

2017 WNCC Convention - Saturday 5/6 Tour

This year we'll be revisiting the Henry Mercer Museum in Doylestown, but this time instead of just a quick glimpse, we'll tour the fascinating interior. This is one of the stops Wallace Nutting made in his early 1900's trip through Bucks County. Being duly impressed, he subsequently pays tribute to "Dr. Mercer" in his Pennsylvania Beautiful book.



Both Nutting and Mercer lived in the same approximate time period, were antiquarians, and they had very similar devotions to preserving earlier America before it was impacted by industrialism. We know Nutting did this by way of his photographs, and Mercer was inspired in assembling a collection of old American artifacts and tools, and displaying them in the Mercer Museum he had built for just this purpose.



We'll not only visit this famous historical landmark but we'll also have a tour of Mercer's nearby home, called Fonthill Castle. This structure served as both his residence and as a showplace for his collection of prints and his famed Moravian tiles that were originally produced during the American Arts & Crafts Movement, and have continued being made through the years at his Tile Works, also on the same property.

We'll be car-pooling instead of taking the bus (a direct, approx. 1/2 hr trip from the hotel), have lunch on our own in quaint Doylestown, and proceed to our tours. Further details, brochures and/or maps will be provided.



Mercer Museum: top left and right. **Fonthill:** middle left and bottom right. **Moravian Tile Works:** bottom left (we won't have time to tour the Tile Works, but note the similarity in structure and the many chimneys for the firing ovens).