#### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Inventory**—Nomination Form

For NPS use only SEP NOV 7 1984 received date entered

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1.	Nam	e			
histor	ic Miffli	.n-Marim Agricultura	l Complex		
and/o	r common				
2.	Loca	tion DE9			
street	& number	"Route 9 - South of	Muddy Branch		not for publication
city, to	own <sup>Dove</sup>	Er Little Creek Hun	idred_x_ vicinity of		
state	Dela	ware code	10 county	Kent	code 001
3.	Class	sification			
b s s	listrict ouilding(s) structure	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered NA	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	Present Use           X         agriculture            commercial            educational            entertainment            government            industrial            military	<pre>museum park     park     religious     scientific     transportation     other:</pre>
4.	Own	er of Proper	ty a stated		• • • • •
name	John C.	& Nancy G. Lewis		· - · ·	
street	& number	Little Creek - Leip	osic Road		
city, t	own	Dover	vicinity of	state	Delaware
5.	Loca	tion of Lega	I Descripti	on	
court	house, regist	try of deeds, etc. Kent	County Register o	f Deeds	
street	& number	Kent County Build	ling		
city, t	own	Dover		state	Delaware
6.	Repr	esentation i	in Existing	Surveys	
title	Delaware K- 2081	Cultural Resource	Survey has this pre	operty been determined e	ligible? yes _x no
date	1981			federal sta	ite county local
depos	sitory for sur	vev records Bureau o	f Archaeology and	Historic Preservat	ion

# 7. Description

Condition	deteriorated	Check one	Check one x original site	
good fair	ruins unexposed	altered	moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance The Mifflin-Marim Agricultural Complex dwelling is a five bay, center hall, 2 story brick building constructed after 1818. In plan, it is an "ell" shaped structure with a low 2 story rear wing. A well preserved group of nineteenth and early tweentieth century outbuildings is arranged to the north and east of the house.

The Complex is located on the east side of Route 9, just south of Muddy Branch and approximatly two miles south of the town of Leipsic in Little Creek Hundred. The Delaware River is about five miles to the east. About half that land is marsh and part of the Bombay Hook Natural Wildlife Refugee. The surrounding farm land is flat, well drained and has been devoted to agriculture for almost 300 years. The principal current crops are potatoes, corn and soy beans.

At first glance the house appears to be a late eighteenth century dwellng. However on closer inspection the structure reveals itself as an early nineteenth century structure. Among its typical eighteenth century features are the raised foundation, flemish bond facade and some interior wood work such as mantels on the second floor.

It is the interior of the dwelling that gives clear indication of its nineteenth century date. The wide stair hall with its closed string stair, light turned banisters and thin balustrade, that rises to the landing and then turns and continues to the second floor is indication of its construction on the 1820's. The wood work of the first floor parlor continues the conservative approach to the decoration. The mantels are done in a federal tripartite fashion with reeded pilasters that are more typical of Greek revival architecture. The window surrounds have the same reeded decoration. An interesting feature found in this room and in the stair hall is the stencil decoration. It appears to be a late addition to the house and consists of a wide border at the cornice line that consists of ships. anchors, and fleur-de-lis. It is considerably faded at the present time but still visible. The owners plan on its restoration.

The south parlor is much plainer in decoration. Its mantel and window surrounds lack the reeded pilasters. The entrance to the rear wing is through this room.

The wing consists of two rooms. The first is next to the main house. It is separated from the second or rear room by a brick bearing wall. While this would indicate that the furthest part of the wing is a later addition, there is no brick scare on the exterior that would make this a logical choice. The additional bearing wall was most likely done for support of the second floor and to provide a stronger break between the various sections. The first room does have its own entrance to the north rear porch. The fireplace in the second or rear room has been rebuilt.

There is a full basement under the main block of the house which originally functioned as a storage for the dwelling house. There is no basement under the rear wing.

The house has a gable roof with a common rafter framing system. The rafter blades are pinned together and further tied together with collar beams.

# 8. Significance

1600-1699X architectureeducationmilitarysocial/1700-1799artengineeringmusichumanitaX 1800-1899commerceexploration/settlementphilosophytheater	Period	Areas of Significance—Ch	eck and justify below		
	prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600-1699 1700–1799	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art	community planning conservation conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry	Law Literature Military Literature	science sculpture social/ humanitarian

Specific dates c1820

Builder/Architect Unknown

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mifflin-Marim Agricultural Complex dwelling is a late example of eighteenth century building traditions in that it was constructed after 1818 on a eighteenth century model. As such it is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C.

Except for some interior decoration on stairs, mantels and windows, there is nothing about this dwelling that would indicate that it is anything but an eighteenth century dwelling. In fact previous field workers have identified a tentative construction date to some time in the 1770's. This was primarily based on an inspection of the exterior and the interior paneling of the south parlor and the second floor. However the mantels and woodwork in the north parlor appear to be original and not second generation additions. An additional clue to its late construction date is the presence of the collar beams in the roof framing system. These were not normally used in Delaware roofs in the eighteenth century.

The dwelling is thus an excellant example of the conservative nature of central Delaware Architecture. Most domestice structures built further north of this particular structure, and at the same time, reflect the stylistic influences of the nineteenth century. However this house is constructed on straight eighteenth century principles. The only major variation is the use of the ridge beam in the roof. This innovation was only beginning to be introduced in Delaware at this time. It is important to note that it was an internal innovation that did not involve stylistic alterations to the building.

There is also documentary evidence for its late construction date. The land it stands on is a part of the Willingbrook tract that was originally granted to John Stevens of Maryland. By the mid eighteenth century his grandson, Henry Stevens, had control of the tract of land south of Muddy Branch. This tract was known as Chipping Norton.

When Henry Stevens died in 1789, he gave the land on the north side of Route 9 to his daughter Hannah. She was the wife of John Marim. When John Marim died in 1817, his lands were also split among his heirs. Kent County Orphans Court kept a detailed account of the estate and the case file contains a Feburary 17, 1818 plot that shows how the land was to be divided. The eldest son Charles was to receive the home farm of his father. The plot shows the boundary line and also clearly indicates the presence of a dwelling. The only other dwelling or mention of a dwelling is on the portion of land given to son Thomas near Cowgills Corner. The portion of land that the Mifflin-Marim House is currently on contains no indication that a house was standing there at all. Given the care that went into the production of the plot and division of land. If a house had been there it would have been listed in the inventory or documentation of the

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Scharf's History of Delaware Beers' Atlas of Delaware Byles' Atlas of Kent County Kent County Orphans Court Record Book H page 50

# **10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of nominated property5	acres		_	
Quadrangle name Dover			Quadrangle scale $\_1$ :	2400
UT M References				
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°				
		F		
		н <u></u> ]. [_]		
/erbal boundary description and	d justification		No esta de la composición de	
This nomination inc. Deed book reference Q3		tire legal parcel t	that includes the hou	se and out
List all states and counties for p		rlapping state or count	y boundaries	
state	code	county	code	
tate	code	county	code	
1. Form Prepa				
treet & number Old State Hous	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	n teleph	June, 1984 one (302) 736-5685 Delaware	
city or town		state		
12. State Histor	r <b>ic Pre</b> s	ervation Of	ficer Certific	ation
he evaluated significance of this pro-	operty within the	e state is:		
national				
As the designated State Historic Pres 655), I hereby nominate this property according to the criteria and procedu	servation Officer	r for the National Historic F the National Register and	certify that it has been evalu	
State Historic Preservation Officer si	gnature	Atur K	Llon	
itle Director, Division of	Historical	& Cultural Affairs	date September	r 24, 1984
For NPS use only				
I hereby certify that this proper	ty is included in	the National Register		7_cil
J. Allorer Byen	ty is included in	the National Register	date //- 7	7-84
I hereby certify that this proper <i>Lelvrestyes</i> Keeper of the National Register	ty is included in		date //- 7	7-54
1 Allorer Byen	ty is included in		date //- 7	7-54

**Continuation sheet** 

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The outbuildings are all contributing elements of this agricultural complex. The largest structure is a cement block and frame cow barn with a gable roof. It was constructed in the early twentieth century. Next to it is a cement block dairy. The complex also has a large 2 story frame stable. It was erected during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The other outbuildings are a frame corncrib and granary on brick piers and a series of small sheds and utility buildings.

Item number

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Contin	uation sheet	tem number		
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In 1833, John Pleasonton bought the Marim Farm. He in turn willed it to his widowed daughter Eliza Webb. However the property seems to have been the tenant farm for William Mifflin in that his name is recorded on both the 1859 atlas and 1868 atlas for Little Creek Hundred.

The land remained a working farm until 1976. In that year the house and outbuildings were split off onto a five acre parcel. The then current owners were planning to demolish the structure. However the present owners were able to rescue the property and have been working on a restoration of the dwelling since then.