

*An ACT for Erecting a Town at Joppa, in  
Baltimore County; and for Securing the Land whereon the Court-House  
and Prisons are built, to the Use of the said County.*

It being re-  
presented,  
That the Land  
whereon the  
Court-House  
and Prisons  
stand, cannot  
be convey'd,

And also that  
Accommodati-  
ons are want-  
ing for Persons  
who come to  
Court:

It is Enacted,

That the said  
Land be con-  
firm'd to the  
Use of the  
County for  
ever.

And Commis-  
sioners are ap-  
pointed for  
buying Land,  
and laying it  
out for a Town.

To be plat-  
ted into Streets  
Lanes, &c.

And divided  
into 40 equal  
Lots, mark'd  
and number'd.

**W**HEREAS the Inhabitants of *Baltimore County*, have made appear to this Assembly, That a Publick Court-House and Prison have been erected at *Joppa*, in the said County, at their Expence; and that the Right of the Land is in a Minor, under the Age of Twenty One Years, who (altho' his Father *Col. James Maxwell* hath received full Satisfaction for the said Land) cannot convey the same: And for that the said Inhabitants have likewise set forth and made appear that the Business of that County is greatly delay'd and obstructed by the want of some convenient Places of Entertainment, at or near the said Court-House, the Officers thereof, and Suitors thereto being obliged to go a great Distance for necessary Accommodation, and lie under several other Inconveniencies, that the Erecting of a Town at the said Place would probably remove:

*Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the Land already allotted for the Building of a Court-House and Prisons, and whereon the Court-House and Prisons at Joppa aforesaid, are built, (not being less than Two Acres of Land) shall be and remain to the Use of the said County, for ever; any Law, Usage, Defect, or other thing to the contrary notwithstanding.*

*And be it further Enacted, That Mr. Thomas Tolley, Capt. John Taylor, Mr. Daniel Scott, Mr. Lancelot Todd, and Mr. John Stokes, or any Three of them, shall be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for Baltimore County aforesaid; and are hereby authorized and impowered, as well to agree for the Buying and Purchasing Twenty Acres of Land at Joppa aforesaid, as for the Surveying and laying the same out, in the most convenient Manner that may be, at Joppa aforesaid, into Forty equal Lots, erected into a Town, and so as the Publick Buildings aforesaid be included within the Twenty Acres aforesaid; and that the same Lots shall be laid out so as not to affect the Buildings or Improvements of *Col. James Maxwell*, or his Son, already made at the Place aforesaid.*

*And be it further Enacted, That the Commissioners herein before nominated and appointed, or the major Part of them, are hereby impowered some time before the last Tuesday of April next, to meet together at the County Court-house aforesaid, or some other convenient Place near thereabouts, and shall then and there treat and agree with the Owners and Persons interested in the said Twenty Acres, for the same; and after Purchase thereof, shall cause the same to be surveyed and laid out; and after the same so surveyed and laid out, shall cause the same Twenty Acres to be marked, staked out, and divided into convenient Streets, Lanes and Allies; and the remaining Part of the said Twenty Acres of Land, as near as may be, into Forty equal Lots, marked on some Posts or Stakes towards the Streets or Lanes, with Number One, Two, Three, Four, and so on to Forty, to be divided and laid out; out of which Lots, the Owner of the said Land shall have*

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