

request. All plats filed with the Clerks of Courts before June 1, 1945, are also being microfilmed by the Land Office. (Code 1951, Art. 17, secs. 69, 70, 73, 74; Art. 56, secs. 1-16, 18, 19, 25).

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 (Acts Feb. sess. 1777, ch. 15). 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.

Appropriations	1955	1956
General Fund	\$29,315	\$29,683
Staff: 7.		



HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION

Chairman: Frederick W. Brune, Chief Judge Court of Appeals
 Theodore R. McKeldin, Governor; J. Millard Tawes, Comptroller; Richard D. Weigle, President, St. John's College; George L. Radcliffe, President, Maryland Historical Society; William L. Marbury, President, Board of Peabody Institute; Lowell J. Reed, President, Johns Hopkins University.
 Morris L. Radoff, Archivist and Records Administrator
 Gust Skordas, Assistant Archivist
 Rex Beach, Assistant Records Administrator

Hall of Records, Annapolis

Telephone: Colonial 3-4111

The Hall of Records Commission was created by an act of the General Assembly of 1935. The Commission is an ex-officio body. It supervises and controls the Hall of Records and appoints the Archivist, who is responsible for the functioning of the agency (Code 1951, Art. 41, secs. 148, 149).

State agencies as well as the counties, cities and towns of Maryland are authorized to offer for deposit at the Hall of Records, all files, documents and records not in current use. Should the Archivist decline to accept the materials offered, permission to destroy them may be requested from the Board of Public Works. If permission is granted and destruction is completed, a certificate of destruction must be filed with the Hall of Records (Code 1951, Art. 41, secs. 153, 155).

While many records are offered to the Hall of Records Commission at the discretion of the custodians, it is required that all records, which are in the courthouses of the State and which were created prior to April 28, 1788, the date of ratification of the United States Constitution by the State of Maryland, be deposited at the Hall of Records (Code 1951, Art. 41, sec. 152). In addition to the above, the non-current records of many State agencies have been deposited with the Hall of Records and the Archivist has on file microfilm copies of all county deeds as well as miscellaneous probate records through 1850 and of wills and Orphans' Court proceedings through 1950. Where