



Fonthill Museum Fact Sheet

Purpose

Fonthill Museum is a non-profit educational institution administered by The Bucks County Historical Society. Built by Henry Chapman Mercer, Fonthill served as his home and today is interpreted to reflect Mercer's ideas and concepts in the realms of architecture, museology, ceramic art and historical research.

Facts and Figures

- Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930) began construction of Fonthill in 1908 when he was 52. The reinforced concrete building was completed in 1912.
- There are 44 rooms in Fonthill including 10 bathrooms; 5 bedrooms; at least 32 stairwells; 18 fireplaces; and 21 chimneys and air vents.
- Mercer incorporated his own tiles into Fonthill's architecture as well as Persian, Chinese, Spanish, and Dutch tiles he had collected.
- Fonthill was equipped with two dumbwaiters, an Otis Elevator, an intercom buzzer system and phones to communicate within the house.
- More than 900 prints (of the 5,000 that Mercer collected from around the world) are displayed at Fonthill.
- Built-in bookcases throughout Fonthill hold more than 6,000 books.
- Fonthill cost \$32,482 to build and is situated on 60 acres of land in Doylestown Township.
- After Mercer's death, Fonthill was operated by a separate Mercer/Fonthill Trust. Since 1976 the Bucks County Historical Society has administered Fonthill and in 1990 the two governing boards were merged.
- A variety of programs are offered to the public including regular guided tours, special "Behind-the-Scenes" tours, programs specifically geared to students, "Old-Fashioned Fourth of July," holiday events and a summer camp for children.
- Fonthill was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985.
- Fonthill Museum was awarded accreditation in 1992, by the American Association of Museums, the national organization that upholds professional standards for museums.
- Fonthill is visited by more than 30,000 people from around the world annually and has been featured on the A & E Channel's "America's Castle" program.
- Fonthill is supported by a corps of 40 dedicated volunteers.