

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

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In this Issue:

[Letter from the State Archivist](#)

[Staff Updates](#)

[New Staff](#)

[Announcements](#)

[MDLANDREC](#)

[Website Update Launch](#)

[Events and Outreach](#)

[Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation
Commission Completes Regional Public Hearings
Update](#)

[Collection Highlights](#)

[Little Chair & Desk; Big Story](#)

[Book Notes](#)

[Research Reflections](#)

[Robert Tennenbaum](#)

[Maryland250 Musings](#)

[A New Monument for the Maryland State House](#)

[Reminiscing Among the Records . . .](#)



Hall of Records Commission (HRC)- A Definition

Created in 1935, the Hall of Records Commission is an advisory body to the State Archives ([Chapter 18, Acts of 1935](#)). The Commission reviews and comments upon policies of the Archives that concern proposed budgets, publications, and public access to records. The Commission is composed of eleven members, nine of which serve *ex officio*. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland chairs the Commission (Code State Government Article, secs. [9-1001](#) through [9-1006](#)).

Letter from the State Archivist

Happy Anniversary!

While the country anticipates its 250th birthday in 2026, the Archives is in the midst of our own celebration—in fact three agency milestones have anniversaries in 2025: **90** years since the creation of the Hall of Records (1935); **40** years since the building of our Annapolis facility on Rowe Boulevard (1984-1986) and **10** years since the acquisition of our secondary records and art storage facility in Woodlawn (2015). A sticky note with the numbers “90/40/10” that’s been clinging to my desk for the past six months reminds me to take every opportunity I can to highlight the history of the Archives, and the importance of our mission.

Established as an independent agency in Chapter 18 of the Acts of 1935, the Hall of Records (precursor to the Maryland State Archives) was charged with *the collection, custody, and preservation of the official records, documents, and publications of the state*. With that one sentence the Archives was established, formalizing the efforts of generations of record keepers going back to the 17th century, and enabling the work of generations of archivists to come.

As we often say, although a small agency, the Archives manages an extremely wide portfolio of responsibilities across state government. And while the buildings in which we do our work are vitally important (as is their maintenance) it is the people inside them, dedicated to fulfilling our mission, who make the Maryland State Archives what it is today.



Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist

Staff Updates

New Staff



Edward Heimiller joined our staff as a Conservation Specialist in our Conservation unit. He will be specializing in paper conservation treatments, records enclosures; recommending proper storage and monitoring the general preservation condition of our collections. Edward brings over a decade of professional experience with Baltimore museum collections at the Maryland Center for Military History, The Stephen J. Ponzillor, Jr. Memorial Library and Museum (Maryland Masonic Museum), and Johns Hopkins University's Evergreen Museum & Library. His Bachelor's degrees are in Art History and Art Conservation from the University of Delaware and his Master's degree is in the History of Decorative Arts from the Smithsonian Associates & Corcoran College of Art & Design. Welcome Edward!

Announcements

MDLANDREC

In May 2025, the Archives will make a change to our fee schedule for online access through MDLANDREC. Modern records, defined as less than 100 years old, will now require a \$0.20 per page fee for online viewing and downloading through <https://mdlandrec.net>. Index files for all years and historic records defined as 100 years old or older will be free to view and download online through the website. Free viewing for all time periods is also available online at the Maryland State Archives Search Room in Annapolis and at the county circuit court clerk's offices and law libraries, although there are costs for printing at these locations.

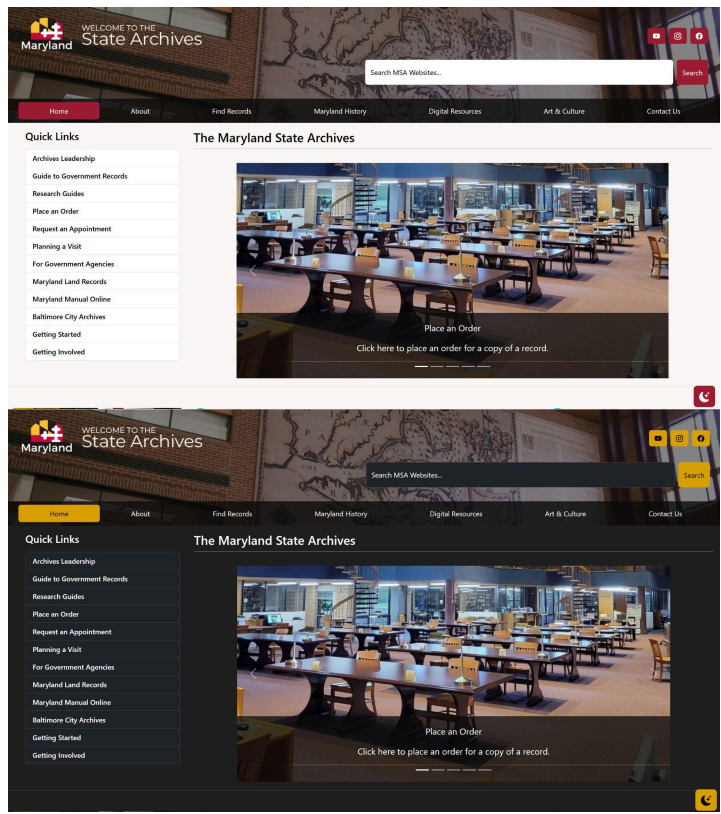
This adjustment was necessary in order to continue to preserve the archival records and maintain the remote access to electronic files through this website. Prior to making this change in our existing fee schedule, the Maryland State Archives completed a study of neighboring states and public access to land records to make certain that our fees were consistent with sister institutions. The fee of \$0.20 is far below the average rate of these other systems and is not meant to put an undue burden on the user. It is intended to apply fees equitably to the user groups based on their usage which will support MSA's ability to maintain the system. Keeping the historical records and indexes accessible for free supports the researchers and family historians who are using the records for personal or non-commercial purposes.

Archives' leadership made this decision with a great deal of thought and study. We take our mission to preserve collections and provide public access seriously, and aim to make decisions that are

mindful of sustaining the archival program for the long term so that these materials are available for our customers today and for generations to come.

Website Update Launch

The Maryland State Archives launched a new website design on January 22, 2025. With a focus on increasing accessibility, our IT department worked hard to introduce new features such as dark mode, which can be toggled on or off according to the user's preference and needs. The new website also features a thoughtfully designed mobile version, to ensure seamless access to our online resources when using a cell phone or tablet. The homepage's rotating carousel draws attention to some of our most frequently used webpages, such as placing online orders, requesting appointments, and upcoming events. We appreciate our IT department's dedication to supporting our mission of making Maryland's records accessible!



Events and Outreach

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Completes Regional Public Hearings Update

The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC) held its final regional public hearings this winter. Established in 2019 by House Bill 307 of the Maryland General Assembly, the Commission is authorized to convene open hearings in the communities where a racially motivated lynching of an African American by a white mob has been documented. The Maryland State Archives Director of Research, Education and Outreach Chris Haley serves as a Commissioner and the MSA serves as a supporting agency for the MLTRC by hosting its website.

On January 11, the MLTRC hosted a regional hearing Howard County online only due to inclement weather. This event documented the life story and the lynching of [Jacob Henson, Jr.](#) in Ellicott City on May 28, 1895.

On January 25, the MLTRC hosted a regional hearing for Prince George's County at Bowie State University. The meeting shared the biographies and subsequent murders of [Thomas Juricks](#) in

Piscataway on October 12, 1869, [John Henry Scott](#) on March 23, 1875, [Mike Green](#) near Upper Marlboro on September 1, 1878, and [Stephen Williams](#) in Upper Marlboro on October 20, 1894.

On February 1, the MLTRC hosted the final county hearing for Carroll County at the St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Westminster. The hearing focused on the life of [Townsend Cook](#) who was lynched in Westminster on June 2, 1885.

Recordings of these final regional hearings, as well as all previous public hearings are available through the Commission's [website](#) hosted by the Maryland State Archives.

The Commission will be hosting one final public hearing at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum. This Institutional and Reconciliation Hearing will be a two day event on April 4 and April 5, and [registration](#) to attend in person or remotely is open on the Commission's website. The event is free and will also be livestreamed on the Commission's [website](#) for remote viewing. This concluding hearing will specifically address institutional complicity in racial terror lynching in the state focused on government agencies, the press, and law enforcement. Expert witnesses and community members will have the opportunity to provide testimony and make recommendations for achieving racial healing by attending the hearing in person or making suggestions via the Commission's email (mltrc@maryland.gov).

After the final public hearings, the Commission will be drafting its final report summarizing the years of work and making recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

Collection Highlights

Little Chair & Desk; Big Story

By Robin Gower, Curator, Maryland
Commission on Artistic Property, Maryland
State Archives

Recently added to the state's art collection is a miniature desk and chair [MSA SC 1545-3586] gifted by Maryland Commission on Artistic Property Chairman, Mark Beatson Letzer, in honor of Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents.

Although they are small, measuring just 7" in height, these miniatures are exact replicas of their full-scale counterparts which are on display at the Maryland State House.¹ The "originals" were made in 1797 by Annapolis cabinetmaker John Shaw (1745-1829) for the senate and were in active



¹ For more on the Senate furniture produced by John Shaw, visit:
https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdstatehouse/html/old_chamber_desk.html &
https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdstatehouse/html/old_chamber_armchair.html

use until sometime between 1837-1845. Since then, they have served as inspiration for generations of craftspeople, including William Tillman (1950-2016).

Tillman, originally from Towson, Maryland, was a craftsman and carpenter. Predominantly self-taught, he specialized in 18th century furniture design.² Interestingly, he studied with Enrico Liberti (1894-1979) of Baltimore, who was a leading craftsman in the Colonial revival furniture movement. In fact, in 1940 Liberti was commissioned by the state to recreate Shaw's suite of desks and chairs for use in the Old Senate Chamber.³ Though he never sold his miniatures, Liberti was considered a master of the medium, and eventually passed along his knowledge to Tillman.

To create these perfect miniature replicas, Tillman visited the Maryland State House and set up a research appointment in 1994, where he met with Elaine who was then Curator of Artistic Property. He studied the furniture closely; taking note of the construction and dimensions of each piece, which eventually led to the creation of these miniatures. For a time, Tillman sold his miniatures on commission at the Maryland Historical Society (now the Maryland Center for History and Culture). This particular set was made in 2005, and purchased by Letzer, who was President of the society at that time. Perhaps you'll see these miniatures next to their full-scale inspirations by Shaw and Liberti in a future exhibit at the State House.

Book Notes

By Christine Alvey, Librarian, Maryland State Archives

This Book Note serves as a reminder that Vincent O. Leggett, Admiral of the Chesapeake, continues to speak to us in his own words through his books, *Blacks of the Chesapeake: An Integral Part of Maritime History*, and *Chesapeake Bay Through Ebony Eyes*.

Both books are available for your enjoyment and education in our public search room.

Research Reflections

Robert Tennenbaum

By Morgan Miller Scarborough, Reference Archivist, Maryland State Archives

January 27th, 2025 was International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a day to honor and remember the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust as well as the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution.

The specific date, January 27th, marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest killing camp of Nazi design. Over the course of the five years between 1940 and 1945,

² Henderson, Randi. 1975. Review of At Least One Young Craftsman Is Thriving as Furniture Maker. The Sun, January 13, 1975. Newspapers.com

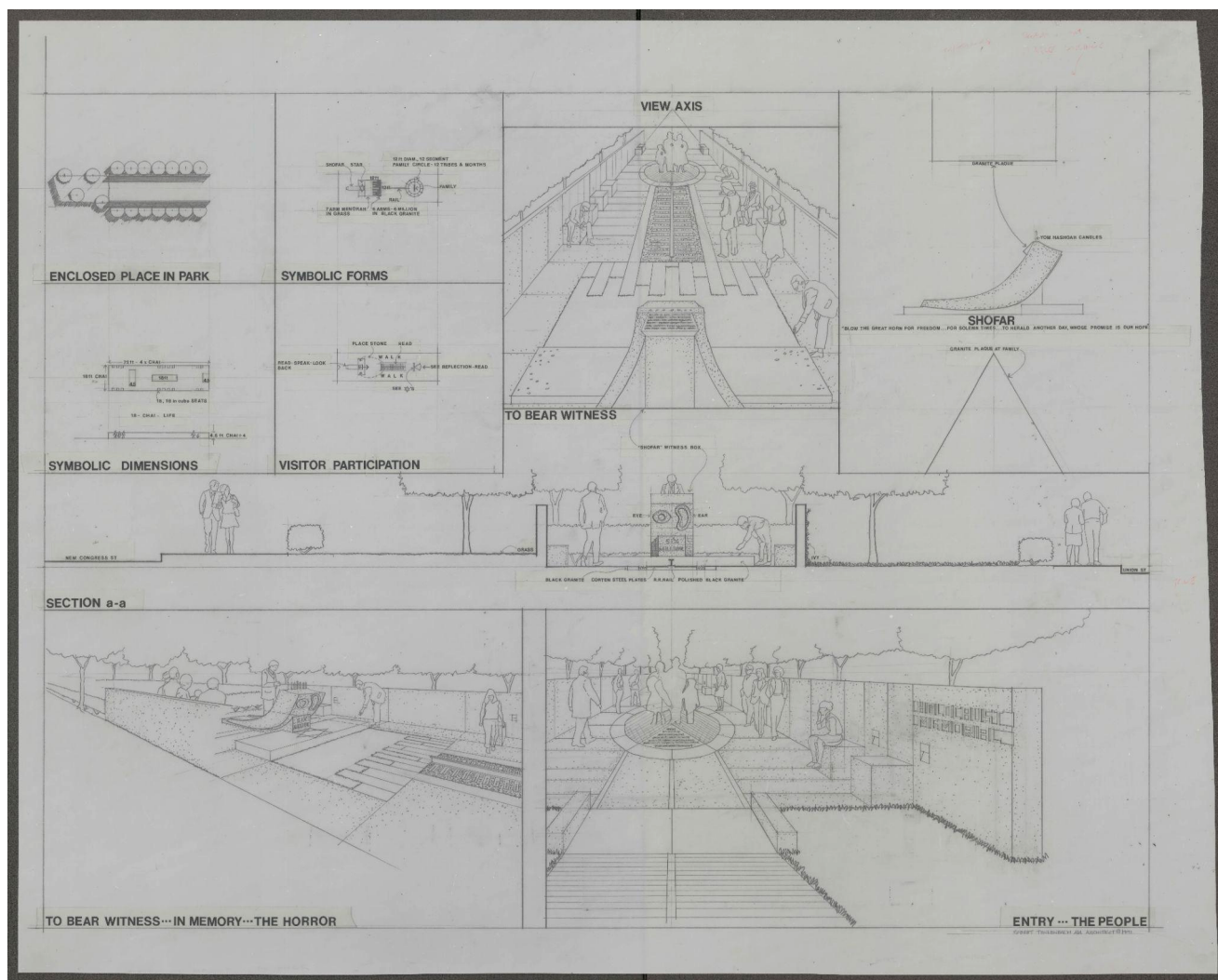
³For images of Liberti's work in the state's collection, visit:

https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc1500/sc1545/apc_web/apcfurniture_liberti.html

over 1.1 million of the 1.3 million people deported to Auschwitz were killed, including nearly one million Jewish victims. Those who were not sent directly to the gas chambers of Auschwitz were selected for forced labor.

In this article we highlight collections of the Maryland State Archives donated by the prominent Jewish Marylander, Robert "Bob" Tennenbaum, FAIA. Mr. Tennenbaum was born in Vienna, Austria on June 12, 1936. Nearly three years later, on March 9, 1939, Mr. Tennenbaum's parents, Marcus and Ernestine Tennenbaum, took him and fled from the Austrian Nazis to New York City. In the draft of his biography [MSA SC 6202-6-5], Mr. Tennenbaum states that his parents moved to Jersey City, New Jersey so that his father could find work in a lumber yard. However, after finding an anti-Semitic climate among their neighbors, they moved back to New York City.

In New York City, Mr. Tennebaum was surrounded by his maternal grandparents, who were also able to escape persecution, as well as other Jewish refugees. His family listened to the radio every night during the war years, cheered when the United Nations voted for the creation of Israel, and looked on as his father spent the evenings "filling out forms to get the rest of [his] family out of Vienna and to deal with the properties in Vienna that the Nazis stole from [them] before [they] left in 1939."



Caption: Robert Tennenbaum Collection, Tracing paper, Architectural drawings of the Boston Holocaust Memorial Competition Entry, [MSA SC 6202-7-26].

Robert Tennenbaum had an incredible life. Out of all of his achievements, one of his most famous was when he worked as the chief architect-planner of James Rouse's New Columbia Town Project which provided the designs for Columbia, Maryland. He was an author, artist, creator, and entrepreneur. When the opportunity to enter The New England Holocaust Memorial Competition arose, he designed the plans shown above.

The New England Holocaust Memorial Competition Program [MSA SC 6202-1-14] is amongst the many records Mr. Tennenbaum donated to the MSA before his passing in November of 2020. This program contains the statement of purpose for the competition, the rules and procedures, and the guidelines for how to submit plans and photographs. It is stated that three years of "intense public debate, much of it highly emotional, led to the decision to sponsor a competition for a memorial [to the Holocaust] in Boston" adjacent to The Freedom Trail in Boston, Massachusetts. The Design Management Committee conducted several meetings between March and October 1990 with Holocaust survivors, children of Holocaust survivors, and others, in order to flesh out the purposes of the competition and the memorial itself. The quote below from the Survivor Testimony section of the program captures the feeling of Robert Tennenbaum's architectural plans for his submission:

What is the role of the architect or designer? To listen, to absorb, to assimilate what you – the survivors – say. To extract from your words the themes which the memorial can embrace.⁴

The difference for Mr. Tennenbaum was that his design came out of lived experience.

Although Mr. Tennenbaum's design was not chosen for the New England Holocaust Memorial; the design that was chosen, from architect Stanley Saitowitz, can still be visited today in Boston, MA⁵.

The Robert Tennenbaum [MSA SC 6202] collection can be viewed in the searchroom at the Maryland State Archives. Information on the history of the Holocaust, can be found at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and on the Museum's social media channels.

Caption: Magazine Clipping housed in the The New England Holocaust Memorial Competition Program [MSA SC 6202-1-14]

Architect Aug 1991

NEWS

Boston Holocaust Memorial Awarded

"SIX TOWERS OF SPIRIT, SIX CHAMBERS OF gas, six towers of ice melting into the city, six exhausters of life, six pillars of breath" is California architect Stanley Saitowitz's description of his competition-winning design for the New England Holocaust Memorial to be built in Boston. The design, which comprises six illuminated glass towers linked by a black granite path, was chosen last June from a field of 520 entrants by a jury among whose members were architect Frank Gehry and architectural historian and critic Rosemarie Bletter. "The design employs symbolism which is appropriate and evocative and which creates powerful associates with Jewish culture," commented the jury. The memorial is to be built in Union Street Park on Boston's historic Freedom Trail near Quincy Market, a site 16 million people pass each year.

Each of the six towers will measure 8 feet square and 60 feet tall, its frame constructed of 6-inch-diameter tubular stainless steel. Attached to the frame of each tower will be 30 panels of armor plate glass, etched with a

million numerals. The towers together will contain 6 million numerals, representing the number of Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

Each tower will be constructed over a black granite-lined pit, at the bottom of which will be electrically heated lava rock. A steel grate will cover the pit but the towers will be open

on two sides to allow visitors to walk over the pits. Saitowitz says that in traversing through the towers, "you will feel warm air rising from each like a breath." Privately funded, the construction cost is estimated at \$1 million, with groundbreaking scheduled for spring 1992.

—MICHAEL J. CROSBIE



Stanley Saitowitz's design for Boston's holocaust memorial (far left), to be built in a park near Quincy Market, comprises six glass towers (left) arranged along a granite path, each illuminated from above and below.

⁴ MSA SC 6202-1-14

⁵ <https://www.saitowitz.com/new-england-holocaust-memorial>

Maryland250 Musings

MD TWO FIFTY

On July 4, 2026, America will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with many events, displays and activities. The Maryland State Archives serves on the MD250 Commission and will join the semiquincentennial celebrations by sharing a number of reflections and projects over the next few years. Our focus is to raise up the contributions of all people, document the untold and underrepresented stories of Marylanders, and to preserve their rich legacy for future generations.

A New Monument for the Maryland State House



Caption: Rendering of the location of the monument on the State House southeast grounds. Image provided by Department of General Services.

In 2023 the State House Trust approved a proposal brought forward by Steven X. Lee to create a monument for the grounds of the State House that would honor those whose service during the Revolutionary War has gone largely uncelebrated—and most entirely unknown. Honoring the service of Black Revolutionary War era soldiers will also serve to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, making this new monument a major contribution to the mission of MD250. Capital funding, managed by the Department of General Services, is being provided to support the creation and installation of the monument.

A national call to artists, managed by the Maryland State Arts Council, solicited over fifty applicants, which were narrowed down to four who made in-person presentations of their concepts to the Black Patriot Monument Advisory Committee in January. The winning concept was presented by Branly Cadet, a sculptor who divides his time between studios in California and New York. Mr. Cadet will collaborate with the Maryland State Archives to ensure historical accuracy of the figural work. When

completed, the monument will become part of the state owned art collection managed by the Commission on Artistic Property.

In honoring Black Patriots, this monument will highlight the cause that guided those who fought or traveled with the Continental Army. It will affirm that African-descended Marylanders and Marylanders of mixed African and Indigenous ancestry participated in the Revolution, and that their actions were integral to the processes that lead to creation of the United States. Research staff at the Archives have documented as fully as possible the service of these individuals from Maryland, as well as across the Continental Army. This history will be shared through the interpretation of the monument, as part of the overall visitor experience at the Maryland State House.

The monument will also acknowledge that patriots were not only soldiers, but included a variety of roles, such as those performed by civilians, women, and children. We hope to encourage the public to think more inclusively about who was a patriot during the Revolutionary period.

The Black Patriot Monument will be unveiled in August 2026 on the southeast side of the State House.

Reminiscing Among the Records . . .

In honor of many anniversaries this year, [The Clamshell](#) editors are making space to look back and remember past achievements, staff and the overall evolution that has made the agency what it is today, 90 years after its founding. First up is a throwback article from this newsletter's predecessor, [The Bulldog](#). This excerpt from the July 10, 1995 edition is the first published announcement of the Archives's first website. Then State Archivist Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse made the announcement to the MSA's advisory board, the Hall of Records Commission (HRC), chaired by Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy.

This article is a great example of how the MSA was far ahead of its time in applying the accessibility provided by the "world wide web" to the field of archives. This was a very new technology in 1995. Demonstrating this website to the HRC in 1995 was Database Administrator Betsy Steele, who today serves as our Deputy Chief Information Officer. Betsy, along with webmaster Ian Smith, launched the latest version of the Archives' website in January 2025, 30 years after our first debut online.

The Archivists' Bulldog

Vol. 9, No. 22, Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives, July 10, 1995

HALL OF RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING

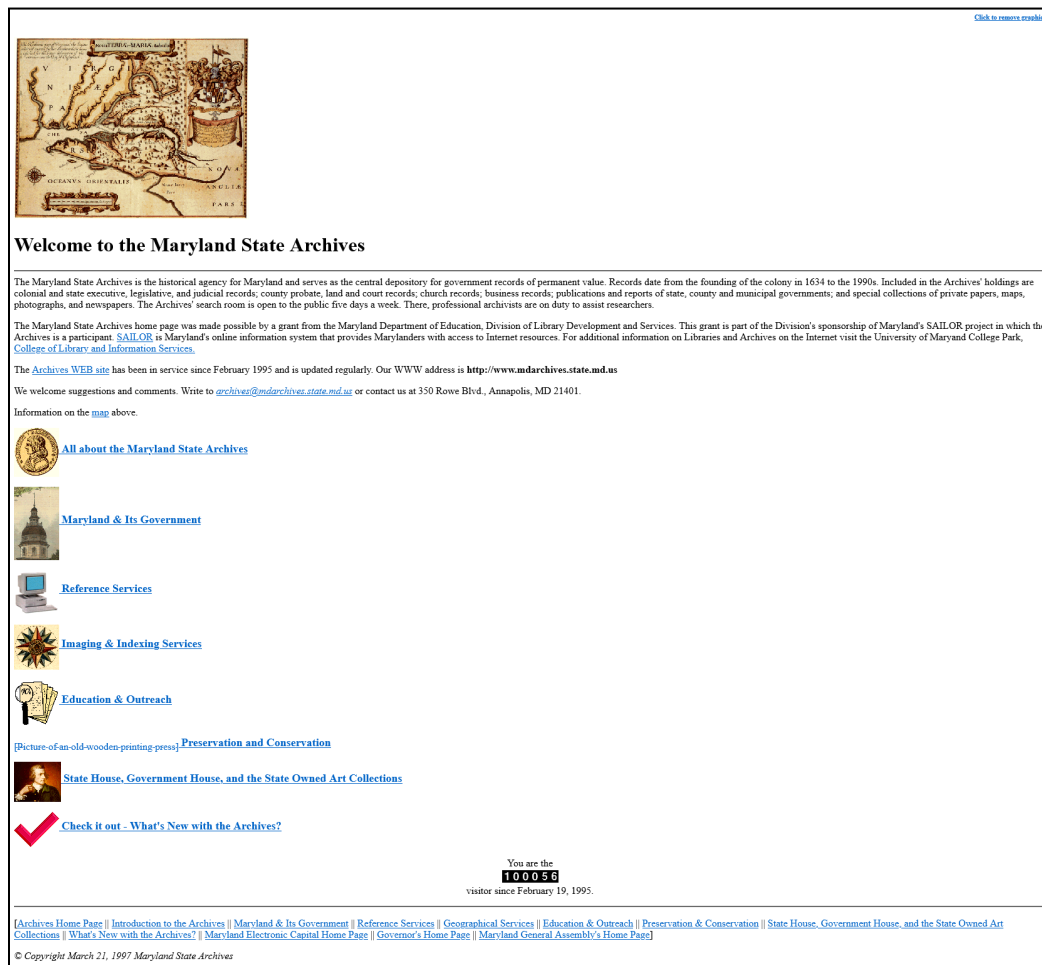
by Pat Melville

A Hall of Records Commission meeting was held at the Archives on June 27. Ed began the meeting at 12:35 p.m. by noting that research and access to records at the Archives is

changing dramatically as the institution becomes more involved with electronic media. The World Wide Web is being used as a tool for the study of history and for addressing archival issues. In fact the meeting itself was conducted electronically as Chairman Robert C. Murphy and Secretary Edward C. Papenfuse moved through the agenda using a projector provided by the Office of the Governor's Chief of Staff, Major F. Riddick, Jr. The Archives Web site was used locally (not globally on the Internet) as a vehicle for presenting and illustrating agenda items.

Betsy Steele demonstrated the Archives' Web site for Commission members. She highlighted the home page; information available about Maryland government, which includes data from the Maryland Manual and Department of General Services' phone book; and reference services. Ed explained how the Archives can work from a local network without being on the Internet. Thus, working documents are made available to staff for informational purposes.

Access to the full article and other past issues of *The Archivist's Bulldog*, can be found [online](#).



Caption: Image of original design of the Maryland State Archives website homepage, launched in 1995, image download in 1997.



It is through generous donors that the Archives has been able to acquire and preserve many treasures of Maryland's history. Donations support our mission to preserve and make accessible the historic records of Maryland, as well as supporting the professional development of our staff. To donate to the Friends [click here](#).

The Friends of the Maryland State Archives is a 501(c)3 organization and donations to it are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



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