

(president), 1762–1763 (president), 1765–1766 (president), 1768 (president 1, died during the 1st session of the 1768–1770 Assembly). OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICES: assistant clerk, Governor's Council, appointed 1713; clerk, Prerogative Office, by 1714/15–July 1718 (resigned); surveyor and searcher, Annapolis, August 1718–July 1734 (resigned), September 1746–death; naval officer, Annapolis, by May 1719, recommissioned July 1733–September 1742 (resigned in favor of his son); commissioner, Paper Currency Office, by December 1733–1734; rent roll keeper of the Western Shore, 1733–1752; joint commissary general, commissioned February 1733/34–1734 (resigned), August 1754–January 1756; sole commissary general, January 1756–December 1758, resigning in favor of his son-in-law *Daniel Dulany, Jr.* (1722–1797); agent and receiver general, commissioned November 1734, November 1742–1753 (resigned); justice, Provincial Court, 1726–1731 (quorum, 1729–1731); one of three agents under the Supply Act of 1740 to provision men for the expedition to the Spanish Indies; one of three agents appointed in July 1746 to recruit and pay volunteers for a military mission to Canada; judge, Land Office, 1746–1747; member, Governor's Council, 1722–death (president 1737, 1741, 1742–death). In his capacity as president of the Council, Tasker acted as chief executive, chancellor, and surveyor general of the Western Shore from Gov. Ogle's death on May 3, 1752, until the arrival of Gov. Sharpe on August 10, 1753. Tasker again acted as chief executive while Sharpe was absent from Annapolis on military duty during the French and Indian War. LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Anne Arundel County, by 1714–1717, 1720 (quorum); churchwarden, St. Anne's Parish, Anne Arundel County, 1714–1715; St. Anne's Parish Vestry, Anne Arundel County, 1715–1717, 1722–1727, 1730–1733; deputy commissary, Anne Arundel County, by 1715–1718; sheriff, Anne Arundel County, 1717–1720; justice, Court of Oyer, Terminer, and Gaol Delivery, Anne Arundel County, 1715, 1716 (quorum), 1720 (quorum), 1728; alderman, Annapolis, 1720, 1754–1766 (inactive 1761–1765, resigned 1766); mayor, Annapolis, 1720–1721, 1725–1726, 1747–1748, 1757–1758. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: contributed to a fund established to send the artist Charles Willson Peale to London to study painting, ca. 1766. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY: Sometime before 1760, Tasker gave his son the one-fifth share in the Baltimore Ironworks. After Benjamin, Jr., died in 1765,

Tasker purchased the share from his estate for £5,200.0.0 sterling. At that time, the company had two forges working and another under construction. ANNUAL INCOME: as agent and receiver general: salary of £150.0.0 sterling per annum; as rent roll keeper of the Western Shore: 5 percent of net amounts paid in by rent roll farmers and collectors in the counties; as surveyor of Annapolis: salary of £60.0.0 per annum (1760 estimate). Tasker also held mortgages and loaned money to men in Maryland and Virginia, including Col. William Byrd and Peyton Randolph. He apparently had some difficulty collecting the interest and principal due him. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: ca. 550 acres in Calvert County (probably all inherited from his father). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: with his wife received the gift of 1 lot in Annapolis from his father-in-law, 1717; purchased 435 acres in Anne Arundel County and 7 lots in Annapolis, 1717–1724 (two of the Annapolis lots were part of his father-in-law's estate and contained his dwelling house); surveyed 7,000 acres in Prince George's (later Frederick) County, 1725, and patented the tract in 1727; between 1725 and 1734 purchased 1,000 acres in Anne Arundel County, ca. 500 acres in Baltimore County, 300 acres in Calvert County, and one-half interest in 2,000 acres in Queen Anne's County, repatented three Anne Arundel County tracts for net gain of 191 acres, sold one-half of a lot in Annapolis, and patented 1,852 acres in Baltimore County, which he immediately deeded to the Baltimore Ironworks; sued successfully in the Chancery Court in 1736 for title to at least 150 acres in Calvert County that had belonged to his father and descended to Benjamin's brother John and his heirs, who had died without progeny, and then gave the land to his son Benjamin, Jr.; between 1735 and 1744 repatented 2 tracts in Anne Arundel County for a net gain of 58 acres, purchased 522 acres in Anne Arundel County, 1 lot in Annapolis, and ca. 1,100 acres in Baltimore County, and sold 1,184 acres in Anne Arundel County and 7,000 acres in Frederick County; between 1745 and 1754 purchased ca. 124 acres in Anne Arundel County and 1 lot in Annapolis, sold 2 lots in Annapolis, and gave 1 lot in Annapolis and at least 500 acres in Anne Arundel County to his son, 1745–1754. In 1753 and 1754, Tasker was paying taxes on 4,734 acres in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Frederick, Prince George's, and Kent counties, and 9 lots in Annapolis. The Kent County land had formerly been part of Queen Anne's County,