

HO-1117  
Nelson House  
8699 Frederick Road, Ellicott City  
Public

**Description:**

The Nelson House is banked into the hill on the southwest and southeast, with an exposed foundation on the northeast and northwest. The house faces northeast. It is a two-story, three-bay by one-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, asbestos shingle siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a brick chimney in the center made with a smooth pressed brick that appears to date to the twentieth century. The northeast elevation, on the first story, has a door in the center bay with four lights over three lying panels, and has head-cut trim. The end bays have the remains of a six-over-six double hung sash. The second story end bays have a three-over-three double hung sash. The gable ends has bargeboards with a wave pattern. The interior has a two-room plan with a stove chimney in the southeast room, on the northwest wall. The northwest room has an enclosed stairway on the southwest wall that ascends to the northwest, with a winder at the top of the stairs.

**Significance:**

John and Rebecca Rogers sold this parcel of land in 1880 for only \$60, suggesting that it must have been unimproved at that time. It was purchased by Lucy Nelson, the wife of Washington Nelson. Lucy was 55 and worked as a cook for farmer Dorsey Thompson, where she was living. Washington also lived with Thompson and worked as a servant. Also living with them and working as a servant was Lucy's 13-year-old niece, Lucy Johnson. Presumably, the Nelsons were ready to retire and were thus building a home where they could live out their last years. The house the Nelsons built had two rooms downstairs, with the front door located on the downhill side and entering into the larger room. The smaller room had a stove chimney, so was presumably the kitchen, and must have had a winder stair in the rear corner. The original stairway was taken out of the kitchen and rebuilt with a more convenient straight run in the larger downstairs room. The house was given a touch of decoration by using jigsawn bargeboards. Lucy Nelson died in 1885 and left the house to her husband, for life, to her niece and namesake for life, and then to her niece's children. The house was purchased by Howard County in 2008 and is to be demolished in early 2013.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1117

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Nelson House

other

## 2. Location

street and number 8699 Frederick Road \_\_ not for publication

city, town Ellicott City \_\_ vicinity

county Howard

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

name Howard County

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive telephone

city, town Ellicott City state MD zip code 21043

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 11219 folio 541

city, town Ellicott City tax map 24 tax parcel 986 tax ID number

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	0	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	0
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1117

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### Condition

excellent     deteriorated  
 good         ruins  
 fair          altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary:

The Nelson House is banked into the hill on the southwest and southeast, with an exposed foundation on the northeast and northwest. The house faces northeast. It is a 1 ½-story, three-bay by one-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, asbestos shingle siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a brick chimney in the center made with a smooth pressed brick that appears to date to the twentieth century. The northeast elevation, on the first story, has a door in the center bay with four lights over three lying panels, and has head-cut trim. The end bays have the remains of a six-over-six double hung sash. The second story end bays have a three-over-three double hung sash. The gable ends has bargeboards with a wave pattern. The interior has a two-room plan with a stove chimney in the southeast room, on the northwest wall. The northwest room has an enclosed stairway on the southwest wall that ascends to the northwest, with a winder at the top of the stairs.

### Description:

The Nelson House is located at 8699 Frederick Road in Ellicott City, and is set well back from the road on a steep hill behind the historic Ellicott City Colored School House. It is banked into the hill on the southwest and southeast, with an exposed foundation on the northeast and northwest. The house faces northeast, toward the school and the road beyond. It is a 1 ½-story, three-bay by one-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, asbestos shingle siding, and a gable roof with asphalt shingles and a northwest-southeast ridge. There is a brick chimney in the center made with a smooth pressed brick that appears to date to the twentieth century.

The northeast elevation, on the first story, has a door in the center bay with four lights over three lying panels, and has head-cut trim. The end bays have the remains of a six-over-six double hung sash with a beaded-interior-edge frame. The second story end bays have a three-over-three double hung sash that is mortised and tenoned and pegged and has a beaded-interior-edge frame. There is no opening in the center. The cornice soffit follows the pitch of the rafters.

The southeast elevation has a door on the first story with four lights over three lying panels. There is the remains of a three-over-three double hung sash in the gable end and a jigsawn bargeboard with a wave pattern. The southwest elevation has a shed-roofed addition that has mostly collapsed. It was built with wire nails. The original main block exterior wall has a doorway in the center with a two-panel door. There are no openings on the second story, and there are wave-pattern bargeboards.

On the northwest elevation the basement has a beaded-edge vertical-board door. The first story has a six-over-six double hung sash that is pinned at the corners. The gable end has a small window opening and the raking eave has bargeboards with the wave pattern.

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name

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The interior has a two-room plan with a stove chimney in the southeast room, on the northwest wall. To the west of the chimney is a door to the northwest room. It has four panels with sunken double fields. The walls were lathed and plastered but are now covered with homasote. The northeast window is set close to the floor. The frame is made with cut nails but the sash is not pinned. The south corner ceiling has infill, and it appears this was a stairwell.

The northwest room northeast window is also set close to the floor and appears to be a later alteration to the building. There is an enclosed stairway on the southwest wall that ascends to the northwest, with a winder at the top of the stairs. It is enclosed with vertical boards and a door hung on cast iron butt hinges with five knuckles. There are three steps below the door. On the northeast wall of the stairway, set to the north, is a door to a closet beneath the stairs. The walls are paneled and the ceiling has circular-sawn plaster lath.

The second story roof has holes in it and the floor is rotted. There is a room on the northwest end closed off with a vertical board wall. The floor is cut through at the stairway, indicating that the stairs are a later alteration/addition. The walls have circular-sawn lath with cut nails, on 2 by 4 studs, and the rafters are approximately 3 by 4 inches and are sawn, with solid board sheathing. There are half walls, with the ceiling following the rafters and collar beams. There is a chamber in the center and another at the southeast end, but there is no old material visible in the partition wall.

There is a rubble stone foundation about 20 feet southwest of, and uphill from, the house. It is about 8 feet, 8 inches square and is covered with new wood.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates                      N/A    Architect/Builder                      N/A

Construction dates                      c. 1880

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary:

John and Rebecca Rogers sold this parcel of land in 1880 for only \$60, suggesting that it must have been unimproved at that time. It was purchased by Lucy Nelson, the wife of Washington Nelson. Lucy was 55 and worked as a cook for farmer Dorsey Thompson, where she was living. Washington also lived with Thompson and worked as a servant. Also living with them and working as a servant was Lucy's 13-year-old niece, Lucy Johnson. Presumably, the Nelsons were ready to retire and were thus building a home where they could live out their last years. The house the Nelsons built had two rooms downstairs, with the front door located on the downhill side and entering into the larger room. The smaller room had a stove chimney, so was presumably the kitchen, and must have had a winder stair in the rear corner. The original stairway was taken out of the kitchen and rebuilt with a more convenient straight run in the larger downstairs room. The house was given a touch of decoration by using jigsaw bargeboards. Lucy Nelson died in 1885 and left the house to her husband, for life, to her niece and namesake for life, and then to her niece's children. The house was purchased by Howard County in 2008 and is to be demolished in early 2013.

### Significance:

John and Rebecca Rogers sold this parcel of land in 1880 for only \$60, suggesting that it must have been unimproved at that time. It was purchased by Lucy Nelson, the wife of Washington Nelson. Lucy was 55 and worked as a cook for farmer Dorsey Thompson, where she was living. Washington also lived with Thompson and worked as a servant. Also living with them and working as a servant was Lucy's 13-year-old niece, Lucy Johnson. Presumably, the Nelsons were ready to retire and were thus building a home where they could live out their last years. Nothing is known of the Nelsons prior to this time, and they were not working for Thompson in 1870 and were not listed in the Maryland census in that year.<sup>1</sup> Presumably they built the existing house shortly afterward. The lot is a very hilly one that would not have been good for agriculture and was not on the road, so it would not have been usable for commerce

<sup>1</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, District 2, Howard County, Maryland, 1860.1870, 1880.

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Name  
**Continuation Sheet**

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or craft purposes, which would have made it much more affordable. Its location, just behind the Ellicott City Colored School, would have been very convenient for Lucy to attend school, if she were to remain living with the Nelsons. Unfortunately, we do not know whether or not she did. At this time no connection could be made between the Nelsons and the school.

The house the Nelsons built had two rooms downstairs, with the front door located on the downhill side and entering into the larger room. A stairway and porch here have long since disappeared. The smaller room had a stove chimney, so was presumably the kitchen, and must have had a winder stair in the rear corner. The brick in the chimney appears to be later, but it is not clear whether the chimney replaced a fireplace, was rebuilt to match, or was moved to another location. This was later taken out and a new stair built in the rear corner of the larger parlor. The kitchen was later given its own exterior access on the gable end. Since the house was banked, it had a full basement, but the new stairway did not give access to it. The second story was unsound to enter, but was divided by a wall above the first story partition that appeared to be original; other partitions may or may not have been original. The two room plan was typical for worker's housing through much of the nineteenth century, though it was usually oriented front to back because it was on narrow lots fronting a street. The Nelsons had no such restrictions and could place the rooms side by side, like a traditional hall/parlor plan from the eighteenth century. This plan continued to be used for tenant houses, but was rarely found in owner-occupied farmhouses, especially after the Civil War. By eliminating the center passage space, and thus money, was saved. In the exchange, privacy was given up, but that would have been of little consequence to the Nelsons, or anyone who did not have servants. Having a half-story for chambers also made construction cheaper. The trade-off of the loss of attic storage space was probably of little consequence for the Nelsons, since they had apparently been live-in help for Thompson and probably had not accumulated a lot of excess possessions. A kitchen and bathroom addition was put on the rear in the twentieth century, but it has mostly collapsed. The house was given a touch of decoration by using jigsawed bargeboards, and at some time either the front windows were enlarged or, more likely, the house was built with some older, reused windows. The original stairway was taken out of the kitchen and rebuilt with a more convenient straight run in the larger downstairs room.

Lucy Nelson died in 1885 and left the house to her husband, for life, to her niece and namesake for life, and then to her niece's children. Lucy must have married a Mr. Hebbons, because in 1947 the property was sold, presumably by Lucy's heirs, and the men all had the last name of Hebbons. Unfortunately, the Hebbons family could not be found in the census in the twentieth century. The house was purchased by Carrie Ryan, but it is not known whether she lived here or when the house was abandoned. Some furniture, including a nineteenth-century piano forte, was left behind. The house was purchased from the Ryan estate by Howard County in 2008 and is to be demolished in early 2013.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. HO-1117

See footnotes

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 17,206 sq ft  
Acreage of historical setting 17,206 sq ft  
Quadrangle name Ellicott City Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 24, parcel 986, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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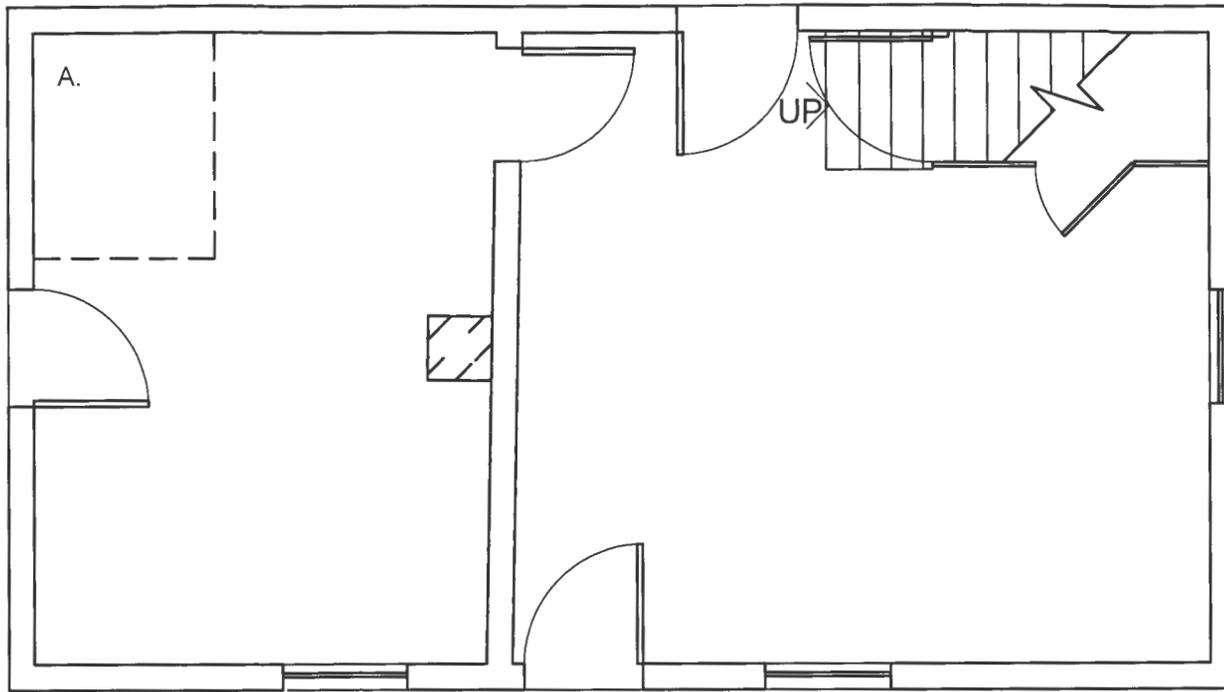
name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	January 2013
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
MD city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



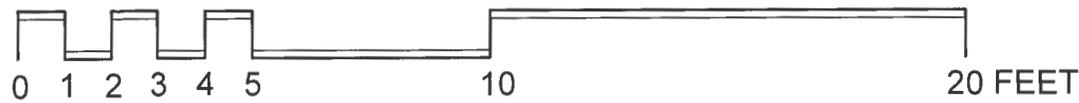


B.

NOTES:

A. INFILLED OPENING IN CEILING, PROBABLY FOR ORIGINAL STAIRWAY.

B. PORCH AND STAIRS MISSING.



**HO-1117 NELSON HOUSE 8699 FREDERICK ROAD, ELLICOTT CITY**

FIRST FLOOR PLAN -- MEASURED BY KEN SHORT & TAMARA FRANK -- DRAWN BY KEN SHORT -- DECEMBER 2012

HO-1117  
Nelson House  
8699 Frederick Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

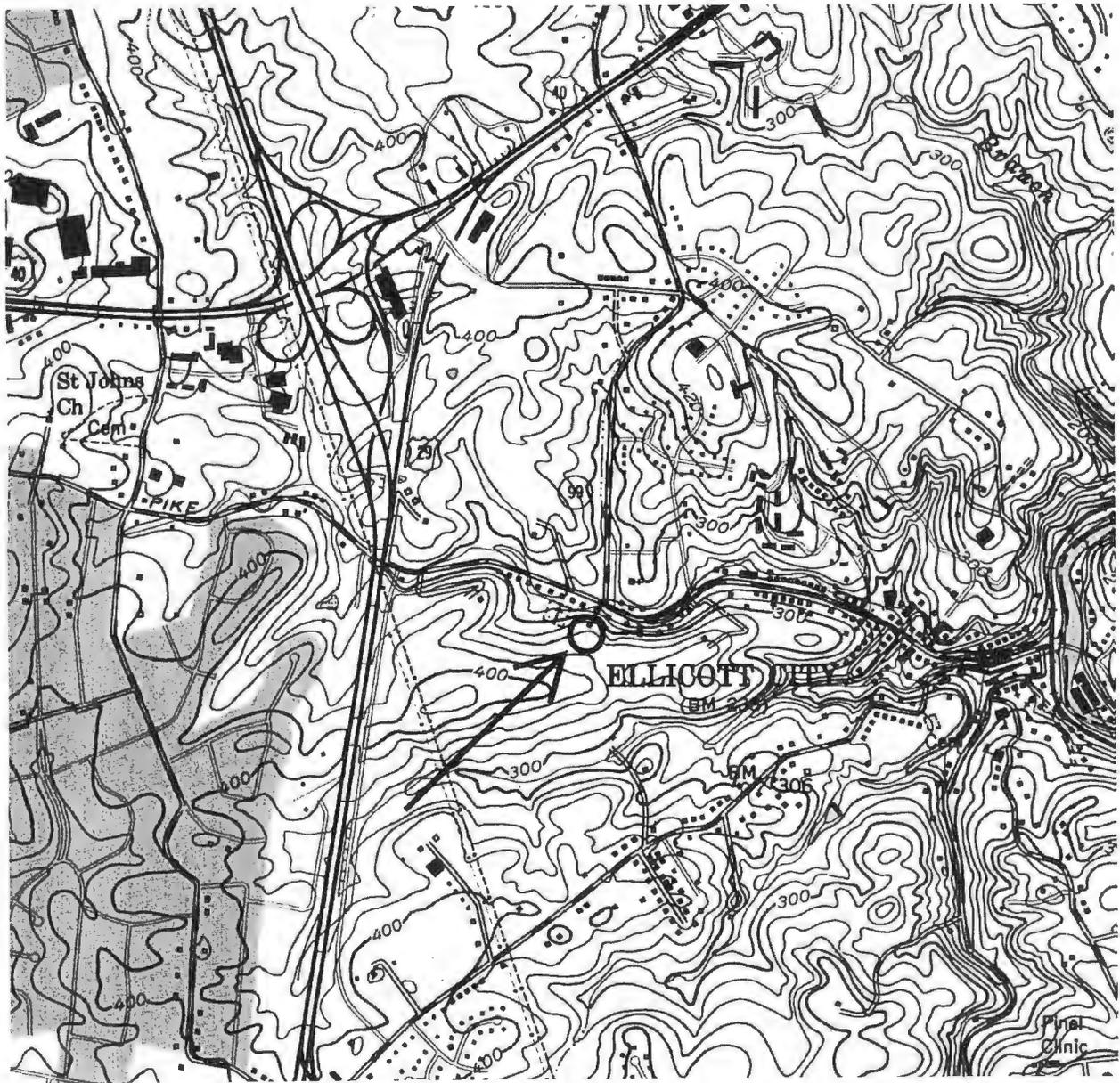
Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
Epson Premium paper  
Epson Photo Black UltraChrome ink cartridge

HO-1117\_2012-12-19\_01  
Southeast & northeast elevations

HO-1117\_2012-12-19\_02  
Northwest elevation

HO-1117\_2012-12-19\_03  
Northwest room, view north



HO-1117  
Nelson House  
8699 Frederick Road  
Ellicott City quad



HO-1117

Nelson House

8699 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-12-19

MD SHPO

Southeast + northeast elevations

1 of 3



HO-1117

Nelson House

8699 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-12-19

MD SHPO

Northwest elevation

2 of 3



HO-1117

Nelson House

8699 Frederick Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2012-12-19

MD SHPO

Northwest room, view north

3 of 3