

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

SEP 20 1984  
NOV 7 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mifflin-Marim Agricultural Complex

and/or common

2. Location

DE 9

street & number ~~Route 9~~ South of Muddy Branch

not for publication

city, town Dover <sup>Vic.</sup> ~~Little Creek Hundred~~ x vicinity of

state Delaware

code 10

county Kent

code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John C. & Nancy G. Lewis

street & number Little Creek - Leipsic Road

city, town Dover

vicinity of

state Delaware

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Register of Deeds

street & number Kent County Building

city, town Dover

state Delaware

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Delaware Cultural Resource Survey  
K- 2081

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

city, town Dover

state Delaware

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 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 twentieth 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 approximately 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 Refuge. 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 dwelling. 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.



## 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

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres  
Quadrangle name Dover

Quadrangle scale 1: 2400

### UTM References

A 

1	8	4	5	6	6	9	0	4	3	4	0	1	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

This nomination includes the entire legal parcel that includes the house and outbuildings  
Deed book reference Q30 page150

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen G. Del Sordo; Historian

organization Bureau of Archaeology & Historic Preservation date June, 1984

street & number Old State House, The Green telephone (302) 736-5685

city or town Dover state Delaware

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*John R. Kern*

title Director, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs date September 24, 1984

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*John A. Byles*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 11-7-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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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 corner crib and granary on brick piers and a series of small sheds and utility buildings.

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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 out-buildings 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.