

A new State Office Building in Annapolis was dedicated in 1958. By 1960, a complex of three new State office buildings had been erected on West Preston Street in Baltimore: one for the State Roads Commission, another for the Department of Employment Security, and a third to bring together many of the State agencies that had been formerly scattered throughout the City. In 1962, the Department of Motor Vehicles moved into its newly-constructed Headquarters Building located in northern Anne Arundel County. Present plans call for another State office building in Baltimore and an office building for each house of the General Assembly in Annapolis.

Friendship International Airport, constructed to connect Baltimore with all parts of the globe, began operating on June 24, 1950. A 3,200-acre field, it is one of the largest in the country and is capable of accommodating planes of the new jet age.

The Maryland Port Authority was established in 1956 to promote and develop the ports of Maryland. It endeavors to persuade private operators to make needed improvements, but if necessary, the Authority may construct and operate supplementary facilities.

Marylanders have always taken pride in their history and culture. The Maryland Historical Society, established in 1844, has done much to foster this interest, perhaps most notably by publishing the *Archives of Maryland*. Since 1935, the Hall of Records Commission, operating as the State archival agency, has collected in its vaults practically all of the most valuable records of Maryland, both State and local. It turned out to be by far the most significant accomplishment of the Tercentenary Commission, which was established for the purpose of devising ways to commemorate the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Maryland. More recently, a number of county historical societies have been organized.

As might be expected, Annapolis has been the center of attention among those interested in our colonial heritage. Historic Annapolis, Incorporated, the local historical society, has undertaken to preserve the old buildings and to persuade those constructing new ones to maintain the distinctive character of the "Old City", an area which was just recently designated a National Historic District by the Department of the Interior. The State House, the Hammond-Harwood House and Whitehall, about five miles out of the city, have likewise been designated National Historic Landmarks. Plans to tear down the Paca House were thwarted