

18614

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
Rec. MAR 18

1904

76/287

Col. R. H. Pratt,

Carlisle, Pa.

Jan. 19-04

Rec'd. the purchase
of certain farm
for the Yuma School.

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P E R S O N A L .

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Carlisle, Pa., January 19, 1904.

Hon. W. A. Jones,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Commissioner :

About the most doleful and forlorn school effort I saw during my absence was at Yuma.

The Yuma school, as you probably know, is at the old barracks on an elevated piece of land. The children from their windows can look down on the flat below and see their degraded homes and people.

The Yumas are not destitute of a willingness to work. They were putting in cord wood for the state prison across the river and it was interesting to watch them urging their heavily laden boats against the current and energetically unloading their deliveries of wood at the close of the day.

It seemed to me that something worth while might be done in the way of agriculture and I urged Mr. Spear, who is a good earnest man, in this direction, telling him something of my observations along the Nile - how the water was lifted out to irrigate, etc. He took me down to a farm just below the Indians' camp and within a mile of the school where I saw about 80 acres of alfalfa which was producing, as he told me, a large and paying crop annually. The water was lifted out of the river by steam power and all the property appeared to me to be in good condition and satisfactory. He drove me from point to point to study the situation and see if it would not be practicable to get water on

(2) Hon. W. A. Jones.

to some of the land the Yumas occupy. It did seem feasible but the use of the appliances on the farm already under cultivation was by all odds the best and most promising for school purposes; and the water supply on the farm could be extended to the Indians' lands. Mr. Spear thought the man would sell. I told him I thought it worth while to find out and try whether he could not buy the farm. The enclosed letters from Mr. Spear and the owner of the farm, together with a drawing, are the result of this conference.

I agree with Mr. Spear that the farm is cheap at the price named and if the lands contiguous could be as well utilized as a small acreage on the opposite side of the river, which is also irrigated by machinery and cultivated by a Chinaman who delivers garden truck in the town of Yuma, it would be a much needed utilizing of the resting time of the Yuma Indians, beside an excellent example to them and a much needed means for training the young people at the school. I believe the money put into the farm would be under no circumstances a loss to the Government, because the amount could be returned to the Government by sale of the property at any time should the scheme for any reason be abandoned.

This is to me a most common-sense proposition, and I feel assured it would greatly encourage and bring greater success to Mr. Spear and the people at the school through giving them a substantial means of industrial training they do not now possess.

Allow me to urge, then, that if you have means at the disposal of the Department applicable for this purpose, you make this purchase at once.

Sincerely yours,


Col. & Supt.

Superintendent.

Very respectfully,

J. W. Brown

Hoping for success, I am,

I send you a rough map, though it is exact so far as it goes. The greater chance for the river to change its course. ditches (school and penitentiary), and the farther from this point, is less secure, is from the way the river flows between the two. I have said that the reason why a heading farther down the river only the best, but the very heart of the best. I should probab-

When he had his choice of all the land of course he selected not

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These farm was selected by a man who thoroughly knew the country, is this farm, while this is ready to go to work upon at once. The best, two years to get the land in such a state of cultivation as farm, and a much less secure heading. It would take, at the very further from the school, with our only road to it through a private that could be cultivated. But this would throw our farm a mile is to go below this farm, where there are six or eight hundred acres beyond this area in any direction. Then the only other chance is to go to overflow in that direction. Between the school and the

the river above the school, and there is very little land not abundant that there is no possible chance to secure a heading anywhere on bend the same amount of money upon land already owned, I can say in regard to which is better to purchase this land or to expend at a distance from the school might be only a costly experiment. if it is a permanent investment, while a high priced irrigation plant for this alone, it seems to me worth while to buy this land. For it would be folly to spend a large sum upon a vast irrigation scheme.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Fort Yuma Indian School,
Yuma, Arizona, January 4, 1904.

Colonel W.H. Pratt,
Superintendent, Indian School,,
Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

My dear Sir:

As requested when you were here, I write you in regard to the Jaeger Farm, with a view of securing it for this school.

Soon after you were here, I wrote to the owner asking his lowest cash price for the land--not intimating that there was a possibility that the Government might want it. I send you a copy of his answer. The price asked is really much less than I had expected, for I know that land, such as this, on the Arizona side could not be purchased at this price. But this land being surrounded by the reservation is less desirable for a home and on that account would not readily sell or rent. But as it is exactly what we want, and just where we want it, it seems a business proposition for the Government to secure it for the school, at the price named.

The pump is capable of furnishing water for more than twice this area, and there is more than that amount contiguous to the pump. The Indians could be offered the use of the surplus land if they would clear and cultivate it, thus solving the mooted question as to whether the Yuma Indians would cultivate their reservation if it were irrigated. If they will clear and cultivate all the land that can be watered from this heading, it will then be time for the Government to undertake the irrigation of their reservation upon a large scale. If they will not do this,

it would be folly to spend a large sum upon a vast irrigation scheme. For this alone, it seems to me worth while to buy this land. For it is a permanent investment, while a high priced irrigation plant at a distance from the school might be only a costly experiment.

In regard to which is better to purchase this land or to expend the same amount of money upon land already owned, I can say that there is no possible chance to secure a heading anywhere on the river above the school, and there is very little land not subject to overflow in that direction. Between the school and the a tract of Jaeger farm there is, perhaps one hundred acres, but no chance to extend this area in any direction. Then the only other chance is to go below this farm, where there are six or eight hundred acres that could be cultivated. But this would throw our farm a mile further from the school, with our only road to it through a private farm, and a much less secure heading. It would take, at the very least, two years to get the land in such a state of cultivation as is this farm, while this is ready to go to work upon at once. The Jaeger farm was selected by a man who thoroughly knew the country, when he had his choice of all of it; and of course he selected not only the best, but the very heart of the best. I should probably have said that the reason why a heading farther down the river is less secure, is from the way the river flows between the two bluffs (school and penitentiary), and the farther from this point, the greater chance for the river to change its course.

I send you a rough map, though it is exact so far as it goes.

Hoping for success, I am,

Very respectfully,

John S. Spear,

superintendent.

Give it. Thanking you for kindness, I am yours, P. J. F. Jaeger.

this land never overflows, while nearly all the balance of the reser-

vation does. If parties wish any more information, will Field

my father first settled there in 1850. It is strange too that

the face the Colorado River, and the channel has never changed since

you will readily see in the past on the reservation. Three for-

The best is for the parties to see it. The piece of ground

(Here he offers some stock, which I do not copy)

Twelve thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) cash.

Including horse, pumping plant, battery, rake, mower, plow, and sum of
I will give a clear title to it. I will take for the ranch
see for themselves.

Whosever the parties see they can go and

I have battery, mower, rake, plow also a new 40 horse-

Field is dormant now and parties could not see much of it until

Field's balance of Field was planted in season crops. Of course

I have about 100 or 110 acres under fence. Had about 80 acres in

head from my mother and sister to me are not in abstract.

The ranch consists of 128 acres, as you will see per abstract.

Riffs.

now first I have closed a deal for the new hotel at Flagstaff. The sum

Give to it. My hotel business keeps me very busy, and especially

Relating to my ranch, I am willing to sell it, as I have no time to

I beg pardon for not answering sooner on account I was sick.

Have yours of the 18th instant and contents fully noted.

Dear Sir:

Supt Indian School,

Mr. John S. Spear,

Hogstee, Arizona, Dec. 21, 1902.

Indian Office,

1904

Inc. No. 2

#8614

Copy of letter from Jaeger to Spear

Copy of letter from Laeiger to Spear.

Nogales, Arizona, Dec. 31, 1903.

Mr. John S. Spear,
Supt Indian School,

Dear Sir:

Have yours of the 18th instant and contents fully noted.

I beg pardon for not answering sooner on account I was sick. Relating to my ranch, I am willing to sell it, as I have no time to give to it. My hotel business keeps me very busy, and especially now that I have closed a deal for the new hotel at Tucson--the Santa Rita.

The Ranch consists of 168 acres, as you will see per abstract. The deed from my mother and sister to me are not in abstract. I have about 100 or 110 acres under fence. Had about 80 acres in alfalfa, balance of field was planted in season crops. Of course alfalfa is dormant now and parties could not see much of it until spring. I have bailer, mower, rakes, plows also a new 40 horse-power pump and engine. Whoever the parties are they can go and see for themselves.

I will give a clear title to it. I will take for the ranch including house, pumping plant, bailer, rake, mower, plows, the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) cash.

(Here he offers some stock, which I do not copy.)

The best is for the parties to see it. The piece of ground you will readily see is the best on the reservation. These forties face the Colorado River, and the channel has never changed since my father first settled there in 1850. It is strange too that this land never overflows, while nearly all the balance of the reservation does. If parties wish any more information, will gladly give it. Thanking you for kindness, I am Yours, L.J.F. Laeiger.

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Indian Office,

Incl. No. 3

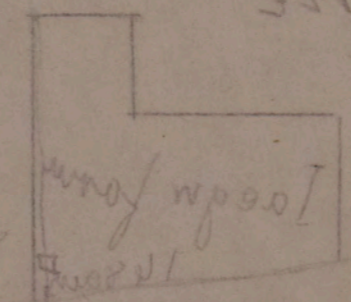
1904

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, including the number '10' and some illegible scribbles.

Handwritten notes in the upper middle section, possibly describing a specific area or feature.

Handwritten text 'S.R.R.' with a dashed line extending across the page, likely representing a railroad line.

Handwritten text 'See P. 10' and 'S.R.R.' near a rectangular structure.

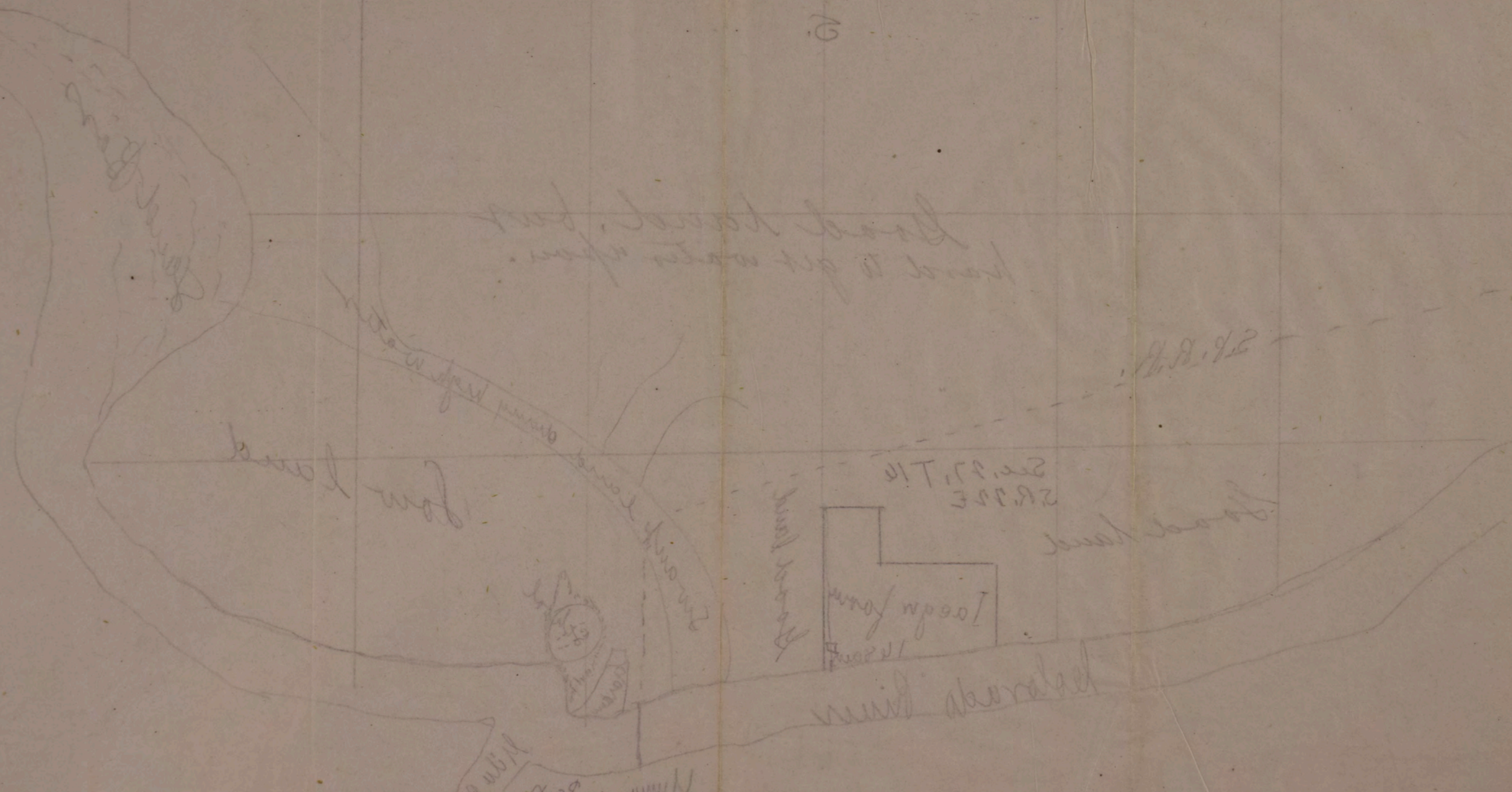


Vertical handwritten text 'Small house' next to the rectangular structure.

Handwritten text 'House' near the rectangular structure.

Handwritten text 'Aboriginal' near a wavy line at the bottom of the page.

Handwritten text 'N.M.M.' and 'S.R.R.' at the bottom left corner.



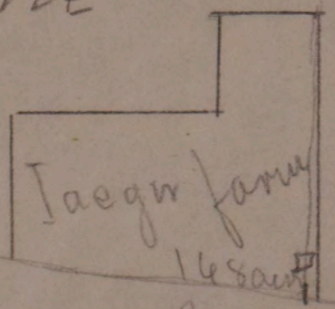
W. 2. S.

Good land, but hard to get water upon.

S.P.R.R.

Sec. 27, T16 S.R. 72E

Good land



Good land

Swamp land during high water

Low land

Sand Bars

Colorado River

Yuma P.M. Milla R.