



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BETSY ROSS DEBUTS NEWLY REMODELED UPHOLSTERY SHOP;
EXHIBIT SUPPORTED BY AMERICAN EXPRESS**

Philadelphia, PA -- While Betsy Ross is best known for sewing our first Stars & Stripes, she was not a seamstress, as she is often called. Rather, Betsy was a highly-skilled upholsterer who covered chairs, made bed hangings and Venetian blinds, hung wallpaper and more from her bustling business on what was then Mulberry Street in Colonial Philadelphia.

Beginning January 13, 2010, the Betsy Ross House brings Betsy's business back to life in its newly redesigned shop. The only 18th century upholstery shop in America will now be hands-on and interactive. Visitors will meet Betsy, hard at work plying her trade, and have the chance to ask her, not only about how she came to sew the nation's first flag, but all about her business. They'll see real upholsterer's tools and learn first-hand how they were used.

The reinterpretation of the upholstery shop is complemented by the House's current exhibit, *Recovering the Past: The Upholstery Trade in Colonial Philadelphia*. Visitors to the exhibit learn about the colonial upholsterer's many skills, see historic tools of the trade, investigate common 18th century fabrics up close and learn the meanings of textile terms like *damask* and *linsey-woolsey*.

The remodeled upholstery shop was made possible with support by American Express as part of its commitment to serving and enriching our diverse cultural heritage.

About American Express:

American Express Company (www.americanexpress.com) is a leading global payments, network and travel company founded in 1850.

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About the Betsy Ross House: The Betsy Ross House is dedicated to preserving the legend of the first flag and the story of Betsy Ross, herself, and of all colonial women. The House, located at 239 Arch Street, just blocks from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is one of Philadelphia's most popular historic attractions with nearly 300,000 visitors annually.

The Betsy Ross House is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily April through September; closed Mondays October through March and Mondays and Tuesdays in January and February. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and seniors. An optional audio guide is \$5, which includes admission. For more information about the Betsy Ross House or any of its programs, call (215) 686-1252 or visit www.betsyrosshouse.org.

The Betsy Ross House is managed by Historic Philadelphia, Inc. HPI enhances the visitor experience and helps strengthen Philadelphia's tourism industry through interpretation and interaction, making our nation's history relevant and real. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s other programs include Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and the Lights of Liberty Show. For more information, call (215) 629-4026 or visit www.historicphiladelphia.org.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution images are available by emailing heather@historicphiladelphia.org.