

In Council Annapolis June 9/1802

Sir

The United States, (as is known to you) for a length of time had possession of and used the Barracks at Frederick Town as a place of confinement for certain French Prisoners, who before that time had been lodged in the Jail of Frederick County. A direction was given by the then Secretary of the Navy to General Bayley to have them removed from the Jail to the Barracks. General Bayley finding it necessary to obtain permission from the Governor and Council, before it could be effected, addressed a letter to the then Executive, dated the twentieth of December 1799 requesting them to grant permission for their removal. They authorized him to make use of the Barracks for the accommodation of the Prisoners, but requested, as they were the property of the State of Maryland and compensation might thereafter be claimed, he would notice the time they were received, their number and their continuance in the Barracks.

No representation has yet been made to the General Government on this subject, as we deemed it advisable to defer all communication, until we could ascertain the length of time the United States had the use and occupation of the Barracks and the quantum of compensation to be required. Confiding in your willingness at all times to furnish every information promotive of the Interest of the State, the Executive have thought proper to request you to inquire into this subject, and as soon as convenient to communicate the result of your inquiry.

In investigating this business, you will be pleased to form such an estimate of the injury done to the Buildings, in addition to the sum that ought to be allowed for the use of the Barracks, as may be the ground work of a claim to be exhibited against the United States.

Any expense that may arise in the course of this investigation, will be defrayed by the Executive.

Roger Nelson Esquire
Frederick Town

We are with great Respect
Francis Digges Secy.

In Council Annapolis June 28/1802

Sir

Information has been received from the Marshall of the District of Columbia, that a certain Negro called Pickard, who was indicted as the slave of a certain Ann Digges of Prince Georges County and convicted in the General Court of the Western Shore at October Term 1795 of committing a Rape on a certain Amy Ann Brierly of the County aforesaid in the State of Maryland and had sentence of Death passed on him by the Court, which was commuted