Surround yourself with history at Pottsgrove Manor! Built in 1752 for the Potts family, the home showcases the elegance of early Georgian architecture and tells the history of John and Ruth Potts, their 13 children, and the paid, indentured, and enslaved people who lived and worked here.

Pottsgrove Manor History
Guided tours share the stories of successful ironmaster John Potts—founder of Pottstown, Justice of the Peace, Judge on the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas, elected representative of both Berks and Philadelphia Counties to the Pennsylvania General Assembly—with engaging and researched interpretation of Pottsgrove Manor as the family’s home and headquarters. Visitors to the museum will discover the experience of the Potts family alongside all the people who labored in the home.

Forged by Family
Pottsgrove Manor sits on four acres which are part of the County of Montgomery’s Division of Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites. When the Potts first purchased the property, they held 995 acres that ran along the Schuylkill River which eventually came to include Pottsgrove Manor, two grist mills, a forge, and the town of Pottstown. With the intersection of the Great Road (modern day High Street) and a road leading into Chester County (Hanover Street) in the center of town, the location of Pottstown was a key part to its growth and success. The Potts family continued to live and develop the town for generations, seeing it grow from less than 20 homes to a thriving borough.

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The Potts forges and furnaces included some of the most recognizable names in the region including Colebrookdale, Pine Forge, Coventry, Mount Joy/Valley Forge, and the most successful furnace in 18th century Pennsylvania, Warwick. Pottsgrove Manor served as the center of this iron empire where the family could conduct operations and display the wealth and status they achieved in business. John Potts passed away in June of 1768 and his oldest child, Thomas, bought the home from the family estate. However, in 1783, he sold it out of the family and the house passed through several different owners, including the Gabel brothers who turned the house into the Mill Park Hotel and Barroom. Eventually, the house was purchased by Marjory Potts Wendell with the intention of turning into a museum, and Pottsgrove Manor opened to the public in 1952.

**Discover the Museum Today**

Special programs, workshops, and exhibits continuously highlight the mission of Pottsgrove Manor to connect everyone to 18th century history. Digital resources including educational videos and online collections information can be found for free on our website. Customized school, homeschool, scout, and adult group tours are available to bring history alive to any age. There is more to discover on the museum’s social media, with regular posts and digital events.