

II

PETITION TO GEORGE BEALL ASKING FOR THE REPEAL OR MODIFICATION OF THE ACT OF 1751 TO LAY OUT GEORGETOWN

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—Reference to the Journal of the Upper House shows that a petition, undoubtedly the following undated one, was presented, October 22, 1753, by George Beall to this body requesting the repeal or modification of the act of the General Assembly, passed in June, 1751, creating Georgetown. No action seems to have been taken on his protest, but it throws an interesting sidelight upon the beginnings of the national capital.]

Black Book
No. 4
Letter No. 86
[October,
1753]

To his Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq.^r Governor of
maryland and the honourable the upper and Lower houses
of Assembly.

The Humble petition of George Beall of Frederick County
Sheweth

That at a Session of assembly begun and held at the City of Annapolis on the fourteenth day of may in the year of our Lord Seventeen hundred and fifty one Several of the Inhabitants of Frederick County by there petition to the then General Assembly Set forth that there was a convenient place for a Town on potomack river above the mouth of rock creek Adjacent to the Inspecting house in the Said county and thereby prayed that Sixty acres of Land might be then Laid out and Erected into a Town and your petitioner further sheweth that the place Where the Town aforesaid was petitioned for being on or near where your petitioner had Severall dwelling houses out houses orchards and other Improvements and your petitioner haveing accidentily had notice of the Said petition came to Annapolis and waited Several Days in Town in order to object to an act passing for Laying out a town which might Effect or take away your petitioners Dwelling house out houses and other Improvements or otherwise be Injurious to your petitioners property and Staid tell your petitioner was Informed by two members of the upper house of Assembly that the Said petition was rejected in the said upper house upon which your petitioner went home well Satisfied that nothing cou^d be done that Session of Assembly in relation to the Said petition—

And your petitioner further Sheweth that after your petitioner Left Annapolis the Said petition was contrary to the Information that your petitioner had received as aforesaid Sent to the Lower house of Assembly and in pursuance thereof an act of Assembly passed Constituteing appointing and authoriseing Severall Commissioners in the Said act mentioned to purchase Sixty acres of Land part of the tracts of Land belonging to George Gordan and your petitioner at the place aforesaid where it shou^d appear to them