

is described in detail elsewhere in this report. The work was done mainly by our own photographers, but with some help from other sources. The Commissioner of the Land Office kindly loaned us the negative microfilm of the General Index of Land Records, 1777-1932, of Washington County in order that we might have a positive print made for our own use; otherwise the records listed under the Washington County Circuit Court, the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, the Baltimore City Superior Court and the Harford County Register of Wills were filmed for us by staff members of these offices.

We also made microfilm copies of the assessments of 1783 and 1798 from the original returns which were loaned to us by the Maryland Historical Society. The assessment of 1798 is, of course, not a State archive, as it was authorized and carried out by the Federal government. However, for the sake of convenience, it has been listed here with the assessment of 1783, which was authorized by State law. The information furnished in the Federal returns about dwelling houses is remarkably detailed, providing such information as, the number of stories, length and width, whether of brick or wood, and outbuildings, if any. Anticipating extensive use of the returns, we have prepared photostatic copies of some of them. The returns of a few counties are missing from each assessment.

Perhaps the most interesting of the original records received last year were sixteen small volumes of proceedings of the Baltimore County Levy Court, which served as the administrative body of the County until it was superseded by the County Commissioners in 1827. The volumes are dated from 1772 to 1803, and they supplement similar records already on hand very nicely, filling in gaps that we had feared were permanent. However, the series is still not complete. Recently, we were informed that a few of the missing volumes had been rescued from mass destruction some years ago when the Courthouse attic was being cleaned. They are now in private hands, but we are hopeful that eventually they will be restored to official custody.

The seemingly random selection of records transferred from the office of the Register of Wills of Anne Arundel County has a simple explanation. The earlier records of the office, those dating before 1850, have been in our custody for some time. When the Register sought our help in solving his space problem, it was mutually agreed to extend the cut-off date from 1850 to 1875, thus affording temporary relief. Plans now underway for the construction of additional office space will eventually provide a more permanent solution to the problem.