignitaries spent a day at the College. [GCU-800004]

**1968** An Art Club was formed during the 1967/68 school year and a Photography Club was formed in March. [GCU-800004]

A swimming programme was offered in a portable pool in May and a Book Club and an Electronics Club were formed during the 1968/69 school year. [GCU-800126]

**1969** A Newsletter indicates the Students' Council met weekly to plan the general assemblies of all students which were held in the Recreation Hall of the new residence. [GCU-800123]

The yearbook states that "the shack" located just two miles from Bell Rock was well known to every Grandin student. [GCU-800126]

An Automobile Club was formed during the 1969/70 school year. [GCU-800006]

A newsletter records that the swimming programme was offered again in July and that several students took part in the Canada Summer Games in Halifax in August.

[GCU-800125]

- 1970** The swimming programme was offered for a third time in May. [GCU-800006]

A questionnaire prepared for students in September indicates that routines and regulations were re-examined in light of the leasing of the newest residence to the government of the NWT for the school year 1970/71. [GCU-800206]

- 1971** Staff meetings were held once a week when school was in session, as were meetings of the students' council. [GCU-800157]

A letter from Father Croteau to the Commissioner of the NWT speaks highly of the Grandin students who took part in a trip through western Canada in the summer and indicates that there were plans to visit Europe in the summer of 1972.

[GCU-000206]

- 1973** A new 12-passenger brown Ford van was acquired by the college. [GCU-800128]

- 1975** A newsletter indicates that each school year began with students gathering the potato crop. [GCU-800134]

- 1980** The administrator wrote in the November newsletter that "two or three who refused to go along with the rules" were sent home early in the school year. [GNN-000698]

In a letter to parents in June, the administrator includes details of the worsening discipline problems at the girls' residence and of the strict measures taken to address those problems. [GCU-800147]

- 1982** A contribution to a newsletter states that an Easter retreat was held in Edmonton each year for selected students. Other contributions indicate that the students were given town leave on Wednesdays and on weekends. [GCU-800007]

Student-written contributions to the Christmas newsletter indicate that Grandin College owned a cabin, two speedboats and a canoe at Pine Lake; maintained its own ice surface in winter; allowed students in small groups to go hunting on weekends; and did not allow students to attend dances in town. Students typically followed this schedule on weekdays:

7:45 a.m.	Get up; breakfast; manual chores
8:45	Leave for school
4:00 p.m.	Return from school
4:00 to 6:00:	Recreational activities/free time
7:00 to 9:00	Study (except Fridays)
11:00	Curfew

[GNN-000700]

- 1983** In a newsletter, the new administrator noted that a complete change of supervisory staff took place in September. After Christmas, he changed the boys' wake-up time to 7:00 a.m. to bring it into line with the girls' schedule and to allow for a quarter of an hour's study before school. He also insisted that the television be turned off during meal times

and that students must remain at the table for a minimum of fifteen minutes to talk to each other.

A contribution to the newsletter records that Grade 12 students received extra town leave, were allowed to watch television in the staff room, and monitored the study periods of younger students in the absence of the supervisor. [GCU-800008]

**PRINCIPALS/ADMINISTRATORS**

Name	Position	Tenure Dates
Pochat, J., Father, O.M.I. (aka Father J. Pochat-Cotilloux)	Founder/Administrator/ Director	July 1960 to October 1969
Beaulac, Edward, Father	Asst. Director, Director of the Boys' Residence	Unknown start date in 1966 to May 1968
Croteau, Denis, Father O.M.I	Administrator	October 1969 to June 1973
Lemur, Robert, Father, O.M.I.	Administrator	September 1973 to June 1975
Pelletier, Robert, Brother, O.M.I.	Acting Administrator	November 1973
Pelletier, Robert, Brother, O.M.I.	Administrator	June 1975 to at least April 1983
Deharveng, Charles, Father, O.M.I.	Administrator	September 1983 to at least December 1983

Narrative Completed: 02/28/2007

Narrative Updated: 03/05/2008

Narrative Updated: 07/22/2008

Narrative Updated: 07/30/2009

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

