

# HISTORIC HCA TREASURES

**Annandale** and its stone walls, iron gates, capped pillars, sidewalks, carriage house and drive, exist today . . . 120 years later.

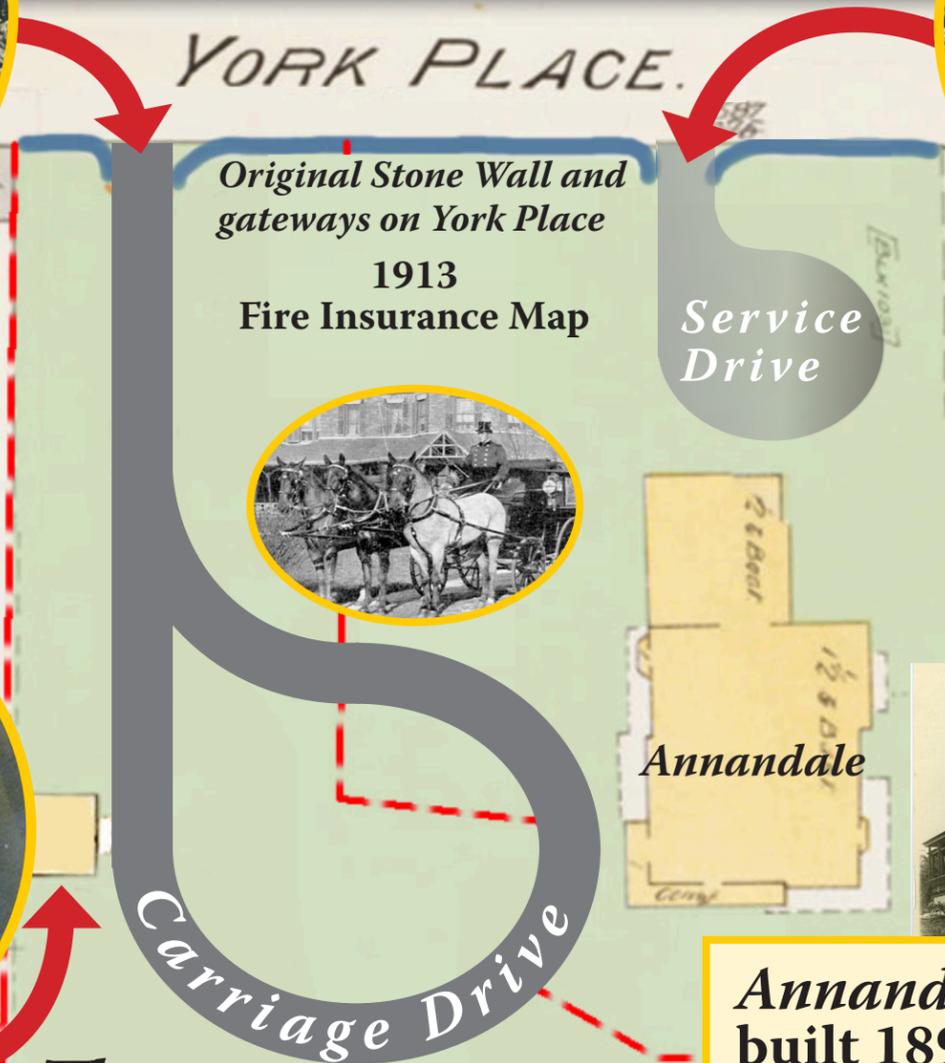
*Annandale* is considered one of the most historically significant houses in Oak Bay for its connection with the Tupper family.



Newly discovered photo of Art Nouveau front gates, capped granite pillars and sidewalk, ca. 1911.



Newly discovered photo of service gate, for deliveries to the house and kitchen, ca. 1922.



Original Stone Wall and gateways on York Place

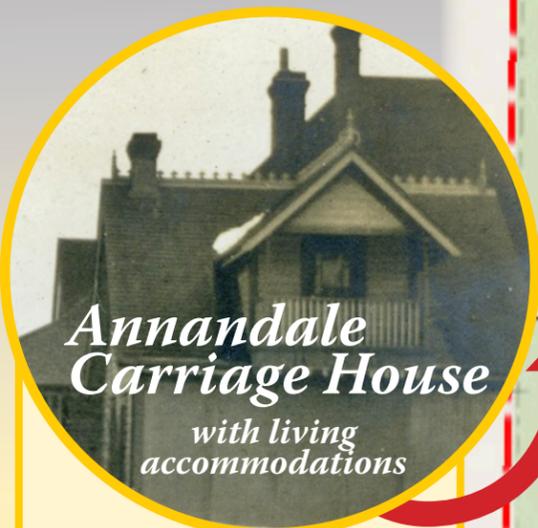
1913

Fire Insurance Map

Service Drive

Annandale

Carriage Drive



**Annandale Carriage House**  
with living accommodations

Newly discovered photo of the 1897 Annandale Carriage House reveals Queen Ann style sawn wood “gingerbread” along the roofline. Missing today, this architectural detail can now be accurately restored.

## The Annandale Estate

includes such features as: granite stone walls on two streets (crenellated on Prospect Place); three original wrought iron gates flanked by crenellated or capped granite pillars (two caps incised with “Annandale”); curving stone wall entryways on York Place; and partial, surviving Carriage Drive and Service Drive.

## Annandale, built 1897

by the son of Sir Charles Tupper, Father of Confederation and sixth Prime Minister of Canada.

*Sir Charles Tupper*



Original Stone Wall and gateway on Prospect Place



120-year-old stone wall on Prospect Place, built to last for centuries.

The Scott family owned *Annandale* from 1911–1955. Newly discovered photos are from the collection of grandson Brian Crane.



*Mrs. Elizabeth Scott*





1587–1595 York Place

# *Annandale*

*Annandale* is a large, one-and-one-half-storey wood clad bungalow with prominent brick corbelled chimneys, an enclosed porch, and multiple dormers. It is located on the east side of York Place, near the commercial centre of Oak Bay Avenue. It is set back on the property, screened by dense foliage and surrounded by a granite stone wall that has “*Annandale*” carved in two sets of granite gate-piers.

## **Heritage Value:**

*Annandale* is considered one of the most historically significant houses in Oak Bay for its connection with the Tupper family. It was built in 1897/8 by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, second son of Sir Charles Tupper (1821–1915), the last surviving Father of Confederation. Sir Charles Tupper was the Federal Minister for Railways and Canals in Sir John A. Macdonald’s Conservative government; an early supporter of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he helped to ensure the project’s completion. He became Prime Minister in May 1896; however, his defeat within three months, by Wilfrid Laurier gave him the shortest prime-ministerial term in Canadian history. He was a frequent visitor to *Annandale*. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper (1856–1927) served as head of the Department of Marine and Fisheries in Sir John A. Macdonald’s administration—at the time the youngest Canadian cabinet minister. He received a knighthood for his work on the Bering Sea sealing treaty (1893). The following year he became Minister of Justice in the government of Mackenzie Bowell, joining his father’s government as Solicitor General. In the late 1890s, C.H. Tupper moved to BC with his family and opened legal practices in Victoria and Vancouver. He settled in Vancouver and built a house called Parkside (1899—now demolished) in Vancouver’s West End, to plans of Soule and Maclure. *Annandale* appears to have been Tupper’s holiday home and as such is a fine representation of a country estate, illustrating the lifestyle of prominent men and their families at the turn of the century.

*Annandale* was one of a pair of houses built in 1897–1898, the second residence being for the Honourable Frederick Peters, former Premier and Attorney-General of Prince Edward Island. Tupper and Peters were partners in a Victoria law firm established shortly after their arrival on the west coast. They stayed at the Hotel Mount Baker; and, undoubtedly, after conversations with architects F. M. Rattenbury and his partner, J. G. Tiarks, decided to build complementary homes on adjoining land just to the west of land owned by Rattenbury and Tiarks. In 1898 architects J. G. Tiarks and F. M. Rattenbury, recognizing the potential value of the Oak Bay waterfront, purchased land extending from Oak Bay Avenue northward to present-day San Carlos Avenue. The whole parcel of land was acquired from the estate of the late Joseph Despard Pemberton, former Surveyor General of the colony of Vancouver Island. Over the next few years the partners began development in the area and influenced construction of quality homes on adjacent land. The *Annandale* estate originally had a carriage house with a turning circle. The carriage house and part of the circle survive but are no longer part of the property.

The heritage value of *Annandale* is associated with its architect, John Gerhard Tiarks (1867–1901). Good family and social connections, as well as design skill contributed to Tiarks’ success. He achieved much in his short life, erecting over seventy-five buildings during a thirteen-year period. Trained in England, he arrived in British Columbia during the economic boom following the arrival of the trans-continental railway. He quickly became a force in local architectural circles, primarily for his residential designs for the social élite. One of his designs was published in the “Canadian Architect & Builder,” and he served as an officer of British Columbia Institute of Architects. His ambition is exemplified by his double competition entries for the new Parliament Buildings in 1892. Tiarks eschewed elaborate Victorian details, hallmarks of his style being shallow Tudor arches, cedar panelling, broad verandahs and the application of vertical boards on drop siding—all of which are in evidence in *Annandale*.

*Annandale* is of heritage significance for the survival of much of its interior fabric, including woodwork and fittings. The high quality and fine workmanship of the interior provides a valuable illustration of the taste and expectations of professionals such as Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.

## **Character Defining Elements:**

View to ocean and Mount Baker

Setback from the street, in keeping with the streetscape

Steeply-pitched hipped roof with gables and dormers

Wood frame construction including bevelled drop siding, corner boards, vertical boards over drop siding; heavy moulding

Style details such as: picturesque silhouette; prominent corbelled brick chimneys, deep eaves, box bay windows

Exterior architectural elements such as: broad verandah with removable glazed sashes, turned balusters, and applied moulding; window horns; pedimented window frames; glazed front door with transom and sidelights

Fenestration, and window types such as: box, and angled bays; double-hung wood sashes; casements

Original interior features such as: woodwork; Tudor arches; window embrasures; fireplaces; door furniture; tiles

Landscape features such as: granite stone wall with two entrances flanked by granite piers with “*Annandale*” incised in the caps and protective plinth blocks, with original cast iron gates, part of carriage turning circle

## **Identifying Names:**

The Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper House

Adapted from oakbay.ca, “Heritage Sites”