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2011 *CHRISTMAS IN SALEM* HOUSE TOUR SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2-4
Holiday classic to “Rediscover the McIntire District”

September 27, 2011, SALEM, MA— *Christmas in Salem*, thought to be the nation’s oldest holiday house tour, returns to one of tour goers’ favorite historic neighborhoods for three days of beautiful homes and fabulous decorations. “Rediscover the McIntire District” will welcome visitors to 13 homes and public properties for a Friday night candlelight tour, followed by two days of open houses and a host of holiday activities.

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of *Christmas in Salem* and features 11 private homes dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries, plus the Salem Athenaeum and Historic New England’s Phillips House; all will be decorated for the season by a selection of area interior designers, florists, garden clubs, and talented individuals. This year also pays tribute to William Rantoul, a noted Colonial Revival architect and Salem resident, who designed several of the sites on this year’s tour.

Christmas in Salem has become far more than a house tour. It’s now a citywide event for both residents and out-of-town visitors. There are wine tastings and a holiday tea, concerts, and talks on the McIntire Historic District and Samuel McIntire, the renowned architect and carver for whom the neighborhood is named. Group tour and AAA drive packages are available.

Always held the first weekend in December, *Christmas in Salem* is the perfect time for lunch or dinner with friends, not to mention shopping. You’ll find holiday decorations for sale at the Salem Garden Club boutique and the welcome mat out—along with discounts for tour goers—at many local attractions, museums, restaurants and retailers. The complimentary trolley that takes visitors from downtown parking locations to the tour route also passes close to these sites as well.

The popular Candlelight Tour of Four Homes (for advance ticket holders only) will be held on Friday, December 2, 2011, from 5:30 – 8:30 PM. On Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM and Sunday, December 4 from 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM all sites will be open for tours.

Advance ticket prices are available as of October 1, 2011, and 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, November 30 at 5:00 PM.

Tickets for the house tours can be purchased at the Tabernacle Congregational Church, 50 Washington Street, on December 3 and 4 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 primary source of funds for the restoration of the National Historic Landmark, The Nathaniel Bowditch House.

Images and additional information are available upon request.