



THE PEIRCE-NICHOLS HOUSE, SALEM.
Erected in 1782, Samuel McIntire, Architect.

Salem, Mass., July 20, 1916.

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The Essex Institute is attempting to provide for the preservation of the so-called "Peirce-Nichols House," No. 80 Federal Street, Salem. This house is perhaps the finest example of late eighteenth century architecture now standing in this part of the country. It is the work of that interesting architect and master of interior detail, Samuel McIntire. The outside of the house is interesting from its splendid proportions and elaborate ornamentation, but it is the interior, with its beautiful carving and paneling and the perfect state of preservation in which it remains, that gives the house its real distinction. The mantels, doorheads and paneling are familiar to every student of colonial architecture, as they have been photographed and reproduced many times.

The destruction or extensive alteration of such a magnificent specimen of Georgian architecture would be a crime for which Salem and its friends would always be reproached. The present holders, the Misses Nichols, are

anxious to make some disposition of the property and the officers of the Essex Institute felt that while the undertaking was a considerable one, it was nevertheless their duty to do what they could to assure the preservation of the house. A committee consisting of Mr. William C. Endicott, the President of the Institute, Mr. John Robinson and Mr. Stephen W. Phillips were appointed by the Institute to investigate the matter and recommend a plan. They took an option upon the house and the Institute has authorized the raising of an amount of money sufficient to purchase the house and create a small sum to maintain it. The Misses Nichols, who are absolutely devoted to the house, met us in more than a friendly spirit and agreed to what seemed to the committee a very low price subject to their right to live in the house during their life time, agreeing, however, to open it for inspection at certain stated times. At their death the Institute has the right to use it in any way consistent with the primary purpose of preserving it unaltered.

Several large contributions have already been received but several thousand dollars must still be raised. It is not a subject for a great popular subscription but it is hoped that there are many persons sufficiently interested in this beautiful old landmark to contribute to its preservation. Cheques should be drawn "Peirce-Nichols House Preservation Fund" and sent to Mr. Stephen W. Phillips, Treasurer of the Committee, 34 Chestnut Street, Salem, Mass. or may be handed to Mr. William O. Chapman, Treasurer of the Essex Institute.

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT
 JOHN ROBINSON
 STEPHEN W. PHILLIPS

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PRESERVATION OF THE PEIRCE-NICHOLS HOUSE
 80 FEDERAL STREET, SALEM, MASS.
Under the auspices of the Essex Institute.

I hereby agree to contribute.....
 dollars, for the Preservation of the Peirce-Nichols House in Salem by the
 Essex Institute and to make payment of the same on or before November
 15th, 1916 to Stephen W. Phillips, Treasurer of the Committee on Preser-
 vation, 34 Chestnut Street, Salem.

Name

Address

Date

Cheques should be drawn to the order of "Peirce-Nichols House Preser-
 vation Fund."