To His Excellency the Governour and the Honourable the Upper & Lower Houses of Assembly

The Petition of Many of the Inhabitants of Baltimore County Humbly Sheweth

That in pursuance of the Original Act of Assembly for amending the staple of Tobacco &c. An Inspection was fixed at Joppa which doth still subsist, and there are Two good Publick warehouses with Shades, Prizes, a Wharff and all Necessaries much more than sufficient for Inspecting & Curing the Largest Quantity of Tobacco that ever came to Joppa in any one season. That the said houses &c were always sufficient, and Conveniently situated to answer all the Purposes of the Law. Nevertheless about two years since, by groundless suggestions (as your Petitioners humbly conceive) to the then Assembly, it was thought necessary to have another Inspection about Three Quarters of a mile from that at Joppa across a Branch of Gunpowder near the Land of Mr John Hammon Dowsey, and thereupon an Act Passed the Assembly for the year 1753 directing the said Other Inspection House to be placed "At the Forks of Gunpowder "at the Old Landing". In pursuance whereof at the then next Baltimore November Court John Hammon Dowsey agreed with the said Court to Build a Warehouse Wharff &c Agreeable to the Act of Assembly "at the Old Landing in the Forks of Gunpowder"

Your Petitioners further shew that the Old Landing aforesaid is well ascertained & known to be a small point of about Thirty feet on the Water that there is no shoal and is the deepest water & best Landing of any Within a mile or more along that shore. Yet altho the said Dowsey did build a Warehouse for the Purpose aforesaid & which has hitherto been used as such, yet it is near half a mile from the said Landing so much nearer to the said Dowsey's store & dwelling house, and at a place very shoal for upwards of one hundred yards out, that at frequent Low Tides boats cannot take in hogsheads of Tobacco altho there is a Wharff, but it is common that the Owners of Vessells are obliged to hire a Skiff to take off their Tobacco at 6 pence ⅌ hhd

Your Petitioners humbly apprehending the said Forks house to be not only inconvenient but also an Unnecessary additional Burthen to the County Levy and the Joppa warehouses are more convenient in themselves, in situation, and in every Respect especially for that the Channell of the River runs close by the Joppa Inspection Wharff. Humbly Pray that the Forks Inspection may be abolished

And your Petitioners will ever Pray &c

Hugh Deans
Edmd Talbott
Rob Gaudis
Ja Magill
J. Risteau
John Hall (Swan Town)
Tho: Sykes
Rob Fisher
John Hall
Wm Carnew
James Gittings
Chas Christie
John Roberts