Kip’s Castle, originally known as “Kypsburg,” was constructed over a three-year period from 1902 through 1905 by Frederic Ellsworth Kip and his wife, Charlotte Bishop Williams Kip. Frederic was a wealthy textile inventor and industrialist who also published several books related to United States tariff laws. Charlotte is credited for the design of the “Kypsburg” building and grounds, cultivating a renowned octagonal rose garden in the southwest corner of the property. After Charlotte’s passing in 1926, the estate was sold and went through several owners. The building and grounds fell into a state of dilapidation until, finally, the law firm of Schwartz, Tobia & Stanziale purchased the property in 1985. In the past two decades, a considerable amount of work was done to revitalize the Castle to its original grandeur.

Thanks to generous grants from the NJ Green Acres Program and the Essex County Recreation and Open Space Trust Fund, the County of Essex was able to purchase Kip’s Castle in March 2007. The property, saved from development, is now part of the historic Essex County Park System. Offices for the County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs and the Kip’s Castle Conservancy are located here. The site hosts a summer concert on the lawn and is the lead attraction in the Essex County Historic Holiday House Tour. In addition, the building is rented for private events such as professional development seminars, board retreats, ceremonies, and parties.

Over time, Kip’s Castle Park will be restored to its original grandeur. It will be utilized as a resource center, supporting and promoting arts, history and culture throughout our region. Furthermore, a calendar of ongoing educational programming will be developed in partnership with local non-profit organizations. And that’s just the beginning…
**A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Essex County’s purchase of Kip's Castle was an extraordinary opportunity to preserve a historic landmark, add more open space to our Park System, and create a unique cultural center for the public to enjoy. This estate is a valuable asset to our community, providing a place where arts and history can flourish through exhibitions, programming, and collaborative meetings. I invite you to visit this site often. Tour the eleven acres of land, enjoy the spectacular view at the ridge, and stop by for one of our special events.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive

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**DIRECTI O N S:**

*From the Garden State Parkway:* Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 145 for Route 280 West. Proceed using directions “From Route 280.”

*From the NJ Turnpike:* Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 15W for Route 280 West. Proceed using directions “From Route 280.”

*From Route 280:* Take Route 280 to Exit 8B. Follow Prospect Avenue/CR-577 NORTH to Cedar Grove. This road turns into Pompton Avenue/Route 23. Turn RIGHT onto Westover Road. Turn LEFT onto Crestmont Road.

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**KIP’S CASTLE PARK**

A Facility of the Historic Essex County Park System