



**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** HALRB  
**FROM:** Cynthia Liccese-Torres  
**DATE:** June 12, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Fort Ethan Allen Interpretive Project, North Old Glebe Road, Fort Ethan Allen Historic District

This proposed interpretive project was presented to the HALRB twice already in both April and May 2013. To keep the project on schedule so that installation can be completed by the end of November 2013, this CoA request is coming before the HALRB in June for final approval. As you will recall from the earlier discussions, this project is being funded through the Neighborhood Conservation Program and was approved by the County Board for bond funding in October 2010.

Designated a local Historic District in 1978 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, Fort Ethan Allen contains some of the most extensive remaining earthworks of any of the Washington area's Circle Forts. Although a good deal of the site remains, portions of it have been demolished as a result of construction of the Madison Community Center and the neighboring residential developments. This project will create a comprehensive historic interpretive plan for the site, and will feature three new viewing platforms, a scaled bronze model of the original fort, a replica 20-pounder Parrott rifle, as well as new curb cuts, accessible walkways, fencing, and plantings. Please see the site plan for the locations and details of each of the proposed viewing areas. A key component of the project is the installation of nine interpretive panels throughout the site. Through vibrant text, illustrations, and historic photographs, these panels capture the role of Fort Ethan Allen both individually and as part of the Circle Forts, as well as identify and relate the existing landscape to that of the historic fort. In addition, some general landscaping will be done as part of the project, including the removal of dead and invasive trees and the planting of additional screening (both trees and plantings) as a buffer between the fort and some adjacent properties.

Throughout the extensive review process, comments were received from residents of the Old Glebe Civic Association, the HALRB, County preservation staff, and representatives of the Arlington Historical Society.

Staff agrees that this interpretive project is an exciting venture that has the potential to make Fort Ethan Allen one of the premiere forts in the region to learn about Civil War history. It is also very timely that this project is being completed during the Sesquicentennial. Please note that an official unveiling ceremony will be planned upon completion of the project, likely at the end of this year in late November or early December. Staff enthusiastically supports this project as proposed.