

Easement

WO-320
Girdletree Bank
Girdletree
Private

1901

The old Girdletree bank is rare survivor of small village bank buildings in Worcester County. Since the Stockton bank has been demolished, the only other similarly designed bank stands in Newark. Notable features for the Girdletree bank include the pressed brick front, the slate roof with metal cresting, and the metal cornice that trims the perimeter of the roof. Few changes have been made to this structure since the early twentieth century.

Construction of the Girdletree bank is documented by an entry in the Wicomico News, a Salisbury paper, printed on January 2, 1902. The article announced,

The new bank of George L. Barnes & Co. opened its doors for business at Girdletree, in Worcester county this week. Girdletree is a thriving village and a large oyster shipping station. The new bank is the only one there. The members of the firm are George L. Barnes, a prosperous merchant of Girdletree, and Clayton J. Purnell, of Snow Hill, president of the Exchange and Savings Bank of Berlin, and attorney for the First National Bank of Snow Hill and the Pocomoke City National Bank.

The bank remained open until the 1930s when the Depression and resulting economic difficulties forced bank officials to close its doors.

Easement

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GIRDLENER BANK

MHT Inventory Number: NO. 320

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
COMMENCE
- 2) Geographic Orientation:
EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE
1820-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
1. BANK BUILDING

5. Usement

Survey No. W0-320

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GEORGE L. BARNES & CO.- GIRDLETREE BANK

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of MD Route 12 ___ not for publication

city, town Girdletree ___ 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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-320

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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.

The old Girdletree Bank stands on the east side of MD Route 12 in the center of Girdletree, Worcester County, Maryland. The single-story brick bank faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1901, the single-story seven-course common bond brick bank is distinguished by a pressed brick front and a steeply pitched slate roof. Attached to the back of the rectangular structure is a shed roofed addition.

The west (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking single-pane sash window. The boarded over door is topped by a single-pane transom and a segmental brick arch. A granite slab serves as the door sill. The adjacent window opening, set in a recessed bay, is marked by a segmental arch as well. The gable end is framed with a metal cornice, and fixed within the gable is a lunette window with radiating muntins. Granite slabs serve as the window sills as well. Rising through the center of the building is a single-flue brick chimney stack. The slate roof is trimmed with a metal cresting.

The south side of the bank is marked by an original single-pane sash window topped by segmental arch, and a later smaller window to the east. The north side is defined by two original single-pane sash windows with segmental arches.

The east end is partially covered by the single-story rear shed addition.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-320

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 **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.

The old Girdletree bank is rare survivor of small village bank buildings in Worcester County. Since the Stockton bank has been demolished, the only other similarly designed bank stands in Newark. Notable features for the Girdletree bank include the pressed brick front, the slate roof with metal cresting, and the metal cornice that trims the perimeter of the roof. Few changes have been made to this structure since the early twentieth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Construction of the Girdletree bank is documented by an entry in the Wicomico News, a Salisbury paper, printed on January 2, 1902. The article announced,

The new bank of George L. Barnes & Co. opened its doors for business at Girdletree, in Worcester county this week. Girdletree is a thriving village and a large oyster shipping station. The new bank is the only one there. The members of the firm are George L .Barnes, a prosperous merchant of Girdletree, and Clayton J. Purnell, of Snow Hill, president of the Exchange and Savings Bank of Berlin, and attorney for the First National Bank of Snow Hill and the Pocomoke City National Bank.

The bank remained open until the 1930s when the Depression and resulting economic difficulties forced bank officials to close its doors.

Pocomo News, January 2, 1902

The new bank of George L. Barnes & Co. opened its doors for business at Girdletree, in Worcester county this week. Girdletree is a thriving village and a large oyster shipping station. The new bank is the only one there. The members of the firm are George L. Barnes, a prosperous merchant of Girdletree, and Clayton J. Purnell, of Snow Hill, president of the Exchange Savings Bank of Berlin, and attorney for the First National Bank of Snow Hill and the Pocomoke City National Bank.

Wo-320

Girdletree Bank, WO-320 or
The George Barnes Bank, 1901
Girdletree, Worcester County

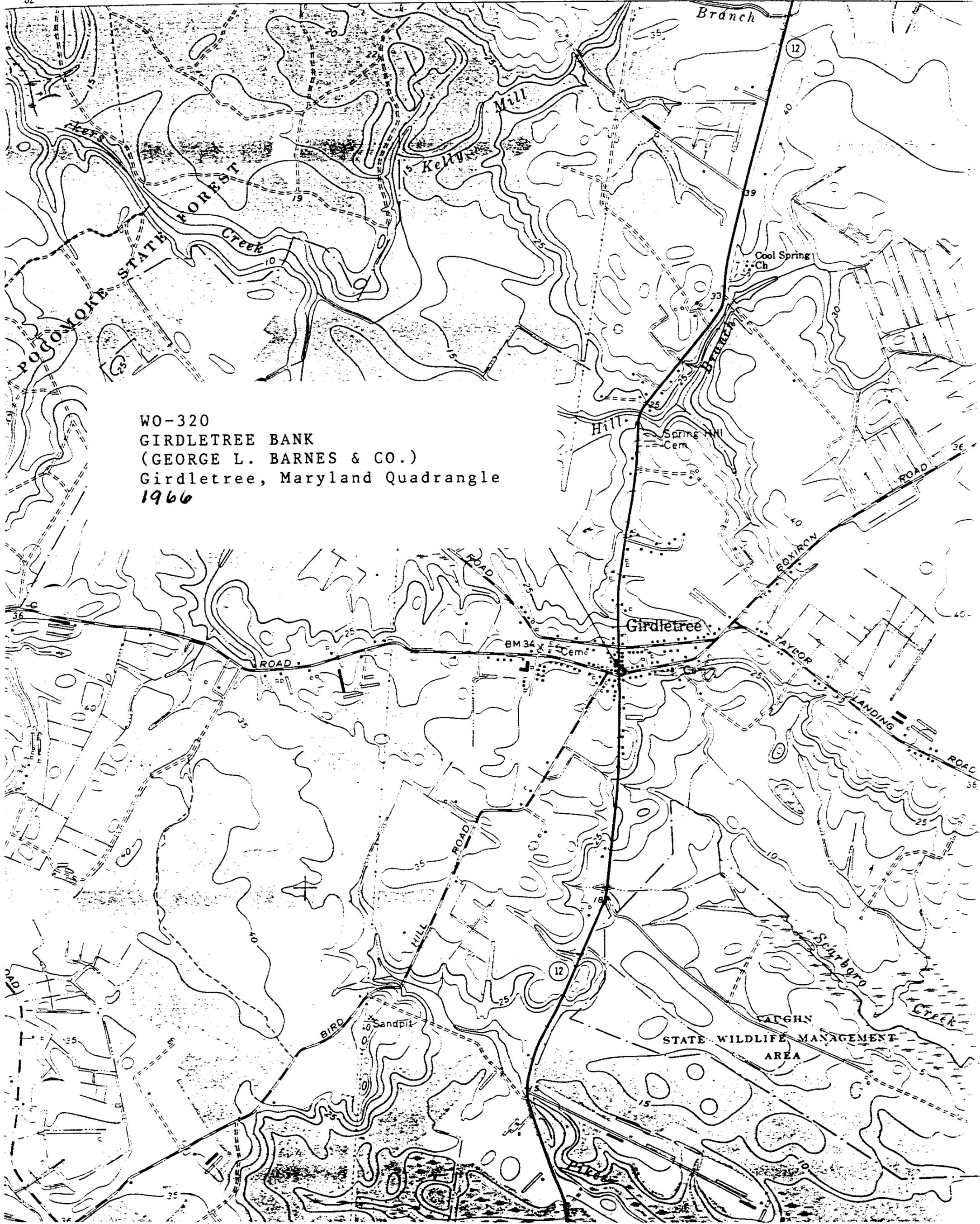
Visited August 9, 1995

The exterior of the bank is adequately described in the yellow form prepared by Paul Touart. On the visit by the OPS staff on the above date, the interior was visited and the following notes taken:

The interior is composed of a vestibule and banking room, behind which are two rooms, originally Mr. Barnes office and the vault. The frame lean-to was added when the bank was converted into a residence. None of the original furnishings remain.

Original trim, doors and windows remain in most areas. The floor was originally wood, but that was removed and a concrete floor poured in its place. The drop ceiling conceals the original plaster ceiling.

Michael Bourne



WO-320
 GIRDLETREE BANK
 (GEORGE L. BARNES & CO.)
 Girdletree, Maryland Quadrangle
 1966