

LAWS OF MARYLAND.

Proviso.

highway, with full power to relocate and straighten the same, in its discretion, and shall publish a notice to that effect once a week for two successive weeks in one or more newspapers published in Baltimore County; provided, said road shall not be less than thirty feet in width; and said Highways Commission shall cause a description and plat of said road to be made and recorded or filed among its records; and thereafter such roads so declared to be a public highway shall be kept in good order and repair as other county roads.

Doubts as to proper location.

201. Whenever any doubt exists as to the proper location or width of a county road, the Highways Commission may cause the same to be surveyed by the County Surveyor and a description and plat made thereof and recorded or filed among its records, which said description and plat shall be deemed official and *prima facie* correct by said Highways Commission and in the courts of this State until and unless the contrary is proven. Whenever possible such description shall be made by reference to the original description of said road when the same was acquired by grant or condemnation, if such description can be found, but if the same cannot be found then such description and plat shall be made of said road as actually laid out and existing.

Applications for opening roads, etc.

202. All applications for opening, altering, relocating or closing roads shall be by petition to the Highways Commission, and whenever any freeholder of the county shall desire to have opened a new road for the public benefit, or an old one altered, relocated or closed, he shall give notice of his intention to apply therefor by publication in one or more of the county newspapers for three successive weeks, setting forth as near as may be the length, location and termini thereof, the names of the abutting property owners and the date on which he will appear before the Commission and ask for an order on such petition. In addition to such notice by publication he shall cause a copy of said advertisement to be served upon such abutting property owners where personal service is practicable, and where not practicable, to be left on the premises with the person in charge thereof. Within ten days after the last publication of such notice he shall file his petition with the Highways Commission, together with a certificate of publication of the notice aforesaid and a certificate of the person serving such notices as to the service of the same. Counter petitions or **objections to the opening, altering or closing of such road may be filed by anyone interested at any time before the date fixed for the hearing on such petition, and whether there be objections or not to the granting of such petition the Commission**

Counter petitions.