



# Market Street Trail...

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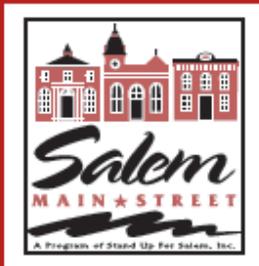


William Sharp House (1862)



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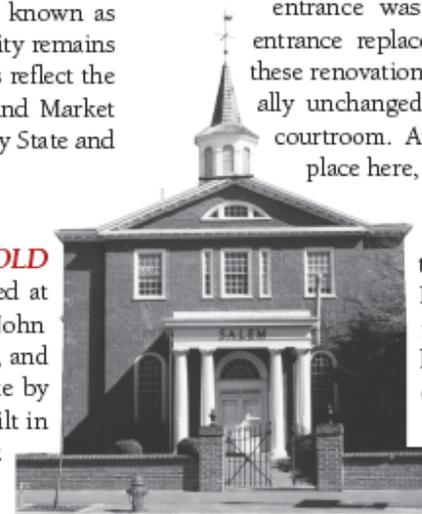


**WELCOME TO HISTORIC SALEM, NJ** – the oldest permanent English-speaking settlement in the Delaware Valley. John Fenwick, an English Quaker, brought the first colonists to this place in 1675, initiating settlement of West Jersey, the first Quaker colony in North America. He named his colony “Salem,” meaning “peace,” and laid out the first streets of “New Salem”: Bridge, Fenwick and Wharf Streets, today known as Market Street and East and West Broadway. Salem City remains the county seat of Salem County, and its streetscapes reflect the history of this people and place. Both Broadway and Market Street are listed as historic districts on the New Jersey State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Indeed, most of the brick used in Salem’s early buildings was manufactured locally. The building was enlarged in 1817. At that time, the front door faced Market St. and the county jail occupied the corner of Market and Broadway. After the old jail building was removed, the Courthouse was again enlarged and remodeled in the Colonial Revival style (1908). The entrance was moved to face Broadway, and the old entrance replaced with a Palladian window. Throughout these renovations, the distinctive bell tower remained virtually unchanged and the original bell is displayed in the courtroom. Among the many stirring events that took place here, none perhaps are more compelling than the treason trials of 1778. Local Patriots indicted and tried neighbors suspected of aiding the British during the Salem Raid in February and March of that same year. Four men were condemned to death for crimes of high treason; however, they were all pardoned by Governor William Livingston and exiled from New Jersey.

It should be noted that originally

**1** All of Salem’s Heritage Trails begin at the **OLD SALEM COUNTY COURTHOUSE**, located at the corner of East Broadway and Market Street. John Fenwick laid out the original courthouse lot himself, and the courthouse and jail were constructed on this site by 1692. The first part of the present structure was built in 1735, using brick made here in Salem County.



Salem's streets were unpaved, meaning that in dry seasons the air was very dusty, and in times of rain, there was a sea of mud to contend with. The condition of the streets, in fact, were so difficult that in the 1840's one local critic claimed that a steamboat was needed to get from the wharf to East Broadway! With paving, however, all that remains are subtle reminders of the muddy past—boot scrapes.

Market Street was originally the main access to the city from the north and west, for there was no bridge over the Salem River (today's Rt. 49) until the early 19th century. The original name "Bridge Street" referred to the Fenwick Creek crossing, which in turn led to a causeway bridge over the Salem River to Pennsville. This was the route General "Mad" Anthony Wayne used when he led foragers into Salem to secure much-needed supplies for the Continental Army wintering at Valley Forge in February 1778. Known as the "Great Cow Chase", the event was successful in acquiring enough cattle to save Washington's army from starvation. Shortly thereafter, British-led Loyalist troops came into the city by the same route and with the same objective - to secure supplies for their army quartered in Philadelphia, an event that came to be known as the Salem Raid and that led to the Battle at Quinton's Bridge and the infamous massacre at Hancock's Bridge.

As the present name suggests, this was a mixed commercial and residential street, much as it is today. In fact an open-air market shed was built where the Surrogate's Building stands today (98 Market St.).

Walking north along Market St., you will notice that generally speaking the oldest homes are located on the odd numbered, or west side of the street. This is because much of the land on the right remained in agricultural use into the 19th century. The result is an interesting mix of architectural styles, dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

**2 SALEM COUNTY CLERK AND SURROGATE'S OFFICE.** (98) This impressive building was completed 1853 to replace a smaller brick structure constructed forty-nine years earlier. The building was designed to be impermeable to outside fires, built as it was with double-thick brick walls and an arched roof. Such protection was deemed necessary since the building housed all county records.



**3 GARWOOD HOUSE.** (113-117) There has been a tavern located at this site since the 1730's, and part of the original structure is incorporated in the present, imposing building. Recent restoration work revealed that this 18th century building was also quite large - probably only exceed in size by the courthouse and the Friends Meetinghouse at the time of the American Revolution. This may explain why some sessions of the Treason Trials were held in this building.



This holstery has been operated under a number of names - Sherron's, Green's and the Steamboat Hotel - but is best known by its present name, reflecting over thirty years of operation by Joseph G. Garwood in the late 19th century.

**4 MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK** is located next to the Garwood House. Dedicated in 1987, the park honors America's most important champion for Civil Rights and Salem's historic African-American community - one of the oldest in the state. The band shell provides an attractive site for outdoor concerts and events throughout the summer season.

**5 THOMAS SMITH AND ALPHONSO EAKIN HOMES AND LAW OFFICES.** (89-95) Among the most imposing homes on Market Street, the Smith and Eakin Houses are stunning examples of Greek Revival architecture, both constructed in the mid 1840's, although the Eakin House (89) incorporates parts of a much older building in the rear built in the early 18th century by William Parret. Smith and Eakin were both attorneys and constructed their offices immediately adjacent to their homes. Eakin's Office (91) is directly accessible from his home and remains remarkably intact. Smith's Office appears to be a much older building that may have been moved to its present location, for such a practice was not uncommon. Not surprisingly, Smith and Eakin chose to live and work near the Courthouse - Salem counted a



large number of attorney's among its residents in the 18th and 19th centuries. If you look down the alley between the two offices you will see a Moorish style bathhouse, complete with crescent moon spire. A rare architectural survivor, the bathhouse may have been used by both families, for there is a gate connecting the two properties right by this building.

**6 FENWICK BUILDING** (85) In the late 19th century several inns were thriving in Salem. This building was built in 1891 as Ford's Hotel, and was considered the most elegant and modern hotel in town. The house featured excellent accommodations and fine dining. In 1919, however, the building became the first location for the Memorial Hospital of Salem County, dedicated to the memory of the soldiers and sailors from the county who died during World War I. The hospital continued at this site until the present building was constructed in Mannington Township in 1951. Now known as the Fenwick Building, this great Victorian style structure houses county offices, while retaining many of its original exterior details.



**7 ALEXANDER GRANT HOUSE.** (79-83) The Grant House is one of the oldest surviving buildings on Market Street, and the only residential building in Salem City in which its original "pattern brick" design is visible. This distinctive style features the use of dark or "vitrified" brick to create a design - in this case a Flemish checker bond. The earliest position of the street facade was built in 1721 and the property remained in the possession of the builders' descendants until 1929 when it was bequeathed to the Salem County Historical Society. For most of its history, however, this was a commercial property - the site of a "Temperance Hotel" in the 19th century and a number of professional offices. It was here that John S. Rock received professional training to become a dentist. After leaving Salem, Rock went on to study medicine and law, and became the first African American admitted to practice law before the US Supreme Court.

The building today is maintained by the Salem County Historical Society, which has been located here for over a cen-

tury. The Society is open to the public and features long-term and changing exhibitions and an important research library. The rear garden features the John Jones Law Office, an unusual one-room brick structure of octagonal design. Built in 1735 and moved twice, the building is believed to be the oldest Law Office in the United States.

**8 NEW JOHNSON HALL.** (90) Built in 1806, this state-ly home is one of the region's most outstanding Federal-style buildings. Robert Gibbon Johnson, the builder, is also believed to have been the architect, which may explain some of the house's idiosyncratic features. Most notably, the building does not exhibit the kind of balanced facade treatment that one usually expects to see in such a formal structure - the windows of the first and second floors are not in alignment with each other and are not evenly spaced, and the doorway is not centered. Both the exterior doorway and the interior, however, feature exquisite, delicate carving in the "punch and gouge" style - so named for the manner in which it was executed.

Johnson was one of Salem's most colorful and influential citizens. He witnessed the Salem Raid as a young child and wrote about his experience in *An Historical Account of the First Settlement of Salem* (1839), the first published history of a New Jersey county. He is also the subject of an oft-repeated local legend. It is said that he was the first person to prove that the tomato is not poisonous by publicly eating one of the fruits on the Courthouse steps in 1820. The story, while colorful, does not appear to be based in fact, but it is known that Johnson was an active promoter of agriculture locally.



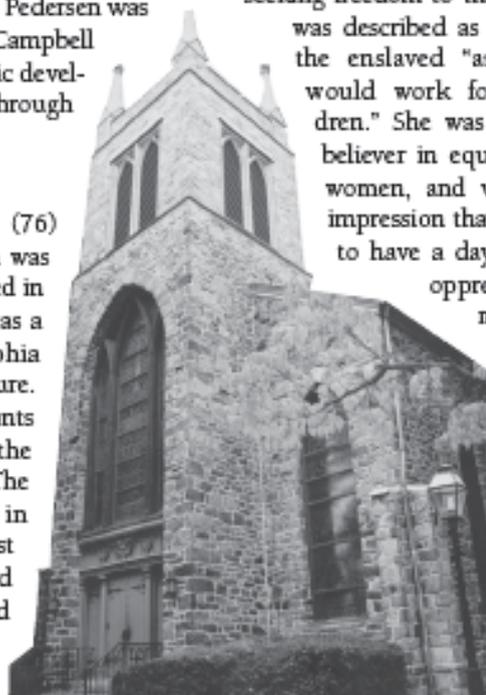
**9 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALEM.** (88) Completed in 1856, this church is a local landmark - and navigational aide - featuring a soaring steeple the reaches 165 feet into the sky. The architect was John McArthur, who later designed Philadelphia City Hall, the tallest masonry structure in the United States. The interior features a memorial window made by Tiffany Studios in 1902. This building replaces an earlier structure on Grant Street, still the site of the church's cemetery. Located next to St. John's, the cemetery features the Centennial Oak, an offspring of the famous Salem Oak planted in 1876 as part of the American Centennial Celebration. Recently a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust supported restoration of the church spire.

A newly added memorial garden, complete with brick walks and historic lamp posts (c.1820) provides passersby with a place for quiet meditation.

**10 71-73 MARKET STREET.** Store and home built by John G. Thackeay in 1846 on the site of a much earlier structure that originally adjoined 75 Market. The structure served as Thackeay's harness shop and he resided above. The building is believed to be one of the most intact urban storefronts in Salem City.

**11 GEORGE TRENCHARD HOUSE** (57) This late 18th century house was the home of one of Salem's most distinguished 20th century citizens - Charles J. Pedersen. In 1987, Pedersen was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for his work in the development of crown ethers. Pedersen was also an important civic leader who with John B. Campbell founded Stand Up for Salem in 1988, an economic development organization that continues its work through the Salem Main Street program, begun in 1999.

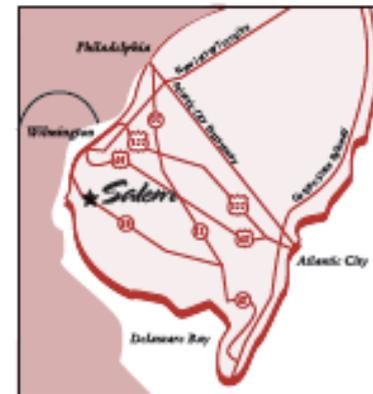
**12 ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** (76) Founded in 1722, St. John's first church was built at this location in 1728 and almost destroyed in 1778 by Loyalist Troops who used the building as a barracks. William Strickland of Philadelphia designed the present Gothic Revival structure. Strickland is perhaps best known for the Merchants Exchange building in Philadelphia and the Tennessee State Capital Building in Nashville. The Rev. Henry M. Mason dedicated this building in 1838, and shortly thereafter moved to Christ Church Parish in Easton, MD, where he convinced the congregation to build a new church based upon the same plan that he had worked out here



in Salem. The adjoining churchyard contains the graves of a number of prominent Salem residents. Most poignant, perhaps, is the grave of Edward G. Prescott, located to the right of the front door. Prescott was a beloved rector of the church who died at sea in 1844 - the marker is a tribute to the esteem in which his congregation held him.

**13 JANE T. SMITH HOUSE.** (56) This imposing double house with its original pressed tin mansard roof is built in the Second Empire style, the first of a number of imposing Victorian frame residences encountered on this side of the street. These buildings were largely constructed in the second half of the 19th century and offer an interesting visual contrast to the mostly Federal homes they face on the west side of the street. This mix of architectural styles is one of the street's great assets and attractions.

**14 GOODWIN SISTERS HOUSE.** (47) This handsome Federal House with sunburst transom over the front door was built in 1821, but is best known as the home of Abigail and Elizabeth Goodwin who operated a station of the Underground Railroad at this site. Abigail Goodwin, a faithful member of the Religious Society of Friends was particularly ardent in her belief in the equality of all people, and is remembered as denying herself in order to assist fugitives seeking freedom to the north. She was described as working for the enslaved "as a mother would work for her children." She was also a firm believer in equal rights for women, and wrote in the 1850s: "I have a strong impression that the colored people and the women are to have a day of prosperity and triumph over their oppressors." This site is one of the few documented Underground Railroad stations in New Jersey.



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**15 WOODNUTT-ARCHER HOUSE.** (41-43) Like the Jane T. Smith House, this imposing residence is a handsome example of the Second Empire style, but represents a radical remodeling and enlargement of two earlier houses. John V. Craven, proprietor of one of Salem's two 19th century glasshouses, was responsible for the remodeling. Particularly interesting is the unusual triangular bay window on #41 that also features decorative stained glass.



**16 MECUM-TOULSON HOUSE.** (33) James Mecum, a member of the US Congress, built this classic and chaste Greek Revival townhouse in 1840 for his bride, Lydia Ann Harrison. The street facade is laid with a very narrow mortar line considered very fashionable at the time of its erection. Like the Alfonso Eakin house, this property also features a bathhouse in the rear garden, the roof of which is just visible from the alleyway.

**17 WILLIAM SHARP HOUSE.** (31) Without a doubt, the Sharp House is the most elaborate Italianate revival house on the street. Built in 1862, the property features an array of details that set it apart from its neighbors. Even the slate sidewalk in front, laid in a diagonal pattern, differs from the adjacent brick walkways and repeats the pattern found in the marble floor of the entryway. Sharp was a physician and by all accounts was a flamboyant character in his own right. Highly respected as a physician and scholar, he was also an amateur ornithologist and assembled a large collection of local birds in a Victorian-style aviary that once stood on the grounds of this property. It was quite an attraction in its day.



**18 RICHARD WOODNUTT HOUSE.** (29) Like many homes on the west side of Market Street, the present building was constructed in front of a much earlier house. It appears that originally many of the homes along Market had front yards that served as garden plots. This plot plan permitted later owners to expand their homes on the street side in a more fashionable style. John Redman built the rear section of this house as his general merchandise store, ca. 1750 - one of the "markets" of Market Street. His home was located on the lot now occupied by the Sharp House.

**19 JOHN WISTAR, JACOB HUFTY, JAMES WOOD AND SAMUEL CLEMENT HOUSES.** (23-15)

Together these four houses form one of the most cohesive architectural vistas on Market Street. All four conceal older structures to the rear that were expanded in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and were restored as part of Salem's early efforts to restore its historic neighborhoods in the 1970's. The Wistar House (23) was built by Dr. Ebenezer Howell ca. 1790. Howell was a noted patriot and his medical library was burned by the British during the Salem Raid. John Wistar, the son of Richard Wistar who owned the pioneer glassworks near Alloway, enlarged the house in 1812. In the same year, U.S. Congressional Representative (1809-14) Jacob Hufty acquired and enlarged the house next door (#21). The Wood House exhibits one of the most handsome carved doorways in the city (ca. 1790). In a recent restoration workmen discovered a child's shoe hidden in the eaves, an ancient tradition meant to bestow good luck. Finally, the Samuel Clement House features one of the city's most high-style Federal facades, built in 1823-26. Clement was another of Market Street's merchants, and maintained a general store and wharf that once stood just north of this handsome residence.



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**20 THE SALTBOXES.** (16-18) So called because their steeply sloping rear roofs made them resemble boxes used for storing salt, these modest frame houses stand in sharp contrast to their high-style neighbors across the street. Built in the 1820s, these frame buildings are typical of working-class dwellings in early 19th century Salem. A number of examples of this building style survive throughout the city, particularly along the secondary streets, proving that residents of different social and economic classes lived nearby each other throughout Salem's long history.



**21 JOHAN PRINTZ MEMORIAL PARK** at Ivy Point. Built in 1988 under the auspices of the City of Salem and Market Street Improvement Association, Printz park contains an exact replica of a 17th century style Swedish cabin and garden. Cabins of this type served as temporary shelters for the first Swedish and Finnish colonists who established the colony of New Sweden in the Delaware Valley in 1638. It is known that Swedes and Finns settled along the Salem River early in the 17th century.

**22 CHARLES PEDERSEN PARK.** After your stroll up Market Street, take a moment to rest in Pedersen Park, developed in 1988 by the Market Street Improvement Association to honor Salem's Nobel Prize winner. Pedersen was an avid gardener, inspiring the creation of this "pocket park." Pedersen Park overlooks Fenwick Creek and Mannington Meadow, home to an American bald eagle, often sighted flying over the creek. You too may be able to spot our national bird while enjoying the view.



**23** When you return downtown, be sure to step on the **BRASS STAR** inset in the sidewalk at the corner of Market and East Broadway (on the right corner). The star recalls one of Salem's 19th century clothing emporiums known as "Star Hall."

A downtown landmark throughout most of the 19th century, Star Hall was torn down in the late 19th century to allow for the expansion of City National Bank - the star was placed in the sidewalk at that time. To this day this location is known as Star Hall Corner. Local tradition states that if you step on the Star you will one day return to Salem- as we hope you will do - and soon.

