STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Of North Dakota

Trustee of the State

Bismarck, North Dakota
March 19, 1946

Mr. James Willard Schultz
Fort Washakie, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Schultz:

Your letter addressed to the postmaster at Bismarck concerning Fort Berthold, has been referred to our office for reply.

The block houses at Fort Berthold were built of hand-hewn native timber. I am not certain what timber was used but in general the only abundant material available for this purpose was the cottonwood. I believe the palisade was of similar construction. We have very good descriptions of the palisade at Fort Union and Governor I.I.Stevens, who visited the Fort in 1853, states that it was made of cottonwood ad in a good state of preservation. I do not believe the Fort was in actual use in 1879 but in all probability it was still standing.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of a North Dakota Historical Quarterly which contains the diary of Ferdinand A. Van Ostrand, a trader who was employed by the Durfee and Peck Company at Fort Berthold. Doubtless this diary will be of interest to you. I would like to call your attention to the footnote No. 1, on page 234 and the drawing opposite page 236 which shows the location of the Fort and the adjacent Indian village.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Russell Reid
Superintendent

(Enclosed were plates of 1.Mandan and Arikara Quarter Fort Berthold Village);
2. portrait of Frederic F. Gerard; picture of F.F. Gerard's Trading Post at Fort Berthold)

North Dakota Historical Quarterly; vol. IX, No.4, July,1942
State Historical Society
of North Dakota