

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Rochester Farm Survey Number: WO-317

Project: US 113 from MD 394 to Delaware State Line Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Rochester Farm is located on the east side of Route 113 north of Snow Hill in Worcester County, MD. The property, which includes a large mid-19th-century farmhouse and several non-contributing farm buildings, is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the MHT form on the property, Rochester Farm was originally part of the tremendous "Rochester" tract, patented in 1682 and including 2900 acres. The farmhouse on the property was erected ca. 1870 and has been owned by the Northam family since the early 20th century.

The farmhouse is a large, two-story, five-bay frame structure with a central passage plan. Designed in a watered-down Greek Revival style, characterized by pilaster corner boards and a wide, plain frieze board, the dwelling is set upon an infilled brick foundation and covered with a steeply pitched gable roof with brick end chimneys. A rebuilt 2-1/2-story kitchen wing extends off the back of the main block of the house, significantly compromising its original form and massing. The interiors have been remodelled and are finished with traditional period woodwork that is modest in its decoration and architectural quality. The property lacks the architectural distinctiveness and integrity to qualify it for listing in the National Register.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian, 6/30/1989

Kimberly Prothro Williams March 28, 1996  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Orlando Roberts April 10, 1996  
Reviewer, NR program Date

*Handwritten mark*

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

**I. Geographic Region:**

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaptation

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

WO-317  
Rochester Farm  
Snow Hill vicinity  
Private

c. 1860

Owned by the Northam family since the early twentieth century, this Snow Hill vicinity farm is part of the tremendous Rochester tract, patented in 1682 by John Godden and including 2900 acres. However, the farmhouse on the property is a third quarter of the nineteenth century dwelling erected around 1860. The large center hall, single-pile dwelling is finished with traditional period woodwork. Etched in a pane of glass are the initials, J. L. P., which identify one of the former Purnell family occupants. In 1877 the property is designated under the ownership of Mrs. Mary Jane Purnell, who had acquired the farm in January of that year after a circuit court settlement.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ROCHESTER FARM

MHT Inventory Number: WO-317

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE  
AGRICULTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
AGRARAIN/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family farm dwelling

Survey No. WO-317

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ROCHESTER FARM

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number East side of US Route 113 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Sidney O. Northam

street & number Berlin Road (US Route 113) telephone no.: 632-0182

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber ODC 6

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 34

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0-317

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

Rochester farm is located on the east side of US Route 113 north of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay center hall frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on north/south axis.

The farmhouse, dating from around 1870, is a two-story center hall/single-pile frame dwelling supported on a infilled brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the back of the main house is a rebuilt two-and-a-half story dining room and kitchen wing. The house is accompanied by a few farm buildings of later date.

The west (main) elevation of the farmhouse is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The six-panel front door is framed by colored glass sidelights. Stretching across the entire first floor is a turned post porch highlighted by a center gable sheathed with fish-scale wood shingles. Lighting the second floor are five evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Trimming the corners of the house are covered over wide plank pilasters.

The north and south gable ends have exterior corbelled base brick chimney stacks with six-over-six sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The chimney tops are finished with corbelled caps. A modern single-story addition is attached to the south gable end.

The east (rear) elevation of the main house is largely covered by the rebuilt two-and-a-half story dining room and kitchen wing.

The interiors have been partially remodeled through the years by some third quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork remains in place. A turned newel post and tapered balusters supported a circular profile handrail. Plain mid nineteenth century post and lintel mantels are found in the house along the four-panel doors.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-317

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 checked="" 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/ humanitarian
<input 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
<input type="checkbox"/> 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

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.

Owned by the Northam family since the early twentieth century, this Snow Hill vicinity farm is part of the tremendous Rochester tract, patented in 1682 by John Godden and including 2900 acres. However, the farmhouse on the property is a third quarter of the nineteenth century dwelling erected around 1860. The large center hall, single-pile dwelling is finished with traditional period woodwork. Etched in a pane of glass are the initials, J. L. P., which identify one of the former Purnell family occupants. In 1877 the property is designated under the ownership of Mrs. Mary Jane Purnell, who had acquired the farm in January of that year after a circuit court settlement. (ITM 5/158)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-317

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private consultant/Worcester Co. date 6/30/89

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-1651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

WO-317  
ROCHESTER FARM  
Snow Hill vicinity  
Chain of title

ODC 6/34                    Thomas P. Selby  
                              Hattie V. Selby

to

1/24/1910                  Henry C. Northam  
                              \$4000.00    "Rochester Farms"

ODC 3/207                  Thomas J. Henman  
                              Cora A. Henman

to

1/9/1909                   Thomas P. Selby  
                              \$4,975.00    "Rochester Farm"

FHP 26/100                 Stephen L. Purnell

to

9/15/1906                 Thomas J. Henman

FHP 21/220                 John W. Purnell  
                              Carrie F. Purnell

to

8/16/1904                 Stephen L. Purnell  
                              \$1,600.00    being the same which was surveyed  
                              calculated and plotted by William Ulysses  
                              Schoolfield 8/5/1904    161  $\frac{1}{4}$  acres  
                              "Purnells Farm" plat shows D. M. and Va  
                              right-of-way

WO-317  
ROCHESTER FARM  
Snow Hill vicinity  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

FHP 18/57

Mary J. Purnell, George E. Purnell, and  
Idella B. Purnell

to

11/17/1902

John W. Purnell

\$1,600.00 "Rochester Farm" now occupied  
by William West being the same which was  
conveyed unto the Mary J. Purnell, by  
three separate deeds

1. ITM 8/249, 9/3/1880, from William M.  
Purnell and wife, and Stephen L. Purnell  
et al. "being the same real estate of  
which Stephen D. Purnell late of said  
county died siezed and possessed, except  
so much as was sold by Stephen L. Purnell  
and James L. Purnell as trustees appointed  
by the Circuit Court of Worcester County...

2. ITM 8/255, 3/19/1881, from James L.  
Purnell, George U. Truitt, and Gertrude D.  
Truitt, "Rochester Farm" whereon Barclay  
Moore now resides" \$200.00

3. FHP 3/507, 3/15/1893, from M. Katie  
Purnell and John W. Purnell, "Rochester"  
whereon William R. Powell now resides"  
\$200.00

ITM 5/158

Stephen L. Purnell, James L. Purnell, trustees

to

1/12/1877

Mary Jane Purnell

Whereas by a decree of circuit court 5/13/1875  
in the case of William M. Purnell and James  
L. Purnell vs. Stephen L. Purnell, et al.

WO-317  
ROCHESTER FARM  
Snow Hill vicinity  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

GHR 1/215

John R. Franklin, executor of the last  
will and testament of Chessed Purnell,  
deceased

to

5/18/1864

Stephen D. Purnell  
land on the northwest side of County road  
leading from Snow Hill to Berlin  
\$8,020.00 called "Flatbury," "Outten's  
Luck," and "Rochester" being the same  
on which the said Chessed Purnell resided  
at the time of this death...

TT 8/348

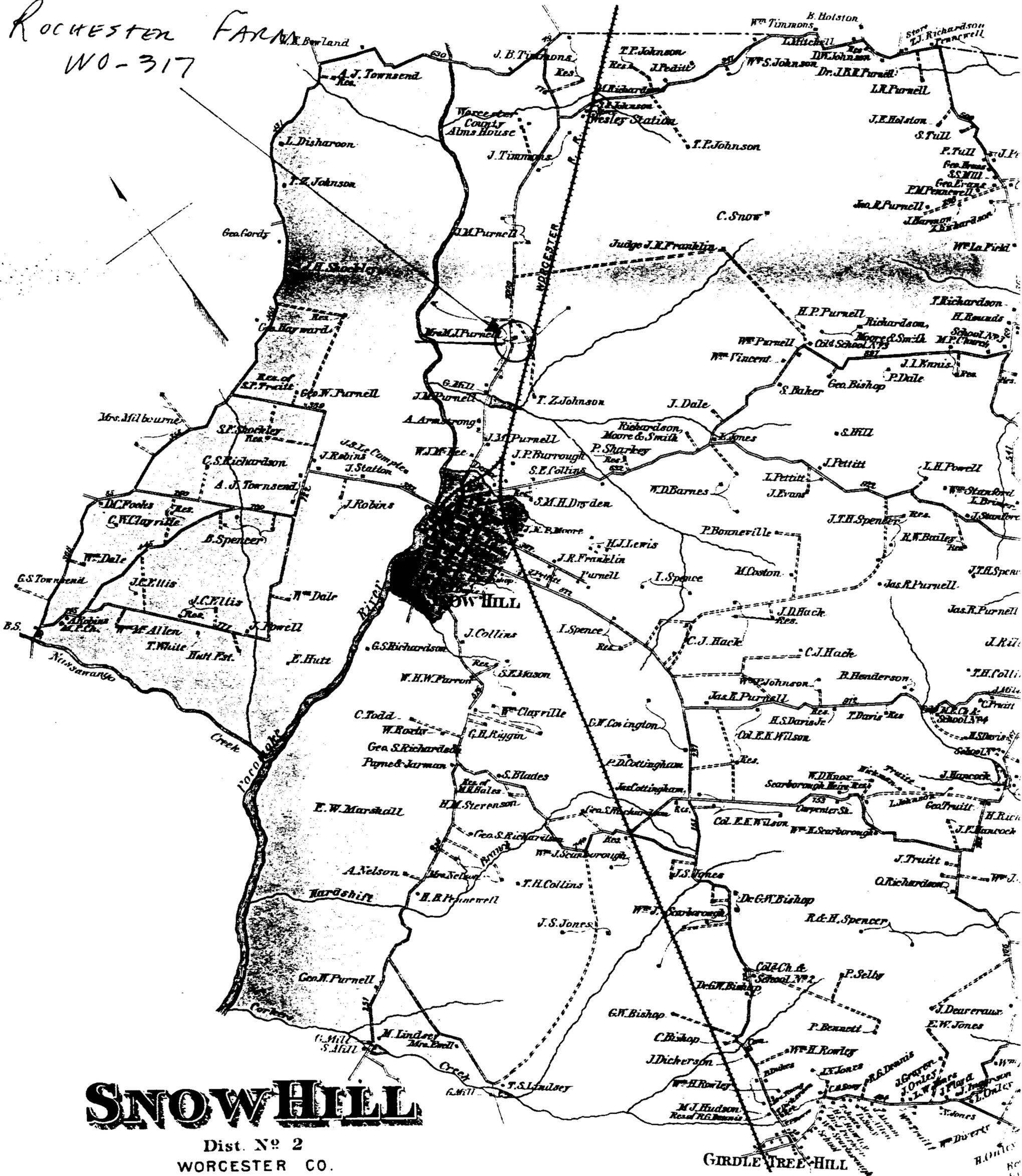
Last will and testament of Chessed Purnell  
Item: I devise all my real estate lying  
and being situated in the Town of Snow Hill  
including my wharf property to be sold by  
my executor...

Proved  
2/27/1862

Item: I direct that the income or rent of  
the farm near Snow Hill on which I now  
reside for the year in which I may die and  
for the succeeding year shall be received by  
said executor and paid over to the vestry of  
All Hallows Parish first for the payment of  
debt I owe said vestry and the remainder as  
a donation And I further devise said farm and  
all that land I own adjoining thereto to be  
sold by my executor herein after named...

# ROCHESTER FARM

WO-317



# SNOW HILL

Dist. No 2  
WORCESTER CO.

GIRDLE TREE HILL

