

To His EXCELLENCY  
H O R A T I O S H A R P E, Esquire,

Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of MARYLAND,

AND,

To the H O N O R A B L E the  
U P P E R A N D L O W E R H O U S E S O F A S S E M B L Y  
of the said P R O V I N C E:

The PETITION of the Subscribers, Inhabitants of BALTIMORE County,

H U M B L Y S H E W E T H,

**T**HAT the present COURT-HOUSE for Baltimore County, situate in JOPPA, is considerably too small for transacting there-  
in the Business of the County with Convenience, being the smallest in the Province: That the same is greatly out of Repair,  
and the Offices thereof so confined, as not to admit of sufficient Regularity in ranging the Papers; and the whole Building is  
light, and insecure for the Purpose of Keeping the Public Records, whereon the Estates of many of His Majesty's Subjects of  
this County, and elsewhere, depend; which are thereby, and from its low Situation, exposed to the open Attempts of malicious ill-  
designing or wanton People being executed without Alarm.

THAT the said Town of JOPPA is on a low Peninsula, the Isthmus into which is so miry, as to be often nearly impassable, especially  
after high Tides, or heavy Rains, which overflowing the Isthmus, reduce the Situation of the Town to an Island: From whence and  
from the Want of navigable Water up to the said Town, and for many Miles below it, other than for Shallops and smaller Vessels; and  
also from the Length of Time the said Town has been laid out, and its little Improvement, or Increase of Inhabitants, Your Petitioners  
cannot flatter themselves with the most distant Hopes of any favourable Alteration therein.

THAT the County-Goal, from its original ill Construction, has been a continual Expence to the County, and although large Quanti-  
ties of the Public Tobacco have been frequently levied and expended thereon, hath always proved defective and insufficient to restrain  
the Attempts of Criminals and other Prisoners; great Numbers of whom have escaped to the Loss and Vexation of the Sheriffs and  
Sutors, and not a little to the Discredit of the County; and there being no Yard or Windows to the said PRISON, other than Windows  
in the Front, and no Draft of Air through the same, such Prisoners as do not escape, suffer additional Misery from the Loss of their  
Health.

THESE Considerations, may it please Your EXCELLENCY and HONORS, your Petitioners humbly hope, may justify their present Ap-  
plication for a new COURT-HOUSE and PRISON. But when it is added, That from the Scarcity of Houses and necessary Accommo-  
dation in the said Town of Joppa, the People, who attend the COURTS, are for the most Part obliged to ride by Night to their Houses  
or Country Neighbours for Lodging, in all Weathers, whereby they are often exposed to the Danger of Catching violent Colds, Pleuri-  
tis, and other Disorders; early Adjournments and late Meetings of the COURTS are unavoidable, and the Public Business greatly re-  
tarded: And when it is also considered, that the Town of BALTIMORE is free from the Inconveniences to which JOPPA is subject; that  
there are therein Houses sufficient to accommodate, with Ease and in Plenty, much greater Numbers of People than are used to attend our  
COURTS; and from the Number of Inhabitants residing therein, a COURT-HOUSE and PRISON would be better secured against the  
Attempts aforesaid: That the said Town is situate on a fine River, navigable for large Ships, and within a few Years past has greatly en-  
creased in Trade, and is daily increasing therein and in Buildings, Inhabitants, Merchants, Mechanics, and others; insomuch that the  
greatest Part of the Trade and mercantile Business of the Planters, Farmers, and other Country People of the County is transacted  
there, as a regular and certain Market, where our Provisions, and every Thing we make, may at all Times find a ready Price, and to  
which the major Part of the People of the County already resort and trade, and others are daily more and more resorting from all Parts  
of our County; not only to sell their Plantation-Produces, but for the doing of most Sorts of Business; so that whoever might be obliged  
to attend the Courts, would at the same Time be in the Way of negotiating their common Concerns; their Attendance on the Public  
Service would be rendered easy and light, and regularly and cheerfully given, and none of the said Inconveniences attending the present  
County-Duty would be felt: And that although the Town of BALTIMORE should be found not so central as JOPPA, we humbly appre-  
hend it cannot be an essential Objection of Inconvenience, especially as we have the Example and Experience of our neighbouring Colonies,  
and of most of the Countries in the World to assure us of how little Weight such an Objection has always been held, when opposed to  
even much less Advantages than are above enumerated.

WHEN these Considerations, may it please Your EXCELLENCY and HONORS, are weighed, we humbly hope, and we also pray Your  
EXCELLENCY and HONORS will be pleased to pass a Law for Disposing of the Ground and Materials of the present COURT-HOUSE and  
PRISON of this County, and for the Purchasing Ground, and Building a COURT-HOUSE and PRISON, for the said County, in the  
Town of BALTIMORE aforesaid, for the COURTS for the said County to be held in the said COURT-HOUSE, and that the same be made  
staunch and convenient, and well constructed against the Danger of Fire, as to Your EXCELLENCY and HONORS shall seem meet.

FOR WHICH Your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

An Seine Excellenz

H O R A T I O S H A R P E, Esquire,

Gubernör und Oberst-Befehlshaber in und über die Provinz Maryland,

U N D

An die Großachtbaren

O b e r e u n d U n t e r e H ä u s e r d e r A s s e m b l y  
der besagten Provinz:

Die Bittschrift der Unterschriebenen, Einwohner von Baltimore County,

Welche demüthig anzeigt,

**D**ass das jetzige Courthaus für Baltimore County, welches in Joppa liegt, viel zu klein ist die Geschäfte der County mit Bequem-  
lichkeit darin zu verrichten, indem es das kleinste in der ganzen Provinz ist: Dass selbiges sehr baufällig ist, und die Zimmer dar-  
massen eingeschränkt sind, dass die Schriften nicht in genügsamer Ordnung darin können gestellet werden; und das ganze Gebäu-  
de ist schlecht und unsicher um Publicke Urkunden darin zu verwahren, (von welchen die liegenden Güter Seiner Majestät's Vertheilung  
nen in dieser County, und anderswo, abhängen) wodurch, und von der einsamen Lage besagten Courthaus, die Urkunden öffen-  
stellet sind, so dass boshaftige übelgesinnete oder muthwillige Leute ohne Lärm ihre Versuche dagegen ausüben können.

Dass besagte Stadt Joppa auf einer niedrigen Halbinsel liegt, von welcher die Landenge, die in selbige gehet, so sumpficht ist, dass man oft-  
mals fast nicht durchkommen kan, besonders nach hohen Meeresfluthen oder schweren Regen, welche, wenn die Landenge dadurch unter  
Wasser gesetzt wird, die Lage der Stadt zu einer Insel machen. Daher, und wegen Mangel an schiffbarem Wasser nach selbiger Stadt hin-  
auf, und viel Meilen unter derselbigen, für andere als Schalupen und kleinere Fahrzeuge, wie auch wegen der Länge der Zeit seithdem be-  
sagte Stadt ausgelegt ist, und derselbigen geringen Anbau oder Zunahme an Einwohnern, Eure Supplicanten sich nicht mit der entferntesten  
Hoffnung einer günstigen Veränderung darin schmeicheln können.