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The Hall of Records Commission was created in 1935 (Chapter 18, Acts of 1935). The Commission meets at least quarterly as an advisory body to the State Archives. The Commission reviews and comments on the proposed budget for the State Archives, all proposed publications, and proposed policies for the use of the State Archives by the public.

The Commission is composed of eight ex officio members, one senator appointed by the Senate President, and one delegate appointed by the Speaker of the House (Code State Government Article, secs. 9-1001 through 9-1006).

## STATE ARCHIVES

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Public Searchroom Open Mon.-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The origins of the State Archives can be traced to the State's Tercentenary celebrations in 1934. The Tercentenary Commission made a modern, centralized archives a central feature of the State's commemoration of its three-hundredth year. A proposal to create a "Memorial Hall of Records" for the State was mentioned as early as 1928, and in 1931 the General Assembly passed an appropriation for the construction of an archives building. Construction of the building began in 1934, and it was occupied a year later.

With construction of the archives building nearing completion, the General Assembly made provisions for the management of the State's permanent records that would be housed in the new facility. Chapter 18, Acts of 1935, created the Hall of Records Commission, prescribed its powers and duties, and provided for the collection, custody, and preservation of the official records, documents, and publications of the State. The Hall of Records was created as an independent agency of State government, and remained so until its incorporation into the Department of General Services by Chapter 97, Acts of 1970. The Hall of Records operated as a division of the Department until it was made an independent agency within the office of the Governor by Chapter 286, Acts of 1984. This act renamed the Hall of Records as the State Archives, defined an advisory role for the Hall of Records Commission, and incorporated the Commission on Artistic Property into 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).

The State Archives is the historical agency for Maryland. It serves as the central depository for governmental records of permanent value. Among its holdings are colonial and State executive, legislative, and judicial records; county probate, land, and court records; church records; business records; State publications and reports; and special collections of private papers, newspapers, and maps. Records are stored in a humidity- and temperature-controlled stack area, and preservation requirements, including deacidification, lamination, mylar encapsulation, and archival bookbinding are undertaken by the staff of an in-house conservation laboratory. Records are made accessible to the public in a search room that is open six days each week, through photocopies produced in an in-house photolab, and through the interlibrary loan of microform. The State Archives produces a variety of finding aids and guides to records, as well as historical monographs, essays, and directories. A brochure describing publications available from the State Archives and giving guidance for doing research in the public search room or by mail is available on request.

The State Archives is located in the Hall of Records building on the St. John's College campus in Annapolis. A new State Archives building, located on Rowe Boulevard across from the Courts of Appeal complex, is scheduled to open in 1986.

State agencies, counties, cities, and towns in Maryland are authorized to offer for deposit at the State Archives all files, documents, and records not