

HO-61

The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard Co. Public Library)

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) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 02-07-2013

HO-61
HOWARD COUNTY FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 BUILDING
Ellicott City
Public

1896

The old Engine House for Fire Company No. 1 is perched atop and set into the steep triangular lot bounded by the north side of Main Street and the south side of Church Road. This prime location offered its members that much needed "good running start".

In those days the men had to pull the pump to the site of the fire. Later a horse was employed and finally in the 1920's a Model T Ford.

Due to this fiasco, Ellicott City lost some of her most prized landmarks, among them Rock Hill and Saint Charles Colleges, the Gambrill Manufacturing Company and the old post office building on Main Street.

Now the Ellicott City Branch of the Howard County Library, it has been altered somewhat but still retains its picturesque cupola decorated with weather vane and horn.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Old Howard County Fire Department Building
AND/OR COMMON Howard County Public Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 8210 Main Street
CITY, TOWN Ellicott City VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6th
STATE Maryland 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Howard County Board of Commissioners Telephone #: 465-5000
STREET & NUMBER Howard County Court House
CITY, TOWN Ellicott City VICINITY OF Maryland STATE, zip code 21043

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, RECORDS OFFICE, ETC. Records Office
STREET & NUMBER Howard County Court House
CITY, TOWN Ellicott City STATE Maryland
Tax Map 25-A p. 1
Liber #: 152/84
Folio #: 44/615

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Howard County Historic Sites Inventory
DATE July 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust 21 State Circle
CITY, TOWN 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 fire Department building, now the Ellicott City Branch of the Howard County Public Library is a two bay wide, four bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame building resting on a stone foundation which is set into the slope of a triangular lot on the north side of Main Street and the south side of Church Road. It is surmounted by an onion shaped cupola resting on a square base which is centered on the west side of the gabled roof.

West Elevation

The west wall holds a rectangular entrance door, surmounted by a transom composed of a double row of three panes, all of which is flanked by pilasters decorated with rectangular molding and surmounted by a flat wooden lintel and molded cornice. The double-hung window which rests south of the west entrance holds six-over-six panes (the bottom three are taken up by an air conditioning unit). Centered above rests the copula with an horn.

North Elevation

The north elevation holds three rectangular, double-hung windows, flanked by flat pilasters, underlined by projecting wooden sills, surmounted by flat wooden lintels, holding four-over-four lights. The brick foundation is partially exposed, sloping up the hill and laid in English garden wall brick bond.

South Elevation

The south elevation, due to the slope of the hill is a two story high frame wall, resting on a stone foundation.

A wooden cross paneled, rectangular entrance rests in the west bay of the ground floor flanked by wooden pilasters and surmounted by a two light transom and flat wooden lintel. The three windows to the east are similar those described on the north elevation. Four first floor windows (on this elevation second floor windows) rest above, vertically aligned to the ground floor door and windows and similar to them with one exception: they are decorated with black shutters. The stone foundation of this south wall is a part of the stone retaining wall running from the new building of the Howard House up to the intersection of Main St and Church Road.

The East Elevation

The east elevation indicates the slope of the land. A cinder block foundation is partially exposed, into which is located in the south bay a rectangular, paneled ground floor entrance door with steps running along this east wall up a rectangular second floor entrance in the north bay. A single first floor (second floor on this elevation) rectangular, double-hung window is located in the south bay, similar to the others and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

decorated with black shutters. A small square chimney with cement cap is inset into the middle of the east wall. The roof on this side is hipped while it is gabled on the west.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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/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 1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard County Fire Department building was constructed in 1896 to house the fire equipment of Fire Company No. 1 of Ellicott City. This equipment consisted mainly of leather buckets and ropes. The total destruction of Mr. Thomas Hunts' Stable by a fire started by the explosion of a fire cracker led to the campaign which resulted in the acquisition of a bright red Howe man-powered pumper, mounted on wheels, which was to be used with a two-wheeled hose reel.

This new equipment, too, had draw backs. The men pulling it down the steep hill had to run like mad in order to avoid accident and pull like mad to get it back up the hill to store it. With the hill they always had a "good running start".

Ten years later a hand-pulled two-wheeled truck supported a gasoline engine. Supplanting the old see-saw pumper, it exceeded it in weight. This later was replaced by a modern horse-drawn gasoline pumper. Unfortunately for Ellicott Mills, Mr. Herrmann was the only man in the brigade capable of getting it started. For fifteen years it served Ellicott City until it capsized on the way to a fire and was completely demolished.

By 1924 a modern fire engine and new station house were purchased and this little building set aside for other purposes; headquarters of the Howard County Welfare Board, the Health Department, the Sanitation Department and now the Library. Its large west door was replaced by two windows, one of which, the north bay window later became the present entrance.

Sitting on its steep slope and retaining much of its original character and architectural integrity, it should be considered for inclusion to the National Register and any future local landmark legislation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Association of University Women. Historical notes for members conducting tours of Historic Ellicott City. 1972

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .093 Lot = 78'x52'

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25-A, p. 1 152-44 and 84-615

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 25-A, p. 1 152-44 and 84-615

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

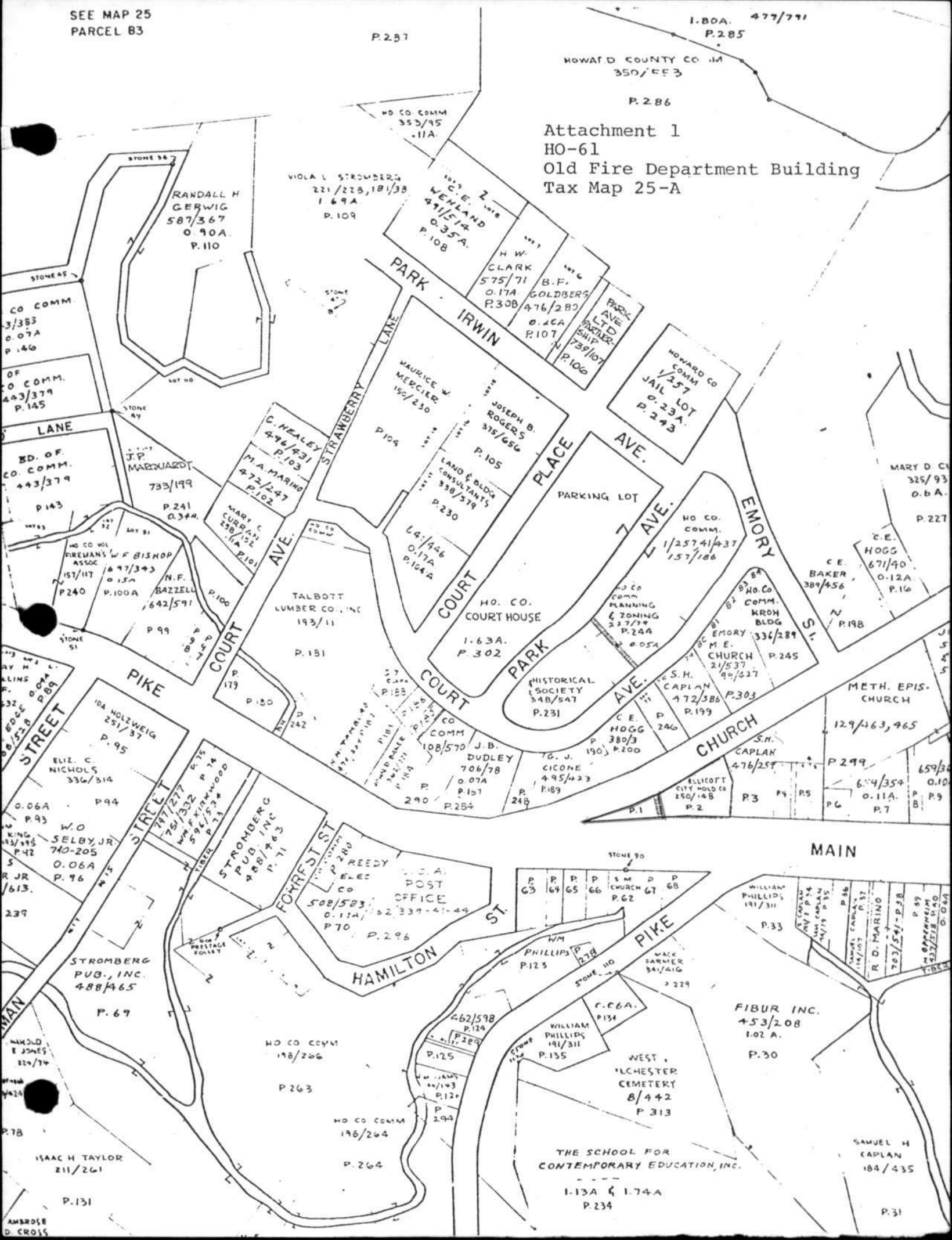
Maryland

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

Attachment 1
HO-61
Old Fire Department Building
Tax Map 25-A



RANDALL H
GERWIG
587/367
0.90A.
P.110

VIOLA L STROWBERG
221/225, 181/38
1.69A.
P.109

102 E. L
WEHLAND
41/514
0.35A.
P.108

H W
CLARK
575/71
0.17A
P.308

B.F.
GOLDBERG
0.26A
P.107

PARK
AVE
LTD
PARTN.
SHIP
739/107
P.106

HOWARD CO
COMM
1/257
0.23A.
P.243

PARK
IRWIN

MAURICE W
MERCIER
150/230
P.104

JOSEPH B.
ROGERS
375/656
P.105

LAND & BLDG
CONSULTANTS
338/379
P.230

PLACE
PARKING LOT

AVE.

EMORY

C. HEALEY
496/431
P.103

M.A. MARINO
472/247
P.102

MARY C
CURRAN
238/152
P.101

TALBOTT
LUMBER CO., INC
193/11
P.181

L4/446
0.17A
P.106A

HO. CO.
COURT HOUSE
1.63A.
P.302

HO CO.
COMM.
1/257 41/437
157/186

HO. CO.
COMM.
KROH
BLOG
336/289
P.245

M.E. CHURCH
21/537
99/227
P.245

S.H. CAPLAN
172/386
P.199

S.M. CAPLAN
476/259
P.249

METH. EPIS.
CHURCH
129/463, 465
P.249

PIKE

IDA HOLZWEIG
251/37
P.95

ELIZ. C.
NICHOLS
336/314
P.94

W.O
SELBY, JR
740-205
0.06A
P.96

STROMBERG
PUB. INC
488/463
P.71

STROMBERG
PUB., INC.
488/465
P.69

ISAAC H TAYLOR
211/261
P.131

AMBRIDGE
D. CROSS

FOURFEST ST

REEDY
ELEC
CO
508/583
0.17A
P.70

HAMILTON ST

HO CO COMM
198/206
P.263

HO CO COMM
198/204
P.264

U.S.A.
POST
OFFICE
508/583
0.17A
P.70

PHILLIPS
P.123

WILLIAM
PHILLIPS
191/311
P.135

WEST
CHESTER
CEMETERY
8/442
P.313

THE SCHOOL FOR
CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION, INC.
1.13A & 1.74A
P.234

PHILLIPS
P.123

WILLIAM
PHILLIPS
191/311
P.135

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191/311
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CEMETERY
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CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION, INC.
1.13A & 1.74A
P.234

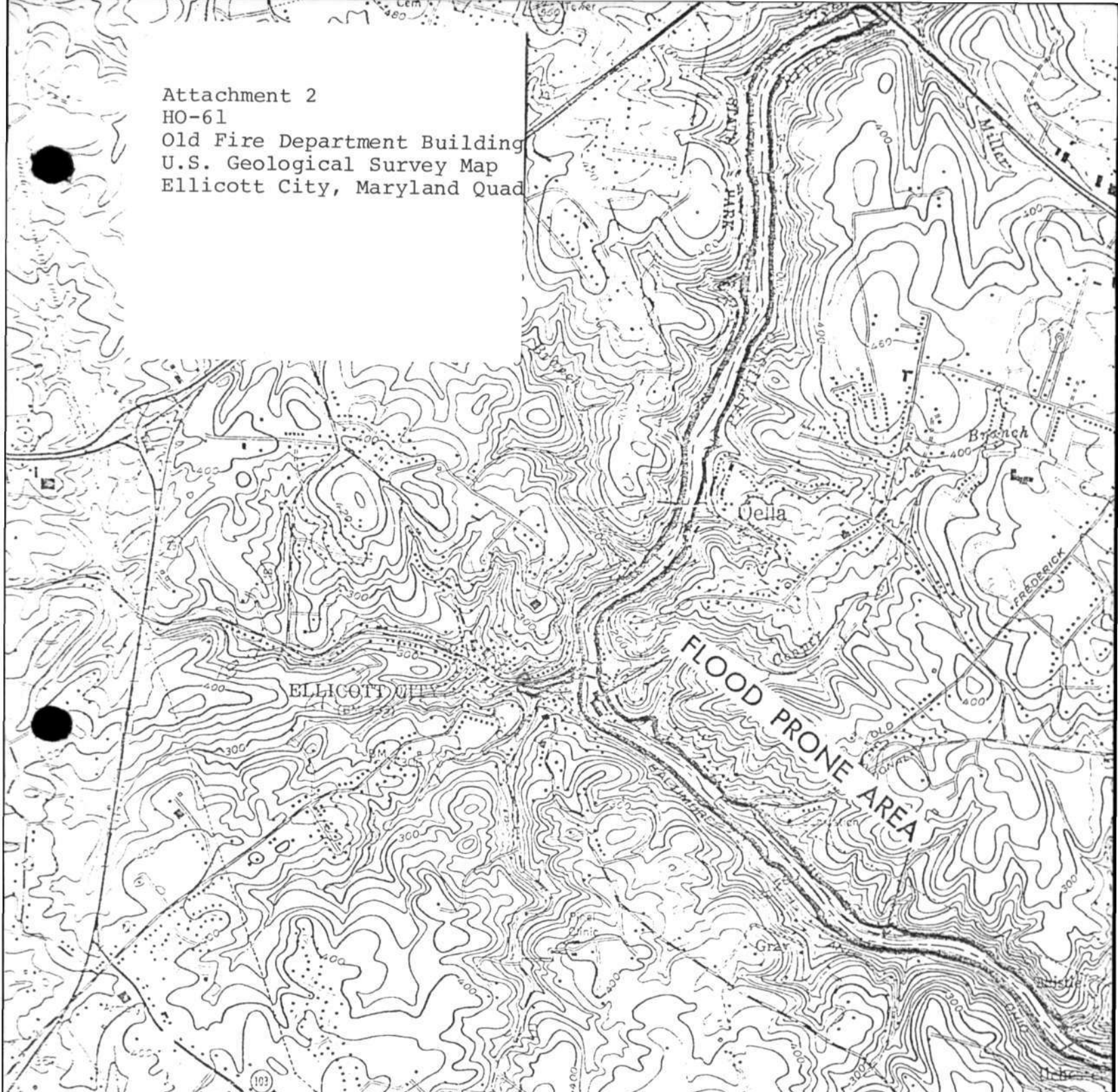
THE SCHOOL FOR
CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION, INC.
1.13A & 1.74A
P.234

MAIN

FIBUR INC.
453/208
1.02 A.
P.30

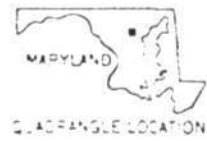
SAMUEL H
CAPLAN
184/435
P.31

Attachment 2
HO-61
Old Fire Department Building
U.S. Geological Survey Map
Ellicott City, Maryland Quad



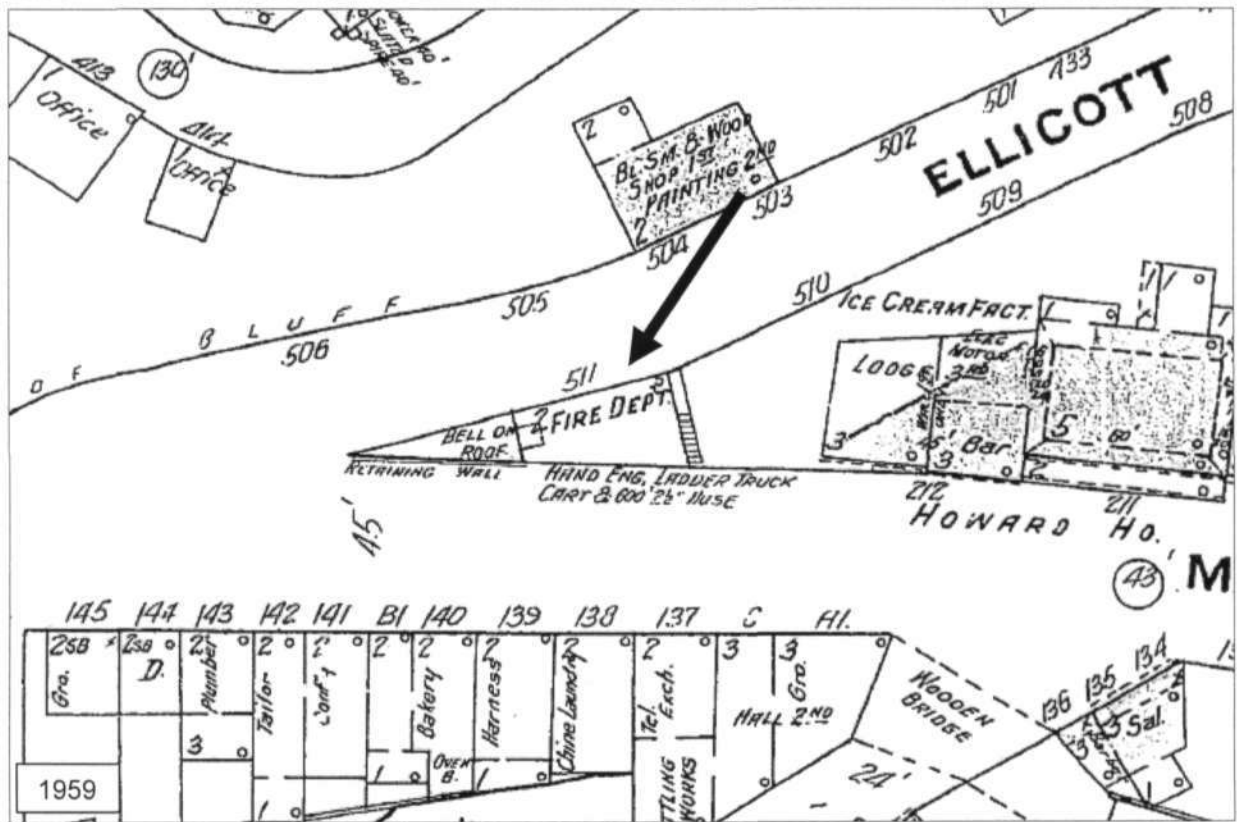
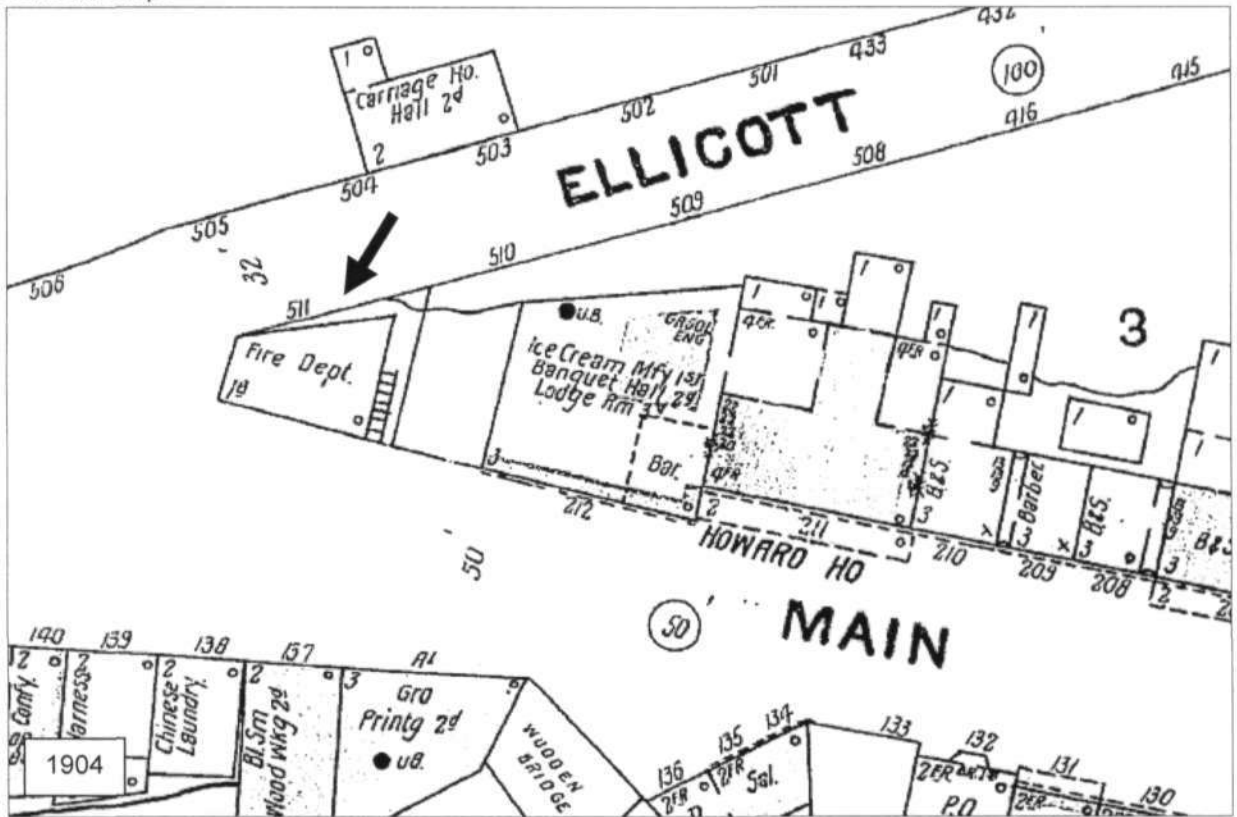
SAVAGE 1.9 MI TO MD 175
5662 MI NE WEST ELBRIDGE 5.9 MI
SCALE 1:24000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



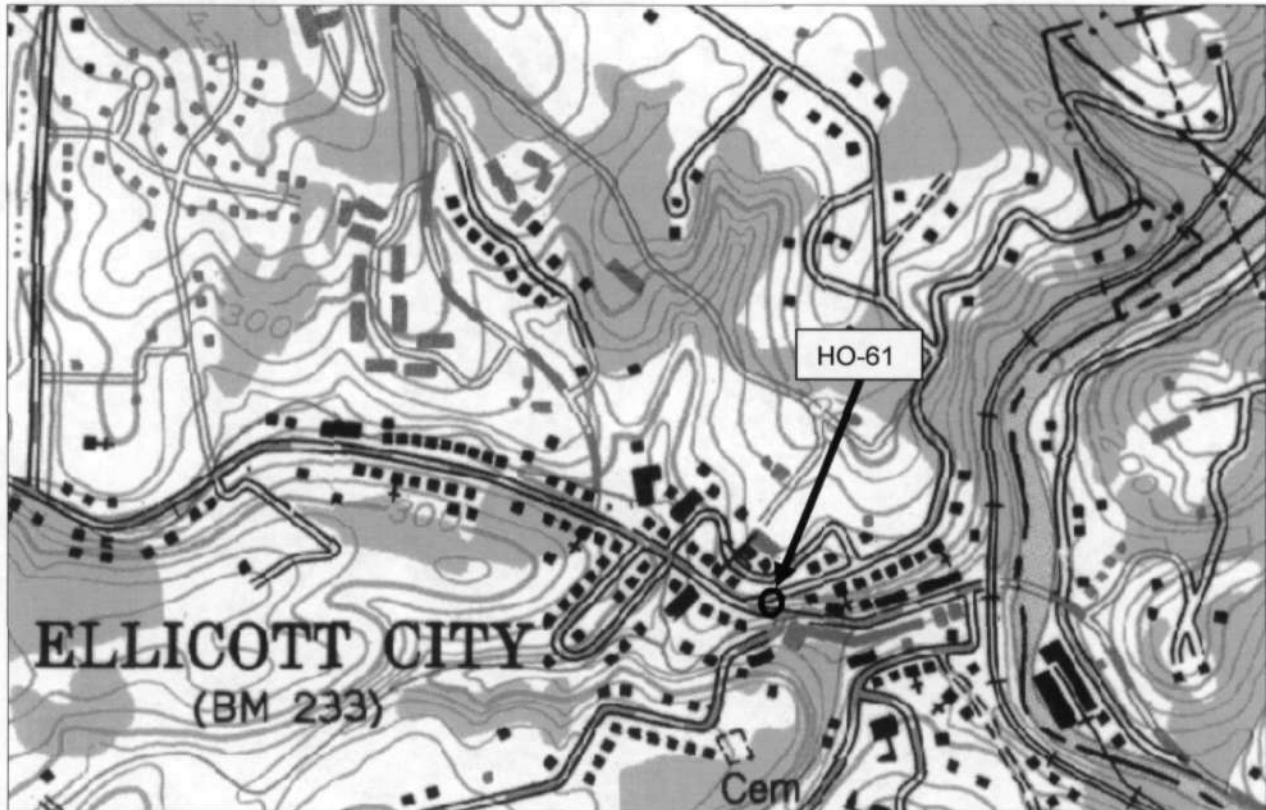
HO-61

The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City
Sanborn Maps



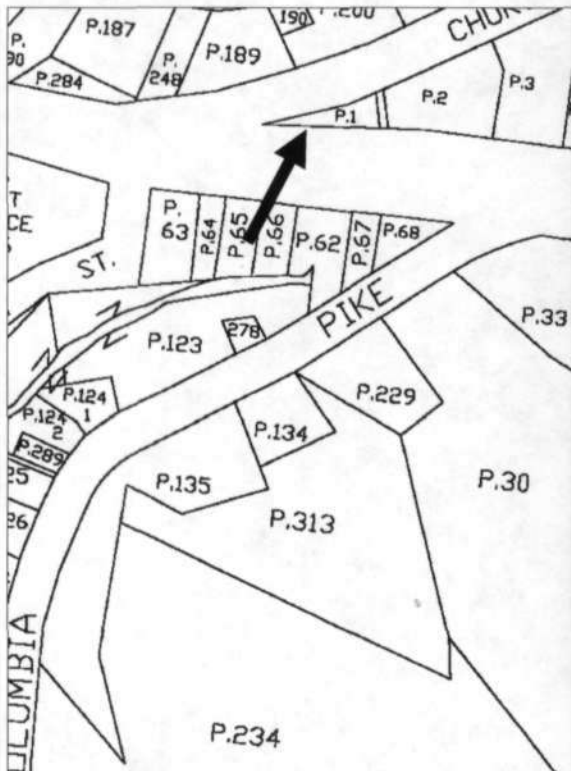
HO-61

The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City
Ellicott City quad 1953, Photorevised 1966 and 1974



Tax Map 25A, Parcel 1

National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map, c. 2010



HO-61

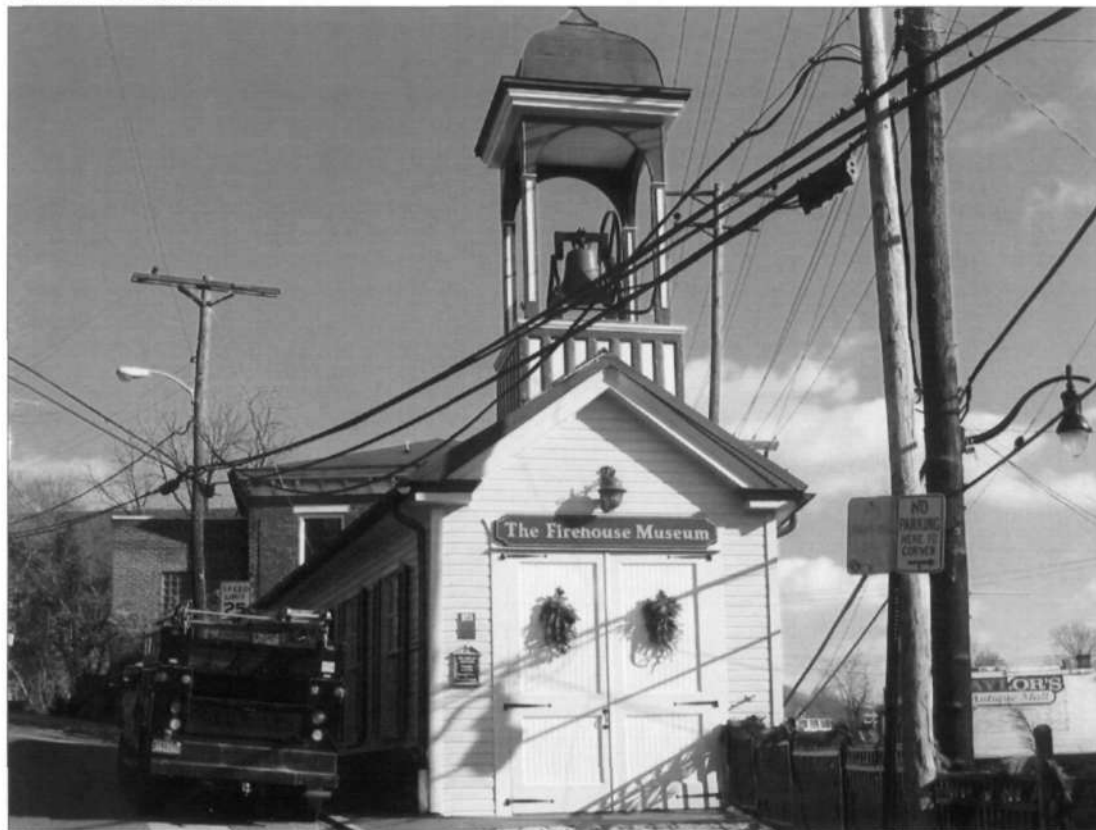
The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

West elevation



Northwest elevation

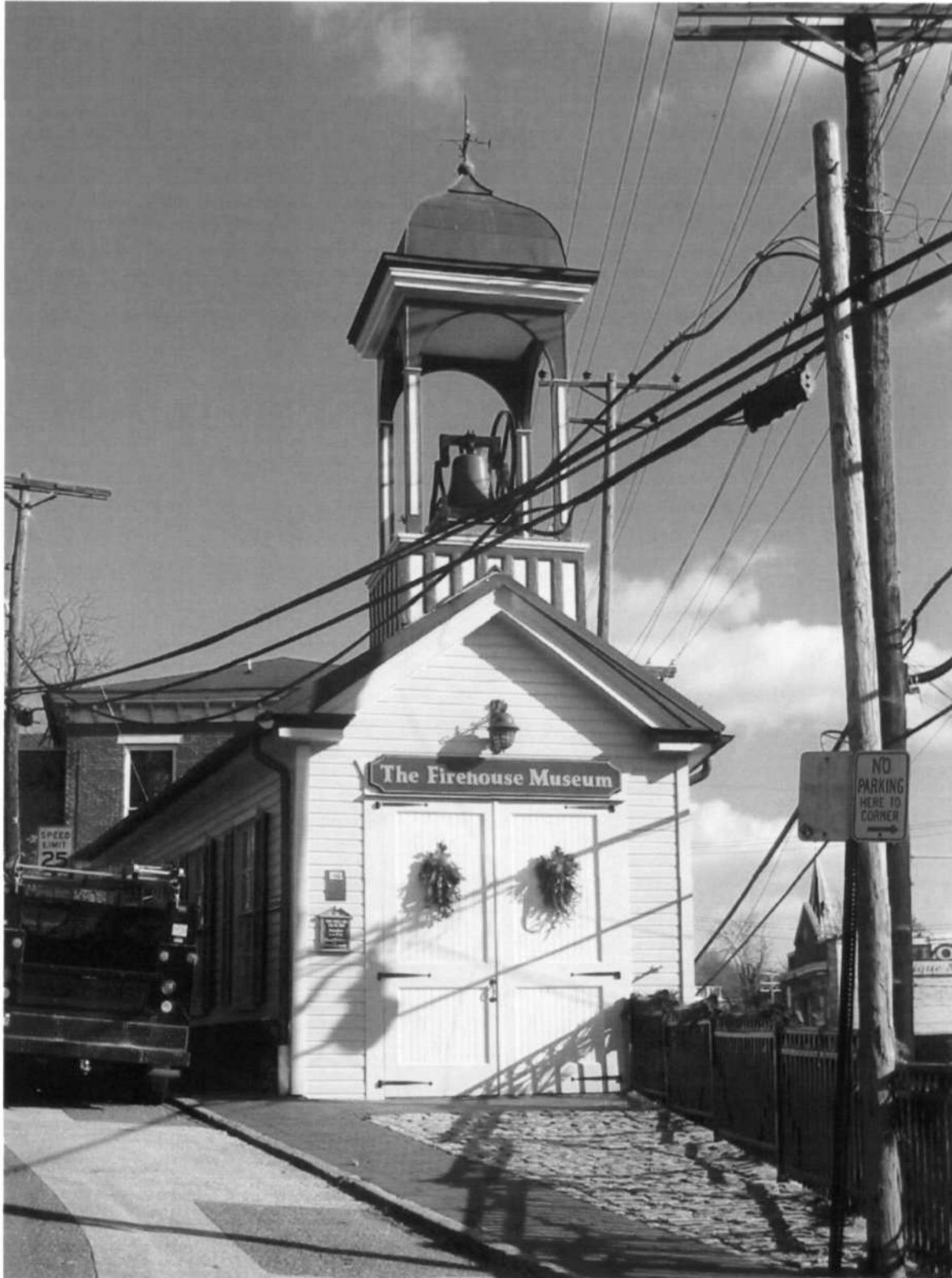


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3829 Church Road, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

Northwest elevation

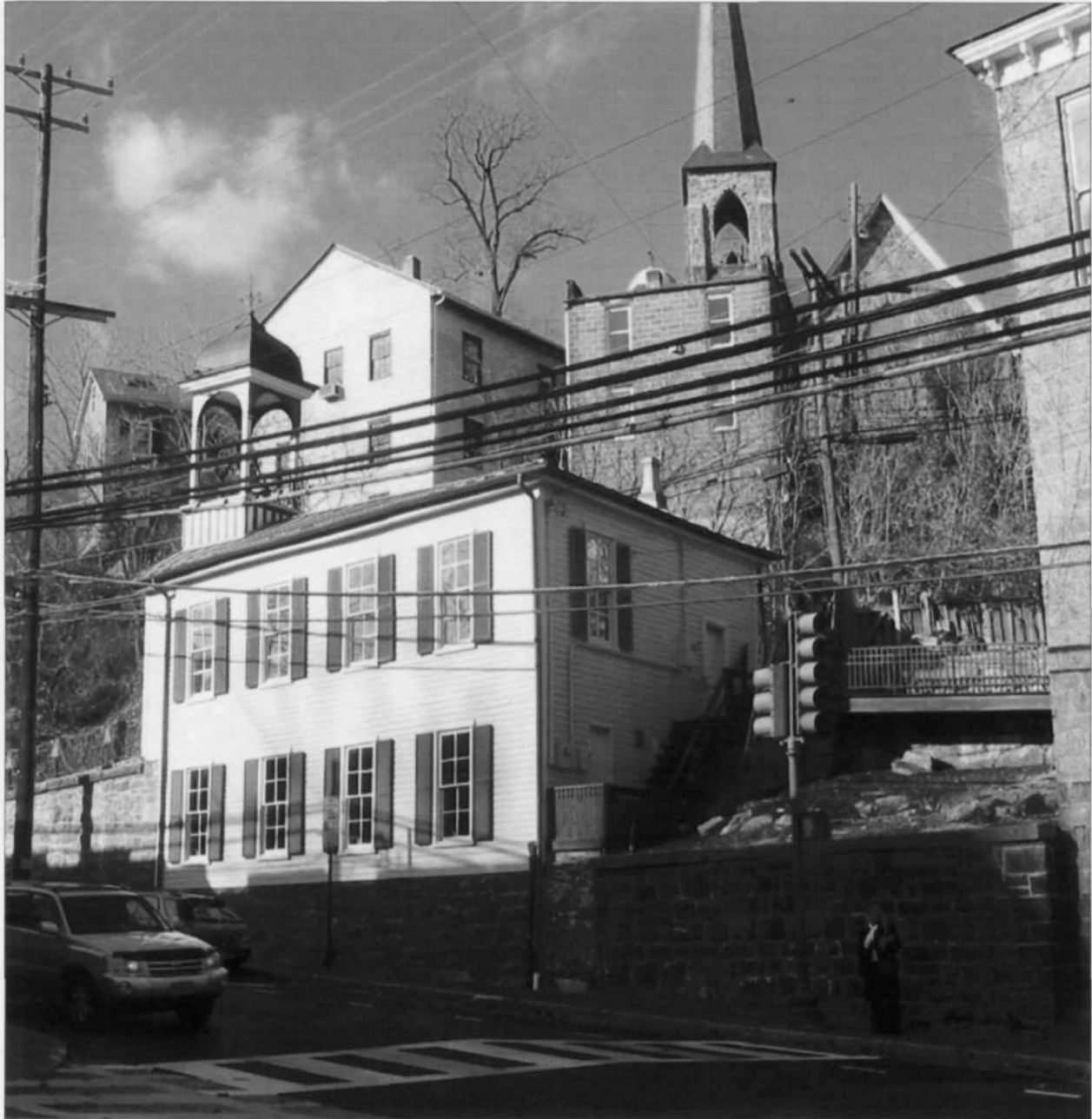


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The Firehouse Museum (Old Howard Co. Fire Department Building, Old Howard County Public Library)
3829 Church Road, Ellicott City

Photos by Jennifer K. Cosham, 11/28/2012

Southeast elevation





CLEORA BARNES THOMPSON
PLANNING CONSULTANT
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY

HO-61 H.C. FIRE DEPT BLDG
SOUTH EAST
JULY-1977



#0.61

Ellicott City

Old Howard County Fire Department

DSB 10/72



HO.61

Wicoff City

3 3 3 3

21/8
355

Old Howard Co. Fire Company