

The State Archives is the historical agency for Maryland. It serves as the central depository for government records of permanent value. These records date from the founding of the Maryland colony in 1634 to the 1990s. Among the holdings of the Archives are colonial and State executive, legislative, and judicial records; county probate, land, and court records; records of religious bodies; business records; State publications and reports; and special collections of maps, newspapers, photographs, and private papers.

Origins of the State Archives trace to the State's tercentenary celebrations in 1934. As the 300th anniversary of Maryland's founding approached, the Maryland Tercentenary Commission made a modern, centralized archives a key feature of the State's commemoration. A "Memorial Hall of Records" was proposed as early as 1928 and in 1931 the General Assembly appropriated funds to erect an archives building. Construction began in 1934; the Hall of Records opened to the public a year later. It was the first building in this country designed specifically to hold state government archives.

The General Assembly provided for the management of the public records to be housed in the new facility. A 1935 statute created the Hall of Records Commission and provided for the collection, custody, and preservation of the official records, documents, and publications of the State (Chapter 18, Acts of 1935). The Hall of Records was formed in 1935 as an independent agency of State government and remained so until its incorporation into the Department of General Services in 1970 (Chapter 97, Acts of 1970). In 1984, the Hall of Records was renamed the State Archives and became an independent agency within the office of the Governor (Chapter 286, Acts of 1984). The 1984 law defined an advisory role for the Hall of Records Commission and placed the Commission on Artistic Property under the State Archives (Code State Government Article, secs. 2-1513(b), 3-404(b), 7-213(a), 9-1001 through 9-1027, 10-604 through 10-608, 10-631 through 10-634, 10-637 through 10-642, 10-701, 10-702). In 1986, the State Archives moved to the new Hall of Records located on Rowe Boulevard across from the Courts of Appeals Building.

Within the State Archives are the Commission on Artistic Property, and a number of units, including Education and Outreach; Exhibits; Geographical Services; Government Publications and Library; Land Patents; Photographic Collections; Photographic Services; Preservation and Conservation; Publications; Reference Services; Special Collections; and State and Local Records. The State Archives is aided by the Hall of Records Commission.

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

Chairperson: Robert C. Murphy, Chief Judge,
Court of Appeals

Secretary: Edward C. Papenfuse, Ph.D., State Archivist
(410) 974-3867

The Hall of Records Commission was created in 1935 (Chapter 18, Acts of 1935). As an advisory body to the State Archives, the Commission reviews and comments upon policies of the Archives that concern proposed budgets, publications, and public access to records.

The Commission is composed of eleven members. Nine serve *ex officio*. Two are members of the General Assembly: one senator, appointed by the Senate President, and one delegate, appointed by the House Speaker (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-1001 through 9-1006).

COMMISSION ON ARTISTIC PROPERTY

Oden Bowie, *Chairperson*
Elaine M. Rice, *Curator*

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The Commission on Artistic Property was formed in 1969 (Chapter 111, Acts of 1969). It was incorporated into the State Archives in 1984 (Chapter 286, Acts of 1984).

The Commission keeps a continuing inventory of all valuable paintings and other decorative arts located in a public area of any State building in the Annapolis area, except a State room of the Governor's Mansion. The Commission also provides for the acquisition, location, proper care, custody, restoration, display, and preservation of these paintings and decorative arts. Every person, agency, or organization desiring to acquire a painting or other decorative art work for display in a State building or premises in the Annapolis area, except in a room of the Governor's Mansion, must secure from the Commission both prior approval and final acceptance of the painting or decorative art work. In such instances, the Commission considers the competence of the artist, the proposed location, and the quality, historical significance, and appropriateness of the work.

The Commission may, with the approval of the Governor and the State Archivist, receive and accept gifts and loans of paintings and decorative art works. With the approval of the Governor, the State Archivist may accept gifts of money for the Commission from any source, public or private, and thereafter administer and expend the funds according to the conditions and terms of the gift.

The Commission consists of eight members appointed by the State Archivist with the approval of the Governor. At least one member must represent a cultural institution in Maryland. Three members