

K-157

Dullam's Folly  
near Massey  
mid 18th Century

The first record in the County Courthouse of Philip Davis owning Dullam's Folly is a land division of 1727.<sup>1</sup> In his will probated in 1740, Philip bequeathed 100 acres of Dullam's Folly to his son Samuel Davis. The first bequest, however, was Blackhal's Hermitage, near Chestertown, to his eldest son, Philip, so it is probable that he lived near Chestertown.<sup>2</sup>

Samuel Davis was the same man who was contracted to underpin the Chapel at Shrewsbury Parish in 1745 (near Massey's Crossroads) and was church warden in 1748 and again in 1757. About the time he was vestryman for the first time, he built his dwelling on part of Dullam's Folly which his father had left to him.<sup>3</sup>

It was a 1 1/2 story, hall-parlor plan brick house with principal facade laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above a chamfered water table—a superbly uniform accomplishment. The central door was set in a side frame and had six panels, with the center panels being square. Flanking the entrance were two 9/9 sash windows with paneled shutters. Each of the openings had segmental arches. The rear facade had the same arrangement, but the brickwork was common bond and the arches were made of a row of vertical headers.

The gables had a moderately steep pitch. The northeast gable had a fireplace within and the southwest had a fireplace that was mostly outside. The outline of an early service wing indicates a roof pitch about the same as

the main house, but lower on the southwest gable. Since the gables had no windows, it is safe to assume that the second floor was lighted by dormers only. It would have been very similar to Long Meadow Farm south of Massey.

Beneath the main floor there was a full basement with access from the northeast gable. It was divided into the same spaces as above by a brick partition which extended to the second floor. The northeast chimney had a large deep semicircular arch that supported not only the fireplace above, but also the hearth. Between the two rooms there was a lattice door.

On the first floor, the hall was trimmed out in good 18th century fashion. The northeast wall on which the fireplace was located was fully paneled. To the east of the fireplace there was an enclosed stair and to the west an arched cabinet. The fireplace itself was large and its arched opening was surrounded by a bolection molding with two small panels which reflected the arch as well. The striking similarities in craftsmanship here to the woodwork found at the Adventure, Partner's Addition and Rose Hill raises the possibility that they were in fact the product of the same man or men.

The parlor was finished with a plainer two-part cornice in contrast to the five piece cornice of the hall. The chair rail was higher than the window sills and jogged down to continue across the edge of the sill. The fireplace was finished with only a mantel or molding around its opening. Southwest of the fireplace there was a door to the service wing.

On the second Story there was a corridor and two chambers, the

smaller one having a fireplace.

Samuel Davis, II, grandson of Philip, died in 1790 having two daughters, Frances and Tabitha (the latter being named after his mother) and one son, Samuel. Hannah, his wife and his son-in-law, Nathan N. Wright were executors.<sup>4</sup> The inventory taken in December of 1790 included 28 slaves, lots of silver and 17 horses, along with a copy of "Bacon's Laws", an indication of his profession. The total personal property amounted to \$1428.85.<sup>5</sup>

Samuel Davis, III, an attorney in Kent County, mortgaged his inheritance, totally 460 acres, in 1799,<sup>6</sup> but defaulted in payment thereof. It was sold by order of the Chancery Court in 1811, to Dr. George Gillasspy, a physician who had purchased the mortgage in 1806.<sup>7</sup> In 1826 Dr. Gillasspy sold 254 acres of the farm to Jacob Jones of Washington, D. C. <sup>8</sup>

Jones was to establish himself at the Anchorage, a farm north of Cecilton, which he improved after he had distinguished himself in the Navy. His widow and son sold Dullam's Folly in 1867 to John Benson,<sup>9</sup> a farmer who appears on the 1877 Atlas.

In the 1883 deed the purchase money was to be used to purchase a farm in Queen Annes County for John A. Benson, son of the aforesaid John. In that year the farm was purchased by Samuel Cacy.<sup>10</sup> Cacy died intestate and it descended to his children who sold it in 1900 to Isaac Gibbs.<sup>11</sup> In 1927 Dullam's Folly was purchased by the parents of the present owners.<sup>12</sup>

1. Land Records, Lib. JS 23, fol. 124.
2. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 141.
3. DeProspero, p. 67, 205, 209.
4. Wills, Lib. 7, fol. 294.
5. Inventories, Lib. 9, fol. 207.
6. Land Records, Lib. TW 1, fol. 385.
7. Land Records, Lib. TW 3, fol. 477.  
Land Records, Lib. BC 6, fol. 505.
8. Land Records, Lib. TW 4, fol. 845.
9. Land Records, Lib. JKH 6, fol. 413, 509.
10. Land Records, Lib. SB 5, fol. 293.
11. Land Records, Lib. JTD 3, fol. 131.
12. Land Records, Lib. RRA 10, fol. 357.

K-157

Circa 1750

Samuel Massey House

Circa 1800

Near Massey

Private

Facing southeast toward the Massey-Sassafras road, the brick two-storey Massey house has long been vacant. An almost impenetrable thicket surrounds the main facade and the north end, and the exterior was only partly seen. Nor was permission granted to view the interior, though there is a 1968 report on file that describes the interior in part. When built, the house was 1-1/2 storeys tall and three bays wide, with central entry front and rear, and a hall-and-parlor plan. All openings are now covered with plywood. The southeast facade of the early house, probably dating to the middle of the eighteenth century, was laid in Flemish bond with dark grey headers. Probably in the early nineteenth century the house was raised to its present two-storey height, using the same roof pitch for the new roof. There is an unusual exterior chimney on the south end that was first enclosed within a 1-1/2 storey wing and then in a later shed-roofed kitchen. However, the chimney was originally built as an exterior chimney, probably to provide a fireplace for an originally unheated room. The lower portion of the Massey house appears to be one of the earliest surviving structures in the vicinity. Although the interior paneled end may date from a Federal-period remodeling, it seems to be a fine example of the hand craftsmanship of that period. An exterior chimney in Kent County is a rarity, even though this one seems to be so to correct an earlier omission. A brick raised house is also quite unusual, a rather drastic method of getting more space. The contrast in the brickwork between that of the early house and the raised portion confirm the generalization (though exceptions can be found) that the craft of masonry declined in Kent County during the nineteenth century.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

"NOT FOR PUBLICATION" "NOT FOR GENERAL XEROXING"

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Samuel Massey Farm

## 2. Location

street & number West side Rt. 299 at Alexander Road, 2 miles north of Massey  not for publication

city, town Massey  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Unused

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. &amp; Mrs. Samuel J. Massey, Jr.

street & number 236 Kent Circle telephone no.: 778-3597

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 57

street & number Cross Street folio 832

city, town Chestertown state Maryland 21620

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Site Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 1968  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-157

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Facing southeast toward the Massey-Sassafras road, the brick Massey house has long been vacant. An almost impenetrable thicket surrounds the main facade and the north end. Therefore, the house's exterior was only incompletely seen, nor was the interior seen. When built, it was 1-1/2 stories tall and three bays wide, with central entry both front and rear. All openings are now covered with plywood. The southeast facade of the early house, probably dating to the middle of the eighteenth century, was laid in Flemish bond with dark grey headers. Most of the rest of the old portion is 1-to-3 bond (Liverpool). Probably in the early nineteenth century the house was raised to its present two-story height, using the same roof pitch for the new roof. There is a large north end chimney within the wall and an unusual exterior chimney on the south end that was first enclosed in a 1-1/2 story wing and then in a later shed-roofed kitchen. However, the chimney was originally built to be an exterior chimney as it has weathering and drips.

(Continued)

# 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** Circa 1750 Circa 1800 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

At least the lower portion of the Massey house appears to be one of the earliest surviving structures in the vicinity. Although the interior paneled end may date from a Federal-period remodeling, it seems to be a fine example of the hand craftsmanship of that period. An exterior chimney, as on the south end of this house, is a real rarity in Kent County. Viewing the interior of the house may help ascertain why this one is built asymmetrically. Perhaps it is to accommodate a small second-story firebox, though this does not seem likely. It may also be related to the proximity of an already existing gable-end door to the exterior. A brick 1-1/2 story house raised to two full stories is also extremely unusual and a rather drastic method for gaining more space. The contrast in the brickwork between that of the early house and raised portion confirm the generalization (though there are exceptions) that the craft of masonry in the county declined during the early nineteenth century.

This farm house may be on the tract know in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as Dullam's Folly Resurveyed. It may also include some or all of Bostick's Addition, Draw Near, and Triangle. It was not historically part of the Massey family properties that are so prevalent in this part of the county. Samuel Massey, Sr. and his wife were the first Masseys to own it, and they purchased it in 1927, then living in it only during part of the farming season.

The 1877 atlas map for this section of Kent County shows the farm as belonging to J.(ohn) Benson.



The rear first-storey wall is laid in English bond for the first four courses above the water table, then 1-to-3 (Liverpool). Above the seventh course above the first storey windows' flat arches the brickwork was begun for the added second storey. Thereafter the bond is variable, apparently random: 1-to-4, 1-to-3, 1-to-5 are seen in no particular order. On the entire rear wall, old and new, there seems to have been no attempt to pattern headers. Some are grey or dark, but they are laid randomly. Occasionally there was piecing and filling within courses to get bricks to fit. On the rear wall there are signs of old whitewash. There is a contrast in quality between the brickwork of the first storey and that of the second. The joints of the first storey are scored, though the joints are flush with considerable overlap of mortar onto bricks. The second storey brickwork shows wider, cruder joints that are untooled with much mortar on the brick faces. The north end water table, as in the rear, is laid in 1-to-3 bond, which is continued for the old 1-1/2 storey wall. The brickwork for the added storey is 1-to-5 common. The early roof line can be seen very clearly on this end. There is no evidence of there ever having been a wing on this end.

The water table of the main facade is chamfered (beveled). However, the pieces seem to have been job-site shaped, not molded in that fashion. The water table elsewhere is plain.

Between the south bay and southeast corner of the facade are openings that suggest that a porch was once attached here. A porch this size would have dated from the middle to late nineteenth century. Other openings in the brickwork between first and second storeys suggest the same conclusion. Facade window arches are segmental or three-centered.

There appears to be a cellar under the entire building, with collapsing windows seen in at least each rear side bay. An exterior cellar entry was not seen (certainly no one-time roofed entry remains), but there is some sort of wooden cover on the ground at the east bay of the north end. In the wall of this area there seems to be some sagging, as if a lintel is no longer adequate. Considerable subsidence seems to have affected the house.

The rear entry is boarded and steps are gone. There is an outward-bulging brick infill of eight courses above the present wood lintel, under the possibly original flat header arch. A transom may have been here. In the brickwork near this rear door (about 11" to each side) are small filled areas probably indicating the location of old porch rails, probably the first built.

The rear windows are covered with plywood. However, the deep (c. 5"), molded sill of a first-storey window could be seen. It is roughly two-part, in effect a large bead (or astragal) above a filleted lower area. The second-storey sills appear to be plain. While the rear first-storey windows have flat header arches, the rear second-storey windows have no arches.

The roof is covered with green asphalt shingles over wood shingles. The asphalt shingles are now deteriorating, exposing much of the old wood  
(continued)

shingling. Because of the growth in the front, only the rear cornice could be seen. It resembles that seen at Timber Wick (K-161), having four courses of corbelling (inherently of all headers). At the north end are flush vergeboards that are replacements.

An exterior chimney in an early Kent County building is a rarity. This chimney was built to stand outside, but it may be later than the 1-1/2 storey early building since the east end of the chimney slightly covers part of the brickwork of the south end's east bay entry. The house may have been with one room heated (the north room) and one room not, with a later decision to build a south fireplace. When there was a wing, presumably frame, at this south end, it could not use this chimney for an open fire, but there is a high opening with a round flue tile in it, for a stove. The chimney is asymmetrical below the first (i.e. face) weathering and drip. It continues down straight-sided then on the east until a side drip and weathering. However, on the west end the outward slope with weathering begins immediately and changes pitch, becoming shallower, at a lower point with another drip course, approximately even horizontally with that of the east end. There is a water table on the chimney ends but not on the face.

Michael Bourne, doing survey work for the Maryland Historical Trust in 1968, saw the interior of this house. Excerpts from his report follow:

"The Massey House is one of those small derelict houses which still has its original paneling and woodwork. The 'Great Hall' has one end [presumably the northeast end] fully paneled to the ceiling with an enclosed stair on one side and an arched cupboard on the other side of a large fireplace. The original trim around the fireplace was replaced in the Federal period by a good mantel with fluted pilasters. In each of the two triangular spaces above the arched fireplace and below the trim are small false panels identical to the work at Rich Hill (K-127), close by. Keystones set off the trim around the arched cupboard. Leading to the door on the stair is a fine small close-string stair with turned balusters and square fluted newel post. There is a very heavy cornice around the ceiling; and the chair rail jogs down to the level of the window sill. The second room, which was the dining room, when last used, had its chair rail strip[p]ed long ago. Its cornice is plain and consists of a beaded fascia and crown molding. A late Federal mantel surrounds the fireplace. Between the two rooms is a mutilated six-panel door with heavy trim surrounding it. None of the 18th century hardware remains. . . . Portions of the original east door [to the exterior] remain; it was a six-panel door with herringbone battens on the interior having the nails which hold the battens in place, evenly spaced around the panels. Above the door is an area, now bricked in, which was a transom. Foundations of an early porch remain. [now gone] The door is flanked by a tall window in each side, now having 9/6 sash and shutters with louvered top and paneled bottom dating from the 19th century." Further: "In the basement is a huge semicircular brick arch supporting the fireplace and hearth. Also a lattice-work door separates the two rooms of the basement."

The interior should be photographed. Attempts will continue to be made for permission to visit the interior.

1. STATE Maryland  
 COUNTY Kent  
 TOWN Massey VICINITY  
 STREET NO. Rt. 299 & Wilson's pt. Rd.

ORIGINAL OWNER  
 ORIGINAL USE dwelling  
 PRESENT OWNER Mrs. Samuel Massey Sr.  
 PRESENT USE vacant  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION brick  
 NO. OF STORIES two

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY K - 157

2. NAME MASSEY HOUSE

DATE OR PERIOD c. 1740 and c. 1800  
 STYLE colonial & federal  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

The Massey House is one of those small derelict houses which still has its original paneling and woodwork. The "Great Hall" has one end fully paneled to the ceiling with an enclosed stair on one side and an arched cupboard on the other side of a large fireplace. The original trim around the fireplace was replaced in the Federal period by a good mantel with fluted pilasters. In each of the two triangular spaces above the arched fireplace and below the trim are small false panels identical to the work at Rick Hill, <sup>(K-127)</sup> closeby. Keystones set off the trim around the arched cupboard. Leading to the door on the stair is a fine small close-string stair with turned balusters and square fluted newel post. There is a very heavy cornice around the ceiling; and the chair rail jogs down <sup>to</sup> ~~at~~ the level of the window sill. The second room, which was the dining room, when last used, had its chair rail striped long ago. Its cornice is plain and consists of a <sup>beaded</sup> ~~^~~ fascia and crown molding. A late Federal mantel surrounds the fireplace. Between there two rooms is a mutilated six-panel door with heavy trim surrounding it. None of the 18th century hardware remains.

Originally the house was built as a 1½ story brick dwelling with glazed headers in the Flemish bond, a chamfered water table on the east facade while the other sides are laid in common bond and have a stepped water table. Portions of the

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered yes Interior poor Exterior poor



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD Sept. 1968

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

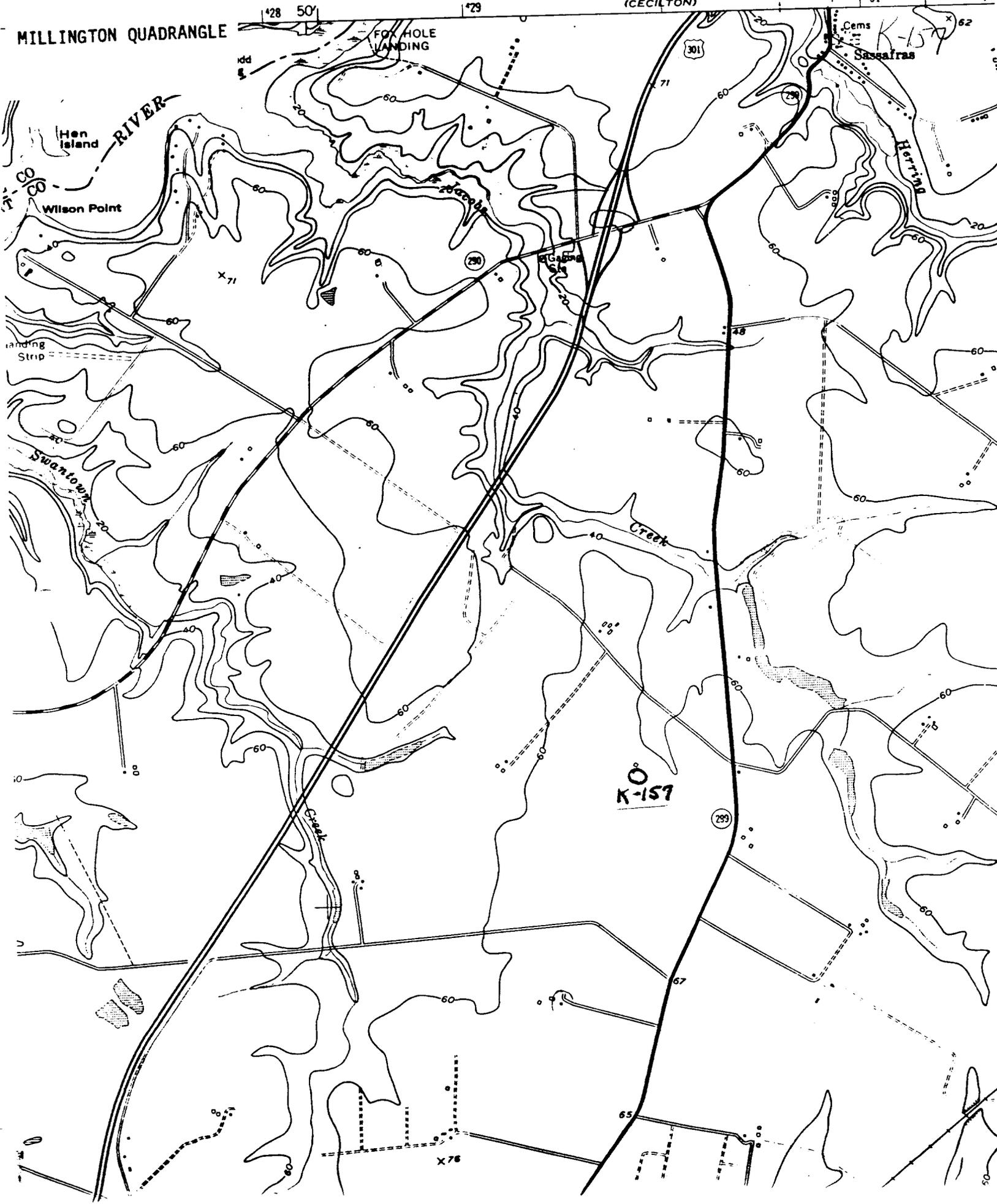
original east door remain; it was a six-panel door with herringbone battens on the interior having the nails ~~with~~ which hold the battens in place, evenly spaced around the panels. Above the door is an area, now bricked in, which was a transom. <sup>the</sup> Foundations of an early porch remain. The door is flanked by a tall window on each side, now having 9/6 sash and shutters with louvered top and paneled bottom dating from the 19th century. The windows have flat arches of alternate glazed and unglazed headers on each facade. Two small windows on each facade light the basement. ~~At/originally~~

The house originally had an "A" roof, as can be traced in the gables, and it was raised one complete story (without dormers) in the early 19th century. The brickwork was not matched to the old work and there is a stepped brick cornice typical of the early 19th century in this area of the eastern Shore. On the north gable is a large chimney within the wall serving two fireplaces, while the chimney on the south protrudes from the face of the gable and serves only one fireplace. Two small windows in each gable light the attic. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A 20th ~~ce~~ century leanto kitchen is attached to the south gable, although an outline of an earlier "A" roof wing can be seen.

*Semi circular* The basement entrance is located on the north gable. In the basement is a huge brick arch supporting the fireplace and hearth. Also a lattice-work door separates the two rooms of the basement.

The house is surrounded by a circle of locust trees <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ is otherwise in the middle of a field.

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE





K-157

Samuel Massey Farm

Rt. 299, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/30/86

View to north

1c 156-2c



K-157

Samuel Massey Farm

Rt. 299, near Sassafras

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/30/86

View to northeast

4

C III ~~A-X~~ A-Y