

K-616

1906

Massey-Elliott House

Massey

Private

Built in 1906 for E. Thomas Massey, Sr., and his wife, the Masey-Elliott House is the only house in Massey that is built of brick. It is located on the east side of the Massey-Millington Road in the row of mixed-period and -style houses that stretches southward from the Massey crossroads, on a narrow but deep lot bordered at the rear by the train track from Massey to Millington and then to Queen Anne's County. It is 2-1/2 storeys tall, gable-roofed, and built of brick in two sections, a wide rear section with axis north-south that is four bays wide on the rear facade, and a large perpendicular front wing whose two-bay gable-end faces the public road. The two sections are continuous on the north side. A large front porch spans the gable-front section and continues around it to the south side, meeting the front wall of the rear section. There is a small two-storey porch in the rear, the lower portion now enclosed. The style is eclectic, showing Colonial Revival influences as well as Victorian and even Four-Square, in basic interior plan if not in form. Windows are tall and double-hung, with segmental heads; some are grouped. There is a center stair dormer in the rear roof slope to light the stair to the third level and allow head room for an east-west third-level hall. In the front wing's west gable there is a triple window with single segmental head. There is no separate stair hall. The living room are simply together in the front wing, though with the stair and reception area at the north. Despite the openness and non-squareness, it is reminiscent of a four-square house plan. This house appears to have been built from a purchased plan, for it displays sophistication in plan, detail, and use of materials not usually seen locally. Mr. Massey apparently was the leading citizen of the village, its banker, and the owner of several farms nearby. His house reflects the prosperity of its owner and indicates that some Kent Countians were aware of building styles other than the local vernacular forms. It was built with central heating and a gas-lighting system. Acetylene gas was made on the premises.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-616

Magi No. 1506165704

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic E. Thomas Massey House

and/or common Happy Ours; Massey-Elliott House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 313, 400 yards south of Massey-Delaware Line Rd. not for publication

city, town Massey vicinity of _____ 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 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 Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Elliot

street & number P.O. Box 28 telephone no.: 928-5298

city, town Massey, state and zip code Maryland 21650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP 68

street & number _____ folio 28

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title _____

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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.

The 1906 Massey-Elliot House is located on the east side of the Massey-Millington Road in the row of mixed-period and style houses that stretches southward from the Massey crossroads. It is on a narrow but deep lot bordered at the rear by the train track from Massey to Millington and then to Queen Anne's County. It is 2-1/2 storeys tall, gable-roofed, and built of brick in two sections, a wide rear section with axis north-south that is four bays wide on the rear facade, and a large perpendicular front wing whose two-bay gable-en faces the public road. The two sections are continuous on the north side. A large front porch spans the gable-front section and continues around it to the south side, meeting the front wall of the rear section. There is a small two-storey porch in the rear, the lower portion now enclosed. The style is eclectic, showing Colonial Revival influences as well as Victorian and even Four-Square, in basic interior plan if not in form. Windows are tall and double-hung, with segmental heads; some are grouped. There is a center stair dormer in the rear roof slope to light the stair to the third level and allow head room for an east-west third-level hall. In the front wing's west gable there is a triple window with single segmental head. There is no separate stair hall. The living room are simply together in the front wing, though with the stair and reception area at the north. Despite the openness and non-squareness, it is reminiscent of a four-square house plan.

(Continued)

8. Significance

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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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906 **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.

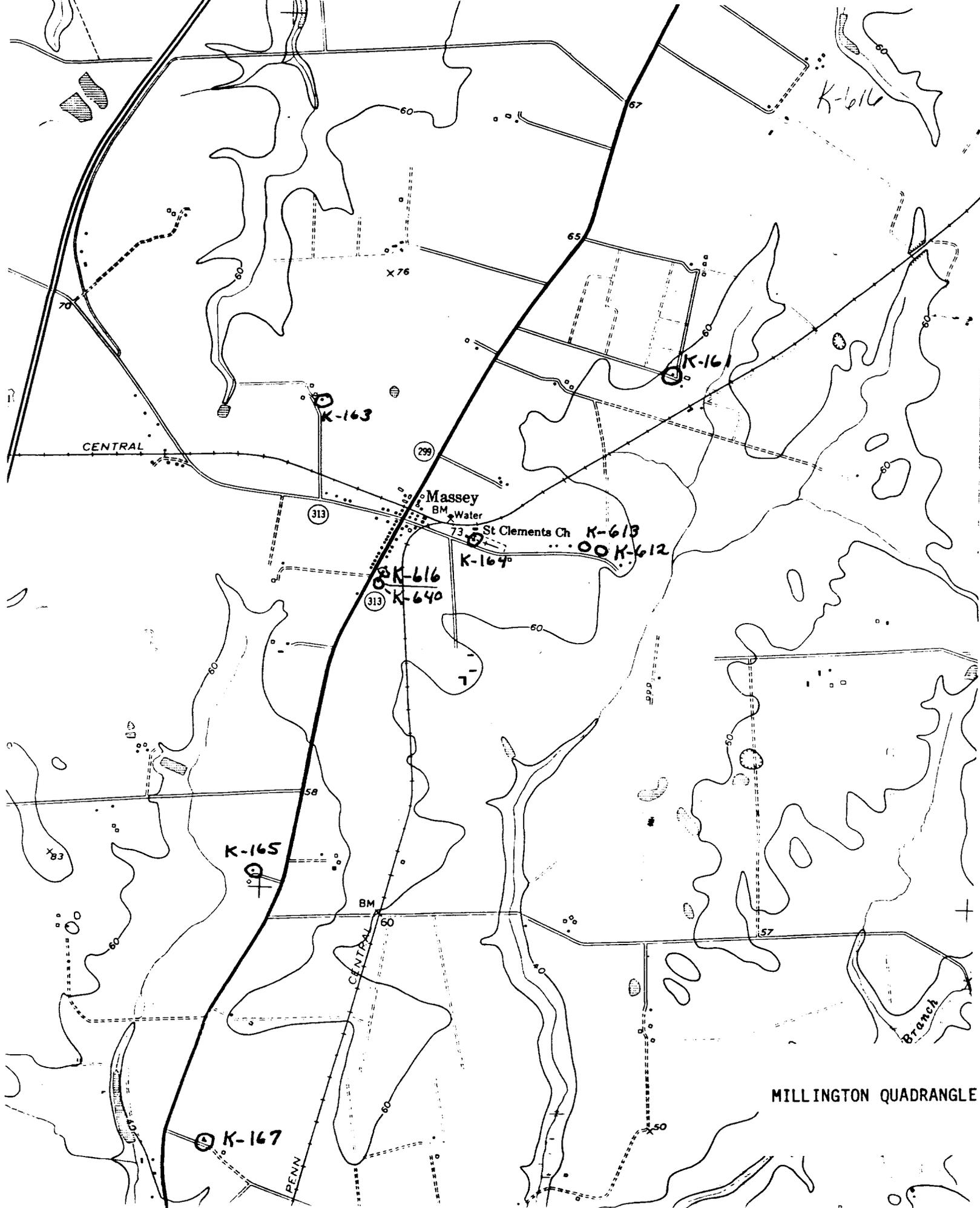
Built in 1906 for E. Thomas Massey, Sr. and his wife, the Massey-Elliott House is the only house in the village of Massey that is built of brick. Only the one-storey, small bank building, dating from the same period, is also constructed of brick, and it now has frame additions and second-storey. At the time of its construction this house greatly contrasted with the village dwellings. Most were much smaller, frame, and constructed in the quite simple local vernacular forms and styles. This house appears to have been built from a purchased plan, perhaps from a builders' pattern publication, for it displays a sophistication in plan, detail, and use of materials not seen locally. Mr. Massey apparently was the leading citizen of the village, its banker, and the owner of several farms nearby. The house is the reflection of the prosperity of its owner and an indication that some Kent Countians were aware of building styles other than the local vernacular forms. The house is eclectic in style, drawing on Colonial Revival, Victorian, and even Four-Square elements. The result was a large, well-arranged, house that was the most up-to-date possible and that has been little changed (except for kitchen and bath) since it was built. It was built with central heating and a gas-lighting system; acetylene gas was made on the premises. At the turn of the century Massey was still a prosperous village with much activity. Not only was it an old crossroads village, but about 1869-70 the junction of the Kent County Railroad and the Kent and Queen Anne's Railroad made it an important railroad location. Canneries and other businesses that were dependent on the railroad were begun. Although the settlement at Massey (long called Massey's Crossroads) began in the eighteenth century, it is difficult to detect truly old buildings there. Either they are gone, remodeled beyond recognition, or incorporated into larger later styles. For instance part of a dwelling across the street from the Massey-Elliott House is said to contain a section built of planked logs.

The front wing on the first storey is one large, undivided space, a contrast to the formal separate halls local houses usually had. Entry is directly into the space. The stair occupies much of the left rear corner of the space, however, in the same location it would be in if a four-square house. The stair is strikingly like that of the Huey-Boyd House two houses to the south; the Huey-Boyd House was built almost 20 years later. Unlike most stairs, this one does not begin its ascent along a wall. It is half-turn with two landings, and the first run begins some distance out in the "hall." It is four steps to the first landing, which is against the north wall, but this first section is freestanding. Use was made of the space under the stair facing the front of the house; there are drawers. The stair dates from the "golden oak" period in American decoration. Its finish is natural and exposed. The string is closed, and the balusters are rectangular and bold (1-1/8" x 1-3/8"). There is a heavy, molded Colonial Revival rail. The stair because of its nature and location is almost entirely open to the space below. Though the components are heavy, the stair is graceful and attractive. The newels (for there are a pair since the first part of the stair is freestanding and not against any wall) have simple 4-1/2" square shafts. The caps are simple and double, with composite bed moldings. The stair window is at the second landing. The stair rail ends at the trim of the opening to the second storey, where there is a pocket door to close off the stair from the house above, though it is now off the track and stuck in the pocket. The stair treads are oak, like all the other stair components. There is a small "leftover" space in the stair well, between the freestanding first run and the wall under the second run. This has been fitted with a built-in bench.

In fact, all the first-storey stair trim is oak--baseboards and door and window trim. In the dining room a painted cornice and chair rail have been added fairly recently, and there is wainscoting of blue panelling. The fireplace has no wood mantel. The rectangular opening is surrounded by plain, white-painted bricks. The brick hearth is one brick high. In the southeast corner of the living room is a five-foot opening to the dining room, outfitted with sliding doors.

On the second storey there are two halls, a primary hall into which the stair opens, with the main bedrooms straight ahead and to the right. The secondary hall is perpendicular and leads to the door to the rear porch and service-area rooms along the way. Originally there were maid's quarters along this hall, with a straight stair down to the kitchen. It has been removed and the second-storey space converted to a closet.

The exterior brickwork is executed in red common brick that is, however, quite uniform in color. The bond is 1-to-five common. There is no water table. The joints are quite wide (1/2"±) and untooled. There is no break in the brickwork between front wing and rear main section; clearly the house was intended to be built as one unit. The cellar windows are quite large and intended to be part of the visible fenestration. The arches are the same segmental ones used throughout the house, of double-coursed headers. The tympanum is a plain wood infill. The sills are heavy and double.



MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-616

Massey-Elliott House

Rt. 299, Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/16/86

View to northeast

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K-616

Massey-Elliott House

Rt. 299, Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/16/86

View to northwest

10410-23