ADMINISTRATION Christopher N. Allan, Administrator 974-3867
ACCOUNTING Barbara Schisler
COMMISSION ON ARTISTIC PROPERTY (23.01.10.02) FY1989 appropriation
Appointed by State Archivist with Governor's approval: Nancy Brennan; William Voss Elder III; Sara Barker Hanan; Dorothy McIlvain Scott.
Ex officio: Winfield M. Kelly, Jr., Secretary of State; Mary Pringle Symonds, President, Historic Annapolis, Inc.; Dr. Kenneth N. Weaver, Director, Maryland Geological Survey.
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The origins of the State Archives can be traced to the State's tercentenary celebrations in 1934. As the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Maryland colony 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.

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 created 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).

The State Archives is the historical agency for Maryland. It serves as the central depository for government records of permanent value. These records date back to the founding of the Maryland colony in 1634. Among the Archives 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, maps, photographs, and newspapers. Records are stored in a humidity- and temperature-controlled stack area. Preservation measures, including deacidification, lamination, mylar encapsulation, and archival bookbinding are carried out by the staff of an in-house conservation laboratory. Records are