

An ACT for erecting a Court-House and Prison on the East Side of the Head of Port-Tobacco Creek, at a Place call'd Chandler-Town, in Charles County; and for making Sale of the Old Court-house and Prison.

WHEREAS the Magistrates of *Charles County-court*, by their humble Petition to this General Assembly, have set forth, That their Court-house is so far impaired, ruined, and decayed, that there is a Necessity for erecting a new One; and that the Place where the Court-house now stands, is so remote from any Landing, that the Charge of bringing Materials together, by Land-Carriage, for that End, will be much greater than if the same was to be built at the Head of *Port-Tobacco Creek*, where they may be easily Water-born, and is a Place not only in that, but several other Respects, deem'd more beneficial for the Ease of the Inhabitants and Suitors to the said Court; and have therefore prayed Leave, That an Act may pass for the building the same at the Place aforesaid: All which being sufficiently made appear to this Assembly, together with the unanimous Voice and Consent of the Freeholders of the same County thereto, It is prayed that it may be Enacted,

The present Court-house being decay'd, a New one must of Necessity be built: But the Situation of this, being for many Reasons inconvenient,

And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, 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 Justices of *Charles County-court*, or the major Part of them, be and are hereby authorized and empowered, on or before the Second *Tuesday of March*, next after this Session of Assembly, to go to such Place commonly known by the Name of *Chandler-Town*, on the *East Side of Port-Tobacco Creek*, in the said County, and there make Choice of Three Acres of Land, whereon to build such Court-house and Prison, as they shall think necessary, and to agree with the Owner for the Purchase thereof forever. And in case the Owner or Owners of such Land, refuse to make Sale of such Three Acres of Land, at a reasonable Price, or be under any Disability of making Sale thereof; then the said Justices, or the major Part of them, shall be and are (by Virtue of this Act) authorized, empowered, and required, to issue their Warrants to the Sheriff of the said County, requiring and commanding him to impanel and return a Jury of the most substantial Free-holders, (not less than Twelve,) Inhabitants within the said County, to be and appear before the said Commissioners, at the said Place, upon a certain Day to be by them limited; which Jury, upon their Oath, to be by the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, administered to the said Jurors, shall enquire into the Value of the said Three Acres of Land, and the Damages the Owner or Owners thereof will sustain by the building a Court-house thereon; and what Sum of Tobacco the said Jurors shall assess to the Owner or Owners of such Land for such Land and Damages, for building a Court-house and Prison thereon, shall be paid to the Owner or Owners of such Land, by the said County, and the

It is Enacted, That the Justices, before the second Tuesday in *March* next, choose out 3 Acres of Land at *Chandler-Town* on *Port-Tobacco Creek*, whereon to build a Court-house and Prison. And agree with the Owner for it.

And if the Owner refuse to sell it, to impanel a Jury, who shall value it.

And the Value to be paid to the Owner, and the County then entitled to the Land.