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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Heritage Crafts in the Spotlight at Lancaster County Government Center

Lancaster, Pa. (Aug. 5, 2010) – A handcrafted highboy is probably not what people expect to see on display at a government office building. Along West Chestnut Street, however, this chest and other examples of fine craftsmanship are taking center stage in the Lancaster County Government Center at 150 North Queen Street.

A display space on the building's ground floor has been transformed into a gallery showcasing the work of local craftspeople. From redware pottery to historically inspired furniture, each object on display represents a craft practiced in Lancaster County for generations.

"Using this space, we saw an opportunity to highlight the county's heritage by showcasing these talented local artisans," said Lancaster County Commissioner Scott Martin. "With the popularity of First Friday, we thought it was the perfect time to launch this display."

Featured in the display are seven craft traditions that the Lancaster County Planning Commission has officially designated as "heritage crafts." These designations were made as part of Lancaster County Heritage, a heritage tourism program managed by planning commission staff.

As Commissioner Craig Lehman noted, "In addition to the agricultural landscapes and historic buildings that Lancaster County is known for, we have a tradition of quality craftsmanship – and that's really evident in the works on display."

Commissioner Dennis Stuckey agreed, saying, "We support the heritage program because it introduces people – both residents and visitors – to some of the hidden treasures we have in Lancaster County."

This program features a wide range of heritage resources that authentically reflect the county's heritage, such as historic sites, museums, lodging and dining facilities. Each resource must meet the program's high standards for authenticity, interpretation, and visitor readiness.

The crafts display is slated to remain until the end of January.

**The Lancaster County Planning Commission** is the only agency in Lancaster County that comprehensively addresses county-wide planning issues. The commission combines county policies with federal and state planning responsibilities to support the application of county-wide plans for the future.

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