
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Landmark/District:	Baseball Academy Pavilion at Ft. Dupont	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
Address:	3675 Ely Place, SE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Calendar
Meeting Date:	September 28, 2017	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Construction
H.P.A. Number:	17-595	<input type="checkbox"/> Alteration
Staff Reviewer:	Andrew Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> Conceptual Design

The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) proposes to construct a small new pavilion at the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy that will be used for batting cage practice and related recreational activities for underserved children and youth in Wards 7 and 8. Though technically located within the landmarked Fort DuPont Park/Fort Circle Parks Historic District, the project site is far removed from the remnants of the Civil War earthworks and will not be visible from them due to distance and dense vegetation. The project has also been determined to have no potential to impact archaeological resources.

Fort DuPont Park/Fort Circle Parks

Fort DuPont was constructed in 1862 to protect the District of Columbia during the Civil War. In 1912, the federal government retained the fort and adjacent lands to establish a park and create the “Fort Drive” recommended by the McMillan Plan so that all the forts surrounding the city would be connected via a scenic byway. Together, the various forts and the land purchased for the proposed, but never completed Fort Drive, comprise the Fort Circle Parks Historic District.

New Construction

With a footprint of approximately 48’ x 67’ and a maximum height of 26’, the proposed new pavilion will be much smaller than the more substantial Youth Baseball Academy facilities that the HPRB reviewed and approved in 2012. The relatively straightforward design of the structure will be open-air on all four sides and will maintain a consistent appearance for the overall facility by drawing heavily from the architectural style, materials, colors and other details of the adjacent structures.

Evaluation

The proposed new construction project is consistent with the recreational uses that have been occurring on this site for quite some time. In fact, the area was transferred from the NPS to the District of Columbia specifically for recreational purposes in 2008. The relatively small size and design of the new pavilion are compatible with this portion of the historic district and will not be visible from the Fort Dupont itself. Furthermore, the project has no potential to affect archaeological resources.

Recommendation

HPO recommends that the Board approve the design for the proposed new pavilion and delegate permit review to HPO.