

Locations of early Prince George schools:

1. First (Central) Fort George School: near 2nd Ave. and Johnson St.
2. Second (Central) Fort George School later known as "The Pink Schoolhouse": 3rd Ave. and Harper St.
3. Third (Central- added in 1946) Fort George School: 2955 3rd Ave. at Harper St. just north of "The Pink Schoolhouse"
4. First South Fort George School: Thapage Lane and Queensway St. (building now at Exploration Place)
5. Second South Fort George School: between Hamilton Ave. and La Salle Ave. on ridge above first school.
6. First Prince George Public School: east side of Vancouver St. between 4th Ave. and 5th Ave.
- * 7. Prince George "Millar Addition" School and later a High School and then renamed Connaught School: north side of Queensway St. at 15th Ave. *(already provided write-up)*
8. Second Prince George Public School and later Prince George High School and then renamed Baron Byng School: Winnipeg St. at 7th Ave.
9. Third Prince George Public School and then renamed King George V School: Winnipeg St. at 6th Ave. on a ridge 135m northwest of Baron Byng School site.

Imogene ~
 Copy of write-up
 for the other 8
 schools. I thought
 you could present
 them at your June
 Heritage Commission Mtg.
 Thanks! Kris Nellis

(Central) Fort George School 1910

n.b Central was added later

In 1910, Reverend Alfred T. Bell, the Methodist Minister, and his wife taught five children in a log building located here. In the autumn of 1911, Mrs. Jennie B. Baker took over the teaching duties and this school was designated as a Government Assisted Rural School. The next teacher was Mr. R. Campbell, followed by Mrs. Gertrude Jacobs, Miss Mayme Dodd and Mr. William Bell, The building was used until 1913.

Suggested Photos: 1. Exploration Place P991.11.1.292

first (Central) *Fort George School students with teacher Mr. William Bell*

2. Exploration Place P991.11.1.145.

first (Central) *Fort George School building*

3. Exploration Place P990.17.192.

Man standing in front of school house

The next two schools could share one sign as they were adjacent. One suggested photo shows both of them.

Central) Fort George School 1913 later known as “The Pink Schoolhouse”

In 1913, a few blocks from the log school at 2nd and Johnson, a 23' x 28' wood frame building was completed here. Upon opening, the one-room school was not large enough as there were eight desks for 75 pupils. The original log school housed the surplus students. After a new school was built next door, this “Pink School House” was used by community groups.

Teachers included Mr. William Bell, Mr. Percy E. Warner, Mrs. Alice S. Ledger, Mrs. Charlotte H. Warner and Mrs. Frances H. Hand.

Suggested photos: 1913 (Central) Fort George School: Exploration Place P996.7.4.39

Both Schools: The Exploration Place P990.6.14

(Central) Fort George School 1915

In 1915, student numbers precipitated the construction of a traditional two-room, two-story-with-basement school. This was to fit the needs of the community, which numbered 750 people that May. There was sufficient room in the basement for future classrooms.

Suggested Photo: 1. Exploration Place P977.5.71

Mr. Warner, left, and Mr. Bell, right, in 1916 with the students of the third Central Fort George School

In 1946, *Fort George School* was officially renamed *Fort George Central School*.

In 1963 a new larger two-story school was built perpendicular to the existing school which later became the *Continuing Education School*. It was demolished in August 2004.

South Fort George School 1910

The original school, a former garage located at "4th Street" and Thapage Lane, enrolled Caucasian and First Nations students. Some of the family names were Bird, Seymour, Yargeau and Pierreroi.

Miss L. Brady taught at the school from September to December 1910 and was followed by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Campbell. The school was later declared a Heritage Building and moved to The Exploration Place at Leidli T'enneh Park.

Suggested photo: 1. Exploration Place P983.12.10

First public school in South Fort George, September 1910

South Fort George School 1912

In 1912-13, a two-room school, larger than the first South Fort George School on Thappage Lane, was built by John McInnis and Jack Davies. Teachers up to 1920 were Mrs. Alice S. Ledger, Mr. Alexander Ogston, Mrs. Grace E. Dunne, Mrs. Maude A. Smiles, Mr. Douglas H. Stewart, Miss Emily M. Smith, Miss Mary K. Morrow, Miss Margaret Louise Williams, Mr. D. Macdonald and Miss Beatrice Smith.

The expanded school grounds accommodated the 1957 construction of the third 'South Town' school. The second school was then used for storage until it was destroyed by a fire in October 1979.

In 2003, the third school closed due to low enrollment leaving South Fort George without a school.

Suggested photo: 1. Exploration Place P985.35.2

Second school in South Fort George. Teacher: A. Johnson, 1924

Prince George Public School 1915

In 1914 the newly established Board of School Trustees agreed to the construction of three purpose-built cottages, each with two classrooms. The contractors were Bronger & Flynn. The cottages were a temporary measure until a proper school could be built. This first school for Prince George opened in January 1915. A fourth cottage was later added.

Early teachers included Miss W. Luella Hammond, Mrs. Grace E. Cook, Mrs. Charlotte Warner and Miss Elizabeth Milligan. Later the cottages were used for overflow classes, church services and home rentals. Miss Luella Hammond later married and became Mrs. L. Martin. She was the first female principal in the city.

Suggested photos: 1. Exploration Place P986.4.47

Students from Three cottages Prince George Public School 1914.

2. Exploration Place 982.5.6 or P982.29.1

Students at school picnic, June 24, 1914

Prince George Public School 1916, later Prince George High School and then Baron Byng School

A four-room school that included a basement, a standard plan of the Department of Education, was built in late 1915 by local contractors Mason & Henderson. It was built concurrently with a new school at Millar Addition. It functioned as *Prince George Public School* from January 1916 and in September 1918 included the elementary students from the *Millar Addition School* on Queensway.

Suggested photo: Exploration Place P981.35.72

New 4-roomed Prince George Public School

In 1922, when the new *Prince George Public School* (later known as *King George V*) was built, this older structure then housed the Prince George Fall Agricultural Fair offices. In 1925 it was reconfigured as the *Prince George High School*. This was a controversial decision because the original school had been designed for a milder climate and was expensive to convert. A 1929 school-naming contest resulted in the school being given the name *Baron Byng High School*. The 1921 and 1925 visits to Prince George by Baron and Lady Byng of Vimy (Governor-General of Canada from 1921-1926) were a factor in choosing the name.

In 1945 a new *Prince George High School* was built and *Baron Byng* was only used for shop and home economics classes.

The imposing old school was gutted and destroyed by a controlled burn in July 1968.

Prince George Public School 1922, later King George V School

An eight-room elementary school was built by contractor A.P. Anderson and opened on January 21, 1922. The dimensions were 60' x 94' and it cost \$43,000. The school had a full concrete basement with two stories above. There were 279 students. Its first teachers included Mr. W. P. Beal (principal), Miss G. H. McKee, Miss M. Hanna, Miss H. Blake, Miss E. Milligan, Mrs. C. Everett and Miss C. Bell. In a 1929 naming contest it became *King George V School (KGV)*. There were several expansions over the years. The school was closed in 2003 and later demolished.

Suggested photos: 1. Exploration Place P981.19.26

1922 Prince George Public (King George V) School

2. Exploration Place P981.9.82

Two Prince George Public schools: Baron Byng on left, King George V on right

Note: Prince George street names were changed in 1953.