

MSB 6/26/06

K-165

Long Meadow or Valhalla near Massey 2nd quarter 18th Century

Long Meadow Farm was created in 1720 by the sale of 200 acres out of a 3000 acre patent called Partnership (1). William Johnson, plater, purchased it from the well-known merchant and statesman, Richard Bennett of Queen Annes County. When Johnson died the following year, his wife, Katherine, was named administrator of his estate (2). From their son, William, the farm was bequeathed in 1749 to his brother Holman Johnson (3). The construction of the brick house dates from the time of their ownership.

It was like many houses built in Maryland in the early to mid-18th Century. It was a one-and-a-half-story brick house, three bays long with symmetrical fenestration. The configuration of its original service wing is unknown, but there is currently another bay built of frame on its south gable in which both the cornice and roof lines match the original.

The building resembles Marrowbone in its use of Flemish bond on the facade and English bond elsewhere. It retains its hall-parlor plan, along with the hall paneling which encloses a newel stair to the second story. The original hall fireplace opening, although filled with a massive block of 20th century brick, was of the walk-in variety, another feature it shared with Marrowbone. Judging from the width of the arch support in the basement, the parlor fireplace was narrower.

When Holman Johnson died in 1767, his estate was handled by his widow, Hannah. The worth of his personal estate totaled £488.10.5 (4). Before the estate was actually settled (1769), Hannah remarried. Her new husband was Benjamin Parsons, one of Holmon Johnson's creditors. From the records it is not clear if Samuel Johnson was in fact the son of Holman and Katherine, but in 1787 he acquired a small section of land adjoining the original 200 acre farm (5).

Like two of his ancestors, Samuel Johnson died intestate and Long Meadow

Farm descended to his four children. In 1831, Hannah Johnson and her husband, Richard Corbaley, purchased another quarter share from her brother(6). Thirty years later, the Corbaleys bequeathed the farm to their children, Samuel J. and Richard H. Corbaley (7). Samuel sold his half interest in 1867 to Richard C. Johnson. Richard, however, retained his ownership and resided at Long Meadow until the Johnson heirs sold the farm to another heir, Lee Carroll Clark, in 1936 (8). It was finally sold out of the family to Anthony and Dorothy Durham (9). The farm was acquired by Quail Run Nursery in the 1980's and the house remains, surrounded by fields of shrubbery and trees.

Footnotes:

1. Partnership was patented to Daniel Toaes in 1684 (Patents: Lib. Y & S, #8, fol. 50). Land Records: Lib. BCW, fol. 109.
2. Bonds: Lib. 2, fol. 198.
3. Wills: Lib. 3, fol. 73.
4. Inventories: Lib. 6, fol. 106
5. Land Records: Lib. EF 7, fol. 230.
6. Land Records: Lib. JNG 2, fol. 527.
7. Wills: Lib. JF 1, fol. 163, fol. 198.
8. Land Records: Lib. RAS 15, fol. 370.
9. Land Records: Lib. RAS 32, fol. 297.

K-165

Mid-18th century

Valhalla

Near Massey

Private

Located on the west side of Rt. 313, the Millington-Massey road, just south of Carroll Clark Road, the house at Valhalla is a brick 1-1/2 storey house appearing to date from the eighteenth century, perhaps quite early. The facade bond is Flemish above the water table, which is laid in English bond, also the bond used for the other walls. Its style might be called vernacular Georgian. Three bays wide with central entry, all openings are symmetrically arranged and opposite each other on front and rear. The plan is hall-and-parlor, with the entries into the north room. In the cellar, once brick-floored, there are two unusually large, arched chimney bases. There are three later frame additions of no architectural significance. The house has been extensively altered during the mid-twentieth century and much covered, and the exterior brick has been whitewashed and/or painted. One of the corner stairs has been removed, and all fireplaces boxed except for one. Eighteenth-century houses built of brick that are 1-1/2 storeys tall and with a hall and parlor plan are now extremely rare in northern Kent County. Though early buildings along the Massey-Millington road in particular were once present, many were replaced in the second quarter of the nineteenth century when improved farming methods brought renewed prosperity to a county which had seen its agricultural economy decline after the Revolutionary War. Others were replaced during the later nineteenth century. Why this building survived probably was related to its being brick and to its being tenanted for many years during the nineteenth century. Prosperous farmers would build new farmhouses for themselves but were less inclined to do so for tenants.

Although Valhalla has been considerably altered, it does indicate an early degree of prosperity that allowed the building of what at the time would have been considered a high-quality building. The form and plan were both quite common during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but few houses with them probably were executed in brick. The most notable remaining part of Valhalla is its hall's panelled north wall and the deep, compound cornice in the same north room.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Valhalla

2. Location

West side Rt. 313 at Walnut Point Rd., 1.3 miles south of
street & number 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 Schiff Enterprises, Ltd. Partnership

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Harrington state and zip code Delaware 19952

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 134

street & number Cross Street folio 27

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date unknown federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. K-165

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.

Located on the west side of Rt. 313, the Millington-Massey road, just south of Carroll Clark Road, the house at Valhalla is a brick 1-1/2 story house appearing to date from the eighteenth century, perhaps quite early. Its style might be called vernacular Georgian. Three bays wide with central entry, all openings are symmetrically arranged and opposite each other originally on front and rear. The plan is hall-and-parlor, with the entries into the north room. A gable-roofed bathroom wing has been built, however, at the rear, central entry, and a gable-roofed enclosed porch at the front entry. There are two shed-roofed dormers in each roof slop, placed over the first-story side bays. At the south end a frame addition has been built for a kitchen on the first story and a bedroom on the second. Its roof and walls are continuous with those of the original building. A recent, one-story, shed-roofed, small entry-utility room has been added to the frame wing. The house has been extensively altered during the mid-twentieth century and much covered; the exterior brick has been whitewashed and/or painted. One of the corner stairs has been removed. The most notable element remaining is the somewhat coarsely-executed panelled north end wall and the cornice in the same north room.

(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 checked="" 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 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 Mid 18th century **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.

Eighteenth-century houses built of brick that are 1-1/2 stories tall and with a hall and parlor plan are now extremely rare in northern Kent County. Though early buildings along the Massey-Millington road in particular were once present, many were replaced in the second quarter of the nineteenth century when improved farming methods brought renewed prosperity to a county which had seen its agricultural economy decline after the Revolutionary War. Others were replaced during the later nineteenth century. Why this building survived probably was related to its being built of brick and to its being tenanted for many years during the nineteenth century. Prosperous farmers would build new farmhouses for themselves but were less inclined to do so for tenants. Although Valhalla has been considerably altered, it does indicate an early degree of prosperity that allowed the building of what at the time it was built would have been considered a high-quality building. The form and plan were both quite common during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but few houses with them probably were executed in brick. The most notable remaining part of Valhalla is its hall's panelled north wall and the deep compound cornice in the same north room.

According to both the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County and the 1877 atlas map, the farm in those years was part of the holdings of the Corbaley-Johnson family. In 1877 Col Richard Corbaley Johnson lived across the road at Hickory Ridge Farm. He also owned another property in the area. This house is located on what was the second most important north-south main route through Kent County: up from Queen Anne's County, thru Head of Chester (Millington), Massey's Crossroads, Head of Sassafras, and into Cecil County via Warwick.

The approach, east facade of the house is built of brick with Flemish bond. Because of the heavy coating of paint and/or whitewash, however, it is not possible to ascertain whether there is a pattern of dark or glazed headers. An occasional gray header was seen. Several of the early layers appear to be both a kind of pink-beige or a rose color, possibly tinted whitewash from some years ago. The brick of the north end and west side is laid in English bond, possibly indicative of an relatively early building date in the eighteenth century. Here the two-inch water table is unmolded, but on the east side it is molded with a bevel. The south end, of course, is entirely covered by the frame addition, but the water table is also on that side. The water table of the east side is laid in English bond, even though the wall above is Flemish. The 1-1/2 storey frame end wing is covered with lapped, horizontal vinyl siding, the south entry with lapped, horizontal pressed-board material, and the bathroom wing on the west with asbestos shingles.

There is a cellar under the entire old section of the house. Entry is from the exterior only now, through metal doors almost under the north bay of the west side. The cellar originally was unpartitioned; the partition there now is recent. One large semi-finished room has been created to the south. The smaller northern section is for a furnace. Foundation walls have been parged, and concrete floor poured, and plywood fastened to the ceiling. Seen from the cellar, the brick bond appears to be English, as on the exterior of the foundation. Because of the finished ceiling, there was no way to search for the former existence of cellar stairs from within the house. However, evidence on the second storey indicates that a corner stair was removed from the southwest corner of the south room, and it is possible under this stair was a stair to the cellar. At the south end of the cellar is an unusually large chimney base with round-headed arch. It has been parged and textured. Its opening is 5'-2" wide; the entire base is 8'-3" in width. Through several small openings in the ceiling, it could be seen that in the south room above there are three layers of flooring material. The whitewashed joists are 5'-6" x 8" and hewn; they are spaced about 22-24" on center. In the north, furnace section of the cellar there is an old, higher brick floor. Perhaps the brick floor once extended throughout the cellar but was removed for the recent finishing of the south portion. At the north end the very large round-headed base with header arch is unparged; it was laid in English bond and has the furnace vented through it. At the very low springing point the opening is 6'-8" wide. It is about 6 feet from the floor at the center. It could not be ascertained whether it was ever used for cooking because of the furnace equipment and alterations related to it, but the brick-floored cellar suggests that it might have been. There may have been a cellar window in each side bay, except for one for an outside entry. Several are in place, but they are replacements. However, the present outside entry does not appear, though it was difficult to tell because of heavy parging and lintel replacement.

There is a chimney within the wall at the center of each gable end. They are built of red-painted brick. The south chimney has a two-course cap; the north chimney has been rebuilt and is plain. The south chimney probably has been rebuilt some time ago; it is smaller east to west than the north chimney. A second brick chimney has been built recently outside the north wall

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adjacent to the north chimney. It is used for the furnace.

The roofs throughout are covered with asphalt shingles. The cornice of the old section has been redone, but its shape is quite unusual, perhaps indicating unusual roof framing or perhaps signifying nothing. The second-storey interior has been entirely recovered with recent 4 x 8' panelling and with no openings left for access through the knee walls, so it is not possible to investigate the roof construction. The roof overhangs the long, side walls about 10". There is a deep (ca. 8") fascia with a beaded lower edge and soffit slanted down from it to the wall. On the north end there are replacement flush verge boards, but the roof overhangs there about 10-12" also by its plywood roof sheathing, with a thin fascia attached by blocking at the end.

There are two shed-roofed dormers in each roof slope, over the side bays. They have double-hung sash with 6-over-6 lights, slanted weatherboard cheeks, and plain pilasters. Their roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. They probably no longer contain any original materials.

Nothing remains of the original east-side, center main entry, and the west entry opening now leads to the rear bathroom wing. The secondary entry now is through the last south addition, into the frame kitchen wing.

All early windows have been replaced. Windows of the main and kitchen section are now all double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. The present windows are quite tall, the openings measuring c. 28" x 65". The windows appear to have flat header arches, though whether they are original or not could not be ascertained. There is now plain replacement trim, and aluminum storm windows-screens are in place, prohibiting a good view. The sills have been replaced. Shutters are gone, though one nineteenth-century propeller-type shutter dog remains.

The interior of the second storey has been completely reworked. Sheet panelling is everywhere, even on the old doors. The covered doors are 1" thick, and the tenons in their rails seem to indicate that there are two pair of upper panels over one pair below the lock rail. On the inside of a recent north-end closet the back side of the door is unpanelled; the panels there are plain and recessed. On it the panel pairs descend in height measurement from bottom to top. There are numerous old latch/lock holes. There are some HL hinges but with new screws. The low (6'-4") ceiling has recent 12" tile. The chimneys are boxed with panelling. Second-storey flooring is wide and random-width.

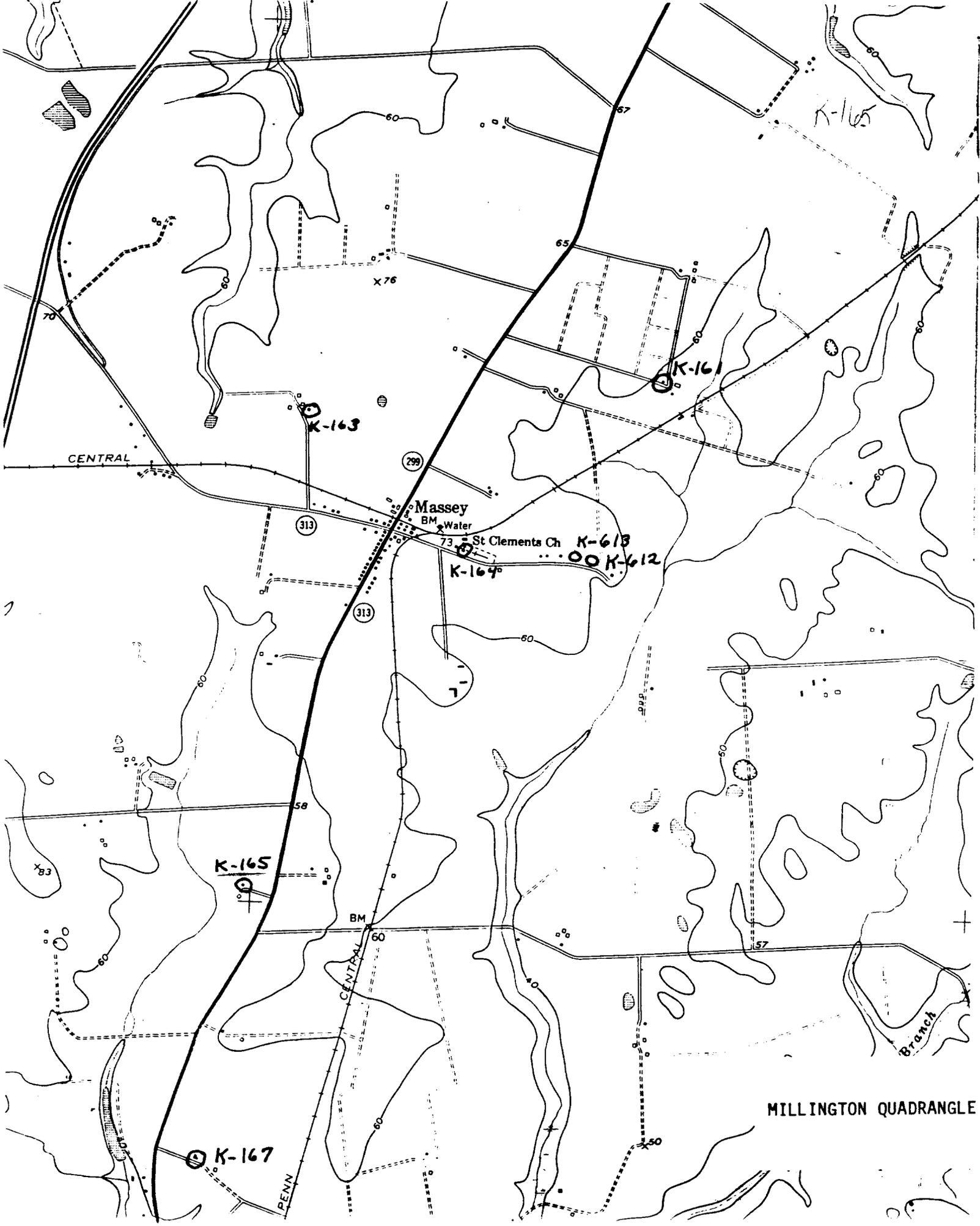
The enclosed stair in the northeast corner has all winders. Any former second-storey door to the stair is gone. Within the stair, on the enclosing walls are vertical, wide beaded boards; the beads are 3/8" and the grooves shallow, indicating possibly original material. The first four steps at the bottom of the run are within the north room, with the stair door above them. The string there is closed. The stringer rail edge is molded into an astragal shape. There appears never to have been a balustrade. In the spandrel are two
(continued)

boards applied diagonally, with the stair pitch. They are unbeaded but in a recessed-panel arrangement with bold ovolo panel molding. The stair door in the first-storey room has 2-over-2 panels that are raised and beveled in the same manner as the rest of the panelled wall of that end of the house. The door is hung by a pair of HL hinges with perhaps some of the original fasteners; some are new. A late nineteenth-century box lock is in place on the door; old latch and lock holes are puttied.

On the first storey all the walls are now sheetrocked and new trim applied. The ceiling height with added flooring is about 9'-8". In one area the ceiling lath, plaster, and sheetrock have been removed, exposing the ceiling joists. They are hewn and measure 4-1/2" wide x 9", set on c. 24" centers. The top layer of flooring is 3" wide tongue-and-groove pine. There are modern double doors in an enlarged opening between north and south rooms. The south fireplace and chimney has been boxed in.

The panelled end wall is almost entirely intact (molding has been added around the cupboard, and there is new fireplace brick). There are four main vertical divisions of the wall. The fully raised and beveled panelling is not particularly finely done. The bevels are not very smooth, and there is some rounding where there should not be. It is possible that this indicates refinishing, but it is not likely. The panel molding is an ovolo. The fireplace surround is large and compound, resembling that of the Nicholas Ryley House at Gregg Neck (K-153). There are six panels over the mantel, two wide central ones with the upper one larger and a vertical pair on each side. There is a three-panel door to the under-stair closet and curious but old cabinet arrangement to the west of the fireplace. In a Dutch door sort of arrangement, the lower half of the closet is covered by a part of an old door with four panels. The upper door has six lights. Above the door is a pair of fixed vertical panels.

There is a large cornice in the north room. The c. 3" crown is a cyma with fillets and is above a smaller cyma reversa. Beneath the soffit of this upper section there is a bed molding of ovolo with fillets over a cove.



MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K165-2A

K-165

Valhalla

Rt. 313, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/15/86

View to west

ONTARIO HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY



K165-9

K-165 - *

Valhalla

Rt. 313, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/15/86

View to ~~east~~ north

Long Meadow