



## Marlpit Hall Tour Outline

**GOAL:** To present to visitors the changes in lifestyles for well-to-do Monmouth County landowners from the 1680s to the 1810s, as are seen in domestic architecture and furnishings.

- I. **Introduction** [to be done in 1680s kitchen]
  - A. History of inhabitants
    - 1. Grover family original builders
    - 2. Taylors acquire house, and enlarge
    - 3. Documentary evidence [family bills, invoices, inventories] used to develop furnishing plan
- II. **1680s Kitchen**
  - A. Original house was just this one room
    - 1. multi-purpose room, used for eating, sleeping, cooking
    - 2. storage upstairs
  - B. Dutch features
    - 1. large beams, low ceiling
    - 2. furniture, such as kas and cabinet
  - C. Furnishings
    - 1. large pieces for storage [bed mats, linens]
    - 2. smaller, portable pieces for different activities [gateleg table, benches]
    - 3. armchair for master of house
- III. **Exterior** [go out through 1680s kitchen door]
  - A. Building history
    - 1. house moved from original site
    - 2. shows three distinct periods--1680s, 1740s, 1810s
- IV. **1740s Hall** [enter through hall door from exterior]
  - A. Addition ca. 1740s combines Dutch and English features
    - 1. English features include plan with central hall and open stair, with rooms on either side of hall
    - 2. Dutch features include hooded entry, split door
  - B. Hall as room, not just passageway
    - 1. multipurpose room
    - 2. portability of furniture, especially chairs
- V. **1740s Parlor**
  - A. Multipurpose room, used for sleeping, eating, entertaining
  - B. English architectural details include paneled fireplace surround, built-in corner cupboard with shell hood, classical details such as pilasters and dentils
  - C. Portable furniture include slant-top desk, drop leaf tables, Queen Anne chairs
- VI. **1740s Back Bedroom**
  - A. More specialized use of rooms in home of well-to-do:  
sleeping and entertaining small groups in best bedroom on first floor
  - B. Architectural detailing similar to parlor, but with cupboards built into fireplace surround
  - C. Bed hangings could take as much as 50 yards of fabric

- D. Furniture: high chest of drawers and dressing table made in Middletown and belonged to Taylor family

VII. **1810s Dining Room**

- A. Specialized room for dining begins in late 1700s, early 1800s
- B. Architectural details are still English
- C. Federal style furnishings include shield-back chairs, Federal style influenced by English and French styles
- D. Wallpaper reproduced from the Imlay House in Allentown (Monmouth County], NJ

Originally created: 9-91 by PMcD