

## FOREWORD

This is but the latest in an ongoing series of indexes and guides published by the Archives Division of the Hall of Records Commission, Department of General Services. The object here, as with previous finding aids, is to facilitate access to information in the holdings of the Hall of Records. With 100,000 cubic feet of permanently valuable records in its custody, the Hall of Records is a unique source of information on the administrative, social, economic, and political history of the State of Maryland. Locating materials that warrant preservation for posterity, and transferring those records to an archives where they can be stored in a safe environment, is not sufficient. For an archives to perpetuate as well as to preserve the accumulated knowledge of the state, finding aids such as this are an essential endeavor.

Publication of this volume required the cooperation and assistance of many individuals, particularly since the records of the Constitutional Convention were dispersed and funding for the work was to come in large part from sources other than the Hall of Records. J. Max Millstone, secretary of the Department of General Services, and Robin J. Zee and Jack A. Kelly, respectively assistant secretary for operations and director of the Office of Central Services of the Department of General Services, were supportive as always. State Treasurer William S. James, a member of the Hall of Records Commission as well as second vice president of the Constitutional Convention, provided assistance whenever necessary. Administration of the funds for the index portion of the project and for printing the book devolved on Sandra R. Koester, secretary of the Board of Public Works. Carl E. Eastwick of the governor's staff first proposed that we explore the possibility of completing the work begun by H. Vernon Eney, and Charles F. Berry and C. Gilbert Gross of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Planning were instrumental in securing the necessary interdepartmental approvals for financing the project. Nancy M. Looker, of the Baltimore law firm of Venable, Baetjer and Howard, was most cooperative in arranging the transfer to the archives of the office files of Mr. Eney so that the *Guide* to the archives of the Constitutional Convention would be complete.

As Maryland approaches its 350th anniversary, the state's citizens will increasingly have opportunities to reflect on the long and notable history of the state. The Governor's Heritage Committee, chaired by the Honorable J. Dudley Digges, is committed to celebrating the state's beginnings in a meaningful and lasting way. One of the permanent contributions of the 350th anniversary will be a new Hall of Records building, which will serve as the repository for the state's priceless record heritage. The Hall of Records, in conjunction with the Maryland Historical Trust and the Governor's Heritage Committee, is also planning celebrations for late 1983 and early 1984 that will mark two other historic events. The 200th anniversary of George Washington's resignation as commander in chief of the American forces will be celebrated on 23 December 1983, and three weeks later, on 14 January 1984, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which formally ended the War of Independence, will be observed. Both events, the first of national significance and the second of international importance, occurred in the Old Senate Chamber in Maryland's State House.

With the emphasis during the next few years focused on Maryland's beginnings and on the end of the War of Independence, guides such as this will serve an essential role. Maryland today is what it is because of what happened in the past. The