

**Nicholas King to Thomas Jefferson, May 27, 1807, from
Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by
Saul K. Padover.**

King to Jefferson

27th. *May 1807 recd May 27.*

Sir

Agreeably to your request of the 25th. I have ascertained the height of the water in the branch and Spring, where Massachusetts Avenue crosses 16th. Street West; the former is 9 feet 9 inches, and the latter 8 feet 6 inches above the base of the presidents house. The highest part of the ditch in 16th. Street is about 8 feet above the base of the house; at the intersection of K Street and 16th. Street the ground is one foot, and at the crossing of L Street 2 feet 8 inches lower than that point.

If it is desireable to bring the water of this branch and spring to the presidents house along 16th. Street, it must come in pipes, as some of the ground is more than ten feet below the head of water, and also considerably lower than the place where it will be discharged. Should carrying the

water along the surface in an open canal be preferred until it arrive at the ridge where the cut is now made it will have to be taken so far to the eastward as to cross K Street near Vermont Avenue, intersecting the lots and Streets in its course.

The surface of the garden at the gate, is two inches longer than the base, or freestone work, of the house.

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The distance from the Presidents house to the Spring is about three thousand six hundred feet along 16th. Street.

With great respect I am

Yours Truly Nichs. King

[TO THE PRESIDENT]

[Ms., *Jefferson Papers*, Library of Congress.]