

## 48 Chestnut St

Philanthropist Carolyn Emmerton built the house on this property in 1909 on Historic Chestnut Street in the Samuel McIntire Historic district. She had previously been responsible for restoring the House of the Seven Gables. The house is a Georgian Colonial Revival inspired by the Richard Derby House located at 168 Derby St in Salem. William G. Rantoul of Salem and Boston was the architect. Touches include the doorway adapted from the Peirce-Nichols on Federal Street.

To help you with your decision I've included pages from the Colonial Architecture of Salem by Frank Cousins and Phil Madison Riley, Historic Buildings of Massachusetts, and Architecture in Salem by Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., with Carolyn K. Tolles.

Colonial Architecture of Salem  
By Frank Cousins and Phil Madison Riley  
48 Chestnut Street

Plate CXXII and pages 246-247



Perhaps the most notable example of the modern gambrel-roof house of brick is the residence of Francis A. Seaman, Number 48 Chestnut Street, although not in the fire district and built shortly before the conflagration occurred. Its location on one of the finest streets of Colonial architecture in America, however, precluded the possibility of resorting to any other style. The house is a free adaptation of the Richard Derby house, on Derby Street, the oldest brick house still standing in Salem, and careful observation will disclose at once many details which correspond and several which differ. The paired chimneys at both ends of the older house have been omitted in the design of the new in accordance with the exigencies of the floor plan, and the newer doorway, while equivalent to the older in mass, varies considerably in detail. The recess of a sunken vestibule together with the projection of the Doric pediment supported by full, round, engaged columns constitutes an entrance porch. As a whole the effect more closely resembles that of the Pierce-Johonnot-Nichols entrance, on Federal Street, rather than the Derby doorway, although it has less projection, and

low Roman rather than high Tuscan plinths have been used. The jambs of the older house, suggestive of cut marble blocks, have been retained and the door is similarly paneled, except that bull's-eye glasses replace the upper panels as a substitute for the horizontal top light. The simple wood fence reflects good Colonial spirit and altogether the house is a worthy companion of its older neighbor.

# Historic Buildings of Massachusetts

(masshistoricbuildingsct.com)

## The Francis A. Seamans House (1909)

Posted on December 20, 2010 by Daniel



This entry was posted in Colonial Revival, Houses, Salem and tagged Gambrel.

<http://mass.historicbuildingsct.com/?p=2325>

The house at 48 Chestnut Street in Salem was built in 1909 for Caroline O. Emmerton, the philanthropist who had the year before purchased the House of the Seven Gables and would oversee its restoration as a museum. Designed by architect William G. Rantoul and modeled on the Derby House in Salem, the house on Chestnut Street was quickly sold to Francis A. Seamans, who lived there for over twenty years.

## Architecture in Salem

by Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., with Carolyn K. Tolles  
This picture and its text is on page 213 of the book



E-27

### E-27 FRANCIS A. SEAMANS HOUSE

48 Chestnut Street at Flint  
NR, MHD

1909

At a glance, the last house on the north side of Chestnut Street would seem to date from before 1796, when this artery was first laid out. In fact, it is the newest residence on the street, and an excellent Colonial Revival adaptation of the Richard Derby house (1761/62) (see B-10) located at 168 Derby Street. Planned and executed in 1909 by Boston and North Shore architect William G. Rantoul (1867-1949) for philanthropist Caroline O. Emmerton (see B-13 and D-44), this two-story, gambrel-roof, brick dwelling was promptly sold to Francis A. Seamans, who lived there with his wife until after 1930.

The Seamans house lacks the double parapet end chimneys, wide 12/12 double sash windows, boldly defined dormer pediments, and Palladian doorway surround of the Derby house, but in most other respects it is similar. The brickwork, as is evident in the molded water table, string courses, and dentiled cornice, is as fine in the newer building as in its 18th-century predecessor. The Roman Doric entrance porch of the Seamans house was most likely copied from the McIntire entrance porches of the Peirce-Nichols house (see D-1) at 80 Federal Street.

Today  
48 Chestnut Street in 2012



The Derby House on Derby Street in Salem

