

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New England's Holiday Classic Returns in 2010

31st Annual *Christmas in Salem* House Tour Announced for December 3 - 5

SALEM, MA—Once again, historic Salem, Massachusetts will welcome thousands of holiday visitors for Historic Salem Inc.'s *Christmas in Salem* celebration taking place December 3 - 5, 2010. Marking 31 years, *Christmas in Salem* has selected 11 beautiful properties in the North Fields and downtown areas of Salem for its extremely popular historic house tour, allowing visitors to step back in time and enjoy the holiday spirit.

These New England homes will be decked out in full holiday regalia designed by the area's leading decorators. Learn the history and unique character of these elegant antique homes both inside and out while enjoying all the holiday season has to offer.

Christmas in Salem includes more than just the house tour. Enjoy a festive Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 4 at the historic Hawthorne Hotel. Lectures and musical performances will be available at the Tabernacle Congregational Church. This weekend will also be the perfect opportunity for holiday shopping at the Salem Garden Club boutique and in the stylish, eclectic shops and many restaurants in the area.

The popular Candlelight Tour of Three Homes (for advance ticket holders only) will be held on Friday, December 3, 2010 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. For the first time ever, this event takes place during the Dearborn Street Illumination. On Saturday, December 4 from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM and Sunday, December 5 from 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM all houses will be open for tours with complimentary trolley service available.

Advance ticket prices are **\$25** each for Historic Salem, Inc. members and **\$30** each for the general public. Tickets may be purchased in advance by visiting www.ChristmasinSalem.org or by calling Historic Salem, Inc. at 978.745.0799. Deadline for advance ticket sales is Wednesday, December 1 at 5:00 PM .

Tickets for the house tours can be purchased at the Tabernacle Congregational Church, 50 Washington Street, on December 4 and 5 for **\$35** each.

Christmas in Salem is presented by Historic Salem, Inc. an advocacy group dedicated to preserving Salem's historic resources and educating the community to their value. The historic house tour and other fundraising efforts of Historic Salem, Inc. are the sole source of funds for the restoration of the National Historic Landmark, The Nathaniel Bowditch House.

Images and additional information are available upon request.

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