

Thomas Jefferson to Peter Charles L'Enfant, December 1, 1791, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to L'Enfant

Philadelphia Dec. 1. 1791.

Sir

I have recieved with sincere concern the information from yourself as well as others, that you have proceeded to demolish the house of mr Carrol of Duddington, against his consent, and without authority from the Commissioners, or any other person. in this you have laid yourself open to the laws, & in a country where they will have their course, to their animadversion will belong the present case.—in future I must strictly enjoin you to touch no man's property, without his consent, or the previous order of the Commissioners. I wished you to be employed in the arrangements of the federal city. I still wish it: but only on condition that you can conduct yourself in subordination to the authority of the Commissioners, to the laws of the land, & to the rights of it's citizens.

[Th: Jefferson]

MAJOR L'ENFANT

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