

That whereas Your Lordship in the year of Our Lord 1669 did Sett forth Your Lordships Proclamation Commanding that Convenient Places in evey County within this Province should be laid out for Towns for the encouragem^t of Trade within this Province, upon which Proclamation one William Berry of Battle Creek in Calvert County did apply himself to your Lordship & humbly besought Your Lordship that Twenty Acres of Land part of a Tract of Land Belonging to him the said William att Battle Creek aforesaid might be appointed for Town land for that part of the said County, and did then promise to your Lordship that he would Convey and Settle the Same as your Lordship should Direct for the use and to the intent aforesaid, Whereupon Your Lordship did by a Warrant under your hand and Seal Command Charles Boteler the then Deputy Surveyor of the said County to Survey and lay out Such Land as W^m Berry should bestow for the use of the County to the intent aforesaid as by the said Warrant hereunto Annexed more at large appeareth, which Command of your Lordships being performed by the said Deputy Surveyor in the presence and by the Advice of the said William Berry, Severall Inhabitants of the said County being thereto encouraged by your Lordship and in Confidence of the Performance of the said promise of William Berry made as aforesaid did Build & Erect Several Dwelling houses and Store houses upon the said Twenty Acres of Land and from that time have continually Resided there, and also the Commissioners of the said County finding the said Town Land to be in the Centre of the said County, and the most Convenient place for holding the Courts for the said County, did order and appoint the Court house and Prison to be Built upon the said Land which being finished to the Charge of the said County Two hundred thousand pounds of Tobacco, and the said William Berry now finding the said Land to be much improved as well by the Buildings aforesaid as also that the Creek aforesaid is grown a Considerable place of Trade by reason of the great Resort of the Inhabitants of the said County to the Same, and Coveting the Improvements made thereupon as well by the County in General as by the Particular Inhabitants, having been often thereunto Moved as well by Your Lordship as others therein Concerned hath and doth utterly Deny to make any Tittle or give any Assurance of the said Land to the use aforesaid, to the Manifest Damage of the whole County, and to the ruin of Severall Persons who have Spent their Estates in Settling themselves there

p. 406

Therefore your Petitioners humbly pray Your Lordship and the Upper and Lower houses of this Present Assembly, that the said Twenty Acres of Land may be so Settled by Some