

K-164

1883

St. Clement's Church of North Kent Parish

Massey

Private

St. Clement's Church of North Kent Parish is located on the north side of the Massey-Delaware road a short distance east of the Massey village crossroads. This is the second site for the church, which formerly had a church farther to the east on the same side of the road. A burial ground lies to the east. Built of brick in 1883, each section is one storey tall, but most roofs are very tall and steep. It is sited with the three-bay-wide gable end toward the public road. Entry is through an enclosed gable-roofed porch. A brick tower with belfry rises from a west "buttress" extension that is continuous with the wall of the gable end. The nave is three bays deep, with the bays separated by vestigial buttresses. To the north of the nave section is a gable-roofed chancel section with sacristy extension under a shed roof to its west. St. Clement's Church is not a building that is in the Kent County tradition of vernacular church building, and it resembles no other church in the county. Though there is now no information about the circumstances of the building of the church, it is clear that the parish either selected a plan that might have been available to Episcopal churches, perhaps from an already-built building, or an architect was specifically engaged to design the church. It is known that when this parish was rebuilding its Millington chapel after the Millington fire of 1904, the architect was the architect of the Diocese of Delaware (not the diocese to which this parish belonged, however). Though sophisticated by comparison to most county churches, the plan is nonetheless one for a rural church. It is clearly in the Victorian Gothic Revival tradition, with its very steep gable roofs, belfry, narrow slit-like windows, and vestigial buttresses. The direction for church architecture clearly was upwards toward the heavens--the higher and more pointed the better. The style was in accordance with Kent County tastes in the 1880s. That decade seems to have been the peak building period locally for vernacular Gothic Revival houses that had steep roofs and overhanging eaves with unboxed cornices, very pointed central gables, and spire roof finials, tall dormers, and other contributory details. The church reflects the popular taste of the times as well as the architect's preferences.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Clement's Protestant Episcopal Church of North Kent Parish

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number North side Massey-Delaware Rd., 2 miles east of Rt. 299 not for publication

city, town Massey  vicinity of First congressional district

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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name North Kent Parish Protestant Episcopal Church

street & number telephone no.: 928-3081

city, town Massey state and zip code Maryland 21650

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber SB 5

street & number Cross Street folio 60

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Site Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 1968  federal  state  county  local

repository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. K-164

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

St. Clement's Church of North Kent Parish is located on the north side of the Massey-Delaware road a short distance east of the Massey village crossroads. This is the second site for the church, which formerly has a church farther to the east on the same side of the road. A burial ground lies to the east, but it is not controlled by the church though it is mostly church members who are buried there. The building is a professionally-designed Victorian Gothic Revival church built of brick in 1883. Each section is one three-bay-wide gable end toward the public road. Entry is through an enclosed gable-roofed porch. A brick tower with belfry rises from a west "buttress" extension that is continuous with the wall of the gable end. The nave is three bays deep. To the north of the nave section is a gable-roofed chancel section with sacristy extension under a shed roof to its west.

(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 checked="" 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 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 1883

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 parish church of North Kent Parish, St. Clement's Church in the village of Massey, is not a building that is in the Kent County tradition of vernacular church building, and it resembles no other church in the county. Though there is now no information about the circumstances of the building of the church, it is clear that the parish either selected a plan that might have been available to Episcopal churches, perhaps from an already-built building, or an architect was specifically engaged to design the church. It is known that when this parish was rebuilding its Millington chapel after the Millington fire of 1904, the architect was the architect of the Diocese of Delaware (not the diocese to which this parish belonged, however). Though sophisticated by comparison to most county churches, the plan is nonetheless one for a rural church. It is clearly in the Victorian Gothic Revival tradition, with its very steep gable roofs, belfry, narrow slit-like windows, and vestigial buttresses. The direction for church architecture clearly was upwards toward the heavens—the higher and more pointed the better. The style was in accordance with Kent County tastes in the 1880s. That decade seems to have been the peak building period locally for vernacular Gothic Revival houses that had steep roofs and overhanging eaves with unboxed cornices, very pointed central gables, and spire roof finials, tall dormers, and other contributory details. Besides reflecting his own probable preferences, the architect undoubtedly gave parishioners what they wanted, a building that looked like they thought a church should look.

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The building is a dated one. The date 1883 is incised in a stone above the "rose" window of the approach gable end, which faces south.

Each side of the nave has three unusually narrow, pointed windows that are not exceptionally tall. They are more slit-like than usually seen in local churches, intended to be reminiscent of European cathedral windows surrounded by stone walls. They have geometric-patterned colored glass. Their exterior sills are of precast concrete. Accentuating the sides' bay divisions and also reminiscent of medieval cathedrals are vestigial buttresses. There are four per side, including the corners, though the buttress at the southwest corner is greatly enlarged and extended to be the base for a tower and belfry. The belfry is open, with a round-headed, solid, through-arch of brick. The belfry roof is exceptionally steep. Below the belfry the brick wall has a recessed panel of brick, with corbelling.

The brickwork is unusual. The bond essentially appears to be running bond, but periodically there is a course of Flemish bond, as every eight or nine courses. The brick is a quite deep orangey-red and quite uniform. Behind the tower is a brick with the name of the probable mason contractor responsible for the brickwork --or perhaps it is the name of the general contractor: L. M. Boon. The mortar originally appears to have been very white. Some areas appear to have been repointed with darker mortar, and other areas have been discolored by the growth of moss. Some areas appear to be suffering from the "rising damp," particularly on the west side. There is unusual decorative painting of some courses, presumably prescribed by the architect and periodically repainted, though in some areas it is now almost eroded. Several courses of brick have been painted at window sill level, and additional painting done near window-top level that arches over each window. There is also a course painted above the water table. The foundation is of parged brick; it is plain and unmolded. One brick of the water table is exposed above the parged area. There is apparently no cellar despite the entry doors on the west side. It evidently is dug out there to a depth of four or five feet, just sufficient for floor furnaces to be used. The only chimney, a large one, is in the vicinity of the opening, and it is the only one at the church. It may represent original construction and indicate that one or more furnaces were installed originally. Most churches at this time were heated by stoves, usually one per side, but there is no sign of there ever having been another chimney on the building.

The interior is high ceilinged, but the ceiling does not follow the shape of the exterior roof, nor is it shaped in the common manner of Kent County churches--following the rafters upward to the tie beams and then finished straight across on their undersides. The roof is gambrel-shaped, with large panels of dark-stained tongue-and-groove board, with "bosses" at the panel junctions. It seems likely that some sort of truss system is employed between ceiling and roof. The chancel area is unusually large for a Kent County church, but in keeping with Episcopalianism. It has a lower gambrel ceiling.

The history of St. Clement's Protestant Episcopal Church is really a continuation of the history of Shrewsbury Chapel (see report for K-612) and the first St. Clement's Church building. When the parishes were laid out in Maryland at the end of the seventeenth century, Shrewsbury Parish included the whole upper county area, at the time actually part of Cecil County. In fact, the official name of what has become known as Shrewsbury Parish is really South Sassafras Parish. The church was not established in a location that convenient for parishioners in the upper county from Massey itself it is about 10 miles to the parish church. It was not long before they requested that a chapel of ease be established. Land was purchased for this purpose in 1739 on the Massey-Delaware road west of Pudding Branch. This road was one of the major roads of the colonial period, described as leading from Georgetown in Kent County to Duck Creek in Pennsylvania (i.e. to near Smyrna in Delaware). Work was begun on a wooden chapel. The land was added to in 1769, with a total of 4-1/2 acres acquired. Despite the general debility of the new Protestant Episcopal Church after the Revolutionary War, when it was to some extent in disfavor for its English connections and when it no longer derived any of its support from taxation in Maryland, Shrewsbury Parish undertook to begin a better and larger chapel near Massey in 1790. It was on the site of the old one. However, it was not really finished and properly repaired until 1842, and in the meantime the parish had sometimes seemed near extinction. The group meeting near Massey's Crossroads then began to request independence from Shrewsbury so they might govern their own affairs and also call their own minister. In 1851 the request of the diocese was finally granted, and a first, independent vestry was elected for the newly independent North Kent Parish.

For several years, however, there was no progress. No rector could be secured, on the one hand because the proffered salary was inadequate and on the other hand because the parish had no rectory. The church was closed and the lot trespassed upon. Finally, in 1854 the Rev. Frank L. Knight, the rector of North Sassafras Parish in Cecil County, agreed to officiate periodically. At this time the parish had a total of 17 communicants. However, encouraged, the members repaired the church and refurnished the chancel. In 1855 it was finally consecrated by the Bishop of Maryland and officially named St. Clement's, though to be in honor of the Rev. Clement F. Jones, rector of Chester Parish who in the 1840s had produced a sizable amount of money to fully pay off the church's building repairs debts.

For a number of years from before the Civil War to afterwards the church records appear to have been lost. However, the perennial question of the basic condition of the old 1790 building continually came up. In addition, there was feeling that the church was located too far from the village of Massey itself, though it does seem that most parishioners of this church were farmers. The local church tradition holds, though there is no written record to support it, that in 1882 Dr. Charles H. B. Massey, one of the committee appointed to investigate whether the parish should repair or build, said that the only way to get a new church was for his family to put up one-third, for the Boyer and Cacy family to put up one-third, and for the rector to get the other third. In December, 1885, the new church was consecrated, within sight but closer to Massey. The land had been sold to the church for \$100 by Dr.

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Massey. Where the vestry acquired the plan for the church is not known. It surely was built from a professional's plan.

The parish has always been a relatively small one in numbers, though there have been periods of particular strength. Not long after the building of the new St. Clement's Church in Massey, the Millington contingent became strong enough to have a chapel built in Millington. However, it was lost during the 1904 fire that destroyed much of the town. By 1905, however, a new chapel was built on the other side of the street (K-594). One of the parish's problems now is how to maintain the large number of buildings it owns: St. Clement's Church, the Chapel of the Holy Cross, a rectory, and a church hall behind St. Clement's Church.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Massey</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Massey-del. Line Road, east of</u> <u>town, (north)</u>  ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>religious</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>St. Clements Episcopal Church</u> PRESENT USE <u>religious</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>one</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-164</u>	
2. NAME <u>St. Clement's Episcopal Church</u>  DATE OR PERIOD <u>1883</u> STYLE <u>Gothic Revival</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>yes</u></span>			
<p>St. Clements Episcopal Church, Massey, was constructed in 1883 in the Gothic Revival style, although more devious than the earlier churches of that style. It is a typical small brick country church with steeply pitched "A" roof, a lower portion over the sanctuary with a leanto off of that. It differs however in its use of rows of black stretchers at the level of the water table and window sill, around the arches and in two other rows above the lancet windows, <sup>and</sup> Around the rose window and the vent above, in the south gable (entrance facade). Black stretchers are also used in the bell tower which is cantilevered <del>out</del> from the south gable and has an open recess with bell and "A" roof covering. The double gothic doors are reached thru an open vestibule which has open balustrade on each side, much like a medieval porch.</p> <p>The church is kept in good repair. Presently they are building a Church house behind the structure.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <u>no</u> Interior    Exterior <u>good</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u>  DATE OF RECORD <u>September, 1968</u>	

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



Name St. Clements Episcopal Church MHT# K-164

Location Kent COUNTY Massey town

Massey - Delaware line Road  
address or road#

First owner of record \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Present owner St. Clements Episcopal Church DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Address Massey, Md.

Parcel or Deed # \_\_\_\_\_

Original use Religious

Present use Religious

Md. Map Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

Long. & Lat. reading \_\_\_\_\_

Style Gothic Revival

Date(s) of construction 1883

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Builder \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION:

1 NUMBER of stories brick type wall construction

Foundation-basement w/ cement

Wall construction - brick - all stretch

use of black stretch strings at water table - sill, above Arches

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls  
& 2 arcs above - & arched window (Rose) + at Apex vent - also

on brick balcony which is cantilevered + raised with open ball + 4 corials

Chimneys one brick chim about mid-way on W side

Name \_\_\_\_\_ MHT# K-164Entrance type & placement Center - into double doors +↑ opens arch panelWindows medium girth - stain glass retays - stone sillsbeehive mullin in Rose window -

Shutters \_\_\_\_\_

Roof type A very steep covering decorative slateCornice, eaves overhang - no decoration - plain bargeDormers, cupolas noPorches vestibule with window like a balustrade open areaWings, hyphens low area over sanctuary - + lean-to -

Interior:

Stairway \_\_\_\_\_

Doors \_\_\_\_\_

Trim \_\_\_\_\_

Other notable work \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ MHT# K-164

Physical condition good

Environment country - small town, fields across street + behind church - in process of erecting church house.

References:

MHT Color slide # \_\_\_\_\_

MHT B & W # \_\_\_\_\_

Owner contacted \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

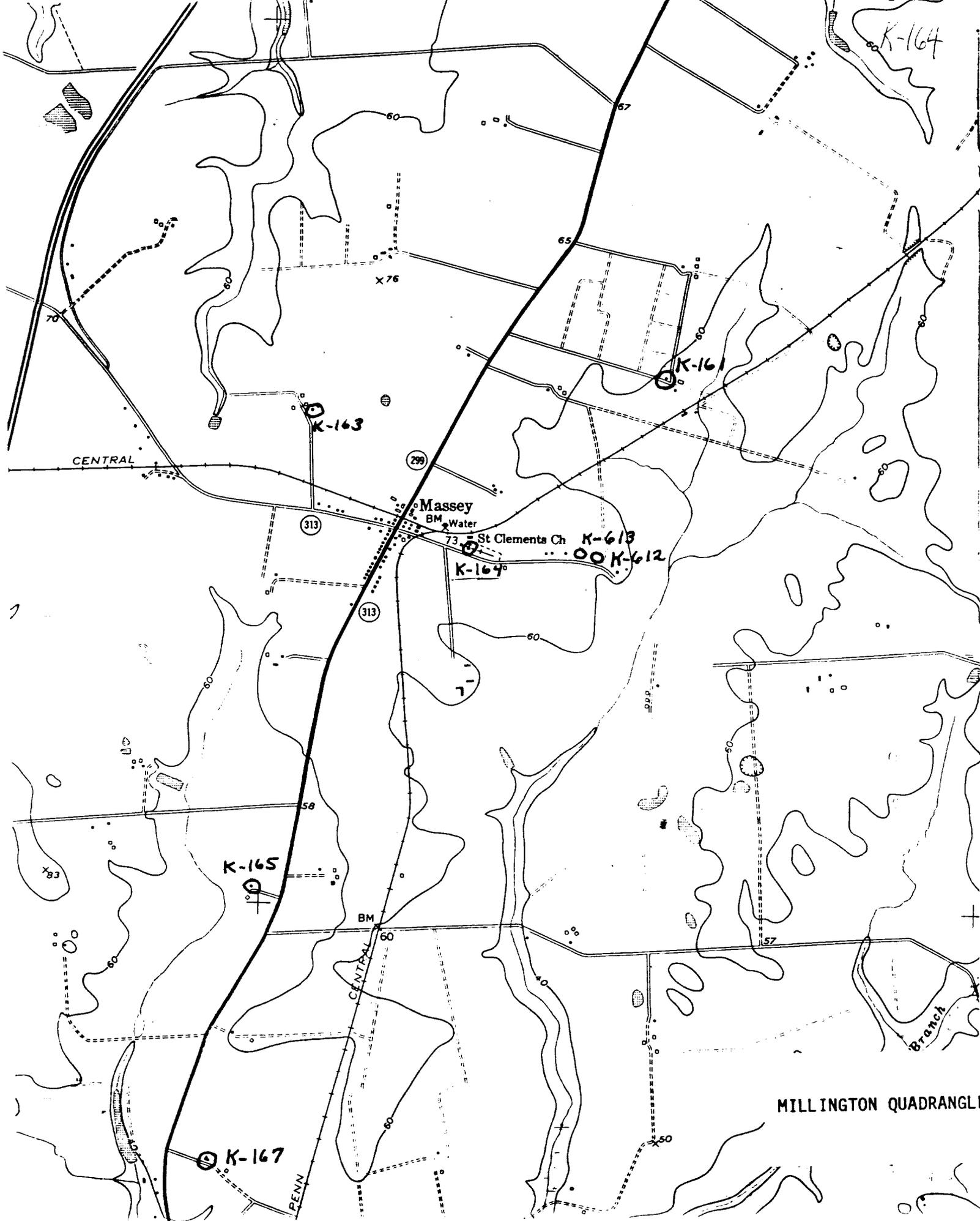
Recorder Michael Bourne

Date Sept, 1968

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

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

St. Clements Episcopal Church, Massey, was constructed in 1883 in the Gothic Revival style, although ~~not~~ more ~~divers~~ <sup>diverse</sup> than the earlier Gothic Revival churches. It is a typical small <sup>brick</sup> country church with steeply pitched <sup>roof</sup> ~~roof~~, ~~and~~ a lower portion over the sanctuary with a lean to ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> that. It differs however in its use of ~~rows~~ <sup>rows</sup> of black ~~stone~~ stretchers at the level of the water table and window sill, above the orders and in 2 other rows above the lowest window. Above the Rose window, is the south gable (entrance facade) [and the north ~~entrance~~]. Black stretchers are also used in the bell tower which is cantilevered out from the south gable and has an open recess with bell and <sup>roof</sup> ~~roof~~ coping. The double gable doors are reached through an open vestibule which has open balustrade on each side, much like a medieval porch.



MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-164

St. Clement's Episcopal Church  
Massey-Delaware Line Rd., Massey  
M. Q. Fallaw - 12/26/86  
View to southeast

K164  
#29

6 sec w/ burn



K-164

St. Clement's Episcopal Church

Massey-Delaware Line Rd., Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 12/26/86

View to northeast

base

#5

K164