

THE HALL OF RECORDS

The Hall of Records of Maryland was built as a part of the tercentenary celebration of the landing of the *Ark* and the *Dove* and the founding of Lord Baltimore's colony of Terra Mariae. It is located in Annapolis on the corner of College Avenue and St. John's Street. It is controlled and supervised by the Hall of Records Commission, which was created by Chapter 18, Acts of 1935, and which is composed ex officio of the Governor, the Comptroller of the Treasury, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Presidents of St. John's College, the Maryland Historical Society, the Peabody Institute, and The Johns Hopkins University. The present members of the Hall of Records Commission are Governor J. Millard Tawes, the Honorable Louis L. Goldstein, Judge Frederick W. Brune (Chairman), Dr. Richard D. Weigle (Vice-Chairman), Senator George L. Radcliffe, Herbert J. Watt, Esquire, and Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower.

Every State, county, city, town or other public official in Maryland is *permitted* to deposit in the Hall of Records any original papers, official books, records, documents, files, newspapers or printed books, not in current use. He is *required* to deposit all records in his custody created before the date of the adoption of the Federal Constitution by Maryland, April 28, 1788. In addition, the Hall of Records has microfilm copies of much county material after 1788, including land and court records at least through 1850 and often beyond; and the major probate series through 1950. Many State agencies have also deposited records postdating the mandatory period.

The Records Management program of the State is a responsibility of the Hall of Records Commission, as is the operation of Maryland's two Record Centers. Among its other functions the Hall of Records Commission is the historical agency of the State, it compiles and distributes the State's *Manual*, and it is a depository for all State publications.

The Hall of Records will furnish, for a fee, photostatic or microfilm copies of records in its custody. All the materials at the Hall of Records except those whose use is specifically restricted are available to the public in the Search Room, subject to such regulations for their safekeeping as have been adopted by the Hall of Records Commission. Inquiries received by mail will be answered if the research required is confined to the use of our extensive indexes; however, no family lines will be traced. The Hall of Records is open to the public Mondays through Saturdays.