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COUNTY LAND RECORDS PROJECT

We had for a long time considered that the insurance value of microfilm copies of our county records was at least as important as their research value, but we had never emphasized one above the other in our project planning. It was the impact of the Berlin crisis which impelled us to forget research values and to get as much done as quickly as possible for insurance purposes. In this resolve we were aided by the unanimous support of the Hall of Records Commission and by the urging of the Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works provided funds for an additional photographer to be added to our staff and funds for film and travel. Unfortunately, we found it impossible to employ a photographer when the funds were first made available, in December, 1961. We did not actually begin the program until some months later, but the year was a good one in spite of this delay. Charles and Worcester Counties were finished by the local operators who had begun them. Talbot was finished by our operator, and Cecil, which presented something of a special problem, was begun and finished by us. As in the other counties, the Cecil land records through 1851 were already here; in addition, a filming project undertaken by an indexing contractor had provided us with a copy of the years 1918-1949. There remained, therefore, only the years 1852-1917 to be filmed.