

was appointed, may determine the respective rights of the parties, and the apportionment and appropriation of all liens, and for that purpose may appoint an auditor to inquire into and report the facts, or upon application of any of the parties, may direct an issue to try the facts, and may decree distribution accordingly.

17. Each person entitled to such lien shall file a claim or statement of his demand in the office of the clerk of the Circuit Court for the county, or the Superior Court of Baltimore City, as the case may be.

18. The clerks of the Circuit Courts for the several counties and the Superior Court of Baltimore city shall each procure and keep a docket or book to be called "The Mechanic's Lien Docket," in which he shall record all designations or descriptions of lots or pieces of ground, and all claims which may be filed by virtue of this article, together with the day of filing the same, and shall cause the names of the owner of the lot of ground and of the contractor, architect or builder, if such be named, and of the person claiming the lien under this law, to be recorded therein.

19. Every such claim shall set forth, *First*, the name of the party claimant, and of the owner or reputed owner of the building, and also of the contractor or architect, or builder, when the contract was made by the claimant with such contractor, architect or builder; *Second*, the amount or sum claimed to be due, and the nature or kind of work or the kind and amount of materials furnished, and the time when the materials were furnished or the work done; *Thirdly*, the locality of the building, and the number and size of the stories of the same, or such other matters of description as may be necessary to identify the same.

20. Where a claim is filed by a contractor or builder who is indebted for work done or materials furnished at his request or on his account, the person or persons to whom he may be indebted shall have the benefit of such lien, and may, by petition, claim to be paid the amount due him or them by such contractor or builder out of the moneys to be received for such claim or lien; and the same shall be apportioned in such manner and form and by such proceedings as shall be equitable and just.