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## A Castle at Christmas: Fonthill Castle Hosts Holiday Decoration Tours

**DOYLESTOWN, PA (November 20, 2017)** –In December, Fonthill Castle, the former home of tile-maker Henry Mercer, will be dressed up for the holiday season with glittering seasonal décor. During the month, visitors can enjoy daily *Winter Wonderland Holiday Tours*, specialty evening tours including a *Holidays Lights Meander* and *Candlelight Holiday Tours*, a free *Holiday Festivities for the Family* open house with the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works and a new experience called *Henry's Homes for the Holidays*, featuring tours of both Fonthill Castle and Mercer's birthplace, the James Lorah Memorial Home.

From December 2 to December 31, Fonthill Castle will host its *Winter Wonderland Holiday Decoration Tours*. The guided tours visit rooms that are exquisitely decorated with themed Christmas trees, Victorian decorations, candles and seasonal greenery. The trees on view are themed to express the varied interests of Henry Mercer. Some of the featured trees include a Williamsburg fruit tree in the Saloon, to express Mercer's love of nature, an Asian-inspired tree in the Central Hallway situated near the Ming Dynasty tiles that Mercer collected, and a Rollo the Dog tree, in honor of Mercer's favorite pet. Winter Wonderland Tours are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, and \$8 for youth ages 6-17.

Visitors to Fonthill Park on Sunday, December 3 will enjoy an afternoon of *Holiday Festivities for the Family* from noon to 4 p.m. Fonthill's holiday decorations will be on display in a ground floor open house, featuring rooms like the Conservatory, Saloon, Library and Morning Room. Visitors will also enjoy refreshments and an ornament-making craft activity. The neighboring Moravian Pottery and Tile Works will also be open for self-guided tours, hot chocolate and a visit with Santa. Both Fonthill and the Tile Works will be free and open to the public for the event.

On Sunday December 10, Fonthill Castle will debut a new holiday tour experience called *Henry's Homes for the Holidays*. The experience features hour-long tours of Henry Mercer's dream home, Fonthill Castle and his birthplace, the James Lorah Memorial home, which are both festively decorated for the holiday season. The James Lorah home is a 17-room, post-federal style home with Victorian décor and furniture, marble fireplaces and intricate chandeliers. Tours take place at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and are \$35 per person.

On Saturday, December 16, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., *Fonthill's Holiday Lights Meander* lets visitors wander at their own pace through the Castle's candlelit tour route with docents on-hand

to answer any questions. Music and light refreshments complete the festive evening. Admission is \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth.

To wrap up the holiday season, Fonthill takes on a candlelight glow for special evening *Candlelight Holiday Tours* on Friday, December 29 from 6:30-9 p.m. The tour features fifteen of Fonthill's rooms and a trip to the castle's top terrace. Admission is \$18 per person.

Reservations are required for Fonthill's holiday tours with the exception of *Holiday Festivities for the Family*. Register for Fonthill Castle's holiday tours by calling 215-348-9461 or by emailing [fmail@fonthillmuseum.org](mailto:fmail@fonthillmuseum.org).

### **About Fonthill Castle**

Henry Mercer's concrete castle home boasts 44 rooms, 18 fireplaces and 200 windows of varying shapes and sizes. The interior walls, floors and ceilings are elaborately adorned with an incredible array of Mercer's original handcrafted tiles. Fonthill has been featured on A&E's "America's Castles" and in Martha Stewart Living magazine. The Castle is open daily for guided tours only, with the last tour taking place at 3:30 p.m. Fonthill is located at East Court Street and Route 313 in Doylestown. To make a tour reservation, call 215-348-9461 or e-mail [fmail@fonthillmuseum.org](mailto:fmail@fonthillmuseum.org). For hours and admission prices, visit [fonthillmuseum.org](http://fonthillmuseum.org).

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