

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. THE SOURCES

For present purposes we may distinguish three unequal classes of Maryland materials: Public records, private papers, and newspapers. The public records we may again divide between those of Maryland and those of British provenance. Both are well preserved and have been for many years in process of publication.

With a few exceptions to be noted, all those Maryland public records created prior to her ratification of the federal constitution, 28 April 1788, and very many created after that date, are now housed in the Hall of Records building at Annapolis and are there divided between the state Land Office and the Hall of Records proper.

A Catalogue of Archival Material, Hall of Records (Hall of Records Commission Publications, No. 2 [Annapolis, 1943]) listed the various groups of holdings then in the latter depository. It is now to be supplemented by a series of finding aids for some of the groups mentioned in the catalog. Two such works of interest for the colonial period have appeared: *Calendar of Maryland State Papers, No. 1, The Black Books* (Hall of Records Commission Publications, No. 1 [1943]) and *Land Office and Prerogative Court Records of Colonial Maryland* (H. of R. Com. Publications, No. 4 [1946]). These contain appropriate historical data on the records and record offices of the province and state.

The Land Office houses the proprietary land records proper and two series of court records. Only the former, consisting of Patents, Warrants, Leases, Rent Rolls, and Debt Books, are described in the previously mentioned inventory. (A score of other Rent Rolls are among the Calvert Papers at the Maryland Historical Society.) More useful for historical purposes are the Chancery Record, 1668-1789 (16 v.), and the Provincial Court Record, 1658-1774 (23 v.). The one is a record of suits and judgments in the High Court of Chancery, while the other comprises the land record books of the Provincial Court. These latter contain also powers of attorney, commissions, and oaths of office. The first four volumes of this Provincial Court Record, with parts of four earlier miscellaneous proprietary record books in the Hall of Records proper, have been published to form the five volumes of Proceedings of the Provincial Court, 1637-1670, in the *Archives of Maryland* series.

On the other side of the building, in the Hall of Records proper, is found a vast collection of provincial, state, and county archives. The most important provincial materials are the Proceedings of the Governor and Council, the Journals of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, Letter Books, Commission Books, Black Books, Miscellaneous State Papers, Proceedings of the Court of Appeals, Provincial Court Judgements, and the books and papers of the Prerogative Office. The records of each