

Press Release January 16, 2024

Contact

Janet Wall

Director of Development & Communications

press@tudorplace.org | 202-580-7323





Ancestral Spaces: People of African Descent at Tudor Place runs February 6 - April 21



Tudor Place Tells the Stories of Enslaved Individuals on A New Tour

WASHINGTON, DC -- Tudor Place Historic House & Garden presents *Ancestral Spaces: People of African Descent at Tudor Place*, a special installation and guided tour that explores the lives of individuals and families of African descent who lived and worked at Tudor Place.

From February 6 through April 21, Tudor Place will be reimagined to show the historic house from the perspective of the enslaved and free individuals for whom it was both home and workplace. Using artifacts, maps, photographs and audio recordings, visitors will explore how these individuals found ways to practice resistance and activism while navigating the irreparable traumas that came from the institution of slavery. The tour will also offer insight into historic Georgetown, which was a diverse landscape that included enslaved and free people of African descent.

"Tudor Place is proud to share this experience that was created in collaboration with descendants," said Executive Director Mark Hudson. "We believe visitors will gain a new perspective on enslavement at our site and in Georgetown," he added.

For this installation, staff collaborated with a group of descendants and stakeholders providing them with decision-making power over the interpretation. The stories of these advisors will also

play an important part in the tour. To augment historical narratives, staff made use of a variety of new sources, including the archaeological dig of an enslaved home space that occurred onsite in May 2022.

Tudor Place was owned by generations of the Peter family between 1805 and 1983. Through the exploitation of hundreds of enslaved individuals, the family built generational wealth through tobacco cultivation and land sales. While members of the family were diligent record-keepers when it came to their own stories, the lives of enslaved people who lived and worked at Tudor Place were mostly erased. This tour will honor the memories of these individuals while expanding the traditional Tudor Place narrative, recognizing the site as a space built on the labor and presence of generations of people of African descent.

Members of the media are invited to a **Press Preview** on **Tuesday, January 30 at 10:30 a.m.** Contact the Tudor Place Press office at press@tudorplace.org for more information.

ABOUT TUDOR PLACE: Tudor Place preserves the stories of six generations of descendants of Martha Washington, and the enslaved and free people who lived and worked here for nearly two centuries. By examining their legacy, we challenge ourselves and our visitors to celebrate the triumphs and to confront the complexities of the past. Open February through December on Tuesday – Sunday for guided tours of the historic house and self-guided garden visits. www.tudorplace.org.

###