

HO-285

## Weir House (Second School Building, Planning Office)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 05-03-2004***

HO-285  
Ellicott's Second School Building  
Ellicott City  
Public

Circa 1812

The Ellicott's Second School Building faces south on the north side of Court House Road, just east of the Howard County Historical Society Building, today housing the States Attorney's Office of Howard County. It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two and a half story high, field stone and granite building, incorporating the one or one and a half story high, second Ellicott School stone building. To its north wall has been added a one room deep frame addition, which, with the stone house, was covered by a single gabled slate roof (running east-west), shingled at its east and west elevations and holding central, gabled roof dormer windows, the south one of which holds a tripartite window composed of a central Romanesque eight over one light window, flanked by rectangular four-over-one light windows. At one time the stone building was extended to a full two stories and covered by a mansard roof which can be seen today, and features three dormer windows of the Empire Style, holding rectangular, double-hung windows, surmounted by arched lintels, decorated with arched crown moldings with curved terminations and arched cornices which follow the outline of the lintels, held at each corner by scrolled brackets. The central window has now become a rectangular double door leading on to the second floor porch over the original one story high, flat roofed, open porch which runs along this south elevation and is held by scrolled lacy iron posts and railings. It covers a central rectangular double door, holding one-one Romanesque lights, flanked by rectangular two-over-two light windows.

Referred to in old deeds as the "School House Lot", it is believed that the original stone building incorporated into the present building, existed as early as 1812 and was used at that time as a hospital in the War of 1812. In 1820 it was used as a school for boys, when the original Ellicott School was divided.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ellicott's Second School Building, Weir House

AND/OR COMMON

States Attorney's Office of Howard County

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Court Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City, Md. 21042 of

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Howard

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY                                     | OWNERSHIP                                  | STATUS   | PRESENT USE                            |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED         | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)         | <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC        |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION    |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                          | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER  |

Howard Co. States Attorney's Office

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Howard County Council

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

George Howard, County Office Building, Courthouse Drive

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City, Md. VICINITY OF 21043

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tax Map 25A p.244 Hall of Records

Liber #: 227

Folio #: 79

STREET & NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1978-1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                                     |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" 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 _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Weir House faces south on the north side of Court Avenue, just east of Howard County Historical Society Building.

Originally the Weir House was a three bay wide, one room deep, one or one and a half story high, gabled roof (running east-west) fieldstone building, resting on a stone foundation. This can be seen clearly on the west elevation where the ashlar cut granite creates a second floor around the "A" created by the gable roof of the original field stone building. This wall holds two, rectangular, first floor double-hung windows, holding two-over-two lights and a similar proportionally scaled central second floor window. The original fieldstone building is less discernible on the east elevation, where field stone has been used as a filler to create the second floor. Along this entire east wall of the stone house and extending northward along the west wall of a frame addition, rests a square, one story high, flat roofed, (brick laid in running bond) twentieth century addition.

Sometime in the late nineteenth century a three bay wide, two bay deep, two story high frame addition was constructed along the building's north elevation. This addition is built into the slope, which rises from Court Avenue to Park Avenue, thus the ground floor of the addition is very much a basement foundation. Four double-hung rectangular, six-over-six light windows rest on the ground floor of the west elevation of this late nineteenth century section, with a single, rectangular, central second floor window, holding two-over-two lights resting above.

The east elevation of this frame section holds a central first and second floor, proportionally scaled, vertically aligned window, holding two-over-two lights. The upper portion of the first floor window has been adapted for the installation of an air conditioning unit.

The north elevation of this frame addition holds a central, rectangular four light entrance, flanked by rectangular two-over-two light windows, whose top sections now hold air conditioning units.

Over the stone and frame second floor has been placed a single, slate, gable roof (running east-west) whose shingled east and west elevations hold a double window, each component of which is a rectangular, double-hung window, holding four-over-one lights, separated and flanked by flat wooden pilasters, surmounted by a single, flat, wooden lintel and underlined by a wooden sill.

This gable roof slopes northward, forming an overhang for the one story high open porch, which is partially enclosed on the east side, and which runs along the entire elevation. It is supported by a cement covered stone foundation, extending along the north wall of the frame addition. Three square wooden columns with scrolled brackets help support the roofline of this open porch which features a scrolled, wooden railing running around its perimeter, on either side of the entrance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

A single, central gabled roof, dormer window is located on the north and south elevations. That on the north holds a rectangular, double-hung window with six-over-one lights. That on the south hold a tripartite window, holding a central eight-one light Romanesque window flanked by rectangular four-over-one light windows.

Square brick chimneys rise from the center of the west wall, east of the north dormer and south of the center of the east wall, completing the building profile.

A two story high, shed roofed, open on the first floor, shingled enclosed frame on the second floor, porch runs along the south elevation which features a rectangular double entrance door with one-one Romanesque lights, flanked by rectangular, two-over-two light windows. Five-five light casement windows rest in the east and west walls of the second floor enclosed porch, while its south wall holds six ten-ten light similar casement windows.

Originally the house featured a Mansard roof on this elevation with three, double-hung, two-over-two light, arched windows, surmounted by arched lintels of curved termination. The upper crown moldings and cornice, decorating the lintels, repeat in their contour the shape of the lintels themselves, with the curved terminations on each side held by scrolled brackets.

Scrolled brackets also rest on each side of the base of the flat pilasters, flanking the windows and entrance. In the case of the windows, they rest on the projecting wooden sills, while with the entrance they are mid way down each side of the pilasters which flank that central, second floor, four-four light double entrance door. The building presently houses law offices for the States Attorney of Howard County.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

|   |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>PERIOD</b>                                 | <b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</b> |   |   |  |
| <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>Local History |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

**SPECIFIC DATES** Circa 1812

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Ellicott's Second School Building is significant architecturally, historically and in the field of education.

Architecturally it serves as an example of how a building grows and changes to meet the needs of its owners, who in turn utilize the styles of the day in their additions and alterations of the building, developing from a simple one and a half story building of the early nineteenth century to a full two stories, featuring a mansard roof and certain curvilinear stylistic detail to the building we see today. This building finally incorporated a north addition, all of which has been covered by a slate gabled roof (running east-west), featuring east and west shingled walls and second floor shingled sun porch over the first floor, open lacy iron grill, flat roofed porch.

Historically and in the field of education it is significant as the second school of the Ellicott's. It's story has been related by numerous local historians, most notable, Mrs. Celia Holland, author of Ellicott City, Maryland: Mill Town, U.S.A., who points out its origins as a hospital during the War of 1812 and its use by the Ellicotts as their second school after the division of their original school in 1820. Used as a residence by Thomas and Harriet F. Lansdale in the early nineteenth century, it was later conveyed by them to Ann and James F. Miller on June 28, 1856. (WWW 17-190) for \$500. In this deed it was known as the "School House Lot", distinguished on the sale plat of Samuel Ellicott's land by the number 64.

Ten years later, on March 21, 1866, Ann Miller, then a widow, sold the building to William F. Mayfield of the City of Baltimore for \$650 (WWW 25-159).

The Mayfield family held the property for thirty years and may have been, over that time, largely responsible for many of the improvements made to the south facade of the building.

A daughter Blanche is said to have become a nun in the Order of Carmelites at New Orleans, Louisiana. It may be due to her that both the Ellicott's Second School Building and neighboring Oak Lawn feature lacy scrolled iron work posts and railings on their south open porches, so reminiscent of New Orleans's French Quarter.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

On May 16, 1896, William Mayfield sold the property for \$1700. to Ella Getz. The Getz family owned the building until March 28, 1951, when it passed from Mary Getz Weir and her husband John Weir, with three lots, to the Howard County Board of County Commissioners for \$12,500., (227-79). From 1951 to early in 1967, the Planning and Zoning Commission made their home here. Today it houses the Howard County States Attorney's Office.

Historically and architecturally significant, as well as note worthy in the field of education, this building, in conjunction with the Howard County Courthouse and Oak Lawn, are presently under study. Located within a National Historic District and of exceptional merit, it is hoped this building will be assured continual preservation.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holland, Celia. Ellicott City, Maryland Mill Town, U.S.A. 1772-1972  
Bladensburg, 1972.  
Howard County Records Office  
Interview with Mrs. Minnie Donnellson at the States Attorney's Office,  
December 1, 1978.  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/8A. or 5500 sq.ft.

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25A

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber 227 Folio 79

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section 465-5000 x257

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

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.

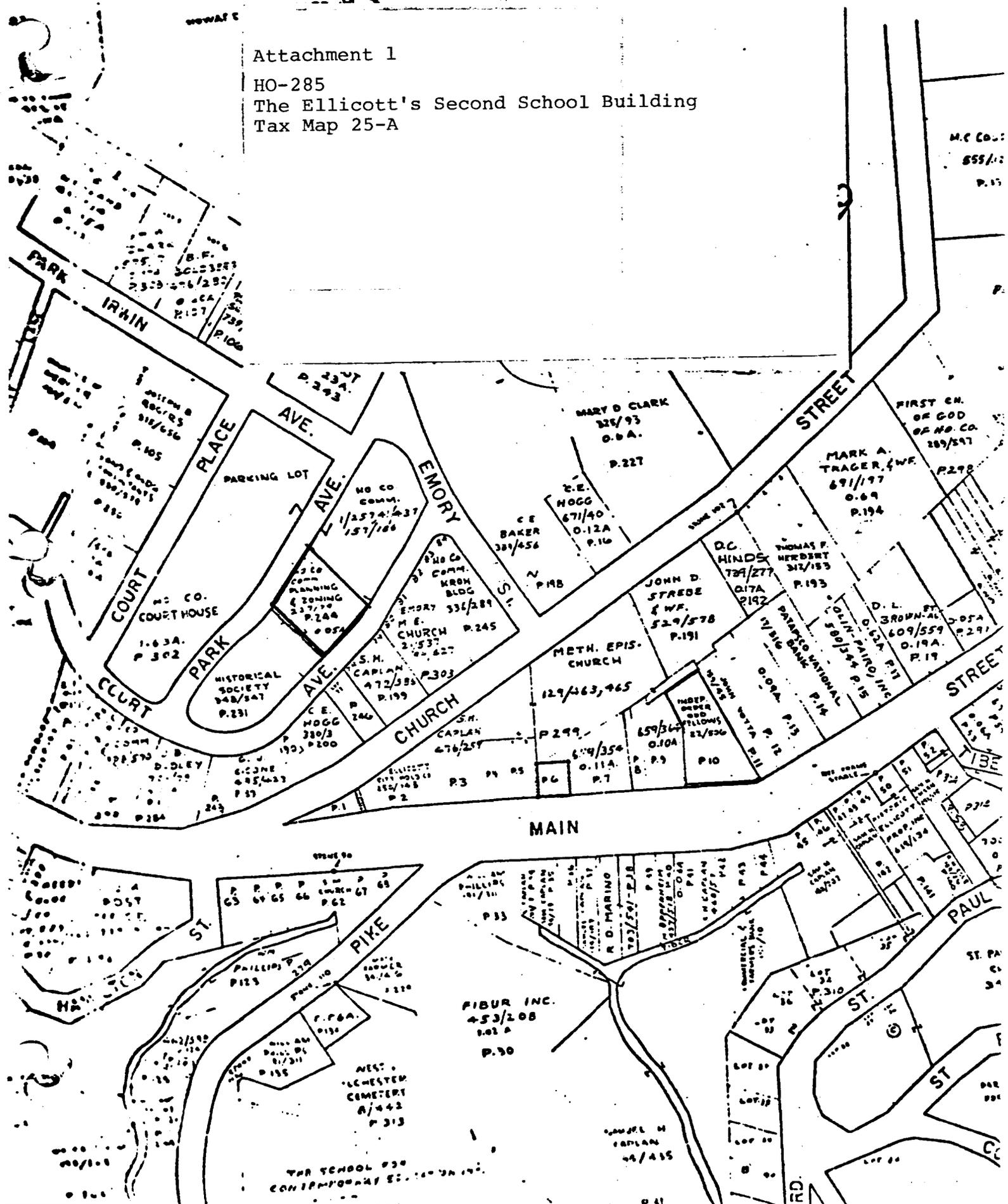
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

C.F. SYBERT, JR. & CO.  
C.F. SYBERT, JR. & CO.  
LEWIS J. NIPPADE & CO.  
I.B.O.A. 479/791  
P.285

CO-  
COMM.  
OF

Attachment 1  
HO-285  
The Ellicott's Second School Building  
Tax Map 25-A

M.C. CO.  
655/12  
P.15



IRWIN

PLACE

AVE.

EMORY

CHURCH

MAIN

STREET

STREET

PAUL

ST.

ST.

ST. PAUL

ST.

CC

COURT HOUSE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHURCH

METH. EPIS. CHURCH

FIRST CH. OF GOD OF NO. CO.

MARK A. TRAGER & W.F.

D.C. HINDS

THOMAS F. HERBERT

JOHN D. STREDE & W.F.

MARY O. CLARK

C.E. HOGG

C.E. BAKER

D.L. BROWN

FIBUR INC.

FIBUR INC.

FIBUR INC.

FIBUR INC.

FIBUR INC.

FIBUR INC.

WEST CHESTER CEMETERY

WEST CHESTER CEMETERY

WEST CHESTER CEMETERY

WEST CHESTER CEMETERY

THE SCHOOL BLDG

THE SCHOOL BLDG

JAMES H. CAPLAN

JAMES H. CAPLAN

JAMES H. CAPLAN

JAMES H. CAPLAN

# PLAT OF ELICOTT CITY

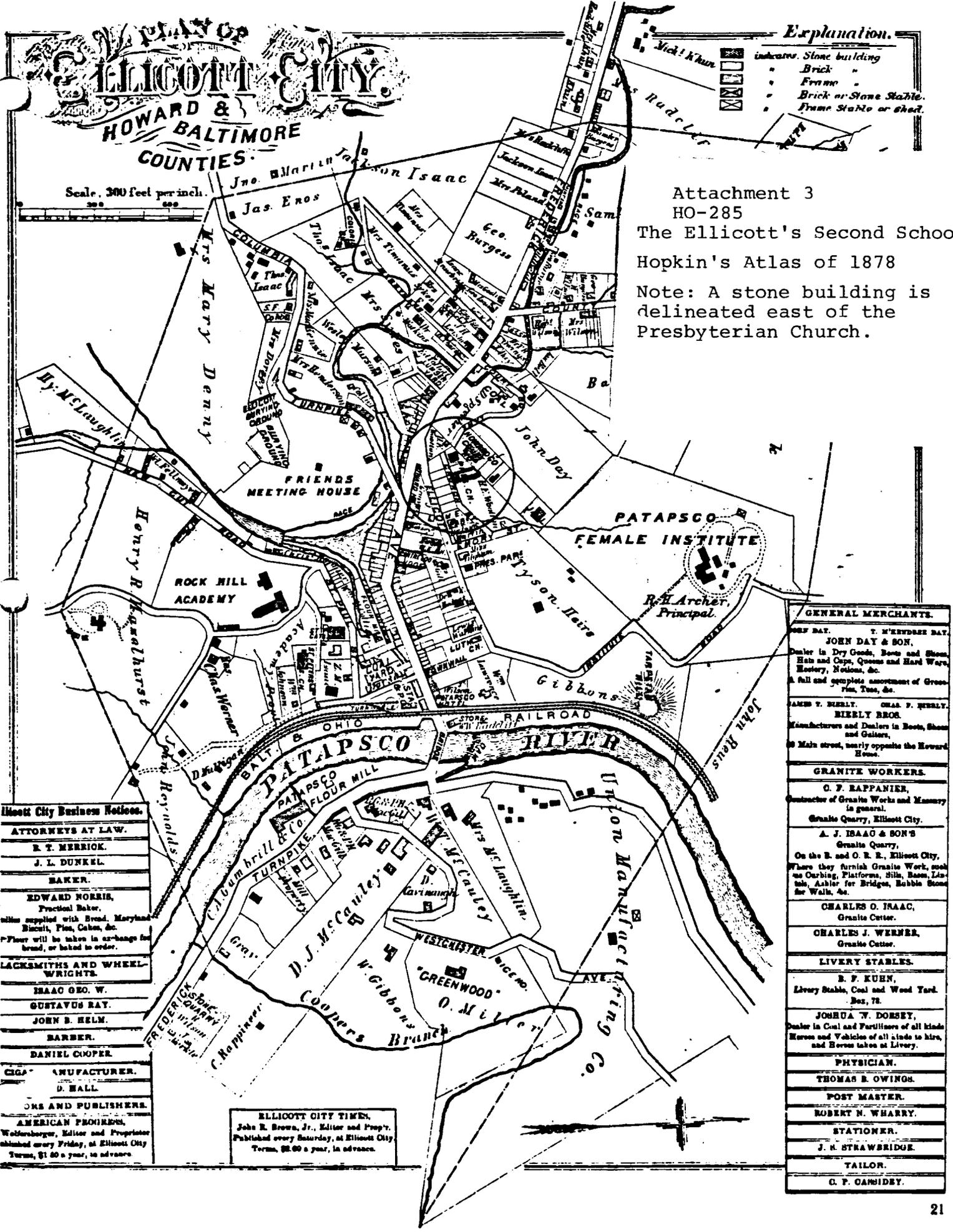
HOWARD & BALTIMORE COUNTIES

Scale, 300 feet per inch.

**Explanation.**

-  indicates Stone building
-  Brick
-  Frame
-  Brick or Stone Stable
-  Frame Stable or shed

Attachment 3  
HO-285  
The Ellicott's Second School  
Hopkin's Atlas of 1878  
Note: A stone building is delineated east of the Presbyterian Church.



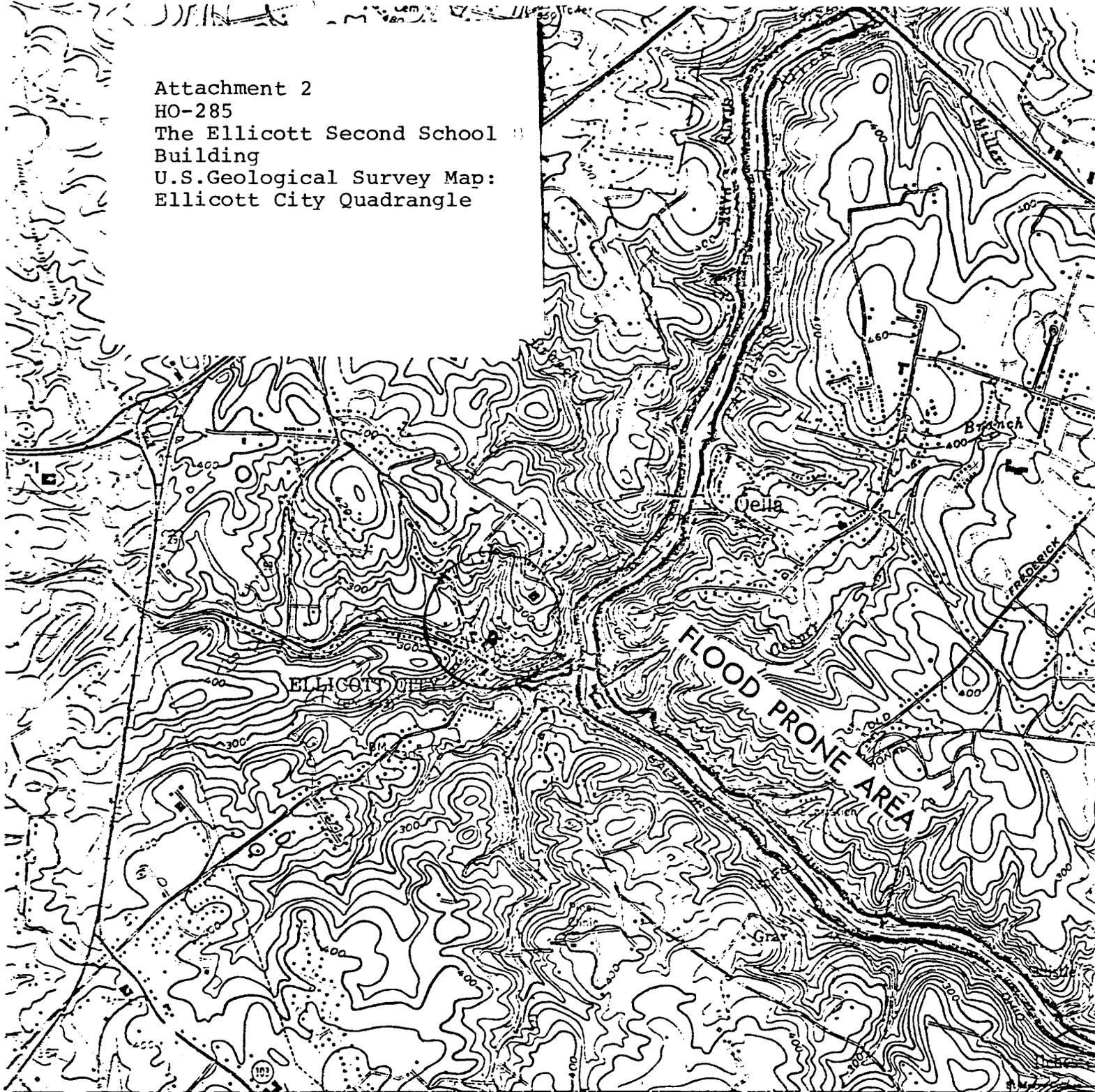
**Ellicott City Business Notices.**

|  |
|--|
| <b>ATTORNEYS AT LAW.</b>                 |
| R. T. MERRICK.                           |
| J. L. DUNKEL.                            |
| <b>BAKER.</b>                            |
| EDWARD NORRIS,                           |
| Practical Baker.                         |
| Wines supplied with Bread, Maryland      |
| Biscuits, Pies, Cakes, &c.               |
| Flour will be taken in exchange for      |
| bread, or baked to order.                |
| <b>LOCKSMITHS AND WHEEL-</b>             |
| <b>WRIGHTS.</b>                          |
| ISAAC GEO. W.                            |
| GUSTAVUS RAY.                            |
| JOHN B. HELM.                            |
| <b>BARBER.</b>                           |
| DANIEL COOPER.                           |
| <b>CIGAR MANUFACTURER.</b>               |
| D. HALL.                                 |
| <b>PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.</b>          |
| <b>AMERICAN PROGRESS.</b>                |
| Waterberger, Editor and Proprietor       |
| Published every Friday, at Ellicott City |
| Terms, \$1.50 a year, in advance         |

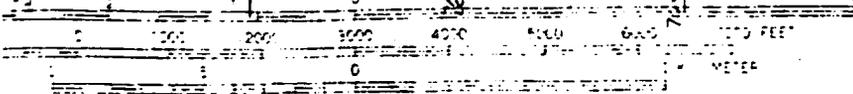
**ELICOTT CITY TIMES.**  
John E. Brown, Jr., Editor and Prop'r.  
Published every Saturday, at Ellicott City.  
Terms, \$2.00 a year, in advance.

|   |
|---|
| <b>GENERAL MERCHANTS.</b>   |
| JOHN DAY & SON,<br>Dealer in Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes,<br>Hats and Caps, Queens and Hand Wares,<br>Hosiery, Notions, &c.<br>A full and complete assortment of Groceries,<br>Teas, &c.   |
| <b>GRANITE WORKERS.</b>   |
| C. F. RAPPANIER,<br>Contractor of Granite Works and Masonry<br>in general.<br>Granite Quarry, Ellicott City.  |
| A. J. ISAAC & SON'S<br>Granite Quarry,<br>On the E. and O. R. R., Ellicott City,<br>Where they furnish Granite Work, such<br>as Curbing, Piazzas, Sills, Basins, Lintels,<br>Ashlar for Bridges, Rubble Stone<br>for Walls, &c. |
| CHARLES O. ISAAC,<br>Granite Cutter.  |
| CHARLES J. WERNER,<br>Granite Cutter.   |
| <b>LIVERY STABLES.</b>  |
| B. F. KUHN,<br>Livery Stable, Coal and Wood Yard,<br>Des. 78.   |
| JOSEPH W. DORSEY,<br>Dealer in Coal and Fertilizers of all kinds<br>Horses and Vehicles of all kinds to hire,<br>and Horses taken at Livery.  |
| <b>PHYSICIAN.</b>   |
| THOMAS B. OWING.  |
| <b>POST MASTER.</b>   |
| ROBERT H. WERRY.  |
| <b>STATIONER.</b>   |
| J. N. STRAWBRIDGE.  |
| <b>TAILOR.</b>  |
| C. F. GANSEY.   |

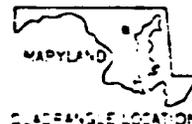
Attachment 2  
 HO-285  
 The Ellicott Second School  
 Building  
 U.S. Geological Survey Map:  
 Ellicott City Quadrangle



SAVAGE 1.3 MI TO MD 175  
 5662 1/4 NE WEST FLORIDA 5.9 MI  
 SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL





Hb-285  
Ellicott's Second  
School Bldg  
South west

W B THOMPSON  
Feb 978