

An ACT for erecting a town at or near the mouth of Wille's creek in Washington county. Passed January 1786.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly by Thomas Beall, Preamble.
 son of Samuel, that he is possessed of a tract of land called Walnut Bottom, contiguous to the mouth of Wille's creek in Washington county, whereon, at the instance of many of the inhabitants of said county, he hath been induced to lay out ground for a town; and the said Thomas Beall hath prayed a law to appoint commissioners to lay out and erect a town on the said land, and to secure the purchasers of lots therein, reserving the right of the proprietors and their interest in the said land; and this general assembly are of opinion, that the erecting a town at the mouth of the said creek may be convenient and beneficial to the public;

II. **Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,** That Andrew Bruce, Daniel Cresap, George Dent, John Lynn and Evan Gwinn, or any three or more of them, be and are hereby appointed commissioners to survey a quantity of land not exceeding two hundred acres, being part of the said tract of land called Walnut Bottom, contiguous to the mouth of Wille's creek, in Washington county, and the same, when surveyed, to lay out into lots, streets, lanes and alleys, (the main streets running in the direction of Patowmack river, not to be less than eighty feet wide, and the streets crossing the said main streets not to be less than sixty feet wide) to be erected into a town, and to be called and known by the name of Cumberland, and a correct and accurate certificate and plot thereof return to the clerk of Washington county court, who is hereby required to record the same among the land records of the said county, and to keep the original plot in his office, and a copy from the original, or the record thereof, shall be conclusive evidence as to the bounds and lines of the lots of the said town, and of the streets, lanes and alleys thereof. Commissioners appointed, &c.

III. **And be it enacted,** That the said commissioners, or a major part of them, shall cause the said lots in the said town to be substantially and fairly bounded and numbered, and they and their successors are hereby required, from time to time, to take care that the said boundaries be constantly kept up and preserved. Lots to be bounded, &c.

IV. **And be it enacted,** That on the death, removal or resignation, of any of the said commissioners, the major part of the remaining commissioners shall appoint another to serve in the stead of such commissioner so dying, removing or resigning. How vacancies are to be filled.

V. **And be it enacted,** That the said commissioners of the said town, or a major part of them, shall have full power to employ a clerk, who shall be under oath fairly and honestly to enter into a book, to be kept for that purpose, all the proceedings of the said commissioners relating to the said town, in which book, among other things, shall be entered a copy of the plot and certificate of the said town, describing every lot by its number, and who the taker up or purchaser was or shall be; and the said books shall always be open to the inspection and examination of the said commissioners. Commissioner to employ a clerk, &c.

VI. **And be it enacted,** That the said commissioners, or a major part of them, are empowered to levy, assess and take, by way of distress, if needful, from the inhabitants of the town, by even and equal proportion, a sum not exceeding ten pounds current money yearly, to be paid to their clerk; and they shall have power to remove or displace their clerk as often as they shall think fit. And levy money, &c.

VII. **And be it enacted,** That every purchaser of any of the lots in the said town in fee, and every lessee thereof for years, on rent reserved, shall hold and possess the same against any person hereafter claiming title to the same, and shall not be disturbed in their possession; and if any person shall hereafter make claim to the land, or any part thereof, laid off in virtue of this act, and shall, by due Purchasers to hold their lots, &c.
 court