

John's offer continued to urge others. The Commission was also to be plagued by the problem of finding a useful purpose for the Hall of Records without infringing on the prerogatives of other offices. For example, a curious division of records then held by the Land Office was proposed late in 1930: the Hall of Records was in no way to encroach upon the fields of the Land Office—the Hall of Records would receive only those records created during the Provincial period, the Land Office would retain all the records created since statehood.

In the meanwhile, early in 1930, Governor Ritchie had asked Judge Bond to form a committee to estimate the amount of records which would have to be housed in the proposed Hall of Records and to estimate the size of building needed and the approximate cost. Judge Bond associated with him in this survey Dr. J. Hall Pleasants and Judge T. Scott Offutt and after several preliminary statements, a final report was made available to the Governor in February 1931. Judge Bond reported that space would have to be provided for about 5,000 bound volumes and a like amount of space for unbound materials. Including a margin of space to allow for the accumulation of an additional 25 years, Judge Bond proposed a stack space of 60x40 feet in area by 25 feet in height. For the overall size of the building he reported "After working over figures for space to include a reading and exhibition room, two offices, a repair room, a bindery, a photostat room, and a dark room for photography, washrooms and passages, we come to the conclusion that two floors and a basement each 60x60 feet in area and 15 feet high, would suffice."

The cost of such a building was estimated as follows: building \$144,000; equipment including steel stacks, \$50,000; architect's fees and heat connections \$25,000. Therefore, a round figure of \$250,000 was proposed. Governor Ritchie recommended less than that by \$50,000 to the Legislature then in session and this in turn was \$200,000 less than had been asked by the Tercentenary Commission for this purpose (Acts of 1931, Ch. 253). In the same year the Tercentenary Commission was given power to condemn or otherwise to procure a site for a "Memorial Hall of Records. . . in which shall be gathered all ancient public and private records of the Province and State of Maryland from the beginning of the province to the