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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE STATE MUSEUM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR GUESTS TO  
'SHOP' FOR MEMORIES**

***-- New Exhibit Highlights Pennsylvania's Original Department Stores – Just in Time for the Holiday Shopping Season --***

**HARRISBURG, PA – NOVEMBER 3, 2005** – Do you remember when being “online” only meant waiting at a register to make a purchase? When people dressed up in their Sunday best to go shopping and big sales were only held twice a year? As a tribute to Pennsylvania’s department stores, past and present, The State Museum of Pennsylvania is showcasing a unique exhibition of photographs and memorabilia representing some of Pennsylvania’s finest department stores. The exhibit, *Shopping for Memories: Pennsylvania’s Department Stores* will open to the public at The Friends of the State Museum’s annual Holiday High Tea on Sunday, December 4 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall and will be on display until March 2006.

“We are excited to share this special exhibit with the public,” said Anita Blackaby, director of The State Museum. “This exhibit will bring people back to an era when a trip to a department store was a special outing for the entire family and online shopping didn’t exist. We hope it will bring back fond memories of years gone by.”

This exclusive exhibition of memorabilia will include photographs from Bon-Ton, Bowman’s ledgers, hatboxes and fashion apparel, a credit card and placemat from Wanamakers and a pink plaid coat from Mary Sachs, Pennsylvania’s own women’s department store.

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“Families spent all day in a Department store because there was so much to do, said Joan Prescott, former fashion model and a board member of The Friends. “From watching fashion shows to eating a meal to making a seasonal stop to sit on Santa’s lap, the original department stores offered something for everyone.”

The Holiday High Tea and exhibit is open to the public and includes gourmet hors d’oeuvres and champagne. Admission for adults is \$25.00 and \$18.50 for children under 12. To make reservations, please call The State Museum at (717) 783-5736 by Monday, November 28.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania is one of 25 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trail of History® administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-6778 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. For more information on other exhibitions, events and programs at The State Museum, click on [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org).

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