

certificates and patents for land from the settlement of the Province of Maryland in 1634, records of deeds, or abstracts of same, from 1786 to the present time, and abstracts of mortgages and releases from 1900 to the present time. An Act of 1874 provided that extracts of all deeds should be sent by the Clerks of the several counties and of Baltimore City to the Land Office and there bound and indexed (Code 1939, Art. 54, secs. 14, 17). The Commissioner hears and determines all disputes which may arise concerning the validity of surveys. The Land Office is now engaged in making, filing, and recording plats for subdivisions of land; copies of such plats are sent to the Supervisors of Assessments upon request. All plats that have been filed with the Clerks of Courts before June 1, 1945, are being microfilmed by the Land Office (Code 1947, Art. 17, secs. 72C, 72D).

All land now included in the limits of the State of Maryland was granted to Cecil, Lord Baltimore, in 1632. In 1680, there was established a Land Office, and four years later "The Land Council". This body was authorized to hear and determine all matters relating to land. Four years later when Maryland became a crown colony, the Land Office was closed. In 1715, after a long contest with the Governor and Council, the Secretary and the Assembly, the Lord Proprietor emerged with his rights restored, and the Land Office was reopened. After the Revolution, the State assumed the control of the Land Office (Act of Assembly of April Sess. 1777). From 1781 until 1841, there was a Land Office for the Western Shore and another for the Eastern Shore. The Constitution of 1851 created the office of the Commissioner of the Land Office.

Publications: *Biennial Report of the Commissioner of the Land Office*, 1946.

	1948	1949
Appropriations	\$28,827	\$24,877
Staff: 7		

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HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

Chairman: Ogle Marbury, Chief Judge of Court of Appeals

William Preston Lane, Jr., Governor; James J. Lacy, Comptroller; Isaiah Bowman, President The Johns Hopkins University; John S. Kieffer, President St. John's College; J. Hall Pleasants, President Board of Peabody Institute; George L. Radcliffe, President Maryland Historical Society.

Morris L. Radoff, Archivist

Gust Skordas, Assistant Archivist

Roger Thomas, Assistant Archivist

Hall of Records, Annapolis

Telephone: Annapolis 4111

The Hall of Records Commission was created by an act of the General Assembly in 1935. The Commission is an ex-officio body composed of the Governor, the Chief Judge Court of Appeals, the Comptroller, the President of The Johns Hopkins University, the President of St. John's College, the President of the Maryland Historical Society, and the President of the Board of Trustees of the Peabody Institute (Code 1939, Art. 41, sec. 87). The Commission supervises and controls the Hall of Records and appoints the Archivist, who is responsible for the functioning of the agency.

All public officials and all agencies of the State, as well as the counties, cities and towns of Maryland are authorized to deposit at the Hall of Records all records and documents not in current use. It