

St Clair, 13th August 1831.

Sir:

The Contractor for building the houses for the Indian Settlement at St Clair is at a loss to understand the specification and plans of the school and dwelling-house. By the plan of the school-house there is to be a door on each side in the centre of the building - consequently when the partition is up, they will both be in one room and there will be no way into the other. Will it not be better to have only one door in the side and the other in the end? Not thinking it prudent to depend entirely on my own judgment respecting the placing of the buildings, I asked the opinion of Mr. Henry Jones of Maxwell, William McGrae, Esquire and others, the majority of whom agree with me that it will be better to set the ends of both houses toward the River and Highway. Now as the school-house will in course be required to perform Divine Service in, I think if the end door should be made a little larger than common and to fold in the centre in the form of church doors, it would improve the looks of the Building. The Specification for the Dwelling-house requires the intervening Studs to be six by three inches, which does not correspond with the common size of Brick, neither as respects length nor width, and the contractor does not understand whether the thickest way of the studs is to be set across the sill or lengthwise with them. In either case the studs or the Bricks must project, which will make breaks in the plastering; that is, if same is to be laid onto the Brick wall, or did you intend that the wall should be lathed?

Captain Phillpotts,  
Royal Engineer &c &c &c.