State of Maryland SS

I A. Logan Jarrett Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County, the same being a Court of law and record hereby ~~Certify~~ declare that sufficient legal evidence has this day been produced before me to satisfy me that [illegible] here of Negro Laertes Preston aged about twenty three years of age, dark complexion, slender built, five feet Eight inches high with a scar on the inside of his right leg immediately above the knee joint, was born free in Harford County

Therefore ~~be it known to all whom it may concern that~~ in pursuance of the act of assembly [illegible] made & provided I as Clerk as [illegible] hereby certify & declare the said Negro Laertes Preston described as aforesaid to be free he having been born of free parent

In testimony &c