

foot high from outside to outside of the frame and four and a halfe foot wide four windows more below Staires of the Said Dementions to be placed at the discretion of the builder Assending above by a p^r Staires with railles and Bannisters a Grand Jury room above thirteen and a halfe foot long with a passage from the Staires to the Room four foot wide another petition from the Grand Jury room to be Twelve foot which will make the Grand Jury room be thirteen and halfe foot long and Twenty foot wide and the petty Jury room Twelve foot long and Sixteen foot wide the Clerks Office Eight foot wide and Sixteen foot long with a window at Each End of the house four Dormant windows Two on Each Side five foot high and four foot wide the End windows of the Same bigness to be placed at the discretion of the builder all the petitions abovestaires to be with Inch pine plank plained on both sides and aged with a Large p^r of folding doors to come into the Courthouse belowstaires with all other Necessarys as doors Locks Keys Hinges Glass—windows with shetters window high with a Table in Every room with benches all round the barrs and a Table in the Eight foot barr: to be lathed plastered and w^h washed below Staires with Summer and Small Gice the rafters to be four and Six inches all abovestaires to be Seald with Inch pine plank the Gable Ends to be carryed up with brick the wall to be Eighteen Inches thick the foundation laid with Stone Two foot thick to the Water Table and then Eighteen Inches thick all the way up the Gable End above girt to be fourteen Inches thick to be plastered and whitewasht to be Shingled with poplar or Cypress the back of the Justices Seat: to be wainscoated four foot high above the Seat with a chaire for the Judge Two Chairs for the Cryer The Gallerys to be lathed plastered and wtwasht underneath with Folding Casements for the Two End windows below and one Casement in Each window below with Cornish and moulding all round the Eves with forms to Every Table abovestaires all the abovesaid building &c to be performed in good Sufficient manner and time —³²

But Colonel Maxwell had not yet won. The battle shifted back to Annapolis where a new tactic was tried. It was decided in the Lower House on October 30, 1710, that a bill should be passed to settle the question of move or stay by a vote of the freeholders of the county, but since nothing is heard of this bill in the Upper House it must have failed somewhere before it reached that exclusive body.³³ Now the Grand Jury took up the fight in the local area. At November Court 1710 it presented this protest to Her Majesty's Justices:

We of the Grand Jury being unfeignedly sensible of the Conveniencies of the Court house as it is now appointed by Act of Assembly & by the Majority of the Court & dreading the Effects of its Removal Some preliminaries being made towards its Removal the Consequence of w^h will reduce us to the Lowest Ebb of Poverty & being desirous it may Stand & be where it is do humbly & heartily crave of this Court what lies in their power to prevent it as being a palpable Notorious Greevance to this County & that a Record of this our most humble Remonstrance may be made thereof.³⁴

The justices replied by ordering that 45,000 pounds of tobacco be levied immediately "towards the building of the New Court house as also the sum of Six hundred pounds of Tobacco for the Lot of Ground whereon it is to be built. . . ." ³⁵ But the justices were still divided as witness the clerk's further note: "all which Richard Colegate & William Talbot Gentlemen Justices disassented to."

A year later, on October 29, 1711, Colegate attempted a new diversion by proposing to the Lower House that Richardson's Forest at the head of Middle River be chosen as the new county seat, and the House countered that the matter be referred to the people. But this second attempt at a referendum also failed.³⁶ Meanwhile, at November Court 1711, the justices ordered that two roads be built to Joppa and also that a conveyance be taken for the lot on which the courthouse then stood.³⁷ The Grand Jury, however, was not to be denied another protest, a final one as it turned out, at March Court 1711/12:

The Grand Jury returned again & exhibited to the Court the following presentment viz—

We of the Jury & Grand Inquest For the Body of this County as well as for her

³² *Liber I. S. No. B, Part I*, ff. 96-97.

³³ *Arch. of Md.*, XXVII, 531.

³⁴ *Liber I. S. No. B, Part I*, f. 182.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, f. 185.

³⁶ *Arch. of Md.*, XXIX, 51.

³⁷ *Liber I. S. No. B., Part II*, f. 269.