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PH0026310 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Maryland

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)				Saint Mary's							
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tudor Hall is located in Leonardtown, Maryland, encircled by Tudor Hall Road, which is two blocks south of Maryland Route 5 and one block east of the St. Mary's County Courthouse. The south facade of Tudor Hall overlooks Breton Bay.

Tudor Hall is a large 190 feet by 30 feet, rectangular, two story plus attic, brick building presently used as the St. Mary's County Memorial Library. The building has undergone extensive change. The form of the extant structure is largely the result of a nineteenth century enlargement and a twentieth century remodelling of an eighteenth century structure.

In 1798, Tudor Hall consisted of a one and one half story wooden house (46 X 22) with two brick wings (30 X 32), one at each (east and west) end. Since that time, the one story brick wings have been raised to two stories and the wider center section was replaced with a two story brick central block. These alterations can easily be seen on the south facade where the end sections of the wall at the first story are laid in Flemish bond, whereas the entire center section and second floors of the ends are laid in American bond (four rows of stretchers and one row of headers).

Tudor Hall has a hip roof with a centrally placed square balustrade or "widow's walk." Four chimneys jut out of the roof marking the juncture of the ends and the central block

One of the outstanding features of the south facade is the one story recessed loggia. Centrally placed, the loggia is defined by four columns which support a wooden lintel. A brick arch spans the loggia.

A nineteenth century owner covered Tudor Hall with yellow stucco into which eight by fourteen inch rectangles were incised. In 1950, Gertrude Sawyer, a Washington, D. C. architect, remodelled Tudor Hall and removed the stucco.2

1Federal Direct Tax Assessment 1798 St. Mary's County, New Town Hundred, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

NATIONAL REGISTER

<sup>2</sup>[Mary Sprigg Poole], "Tudor Hall," <u>Chronicles of St.</u> Mary's, II (December 1954), 77-79.

SIGNIFICANCE						
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)					
Pre-Columbian	□ 16+	h Century	X	18th Centur	у 🛣	20th Century
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Tudor Hall is an important eighteenth century house in St. Mary's County, Maryland. It is one of the oldest buildings in Leonardtown, which was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1720. Tudor Hall is a 1950 example of preservation through adaptive use: it is used as the St. Mary's County Memorial Library [1972].

The Barnes family owned the property in the eighteenth century. Abraham Barnes, who may have built Tudor Hall, amassed a 1,096 acre estate around the site of the house which he called America Felix Secundus. A successful tobacco planter, Barnes served in the Maryland assembly, joined Benjamin Tasker in representing Maryland in the Albany Congress of 1754, and served on the St. Mary's County Committee of Observation during the first years of the Revolution. Barnes spent part of the 1760's in England. He advertised his St. Mary's house for rent in the Maryland Gazette, which could have been Tudor Hall. Unable to find a tenant, Barnes' son-in-law, John Thompson Mason, lived in his house. John T. Mason was the brother of George Mason, author of the Bill of Rights.

In 1778, Richard Barnes inherited America Felix Secundus from his father, and according to the 1798 federal direct tax assessment, lived in Tudor Hall. Richard Barnes followed his father's example as a leader during the Revolution. He attended the 1775 convention that sent delegates from Maryland to the Continental Congress. He served as the lieutenant for St. Mary's County, which involved the responsibility for defending the county from British raiders who frequently plundered American property on the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers. In 1781, Barnes organized a flotilla of local vessels that transported troops from the Head of Elk in Maryland to Virginia for the Yorktown campaign. Barnes also was a member of the Maryland convention that ratified the Constitution in 1788.

John Thompson Mason, Jr., son of John Thompson Mason, inherited Richard Barnes' estate in 1804. The property was sold to Philip Key, an uncle of Francis Scott Key. For several years the ownership of the estate was under question in various —see continuation sheet—

	SM-10 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES						
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	Recorders: William D. Morgan, Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 June 1969						
	Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, February 1972						
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	Bibliography:						
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11.	FORM PREPARED BY						
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	Maryland Historical Trust				June 15,	1972	
	2525 Riva Road						
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12.	STATE LIAISON OFFICER GERTIFICATION			NATIONAL REGIST	ER VERIFICATION		
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Date

Date June 15, 1972

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Saint Mary's	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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(Number all entries)

#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

Maryland courts. The first Key to hold undisputed title to the property was Philip Key's son, Henry Greenfield Sothoron Key. He remodeled the Barnes' house, adding the coat of yellow stucco, and changed the name to Tudor Hall.

Key, in keeping with his family's tradition of public service, was a judge of the St. Mary's County Orphans Court and chairman of the commission that settled the dispute with Delaware and Pennsylvania over the northeast boundary of Maryland.

The Key family owned the house until 1917. Then it was empty for thirty years. In 1947, a real estate company was considering the property for a subdivision. At the instigation of Mrs. Mary Patterson Davidson, Tudor Hall was preserved. Mrs. Davidson arranged for the renovation of the house as a memorial to those who died in service during World War II and the Korean War.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

AUC 25 1972

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
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FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

- 9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued
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