

Sir

Washington Feb. 14. 1805

I received the night before last only, your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup>.  
The subject being entirely new to me, I have referred it to the  
Superintendent of the city to report facts. were I to hazard a  
prima facie thought on the subject, it would be that the United  
states have no interest in the question & should take no part in  
it. The question seems to lie between the heirs of Byrne & Beatty,  
which of them is entitled to the price of the squares, & the moiety  
of the Cts laid off within the limits of the 81. acres claimed by both.  
however I reserve myself for an ultimate opinion till I receive  
the Superintendent's report. Accept my salutations & respect.

J. Jefferson

Mr. A. Ritchie

Ritchie A. Feb. 14. 05.

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