

Latimer Announces \$1.5M in Capital Funds for Merestead Restoration

County Executive George Latimer announced last week that the county will be funding \$1.5 million in restoration work at the historic farmhouse at Merestead in Mount Kisco.

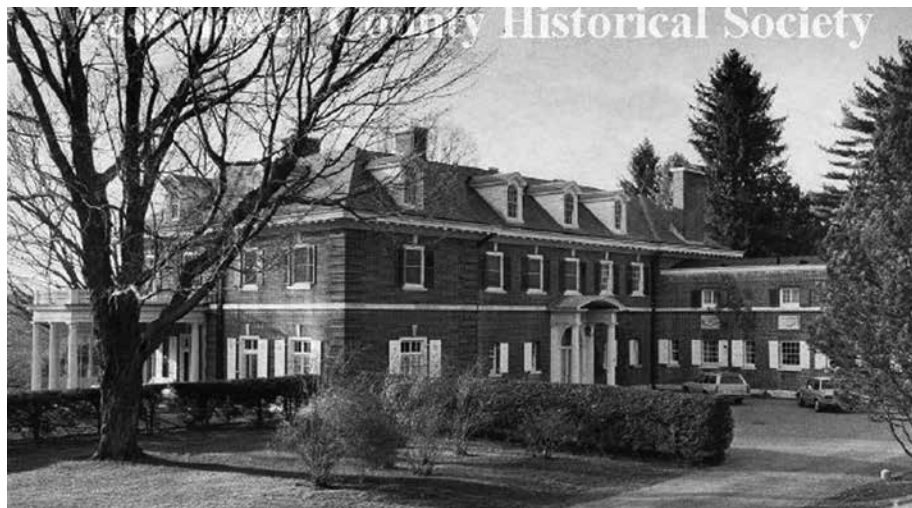
Additionally, Latimer will hold a Merestead Public Listening Session to be held at the property on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to engage the public in a conversation about the site's future.

"The Merestead property is in serious need of repairs so it can be restored as a resource for all county residents to use and enjoy," Latimer said. "If we allow our county's historic buildings to fall into such states of disrepair, we lose a part of our history and a chance to teach future generations. Equally important is to reach out to the residents and neighbors, to hear their thoughts and ideas for the future of Merestead."

The \$1.5 million includes \$1.1 million included in last year's capital budget plan with an additional \$400,000 included in the county executive's proposed \$309.7 million 2020 capital budget. These funds will go toward the rehabilitation of the currently boarded up farmhouse, making the property safe for use by visitors as well as increasing the security of the home in light of recent attempted break-ins.

With beautiful walking paths and a historic main house, Merestead is a Westchester County park that is used by visitors who stroll its gentle hills, observe nature and enjoy an occasional musical performance.

Merestead, the former estate of William Sloane, consists of farmland, woods, gardens



Restoration of the historic farmhouse at Merestead is in County Executive George Latimer's proposed capital projects budget for 2020.

and buildings, including its 1906 Georgian Revival main house designed by architects Delano and Aldrich. Bequeathed to the county in 1982 by Margaret Sloan Patterson and her husband, Dr. Robert Patterson, as a life estate, Merestead became a Westchester County park with her passing on Aug. 3, 2000.

"Merestead is one of our more unique parks," said county Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor. "The facilities are in badly need of infrastructure work and these vital funds will better allow Westchester residents to enjoy all it has to offer."

O'Connor said having the public involved in the future of the property will help the county

provide quality park uses that residents will enjoy.

Westchester County Legislator Kitley Covill (D-Katonah) said preserving and protecting the 180-year-old farmhouse along with the rest of Merestead – including its 130 acres and the historic mansion – is an important responsibility.

"We want to make sure that this property, left to the county for use as parkland, is properly cared for, to benefit the residents of Bedford, Mount Kisco and all of Westchester County," Covill said. "I'd like to thank the county executive and the Parks Department, as well as my colleagues on the Board of

Legislators, for the steps we've already taken to preserve the main house. It's important that we take the same kind of steps to save this farmhouse."

Merestead is located at 455 Byram Lake Rd. in Mount Kisco.

Latimer to Officially Reopen Miller House Next Monday

County Executive George Latimer will officially welcome the public back to the historic Miller House in North White Plains with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Oct. 28, at 1 p.m. at the newly-renovated Westchester County Park historic property at 140 Virginia Rd. in North White Plains.

The reopening follows a \$3.5 million capital project to restore this 18th century Rhode Island-style farmhouse house that was used as a Revolutionary War headquarters and command post by George Washington during the Battle of White Plains.

The Miller House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the New York State Register of Historic Places and the Westchester County Inventory of Historic Places. It is also a Town of North Castle landmark.

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