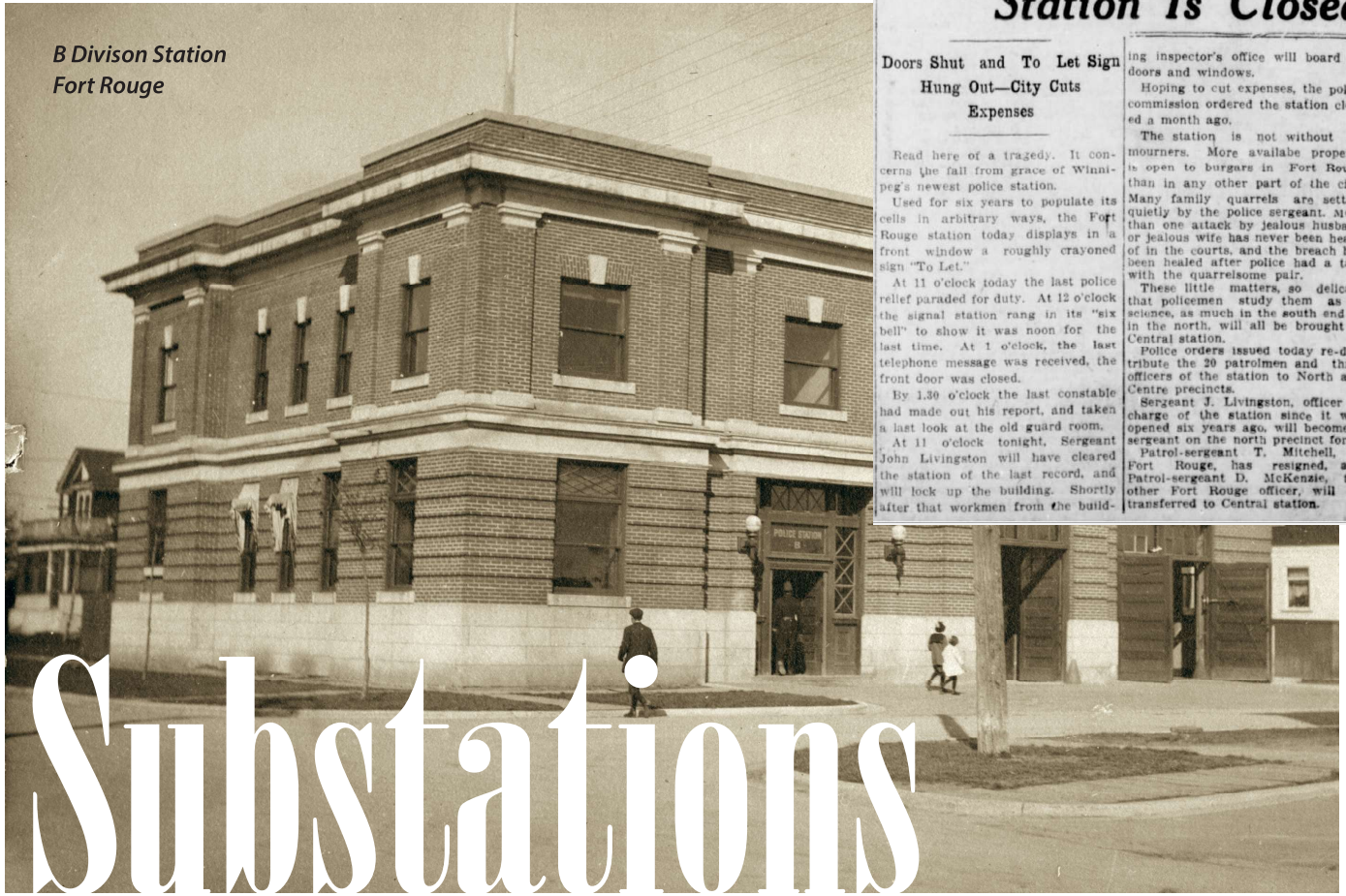


B Division Station  
Fort Rouge



## Fort Rouge Police Station Is Closed

Doors Shut and To Let Sign Hung Out—City Cuts Expenses

Read here of a tragedy. It concerns the fall from grace of Winnipeg's newest police station.

Used for six years to populate its cells in arbitrary ways, the Fort Rouge station today displays in a front window a roughly crayoned sign "To Let."

At 11 o'clock today the last police relief paraded for duty. At 12 o'clock the signal station rang in its "six bell" to show it was noon for the last time. At 1 o'clock, the last telephone message was received, the front door was closed.

By 1.30 o'clock the last constable had made out his report, and taken a last look at the old guard room.

At 11 o'clock tonight, Sergeant John Livingston will have cleared the station of the last record, and will lock up the building. Shortly after that workmen from the build-

ing inspector's office will board up doors and windows.

Hoping to cut expenses, the police commission ordered the station closed a month ago.

The station is not without its mourners. More available property is open to burglars in Fort Rouge than in any other part of the city. Many family quarrels are settled quietly by the police sergeant. More than one attack by jealous husband or jealous wife has never been heard of in the courts, and the breach has been healed after police had a talk with the quarrelsome pair.

These little matters, so delicate that policemen study them as a science, as much in the south end as in the north, will all be brought to Central station.

Police orders issued today re-distribute the 20 patrolmen and three officers of the station to North and Centre precincts.

Sergeant J. Livingston, officer in charge of the station since it was opened six years ago, will become a sergeant on the north precinct force.

Patrol-sergeant T. Mitchell, of Fort Rouge, has resigned, and Patrol-sergeant D. McKenzie, the other Fort Rouge officer, will be transferred to Central station.

In 1909 Chief John McRae officially opened the Rupert Street Police Station at the corner of Rupert Avenue and Louise Street. This large building was to be the new Police Headquarters, however Chief McRae also saw a need for additional substations to help cover other areas of the rapidly growing City of Winnipeg. In response, the City purchased other parcels of land in 1909, specifically allocated for these planned substations.

With **A Division** being the Rupert Street Station, the substations were designated as:

**B Division** (Fort Rouge) Nassau St. & Jessie Ave.

**C Division** (West End) Arlington St., near Westminster Ave.

**D Division** (Notre Dame) Notre Dame Ave. & Pearl St.

**E Division** (North End) Magnus St. & Charles Ave.

**F Division** (Elmwood) Levis St. & Regent Ave.

The first substations to be constructed were B and E Divisions, which later opened on May 23rd, 1911. They were built from blueprints as mirror images of each other,

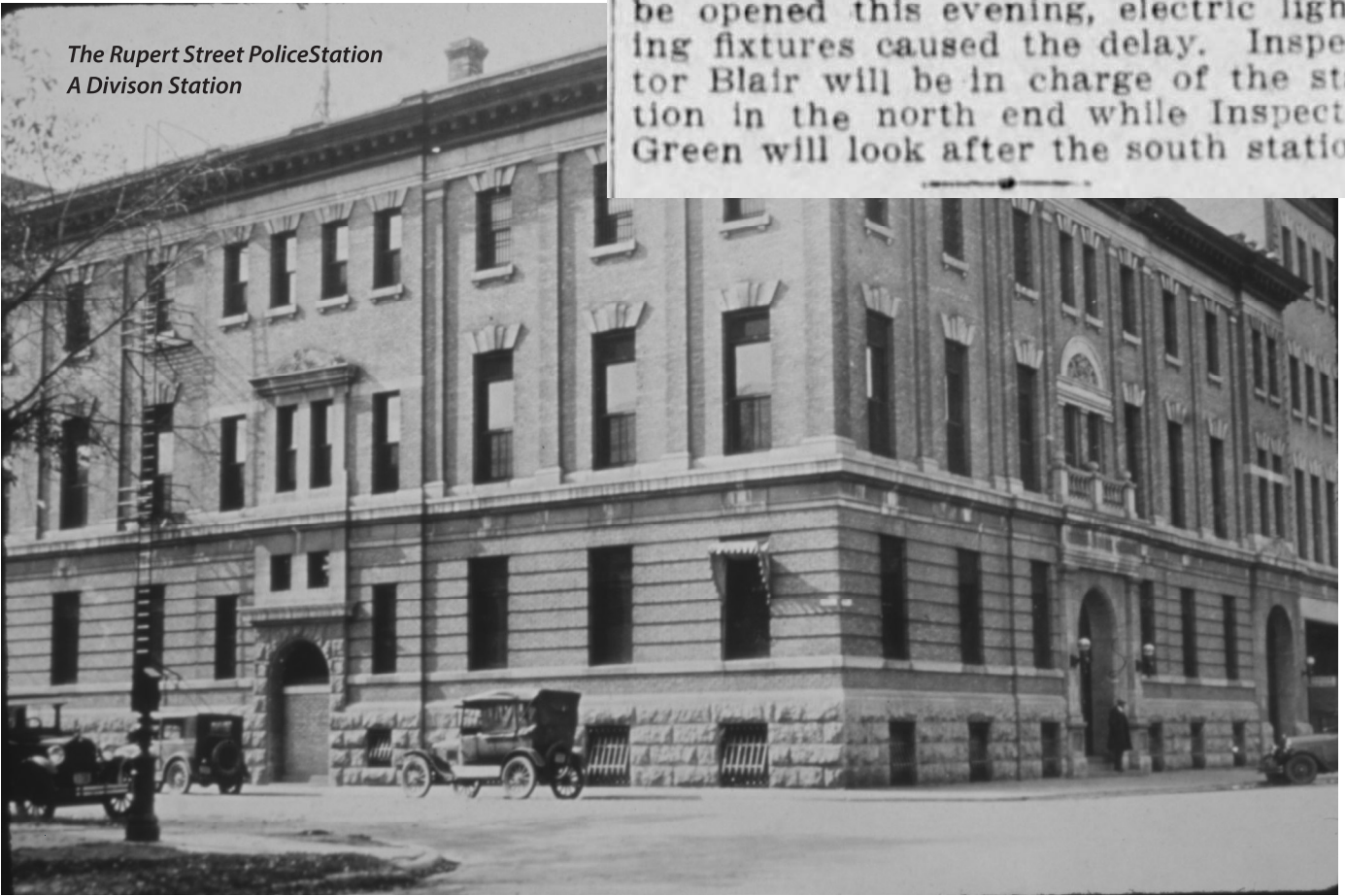
and had horse stables at opposite ends of the building to meet the needs of transportation in those years.

The stables and apparatus room (garage) made up half of the main floor. Station Duty was at the front of the main floor along with an assembly room, an officer's room, a signal room, a vault, and jail cells which were at the back. The second floor had a recreation room with a pool table, and a suite for the caretaker. Often the caretaker's wife would be hired as a matron to look after the female prisoners.

In 1913, before the other substations could be built, Winnipeg entered an economic downturn and shortly afterwards the Great War (WW1) broke out. This drained the city of men who went to fight and cut off any excess spending. As a result, work on the remaining substations was never carried out.

In 1966 the Rupert Street Station closed when the new Public Safety Building opened on Princess Street, and the two existing substations closed shortly afterwards on June 30, 1967.

*The Rupert Street Police Station  
A Division Station*



**New Police Stations.**—After many delays the two new police stations will be opened this evening, electric lighting fixtures caused the delay. Inspector Blair will be in charge of the station in the north end while Inspector Green will look after the south station.

The B Division substation was torn down, but the E Division station remained intact. It stayed vacant until 1990 when a developer purchased the building and converted it into an apartment block. It still stands at 200 Charles Street today.

In 1990, the Winnipeg Police Museum was approached with the idea of recovering any artifacts from the former station before it was renovated by the developer. Numerous items were salvaged including one of the original 11 jail cells. This complete cell is presently on display inside the Museum as a working and interactive artifact.

In 2017, Patrol Sergeant and former Director Kevyn Bourgeois completed a scale model of the first floor of the former B Division sub-station from original blueprints. This model, which was painstakingly built and re-created over a number of years, is proudly on display in the Winnipeg Police Museum.



*Scale model of the first floor of the former B Division, created by former Director Kevyn Bourgeois*

