

writing to the circuit court for the county where the land lies; which petition shall be filed with the clerk of said court, to have the said land condemned for the use and benefit of the United States; and any such agent of the United States may, for the purpose of ascertaining its bounds and quantity, enter upon the lands, without injury thereto, which the United States may desire to purchase for any of the purposes aforesaid.

1874, ch. 395, sec. 2

6. Said petition shall state the bounds and quantity of the land to which the United States desire to obtain title and the public purposes for which said land is desired; and the names of the owner or owners thereof, and where they respectively reside, and whether they are adults or under age, and whether married or single, or *non compos mentis*; if said facts are known to the agent filing said petition, or if said agent does not know any fact which he is hereinbefore required, if known to him, to state, he shall state in said petition that he does not know said fact.

Ibid. sec 3.

7. Every such petition must be verified by an affidavit to be taken before the clerk of said court, and annexed thereto, of the said agent of the United States, that the statements therein contained are true to the best of his knowledge and belief; and where said petition shall state that it is unknown where any such owner resides or whether he is an adult or under age, married, single, or *non compos mentis*, the said agent shall further make affidavit that he has used all reasonable efforts to ascertain the fact or facts stated in said petition to be unknown by him, and has failed to ascertain them.

Ibid sec 4.

8. Upon the said petition, verified as aforesaid, being filed in the office of said clerk, it shall be the duty of said clerk to give notice of the substance and object of said petition by printed notice, to be published once a week for three months in some newspaper printed in the city of Baltimore, and also by like notice, to be published as aforesaid, in one newspaper printed and published in the county where the land lies, if any news-