

and the "housekeeping" records or the records of internal management shall not be considered records of a court for the purposes of this section and shall be subject to disposal as described.

The question is, therefore, whether the abstracts to which you refer fall within the above requirement. In your letter they are called abstracts of conveyances and you apparently are not referring to any original deeds or mortgages or other instruments of conveyances that may be stored with you.

If these abstracts of conveyances are not part of the land records supplied by the respective clerks but are only copies thereof and if, as you state, they have all been microfilmed in accordance with Section 181 of Article 41 and that they would be available on request for viewing then we see no reason why the records cannot be turned over to the various county historical societies as was suggested.

We refer you further to an opinion of this office dated December 4, 1963 wherein it was stated that to turn over these records in this matter would be in effect to destroy them so far as the responsibilities of the Hall of Records Commission are concerned.

I trust this answers your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

Carville M. Downes
Assistant Attorney General

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY

There were two acts passed at the General Assembly this year which consolidated the Hall of Records and the Land Office, Chapter 488 which gave the terms of the consolidation and Chapter 489 which was an amendment to the Constitution subject to referendum. The referendum was held November 8, 1966 at the next general election after the passage of the Act. It was Question Number 16 on the ballot and it carried by a vote of 272,984 to 110,037. It carried Baltimore City and every county in the State except Garrett which was lost by a small margin, 718 for to 785 against.

CHAPTER 488 (House Bill 965)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 1 of Article 54 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Land