

K-629

Donahoe Farm
Massey
c. 1850

In 1822, the tract on which the Donahoe House was built was owned by Stephen Boyer. It was a 620 acre farm which consisted of parts of Angel's Lott, Forest Lands, and The Adventure. William E. Cacy purchased the land from the Boyer estate in 1845.¹ Later, Cacy's son and daughter occupied the house which had probably been built by their father who had become a very prosperous farmer in this district.

Built in the Italianate style, the house had many exterior features typical of the period. The entrance with double doors, side lights and transom, occupies the central bay of the three bay facade. On the second story there is a three-part window which balances the entry below. The present porch replaces an earlier one which was nearly three times larger and onto which the entry and jib-doored windows opened.

Like many of the farmhouses of the late 18th and 19th centuries in Kent County, the Donahoe House has an 'L' out the back of the one room deep main part. It is much plainer and slightly shorter than the main block, both in length and height. Its interior trim retains some elements of the Greek Revival style which co-existed with the Italianate.

1. Land Records, Lib. JNG 10, fol. 183.

K-629

1845-1860

Donahoe Farm

Near Massey

Private

Now the first farmhouse north of the crossroads village of Massey, on the east side of the Massey-Sassafras road, the frame, two-storey Donahoe house was built in a vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate style. Its main roof was a shallow hip, but recently rebuilt and altered somewhat. The main section is a wide three bays across, with the emphasis on the central bay, where the large, ornate main entry is located on the west facade. On the second storey above there is a three-part window. The side bays of the first storey were built with jib doors for access to the front porch. The present front porch is shallower than the original. The perpendicular large rear wing has a shallow gable roof somewhat lower than the main section roof; the long north wall of the wing is continuous with the end wall of the main section. There is a handsome dogleg stair, and, unusually, the front of the stair hall on the second storey is not enclosed for a room. Ceilings on both storeys are notably high, and the feeling in the main section is one of spaciousness. The Donahoe farmhouse is one of relatively few frame, hipped-roof, two-storey, mid-nineteenth century dwellings that survive in the upper section of Kent County. Although the main-section's roof is different from those of the major farmhouses of just a few years before and its interior details do indicate the growing popularity of the Greek Revival style, the basic plan does not really differ from that of the rectangular buildings with rear wing that were built earlier in the nineteenth century. Those willing to experiment with the new also retained some of the local architectural conservatism. With a shallow hipped roof, particularly with a flattened center section, a building could easily be built deeper than the customary Kent County one-room depth (as at K-262, the Coleman-Thompson Farm). This one, however, is only 18 feet deep while 42 feet wide, producing a plan that led both originally and later to functional isolation of the parlor located on the far side of the stair hall from the rear wing. Although considerably altered in modern times, the house does contain some important Greek Revival details and illustrates the form of one kind of mid-nineteenth-century hipped-roof house.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Cacy Farm

and/or common Donahoe Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number East side Rt. 299, .6 mile north of Massey not for publication

city, town Massey vicinity of congressional district X

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 Agnes Winchell, Rita M. Ryan, and Sara C. Malloy c/o Elizabeth M. Donahoe

street & number telephone no.: 928-3486

city, town Massey state and zip code Maryland 21650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 86

street & number Cross Street folio 2

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

Survey No. K-629

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.

Now the first farmhouse north of the crossroads village of Massey, on the east side of the Massey-Sassafras road, the frame, two-story Donahoe house was built between 1845 and 1860 in a vernacular Greek Revival-Italianate style. Its main roof was a shallow hip, but recently rebuilt and apparently altered somewhat. The main section is a wide three bays across, with the emphasis on the central bay, where the large, ornate main entry is located on the west facade. On the second story above there is a three-part window. The side bays of the first story seem to have been built with job doors for access to the front porch. The present front porch is a rebuilt one that is smaller than the original. The perpendicular large rear wing has a shallow gable roof that is somewhat lower than the main section roof; the long north wing is continuous with the end wall of the main section. There is a handsome dogleg stair, and, unusually, the front of the stair hall on the second story is not enclosed for a room. Ceilings on both stories are notably high and the feeling in the main section is one of spaciousness.

(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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 Circa 1845-1860 **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 Donahoe farmhouse is one of relatively few frame, hipped-roof two-story, mid-nineteenth century dwellings that survive in the upper section of Kent County. Although the main-section's roof is different from those of the major farmhouses of just a few years before and its interior details do indicate the growing popularity of the Greek Revival style, the basic plan does not really differ from that of the rectangular buildings with rear wing that were built earlier in the nineteenth century. Those willing to experiment with the new also retained some of the local architectural conservatism. With a shallow hipped roof, particularly with a flattened center section, a building could easily be built deeper than the customary Kent County one-room depth (as at K-262, the Coleman-Thompson Farm). This one, however, has the customary one room depth and is 18 feet deep while 42 feet wide, producing at plan that led both originally and later to functional isolation of the parlor located on the far side of the stair hall from the rear wing. Although considerably altered in modern times, the house does contain some important Greek Revival details and illustrated the form of one kind of mid-nineteenth-century hipped-roofed house.

A house is shown on the 1860 map at the site of the Donahoe house. It probably is the present one since this farm seems to have been split off from Timber Wick, K-161, after William E. Cacy acquired it in 1845 from the estate of Stephen Boyer. Mrs. Cacy may have a Boyer daughter. At the time of the 1845 sale (JNG 10/183) the old Boyer farm was quite large--620 acres. Later the son William Cacy and his sister Anna came to live in this house, which actually may have been built for them. This Cacy farm was originally 310 acres, but now it is 249. One of the fields, know as the "Chapel Field," originally extended to the lot of Shrewsbury Chapel on the Massey-Delaware road. The first chapel was built there in the middle of the eighteenth century.

The main section, with its axis north-south, measures about 42 feet wide by 18 feet deep. The rear wing is unusually large--18 feet wide by 38 feet deep. Overall there is an L plan, with a long wing porch, now rebuilt and enclosed, within the L. The main-section plan is central hall.

The walls are now covered with white aluminum siding with 4" exposure. The original weatherboard was horizontal, lapped siding. There may originally have been corner pilasters, but they were covered or removed.

Under the main section there is a crawl space. The foundation is of brick that has first been whitewashed and then painted. It is now a deep red color. The bond is either running or a common bond with very infrequent placement of headers, such as 1-to-9. There was not enough foundation to really tell. There is a cellar under the original dining room, the first room behind the main section in the wing.

Quite low but elongated chimneys are within the center of the end walls of the main section. They each have two flues. They are built of dark red brick with two-course caps. There is evidence of repair work. From the north chimney a clay flue liner protrudes from the east flue. One of the wing chimneys is unusually located. The kitchen chimney is located in the usual place, at the wing's rear gable end, within the wall at the center. However, instead of being located at the division between kitchen and dining room, this chimney is located on the north wall, on the first storey between and window and a now-closed entry. The two wing chimneys are also built of dark red brick, with evidence of repairs. They have two-course caps.

The shallow hipped roof has been rebuilt, evidently removing what sounded like a built-in gutter system. The rear wing roof is a shallow gable and somewhat lower than the main roof. White aluminum gutters are now in place. The overhang now is about 12-16" on sides and ends. A deep frieze board is covered with aluminum. The cornice probably was bracketed originally, but any such brackets are gone. The wing roof has a boxed cornice also, with a sides overhang of about 8". Everything is covered by aluminum. If there was a built-in gutter system here too, it is gone. At the east end the roof does not overhang; there are flush verge boards.

The main-section windows are tall and double-hung, with 6-over-6 lights. There is a shorter and narrower 6-over-6 at the stair landing on the rear wall. The architraves are covered with aluminum on the exterior; the sills appear to be very large. The trim underneath the aluminum is evidently very wide (about 7"), and the head trim may be slightly pedimented. Shutters are gone. There have been some alterations among the wing windows on the south wall. In general the wing windows are 6-over-6, smaller than in the main section, though the first storey windows are taller than those of the second.

That there were once jib doors opening to the porch is indicated by the side-bay, first-storey windows of the main facade. The windows themselves are very tall, but the architrave (covered) extends from porch floor to ceiling.

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There is now aluminum infill below a later sill of wood. Shutters for these two windows would have been floor to ceiling also. Three pair of hinges remain in the south bay. Helping to create the focus on the central bay of the main section, and balancing the massive architrave of the first storey below, there is unusual treatment of the central bay on the second storey. Lighting the front of the second-storey hall is a triple window. The center one is double-hung and with 6-over-6 lights; the side windows are narrow with 2-over-2 lights (one wide). It is scaled so that all lights appear equal. The trim is covered, as elsewhere. These triple windows are a rarity in upper county houses of this type and period. Though they are seen more in the middle and lower county, there is one notable upper-county use of them--at K-631, Windy Curve Farm, where all the main facade windows are triple. That house is said to date from the late 1830s or early 1840s.

Second-storey mantels are Greek Revival, quite plain, smaller versions of first-storey mantels. In the north parlor, where a gas heater is now in use, the mantel remains. It has a heavy rectangular shelf with rounded corners, a wide plain frieze, a deep shallow coved bed, and 5-1/2" wide plain pilasters with simple bases corbelled to the pilasters. The opening is closed with plywood.

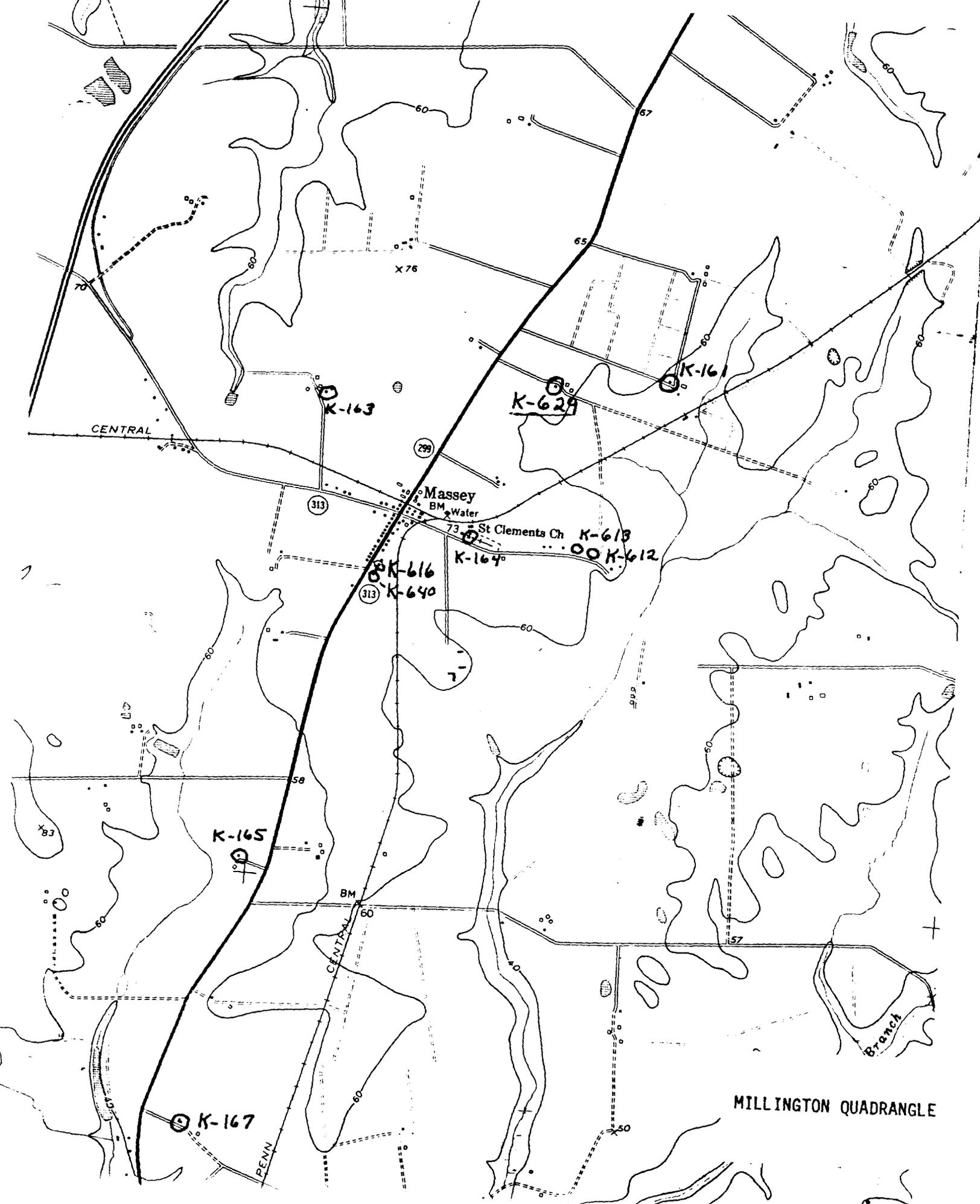
Door and window trim is broad and plain. Apparently a pedimented head was intended but the builder may have miscalculated about how high it could go in reference to the lathed and plastered ceiling. Window muntins are narrow, deep and sharply pointed with a base. Doors are four-panel, with cyma panel trim. The jib doors for the west parlor windows are visible on the interior. They each have one panel.

The stair is open-string and dogleg, with two round, tapered balusters per tread that may be of oak or walnut. There is a large Victorian newel that is multiply turned above a large octagonal base with a diameter of 7-1/2". There is a large round perhaps mahogany cap with 7-3/4" diameter. Treads are pine. The balustrade is unusually low, 29" from rail top to tread center. The large rail is quite rounded though somewhat flattened. There are no intermediates. The rail is continuous, stepped up at the landing over the balusters only.

The main entry on the interior has contact paper in the transom. Overall the head trim of the architrave is pedimented. On the interior the doors have a single tall recessed and raised panel with flattened ogee panel molding. There is a large box lock with large brass key and white porcelain knob, though the exterior porcelain knob may be a replacement. The hardware appears to be original. On the exterior the architrave measures almost eight feet wide by 10 feet high. The opening is four feet wide. Double mill-finish aluminum screen-storm doors are in place. Within the exterior recessed panel in each door there is a centered applied raised panel beveled to the center. There are large, compound bolection moldings. There are three-light sidelights, a five-light transom, and a bracketed hood.

The farm is within view of the crossroads village of Massey. Timber
(continued)

Wick Farm (K-161) can be seen to the northeast. There is a farmstead to the east of now unused buildings. An old metal windmill remains in place in the rear yard.



MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K 629-36

K-629

Donahoe Farm

Rt. 299, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/26/86

View to southeast

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K-629 Donahoe Farm C.1850



K 629.3

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Donahoe Farm

Rt. 299, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/26/86

View to northwest