Bristol Road,
Birmingham 5.

DRYBROOK School.

Dear Miss Freeman,

With reference to your letter of 17th February, the Rev. H.G.Nicholls, Vicar of Mitcheldean, applied on the 25th May, 1863, for a grant towards the erection of a school in his parish. He stated that his people were all poor miners and colliers of the Forest of Dean and that his stipend was only £150 a year. The Crown had given the site.

The application form was submitted on 22nd June, 1863, and stated that the population was about 4,000. The dimensions of the proposed building were as follows:- two rooms, one for boys and girls 50x20x15 and another 20x20x15 for infants. There was also a six roomed teacher's house. The fees or children's pence were 2d per head per week and the accommodation was for 175 children. The cost was expected to be £866.5.5 of which £334 was from local funds; £120 from the Diocese; £150 from the Committee of Council on Education and £150 from the Office of Woods and Forests. It was to be of stone, slate roof and wood floor. The National Society gave a grant of £45. The Certificate of Completion was sent on 3rd August, 1865 and signed by the Vicar, the Rev.H.G.Nicholls, and Charles Meek and John Brain, Churchwardens - the trustees.

On 25th January. 1869. the Vicar, the Rev. W.Barker, applied for another grant towards the cost of enlarging the school as the daily attendance had risen to 212. The dimensions of the teacher's house are given in this as 3 bedrooms 13x12x8½; kitchen 13x13x9; parlour 13x11½x9; back kitchen 12x9x9.

The extensions were - a room of 36x20x20/to provide and another 19x12½ extra accommodation for 68 children at an estimated cost of £280.

A plan of the proposed additions was sent. The Office of Woods and Forests promised £50 and the Diocese the same. The National Society promised £20 but it was not possible to raise the balance and in 1870 it was proposed to build at a reduced cost, viz.£158. The work actually cost £181 and £70.5.0 was raised locally including the Woods and Forests, £53.15.0 from the Committee of Council, £40 from the diocese and £10 from the National Society. The Churchwardens who signed the Certificate of Completion were John Lilley and W.H.M.Phillip.

There is no reference in our files to the date the school premises were leased to the L.E.A., nor have we a copy of the agreement which should be in the Church chest but the site and buildings are still owned by the trustees. On ceasing to be used as a school they will revert to the Crown. The school was still a Church of England school in 1907 as is shown in the Return as to Tenure of Voluntary Schools issued by the Board of Education.

Yours truly,

J C Brown-Prior

Legal Secretary.