MASTER PRESERVATION PLAN
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Tudor Place Historic House and Garden

MISSION STATEMENT

Tudor Place Foundation operates a historic property located in the heart of Washington's Georgetown area. Firmly rooted in the community, Tudor Place Foundation's mission is to educate the public about American history and culture. Its focus is on the historical development of the Federal City and the nation's capital region from the 18th to the 20th century as seen through the lens of Tudor Place, home of Martha Washington's granddaughter and six generations of her descendants, the Custis-Peter family. The Foundation is committed to protecting, preserving, maintaining, and interpreting the historic property and the collections, while instilling the value of the past in the public perception.

Tudor Place is exceptional for its architecturally significant house; its landscape, collection, and archive; and perhaps most importantly, its continuous ownership by one important family. The familial relationship of the original owners with George and Martha Washington, the importance of the family to the development of Georgetown and the Federal City, and the collection associated with the family’s long ownership of the property make Tudor Place a rich resource not only as a domestic and social history of an American family for over 200 years but also as a social, political, and economic history of Georgetown and the Washington area. Tudor Place, which is interpreted from 1805 through 1983 through the entire ownership of the property by one family, is a time capsule of material culture, with objects representative of each period of occupation.

GOALS OF THE MASTER PRESERVATION PLAN:

• Respect the wishes of the last owner of Tudor Place, Armistead Peter 3rd, by following the guidance of his will, the Articles of Incorporation for Tudor Place, and the 1966 easement held by the National Park Service.
• Promote the understanding of American history through interpretation of the site, educational programming, and scholarly research.
• Remove contemporary office and sales (tickets and shop) functions from the main house.
• Upgrade the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems for the National Historic Landmark house and historic garage.
• Install a modern fire prevention and suppression system in the house.
• Create environmentally controlled storage space for the archive and collection.
• Preserve the landscape and living collection.
• Maintain the use of one central mechanical plant to service both the house and the historic garage, which would include the archive and collection storage addition.
• Ensure a safe environment for staff and visitors.

PRINCIPLES OF THE MASTER PRESERVATION PLAN:

• Ensure the preservation of Tudor Place in its entirety – the landmark house, object collection, archive, archaeological resources, and landscape.
• Respect the cultural landscape and ensure no loss of old growth trees or significant plant materials.
• Respect the historic buildings at Tudor Place and the Georgetown Historic District.
• Utilize best practices in terms of building preservation, cultural landscape management, and collections / archival care.
• Ensure that the specifications of the draft preservation plan can be implemented within the scope of anticipated future financial resources without sacrificing necessary maintenance of the house and grounds, ongoing interpretation of the collection, or educational programs for the public.

Tudor Place Foundation takes great care to prevent new construction from adversely impacting the historic structures on the site and the viewsheds from and to the main house. In addition, it is important that any new structure not alter the historic landscape features as outlined by Heritage Landscapes in a Cultural Landscape Report documenting the significant landscape units: the South Lawn, the Service Court, the Dell, and the North Garden.
CURRENT PROPOSED CONCEPT MASTER PLAN FOR
OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD REVIEW

A-1.01