



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Friday, August 26, 2022**

## **Fonthill Castle Site Improvement Plans Funded by State Grant Secured by Senator Santarsiero**

**DOYLESTOWN, PA** – Fonthill Castle, with the help of Senator Steve Santarsiero (D-10), has secured a state grant in order to develop a master site plan for site improvements to the historic property and its 60+ acres of woodlands, amplifying Henry Mercer’s longstanding legacy in Bucks County.

Built between 1908-1912, Fonthill Castle is located in the heart of Bucks County and was the home of Henry Mercer and served as both his home and showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. Today, Fonthill Castle operates as a historic house museum and community cultural gathering place that is managed by the Bucks County Historical Society. This \$200,000 state grant includes a vital comprehensive site study of the entire property, including the woodlands, waterways, vehicular and pedestrian access, and environmental studies of natural flora and fauna, in order to improve community access and usage for residents and visitors.

“The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are real treasures that we are fortunate to have right here in Doylestown, and encompass a diverse and fascinating collection of art, history and culture,” said Senator Santarsiero. “What many people don’t realize is that Henry Mercer cared deeply about the nature surrounding the buildings as well, which includes an extensive network of trails on the expansive Fonthill Castle property. I am excited to see how the Bucks County Historical Society will be improving the property to make the Fonthill Castle property more accessible for the community and visitors alike.”

“The Bucks County Historical Society is grateful for this opportunity to enhance Fonthill Castle’s 60+ acres in the heart of Doylestown,” said Kyle McKoy, President and CEO. “The funding through the support of Senator Santarsiero allows us to build upon Henry Mercer’s mission for the preservation and study of native woodlands, meadows, and bird and animal sanctuaries for the entire community to enjoy.”

###

**About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society**

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.

The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle are open Tuesdays – Sundays from 10a.m. – 5p.m.  
For up-to-date ticket and schedule information, please visit [mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org).

**For additional information, please contact:**

Allison Hauser, PR & Marketing Manager  
Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle  
(215) 345-0210 ext. 131  
[ahauser@mercermuseum.org](mailto:ahauser@mercermuseum.org)