

238 Putnam Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
December 10, 1991

Ms. Deborah S. Armitage
Executive Assistant to the Chairman
Granite Partners, Ltd.
7 Merrill Drive
Hampton, NH 03842

Dear Ms. Armitage:

Re: Eastman Johnson portrait drawing, pencil heightened with white on cream colored paper, 8 1/2 x 6 3/8 inches irreg. sheet. The drawing is owned by Eddy Nicholson.

This drawing, which I examined this morning at my home, is familiar to me. I saw it at Knoedler's Gallery on March 22, 1971, at which time I took a photograph of it.

The drawing is not of Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, as the inscription on the back would suggest, but is Mrs. Jeremiah Chandler. Mrs. Chandler (nee Judith Farnum) was Eastman Johnson's maternal grandmother. He did another portrait of her which is dated September 1847 and is now in the collection of Smith College.

The drawing is typical of Johnson's early pencil drawings, when he was a youth of 23 years old. However, he also worked in charcoal in a different manner, as exemplified by the portraits he did of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

The inscription "E. Johnson 77" in the lower right corner has been added since I saw the work in 1971.

I will be including this drawing in my catalogue raisonne of Johnson's work.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Hills