

COUNTY LAND RECORDS PROJECT

In my report for the last fiscal year I advised you that we had completed making insurance copies of all the land records of Calvert and Caroline Counties. In the fiscal year just over we have added three more counties to the completed group—Queen Anne's, Howard and Anne Arundel. In Queen Anne's County the actual filming was done by a Deputy Clerk of Court; in Howard, by a temporary operator employed especially for this purpose; and in Anne Arundel, with the exception of the last year and a half of the record, by our own photographer. In each case the film, processing, checking and labeling was contributed by the Hall of Records. The completion of the work in Anne Arundel County after several years of part-time work by our operator is especially noteworthy in that it marked our first experience with one of the major centers of population of the State.

Good progress was also made during the year in Prince George's and Baltimore Counties. A start was made in Baltimore City but the size of this undertaking makes it a long-term venture—there are something like twelve thousand record volumes which will have to be filmed. At the end of the fiscal year, two other counties were begun—Frederick and Wicomico.

It is, of course, altogether possible to do a project of this kind at one time by employing a special staff, purchasing or renting equipment and asking for the funds which would be required. At least one state is now attempting to do just this. Our way of working in one county after another, wherever there is time and whenever there is money, is cheaper and more conducive to the production of good permanent film. We have chosen this course deliberately and as of now do not regret it, although to be sure, we should regret it enormously if records still uninsured by microfilm were to perish through fire or other cause. We are aware of the calculated risk involved. We are fearful but not alarmed.

Status of Land Record Project, June 30, 1958

Anne Arundel County	1851-1949 (complete)
Baltimore City	1851-1857
Baltimore City Block Books	1851-1953 (but incomplete)
Baltimore County	1851-1922
Calvert County	1882-1952 (complete)
Caroline County	1851-1950 (complete)
Cecil County	1918-1949
Howard County	1850-1949 (complete)
Prince George's County	1851-1940
Queen Anne's County	1852-1892 (complete)