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For Immediate Release

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The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms Invites You to a Holiday Open House

Parsippany, NJ – The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms invites you to experience the Christmas holidays as they were celebrated in 1915. Craftsman Farms, which consists of 30 acres of parkland and several historic buildings, has been designated a National Historic Landmark. The centerpiece of the site is the 1911 log house which is the former home of noted early 20th Century designer Gustav Stickley. The log house will be all decked out for the holidays, as Stickley, and his family would have decorated it.

Visitors are invited to attend the holiday open house during the first three Saturdays and Sundays in December, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. On Saturdays, “Mrs. Goody Claus” will visit the Log House from 11 to 2 p.m. Bring the children and learn all about the origins of Mrs. Claus in 1899 and other holiday rituals of the period, such as the introduction of the tin cookie cutter and the lavish dessert buffet.

A variety of hands on activities will be offered on a rotating basis and will be based on holiday celebrations in the early 1900’s. These will include making orange clove pomanders, paper chain garlands, tins stars, stringing popcorn, and of course sampling yummy holiday treats. In the Stickley’s Log House the Christmas tree will sparkle with Bavarian glass ornaments that were the fashion at the time the Log House was built. Then as now, evergreen garlands will festoon the staircase and poinsettias, which Stickley described as “the Christmas Flaming Star,” will brighten the three fireplaces. Holiday cards from the period will be on display, as will examples of the simply wrapped, handmade gifts that Stickley's daughters enjoyed creating. Holiday music from the period will include special live performances of The Community Theatre’s Performing Arts Company singing Christmas carols on December 2nd

and December 16th. *Joyful Noise*, the bell choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Whippany will perform on Dec. 8. Warm gingerbread and mulled cider will complete the experience.

Admission is \$7.00 per person. The Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, is located at 2352 Rt. 10-West, Morris Plains, NJ 07950 For directions and more information visit the website, www.stickleymuseum.org or call, 973-540-0311.

Restoration of the National Historic Landmark, Craftsman Farms, is made possible in part, by a Save America's Treasure's grant, administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and by support from Morris County Preservation Trust, the New Jersey Historic Trust, and individual members. The Craftsman Farms Foundation received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

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