



24 January 2020

Mr. Wayne A. Tonkins, Esq.
The Historic Columbia Air Center Airport / Museum, Inc.
11933 Autumnwood Lane
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Dear Mr. Tonkins:

The Prince George's County Historical Society is very supportive of your efforts to preserve the legacy of Riverside Field, now known as the Columbia Air Center (82B-038) in Croom, Maryland. As the first African-American-owned, licensed, and operated airfield in both Prince George's County and the state of Maryland, as well as its role as a training center for the U.S. Navy during World War II, the home for the first black Civil Air Patrol squadron in the area, its multiple civilian uses for private pilots and its popularity as a social and recreational location, are all evidence of its importance in aviation history. Also, of special note is the community outreach to local schools and youth programs for on-site flight training, ground school and mechanics by John W. Greene, Jr., Columbia Air Center's manager from 1941-1956.

As history and education are two key components to the mission of the Prince George's County Historical Society, we highly encourage your efforts to preserve Columbia Air Center's influential and significant place in the narrative of African American cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Schneider
President

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