



P O Box 153

804-469-5346

Dinwiddie, VA 23841

November 5, 2014

Helen Cullyer, Program Officer
Mellon Foundation
140 E. 62nd Street
New York, NY 10065

Re: Endorsement of the “**Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane** Digital Archives Project”

Dear Ms. Cullyer,

Dr. King Davis and his research team have included the Dinwiddie County Historical Society in the “**Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane** Digital Archives Project since the beginning. The project staff has digitized 90%-95% of the historically significant records of Central State Hospital, the name since the 1900s for the Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane. This is especially important from a genealogical perspective. People come to the Old Historic Courthouse to sift through records on their ancestors and it would be wonderful to have the records from this project available for research. The team has provided privacy and the preservation of these records, allowing for future access of these same records to family genealogists and the Dinwiddie Historical Society. This project is also important to our county since the “Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane” (Central State Hospital), is the first Mental Health Hospital in the United States for African Americans.

Dinwiddie County Historical Society is thankful for this opportunity to endorse the”Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane Digital Archives Project.

Sincerely,

Artrelle L. Spicely
Dinwiddie County Historical Society