

An Act for Removing the seat of justice
from ~~Lewis Town~~ to a more central
part of Sussex County, and for other Purposes.

Whereas it appears to this General Assembly
that a great majority of the Inhabitants
of Sussex County, by Petition have prayed a
Removal of the seat of justice from
~~Lewis Town~~ to a more central and
convenient part of said County.
And this Assembly conceiving the
Prayer of said Petitioners should
be granted.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly
of Delaware that George Mitchell Esq:
Robert Hanston Esq: William Moore Esq:
John Collins Esq: ^{Mathew Young} ~~Richard Young~~ Esq:, John
William Perry Esq:
~~James~~ ^{James} Shanks Shankland Esq: Nathaniel
Wyominer Stockley Daniel Polk Esq: and
~~Joseph Esq:~~ Thomas Batsin Esq: as a major part
of them self and are hereby appointed
Commissioners to execute and performe
the several trusts, and powers reposed
in and required of them by this act,
and be, and are hereby authorized and
impowered to purchase in fee for the
use of Sussex County a quantity
of

of land not exceeding ² one hundred
acres near the center of the said County
of Sussex, at the place called James
Pettyjohns Old Field, or within ^{two} three
miles of the House where Benjamin Pettyjohns
now resides. Situate in Broad Kill Hundred
in said County: for the purpose of
building thereon a Court House and
Prison for said County, and shall
cause the said land, to be laid out
by the Surveyor of the County, with
good and sufficient Boundaries and a
Certificate thereof to be delivered to
the Recorder of said County, who shall
faithfully record the same in due
form of Law

And whereas it may appear to the sum
to oblige those of the Inhabitants of
Sussex County who do not wish a
Removal, to bear part of the expense
^{incurred in erecting the said Buildings}
that may ~~be used in carrying said~~
~~Buildings into effect~~. Be it enacted that
Robert Hanston Abner Shankland George
Mitchell William Moore and John Collins
^{Commissioners of said County or any three of them}
Esquiers, are hereby authorized and
impowered, with the assistance of the
Surveyor of said County to cause
the

the said land so to be purchased as
aforesaid, to be laid out in such
lots, and parcels, as to the said
Commissioners may seem proper.
who are hereby authorized Required
and impowered, to sell the same to the
best advantage, and execute deed or
deeds for the conveyance thereof
Reserving ~~to~~ the use of Sussex
County a sufficient quantity of
said land ^{half an acre of ground each for the}
~~erecting said Court House and Prison on respectively,~~
~~Court House and Prison thereon~~
and their respective accommodations
~~may require~~. and appropriate
the monies arising from such sale
toward the discharge of such expenses
as shall be occasioned in the purchase
of the said land, and ^{finishing} ~~completing~~
the said Buildings, and the said
Commissioners, or a Majority of
them are hereby authorized and
impowered to open subscriptions
for the purpose of procuring monies
to complete the said Buildings and

and shall have power, to make demand
 and sue for the same when subscribed
 and be it enacted that the Court House
 and Prison, so to be Built as aforesaid
 shall be at least of the same size
 and dimensions with the Old Court
 House and Prison now at Lewes
~~Town~~, The Court-House to be
 built of ^{wood} ~~brick~~, and the Prison of
 Brick or Stone; and when the said
 Court House and Prison, are so far
 finished, that Courts can conveniently
 be held in said Court-House and
 Prisoners safe kept in said Prison
 the fitness of which shall be judged
 of by ^{some good} ~~the~~ ^{Here insert No. 12.} ~~Commissioners~~ aforesaid
 or a major part of them; then the
 said Commissioners or a majority of them
 shall have power and authority, to
 sell by way of public sale or otherwise
 to the best advantage, the old Court House
 and Prison in Lewes ~~Town~~, and
 appropriate the monies arising
 from

from such sale towards the finishing
 of said buildings, and shall give
 good and sufficient ~~aid~~, as directed in fee simple
 to the purchaser, or purchasers of the same
 and be it enacted that after such sale is
 made of the old Court House and Prison
 so as aforesaid to be made, that then all
 the Courts of Sussex County shall
 be held in such new Court-House
 according to the usage, and practice
 of other Courts in this State. and such
 new Court-House, and Prison shall then
 be used taken, held, and deemed to be
 the proper Court-House and Prison of
 Sussex County, and that all the
 all the process issuing out of any
 of the Courts of said County, shall
 be attested at, and returned to said
 new Court-House, and such business
 is directed by any law of this government
 to be done at Lewes Town, shall thereafter
 be acted and done at ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} said New Court-House
 and be it enacted that the Clerk of the Supreme
 Court, Clerk of Common Pleas, Clerk of

of the Peace, Sheriff, and Register for the
probate of wills, and granting letters of
administration Clarke of the Apprens
Court, and the Recorder of Deeds for
the said County of Sussex, shall reside
themselves, or keep lawful deputies at said
new Court-House within two years after such
Sale made as aforesaid of the old Court-House
and Prison, and in the mean time that
the Clarke and Officers aforesaid ~~except~~
~~the Recorder of Deeds~~ shall duly attend
at the said new Court-House during
the holding of Courts there, at all
such times as the Nature of their respective
duties may require

Any Law Customs or usage to the
Contrary Notwithstanding — 11

Here insert the 15th Amendment.

Bill for the removal of
the Seat of Justice from
Lower Town to a more
central part of the County
of Sussex.

Sent to the Council for
Consideration & concurrence.

In Council
Nov. 7. 1791 Read &
Referred to
W. Shankland
W. Ridgely &
W. Baring