



PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

12 July 2022

Ms. Pam Smith
Resident Historian
Richmond Hill
2209 E. Grace Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to learn more about the efforts associated with Richmond Hill and the Koinonia School of Race and Justice.

I write to lend our support to the Judy Project and its goal to unearth this forgotten history and restore the space for reflection, dialogue, and healing. By envisioning a place that is educational and restorative, the team at Richmond Hill is creating an environment that will inspire transformative change in individuals and in the Richmond community.

As the nation's first statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization, Preservation Virginia works with communities across the Commonwealth to identify, acknowledge and preserve the places where history happened. Dwellings of enslaved individuals are powerful places that tell a deeply personal, complex and compelling story about resistance, perseverance and resilience. More often than not, these structures have been erased from the landscape in much the same way that this history has been ignored and buried.

The structure at Richmond Hill is rare and significant. The team has sensitively undertaken thorough documentary and archaeological research and worked with architects and designers to envision this rehabilitated space. Most importantly, you have engaged a broad community of individuals in determining the scope of the restoration and the approach to memorization. This engagement distinguishes the Judy Project in its goal of supporting reconciliation.

On behalf of Preservation Virginia's Board of Trustees, staff and supporters, I applaud Richmond Hill and the Judy Project. Your approach will serve as a model for others undertaking efforts to confront difficult histories and heal their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth S. Kostelny'.

Elizabeth S. Kostelny
Chief Executive Officer

PRESERVATION VIRGINIA
204 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23220-5012
preservationvirginia.org 804-648-1889

Sustaining historic places through advocacy, education, revitalization and stewardship.