

# Lancaster County Convention Center and

## Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

### Fact Sheet

June 18, 2009

An eleven-year-long community effort in Lancaster has resulted in the completion of a world-class integrated hotel and convention center facility in the heart of the Downtown's historic Penn Square.

- The Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square and Lancaster County Convention Center is unrivaled in its features and delivers every bit of wow factor promised by its advocates a decade ago.
- Its repurposed façade, the *Beaux Arts*-style architectural gem that had stood quiet for more than a decade, had belonged to the former Watt & Shand Department Store.
- Perfect for events ranging in size from 5 to 5,000 people, the facility offers 90,000 total square feet of meeting space and 300 guest rooms and suites.
- Offering generous amenities, posh residential-style interiors, the latest in high-tech business features, and an exceptional guest experience, this facility further reinforces Lancaster's position as a uniquely appealing destination for both leisure and business.
- Offering luxuriously appointed meeting and event space, including a grand exhibit hall, two elegant ballrooms, and finely appointed meeting and board rooms, the complex is expected to draw more than 150,000 new guests to Lancaster each year.

Offering significant historical and cultural context, the complex incorporates historic structures and narratives within and around its own new architecture.

- The venue is a key site of Pennsylvania's Quest for Freedom trail, which honors the sites and stories of the African American journey to freedom from the time of the Underground Railroad and Civil War to the present day.
- Eventually the overall project, which from inception held a vision of incorporating the unique historical fabric of Lancaster, will offer a 20,000-square-foot, \$20-million interactive museum, the Stevens & Smith Historic Site (see [www.stevensandsmith.org](http://www.stevensandsmith.org) for additional compelling background).
- Under the leadership of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County (HPT), a water-collection cistern was unearthed and preserved during construction that had once been part of the Kleiss Tavern owned by influential Congressman and abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens.
- In the Vine Street entrance area to the facility, guests will behold a view of the preserved cistern, believed by scholars and archeologists to have been a hiding place used to assist Americans escaping slavery along the Underground Railroad.

The opening of this facility represents a brand new chapter for Lancaster as a destination, in the context of the community's long history of economic and cultural success.

- Lancaster offers an unmatched blend of historical context, unique tradition, and friendly urban sophistication.
- Lancaster is an exceptionally sound choice as a destination for meeting planners, providing significant merit compared to larger and more expensive urban areas.

Offering Lancaster's newest restaurant and lounge, the Penn Square Grille and Rendezvous Lounge presents a memorable menu and a special gathering place.

- This gathering place celebrates connections -- to a region through its offering of fresh local bounty, to a city via remarkable presence on Penn Square and to a treasured past with the reemergence of this landmark setting.
- The menu at the Penn Square Grille will feature regionally inspired, seasonal American cuisine with seafood highlights.
- The hand-selected wine list is abundantly inclusive of California wines, comprehensive across diverse tastes and occasions, and offers 30 selections by the glass.

More information and photos are available at [www.lancasterconventioncenter.com](http://www.lancasterconventioncenter.com).