

**Act No. 1 of 1903****GEORGETOWN SETTLEMENT REVIVAL**

**An Act to revive an Act entitled “An Act for laying out and establishing a town on the Island of Exuma”.** *1 of 1903*

*[Commencement 11th May, 1903]*

WHEREAS by an Act entitled An Act for the laying out and establishing a town on the Island of Exuma, and passed in the thirty-second year of his late Majesty George III commissioners were appointed with power to purchase land at Exuma and to lay out a town to be called Georgetown and to make plans and form lots and make conveyances of the said lots: Preamble

AND WHEREAS the said land so to be acquired was vested in the said commissioners upon the trusts in the said Act mentioned:

AND WHEREAS the said commissioners acquired the said land and laid out the said town and made conveyances of the said lots, but are long since defunct and no successors have been appointed in their place to discharge the trusts of the said Act:

AND WHEREAS there now exists no public authority with power to deal with the land so acquired by the said commissioners, or to grant titles to the unoccupied lots thereof:

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that facilities should be given to persons desiring to take up the said unoccupied lots:

AND WHEREAS difficulties have arisen with reference to the titles of persons at present occupying lots in the land so acquired.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the Georgetown Settlement Revival Act, and the Act which this Act revives (hereinafter called the principal Act) may be cited as the Georgetown Settlement Act. Short title.

Unallotted  
portion of certain  
land adjoining  
the harbour of  
Exuma vested in  
Crown Lands  
Officer.

2. (1) Subject to all rights lawfully acquired and to the possessory rights by this Act hereinafter recognised the whole of the unallotted portion of the tract of land adjoining the harbour of Exuma purchased under the principal Act by the commissioners therein named (hereinafter called the commissioners) shall be vested in the Crown Lands Officer for The Bahamas for the time being (hereinafter called the Crown Lands Officer).

Plan of Georgetown and a certified copy to be lodged in the Registry of Records.

(2) The plan now in the Crown Lands Officer's office and marked "A plan of Georgetown in the Island of Great Exuma" together with a copy thereof certified so to be, under the hand of the Crown Lands Officer, shall be lodged in the Registry of Records, and shall be endorsed by the Registrar General with a certificate of the receipt thereof and sealed with his official seal; the said plan shall thereupon be returned to the Crown Lands Officer and the said copy preserved in the Registry of Records and in all legal proceedings, the said plan or the said copy, upon its appearing that the same purports to be duly endorsed and sealed as aforesaid, shall be sufficient evidence of the extent of the tract of land acquired by the commissioners.

Powers, duties  
and  
responsibilities  
of Crown Lands  
Officer.

3. The Crown Lands Officer shall have all the powers, duties and responsibilities of the commissioners under the principal Act and shall be deemed to be in all respects the successor to the said commissioners, and (save as hereinafter provided) all the enactments of the principal Act with reference to all acts to be done and all powers to be exercised by the said commissioners or a majority of them shall with the necessary modifications apply to the Crown Lands Officer:

Provided that the Crown Lands Officer shall not exercise any power or perform any duty under this Act except by the direction or with the approval of the Governor in Council.

Crown Lands  
Officer may  
exercise powers  
and perform  
duties.

4. Subject to all rights lawfully acquired the Crown Lands Officer may from time to time as occasion arises and to such an extent as he in his discretion may think fit exercise any power and perform any duty conferred or imposed upon the commissioners by section 4 of the principal Act.

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- 5.** The Crown Lands Officer shall have power to make grants of the lands vested in him by this Act on the same terms as those on which grants of Crown land are made in other parts of The Bahamas, and all grants by the Crown Lands Officer shall with the necessary modifications be in the same form used for grants of Crown land. Grants of land, how to be made.
- 6.** In any action or proceeding instituted by the Crown Lands Officer for the recovery of any land under the powers conferred upon him by this Act the burden of proof shall be upon the defendant to show that he is lawfully entitled to such land. Defendant to show that he is entitled to land.
- 7.** It shall not be lawful for the Crown Lands Officer to bring any action or institute any proceedings for the recovery of land by virtue of the powers conferred upon him by this Act in any cases where the persons now in occupation of the said land and the persons through whom they claim have been in undisturbed possession thereof for a continuous period of ten years prior to the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and three. Undisturbed possession for ten years to bar action for recovery of land.
- 8.** All sums received by the Crown Lands Officer under this Act shall be paid into the Treasury to the credit of a special fund and shall be expended in aid of public works to be executed upon the Island of Exuma in such a manner as may be directed by any Act. Disposition of monies received.