

THE MCINTIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TRAIL was developed by the National Park Service and the Salem Partnership, a nonprofit public-private organization formed to promote economic growth and development in Salem and the surrounding region. For more information on the Partnership, visit their web site: <http://www.salempartnership.org>. For more information on Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Salem's own National Park, visit their web site: <http://www.nps.gov/sama>.

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Salem is only one of the many historic communities that are to be found in Essex County, Massachusetts. In 1996, Congress designated Essex County a National Heritage Area in order to enhance, preserve, and encourage awareness of the county's historic, cultural, and natural resources. For more information on the Essex National Heritage Area, please visit their web site: <http://www.essexheritage.org>.



THE MCINTIRE HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TRAIL



The distinctive McIntire Historic District encompasses an area with more than 300 historic structures. This urban walking tour, which takes the visitor past several of architect Samuel McIntire's significant houses, includes magnificent sea captains' houses as well as humble workers' cottages. It covers a little over a mile and takes about 45 minutes. The route is marked on posts and sidewalk plaques by a sheaf of wheat, designed by McIntire to symbolize Salem's prosperity.



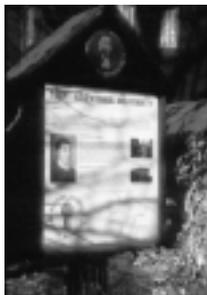
The McIntire Historic District contains one of the most significant concentrations of notable eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings in the United States.

Along the walk you'll pass fine examples of Georgian, Greek Revival, and Colonial Revival architectural styles, but this District is best known for its Federal-era homes designed or influenced by Samuel McIntire (1757-1811), Salem's renowned self-taught architect and woodcarver. Born in Salem, McIntire lived here all his life and is buried in the cemetery on Charter Street.

Beginning in the seventeenth century, Salem merchants established trading relationships with Europe and the West Indies, commerce that reached its apex between 1780 and 1820 as routes were opened to China, India, Russia, Sumatra, Africa, and South America. The wealth generated from maritime trade led to the construction of many of the buildings still standing in the District today.

Corner of North and Essex Streets

Your tour of the McIntire District begins at the **Witch House** on the corner of North and Essex Streets, built sometime after 1642 and completed by Jonathan Corwin in 1675. Corwin served as a judge during the 1692 witchcraft trials, and tradition holds that pretrial examinations of those suspected of witchcraft were held at this house. The building was saved from destruction in 1945 by Historic Salem, Inc., and restored nearly to its original appearance. *Open to the public seasonally.*



Walk west on Essex Street.

#316—First Church of Salem, on the right. This imposing granite block building, featuring stained glass windows by Tiffany and John LaFarge, was constructed in 1835-36 in the Gothic Revival style. It houses the oldest continuous Protestant congregation (established in 1629) in the United States. *Open for Sunday services.*

#318—The Ropes Mansion, owned by the Peabody Essex Museum, was built in 1727 and named for Judge Nathaniel Ropes, a strong Loyalist who bought the house in 1768 and died there when the house was attacked by a mob of patriots in 1774. His family fled Salem until after the Revolution, when his son reclaimed the homestead. Lived in by four generations of the Ropes family, the house with its contents was opened as a museum in 1912, providing an excellent

picture of the way of life of a prosperous early nineteenth-century Salem family. In the rear is a magnificent formal garden of annuals. *The house is open by appointment; the garden is open seasonally.*



Turn left onto Cambridge Street.

#329 Essex—Greymoor (1871) is on the right on the corner of Essex and Cambridge Streets. Notice this unusual High Victorian dwelling with its pillars, pilasters, and an eclectic selection of window hoods. The house once was owned by Frank Balch, inventor of the X-ray screen.



#9—Hamilton Hall (1805) was designed by McIntire. Named after the great Federalist Alexander Hamilton, it was built as a social gathering place. It has been used for many events, including a reception for the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824, and was the home of the Salem Assembly Debutante Ball from 1807 to 1980. The ballroom floor is built on springs to avoid tiring dancers.



Continue one block on Cambridge Street



and turn right onto Broad Street.



#18—The Pickering house on the right was built by John Pickering in 1651. Eleven generations of his descendants have lived here ever since, making it the only house in America to have been occupied continually by the same family for so many years. Timothy Pickering served in the George Washington and John Adams administrations variously as secretary of war, secretary of state, and secretary of the navy. *Open to the public seasonally.*

Broad Street Cemetery, on the left, is the resting place of Jonathan Corwin, of the witchcraft court, and Timothy Pickering.

Orne Square isn't visible from this point, but if you wish to digress a bit from the trail, you'll find it one block to the left of the cemetery. After the devastating Salem Fire of 1914 that burned 253 acres and left 15,000 people homeless (but miraculously burned around the McIntire District), these stucco row houses were constructed as demonstration houses.



Turn right onto Pickering Street, proceed to the end,



and turn left onto Chestnut Street.

Chestnut Street is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful and architecturally significant streets in America. Laid out in 1796, it quickly became an enclave of the wealthy merchant and maritime class, and also was home to many important Salem statesmen, artists, and authors.

It contains an outstanding collection of high-style Adamesque Federal mansions built largely between 1800 and 1830. While each is noteworthy in and of itself, it is the rhythm of buildings marching proudly down the street that particularly attracts attention.



The Walkway continues to the left up Chestnut Street.

Those who wish to take a brief detour to the right will find a number of handsome homes of historical interest.



#21-23—The Pickering-Mack-Stone double house (1814-15). The owners of this house entertained President Andrew Jackson here when he visited Salem in 1833.

#18—The Bott-Fabens house was the residence of author Nathaniel Hawthorne and his family for a short time in 1847. Standing before the street even was laid out in 1796, it is believed to be the oldest residence on Chestnut Street.

#15—The Amos and Solomon Towne house (1804), one of the oldest of Chestnut Street's Federal-style wooden mansions, is embellished with strongly stated, well proportioned architectural details.

#14—The Lee-Benson house (1834-35) is one of the earliest examples of Greek Revival architecture in Salem. Frank Benson, perhaps Salem's most famous artist, lived here, and Philip Little lived on the corner at #10. Both were early American impressionist painters; Benson in particular helped popularize the style in this country.



#12—The Jonathan Hodges house (1805) is the only residence on the street designed by McIntire. It was built as a two-family and converted into a single-family house in 1845.

South Church (1803-4), McIntire's masterpiece of ecclesiastical architecture, once stood in the large vacant garden next to #8 before it was destroyed by fire in 1903.

#2-4 Chestnut Street—The Studio double house (1826-27) was named after 1869, when it was rented as studio space to Frank Benson and Philip Little.

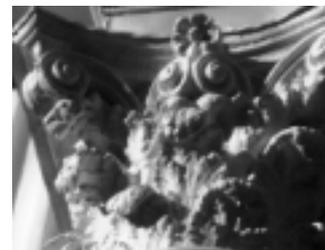
This is the last significant house on this detour. To continue along the trail, turn around and walk back down Chestnut Street.



#26—The Devereux-Hoffman-Simpson house is the last of the opulent one-family brick mansions to be built on Chestnut Street. From 1842 to 1878 it was the home of Charles Hoffman, a merchant in the African trade and a noted horticulturist.

#27—The Pickman-Shreve-Little house (1819) is one of Salem's finest Federal-style mansions. The residence from 1872 to 1898 of Benjamin Shreve, a founder of the famous Boston jewelers Shreve, Crump, and Low, this mansion also at one time was the home of Walter Poor, inventor of the low-wattage light bulb used to illuminate Times Square.

#28—The Ichabod Tucker house (1800) is believed to be the second-oldest dwelling on Chestnut Street. Built by carpenter Sims Brothers for Ichabod Tucker, the clerk of courts in Salem, it has the form of a late Georgian Colonial or Federal Neoclassical house, but the architectural ornamentation on its front facade is clearly Greek Revival. The house was enlarged, remodeled, and had the current facade added in 1846.



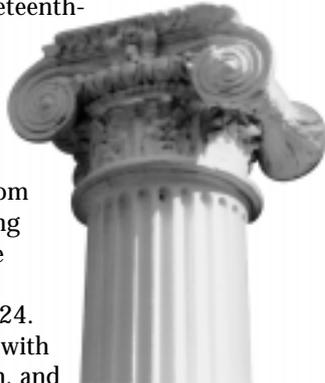
#30—The Wheatland-Phillips house (1896), one of the newest homes on Chestnut Street, is a spectacular example of the Colonial Revival style.

#31-33-35—The Allen-Osgood-Huntington triple house (1828-29) was built by Pickering Dodge, who also built 25 and 29 Chestnut Street. His son-in-law, John Fiske Allen, completed it after 1833. First occupied on the

western end by Charles Upham—mayor of Salem, state representative, president of the state senate, U.S. congressman, and author of *Salem Witchcraft*—the house is an excellent example of early nineteenth-century urban row housing.

#34—The Stephen Phillips Memorial Trust house is

noteworthy as the only house on the street to have been moved from another location. Wealthy shipping merchant Nathaniel West had the house carried in two pieces from Peabody by a team of oxen in 1824. Then the two parts were erected with a wide interior hall between them, and a third floor was added. The Phillips family later lived there for nearly sixty years. It now is the only Chestnut Street house open to the public. *Open seasonally.*



#37—The George Nichols house (1816-17) was built for George and Sally Nichols, who moved there from the Peirce-Nichols house on Federal Street, where they had lived with Sally's family. To the left of the front door is a small panel that opened to allow women wearing hoop skirts through the door unimpeded.

#41-43—The Saunders-Saltonstall-Tuckerman double house (1810-11) was built by Captain Thomas Saunders as a wedding present for his daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Caroline, who married the Saltonstall brothers, Nathaniel and Leverett. Leverett Saltonstall was elected Salem's first mayor in 1836.



At the end of Chestnut Street, turn right onto Flint Street.



A short block later, cross to the far side of Essex Street and turn right.

#384 Essex Street—The Dean-Sprague-Stearns house (1706) is the first house on your left. One of the earliest houses to survive in the District, it acquired the name "the East India House" when it was used as an inn and later as a tearoom in the 1930s. It was remodeled by McIntire at the end of the eighteenth century, and many parts of the dwelling, including the porch and Doric doorway, are attributed to him.



#380—The Sprague-Peabody-Silsbee house (1807) is probably the most impressive example of a three-story square brick Federal mansion on upper Essex Street. A lovely brick stable at the end of the drive features a center arch of the type McIntire introduced to Salem, and McIntire is believed to have done some interior carving for this residence.

#376—The Clarence S. Clark house (1894) on the left and **#377—the Ford-Emerson-Ives-Gifford house** on the right, are two outstanding examples of the Colonial Revival style, which incorporates many colonial features including hipped roofs, dormers, central doorways, Palladian windows, and corner pilasters. The style became popular in the 1890s and into the twentieth century.



#370—The Bertram-Waters house (Salem Public Library) (1855) formerly was the residence of Captain John Bertram, one of Salem's greatest merchants and philanthropists. His heirs donated the mansion to the city in 1887.



The fountain adjacent to the library on the corner of Monroe Street is a fine example of a Victorian garden ornament. Cast by Robert Wood of Philadelphia in the 1850s, it was owned originally by John Bertram.

#365—The Cabot-Endicott-Low house (1744) was built for merchant Joseph Cabot. The Georgian Colonial house was bought later by William Crowninshield Endicott, justice of the Massachusetts

Supreme Court and secretary of war under President Grover Cleveland. It is one of Salem's finest mid-eighteenth-century works of high-style domestic architecture.



At the corner by the fountain, turn left onto Monroe Street and walk a short block to Federal Street. The McIntire Walkway turns right on the far sidewalk of Federal Street.

Federal Street was laid out in 1766 on a ridge above the North River, and many homes on the north side of the street featured back lawns that reached to the river's edge. In the mid-nineteenth century, the river was channeled into a canal to accommodate the railroad and the growing leather industry.

#123—The **Saunders-Ward house** (1843) and #121—the **Joseph Winn Jr. house** (1843) together constitute one of Salem’s finest examples of domestic Greek Revival architecture. Pediment gables on the front evoke the style of an ancient Greek temple. The Winn house was built for Joseph Winn Jr., a wholesale shoe businessman and former captain of *St. Paul*, in its time Salem’s largest trading vessel.

#116-118—The **Leach-Nichols house** (1782), #112-114—the **Page-Lawrence-Farrington house** (1786), and #108-110—the **Orne-Prince house** (1788). Each of this trio of early Federal-style three-story wooden dwellings in the block between Beckford and Lynn Streets was built within six years of one another, forming Salem’s most impressive immediate post-Revolutionary War streetscape.

#91-93—The **Mason-Roberts-Colby house** (1768), at the corner of Federal Street and Federal Court, is a good example of Georgian Colonial style. Based on entries in Rev. William Bentley’s diary, it is believed that the house originally was at the present site of the Forrester-Peabody house at 29 Washington Square North (Salem Common) and was moved here in 1818 by a team of sixty oxen. It was not uncommon to move houses during that period.

#80—The **Peirce-Nichols house** (1782) is owned by Peabody Essex Museum. This late Georgian style home with stables in the rear is believed to be Samuel McIntire’s first architectural commission. It was designed for the wealthy merchant Jerathmiel Peirce, who conducted his trade with India from his wharf on the North River and co-owned the merchant ship *Friendship*, a replica of which is berthed at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site. Twenty years later, then working in his Adamesque Federal style, McIntire returned to design a new front fence and remodeled the eastern rooms. The contrasting architectural styles and McIntire’s superb interior wood carving make this house an outstanding example of the domestic architecture of its period. *Open by appointment.*

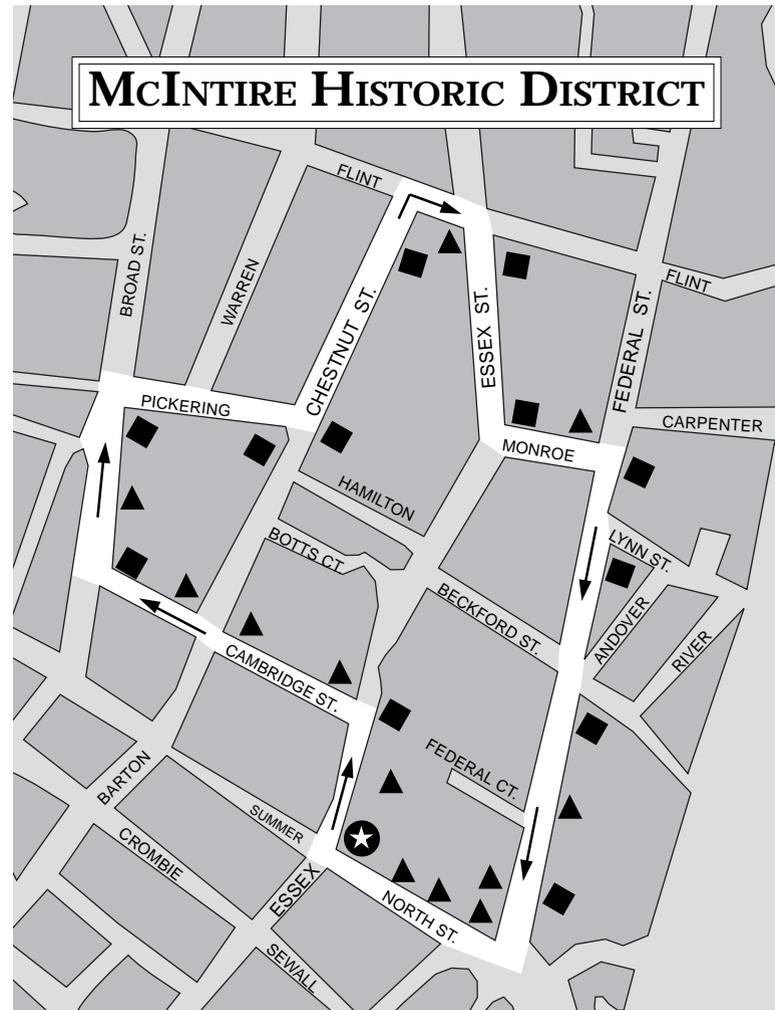
At the end of Federal Street, look to your left at the North Street overpass. The original span, a drawbridge, was the site of the first bloodshed of the American Revolution—52 days before the battles at Concord and Lexington.



Turn right onto North Street.

#9—The **Bowditch-Osgood house** (c. 1805), on the right-hand side of North Street and the last house on the tour, was the residence of noted mathematician and astronomer Nathaniel Bowditch from 1811 to 1823. Bowditch revolutionized the science of navigation, and his *New American Practical Navigator*, first published in 1802, even today is considered a basic navigational text.

This completes your tour of the McIntire Historic District.



Trailhead



Cast iron bollards with cast bronze finials



Cast bronze directional plaques