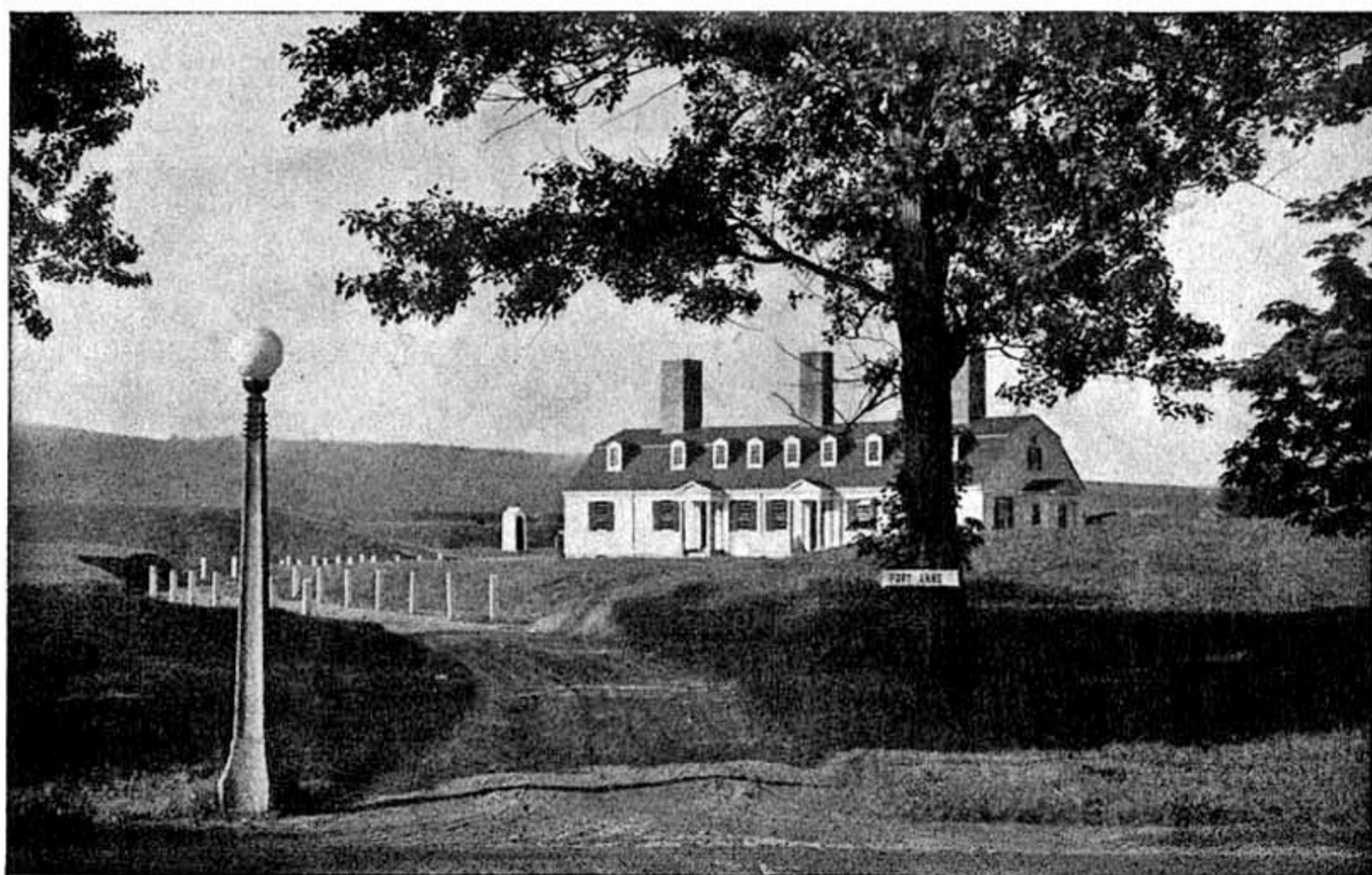


Fort Anne National Historic Park

Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia



A WISE NATION PRESERVES ITS
RECORDS - GATHERS UP ITS MUNI-
MENTS - DECORATES THE TOMBS OF
ITS ILLUSTRIOUS DEAD - REPAIRS ITS
GREAT PUBLIC STRUCTURES & FOS-
TERS NATIONAL PRIDE AND LOVE
OF COUNTRY - BY PERPETUAL REFER-
ENCE TO THE SACRIFICES & GLORIES
OF THE PAST . . . JOSEPH HOWE

FORT ANNE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

FORT ANNE occupied an important place in the early history of Canada, for around Port Royal, as it was originally known, centred the long struggle between the French and English for control of Acadia. The original Port Royal was captured and burned by the English in 1613, but Acadia was returned by treaty to the French in 1632. The French Governor, de Razilly, built a fort at the mouth of the La Have River, but on his death, his successor, d'Aulnay de Charnisay, removed the settlement to Port Royal. The new fort, built about 1635, was located on the present site of Fort Anne, several miles east of the original Habitation and on the south shore of the Annapolis River. As the capital of Acadia, Port Royal for the next hundred years experienced a chequered career and changed hands many times before its final capitulation by the French to a New England force under Colonel Francis Nicholson in 1710. Nicholson changed the name from Port Royal to Annapolis Royal, in honour of the reigning sovereign of England, Queen Anne. The present Fort Anne is the outgrowth of two French fortifications built on the same site, and later additions made by the English.

In 1917 Fort Anne was placed under the care of the National Parks Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, and is now administered as a National Historic Park.

Visitors who enter the park by motor proceed via the re-opened driveway, following its course through the remains of the glacis and parapet that protected the covered way, then over the stone arched bridge that crosses the moat to the east ravelin, one of the last ravelins to be built when the fortifications of Fort Anne were extended eastward and southward. From the ravelin the visitor proceeds on a causeway across the inner moat by the site of the former fort gates and follows the driveway to the entrance of the "Officers' Quarters", or Museum Building.

The Museum Building

The large building originally known as the "Officers' Quarters" contains, in addition to the office of the Park Superintendent, a museum housing many interesting and valuable exhibits pertaining to early Acadia, as well as a fine historical library. The cornerstone of the building was laid in 1797 by Edward, Duke of Kent, father of the late Queen Victoria, and great-great-grandfather of King George VI, while the former was Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in North America, with headquarters at Halifax. The cornerstone may now be seen in the wall of the Ship Room.

In 1935 the building was completely restored and renovated with the object of making it as fire-proof as possible. The original wood siding which formed the exterior of the building was replaced with a concrete plaster which reproduces the effect of the original walls, new entrances were provided, and the three tall chimneys which for years have been such a striking feature, were rebuilt. The original layout of the rooms has been preserved, and where interior woodwork and other fittings were replaced the original designs were faithfully reproduced.

The main floor of the Museum Building is occupied by the administrative offices, the library, and the museum proper. The latter is divided into rooms arranged in a historical sequence commencing with the discovery of Port Royal by the French in 1604, and continuing through the periods described as Queen Anne, Acadian, Loyalist and Garrison. On the other floors are rooms devoted to the First World War, Maps, Ships, Indians, Natural History and miscellaneous exhibits.

Tour of the Museum

An inspection of the Museum is usually commenced in the Entrance or Main Hall, where the history of Port Royal-Annapolis Royal is described in heraldry. Coats-of-arms, all of which have been made by hand, line the walls on both sides, commencing with those of de Monts and Poutrincourt. Heraldic arms of British sovereigns from Queen Anne to the present day, as well as those of the town of Annapolis Royal, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Dominion of Canada are also included.

The Port Royal Room

From the Main Hall visitors enter the Port Royal Room, which contains exhibits relating to the history of Port Royal from 1604-05, the period of its discovery and first settlement, to the date of its final capture by Nicholson in 1710. Among the interesting exhibits in this room is a model of the Port Royal Habitation; the official flag of France at the time of the French settlement in Nova Scotia; the flag of Nova Scotia, dating from the Scottish settlement; the original line drawing, "The Order of Good Cheer" by C. W. Jefferys, R.C.A.; a bronze tablet commemorating the 300th anniversary of the granting of the Charter of New Scotland (Nova Scotia) in 1621; a tablet commemorating "Neptune's Theatre"; and a tablet honouring the memory of Louis Hebert, the first apothecary of Acadia.

The Queen Anne Room

From the Port Royal Room entry is made into the Queen Anne Room, where the history of Port Royal and its associations is continued. Here may be viewed a portrait in oils of Queen Anne, a copy of the original by John Closterman which hangs in the National Portrait Gallery in London; a copy of the Union flag hoisted over Fort Anne when it was captured during the reign of Queen Anne in 1710; a modern copy of a piece of furniture of the Queen Anne period which contains, among other interesting things, a document bearing Queen Anne's signature, and a volume of almanacs for the year 1703 which was a personal possession of Queen Anne and which is decorated with thirteen impressions of Her Majesty's cipher. Other exhibits include cases of coins and pieces of ancient armour.

The Acadian Room

From the Queen Anne Room visitors are escorted into the Acadian Room. This room contains furniture and other exhibits which recall the tragic expulsion of the Acadians in 1755. Objects of interest include hand-made chairs, a cradle and rug; a fireplace with crane and cooking utensils; old pictures; a small spinning wheel and old flint-lock muskets. The ceiling, walls and floor of the room were taken from an old Acadian home. The ceiling and walls are white, the woodwork blue, and the floor yellow.

The Pre-Loyalist and Loyalist Room

Following an inspection of the Acadian Room visitors are conducted into the Pre-Loyalist and Loyalist Room. This room contains many objects of interest, including a clock made in Annapolis about one hundred years ago by Messrs. Butler and Henderson; a mahogany cheese wagon carved from a solid block; a pair of "Ceres" andirons, one of which dates back to 1760. It was ploughed up from the ground near Annapolis Royal, and a duplicate was made by the Carron Company of Falkirk, Scotland, the original manufacturers, in 1923. Other exhibits include an old cello; an old piano—the first brought to Annapolis Royal—and two types of spinning wheels.

The Garrison Room

The next room visited is the Garrison Room, which relates to the history of Fort Anne and Annapolis Royal from the date of its capture by Nicholson in 1710 until the last British garrison was withdrawn in 1854. Interesting objects include the key of the Fort surrendered by the French Governor, Subercase, in 1710; a portrait of Paul Mascarene, who mounted the first British guard of Fort Anne in 1710, and who was prominent in the history of Annapolis Royal from that time until 1749, when Halifax became the provincial capital; a portrait of General Sir Fenwick Williams, hero of Kars, who was a son of one of the officers of the garrison in Annapolis Royal, where he was born and spent his early life; a coloured print depicting the defence of Kars in the Crimean War, 1855; a belt buckle which belonged to Williams; a fine steel engraving showing Williams and his officers leaving Kars; allied flags of the Crimean War; four swords of that period; a model of the Fort Anne blockhouse which was torn down in 1882 and a drawing of the same.

The Anteroom

The anteroom serves as a waiting room for visitors and contains numerous objects of interest. Above the fireplace is a bronze tablet presented by the 1st Battalion of the Prince of Wales' Volunteers (40th Foot) to mark the birthplace of the regiment on August 25, 1717; badges and buttons of this regiment; an old flint-lock musket marked 9 B. Annapolis M; and a number of pictures and portraits.

The Library

The Library consists of two rooms joined by a wide arched opening, each of which contains a fireplace. Above the mantel of one is a fine steel engraving of King George III, during whose reign the building was first erected (1797-98). The library contains a very fine collection of books relating to the history of Port Royal—Annapolis Royal, including copies of the works of Champlain and Lescarbot. A number of old documents and papers are also preserved in the library.

The Museum is open to visitors on week days from 9.30 a.m. to noon, and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. On Sunday the hours are from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.