

Historic Smithton Inn
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PRESS RELEASE

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Historic Smithton Inn Receives Heritage Designation

Bed and Breakfast Recognized as a Heritage Resource in the Lancaster County Heritage Program

Ephrata, PA (October 11, 2010) – The Historic Smithton Inn Bed and Breakfast, a checkerboard stone mansion located at the corner of Main Street (PA Route 322) and Academy Drive in Ephrata, has been officially designated as a “heritage lodging” establishment in the Lancaster County Heritage program.

Lancaster County Heritage is a countywide network of natural, cultural, and historic resources that are officially designated by the Lancaster County Planning Commission (LCPC). The program is managed by LCPC staff with an advisory council that includes local residents and heritage professionals. Every resource in the program meets strict guidelines for authenticity, interpretation, and visitor readiness.

With this designation, the Historic Smithton Inn joins over one hundred other resources included in the program. Examples include the Ephrata Cloister, Bube’s Brewery, Morton Fine Furniture, Ned Foltz Pottery, the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, Amish VIP Tours, Donegal Presbyterian Church, and the Fulton Opera House.

“Being recognized as an authentic heritage tourism resource by the LCPC is truly an honor,” noted Rebecca Gallagher, who owns the Smithton Inn with her husband, David. “The inn is a unique gem with a wonderful history, and we’re pleased to be able to share it with our guests and with members of the community.”

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Becoming a Heritage Resource means that the Smithton Inn will benefit from the promotional and technical resources of the county's heritage program. The Smithton can now display the program's authenticity seal (which features the phrase "Authentic Lancaster County, PA") and will be listed in the program's promotional materials, including its website. More importantly, the Smithton Inn is now part of a community of resources committed to preserving, protecting, and promoting Lancaster County's heritage.

"The Historic Smithton Inn Bed and Breakfast is a great addition to our family of authentic heritage resources," said Elijah Yearick, Long Range/Heritage Planner with the Lancaster Planning Commission. "Not only is the inn a beautiful example of a colonial-era tavern complete with local hand-crafted furniture, it is a tangible tie to Ephrata's history from the Cloister to the present day."

The Smithton Inn was originally built as a tavern to serve travelers along the Paxtang-Downingtown Turnpike (PA Route 322). The house was constructed in 1762 by Henry Miller and his wife Suzanna, and replaced an earlier wooden tavern built on the site by Henry's father Heinrich Mueller, who was an Ephrata Cloister "householder."

The property served guests until the Civil War, when it was converted into a private residence. Additions including a tailor shop were built in the mid 18th century. The building passed down through the Miller family until 1979, when it was purchased at auction by Alan Smith, and restored to its current function as a bed and breakfast. David and Rebecca Gallagher are only the third family to own the property.

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For more information about the Historic Smithton Inn Bed and Breakfast, visit <http://www.smithtoninn.com>. For additional information about Lancaster County Heritage, visit <http://www.lancastercountyheritage.com>.

The Historic Smithton Inn has been welcoming guests since it was built in 1763 and is an authentically renovated Pennsylvania Dutch stone mansion in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. The inn stands just a quarter mile from the Ephrata Cloister, one of Pennsylvania's state museums. Each of the seven guest rooms boast working fireplaces and strike a balance between old-world charm and modern comfort.