



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Baltimore District

# News Release

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## **Corps of Engineers and Howard County partner to save historic schoolhouse**

**Baltimore** – The Ellicott City Historic Colored School, a 19<sup>th</sup> century African-American one-room schoolhouse, stands a better chance of surviving, thanks to a cooperative effort by the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Howard County, Md. Baltimore District and county officials signed a project cooperation agreement in late October to perform emergency streambank protection on the Hudson Branch of the Patapsco River.

Erosion along a portion of the Hudson Branch streambank, near Frederick Road and Rogers Avenue, is affecting the old schoolhouse. The bank has severely deteriorated, undermining the school's foundation and damaging the outbuildings.

The schoolhouse was built in the late 1800s for the education of the newly freed slaves who worked in the nearby mills. It is considered to be a valuable cultural resource and an example of African-American education after the Civil War. Baltimore District engineers are designing the project to protect the structure and to blend aesthetically with the neighboring Ellicott City historic district. The county has stated its intention to restore the buildings and convert the site to an educational center.

Howard County sought assistance from the Corps of Engineers to counteract the effects of the harmful erosion, which, if unchecked, could permanently damage the buildings. The federal and county governments are sharing the study, design and construction costs. Those costs total approximately \$440,000.

Corps of Engineers planners completed the study in October. Work on the project's design will be finished in November. Construction is expected to begin in January and be completed in July, 2001.

**Media List**

*Columbia Flyer*, fax: 410-992-5339, Thursdays

*Howard County Times*, fax: 410-997-4564, Thursdays

*The Sun*, Howard County Bureau, fax: 410-715-2816, daily

*The Washington Post*, Howard County Bureau, fax: 410-772-2330, daily

*Baptist Life*, fax: 410-290-6627, 2x/mo

*The Baltimore Afro-American*, fax: 410-554-8213, Fridays

*Baltimore Times*, fax: 410-243-1627, Fridays

*Every Wednesday*, fax: 410-554-8213, Wednesdays