

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT LESLEY J. MCNAIR,
ACCESS CONTROL POINT, EAST GATE
Q and 2nd Streets, SW, Washington, D.C.**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

April 27, 2007

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the final site and building plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d) for construction of a new post entrance that provides both pedestrian and vehicle access to Fort McNair, as depicted on NCPC Map File No. 24.40(38.40)-42217.

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The Army has submitted final site and building plans for a new access gate and security checkpoint area at Fort McNair. The design of the new post entrance would occur at the intersection of Q Street and Second Streets, SW. The proposed entrance provides both pedestrian and vehicle access points while minimizing queuing zones and potential impacts to the 2nd Street, SW right-of-way or public space areas while also responding to the Department of Defense perimeter security and force protection criteria.

The proposal will serve as a new secured entry/exit point for Fort McNair. The existing ceremonial entry gate at P Street, SW will remain functioning for essential employees and for exiting of post vehicles. The temporary access entry at 2nd St, SW and P Street, SW will be closed and removed when the new gate on the east side of the fort is completed.

The final design of the new gate complex provides a pedestrian and visitor check-in center, guard booth inspection point, gatehouse, vehicle search area, perimeter fence and wall, access road extension, and overwatch guardhouse. All these features are required DoD security elements for military campuses. Important to the establishment of the new entrance area is its adjacency and provisions for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative's (AWI) Riverwalk, which is fully designed in the submitted drawings, but would not be built by the Army. In the AWI plan adjacent to Fort McNair, a street bikeway corridor and pedestrian trail is located on Second Street, SW. The Riverwalk area is addressed as a pedestrian environment with street trees and a dedicated bike lane within Second Street. Final design of the perimeter fence provides an open transparent focal feature, within the viewshed of Potomac Avenue, SW that coincides with the perimeter fence. The Army established these elements after discussion with the Commission of Fine Arts staff, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation staff, and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation.

Staff has determined the final building and site designs, which were coordinated with NCPC and CFA, respond to the earlier issues and are fully adequate. CFA staff also has found the final design completely responsive to their preliminary concerns and the Army has worked diligently with CFA staff and NCPC to resolve the final points of way-finding information and building signage, which are included in the final design.

Staff finds the submission materials qualify as a delegated action being it is a small project in the District of Columbia for which the Commission has an approved master plan, which is not located on the Mall Complex, and comprises less than 50,000 square feet of floor area. The Executive Director has determined that (a) the proposed development is (i) consistent with the land use and circulation elements of the master plan (ii) will have no significant adverse impact on the environment, cultural resources, access and egress to facilities, and (iii) is compatible with the existing and proposed developments in its immediate vicinity and (b) the addition or relocation of employees to the proposed development would not cause an adverse impact. Final building plans specify only 7,100 square feet of building space for all structures. The plans also conform to the Subarea master plan for Fort McNair, approved by NCPC in January 2004, and the project's preliminary site and building plans approved by the Commission in November 2005. The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal on October 12, 2005, forwarding the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with the agencies present.

Pursuant to the requirements of NEPA, the Army prepared and completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Subarea master plan and its project implementation that included the new gate access point on the east side of Fort McNair. NCPC staff analyzed, in conformance with the requirements of NEPA, the prepared EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact based on adoption of the EA in August 2003. No variation or modification of the submitted final design affects the conclusions and determination of that earlier NEPA finding.

The Army has consulted with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) about the Access Control Point, East Gate final design. There have been no objections to the current plans because it is located in the Tempo C land acquisition area and outside of the Fort McNair historic district. In November 2005 the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer noted that "The ACP design does not have an adverse effect upon the Fort McNair Historic District".

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director