

WILLIAM MONTGOMERY HOUSE
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA CIRCA 1804



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Incorporated into the brand new architecture of the Lancaster County Convention Center and Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square on South Queen Street in Lancaster, the William Montgomery House is one of its most remarkable and popular features.



Part of a dramatic block-long interior street that incorporates historic 19th-Century structures into the new center, the circa-1804 mansion is regarded as one of Lancaster's finest Federal style buildings. The home was built for prominent local attorney William Montgomery and remains the only documented local work by architect Stephen Hills, who also designed the first Capitol building in Harrisburg.

Returned to its former elegance during the construction of the hotel and convention center facility, with its re-pointed original brick walls and stately marble window sills, the Montgomery House from inside the facility reveals a delightfully unexpected view of its bowed rear exterior, which originally contained an elliptical parlor.

Acquired by the Watt & Shand Department Store in 1960 and

later the Bon-Ton, the building had been vacant since the 1995 closure of the store until project leaders of the new complex decided to renovate the mansion and have it stand as a tribute to a treasured past in bold contrast to the contemporary new facility.

As with any urban center of historic importance, Lancaster's evolution has required a significant degree of responsibility to preserve the architecture, artifacts, and narratives of its past. Leaders of the convention center and hotel facility had long recognized their part in helping preserve Lancaster's history—one of the deciding





factors for committing to repurposing the landmark site of this facility.

Historic elements of the integrated convention center hotel facility

Responsibility for preserving Lancaster’s history is the reason for the painstaking work completed to rehabilitate the glorious Beaux Arts façade of the former Watt & Shand Department Store and the stately Federal-period William Montgomery House.

Additionally, during construction and under the leadership of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County (HPT), a cistern was unearthed and carefully preserved that had once been part of the Kleiss Tavern owned by Congressman and staunch abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens. The cistern is believed by scholars to have been used by Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith, a free black woman and Stevens business partner and confidante, to hide escaping slaves along the Underground Railroad system prior to the Civil War. This discovery will be part of a \$20-million educational complex, the Stevens

and Smith Historic Site (www.StevensAnd-Smith.org), a partner project led by the HPT. These profoundly meaningful structures in



and around the center, as well as the historic Downtown itself, make the Lancaster County Convention Center and Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square a remarkable destination unlike any facility of its kind in the nation.

For more information or to arrange a tour call Josh Nowak at 717-239-1600 or on the web at LancasterConventionCenter.com or LancasterMarriott.com.



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