

PH 0500917

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
TERRA RUBRA
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Keysville-Bruceville^{Road} approx. 1 mile south of Keysville
CITY, TOWN Keysville CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth
STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Carroll CODE 013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs.
Lee B. Brown Telephone #: (301) 756-2576
STREET & NUMBER Terra Rubra Farm
CITY, TOWN Keymar STATE Maryland 21757
VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. New County Office Building
Liber No.: 583
Folio No.: 604
STREET & NUMBER 225 Center Street
CITY, TOWN Westminster STATE Maryland 21157

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Terra Rubra" is located on the Keysville-Bruceville Road approximately one mile northwest of the junction of Md. Route 194 and the Keysville-Bruceville Road in Carroll County, Maryland.

The present farmhouse is built on the site of the original "Terra Rubra," the birthplace of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner." The original house was sold after Key's death and deteriorated until a storm in the late 1850's furthered its destruction. Shortly after this, it was torn down to provide for a new and more substantial house.

A painting of the original house by Francis Scott Key's grandson, John Ross Key, depicts a two and one-half story structure with a four bay wide main facade and a colonnaded portico containing a second story porch across the full-length of the facade. The chimneys are gable end, there are three gabled dormers on the roof, and the roof-line extends across the front to form the portico roof.

The brick farm house that replaced the earlier building is built on part of the latter's fieldstone foundation. It is a two and one-half story, five-by-two bay structure of stretcher bond with interior gable end chimneys. The plan of the house is L-shaped with a parlor and dining room on either side of a central passageway which contains the staircase. The kitchen is in the ell.

Some of the materials of the original house were used in the construction of the present structure. An example is the summer beam in the basement supporting the main floor which was turned upside down for its present use, revealing the butt cog mortises for the original floor joists. Other reused framing members are some of the common rafters and a partial summer beam in the attic.

The main facade of the present "Terra Rubra" faces west and has a central doorway inset with molded panels on the wall sides and a frontispiece of half-columns with ^{10 1/2 ft} ~~Corinthian~~ capitals supporting the flat pediment. Above the six-paneled door is a four-light transom ornamented with a row of dentil molding. This frontispiece is probably an addition of the twentieth century. The other four bays on the main floor and the five bays on the second floor contain 6/6 double hung sash windows with blinds and flat wood pediments with dentil trim. The dentil pattern is repeated in the roof cornice and continued around the house and the ell.

The north gable end has a window identical to those on the main facade in the first floor bay towards the west. There are also two half-story windows here and in the south gable end. The south facade has the ell built flush to the wall of the main section. The main section's fenestration has two windows diagonally arranged--one on the first floor in the west bay and one on the second towards the east. The ell of the south facade has a small porch with a shed roof on the main floor and two 6/6 sash windows on the second floor. The north facade of the ell originally had a double-tiered frame porch between the house proper and the first bay of the ell. This has since been bricked in. The rear of the main section of the house

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DESCRIPTION - ITEM NO. 7 - CONTINUED

has a window on each floor opposite the ell and the ell rear facade has two half-story windows.

The interior is characterized by simple ornamentation and moldings. The mantelpieces in the parlor and dining room are of wood painted white, with applied ornamentation. The kitchen mantelpiece is more provincial with carved reeding framing pilasters and framing panels. The open-well staircase has an ovoid handrail on square balusters. The carved newel post is from the original house.

Two stone outbuildings are said to be from the original estate. One of these was used as a slave quarters and is now connected to the house. The other was a smokehouse.

A monument to Francis Scott Key and a flag pole where the American flag flies twenty-four hours a day stand on the front lawn at "Terra Rubra."

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) U.S. History-National Anthem	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

ORIGINAL HOUSE
1753(?) - 1859

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original house at "Terra Rubra" was built in the 1770's when the land was part of Frederick County. The land patent was granted to Philip Key in 1753 and passed into the possession of his son Francis Key. Francis Key wanted to establish an estate at "Terra Rubra" for his son, John Ross Key, to operate and inherit. The mansion house was built and the farm was set up on a large scale, as was common at that time, with various outbuildings to provide for the self-sufficiency of the estate and slaves for the manual labor. The farm operation served as its own community like many plantations in Maryland and Virginia.

After serving in the Revolutionary War, John Ross Key returned to "Terra Rubra" to pursue the life of a gentleman-farmer. He was successful as an agriculturalist, and took an active role in the politics in nearby Frederick Town, later accepting an appointment as judge. In his role as a planter and community leader, Key exemplifies the idealized conception of the Southern farmer. His Son, Francis Scott Key, was born at "Terra Rubra" on August 1, 1779. He spent his early childhood on the estate and visited his family there during vacations and summers when he was a student in Annapolis. He became a lawyer, received his training in Frederick, Maryland, and settled in Georgetown, D.C. to establish his business. In 1814, he went to Baltimore in an effort to secure the release of Dr. Barnes, a prisoner of the British fleet in the Baltimore harbor. While Key was on board a British vessel, the British began an attack on Baltimore and detained Key. During this battle, Key wrote a poem to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" which later became the National Anthem. At the death of his father, Key bought "Terra Rubra" in hopes of retiring there. However, his activities as a supporter of the abolition movement kept him in Georgetown until his death, when "Terra Rubra" was divided and sold.

The mansion had a characteristic double portico across the front and numerous outbuildings to accommodate the plantation activities. In the book Francis Scott Key, Life and Times, Edward Delaplaine presents this description of the "Terra Rubra" mansion: "The mansion to which Key brought his bride was the largest within a radius of many miles. Across its entire front, measuring nearly a hundred feet, was a two story portico with columns two feet in diameter. Extending from the main building were wings, in one of which lived the tenant and his family, and in the other the Negro slaves. The main dwelling was a plaster frame structure, while the wings were brick. The wings were connected with a double porch and a brick paved court. In 1858 a part of the house was blown away by a storm. In 1859 it was torn down to

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Carroll and Frederick Counties

Edward S. Delaplaine. Francis Scott Key Life and Times
N.Y. Biography Press 1937.

Victor Weybright Spangled Banner: The Story of Francis Scott Key
N. Y. Farrar & Rinehart, Inc. 1935

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 158 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 | 30,6 | 9,3,0 | 4,3 | 8,8 | 8,4,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,8 | 30,7 | 3,2,0 | 4,3 | 8,8 | 4,4,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 | 30,7 | 4,3,0 | 4,3 | 8,8 | 1,0,0

D 1,8 | 30,7 | 4,8,0 | 4,3 | 8,7 | 8,2,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 18/306630/4388220

F 18/306460/4388560

Beginning at a point in the Keysville-Bruceville Road 1,400 feet south of Keysville then moving NE 1,800 feet to a point, then SE 1,800 feet to a point, SW 400 feet, then SE 1,100 feet, then SW 1,400 feet to the said road, then following the said road NW to the point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Getty

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Carroll County Committee-Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

210 East Main Street

(301) 848-6494

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland 21157

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John M. Pearce
SHPO

7/6/77
DATE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Hurns
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7-24-78

ATTEST: Walter C. Cole

John M. Pearce KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-6-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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make way for a new structure." (p.3)

After the partial destruction of the original structure, a new brick house was built on the latter's foundation. The new owners of "Terra Rubra" did not have the means of the Key family, and instead of returning to a large scale estate, "Terra Rubra" became a small farmstead representative of others in the area. This is reflected in the architecture of the reconstructed farmhouse which has a central passage plan with a symmetrical facade and an ell wing with a double-tiered porch on the inner side. These characteristics, with their lack of embellishment, are consistent with the farmhouses throughout this central Maryland region. In the new house, some of the mansion's construction materials were reused, such as members of the flooring and roof frames and ornamental features, including the newel post and kitchen mantelpiece.

The architectural difference in these two buildings was the result of a change in the farms of the South in the mid-19th century. There was a slow transition during this period where the plantation and its cultural accoutrements became phased out. This especially occurred after the Civil War, but the signs of weakening the plantation system are in evidence in the border states earlier. The colonial system of landed estates run by planters of diverse interests was replaced by the independent farmer and small landholder. This trend was caused by changing agricultural and economic conditions and the transfer of power from the versatile planter to an established order in the cities.

"Terra Rubra," besides its significance as the site of the birthplace of Francis Scott Key, is an example of this colonial farming and cultural life and its decline or transformation during the 19th century development of the United States.