

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

TERRA RUBRA

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

 Keysville-Bruceville, approx. 1 mile south of Keysville
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Keymar

XX VICINITY OF

Sixth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Carroll

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
 NAME Mr. and Mrs.
 Lee B. Brown

of Mr. + Mrs. Brad Wigle (Terry Brown Wigle)
 Telephone #: (301) 756-2576

STREET & NUMBER

Terra Rubra Farm

CITY, TOWN

Keymar

X VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21757

5 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

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CARR-2

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 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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CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

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."

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

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

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SIGNIFICANCE - ITEM NO. 8 - CONTINUED

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 is 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.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

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

Carroll County Committee-Maryland Historical Trust

STREET & NUMBER

210 East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

DATE

TELEPHONE

(301) 848-6494

STATE

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

DATE

7/6/77

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

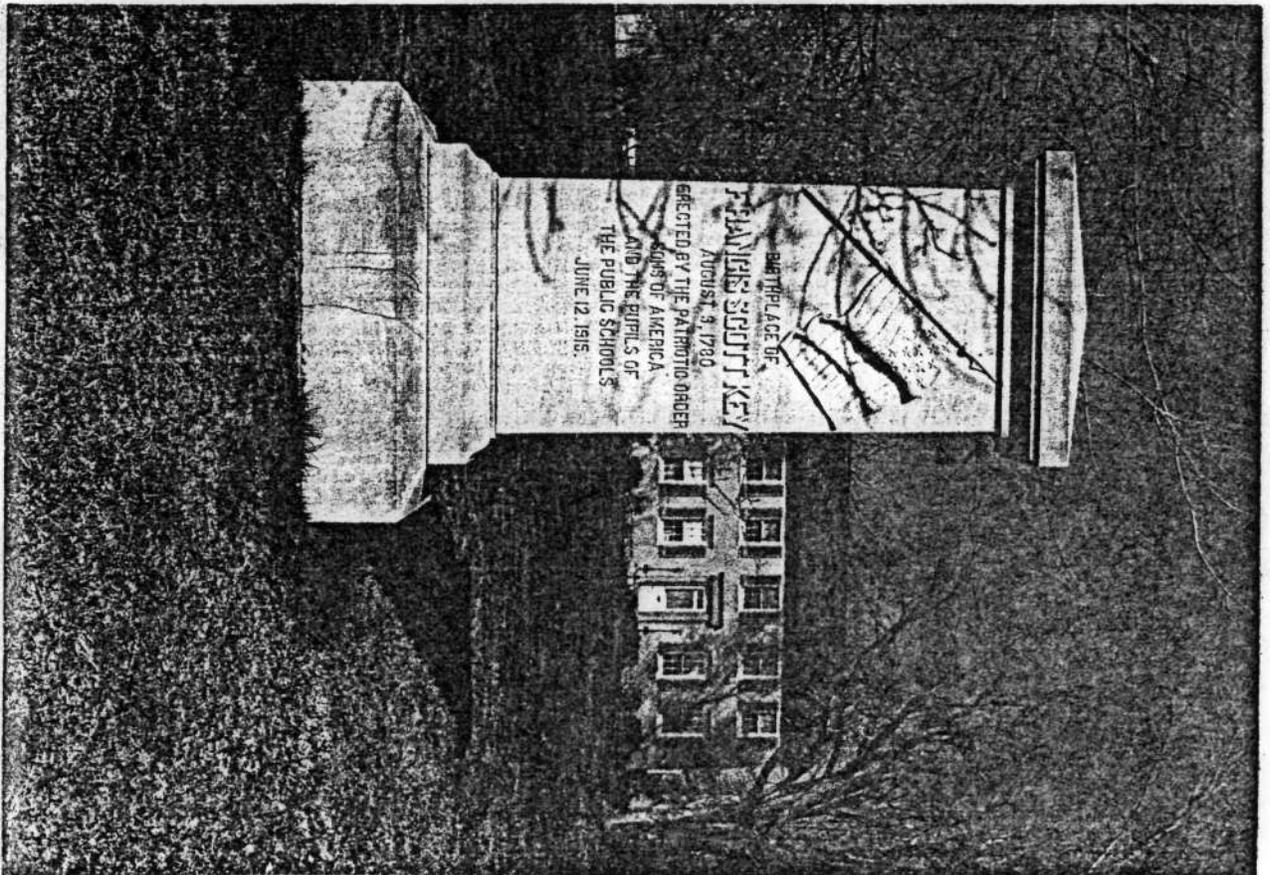
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Serra Pultra, Carroll County

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CARR-2
Terra Rubra
1755 Keysville-Bruceville Road, Keymar
Jennifer K. Cosham, 12 April 2006



South façade



Francis Scott Key monument, south of house, facing north