



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Bucks County Historical Society Statement on The Moravian Pottery and Tile Works

DOYLESTOWN, PA – The Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS) understands that the County of Bucks wishes to divest itself of the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works.

BCHS, a Smithsonian Affiliate, successfully operates the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle, both accredited museums by the American Alliance of Museums. It has created varying revenue streams to ensure the future of these historical buildings, and the nationally-significant collections that they house.

It is our position that the Tile Works would be best served operating under the umbrella of the BCHS, a professionally-staffed organization that is experienced and eminently capable of managing historic sites and museum collections.

There is efficiency in having all three Mercer sites operating under one administration. It would enable better coordination of programming, preservation, public access, communication, marketing and many other activities.

Such an arrangement would also reunite all three of Henry Mercer's National Landmark buildings for the first time since Mercer's death in 1930. And, as a result, such an arrangement would best serve the people of Doylestown and Bucks County, who are stakeholders in making these three sites nationally- and internationally-prominent attractions.

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For additional information, please contact:

Kyle McKoy, President & Executive Director
Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle
(215) 348-9461 ext. 214
kmckoy@mercermuseum.org

About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society (BCHS).

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture.

The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912, and was the home to Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his home and as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA, 18901.

Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street in Doylestown, PA, 18901.