



261 YOUVILLE STREET

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009



261 YOUVILLE STREET KING GEORGE V SCHOOL

Date of Construction: 1915

Building Permit: N/A

Architect: Unknown

Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

One of St. Boniface's oldest and largest public school buildings is the former King George V School, a large two storey brick and stone structure that was closed and then reopened as a private school.

The building rests on a raised basement, clad in rough cut limestone. This heightened basement was a common design feature of public schools that allowed this space to be used for classroom and other educational purposes. The front (east) façade is symmetrically designed with a central entrance portico located atop a wide set of stairs. The portico is highlighted by carved stone accents including an engraved shield, stone quoins and a transom window with delicate tracery. The north and south ends project and are finished with stepped gables. There are both small and large windows on all floors with arched



Rear (west) and south façades, 2009

openings in the central section on the second floor. Stone accents all window openings and the middle portion of the building is topped by a gable roof.

The other three façades continue the design and materials of the front elevation. A modern, one-storey stone addition was built on the school's north side.

The building stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and has not been severely altered on the exterior.

The school is an example of the Collegiate Gothic style. This style rose in popularity after 1900 as a reaction to the highly ornamented buildings of the earlier Gothic Revival style. The newer version opted for much simpler silhouettes and subdued ornamentation, in the words of one author, "a calm, disciplined monumentality."¹

Flat surfaces were preferred; buildings were often long, low symmetrical masses embellished with crenellated towers and the distinctive pointed arch of the Gothic style. Construction material was monochromatic, usually brick or stone, again a departure from the multi-hued façades of the Gothic Revival style. Inspiration for the detailing of the new style was found in the English Perpendicular Gothic design of the 15th century. Because it found widespread expression on the campuses of many North American universities and then in the public school system, it became known as Collegiate Gothic.²



Front (east) and north façades, 2009

HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The school was used as a public school until its closure in June 1989. It was then used by the Child and Family Services department and then renovated and reopened in September 1991 as Springs Christian Academy, a private institution.

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- one of the older public school buildings in St. Boniface, illustrative of the type of facility built in the World War I era in that community and in Winnipeg;
- its associations- its long-term connections to public education in St. Boniface;
- its design- an example of the Collegiate Gothic style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- a conspicuous building that contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.



Front (east) façade, 1994

ENDNOTES:

- ¹ L. Maitland et al., A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles (Peterborough: Broadview Press Ltd., 1992), p. 166.
- ² Ibid., p. 166; and Identifying Architectural Styles in Manitoba (Winnipeg: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch, 1991), p. 20.