

To the Honourable the Senate and Hon.<sup>ble</sup>  
House of Representatives of the Commonwealth  
of Massachusetts. Humbly Sheweth  
James Athearn of Tobacco in Dukes County  
That in the year 1770 he was often solicited by  
one Joash Pearce an Indian Man of the  
Gayhead in S. County to procure him a  
small <sup>Dwelling</sup> house built after the English Manner  
with repeated promises to serve your Pet.<sup>n</sup>  
in the Whale Fishery untill paid but so it  
happened that the said Joash made but one  
Voyage on the Act. which your Hon.<sup>ty</sup> will see  
by the Act herewith Exhibited amounted to  
Eight pounds and the Cost of the building  
Materials, Labour with some other small  
necessary Charges Amount to £27. 7<sup>u</sup> 8  
which Leaves a balance of £19. 7<sup>u</sup> 8 in  
your petitioners favour the Interest of  
which will Am<sup>t</sup> to more than the balance  
the Joash afterwards Died in the West Indies  
on his return from Brazil and the Ship  
on her return home was taken by the Britons  
the first year of Making Reprisals so that the  
whole was lost. The Deceased Widow was  
part Negro & exceedingly licentious has taken  
but little Care of the house more than to burn  
the Shingles and every way in a great manner  
destroyed has lately Married a Negro as bad  
as herself. I have solicited payment but  
am Denied and answered they had Rather  
have an Indian Wigwam than pay any  
thing to <sup>your Pet.<sup>n</sup></sup> ~~me~~ for the house your Petitioner



Therefore prays that he may be authorized to  
 Take possession of the house & convert it to his own  
 use for the ~~payment~~ <sup>Recovery</sup> of his Hon<sup>ble</sup> Debt  
 which he cannot do without Authority from  
 the General Court as it stands on Indian Land  
 and your Petitioner as in Duty bound shall  
 Ever pray

James Wheeler

1420 X  
 Received on the Petition  
 of James Wheeler Esq  
 the Court empowering him  
 to take possession of the  
 house mentioned of the  
 St. by 15. 1786  
 Copy into Mr. Penman



James Wheeler

Mr. Penman  
 Mr. Shager  
 Mr. Day.

Witnessed  
 Concerned