Easement

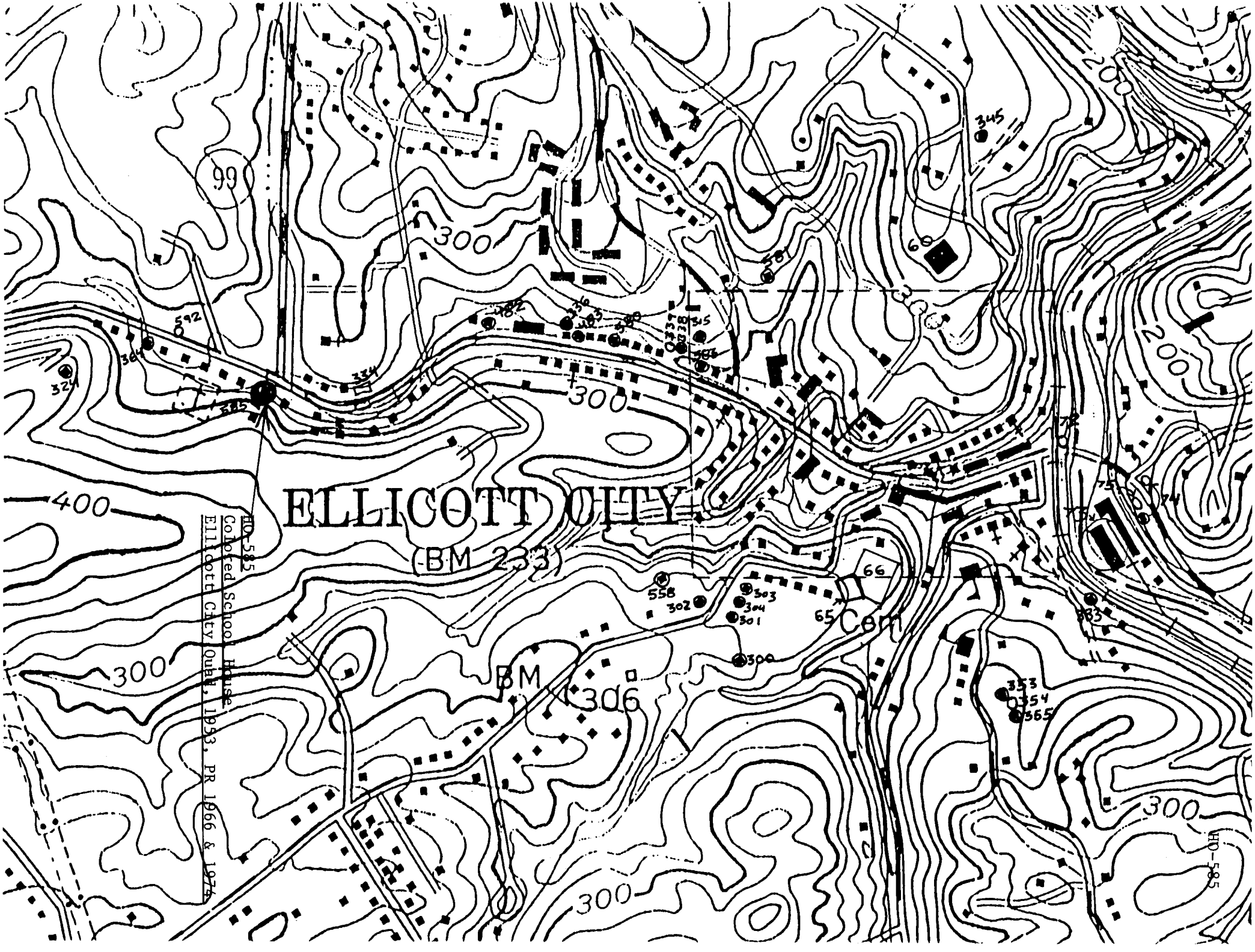
HO-585
Colored Schoolhouse
Main Street (MD 144)
Ellicott City

1880

Located south of the intersection of Main Street and Rogers Avenue, halfway up a hill, is the old Colored Schoolhouse which served Ellicott City's black children. This gable-front frame building has a very shallow standing-seam metal gable roof and a badly eroding high stone foundation, now shored up with lumber and cinder blocks. The south-facing front facade has only a central entrance door. The east elevation is three bays long with 6/6 sash windows. The west elevation has a double window in the north bay and a door in the next (going south) bay, beside an external chimney stack. The southernmost two bays have 6/6 sash windows.

According to a local resident, who attended the school and also served as its janitor at one time, there were two rooms to the building, with one teacher each. One room taught grades 1-3, and the other taught 4-6. Sixth grade boys apparently sometimes served as janitors, keeping the two stoves lit with either coal or wood. There were two outhouses over the stream. The informant remembers that there was no running water. Water had to be fetched from the stream until 1951 when a pump was installed. There was no school bus, and the children who attended the school walked from as far away as New Cut Road. By the time they got to school in the wintertime, their hands were so frozen they had to be thawed out in pans of warm water. Another local resident remembers

saving a female first grader from a German Shepherd owned by the local International tractor dealer.

Funds are currently being raised by the County to renovate the building and make it an African American museum.

ELLICOTT CITY (see inset for further detail)