

K-637

White Plains
Near Massey
2nd Quarter 19th Century

The farmhouse known as White Plains is a five-bay, two-and-a-half story frame structure with 'A' roof. The kitchen wing on its south gable is also two stories, but has a unique shed roof. The house is one of several in the Massey vicinity having the same plan and detail, constructed around the 1840's.

A two-story porch, later enclosed, and the two dormers on either side of the 'A' roof are later additions to the central hall house. The details are essentially late-Federal in design, with the panel moldings are applied.

On both the 1860 Map of Kent County and the 1877 Atlas, this farm is shown as owned by William Cacy, who also owned Timberwick and the Donahoe Farm, north of Massey. When he wrote his will in the 1880's, he was living at White Plains.

K-637

Circa 1820-1840

White Plains

Near Massey

Private

The farm known as White Plains is the first farm southwest of the crossroads village of Massey. Its 2-1/2 storey, gable-roofed, frame main section is five bays wide with a central hall plan. The dormers may be among late-nineteenth-century additions; an ornate parlor mantel is another. At the south end is a two-storey, two-bay kitchen wing with shed roof. The house at White Plains is one of several very similar houses built along the Millington-Massey-Sassafras road during the period from about 1820 to 1840. While the White Plains house is frame and the others are of brick, they share the same late Federal style and numerous interior details. Their main stairs strongly resemble each other. All these buildings built within very few years of each other appear to be the result of the recovery of agriculture in the area after a period of decline following the Revolutionary War, when markets changed, and the soils became exhausted. The proponents of "scientific farming" slowly won converts, however, and farms began to return to their former productivity. Most of these new buildings were probably replacements for earlier ones that had become inadequate or deteriorated. These houses broke no new ground architecturally and are an indication of the architectural conservatism of the period and the persistence of the familiar. The basic form and plan were as they had been for years among sizable houses, and the interior detail, while simpler than earlier, could still be called Federal. This house is somewhat unusual in having a two-storey end wing with shed roof, but it may date from the later nineteenth century.

7. Description

Survey No. K-637

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 farm known as White Plains is the first farm southwest of the crossroads village of Massey. There originally was access from both the Galena-Massey road on the north and the Massey-Millington road on the east toward which the house faces, but the lane to the east now is closed. The frame, 2-1/2 storey, main section is five bays wide with central entry and two bays deep. The dormers may not be original; the third level may have been finished some time after the building of the house. At the south end is a two-bay-wide, two-bay-deep, shed-roofed service wing, with a kitchen on the first storey. While the house dates from circa 1820-1840 and is late Federal in style, there was a late nineteenth-century or early twentieth century remodeling, that, for instance, replaced the north parlor mantel with an elaborate one from a later period and added a rear two-storey porch (since enclosed) with access from the stair landing and from the north second-storey bedroom.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-637

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 1820-1830 **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 White Plains is one of several very similar houses built along the Millington-Massey-Sassafras road (now Rt. 313-299) during the period from about 1820-1840. While the White Plains house is frame and the others are of brick, they share the same late Federal style and numerous interior details. Their main stairs strongly resemble each other. All these buildings built within very few years of each other appear to be the result of the recovery of agriculture in the area after a period of decline following the Revolutionary War when markets changed, and the soils became exhausted. The proponents of scientific farming slowly won converts, however, and farms began to return to their former productivity. Most of these new buildings were probably replacements for earlier ones that had become inadequate or deteriorated. These houses broke no new ground architecturally and are an indication of the architectural conservatism of the period and the persistence of the familiar. The basic form and plan were as they had been for years among sizable houses, and the interior detail, while simpler than earlier, could still be called Federal. This house is somewhat unusual in having a two-storey end wing with shed roof, but it may date from the later nineteenth century.

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The plan of this five-bay house is central hall with one room on each side, a parlor to the north and dining room to the south. The south wing's front and rear walls are flush with those of the main section. There are two added rooms to the second storey of the main section, in space originally occupied by second-storey porches. They are to the rear of the hall and the north bedroom.

The exterior walls are now covered with large asphalt shingles with vertical striations except for the south gable above the wing and the wing south end, which are covered with lapped vinyl siding. The siding was to simulate shakes. Horizontal, lapped weatherboard is said to be beneath the shingles.

The wing is built over a crawl space with a field stone foundation. The main section has a cellar under the dining room (south room) only. The original foundation material cannot be seen from the exterior; it has been parged. The cellar foundation, however, is also field stone. Some fieldstone was seen through a cellar opening to the main-section crawl space, but also some brick. The hall joists run a different direction from the joists under the side rooms, a common practice in this period. In the crawl space, under the north hall wall, there is then a fieldstone pier under the front-to-rear joist that carries the short, transverse hall joists.

The house has three chimneys, all are painted red. One is in each end of the main center, at the center and within the wall. The south chimney has been parged. Both chimneys have two-course caps. The wing chimney is at the wing's south end. It appears square. It is stepped in at about half its height, appearing to have a base, but this evidently is the point from which rebuilding took place. Much of the chimney fell in, and it was at this time that the kitchen fireplace was closed. There is a two-course cap and a tall, round, metal stovepipe with hood protruding from the chimney top.

The roofs are covered with standing-seam metal, painted dark red. At the ends there are flush verge boards, lapped with the roofing metal. The eaves are boxed; the cornice is about 5-6" deep. There may be a crown molding with a large bevel profile and a bead below. Gutters are in place. The bed molding was replaced after siding and is small and square. At the high end of the shed roof of the wing, the roofing has been lapped over the asphalt "shakes" of the wall below.

The windows of both sections are double-hung. Second-storey windows are shorter than those of the first storey. All main-section windows except on the third level have 2-over-2 lights, undoubtedly replacement sash. Third-storey windows have 4-over-2 lights, a pair at both ends, one at each side of the chimney. Aluminum combination storm windows and screens are in place. The sills are wood and quite heavy (2-1/2"). The trim of the outer first-storey bays of the main, east facade has been replaced. These windows were not protected under the porch. The west first-storey trim is also modern. Elsewhere the trim is at the main entry. Shutters have been removed, leaving hinge mortises. The wing windows have 2-over-2 lights
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except for a kitchen replacement window, which is 1-over-1. The trim is not the same as on the wing, but is quite small, blocky, and with a small bevel. It may be twentieth-century replacement trim. There are no shutters at the wing windows, and there are no hinge marks.

There are two dormers in each slope of the main-section roof. They are irregularly spaced. The south dormer is above the bay south of the central entry, while the north-side dormer is set about 15" farther to the north than the northern edge of the bay north of the central entry. The arrangement is similar in the rear but is less noticeable there. The dormer placement evidently had to do with the desired room division of the third storey. The dormers have gable roofs, 2-over-2 double-hung sash, and wide pilasters that are plain except for applied vertical strips (panel-like) that are about 3-4" wide and have outer edges chamfered. The tympanum ground is continuous with the pilasters, but there is a triangular applique in the center. The cheeks are weatherboard, and the sills are wood. The pilasters are flared at their upper, outer edges by the addition of a sawn bracket curved to the near edge of the roof overhang. The bracket is not pierced. The dormer roofs overhang about 5-6" on all sides. The crown molding is a cyma recta with fillet above a cove with fillet. There is no bed molding. These dormers were probably added during a Victorian remodeling later in the nineteenth century.

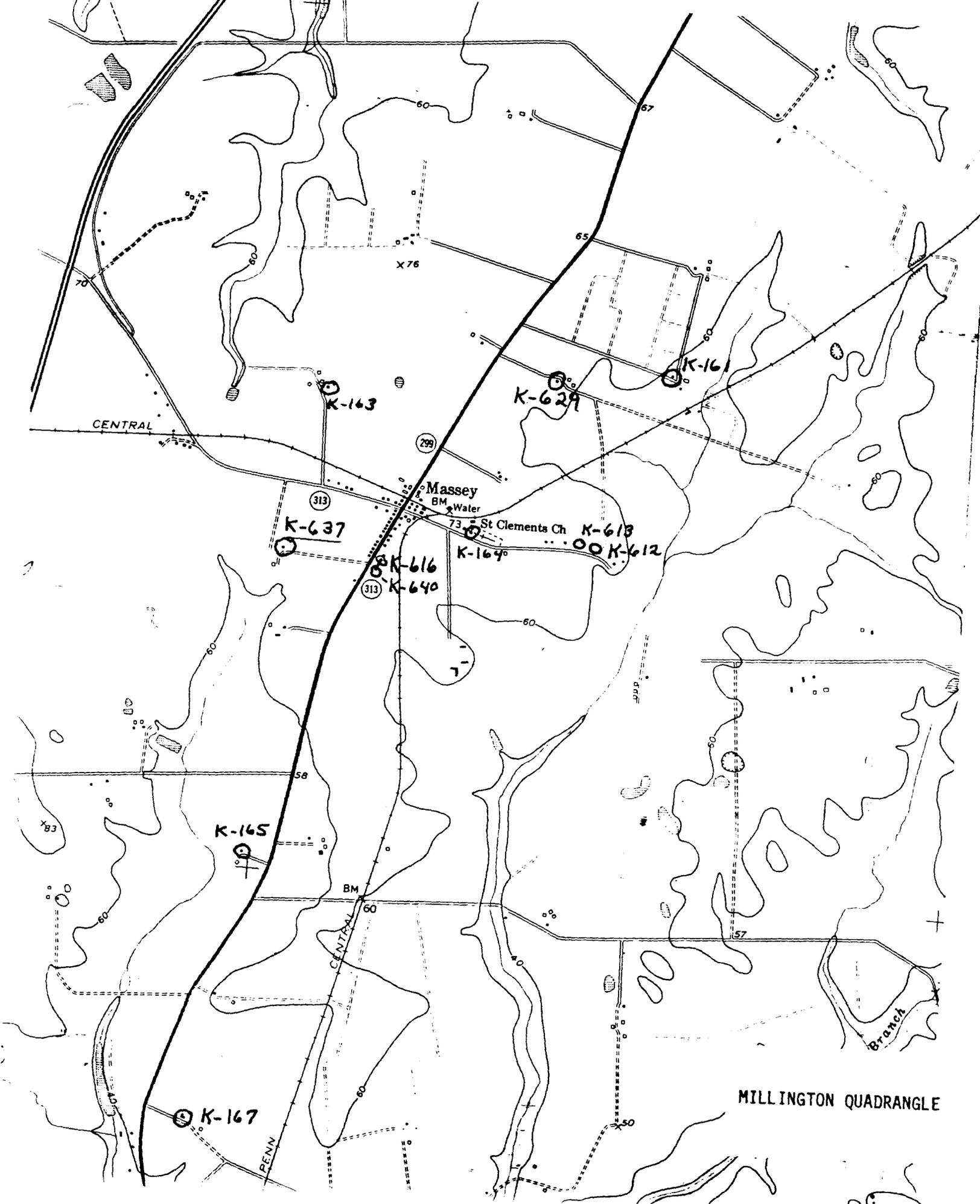
The stair in the central hall is half-turn-with landings. There are two steps between the landings. The stair rises from the first storey on the hall's south wall toward the west, rear wall. The newel is slender, turned and tapered, with a 3" square base. There are some simple turnings at both ends of the main shaft. There is a small, almost ball-like cap that is continuous with the rail. The rail, darkly varnished, is almost round with a diameter of about 2-1/4" to 2-3/8". It may be of walnut. The rail is continuous, rising goose-neck fashion above three intermediates that are identical to the starting newel. The newels have simple turned drops that are about 2-3/8" tall. The string is open, with two rectangular balusters per tread that are 1-1/8" x 7/8" in section. The treads and risers are painted. The tread beds are coved moldings. Stair brackets are lattice and i shaped. The spandrel, mostly obscured by furniture, is paneled. The panels, recessed and slightly raised, seem small, with an applied panel molding of a small modified ogee. The stringer's lower section has one course of corbelling, and the lower edge is beaded. There is a closet under the stair with a 2-over-2 panel door. The panels are recessed and slightly raised and unmolded. There is an old twist spring catch.

The main entry, in the central bay of the east facade, has an aluminum storm door in place. There is a four-light transom but no sidelights. The transom bar is covered. The wood sill has been replaced. The trim is 3-3/4" wide. The inside fillet is 2-1/8" wide, with the remainder a backband with inside bead and modified ogee outward to a narrow outside fillet. The door has five panels, with a pair of upper and lower vertical panels and a central horizontal panel. The panels are raised and beveled on the exterior. The panel molding is a small ogee and outside bead. The hardware is a porcelain knob and a box lock, probably a replacement from later in the nineteenth century.

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The entry at the rear of the stair hall is closed. Other entries are into the wing's south end, in the west bay, from porch to kitchen; from the pantry in the kitchen wing onto the rear porch, in the north bay of the rear of the wing. The door appears to date from the late nineteenth century. It has large 2-over-2 lights, with broad flat muntins between. Below is a pair of vertical panels. There is a modern wooden storm door with eight lights above one horizontal panel. Second storey doors are four-panel with original hardware in some locations.

The farm name of White Plains evidently has to do with the poorly drained, whitish, oaky soil that can be turned only when dry. Part of the back field is often wet. When labor was cheap and plentiful, supplied by a small community of blacks living at the edge of the farm near the junction of the Galena-Massey road with the railroad track, the wet fields were tilled to drain them. There may also have been some dwellings for farm workers in or at the woods across the fields directly behind the house. When the present owners came to this farm 35 years ago, the house was dilapidated and the farm only marginally productive. During much of the nineteenth century the farm appears to have been tenanted. While this farmhouse probably was not built for tenants, its being a finer house than the sort usually provided, it was part of an early Kent County tendency that increased during the nineteenth century until by the turn of the twentieth century over half the county's farms were tenanted. On both the 1860 Martenet map of Kent County and the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlas map of the first election district, this farm is shown as owned by William Cacy. This was not his home farm, however. He lived north of Massey, at Timber Wick (K-161). The old C. S. Hurlock farmhouse (1877 atlas), at the next farm to the south on the same side of the road, was recently demolished. The farm was larger when the present owners bought it than it is now. Highway 301 runs through the back of the farm and isolated 76 acres on the west side of the new road. The state bought that tract and sold it to a farmer on the other side.



MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-637

White Plains

Rt. 313, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/3/86

View to ~~southeast~~ north



K 637-14

K-637

White Plains

Rt. 313, near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 7/3/86

View to northwest

CHAMPLAIN HISTORICAL TRUST
ARCHIVE

K-637 White Plains C.1840