

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.

N. 61 Whereas 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 Coll<sup>o</sup> James Maxwell hath received full title fac-  
tious for the said Land cannot convey the same. And for that the said Inhabitants  
have likewise sett forth and made appear that the Business of that County is greatly  
delayed 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 by under several other incon-  
veniences 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 Lordships Governours 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 Courthouse and Prisons at  
Joppa aforesaid are built not being less then two Acres of Land, shall be and Remain  
to the use of the said County for ever any way Usaged defect or other thing to the con-  
trary notwithstanding And be it further Enacted that M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Tolley Captain  
John Taylor M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Scott M<sup>r</sup> Laurence Todd and M<sup>r</sup> John Stokes or any three  
of them shall be and are hereby appointed Commissioners for Baltimore County and  
are hereby authorized and empowered 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 of Land and that the said Lots shall be laid out so as not to affect the  
buildings or Improvements of Coll<sup>o</sup> 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 empowered sometime  
before the last Tuesday of April next to meet together at the County Court House  
aforesaid, or some other convenient Place near therabouts 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  
Alleys 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 numbers 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 his first choice for  
one Lot, and after such choice the remaining Lots may be taken up by others and  
that no person shall presume to purchase more than one Lot within the said  
Twenty Acres during the first four Months after laying out the same and that the  
said Lots shall be purchased by the Inhabitants of the County aforesaid, and in case  
the said Inhabitants shall not take up the said Lots within the time of four  
(Months)