

K-160

Circa 1820-1840

Godomar

Near Massey

Private

The large brick house at Godomar, on the west side of Route 299 less than a mile north of Massey, was built in a late Federal style in three sections, all apparently contemporaneously, between about 1820 to 1840. Considered together, without the infill rear porch, an irregular U was formed in the rear. The house has two facades. The main, east-facing facade is five bays wide and 2-1/2 storeys tall, with main entry in the central bay leading to a central hall. The irregular three-bay, south-facing facade is also 2-1/2 storeys tall and intersects the main facade at the southeast corner, where the two roofs. A kitchen with servants' quarters is to the rear of the east-facing section and covered by a long shed roof. The house at Godomar is probably unique in its form and floor plan among Kent County houses, certainly among houses of its period that survive. The origin of the plan is not known. The house appears to be built on the site of an older dwelling, with part of the foundation (east wall) reused. This house is probably a reflection of the agricultural prosperity that returned to Kent County during the second quarter of the nineteenth century after a period of agricultural depression that related to poor farming practices, changing markets, the growth of the West, and international problems. Especially with the adoption of "scientific farming" principles, the area returned to the productivity that it was basically capable of, for this is an area of good, well-drained soils. A number of houses were built up and down the same road during the same period that are very similar in some respects--stairs, trim, fenestration, wall construction, and form. Were it not for the unusual secondary wing and kitchen extension, the house at Godomar would be almost exactly like the others.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Godomar (preferred), God's Gracious Acres

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West side Rt. 299, .9 mile north of Massey ___ not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<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
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name CAG Farms, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 137 telephone no.: 928-3253

city, town Massey state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 75

street & number Cross Street folio 864

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Site Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 11, 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-160

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 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.

The large brick house at Godomar, on the west side of Route 299 less than a mile north of Massey, was built in a late Federal style in three sections, all apparently contemporaneously, from about 1820 to 1840. Considered together, without the infill rear porch, an irregular U was formed in the rear. The house has two facades, the main east-facing facade that is five bays wide and 2-1/2 stories tall, with main entry in the central bay leading to a central hall. The openings are symmetrically arranged, with even spacing, and windows are aligned from first story to the second. One room is on each side of the hall, but the south corner room (whose south wall forms part of the secondary, south facade) is not entered in the usual location from the hall, near the entry. The south facade has three bays on both stories, with openings aligned from first story to second, but they are not evenly spaced horizontally. The center door (with window above) is off-center to the east, with entry into the front corner room, which the east window lights. This southeast corner room probably was the family parlor, with the room across the hall to the north, part of the main-facade section the company parlor, though there is a possibility that it was the dining room originally. The west room whose south wall makes up part of the south facade is now the kitchen, but perhaps earlier the dining room. The original room arrangement is unclear. Behind the northern portion of the main facade, to the west of the front room north of the hall, is a section covered by a shed roof continuous from the roof ridge of the front-facing facade section. This section, now a garage, was originally the kitchen, with servants' quarters on the second story reached through a stair in the southeast corner of the kitchen (now gone). The end of the kitchen wing formerly extended farther northward than it does at present; how much was removed is not known. The small space between the three sections has been enclosed (and extended westward) and covered with a shed roof that is continuous with that of the kitchen wing. A shed dormer in this section lights the servants' quarters. There may have been a second such dormer at one time, farther to the north. On the interior there is a principal central hall of the main section on the first and second stories, with the stair from first to second. However, at the second floor level is a secondary hall, perpendicular to the central hall, located approximately over the secondary entry area of the south facade. It contains the doors to the south bedrooms and a stair to the third story. This hall is tall, open to the third floor's ceiling. Access to the entire third story is via this stair. The roofs of the two, large, main sections are gable at their ends but hipped where they meet at the southeast corner.

(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 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Circa 1820-1840 **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.

The house at Godomar is probably unique in its floor plan among Kent County houses, certainly among houses of its period that survive. The origin of the plan is not known. The house appears to be built on the site of an older dwelling, with part of the foundation (east wall) reused. This house is probably a reflection of the agricultural prosperity that returned to Kent County during the second quarter of the nineteenth century after a period of agricultural depression that related to poor farming practices, changing markets, the growth of the West, and international problems. Especially with the adoption of the "scientific farming" principles preached for a time only by a few, the area returned to the productivity that it was basically capable of, for this is an area of good, well-drained soils. A number of houses were built up and down the same road during the same period that are very similar in some respects--stairs, trim, fenestration, wall construction, and form. Were it not for the unusual secondary wing and kitchen extension, the house at Godomar would be almost exactly like the others.

(Continued)

A cellar is beneath the southern portion of the building only, the section whose axis is east-west, including the portion above which the southeast corner room is located. Most of the joists run north-south except for a change of direction in the center as begins to be seen during the 1820-40 period underneath central halls, where (sometimes supported on one side by a cellar partition wall of the foundation material) joists run a short distance the other way with the long joists on either side into which they are headed supported by a central pier. This sort of framing does suggest that there was once an enclosed hall running from the south facade's central (but off-center) entry to the door now across an open room that opens to the central hall. The cellar is, in fact, divided by a north-south brick cross wall that continues up through the living area above. It is at the front, east wall of this cellar area that the evidence becomes confusing. Part of the wall there seems to be an old foundation, and the joists above have been interrupted and redone in sections. Part of the front wall is stone. No clear reason could be found for this. Underlying the central hall and the north front room is a crawl space. The old kitchen area under the shed roof has had its floor removed and a concrete floor poured at ground level.

The house at Godomar was probably built by a member of the Massey family, which had been landholders in the area since the late seventeenth century. Several of the farms nearby are still owned by a Massey, though not this one, which is now part of a large, multiple-farm operation raising a variety of vegetables and other crops. The house is rented. In 1860, according to Martenet's map of Kent County of that year, the house belonged to R. B. M. Massey, with other Massey family holdings nearby. By 1877, the year of the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas with election-district maps of Kent County, the farm was owned by Dr. Charles H. B. Massey. Massey was trained as a physician but evidently never practiced, preferring instead to manage his multiple farm holdings. In 1877, among others, he also owned the farm to the north (Belmont, K-159), where he is said to have lived, and the farm to the south, the old house for which is now gone.

The crossroads village that grew up to the south, at the junction of the Millington-Sassafras road (a major north-south route from Queen Anne's County through Kent into Cecil County) with the Galena-Duck Creek, Delaware, road for logical reasons became known as Massey's Crossroads and is still known as the village of Massey, with its own post office. In the late nineteenth century it became the location of the junction of the Kent and Queen Anne's Railroad with the Kent County Railroad and enjoyed a period of growth for a time thereafter.

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent TOWN Massey VICINITY STREET NO. Rt. 299, 1 mile north of Massey (west) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Garrett F. Turner PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 2½	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY K - 160 2. NAME Godomar (or God's Gracious Acres) DATE OR PERIOD c. 1820 STYLE Federal ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

Godomar was built on part of "Massey's Adventure" which was an early land grant from Lord Baltimore in the 17th century. The present structure dates from the first quarter of the 19th century and has one of the most unusual floor plans found in Kent County. It has two facades set at right angles to each other, like a house located on the corner of a city block. The east facade is five bays long with central door, 2½ storys with the south side of the roof hipped to receive the 'L', while the north side has a regular gable with enclosed chimney. Two dormers light the attic which have 6/6 sash, fluting and corner blocks. Above the other windows are tall flat arches and the sash are 9/9 and 9/6 on first and second storys respectively. The south facade is only three bays long and has a center door, two dormers on the roof, as the east facade and a hipped east side to receive the other hipped portion of the roof. This facade is the only wall laid in Flemish bond; others are laid in common bond. A chimney is located on the west gable and another, slightly north of the intersection of the hipped roof.

Behind the stair hall and north room is a leanto roof which covers the present garage (originally the kitchen) and a porch, which is directly behind the hall and which extends farther than the garage wall and is supported by one brick pier.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered no Interior good Exterior good

 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. 11, 1968

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

This arrangement enables the porch to be two full stories on the inner wall, thus the stair landing window looks onto the porch but no farther since the roof extends so far out and close to the ground in catslide fashion.

Originally the garage was longer than it is presently, but the present owners made it smaller for convenience. Looking at the gable of the kitchen or garage lean-to, there is only one slope to the roof. The kitchen fireplace and chimney was supposed to have been in the northwest corner.

On the north-south axis, there are two rooms divided by the stair hall, which stairs go only to the second floor. The other flight to the attic are located in a small hall above the south room. Both stairs are open string and have rounded rails, beaded square balusters, and turned pine newel posts.

On the east-west axis, there are only two rooms; the present kitchen and the same room called the south room above. This room is entered from outside thru the center door of the south facade.

Most of the chair rail, trim and mantels are original throughout. The house is kept in very good condition. There is only one tree on the lawn, a large holly. Also there are remnants of some large boxwood.

Godemar was built on ~~the~~ part of "Massey's Adventure" which was an early land grant from Lord Baltimore in the 17th Century. The present structure dates from the 1st quarter of the 19th Century and ~~is~~ ^{has} one of the most unusual floor plans found in Kent County. It has 2 facades set at right angles to each other, ~~the~~ ~~about~~ like a house located on the corner of a block. The east facade is 5 bays long with central door, 2nd ~~floor~~ stories with the south side of the roof hipped to receive the **L**, while the north side has a regular gable with enclosed chimney, 2 dormers light the attic which have $\frac{1}{6}$ sash, fluting and corner blocks. Above the windows ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~flat~~ ^{are} flat arches and the sash are $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{6}$ on 1st & 2nd floors respectively. The south facade is only 3 bays long and has a center door, 2 dormers on the roof, as the east facade and a hipped east side ^{to} receive the other roof. This facade is the only one laid in **Thin** sand white all others are laid in **Common** sand. A chimney is located on the west gable and another, slightly north of the intersection of the ~~the~~ hipped roof.

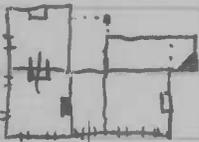
Behind the stair hall & north room is a lean-to roof which covers the present garage (originally the kitchen) and a porch, directly behind the hall which extends farther than the kitchen wall and is supported by ~~one~~ ^{one} brick pier. This arrangement makes the porch to be 2 full stories, ~~the~~ the stair landing window looks out the porch but no farther since the view is cut off by the continuing outside roof.

Originally the garage was ~~still~~ longer than it is now but the present owners made it smaller for convenience.

On the North-South axis, there are 2 rooms divided by the stair hall, which stair goes only to the 2nd ~~story~~ floor. The other flight to the attic is in a small hall above the south room. ~~The~~ Both stairs are open stairs and have rounded rails, headed square balusters turned pine newel posts.

Most chair rail, trim and moldings are original throughout

thus



Name ~~Godomer~~ - Godomer - (God's Creation Area) MHT# K-160

Location Kent COUNTY Massey town

At 299 - 1 mile north of Massey address or road#

First owner of record Massey family DATE

Present owner Garrett F. Turner DATE

Address Massey Maryland

Parcel or Deed #

Original use dwelling

Present use dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates

Long. & Lat. reading

Style Federal

Date(s) of construction c. 1800 - 1820

Architect

Builder

DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2 NUMBER of stories brick type wall construction

Foundation-basement flesh with walls

Wall construction- brick - laid - Flemish bond on S facade - common on other sides

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls

NO decorative work integral to wall -

flat arches above windows.

Chimneys One on North gable, one on West gable - one in

Center

Name GodomarMHT# K-160

Entrance type & placement on E facade + ~~1/2~~ center ~~1/2~~ 5 bays
 with transom & frame with corner blocks in center of 3 bays
on S. facade

Windows 9/4 on 1st floor - 9/6 on 2nd floor - flat arches of
 brick - ~~brick~~ ~~stone~~ Arches taller than usual

Shutters 1Roof type A covering wood shingleCornice, eaves wood with four moldingDormers, cupolas "A" roof with blocks + fluted area beneath - 2on each facade - flat headed dormer on W + side of roof

Porches behind center hall - under catwalk roof of rear section
with corner brick post

Wings, hyphens lean-to or catwalk section now used as garage

Interior:

Stairway open string with rounded rail - beaded squarebalusters - beautiful drops - pine turned panels - continuous railDoors also open stair to attic - very unusual.Trim

Other notable work

floor plan is noteworthy +
catwalk + porch + stairs

Name Godomar MHT# K-160

Physical condition good

Environment farm - large hilly tree - some large box

References:

MHT Color slide # _____

MHT B & W # _____

Owner contacted Mrs. Turner

OTHER: _____

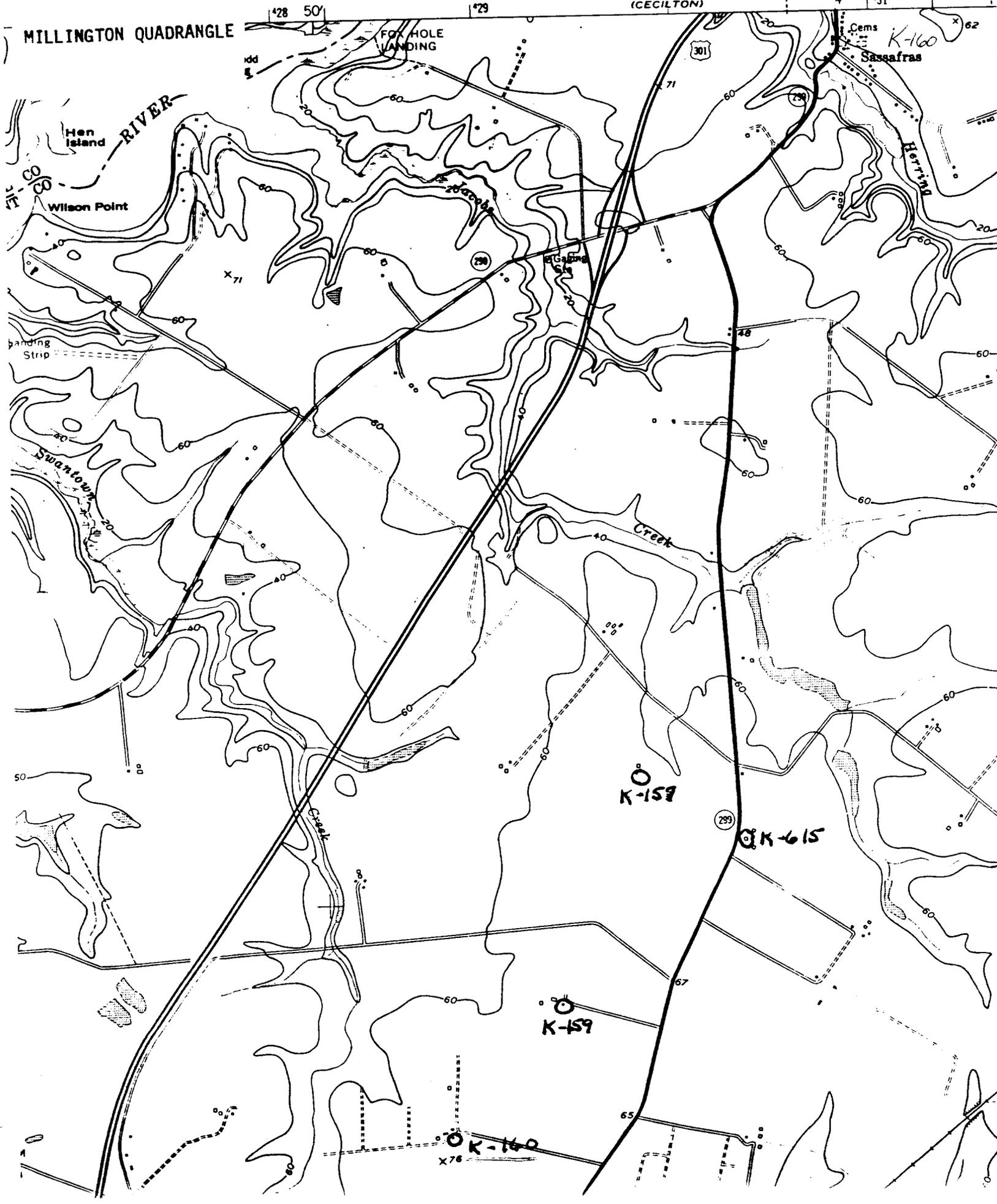
Recorder Michael Bourne

Date Sept 11, 1968

Summary: (Possibly for Rent)

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan, and angle of photos, etc.

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE





K160-19

K-160

Godomar

Rt. 299, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/30/86

View to northwest



K160-14

K-160

Godomar

Rt. 299, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/30/86

View to east

MHT