



*In Association with the Smithsonian Institution*

## **Mercer Museum Fact Sheet**

### **Purpose**

The Mercer Museum is a nonprofit educational institution administered by the Bucks County Historical Society. The Mercer Museum collects, preserves, and interprets historical artifacts that illuminate the history of pre-industrial America to c. 1850.

### **Facts and Figures**

- Henry C. Mercer (1856-1930) began construction of the Museum in 1913 with the help of eight day laborers and "Lucy" the horse. The Museum was completed in June of 1916.
- Rising seven stories high, the Museum is built entirely of concrete reinforced with iron rods and mesh. Concrete was used because of its plasticity and fireproof properties.
- The estimated weight of The Mercer Museum is 6500 tons, and the cost to build it was \$38,944.99.
- Henry C. Mercer, architect and builder of the Museum, believed that the story of human progress and accomplishments was told by the tools and objects that people used.
- More than 60% of the Museum's 40,000 artifacts, ranging from clock making tools to a Conestoga wagon, are exhibited.
- More than 60 Early American trades (including cider making, blacksmithing, printing, needlework, shoemaking and farming) are represented.
- Among the oldest artifacts in the Museum collection are a whale oil lamp over 2,000 years old, and Native American implements dating to 6,000-8,000 B.C.
- In 2011, a new wing was built to contain enhanced visitor services, Museum Shop, state-of-the-art Learning Center, and Exhibition Gallery.
- The Mercer Museum was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985. The Museum was awarded accreditation in 1992 by the American Association of Museums, the national organization that upholds museum standards.
- More than 70,000 people from around the world visit the Museum annually.
- The Mercer Museum offers a variety of programs for all ages, grade-specific school programs, scout programs, birthday parties and more.
- The Martin & Warwick Exhibition Galleries feature a variety of changing exhibitions throughout the year.

- In 2016, The Mercer Museum was designated as a Smithsonian Affiliate.