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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
M June 1, 1906.

Major W.A. Mercer,
Supt.

Relative to the construction
of a photographic gallery and the
proposed use of the Taber bequest
therefor.

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Very respectfully,

Major John Cavalry

Sp. A. Inspector

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PENNA.

June 1, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of May 9th, "Education 32350-1906", I have to say that perhaps I did not make myself clear in my letter of April 10th relative to the use of the one thousand dollar bequest of Harriet W. Taber in the erection of a building for a photographic gallery, etc. I now wish to more fully explain my purpose, which is, to erect from ornamental cement blocks an attractive but small building at the entrance to the grounds, the same to be used in part for a small photograph gallery and to have one large exhibit room in which it is intended to exhibit for the benefit of the public and for sale, for the benefit of the Indian pupils, such articles of native Indian art as may be produced under the teaching of Miss Angel De Cora, our native Indian art teacher, and to also add to the native industries of the students in a limited manner, basketry, pottery and blanket making, all in charge of Miss De Cora, who has suggested these matters as in the line of increasing the interest of the students in the native art as applied to the industries, and also to be of practical value and financial help to a few of them as a further inducement to interest them in these arts and industries. This building has been designed with a view to its architectural beauty. It is a one-story affair, but with a large spacious porch,

and so located that it will also fill the long felt want of a waiting station for the trolley cars, something that is much needed. This makes the location of the building for art exhibit and the sale of souvenirs, photographs, etc., a most desirable one.

As stated in my previous letter, I purchased at a bargain, from athletic funds, the outfit of a photograph gallery in town and it was my purpose to go ahead and erect a small building from athletic funds, knowing that it would be a good financial investment if used for no other purpose than photography. An elaboration of that idea, however, leads to the suggestion that photography be made an industry, and that the ideas of Miss De Cora for an art exhibit room and the sale of souvenirs, etc., as explained above, would be a very valuable addition, and as I have it now planned and partly carried into effect, the building, though small, will be of a permanent character, beautiful in design, and from its purpose of being a depository of Indian art of the school it would, in my opinion, form a very useful and satisfactory memorial for Harriet W. Taber, and I know of no way that the \$1000 bequest could be used to greater advantage or in a better way perpetuate the memory of one who has remembered the school so generously. The building could be called the Taber Memorial Art Building.

However, there being great necessity, in my opinion, for moving in the matter at once, and feeling that you would approve of my suggestion in using those funds in the open market purchase of the necessary material to be used in constructing the building, and

~~feeling~~ ^{knowing} that if you did not choose to do so that I was abundantly able to carry out the project with the athletic funds on hand, I proceeded with the work in order to save time, with the result that the building is partly completed. Upon the receipt of your letter I concluded to do nothing further about the matter with your Office, but go ahead with my plans and build it at the expense of the athletic fund, but on further thought I have considered it better to give you more definite information as to my intentions and needs of the building, trusting that you may see it as I do; that the money could not be used to any greater advantage.

The students of the Indian school have spent on an average nearly \$1500 a year for the past fifteen years on photographs. The athletics have met yearly an expense of from two to three hundred dollars for photographs. Under these circumstances it is a matter of economy as well as convenience, and affording a nice industry, that we should run our own photographic gallery. I purchased for about \$500, from athletic funds, valuable apparatus, stock, etc., worth more than \$900, besides acquiring all the plates of the school and students for nine years past, and with this outfit as a basis I made my plans and arrangements as above.

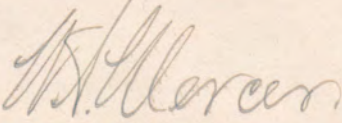
I regret that I have gone as far in this matter, as I have, without taking the matter up with you, but the intention was simply to have a small building as a repository for our photographic material and do the photographic work. The other has gradually grown until I feel it has reached a stage of such importance that I should report

to you my actions in the matter and trust that they will be approved, and if you cannot see your way clear to permit the use of the Taber funds for that purpose, that you will at least approve my plans to go ahead with the building from the athletic funds.

Now that the matter has gone so far, if it is intended that I shall use the Taber funds I trust that you will so arrange the authority that I can submit for your approval bills of material already purchased and be authorized to pay for the material from the funds in question; as I have already made arrangements for the material, a great deal of which has been delivered, and much of it is now in the building.

I will say in this connection that we have a number of boys who are learning masonry and are delighted with the work and at least four of them have become quite proficient. I am sure that in the erection of this building we have not only started the industry of photography but we have given the mason's trade quite an impetus and secured a great deal of interest among the students in the work.

Very respectfully,


Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.