



Guide to Catholic-Related Records in the West about Native Americans
[See User Guide for help on interpreting entries](#)

COLORADO, DENVER

new 2006

**U.S. National Archives and Records Administration,
Rocky Mountain Region, Archives Branch**

W-267

Denver Federal Center, Buildings 46 and 48
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Hours: Textual Research, Building 48, Monday-Friday, 7:30-3:45;
Microfilm Research, Building 46, Monday-Wednesday, Friday, 7:30-3:45,
Thursday, 7:30-7:00, and first and third Saturday, 8:30-4:45
Access: Some restrictions apply
Copying facilities: Yes

Holdings of Catholic-related records about Native Americans:

Inclusive dates: Between 1854-1993

Volume: Approximately 30 cubic feet

Description: 2 record groups include Native Catholic records.

Denver Federal Building 46

A. "Record Group 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior"

Inclusive dates: Between 1849-1903

Volume: Less than 1% of 127 reels of microfilm

Description: "Letters Sent to the Indian Division of the Department of the Interior, M606;" until 1907 when abolished, the Indian Division managed the majority of Indian administration issues. Incoming correspondence includes letters from religious leaders, generally filed in a miscellaneous category, and outgoing correspondence from the Indian Division includes some references to missionary activities.

B. "Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs"

Inclusive dates: Between 1869-1992

Volume: Less than 1% of ca. 2,000 reels of microfilm

Description: Selected surveying indicates that most Catholic-related records are correspondence, quarterly school reports, and school contracts, which typically comprise between .04 and .2% of the records from Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies, e.g. Menominee Agency, Wisconsin, between .1 to .2% of ca. 100 cubic feet and Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota, .04% of approximately 500 cubic feet. Major correspondents include the superior at the Catholic mission, the Indian agent or superintendent, and the

Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Primary subjects include financial matters and the transfer of students to and from mission schools.

1. "Bureau of Indian Affairs Records Created by the Santa Fe Indian School, M1473"
Inclusive dates: 1890-1918
Volume: Less than 1% of 38 reels of microfilm
2. "Correspondence and Accounting Records of the Puget Sound District Agency and the Tulalip Agency, P2011"
Inclusive dates: 1854-1886
Volume: Less than 1% of 3 reels of microfilm
3. "Indexes to Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, P2187"
Inclusive dates: 1881-1907
Volume: Less than 1% of 1 reel of microfilm
Description: Indices only.
4. "Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, M234"
Inclusive dates: 1824-1881
Volume: Less than 1% of 962 reels of microfilm
5. "Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, M271"
Inclusive dates: 1800-1823
Volume: Less than 1% of 4 reels of microfilm
6. "Letters Received by the Superintendent of Indian Trade, T58"
Inclusive dates: 1806-1824
Volume: Less than 1% of 1 reel of microfilm
7. "Letters Sent by the Office of Indian Affairs, M21"
Inclusive dates: 1824-1881
Volume: Less than 1% of 166 reels of microfilm
8. "Letters Sent by the Secretary of War Relating to Indian Affairs, M15"
Inclusive dates: 1800-1824
Volume: Less than 1% of 6 reels of microfilm
9. "Letters Sent by the Superintendent of Indian Trade" [M16]
Inclusive dates: 1807-1823
Volume: Less than 1% of 6 reels of microfilm
10. "Miscellaneous Letters Sent by the Pueblo Indian Agency, M941"
Inclusive dates: 1874-1891
Volume: Less than 1% of 10 reels of microfilm
11. "Records Created by Bureau of Indian Affairs Field Agencies Having Jurisdiction over the Pueblo Records, M1304"
Inclusive dates: 1874-1900
Volume: Less than 1% of 32 reels of microfilm
12. "Records of the Arizona Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M734"
Inclusive dates: 1863-1873
Volume: Less than 1% of 8 reels of microfilm

13. "Records of the Dakota Superintendency of Indian Affairs and the Wyoming Superintendency, M1016"
Inclusive dates: 1861-1878
Volume: Less than 1% of 13 reels of microfilm
14. "Records of the Michigan Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M1"
Inclusive dates: 1814-1851
Volume: Less than 1% of 71 reels of microfilm
15. "Records of the Montana Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M833"
Inclusive dates: 1867-1873
Volume: Less than 1% of 3 reels of microfilm
16. "Records of the Nevada Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M837"
Inclusive dates: Between 1869-1870
Volume: Less than 1% of 1 reel of microfilm
17. "Records of the New Mexico Superintendency of Indian Affairs, T21"
Inclusive dates: Between 1814-1880
Volume: Less than 1% of 30 reels of microfilm
18. "Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M2"
Inclusive dates: Between 1848-1873
Volume: Less than 1% of 29 reels of microfilm
19. "Records of the Utah Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M834"
Inclusive dates: Between 1853-1870
Volume: Less than 1% of 2 reels of microfilm
20. "Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, M5"
Inclusive dates: Between 1853-1874
Volume: Less than 1% of 26 reels of microfilm
21. "Register of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, M18"
Inclusive dates: Between 1824-1880
Volume: Less than 1% of 126 reels of microfilm
22. "Registers of Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of War, Main Series, M22"
Inclusive dates: Between 1800-1870
Volume: Less than 1% of 134 reels of microfilm
23. "Report Books of the Office of Indian Affairs, M348"
Inclusive dates: Between 1838-1885
Volume: Less than 1% of 53 reels of microfilm
24. "Reports of Inspections of the Field Jurisdictions of the Office of Indian Affairs, M1070"
Inclusive dates: Between 1873-1900
Volume: Less than 1% of 14 reels of microfilm
Description: Rolls 1-4, 7, 11, 14, 15, 41, 48, 49, 51, 54, 58 only.
25. "Special Files of the Office of Indian Affairs, M574"
Inclusive dates: Between 1807-1904
Volume: Less than 1% of 85 reels of microfilm

26. "Superintendent's Annual Narrative and Statistical Reports From
Field Jurisdictions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, M1011"
Inclusive dates: Between 1907-1938
Volume: Less than 1% of 174 reels of microfilm

Denver Federal Building 48

B. "Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs"

Inclusive dates: 1869-1992

Volume: Less than 1% of 5,858 cubic feet

Description: Selected surveying indicates that most Catholic-related records are correspondence, quarterly school reports, and school contracts, which typically comprise between .04 and .2% of the records from Bureau of Indian Affairs Agencies, e.g. Menominee Agency, Wisconsin, between .1 to .2% of ca. 100 cubic feet and Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota, .04% of approximately 500 cubic feet. Major correspondents include the superior at the Catholic mission, the Indian agent or superintendent, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Primary subjects include financial matters and the transfer of students to and from mission schools.

1. "Records of the Aberdeen Area Office"

Inclusive dates: Between 1959-1968

Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: Serves Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

2. "Records of the Albuquerque Area Office"

Inclusive dates: Between 1877-1989

Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: Serves New Mexico.

3. "Records of the Albuquerque Indian School"

Inclusive dates: Between 1886-1954

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 11.5 cubic feet

Description: Established in 1881 and placed under Bureau of Indian Affairs control in 1886.

4. "Records of the Billings Area Office"

Inclusive dates: Between 1903-1974

Volume: Less than 1% of over 190 cubic feet

Description: Served Montana and Wyoming.

5. "Records of the Blackfeet Agency"

Inclusive dates: Between 1873-1960

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 43 cubic feet

Description: Established in 1855 with jurisdiction over the Siksika, Atsina, and Assiniboine Indians, then limited to the Blackfeet Reservation with its establishment in 1888.

6. "Records of the Charles H. Burke Indian School"

Inclusive dates: Between 1926-1939

Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: Navajo Reservation.

7. "Records of the Cimarron and Abiquiu (Jicarilla) Agencies"

Inclusive dates: Between 1869-1983

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 4.5 cubic feet

Description: In 1854 the Abiquiu Agency was established with jurisdiction

over the Jicarilla Apache and Ute Indians in New Mexico. The Abiquiu Agency was placed under the Pueblo Agency in 1878, renamed the Jicarilla Subagency in 1881, and abolished in 1883.

8. "Records of the Consolidated Ute Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1878-1952
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
9. "Records of the Crow Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1872-1992
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 79 cubic feet
10. "Records of the Denver Field Assistance Office"
Inclusive dates: Between 1956-1971
11. "Records of the Eastern Navajo Subagency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1952-1961
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.
12. "Records of the Fifth Irrigation District"
Inclusive dates: Between 1908-1936
13. "Records of the Flathead Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1898-1980
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 62 cubic feet
Description: Serves the Salish and Kootenai Indians of Montana.
14. "Records of the Fort Apache Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1946-1967
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Arizona.
15. "Records of the Fort Belknap Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1878-1969
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 86 cubic feet
Description: Serves the Atsina Indians of Montana.
16. "Records of the Fort Lewis Indian School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1892-1916
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Colorado.
17. "Records of the Fort Peck Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1881-1969
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 205 cubic feet
Description: Montana.
18. "Records of the Fort Shaw Indian School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1891-1910
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Montana.
19. "Records of the Gallup Area Office"
Inclusive dates: Between 1913-1968
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Arizona and New Mexico.

20. "Records of the Ignacio Boarding School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1937-1979
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: The Ignacio Boarding School of Ignacio, Colorado opened in 1902 and closed in 1920.
21. "Records of the Interdepartmental Rio Grande Board"
Inclusive dates: Between 1937-1942
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
22. "Records of the Intermountain Indian School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1953-1984
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: The Intermountain School of Brigham City, Utah opened in 1950 and closed in 1984.
23. "Records of the Jicarilla Apache Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1890-1966
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 17 cubic feet (General Correspondence file, 1911-1950, only)
Description: The Jicarilla Apache Agency serves the Jicarilla Apache Indians.
24. "Records of the Laguna Sanitorium"
Inclusive dates: Between 1926-1933
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 15 cubic feet
Description: The Laguna Sanitorium was established in 1911 and closed in 1933. It served Indians from Arizona and New Mexico suffering from trachoma and tuberculosis.
25. "Records of the Mescalero Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1874-1946
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 36 cubic feet
Description: The Mescalero Apache Reservation was established in 1873 for the Mescalero Apache Indians.
26. "Records of the Navajo Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1883-1952
Volume: Less than 1% of 77 cubic feet
Description: Established in 1852 and subdivided in 1904.
27. "Records of the Navajo Service"
Inclusive dates: Between 1928-1951
Volume: Less than 1% of 9 cubic feet
Description: The Navajo agencies were so consolidated in 1934 and continue to the present.
28. "Records of the Navajo Springs Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1900-1914
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Navajo Reservation, Arizona or New Mexico.
29. "Records of the Northern Cheyenne Agency"
Inclusive dates: 1889-1985
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Established for the Northern Cheyenne Indians in Montana.

Within the records under "General Correspondence Files, 1900-1925," Boxes 4, 12-13, and 22, are 9 folders of contracts, correspondence, and quarterly attendance reports for St. Labre School, Ashland, Montana.

30. "Records of the Northern Navajo Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1928-1945
Volume: Less than 1% of 6 cubic feet
Description: Established in 1904 and continued as a subagency in 1934 with the consolidation of Navajo Reservation jurisdictions.

31. "Records of the Northern Pueblos Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1911-1938
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 69 cubic feet
Description: The Northern Pueblo Agency was established in 1919 when the Pueblo Indian Agency and Day Schools jurisdiction was abolished. The Northern Pueblo Agency was abolished in 1931, reestablished in 1935, and abolished again, in 1936. At various times, the agency had jurisdiction over the Cochiti, Nambe, Picuris, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, San Juan, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, and Tesuque reservations. Records re: Catholic Church and schools include: "General Correspondence File, Miscellaneous school correspondence not otherwise classified," 1900-1935, 1 or more folders of Boxes 63, 67, 71-72; St. Catharine's School, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1916-1935, 2 folders.

32. "Records of the Phoenix Area Office"
Inclusive dates: Between 1929-1971
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Serves tribes in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.

33. "Records of the Pueblo Day Schools at Albuquerque"
Inclusive dates: Between 1911-1914
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately .2 cubic foot
Description: From 1911-1914, responsibility for the southern district pueblo tribes and day schools was placed under this jurisdiction.

34. "Records of the Pueblo Day School at Santa Fe"
Inclusive dates: Between 1911-1912
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately .3 cubic foot
Description: From 1911-1912, responsibility for the northern district pueblo tribes and day schools was placed under this jurisdiction.

35. "Records of the Pueblo Indian Agency and Day Schools"
Inclusive dates: Between 1912-1919
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 1.5 cubic feet
Description: From 1914-1919, this jurisdiction had responsibility for the northern and southern district pueblo tribes and day schools, the Laguna Sanitarium, and the Canoncito and Alamo Navajo communities.

36. "Records of the Pueblo and Pueblo and Jicarilla Agencies"
Inclusive dates: Between 1871-1900
Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 62 cubic feet
Description: The Pueblo Agency was established in 1854 with jurisdiction over 19 Pueblo tribes in New Mexico Territory. In 1891 the agency was consolidated with the Jicarilla [Apache] Subagency to form the Pueblo and Jicarilla Agency and in 1901 this combined agency was abolished.

37. "Records of the Pueblos Land Board"
Inclusive dates: Between 1918-1932
38. "Records of the Shiprock Subagency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1940-1980
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.
39. "Records of the Santa Fe Indian School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1890-1935
Volume: Scant amount of approximately 74 cubic feet
Description: The Santa Fe School was established for New Mexico Indians in 1889. The school opened in 1890 and closed in 1962.
40. "Records of the Shiprock Boarding School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1944-1952
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Established in 1903 for Navajo Indians in Northern New Mexico. The boarding of students was phased out in the early 1980s.
41. "Records of the Southern Paiute Field Station"
Inclusive dates: 1969
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Utah.
42. "Records of the Southern Pueblos Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1911-1935
Volume: Less than 1% of 60 cubic feet
Description: The Southern Pueblos Agency succeeded the Pueblo Indian Agency and Day Schools jurisdiction in 1919 and was abolished in 1935. At various times, the Southern Pueblos Agency had jurisdiction over the Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, San Felipe, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, and Zia reservations. The "General Correspondence File, 1911-1935," includes 4 folders, "Religious, 1929-1935," re: Catholic Church and Franciscans in New Mexico, Boxes 88-89 and 1 folder, "Education, non-reservation schools, 1926-1935," re: St. Catharine's School, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Box 132.
43. "Records of the Southern Ute Agency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1877-1952
Volume: Less than 1% of 65 cubic feet
Description: The Southern Ute Agency was established in Colorado in 1877.
44. "Records of the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute"
Inclusive dates: 1971-1981
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: Albuquerque, New Mexico.
45. "Records of the Toadlena Day School"
Inclusive dates: Between 1941-1952
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet
Description: New Mexico.
46. "Records of the Tuba City Subagency"
Inclusive dates: Between 1944-1958
Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: Navajo Reservation in Arizona.

47. "Records of the Uintah and Ouray Agency"

Inclusive dates: Between 1897-1953

Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: The Whiterocks Agency with the Uintah Valley Reservation and the Ouray Agency with the Ouray Reservation were established for Ute Indians in 1861 and 1880 respectively and consolidated as the Uintah and Ouray Agency in 1886.

48. "Records of the United Pueblos Agency"

Inclusive dates: Between 1935-1979

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 180 cubic feet

Description: The United Pueblos Agency in New Mexico was established in 1935 and abolished in 1969. It succeeded the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Indian Schools, the Zuni Indian Agency, the Albuquerque Sanitorium, the Northern and Southern Pueblos Agencies, the Navajo communities of Canoncito and Alamo (Puertocito), and eventually, the Ramah Navajo Reservation. The records include "General Correspondence File, 1935-1943:" Box 120, 120.5, Policy, Religion, re: Catholic worship and release time from school for worship at Isleta, Laguna, and Paguate, 1936; 1 folder.

49. "Records of the Window Rock Area Office"

Inclusive dates: 1952-1961

Volume: Less than 1% of unknown cubic feet

Description: Navajo Reservation, Arizona and New Mexico.

50. "Records of the Wind River Agency"

Inclusive dates: Between 1870-1985

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately .6 cubic foot

Description: The Wind River Agency was established in Wyoming for the Eastern Shoshoni and Northern Arapaho following the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. The Wind River Agency "General Administrative Records, 1890-1960," include petitions, correspondence, and quarterly attendance reports from St. Stephen's School, 1909-1959, within 37 folders in Boxes 72-74, 228, 362, and 365.

51. "Records of the Zuni Agency"

Inclusive dates: Between 1899-1935

Volume: Less than 1% of approximately 25 cubic feet

Description: The Zuni Agency was established ca. 1902. In 1935 it was subordinated to the United Pueblos Agency and in 1952 it was restored as an independent jurisdiction.