

1888, art. 96, sec. 5. 1874, ch. 395, sec. 1.

5. Whenever the United States are desirous of purchasing or procuring the title to any tract, piece or parcel of land within the boundaries or limits of this State, for the purpose of erecting thereon any light-house, beacon-light, range-light, light-keeper's dwelling, forts, magazines, arsenals, dock-yards, buoys, public piers, or necessary public buildings or improvements connected therewith, and cannot agree with the owner thereof as to the price and for the purchase thereof; or if the owner be *feme covert*, under age, *non compos mentis*, or out of the county wherein the said land lies, or for any other cause is incapable of making a perfect title to said lands, the United States, by any agent authorized under the hand and seal of any member of the president's cabinet, may apply by petition in 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.

Ibid. sec. 6. 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. 7. 1874, ch. 395, 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