

*Deposited May 6, 1975
by Sally Doe*

TO: HISTORIC SALEM, INC. HOUSE DOCUMENTATION (Sign Committee)

(rm.....Date building erected)

Brick building owned by Woman's Friend Society
12 Hawthorne Blvd. Salem, Mass.

Book at Essex Institute...Title: "Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver,
The Architect of Salem" By: Fiske Kimball
Esx.Inst.# 720.974 K 49 C2 Page 135

From page 135....Joseph Fenno Houses, Hawthorne Blvd. (formerly 12-14 Elm St.)
Built 1811 - 1812
Principal owners: Lakeman, Bertram, Woman's Friend Society

Land deeded to Fenno in June 1796 (Registry of Deeds 161:6)

Document at Essex Institute 720.974 S19.1
Title...McIntire Bicentennial Celebration
Tour of McIntire Buildings May 11 - 12 1957
Salem, Massachusetts

(Bldg. #2) Joseph Fenno House, 12 Hawthorne Blvd. Salem
Owner: Women's Friend Society

Built by Joseph Fenno
Erected in 1811-12 according to tax returns
House attributed to Samuel Field McIntire because of style

Works in Architecture by Samuel Field McIntire

Joseph Fenno Houses

Hawthorne Boulevard (formerly 12-14 Elm Street)

Built 1811-1812

Principal owners: Lakeman, Bertram, Woman's Friend Society

(Figures 350, 354, 355)

The brick building originally comprising two houses, was erected by Joseph Fenno after 1809 and was apparently still unfinished in 1811, as will appear by the following history of the property. Miles Ward deeded to Fenno in June, 1796, a tract on the west side of Elm Street, which Ward had acquired by several conveyances, between 1782 and 1793 (Deeds 161:6). No houses are conveyed by this deed, and none are mentioned in these previous conveyances (except in one from Ebenezer Ward which mentions buildings, but not of brick). No house on Elm Street appears in the list of brick houses in Salem in 1806.⁵⁵ The tax books of Ward 1, rate Fenno as follows:

1806-1809	House.		\$1800
1810	(Tax book missing).		
1811	Brick House.	\$1500	
	Homestead.	\$1200	\$2700
1812	Brick House.		\$2400

⁵⁵ *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, 1 (1859), 55.

[135]

Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver

The increase in valuation of the brick house from \$1,500 to \$2,400 between 1811 and 1812 would seem to indicate it was not completed in 1811. On March 18, 1812 Fenno gave a mortgage for \$2,200 on the property, "together with two dwelling houses and all other buildings standing on the premises" (Assignments 196:238), and on August 14, 1814 sold the lot, "with dwelling houses of brick and wood," to John W. Fenno. He conveyed the southerly house (Number 14) to Joseph W. Peabody May 14, 1812 (Deeds 229:251); the northerly house (Number 12) to Aaron Perkins May 29, 1832 (247:159), Perkins then selling this house, with less land, to Ebenezer Lakeman June 4 of the same year (263:298). Lakeman's heirs sold it to John Bertram April 16, 1879 (1015:49) and he immediately deeded it to his daughter (1017:60) in trust, to be occupied by the Woman's Friend Society, to whom she deeded the property April 21, 1884 (1132:89). At this time the southerly house was owned by William O'Donnell.

The mantel in the front parlor forms part of the original finish of the house. The one in the rear parlor, also by Samuel Field McIntire, was brought, according to the late John Robinson, from the house at 2 Chestnut Street, which he once occupied.

Charles J. Pease

G. M. Emmerton
to (w/4 P. 6)
Woman's Friend Soc.

Know all Men by these presents That I, Jennie M. Emmerton, wife of George R. Emmerton, of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by virtue of the power and authority given to me in and by the deed in trust of John Bertram late of said Salem dated April 21st A. D. 1884 and recorded with the registry of deeds for said County of Essex, Southern District, Book 1017 Leaf 60, and of every other power and authority me hereto enabling; in consideration of one dollar to me paid by the Woman's Friend Society, a Corporation duly established by law in said Commonwealth, and located in said Salem, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Woman's Friend Society a certain piece or parcel of land with the brick dwelling house thereon, situated in said Salem and bounded and described as follows, viz: beginning at the centre of the brick block erected by Joseph Forns on the west side of Colm Street: thence running Northerly by said Street and bounded Easterly by the same thirty four (34) feet six (6) inches to land of the heirs of the late John Nichols: thence running Westerly by land of said heirs of said Nichols One hundred and thirty seven (137) feet, six (6) inches to land of the heirs of the late Alice C. Carle: thence running Southerly and bounded Westerly by land of said Carle heirs thirty four (34) feet, six (6) inches: thence running Easterly by land of William O. Donnell, One hundred and thirty five (135) feet to the point begun at in the Centre of the said brick block: It being the same estate conveyed to the said Bertram by John R. Lakeman et al by deed dated April 16th A. D. 1879, and to me by the deed in trust above mentioned. To have and to hold the same, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Woman's Friend Society forever, but in trust nevertheless for the charitable and other purposes and objects of said corporation as set forth in its charter. In witness whereof I, the said Jennie M. Emmerton have hereunto set my hand and seal this twelfth day of June in the year of our Lord Eighteen hundred and Eighty four.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, SALEM, MASS. . . . Book 1132 Page 89

Commonwealth of Massachusetts } Jennie M. Emmerton (seal)

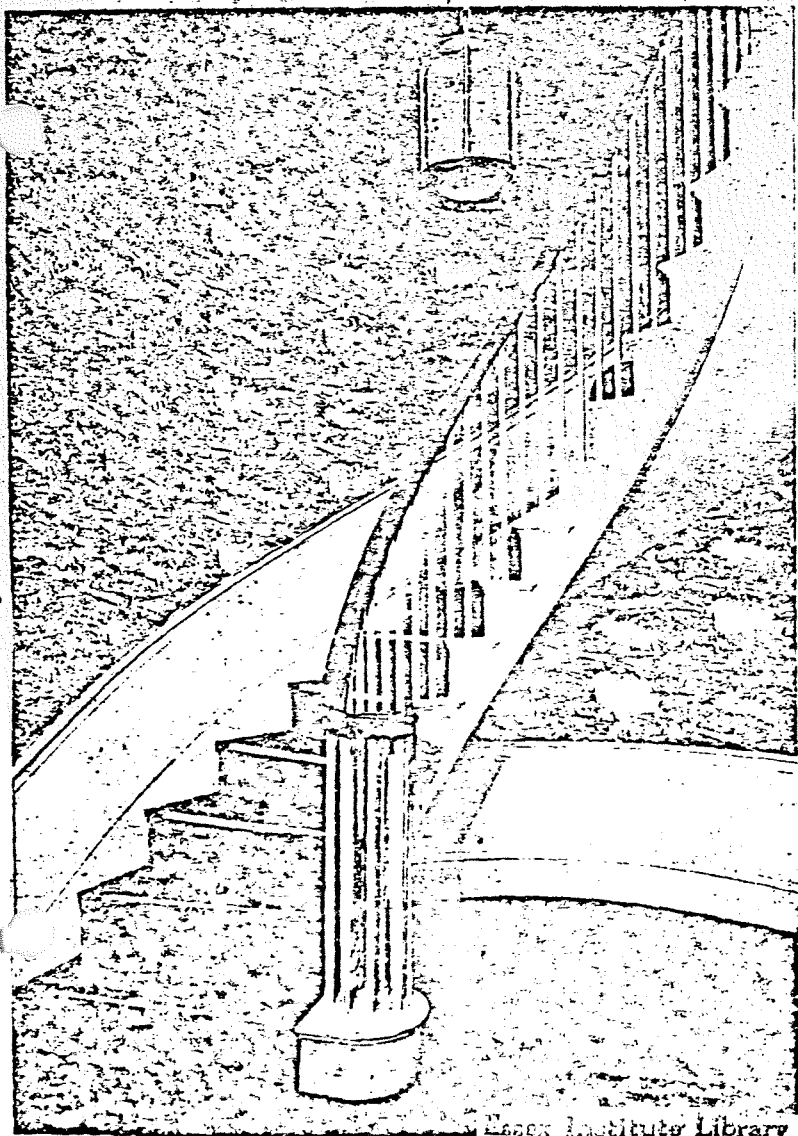
EMMERTON HOUSE

This fine early nineteenth century Salem residence is comfortably adapted as an attractive, inexpensive home for business women and students. The house, with its fine McIntire carving, is located on Hawthorne Boulevard, convenient to the center of Salem, and has accommodations for twenty-five women in single or double rooms. The house is managed by a capable resident director, in co-operation with the Board of Directors of the Woman's Friend Society. Breakfast and dinner, included in the weekly rate, are served in a pleasant dining-room. Attractive living-rooms and garden for the use of all guests, make Emmerton House a very desirable home. When available, rooms are rented to transients.

Emmerton House is also the headquarters of the Salem District Nurse Association, which, with a Director and several assistants takes care of the public health nursing in this community of 42,000.

Figure 350. Joseph Fenno House, Hawthorne Boulevard, 1811-1812

Stairs.



WOMAN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

The Woman's Friend Society was founded by an energetic group of Salem women in 1876. The women opened a "Girls' Reading Room" in the center of town, and soon were loaned a portion of a home, where rooms could be rented and simple entertainment offered. Then the work was expanded by starting an employment "bureau", and a center of distribution for needlework to women who must work in their own homes. In 1879 Captain John Bertram, prominent merchant and philanthropist, loaned one-half of a large brick house to the society. At his death this was given outright by his daughter, Jennie (Bertram) Emmerton, and became the permanent headquarters. Later, the other half was purchased, and a large ell built through the efforts of generous members and friends. The society has always been alert to innovations and changes in social work. For many years an important branch was the "Mission to the Sick", a weekly distribution of food baskets to needy shut-ins. An industrial branch taught women dress-making and fine needlework. Both branches were discontinued when need for them ceased. An important department, the work of the District Nurse, started in 1897, is still an active part of the society.

The home of the Woman's Friend Society, now known as Emmerton House, located at 12 Hawthorne Boulevard, is a pleasing tribute to the work of the members of the society.