

George Washington to Thomas Jefferson, March 30, 1792, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Washington to Jefferson GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THOMAS JEFFERSON

[*March 30, 1792.*]

The enclosed Instrumt. does not accord with my recollection of Mr. Blodgets proposed Loan, and I confess I had much rather see a clear expression of the intention than to meet an explanation of it afterwards by one of the parties, to the contract.

The *number* of Lots to be Mortgaged I do not positively recollect; but sure I am one half were to be North of an East and West line from the Presidents House. I do not remember that the words “ *valuable Lots* ” were inserted in the proposition of Mr. Blodget and think the Mortgaged Lots were releasable by the substin, of others. If therefore the subsequent instrument should not place these matters in a very precise point of view, a foundation will be laid for much discontent, and probably disputes.

Did you see Mr. White³⁶ yesterday? and in that case what was his opinion respecting M—n's³⁷ acceptance in the manner suggested?

36 “Alexander White. He was a Member of Congress from Virginia, who became a Commissioner of the District in 1795.” [Fitzpatrick, Vol. 32 p. 14 n. 35.]

37 “Daniel Morgan.” [Fitzpatrick, Vol. 32 p. 14 n. 36.]

[Pp. 13–14, WRITINGS OF WASHINGTON, Fitzpatrick, Vol. 32.]

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Ellicott to Jefferson

Geo. Town April 3 1792

Sir/

I arrived at this place on friday evening last, after the Commissioners had sent their Letters for you, to the Post Office; which will account for their not mentioning my arrival in their despatches. I understand that Mr. George Walker, has been sent on to Philadelphia by the Proprietors of the Lands in the City of Washington, to prevail upon the President, to restore Mr. L'Enfant to his former employment in the City. This measure, I am informed was taken, in consequence of a Letter from Mr. Cabot, to Mr. Davidson, which Letter in my opinion is highly exceptionable and if the Commissioners should be able to procure a copy of it, they will no doubt send it to you. I suspect that some of the Proprietors are now sorry, that they appeared in the above business. Several of them, have acknowledged to me, that their desire for the restoration of Major L'Enfant, arose from a wish to dispose of their lands the ensuing season: and expected, that his extravagant plans, added to his great confidence, and mad zeal, would be highly favourable to them; but confessed at the same time, that on account of his ungovernable temper, his dismissal must unavoidably take place at no very distant period. After the next meeting of the Commissioners, which will be on the 9th of this month, I shall be able to write to you more particularly, in the mean time,

I am Sir

Your Hle Servt Andw. Ellicott

HONBLE. THOMAS JEFFERSON ESQR.

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