



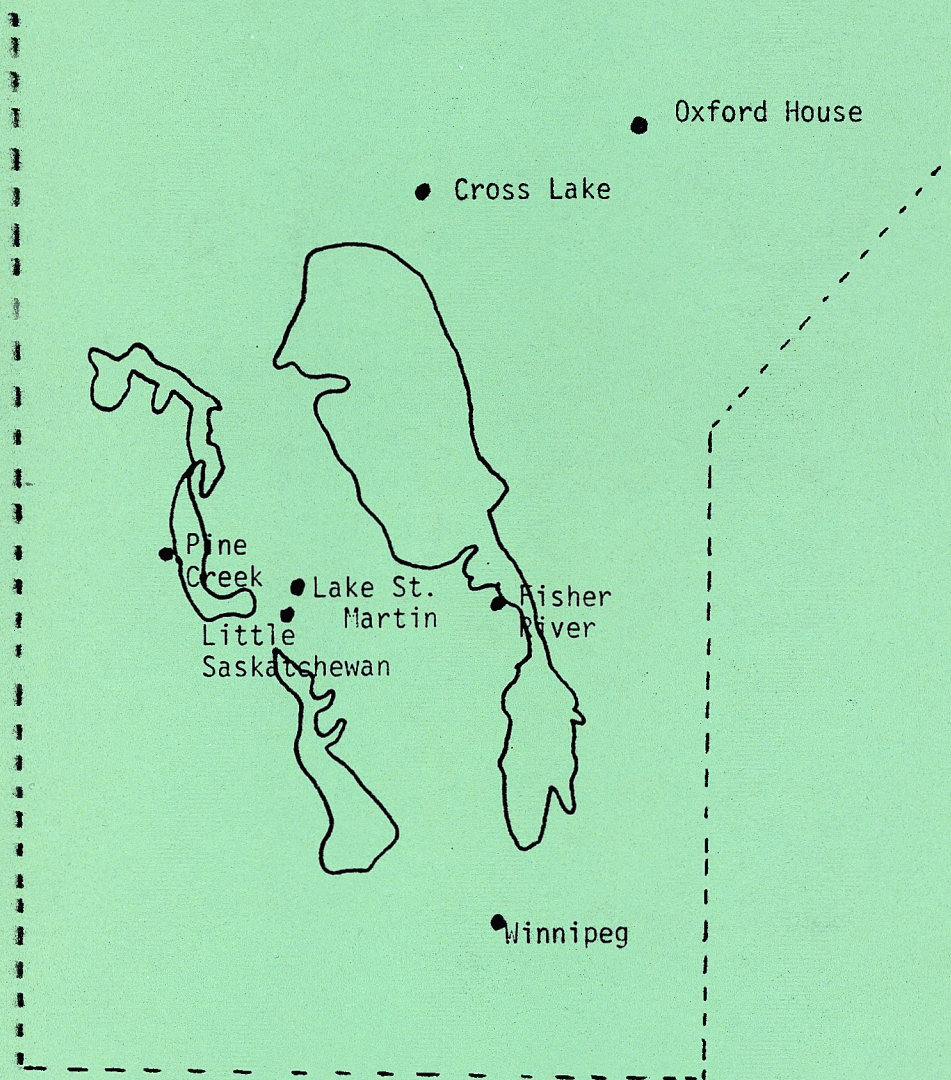
Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

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INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

INTERLAKE AREA

MANITOBA



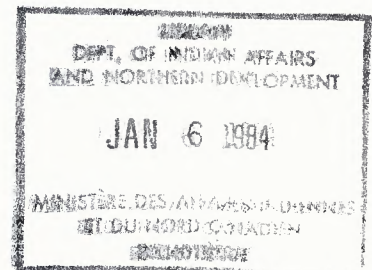
THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

INTERLAKE AREA



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CROSS LAKE SCHOOL, CROSS LAKE, MANITOBA

THE COMMUNITY

Cross Lake is located on the Nelson River some 130 kilometres north of Norway House and about 190 kilometres south of Thompson. It is a community of about 2,500 people, Cree being the largest ethnic body with a small community of Metis. The dialect is Swampy or "N" dialect Cree. Many of the residents speak English but do so only when it is necessary to communicate with Euro-Canadians.

The community is separated into distinct areas. The northern end of the reserve is Saggitawak. The schools there are Nekopak and Saggitawak Schools, some three kilometres apart.

The Hudson Bay Store, Post Office, Nursing Station, Band Office and Radio Station and ancillary service buildings are located four kilometres south of Saggitawak School. Just across the Nelson River from The Bay is Ross Island. This area is known locally as Wapak. The Junior High School is located in the area. The Junior High is the administrative centre of the schools as well, with the library and warehouses and the highest concentration of teachers and teacherages.

Three kilometres to the south on Ross Island is Natimek North School and one kilometre further south is Natimek South School. Each of these areas has teacherages. Natimek is connected to Ross Island by a dirt causeway.

With the exception of those sites on Ross Island, these distinct areas are joined by all-weather roads. In order to get to Ross Island, it is necessary to go by boat or by cable ferry when there is open water. Near Natimek North there is a foot bridge connecting Ross Island to the mainland.

Cross Lake is on one of the old fur trading routes. The first Hudson's Bay Trading Post was established here in 1882, but the Cree had been using this area as a meeting place for many years prior to that. Bands from the North and South would meet here, almost inadvertently, for pow-wows, socializing and inter-band trade. Ambushing of the Ojibway bands using the route was one of the spring traditions in Cross Lake, and there is in Saggitawak the remains of a fortification used for this purpose.

The people in the community are at first a bit reticent to speak with "strangers" but teachers usually are accepted into the community without hesitation. You may well expect to develop fast friendships among the native population.

Cross Lake is a "dry" Indian Reserve which means that it is illegal to drink alcohol on the reserve. This applies to teachers too . . . !

The Trapper's Festival, the major festival in Cross Lake, occurs in the spring usually about mid-March. During this festival dog races, snow-mobile races, and other similar northern events are held. Contestants from all over the prairies and even the U.S.A. compete for prize money.

THE SCHOOL

Nekopak School

Nekopak School is a temporary facility consisting of five buildings, four of which house two classrooms each. The first, or office building, houses washroom facilities with full plumbing for staff and students. There is also a staff preparation area, a vice-principal's office and a maintenance section in this building. The other four buildings are physically separated structures. The two classrooms in each of these buildings are separated by a wide hallway which contains a storage room. Nekopak School consists of grades one to four.

Saggitawak School

Approximately three kilometres from Nekopak by road lies the old Saggitawak complex. There is a main building with two classrooms and a residence attached. This will be utilized as a BUNTEP centre. Running water is available to students but the toilets are outdoors. Near this main building are two detached, single classroom buildings. At this complex are a total of two classrooms, kindergarten 4 and kindergarten 5.

Natimek South School

At this site there are four classrooms housing grades two to five. As well as classrooms, there is a staff room and a small library area.

Outdoor plumbing facilities are provided.

Natimek North School

At Natimek North there are two classrooms, kindergarten 4, kindergarten 5 and grade one. A three bedroom residence is attached. The basement is a classroom occupied by the resource and remedial teachers.

Wapak Schools

The Wapak Junior High is a temporary facility, consisting of nine buildings, housing two classrooms each. Grades four to nine are taught. The office building contains washroom facilities, a staff and preparation area, the supervising principal's office and vice-principal's office. Grades seven to nine work on a rotary system with Home Economics and Industrial Arts being offered as part of the regular academic program. There is a skating rink at the back of the school, available for school and community use. Minor hockey is organized by the community. A temporary trailer is used as office space for a home and school coordinator and a guidance counsellor.

The elementary Wapak Schools are about a half kilometre away from the Junior High. There are two buildings and each houses two classrooms. Outdoor plumbing is provided. These schools have grades nursery to grade three. Another building is used for the Industrial Arts class by the Junior High School.

ACCOMMODATION

While it is the policy of the Department to supply single resident situations, sometimes it is necessary that people share residences. Most of the residences are mobile homes, with all the modern cooking and sanitary facilities one expects in a mobile home. There are a few frame buildings used as teacherages as well. The residences are completely furnished, including draperies, freezers, automatic washers and driers, and full modern plumbing.

Heat is provided by electricity. The rent of these furnished and heated residences is very reasonable, and is deducted from one's pay cheque.

FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Radio: There is a native communications radio station in Cross Lake which uses both Cree and English. Its approximate operational hours are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Other radio reception is available.

Television: One channel of C.B.C. television is available in Cross Lake as well as several channels by satellite disk.

Telephone: Regular telephone service is available. Repair service is usually available one day per week when repairmen come in from Thompson.

Stores: Although there are a few independent stores and a band store, most shopping is done at the Hudson's Bay Company. This store is one of the Bay's bigger northern stores, and the selection of foods, hardware and dry goods is good.

Mail: Cross Lake used to be afflicted with the problem of "Stale mail". Service has improved, however, with mail being flown out and received daily.

Road, Air and Water Transportation:

Road: Within Cross Lake there is a road system which connects with highway 6 and 391. In winter you cross a channel 400-500 meters wide, once ice is safe. This road connects Cross Lake to Jenpeg, Wabowden, Norway House and the provincial highways. In summer, a ferry crosses the channel. Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Cost is \$1.25 per vehicle.

Air: With the exception of Sunday, there are daily scheduled flights to Winnipeg (Perimeter - \$130 one way) and Thompson Ellair - \$43. one way). Non-scheduled flights also connect Jenpeg and Wabowden.

Water: The Nelson River cuts through the middle of the Cross Lake settlement. This being the case, many people rely on the river as a means of transportation (freights, social, shopping and visiting).

Jenpeg is accessible by boat and road. The Nelson River system and surrounding islands will give one many hours of enjoyment and relaxation. However, there are many hidden reefs and rocks, and full caution must be exercised.

Medical Services:

There is a visiting doctor in Cross Lake as well as six nurses. Serious cases are flown out, either to Norway House Hospital or Thompson Hospital. Pediatricians, optometrists, gynecologists, make frequent visits to the areas.

Churches:

There are four churches in Cross Lake.

1. United Church - one service weekly. Cree speaking.
2. Roman Catholic - two churches. Bilingual.
One service each weekly. Cree and English speaking.
3. Mennonite - one service a week. Cree speaking.
4. Pentecostal - two churches - three services weekly. Cree speaking.

Recreation:

1. In Community:

- Bingo
- Dances
- Sports - hockey, broomball and fastball
- Trapper's Festival - five days in March of action-packed activities ranging from dog sled racing to tea boiling.
- Minor Hockey
- Ladies/Handicraft Club
- Weight Watchers

2. Around Community:

- Outdoor Activities - fishing, boating, hunting, snowmobiling and camping. All superb.
- Cross-country skiing - many beautiful trails have resulted in the growth of this winter sport.

3. Other Information:

1. In 1982-83 school term Frontier school division opened a school for the non-treaty students in the community.
2. Plans are in existence to replace the ferry in the community by a vehicle bridge.
3. Construction of a new Cross Lake School should begin in the calendar year 1984.
4. Construction of a community arena with artifical ice is under-way.
5. Construction of a new hall for the community is complete.
6. In January 1984 a BUNTEP program started in the community to train teachers for the Junior High area.

CROSS LAKE

Nekopak

Saggitawak

RIVER

NELSON

Ferry

Gapak

Hudson Bay Store

Foot
Bridge

AIR STRIP

SANDY BAY

Natinik

Natinik

NELSON



CROSS LAKE

HISTORY OF THE TITLE

LAKE ST. MARTIN

Long ago there used to be an abundance of martens in the Lake. The people used to hunt these in numbers and rightfully named it "waubezhasha sahuhegun", which means Marten's Lake.

When the first treaty was signed between the people of Lake St. Martin and the government, the name was somehow changed to St. Marten's Lake. Somewhere along the way it became Lake St. Martin, as it now remains.

Some people used to call the Reserve "Land Across the Narrows."

LAKE ST. MARTIN SCHOOL

LOCATION

The Reserve, located 290 km from Winnipeg and 32 km from No. 6 Highway, is situated on the shores of Lake St. Martin. The 16 km from the village of Gypsumville to Lake St. Martin Reserve is a secondary gravel road that continues to Anama Bay and Lake Winnipeg. This road is maintained in good condition year round. The prospects for the future are that this road may be paved.

The Post Office serving the Lake St. Martin Reserve is located in the Village of Gypsumville.

SHOPPING FACILITIES

Gypsumville and St. Martin are the two villages which are the service centres in the area. They have good supplies of groceries, clothing, furniture, and hardware, as well as a hotel and restaurants.

There is, as well, a Reserve grocery store located about one half mile from the school compound.

CHURCHES

There are three churches on the Reserve, namely Anglican, Apostolic and Pentecostal. There is a United Church at Gypsumville, and a Greek Orthodox Church in St. Martin.

THE SCHOOL

Lake St. Martin School is a modern nine classroom school with a gymnasium, a nursery/kindergarten classroom, and a library/resource room. The classrooms are fairly well equipped and not overcrowded. Classes range between 20 - 24 students. The student attendance in all grades has been satisfactory over the years. Student behavior has been cooperative and conducive to learning. Most of the students are bilingual - Saulteaux and English. The students in the nursery class can understand some English when they first enroll.

THE STAFF

The staff consists of eleven department employees and a band-employed teacher aide. The relationship among members of the staff has been good over the years. Teacher turnover at the school has been minimal for the last five years, approximately 10% yearly.

THE STUDENTS

There are about 164 students enrolled in nursery through grade nine. These students are all transported to school by bus except for a few students who live near the school compound.

RECREATION FACILITIES

The school gymnasium is accessible to anyone who wishes to use the facilities after school hours. At the Canadian Forces Base in Gypsumville, there is curling, bowling, baseball and a large gymnasium. Anyone may join the sports league at the Base. At Gypsumville, there is a Community Hall where bingo games are played on a regular basis.

This area is a "sportsman's paradise". In spring and summer, numerous fishermen come from as far away as the United States. The fish found here are perch, whitefish and pickerel.

In the fall, there is moose, duck, deer, geese and chicken hunting. North of this area there are miles and miles of uninhabited land and virgin forest. Stella's beach, situated five miles west of the school, is a childrens' summer paradise.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

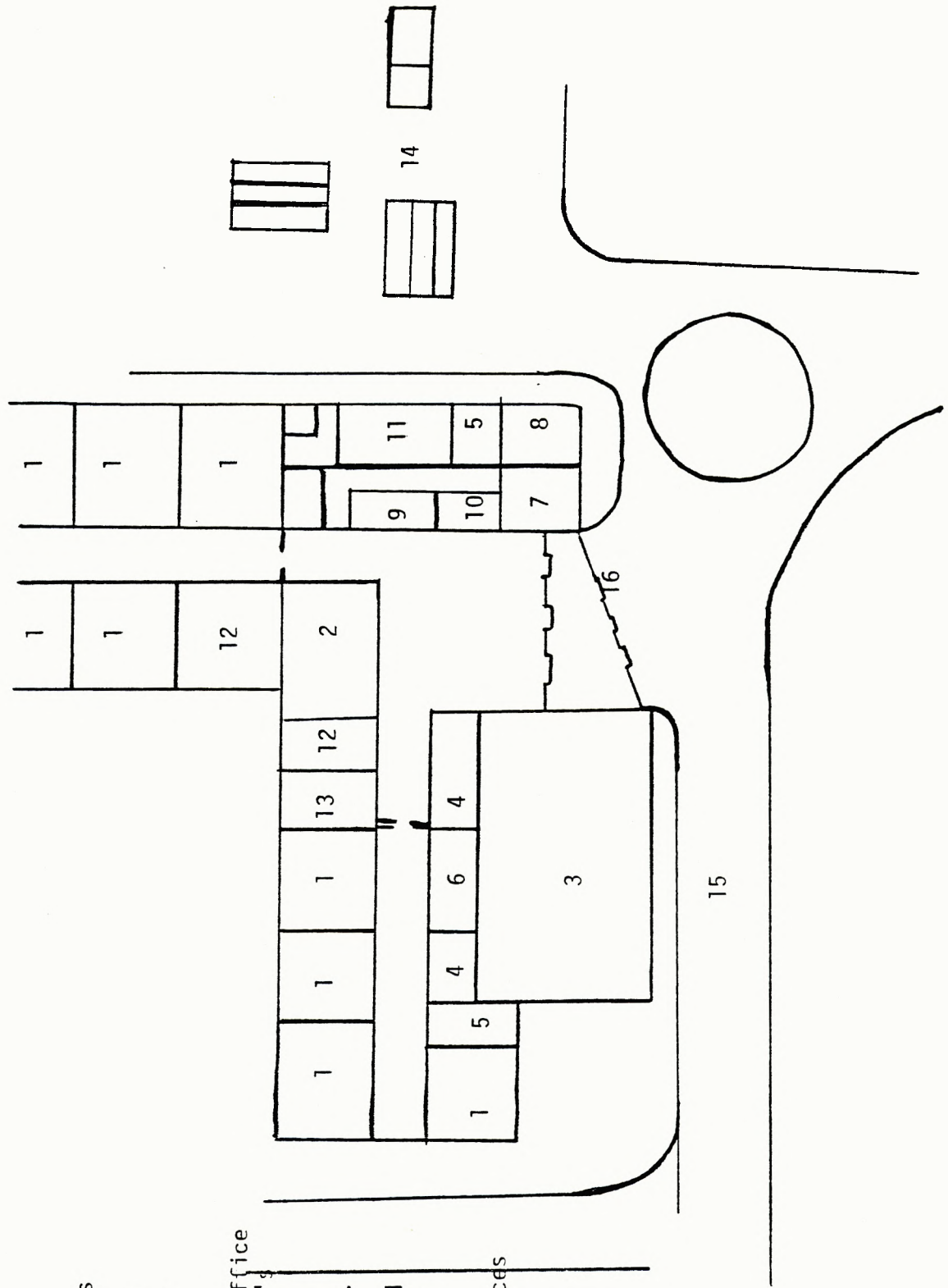
Medical services are available at the Canadian Air Forces Base. The nearest hospital is at Ashern, 95 km away. There is a health clinic in Lake St. Martin. A community health worker is there every day. A public health nurse visits the community twice a week. A doctor from Ashern visits the Reserve once a month and a dentist twice a year.

RADIO AND TELEVISION RECEPTION

At present, there are two television channels. Radio reception is good.

LAKE ST. MARTIN SCHOOL PLAN

1. Classrooms
2. Library
3. Gymnasium
4. Washrooms
5. Storage
6. Kitchen
7. General office
8. Principal's Office
9. Guidance
10. Health Rm.
11. Staff Rm.
12. Mechanical
13. Janitor's Room
14. Staff Residences
15. Parking Area
16. Entrance



LITTLE SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL

THE COMMUNITY

Little Saskatchewan School is situated on the Little Saskatchewan Reserve. It is one of the Department of Indian Affairs schools situated on the water route draining from Lake Manitoba to Lake Winnipeg. The Little Saskatchewan Reserve is on the west side of Lake St. Martin. It is a small Reserve with an on-reserve population of about 400. There are 38 homes, two churches, the band buildings and the new school.

It is 12 km to Gypsumville from Little Saskatchewan. Gypsumville has a garage, two stores, a hotel and a post office.

The village of St. Martin is also about 12 km away. It has extended to Highway 6 where there are several gas stations and restaurants including Shell, Texaco, Esso, and Gulf stations.

Curling, bowling and other recreation can be found nearby at the Canadian Armed Forces Base, Gypsumville. St. Martin also has a community club.

The goose hunting is excellent in this area. The shores of Lake St. Martin, just metres from the school are loaded with excellent fossil specimens from the Silurian age.

Gypsumville has a very modern nursing station. Ashern is about 80 km away and has a hospital and two doctors. Dental care is also available at Ashern; the nearest bank is also in Ashern.

THE SCHOOL

A new elementary school was officially opened in November 1981. It has four classrooms, a library, a science room, and a gymnasium. The playground is equipped with swings, climbers, merry-go-round, slides, etc.

The school is about 8 km from the end of pavement on the Fairford Road. It is 17 km from Highway 6 via the Fairford Road and 260 km from Winnipeg.

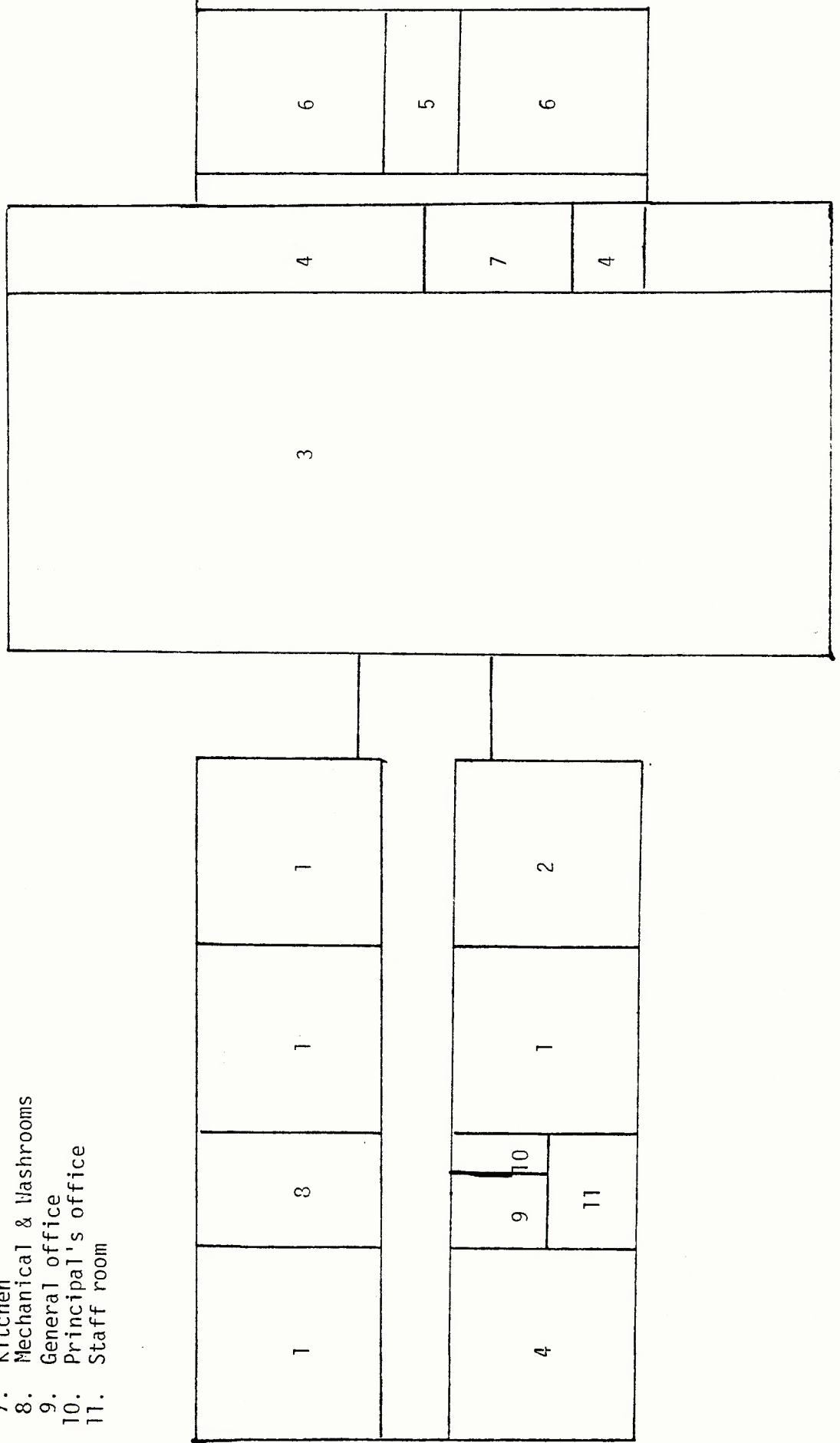
Nursery to grade nine is offered. The student population is eighty.

There are four teachers and two teacher aides. One teacher is also a resource teacher employed on a half-day basis. There are two caretakers, a home and school coordinator, a school secretary and an educational administrator.

The teachers are enjoying new three bedroom bungalows which are fully modern including carpets, TV towers, and electric furnaces.

LITTLE SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL

1. Classrooms
2. Library
3. Gymnasium
4. Storage
5. Service Area
6. Change rooms & showers
7. Kitchen
8. Mechanical & Washrooms
9. General office
10. Principal's office
11. Staff room



OXFORD HOUSE SCHOOL
OXFORD HOUSE, MANITOBA

THE COMMUNITY

The community of Oxford House is approximately 550 air km from Winnipeg. Scheduled flights, in and out, are available presently on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Charter air service is also available.

This predominantly Cree community has a population of about 1,000 inhabitants and has the distinction of having the oldest inland Hudson Bay Company post in Manitoba. The first post was established at Oxford House in 1798 and has been in continuous operation since.

Band administration representing the Treaty people is administered by the following persons:

- A Chief and nine-member Council (elected positions),
- A full-time Band Manager (appointed position),
- Two Welfare Administrators (appointed positions).

It should be noted that Oxford House is a "dry community" which means that alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the Reserve.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Postal Service

Mail and postal services are available three times a week.

Communications

Telephones are available in all homes upon request. For television viewing, there is a satcom satellite station and a C.B.C. television and radio station.

Medical Facilities

There is a modern nursing station staffed by three nurses and two local community health workers. The nursing station is open five days a week, with emergency service 24 hours a day. A doctor comes in on a regular weekly basis.

Stores

There are two stores in Oxford House. These are the Bay and a local general store, which are located approximately three km from the school compound and teacherages. The cost of food and clothing is considerably higher than in the city, but teachers receive isolation pay to compensate for the cost differential.

Police

Oxford House has two local constables and is visited by the R.C.M.P. on an intermittent basis.

Recreation

Local recreation is abundant for the outdoor enthusiast, with such sports as fishing, boating, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing. The community also has an arcade and a few poolrooms. As well, there are bingos and movies which are usually held at the school or church halls.

TEACHER ACCOMMODATIONS

Residences at Oxford House are modern, furnished units on the school compound. The various units include three bedroom, two bedroom, single bedroom and have carpeted and linoleum floors. Each unit has a separate entrance. Some facilities in the single units, such as freezers, dryers and washers, must be shared with other single residents. Rent for these residences, which includes hydro, heating and water, is very nominal. The prospective teacher must supply such items as bedding, utensils, pots, pans and dishes.

THE SCHOOL

The school complex is a fairly new building, which began operation in September, 1975. There are 14 regular teaching stations and five ancillary teaching stations; home economics, industrial arts, gymnasium, library/resource centre and science lab. There is also a general office, staff room, storage area, stage, a medical room and wash and shower rooms.

The school population is approximately 440 students in nursery to grade 12. A broad educational program is offered with language arts and mathematics stressed as the basic skill subjects. In addition to other regular school subjects, native studies, business education, physical education and home economics are also offered. A resource program is also in place, with a specially trained teacher assisting students right in the classroom. Support staff includes a social counsellor/home school coordinator, three caretakers, three janitors, a full-time secretary and four noon-time supervisors.

The junior and senior high is departmentalized for instruction. The senior high operates on a credit system for a general course and business education stream. The school is well equipped with the tools and material required for school instruction.

CONCLUSION

Oxford House is a nice, quiet northern community, isolated from the hurry-scurry of daily city living. Teachers who are adventurous, flexible, sensitive to the needs of Indian students and who possess empathy and imagination, will find teaching in Oxford House a worthwhile, rewarding and enjoyable experience.

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