

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Plimhimmon

AND/OR COMMON

Plimhimmon

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Md. Route 333, .7 mile east of Oxford

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Talbot

CODE

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William H. Myers

Telephone #: (301) 226-5275

STREET & NUMBER

Plimhimmon Farm

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21654

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 359

Folio #: 467

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-162

| 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 _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Plimhimmon is located on the north side of Maryland Route 333, seven-tenths of a mile east of Oxford in Talbot County, Maryland. As it stands today, the house is composed of three sections: a two-bay wide, two-story brick structure; a five-bay long, two-story frame structure; and a three-bay long, two-story kitchen wing. The frame wings were constructed in the 1870's by William Myers, a grandfather of the present owner. They replace an earlier wing, which, from an oil painting in the house, appears to have been a 1½-story frame structure on a high brick basement. The 1798 Direct Tax gives the dimensions of a wing and kitchen which may be the structures depicted in the 19th century painting. The brick portion is also listed in the assessment, as a 28' x 30' structure.

Of the structure listed in 1798, only the brick section remains, with some modifications on the exterior and a few inside. The house is situated, like Bonfield across the road, on a man-made terrace. The first story, high above the terrace on a high brick basement, is two bays wide and two deep. The four first story windows have 9/9 sash and louvered shutters. The second story windows also have louvered shutters, but the sash have been replaced with 2/2 sash. On both gables the cornice is carried around creating a pediment with two windows that have 4/2 sash. The cornice is composed of dentils and triglyphs. There is a single chimney on the west gable. On both facades are one-story porches with pierced balustrade, square posts with small brackets and low hipped roof.

Inside the older portion of the house is a stair hall and a parlor. An open string stair is located in the north end of the hall. It has a walnut balustrade with two balusters per step and turned newels with the handrail ascending over the newels. The stair ascends to the second story and attic in three flights each. On the wall adjoining the wing is a large arched recess with fluted pilasters, paneled soffit and reveal, and keystone trim. It originally opened into a room at the same level. Around the room is a chair rail, a half profile of the handrail and the same as the shadow-rail.

The mantel around the fireplace is the focal point of the parlor. It has fluted pilasters supporting the shelf with a course of triglyphs, a course of fluting and a wall of troy molding. The fireplace surround and hearth are marble. The windows are recessed from the interior wall and their trim rests on pilasters. There are recessed paneled jambs and a panel beneath the windows with applied molding. The chair rail, which interrupts the pilasters, is composed of a cap with course of triglyphs beneath. At the ceiling is a plaster cove cornice. Most of the woodwork in the room retains its original paint, including the grained door, black baseboards and gray trim.

On the second story, there is, in the usual fashion, a small room at the head of the stairs and two rooms above the parlor. Each of the rooms has original doors, trim and floors and the two above the parlor have corner fireplaces with original mantels, plainer than those in the parlor, but with fluted pilasters.

In the plan this main portion of Plimhimmon resembles the first and third stories of Knocks Folly, Kent County, although Plimhimmon is larger in scale. The basement apparently was a work and storage area, and like the rest of this portion has been virtually untouched.

The 1870's addition is a very plain two-story structure typical of the frame farmhouses of its period. It has a center hall with a room on either side and the kitchen in another frame addition. The woodwork inside is also very plain, but good and typical. There is no interior access from the first floor of the old brick house to the first floor of the frame wing.

East of the dwelling stands an original brick meathouse with a fireplace inside. There are also several barns of varying ages along the east side of the drive.

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| 10-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Plimhimmon's importance architecturally lies not in the fact that it is a stylish building, but rather that it is a vernacular form with stylish detailing, which has survived in an almost untouched condition. The arch which formerly opened between the hall and adjoining room is an unusual feature except as connected with another portion of the hall. Its presence creates many questions about the configuration of the original wing which are not solved by the painting in the collection of the owners.

From the viewpoint of landscape, the terrace on which the dwelling stands is an interesting use of elevation to minimize the height of the building. The land surrounding the house has been cultivated for many years, and is still farmed today. The property is across Town Creek from Oxford and maintains the agricultural environment the town has always been surrounded with.

Matthew Tilghman, the great patriot of the Revolutionary War among Maryland legislators, bought Plimhimmon plantation and built the brick mansion house for his only bereaved young daughter, the widow of Tench Tilghman. Through the entire war, Lt. Col. Tench Tilghman served as aide-de-camp to General Washington, and it was he who carried the news of the victory at Yorktown to the Congress in Philadelphia. He and Anna Maria Tilghman, daughter of Matthew, were married at the close of the war in 1783, and lived in Baltimore, where the Colonel entered into a co-partnership with Robert Morris of Philadelphia in the mercantile business. But the rigors of the long campaigns had undermined his health, and he died in April of 1786. He left his widow, a baby girl and another baby girl, born posthumously. (Tilghman, Vol. I, pp. 4-46).

Plimhimmon, surveyed as 600 acres for Henry Morgan in 1659, was first possessed by John Rousby. In 1718 Rousby sold these 600 acres to Richard Coward, merchant, as well as fifty acres adjoining, known as Morgan's Point, for a total sum of 470 sterling of Great Britain (12/368). By 1729 Richard Coward's son, John, had inherited the plantation. He sold a tract called "Morgan" to Charles Markland, who had lately emigrated from Liverpool (13/562).

The 1783 Tax Assessment lists Bridget Coward, widow, possessing her one-third dower right, at Plimhimmon and Morgan's Point, while her son, Thomas, possessed the other two-thirds. Bridget's house was described as a logged dwelling and Thomas' as a framed dwelling house with numerous outbuildings, "mostly in bad repair." This makes the sum of 4000 that Matthew Tilghman paid Thomas Coward in 1787 even more puzzling. Tilghman must have decided that this was an ideal location for his widowed daughter and her two baby girls, since it was so close to Oxford and across the road from Bonfield, the home of their cousins, the Samuel Chamberlaines.

Anna Maria Tilghman lived at Plimhimmon in great style and comfort for well over fifty years. Her eldest daughter married a Tilghman of Hope, and their son, young Tench Tilghman, was raised by his grandmother. In 1833 she deeded all of her plantation as well as other tracts to this grandson (50/455). Tench Tilghman later rose to the rank of General in the Confederate Army during the War between the States.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

PLIMHIMMON - OXFORD, MARYLAND - TALBOT COUNTY

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

1

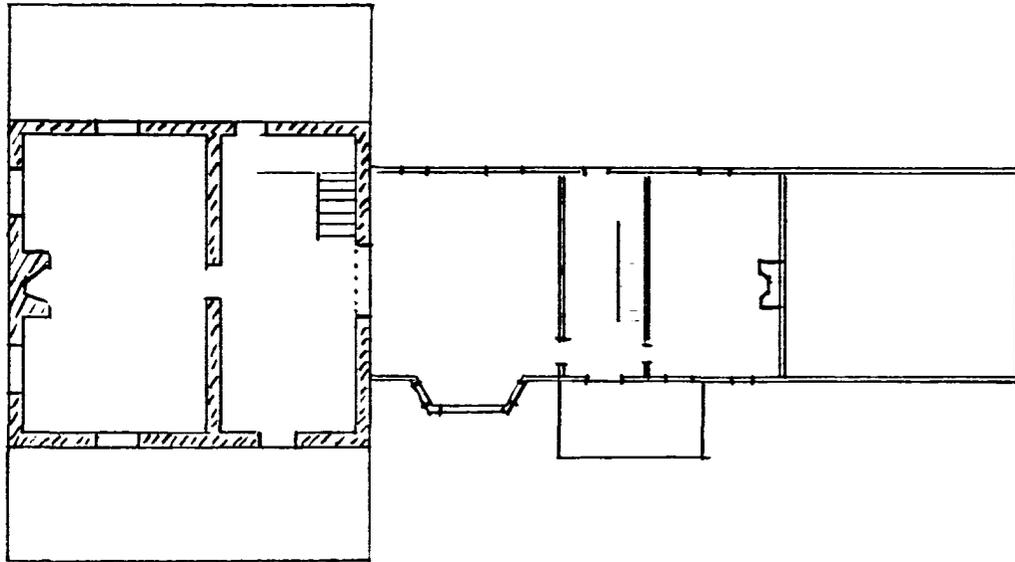
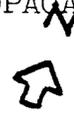
#8 - SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

The years prior to the war were very difficult ones for the large plantation owners. Tobacco ceased to be a big money-making crop. The rich soil had been ravaged by so many years of tobacco production, and drought and pestilence also took their toll. With the end of the war, and the freeing of the slaves, the final chapter of financial tragedy was written. In 1868 General Tilghman mortgaged Plimhimmon, secured by deed to Edward K. Cooper (71/309). The General was unable to pay the interest on this mortgage, and in 1871 he and his wife put all their land holdings in the trusteeship of Benjamin Harrington and Isaac C. W. Powell to be sold (77/483). At the public sale in 1873, Plimhimmon was purchased by Edward K. Cooper and his wife, Mary. The Coopers lived in Baltimore and never occupied the house; they were simply trying to protect their mortgage investment.

In 1877 William Myers and his wife, Lucy, bought 300 acres from the Coopers, including part of "Plimhimmon" and part of "Morgan's Point." Myers paid \$16,000 for the house and lands. In 1878 the Myers deeded back to Anna Maria Tilghman, widow of the General, the part of "Plimhimmon" known as the family burial ground, for the perpetual use of the Tilghman family. The deed included a right-of-way to the public road leading to Oxford (86/68). Four years later, they also deeded an adjoining tract of two acres to the Oxford Cemetery Corporation, formed the previous year, to be used as a public burial ground for those who wished to buy a plot (95/114, 182). This cemetery is still in existence and is the burial site for many Talbot Countians. Only a few years ago, the remains of Col. Tench Tilghman were moved from Baltimore to the family plot in this cemetery. After the death of their mother in 1844, a tall obelisk was erected by their children to the memory of the Colonel and his faithful Anna Maria.

The old plantation passed from William Myers to his son, William Jr., and is presently owned and farmed by the third generation, William H. Myers (359/467, 1959). The brick mansion house that Matthew Tilghman built for his daughter is not occupied, and is suffering some deterioration. The family lives in the adjoining wooden wing which has been reconstructed and enlarged. The house stands in a grove of magnificent trees, with outbuildings of various ages nearby, and a backdrop of the Tred Avon River, an unforgettable picture of a splendid plantation.

- THIS PLAN FOR ILLUSTRATION OF TEXT ONLY
- IT IS NOT A MEASURED DRAWING
- PROPERTY OF MICHAEL BOURNE NOT TO BE REPRODUCED
LEST MORE ARCHITECTURAL ERRORS BE PROPAGATED.



PLIMHIMMON

TALBOT COUNTY

NO SCALE

M. Bourne 12/77

T-162



1) Plimhimmon
Talbot County, Maryland

Maryland Historical Trust
exterior: front facade

T-162





12 x 1.50 (6.15) 77% 75% 167

Plimhimmon

T-162

(4)



P81

a

w

MICHAEL BOURNE

July 1976



Plimhimmon - stain

T-162



MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976



Plimhimmon, arch in stair hall

T-162



M. Bourne

MICHAEL BOURNE

Aug 1976



Plimhimmon - oil painting c. 1860

T-162



MICHAEL BOURNE

M. Bourne

Aug 1976