Tod House

2564 Heron Street, Oak Bay, British Columbia, V8R, Canada

Formally Recognized: 1974/06/28



southeast elevation

OTHER NAME(S)

Tod House
Oak Bay House
John Tod House

LINKS AND DOCUMENTS

The Pioneer Explorations of Scotch Boy John Tod

CONSTRUCTION DATE(S)

1850/01/01 to 1852/01/01

LISTED ON THE CANADIAN REGISTER: 2005/03/08

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

Tod House is a one-storey wooden house, built in three sections, situated on its original site at an angle to the present street. It is located in the Estevan or Willows neighbourhood of Oak Bay.

HERITAGE VALUE

Tod House was the home of John Tod, Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Factor and Chief Fur Trader at Kamloops, and one of the first appointed members of BC's Legislative Council. Built by John Tod in 1850, this house is significant as an example of an early HBC farm settlement, and was the home of Oak Bay's first retiree. This house represents the cross-cultural relationships of the HBC and First Nations people, as this was the home of Tod and his wife Sophia Lolo. This is one of the oldest houses in Victoria and notable as the longest continuously occupied residence in western Canada.

The house is a rare and intact example of the French Canadian style, piece-sur-piece construction, which was used extensively by Hudson's Bay builders across Canada. Built in three sections, the transition from pioneer homestead to permanent residence is illustrated by the evolution of building technologies, from the 1850-52 log construction to the 1860s frame construction addition.

Tod's farm is important as one of five properties that comprise the first subdivision of HBC land in Oak Bay. Sold with the approval of Sir James Douglas on behalf of the HBC and surveyed by J. D. Pemberton, the devolution of HBC property followed the decline of the fur trade on Vancouver Island. The location of Tod House, in close proximity to the waterfront and its relationship to Cadboro(ugh) Bay Road via Tod Road, illustrates the important link between early urban development and the two historical transportation routes connecting the HBC farm with Fort Victoria.

Source: The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

Key elements that define the heritage character of Tod House include the:
- angle of the house in relationship to the waterfront

- additive (3 section) single-storey form and small-scale rectangular massing
- squared-log structure of piece-sur-piece construction (1850-1852)
- massive timber framing and dovetailed joints of early sections
- frame construction of the later addition (1860s)
- clapboard exterior
- gabled bellcast roof
- original floor plan, including low ceilings and door frames
- authentic interior detailing, such as the hand-hewn woodwork and fieldstone fireplaces in the kitchen and living room (dating from the Tod family residence ca.1850 - 1890)
- mature cherry tree dating from the period of Tod family residence

RECOGNITION

JURISDICTION

British Columbia

RECOGNITION AUTHORITY

Local Governments (BC)

RECOGNITION STATUTE

Local Government Act, s.967

RECOGNITION TYPE

Heritage Designation

RECOGNITION DATE

1974/06/28

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

SIGNIFICANT DATE(S)

1860/01/01 to 1860/01/01

THEME - CATEGORY AND TYPE

Peopling the Land
Settlement

FUNCTION - CATEGORY AND TYPE

CURRENT
Residence
Single Dwelling

HISTORIC

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER

n/a

BUILDER

n/a

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LOCATION OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Oak Bay Planning Department

CROSS-REFERENCE TO COLLECTION

FED/PROV/TERR IDENTIFIER

DcRt-78

STATUS

Published

RELATED PLACES

n/a

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NEARBY PLACES



Harman House

1586 York Place, Oak Bay, British Columbia

Harman House is a two storey Tudor Revival style house and carriage house, part of the original…



Hamilton-Smith House

2753 Cavendish Avenue, Oak Bay, British Columbia

Hamilton-Smith House is a 1 1/2 storey, wood frame, Craftsman-style residence situated in the…



Bowden House