

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0181**

**Name, Location, Ownership**

- 1. Historic name: Judge Jacob Averill Potter Farm
- 2. District or area: Oak Hill Agricultural Neighborhood
- 3. Street and number: 197 Oak Hill Rd.
- 4. City or town: Concord
- 5. County: Merrimack
- 6. Current owner: Grace Fournier

**Function or Use**

- 7. Current use(s): residence
- 8. Historic use(s): residence, farm

**Architectural Information**

- 9. Style/type: Greek Revival/Gothic Revial
- 10. Architect/builder: Unknown
- 11. Source: \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Construction date: ca. 1840-55
- 13. Source: Research, ext. visual analysis
- 14. Alterations, with dates: Queen Anne porch (ca. 1890s)
- 15. Moved? no  yes  date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exterior Features**

- 16. Foundation: granite block
- 17. Cladding: clapboard
- 18. Roof material: asphalt shingles
- 19. Chimney material: brick
- 20. Type of roof: gable
- 21. Chimney location: east end (exterior)
- 22. Number of stories: 1½
- 23. Entry location: center
- 24. Windows: 2/1  
Replacement? no  yes  date: early 20<sup>th</sup> c.

**Site Features**

- 25. Setting: rural
- 26. Outbuildings: 3 sheds, hen house, garage
- 27. Landscape features: barn foundation, wood, small field, cart path up hill



**Description:** Front elevation of house

- 35. Photo #1
- 36. Date Fall 2008
- 37. Roll #4      Frame #19      Direction: W
- 38. Negative stored at: NHDHR

- 28. Acreage: 40 acres
- 29. Tax map/parcel: 120-1-10
- 30. UTM reference: 19.296020 / 4793240
- 31. USGS quadrangle and scale: Penacook, 1:24000

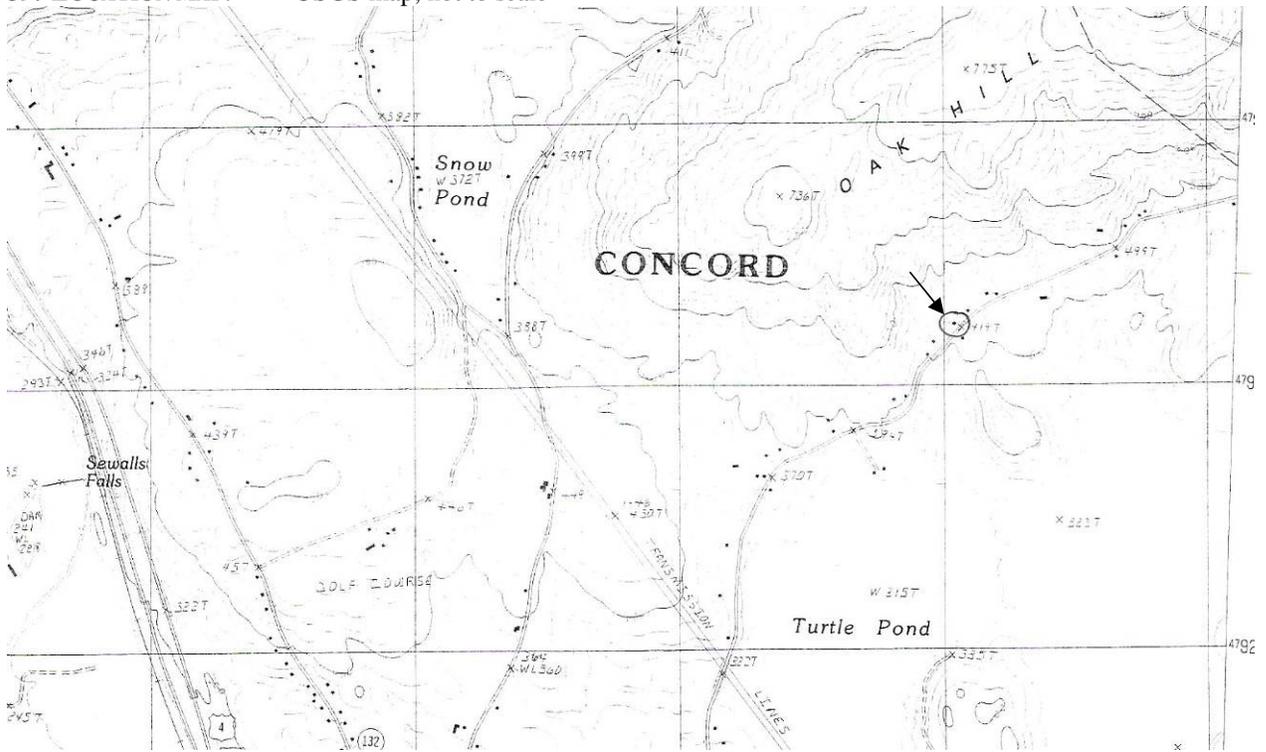
**Form prepared by**

- 32. Name: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant
- 33. Organization: for Concord Heritage Commission
- 34. Date of survey: Fall 2008

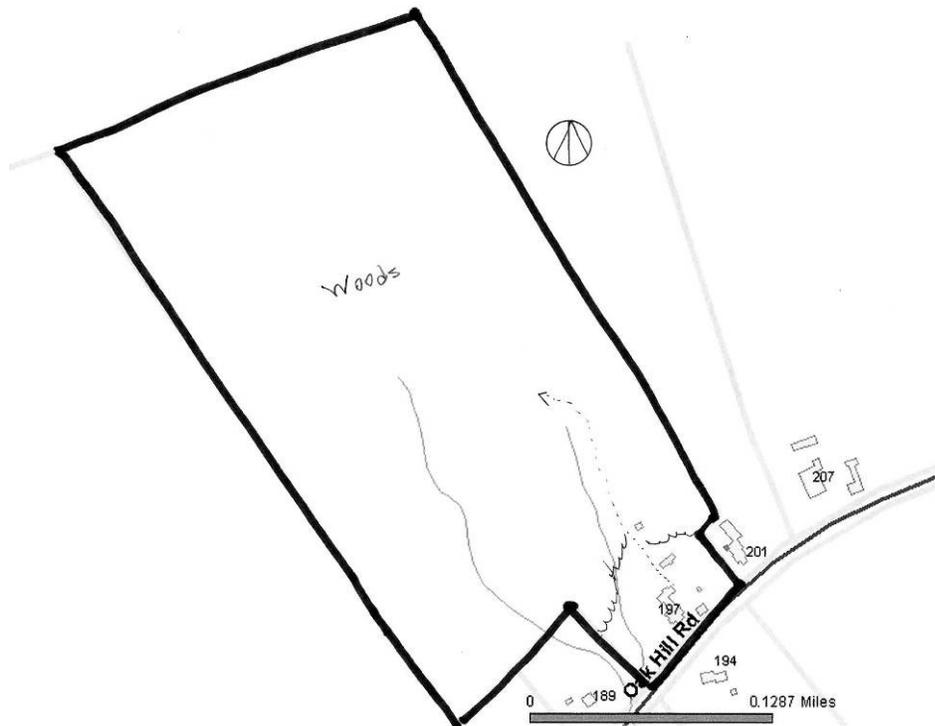
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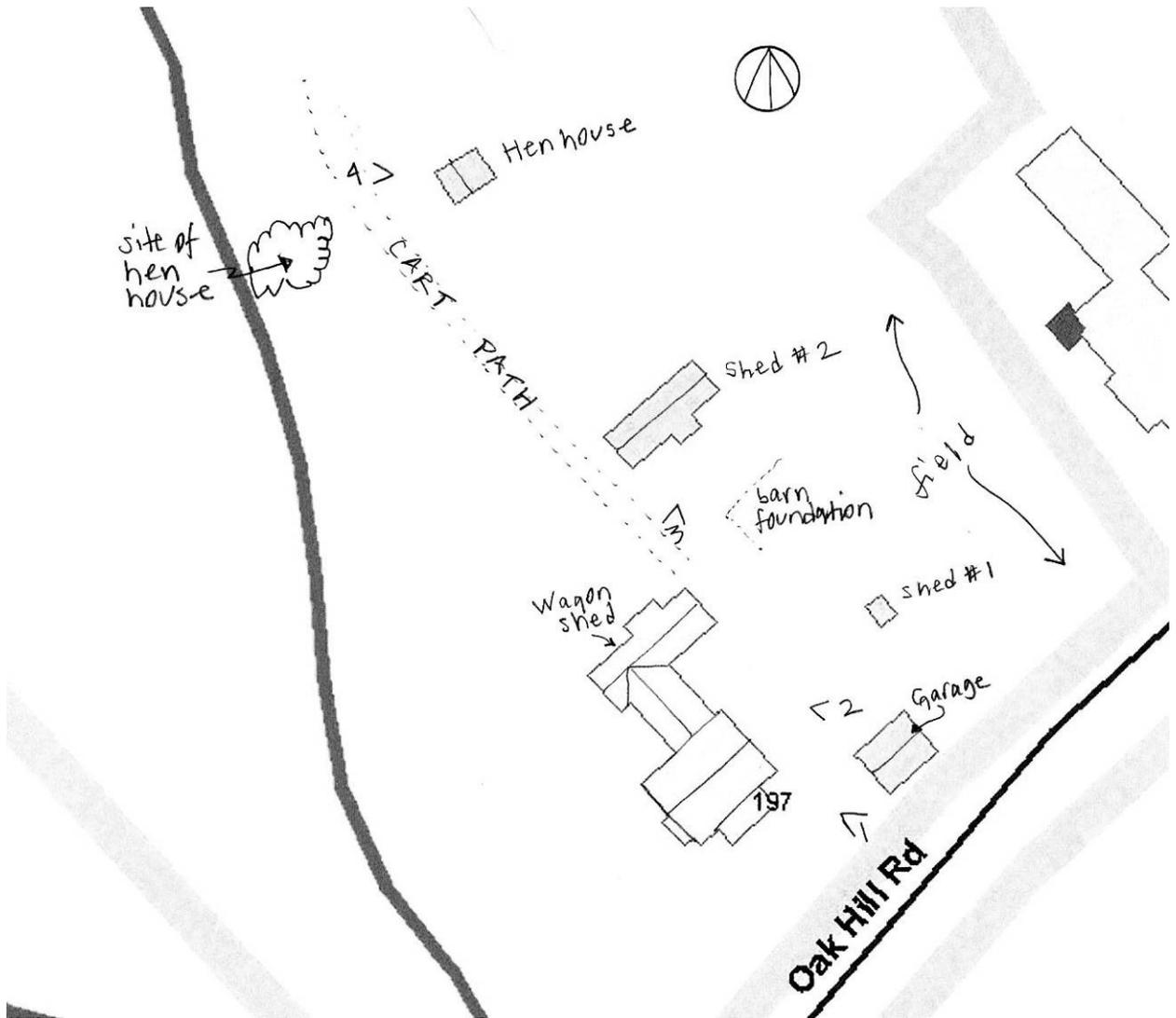
39. LOCATION MAP: USGS map, not to scale



40. PROPERTY MAP:



40. PROPERTY MAP & PHOTOGRAPH KEY:



**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM****NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0181****Methods and Purpose**

This form was completed as part of a survey of rural agricultural properties within the City of Concord, a project sponsored by the Heritage Commission. The overall purpose of the project was to raise public awareness of the city's rich agricultural legacy through a combination of identification, education, public policy and preservation planning tools.

Due to limited resources, the survey focused on barns and outbuildings that met all of the following criteria: (1) were sited on at least 10 acres of land; (2) they were located in a fairly rural area and not within the city center or an outlying village; (3) the surrounding land retained historic landscape features, such as open fields, pasture, and stone walls; (4) the outbuildings retained a high level of integrity from their agricultural era. None of the barns on the St. Paul's School campus were included. In addition, a few landmark barns, even if on a small lot, were included. Approximately 45 properties were included in the survey. Whenever possible, an interior inspection of the buildings was undertaken.

The survey was conducted at the reconnaissance-level. Historic background information was acquired from questionnaires sent to each property owner, personal interviews, a review of historic maps, and limited research in local histories. Certainly, additional research data on farms is available from population and, in particular, agricultural census records, and owners are encouraged to pursue those to add to this data base.

When properties were part of a larger, agricultural district, the form locates them as such, and a separate form documenting that historic agricultural neighborhood was prepared.

**41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:**

Despite a plaque on the front of the house citing a date of 1826, stylistic evidence, both on the exterior and interior, suggest a date for this house closer to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. A more thorough inspection, coupled with deed and tax research, might reveal whether the existing house replaced an earlier property.

By 1858, the farm was owned by Judge Jacob Averill Potter (1798-1865), associate justice of the court of common pleas for Merrimack County. The house was erected on land once part of a large Potter farm established in 1772 by Judge Potter's great uncle Ephraim Potter (see Oak Hill Agricultural Neighborhood form). The 1892 map shows J. Potter as owner.<sup>1</sup>

Circa 1924, Frank Fournier of New Jersey purchased the farm from Henry and Ettie Hall. The sale included approximately 100 acres on both sides of the road, house, outbuildings, and farm machinery. Fournier, together with his unmarried brother-in-law, Hormidas Seneca, ran a sizeable chicken farm. A truck made weekly pickups of the chickens, and Fournier also maintained an egg route. Until he was able to have chicks delivered by train service, he incubated them in his basement.<sup>2</sup> Historic photographs show a dozen or so chicken and hen houses of varying sizes and on both sides of the road. (One remains on this property and another across the road, on land that was later sold to a family member.)

Circa 1950, the bottom fell out of the chicken market for small farmers, and Fournier, by then assisted by his son and daughter-in-law, Frank L. (b. 1914) and Grace, stopped raising poultry. A large barn (see

<sup>1</sup> Bouton: 684; Potter family papers; 1858 & 1892 maps. According to Bouton, Jacob was still residing at #283 as late as 1852. Whether he later resided here, or was just the owner, is unknown at this point.

<sup>2</sup> Kathy Lacroix interview.

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historic photograph) that stood northeast of the house was removed at this time (part of the foundation remains visible).



View of poultry houses at Fournier Farm, ca. 1930s. In the rear, the main house and original barn of 197 Oak Hill are in the middle, 201 Oak Hill Rd just to the right, and at the far right, part of the large barn still standing at 207 Oak Hill Rd.

*Courtesy Founier family.*

**42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:**

- 51. Mixed agriculture and the family farm, 1630-present.
- 64. Poultry farming, 1870-present.

**43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:**

This former farm consists of a house with ell and attached shed wing, two sheds and a hen house. The accompanying forty acres of land is largely wooded and slopes up behind the buildings, accessed by a cart path. A small roadside field is northeast of the buildings, separating this property from the adjacent farm (201 Oak Hill Rd., see CON0182).

House (ca. 1840-55): This is a 1 ½ story, 5x2-bay, side-gabled, clapboard-clad building with Greek Revival stylistic features on the exterior, including wide corner and frieze boards, flat window casings and cornice returns. A porch (now enclosed with storms) with Queen Anne details (turned posts, spindle screen, sawn railing) is a later addition, likely ca. 1890s. Inside, the house exhibits early vernacular Gothic Revival details, with peaked casings over door and windows. The one-story kitchen ell has a shed-roof porch with square posts along the front wall and diminutive, six-light windows at the eave on the rear. The ell connects to a lengthy wagon shed that extends at right angles. Two pairs of 20<sup>th</sup> c. hinged doors provide access to the front (roadside) elevation. The form of the shed suggests a 19<sup>th</sup> century construction date, as does the 9/6-sash window on the northeast wall, but with many wire nails, it is either later or substantially rebuilt.

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Garage (ca. 1940s): Built by Frank L. Fournier, the garage has asphalt-shingled walls and two vehicular bays in the gable front, both with overhead doors. The structure is located close by the road.

Shed #1 (post-1950): This is a small garden shed.

Shed #2: (ca. 1900): This shed stood immediately behind the large barn. It has a mix of vertical and horizontal sheathing. The west end was an ice house. The middle section has a rolling door, and the east end is open and serves as a wood shed.

Hen house (ca. 1930s): Located up a wagon road in the woods, this is one of two that stood in the immediate area. It has a shallow gable roof, some fixed sash on the south end and is open on the west side. Sheathing boards are covered with tarpaper.

**46. Statement of Integrity:**

With its farmhouse, attached wagon shed, early 20<sup>th</sup> c. ice house/wood shed, and mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. hen house and garage, this property retains sufficient integrity to convey some of its history as a poultry farm.

**48. Bibliography and/or References:**

Amsden, Grace P., *A Capital for New Hampshire*. Unpublished manuscript in 3 vols., written between 1930 and 1960.

Bouton, Nathaniel, *The History of Concord*. Concord: Benning W. Sanborn, 1856.

*City of Concord Directories*, 1812 -1970.

Lyford, James O., ed., *History of Concord, NH*. Concord: Rumford Press, 1903, 2 vols.

Potter family papers. Private collection.

**Interview**

Kathy Lacroix (daughter of Frank L. and Grace Fournier), September 2008

**Maps, Atlases, Plans and Views**

1858 *Map of Merrimack County*. Surveyed by H. E Walling, New York. Published by Smith and Peavey.

1892 *Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Compiled by D. H. Hurd and Co., Boston.

2006 *Aerial Maps*. City of Concord.

**Surveyor's Evaluation**

NR listed: individual   
 within district

NR eligible: individual   
 within district

NR Criteria: A   
 B   
 C   
 D   
 E

Integrity: yes   
 no

not eligible   
 more info needed

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Photo 2 description: Rear ell of house and shed wing  
Roll: 4 Frame: 21 Direction: NW



Photo 3 description: Shed #2  
Roll: 4 Frame: 22 Direction: N

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Photo 4 description: Hen House

Roll: 8 Frame: 1 Direction: NE