



(Drawing by McGregor Hone).

Please print name and address in capital letters.

Your full name ROBERT ALEXANDER HILL

Present address MAC. R. DRIC

Pioneer address RUDY and WEST HOPE

Year you came to Saskatchewan Sept 1904

Country or place from which you came OTTAWA - ONTARIO  
*district*  
County of Russell

Note to Persons Answering the Pioneer Housing Questionnaire

Since early settlers lived in very different kinds of houses from one time to another, and according to different circumstances, this questionnaire has been divided into three parts:

- PART I: The "temporary" shack, sod or log house.  
 - to include any early dwellings coming under this general description, even though the family may have lived in it for many years.
- PART II: The permanent house.  
 - to include the better house built after living for a time in quarters mentioned above, a permanent home built upon arrival, or the "homestead shack" which may have been added to and continued as a permanent house.
- PART III: General.  
 - including aspects applying to either Part I or Part II of the questionnaire.

Some persons will therefore answer only parts two and three, and others will be able to answer all three parts.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Saskatchewan Archives Office,  
 University of Saskatchewan,  
 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Mac. Rorie Sask  
aug. 55

Sask Archives  
Saskatoon

Dear - Sis.

The answers to part  
one are on my fathers  
Homestead. According to  
Homestead regulations I  
could live ~~of~~ with my father  
and do the duties

The next two parts  
refers to my own  
homestead as he sold  
his place in 1917 & lived  
on my place the rest  
of his life hope this  
~~meets~~ information is  
satisfactory

Yours Truly

R. A. Hill



PART I: THE "TEMPORARY" SHACK, SOD OR LOG HOUSE.

*This house was on my father's home stead*

1. What year was this house built? *part in Nov. 1904 and the remainder in 1905*
2. During what years did you live in it? *from 1905 till 1909*  
How long did you think you might live in it when you built it?
3. What was the location? (township, range, and post office).  
*S. 16. 1/4 sec 36 - 27 - 8w. 39 - Rudy later Westhope*
4. Is it still in existence? *part of it*
5. What material was it made of? *main part lumber - kitchen log with sod on the outside*  
How long did it take to build it? *about three weeks*
6. How large was it, and how many rooms did it contain? *frame was 14 x 18 kitchen 14 x 20 - 8 ft high 108 sq ft 3 rooms*  
How were they arranged?  
*3 rooms in the frame part and one room in the log kitchen*
7. Who built it? *with the help of a carpenter I built the frame part and my father my brother and I built the log and sod part*
8. How were the walls finished inside? (e.g. rough boards, mud plaster, painted etc.) *lath and heavy felt paper*
9. What kind of floors did you have? *lumber*  
What covering did you have on the floor (rushes, linoleum etc.) *none*
10. What expenses did you have connected with the building of the house?  
*exchange of work I helped this carpenter to build his house and barn and he helped me*
11. Describe any special problems or unusual happenings connected with its building.
12. How many people lived in the house when it was first built? *4*  
later? *5*
13. What means of heating did you have? *wood ~~hot~~ air heater on the first years then coal when the town of Outlook started*
14. What means of lighting did you use?  
*coal oil lamps*
15. Was there a cellar? *yes*  
Where was the door to the cellar? (in kitchen floor, other place?)  
*in kitchen*



PART II: THE PERMANENT HOME.

**Note:** For some persons, this section may include a description of more than one house. If so, you may include answers for each, showing changes and differences from one house to another. If you wish, you may describe your first permanent house on this form, and tell about others on a separate sheet (or other questionnaire forms will be sent to you upon request). If you have lived in several houses, and especially if they have been much the same type of house, you may wish to answer questions only about the first one or two (or perhaps an outstanding house in which you lived), and merely mention the others in question 16.

\* In all cases, be sure to make it plain which house you are writing about, using dates (and perhaps place) to identify each.

16. Give the location (township, range, and post office), of the house, (or houses) described in this part of the questionnaire, and the years you lived in it (or them). If you lived in other houses besides those you intend to describe in this questionnaire, give their location, and the years you lived in each.

Loc. 27. Range 8. N. 3rd mer Mac Rorie  
I lived in them from 1916 till 1947  
from 1904 till 1910 I lived at my fathers as I  
did not start to farm on my own till 1910

17. Who planned and built the house? *myself - with the help of two carpenters*

What previous experience did this person (or persons) have in building?

*carpentry work.*

Where did he get his ideas as to the kind of house to build?

*I built a shack on my homestead in March 1916 and I lived in that till Dec. 1917 and I used it for a kitchen to my permanent house it was 12x14 feet 8 feet high with gable roof*

18. What year was it built? *1917 was when my permanent house was built*
19. How long did it take to build it (if possible, give approximate dates when started and completed)? *started in Aug - 1917 and was plastered in July 1918*
20. Does it still exist? *yes and I lived in it in the winter of 1917 and 1918*
21. What material was it made of? *lumber*
22. How large was it? *18x22 with a 12x14 kitchen*
23. Describe the arrangement of the rooms or, preferably, draw a floor plan of the house. (On a separate sheet if desired).

*Three rooms upstairs to on main floor and my 12x14 shack was used for a kitchen*

Was there a back shed attached?

Did you have a front porch? *no* If so, was it glassed in, screened or an open verandah?

*none*

24. What kind of foundation was under the house (wooden sills, stone, concrete)? *concrete*

25. What kind of a basement did you have (full size cement basement, dirt cellar, etc)? *dirt cellar*

Where was the door to the basement (*kitchen*, outside, other room)?

26. What insulation was used? *hollow wall*

27. Describe the general exterior appearance of the house (square, rectangular, T or L shaped, sharply sloped roof, etc.)

*square with my shack as a kitchen on one side  
a one third pitch roof*

Describe any ornamentation on the exterior of the house (for example, "gingerbread" trim, carved cornices etc.)

What color was the house, and what color trim was used?

*light grey with white trim*  
28. How were interior walls finished - (plaster, wood panel, wall-paper etc.)? *yes with plaster*

29. How high were the ceilings? *eight on ground floor  
and 7 ft 4 upstairs*

How were they finished (plaster, beamed, moulded plaster)?

30. What kind of wood were the floors made of? *wood*

*double first common lumber top*  
What width board? *3 inch edge grain fir*

Were nails or dowels used? *nails*

Did you have any parquet (patterned inlay) flooring?

31. Describe the windows as nearly as you can, giving size (length and width), size of panes, height from floor and distance from ceiling.

*28 square on ground floor and 20 by 24  
up stairs 2 lights in each and were  
all about 30 ins up from the floor*

How were the windows arranged?

*in the east south and west sides  
and in the ends upstairs*

Did you have a bay window? *no* In what room?

Did you have any colored or stained glass windows? *no* Describe.

Did you have shutters inside or outside? *no*

How were window frames finished inside (painted, varnished)?

outside (painted to contrast with house color)?

*varnished*  
*painted*  
32. Describe your front door (panelled door, windows in door, or around or above). *just panneled no window*

What kind of hardware was used on the door - (iron, brass etc.)?

*brass*  
Did you have a door knocker? *no* Describe.

33. Describe interior doors. - if panelled, type of hardware, or any other special features about them. *panelled rim locks*

Did you have any double doors, french doors or swinging doors? *no*

What material were door handles made of - brass, iron, porcelain (white or colored), glass? *outside were brass inside  
porcelain*

34. If you had an upstairs, was the stairway open or closed? *closed*

If open, what type of baluster and rail was used, and what kind of wood?

35. Did you have any built in cupboards, bookcases, china storage or other similar built in storage or display space?  
*Just a pantry ~~under~~ <sup>under</sup> a stairway and a cupboard in kitchen*
36. What kind of a chimney did you have? *brick*
37. If you had a fireplace, where was it located in the house?  
What material was it made of - red brick (what size brick?), stone (state color) or other material?  
How large was the fireplace?  
What material was the mantle made of (wood, stone, brick)?
38. Were there any built in gas lights or lamp brackets; or candle brackets?  
Was electrical wiring included?
39. Describe the means of lighting provided when you first lived in the house, and changes made in later years, giving dates if possible when changes occurred?  
*lighting was gas and coal oil lamps there was no hydro in this district till Sept 1952*
40. Describe heating arrangements, in early years and later, giving dates of changes if possible.  
*heating was with coal and wood stoves*
41. Did you have a cistern? *no* What size and material?  
Was the pump from it in the kitchen, basement or elsewhere?  
Did you have a well in the basement? *no* Outside near the House? *yes*
42. Did you have plumbing in your house? *no*  
If so, what was the source of water? *a well about 80 feet away and a dam in a ravine about 80 yds*
43. If you built the house described above, what was its cost? *from house the cost was around \$2,000*  
If you purchased a house instead of building, what was the purchase price, and the date of purchase?  
date of construction of house? *my shack was built in 1910 and my permanent house in 1917*
44. If you borrowed money to finance building or purchase, what was the amount of the loan?  
the source?  
What was the interest rate?  
What were the terms of the loan (that is, the period of the loan, and the method and time of repayment)?  
Did you later think your method of financing was wise, or did you wish you had made other arrangements?
45. If you lived in a rented house, what rental did you pay? (give changes in rental and dates if possible).

PART III: GENERAL.

Note: As you may have more than one answer for questions in this section, as they apply to houses mentioned in either Part 1 or Part 2, please specify which house you are speaking of if your answer does not apply in both cases. Use extra sheets if necessary.

46. What did you do to "winterize" your house in the fall (storm windows, doors, banking (with what?), other means)?

*storm windows and doors and banked to a level of the floor with earth*

47. What additions were built to the house after its original construction?

For what reasons?

48. What animals were in the house at any time? (e.g. dogs, cats or other pets, baby chicks, sick animals or others).

*the dog and cat were in the kitchen in winter for their meals and then outside again*

49. As nearly as you can remember tell what furniture you had in each room in the house. (rugs, sofas, chairs, curtains, musical instruments, etc. etc.). If you lived at first in the "shack" or sod house, and later in a larger house, please tell what furniture you had in each place.

*In my shack that I lived in from 1910 till 1917 I had a stove a table wash stand and some chairs my trunk a suitcase. and a wash boiler and tub*

How much of this furniture did you bring with you when you came and where was it made or purchased?

*It was all purchased after I came here some from Eaton's and some from the local stores in Outlook and Mac Korie*

How much of it do you still have today?

*some chairs couch and tables kitchen cabinet and a bed and a heating stove*

Describe any items of furniture which were outstanding, or would seem strange in the modern home.

*The kitchen cabinet the gramophone and none of my tables*

How did you get furniture during the first few years? (make it, from Eaton's etc.)

*made most of it*

50. Do you have any pictures of early pieces of furniture, or interior views of your home, which you would be willing to loan or present to the Archives?

If requested to do so, would you be willing to co-operate in having pictures taken of any unusual or rare piece of furniture which you might possess?

51. Did you or any of your neighbors have looms for weaving, or spinning wheels? *no*

52. Tell what furnishings were made for the home, for example, rugs, window curtains, table covers, items of furniture etc.

*tables and stands for flowers*

53. When did you get your first radio? *about 1938*

What kind was it? *one with ear phones*

Where did you get it?

*from one of my neighbors and I purchased a battery one in 1948 but Sam got an electric one in 1953*

54. What use was made of the attic (as a sleeping room? for storage space? for ripening, drying, or storing vegetables?)?

*for storage space*

What windows or means of ventilation were provided in the attic?

*none*

55. Did you have an indoor toilet?

*just a commode*

56. Did you have any kind of a windbreak (trees, or a windbreak built to protect the house or the door, and from what direction)?

*I had no windbreak till 1934 then I planted a shelter belt around the house and garden*

57. Tell what measures were taken for fire protection, mentioning changes in the form of protection throughout the years, giving dates if possible. (for example, fireguards, lightning rods, fire insurance).

*I had a fire guard in the early years and I always carried fire insurance on all buildings and about 1923 I had the house fitted with lightening rods*

58. Describe any memorable incidents or features connected with any home in which you have lived, not already mentioned in your answers.