Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

THEME: POLITICAL & MILITARY AFFAIRS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: John Quincy Adams Birthplace

AND/OR COMMON: John Quincy Adams Birthplace

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 141 Franklin Street — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Quincy — __ VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eleventh

STATE: Massachusetts — CODE: 025 — COUNTY: Norfolk — CODE: 021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: City of Quincy (administered by Quincy Historical Society)

STREET & NUMBER: City Hall

CITY, TOWN: Quincy 02169 __ VICINITY OF — STATE: Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Norfolk Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER: High Street

CITY, TOWN: Dedham 02026 — STATE: Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic American Buildings Survey (exterior photo)

DATE: 1941 — X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN: Washington 20540 — STATE: District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
X__GOOD	__RUINS	X__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Quincy Adams Birthplace is located near the west curbline of Franklin Street (number 141) just north of its intersection with Presidents Avenue. The house is remarkably similar in size and design to the John Adams Birthplace, located some 75 feet north of it on the same property (133 Franklin Street). Beyond this second house, the property consists of park-like open land acquired and maintained by the City of Quincy as a protective buffer for the two birthplaces.

In its present form, the John Quincy Adams Birthplace is a frame and clapboard house of the "salt-box" type, consisting of a ground-floor room and upper chamber on either side of a central chimney and a leanto. Although the leanto is an addition, the long rear slope of the gabled roof extends from the ridge to the eaves in an unbroken line. Windows are 12/12 double-hung sash. The main entrance, at the center of the 3-bay facade, is flanked by pilasters carrying a projecting entablature and a triangular pediment. A second entrance, also flanked by pilasters carrying an entablature, is located on the side of the house at its southeast corner.

A dated brick at the upper left of the fireplace in the southeast chamber indicates that the main portion of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace was constructed in 1716. However, there is some evidence, including the slightly off-center arrangement of the windows and door on the front facade, to support the theory that the house incorporates elements, among them the chimney stack and foundation, of an earlier and smaller dwelling on the site, believed to have been built about 1663. That the leanto is a later addition is shown by the second set of rafters visible in the attic; its exact date is unknown but it is generally believed to have been in place when Deacon John Adams purchased the house in 1744. The pilasters and pediment of the main entrance are also later additions, possibly installed in 1764 for John Adams and his bride Abigail. The only change in the house which can definitely be attributed to John Adams is the doorway installed at the southeast corner, giving direct access to the former kitchen, which served as his law office.

Extensive work was done on the house in 1896 in preparation for its use as the headquarters of the Quincy Historical Society. A new roof was installed. Board siding was put on the outer walls and new clapboards nailed over it; during this process most of the old filling of soft brick and clay was removed from the front and side walls. Small paned window sash, removed not long before, were found in the attic and set in their former positions. Interior trim and paneling was restored to the color of its earliest coat of paint. Finally, the whole house was raised about two feet to correspond with the current level of Franklin Street.

Further work was done on the Birthplace in 1923; the major item then was the installation of a new roof of split cedar shingles. In 1950, the joists under the ground floor were replaced. With the exception of part of the leanto, the old wide floor boards were reused but in an inverted position.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

With the exception of a few pieces donated by the Adams family, the furnishings of the house are not original. However, it does contain authentic 18th and early 19th century items given to the Historical Society by the descendants of old Quincy families.

The boundaries of the National Historic Landmark designation for the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, defined in Item 10, include that house, the adjacent John Adams Birthplace, and the protective open land described above.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1716; 1761-83; 1803-07 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 18th century "salt-box" type house was the home of two American Presidents and the birthplace of one of them. John Adams, second President of the United States, owned the house from 1761 until 1803, though he did not occupy it after 1783. For part of that time, the old kitchen on the southern end of the house served as his law office and it was there that he prepared the draft of the Massachusetts Constitution, ratified in 1780, which provided a model for the form of general government outlined in the Federal Constitution of 1787. John Adams' son, John Quincy Adams, sixth President, was born in the house in 1767 and lived there during his childhood and briefly as an adult.

The John Quincy Adams Birthplace remained the property of the Adams family until 1940, when it was deeded to the City of Quincy. The Quincy Historical Society was given permission to use the house as its headquarters in 1896 and continues to administer it on behalf of the City. The John Quincy Adams Birthplace is open to the public from April 19 to October 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

History of the House

The land on which the John Quincy Adams Birthplace stands was originally the property of Gregory Belcher, one of the earliest settlers in that part of Braintree which later became Quincy, Massachusetts. The first house on the site is thought to have been built for his son, Samuel Belcher, about the time of his marriage in 1663. Samuel Belcher's oldest son, Gregory, inherited the house on his father's death in 1679 and replaced it with the main portion of the present house in 1716 (elements of the first house may be incorporated in the second). The leanto is a later addition but predates the purchase of the property in 1744 by Deacon John Adams, who already owned the house immediately to the north (the John Adams Birthplace).

Deacon Adams, who died in 1761, left the house to his oldest son, John Adams, who moved there following his marriage to Abigail Smith in 1764. He subsequently added a separate entrance to the old kitchen on the southern side of the house and used that room for his law office. His son, John Quincy Adams, was born in the north chamber in 1767. After 1772, John Adams' increasing law practice and activity in public affairs made it convenient for him to live part of the time in Boston, but his wife and family remained at the Quincy house until the end of the Revolutionary War.

After 1783, the house was occupied by various tenants. In 1803, John Quincy Adams purchased his birthplace (and the adjacent Adams house) from his father and lived there from 1805 until 1807, when he moved to Boston. Thereafter the house was occupied by tenants until about 1885, when the surrounding land was sold for houselots.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

The Birthplace remained vacant until 1896, when Charles Francis Adams, Jr., grandson of John Quincy Adams, had it restored for use as the headquarters of the Quincy Historical Society, which had been formed in 1893. In 1940, the Adams family deeded the John Quincy Adams Birthplace (and the adjacent John Adams Birthplace) to the City of Quincy. Since that time, the Historical Society has administered the property on behalf of the City.

Biographical Summary, John Quincy Adams

John Quincy Adams was born on July 11, 1767, in that part of Braintree which became Quincy, Massachusetts. His father and mother, John and Abigail Adams, had a strong influence on his education after the Revolutionary War deprived Braintree of its only schoolmaster. In 1778 and again in 1780, the boy accompanied his father to Europe. He studied at a private school in Paris in 1778-79 and at the University of Leiden in 1780, acquiring an excellent knowledge of French and a smattering of Dutch.

In 1781, at the age of fourteen, he accompanied Francis Dana, American Envoy to Russia, as his private secretary and interpreter of French. After a year in St. Petersburg, during which Dana was never received by the Russian government, Adams traveled by way of Scandinava, Hanover, and the Netherlands to join his father in Paris. There he acted informally as a secretary to the American commission negotiating the treaty that concluded the American Revolution. The young Adams returned to Massachusetts and graduated from Harvard College in 1787. He then read law at Newburyport with Theophilus Parsons and was admitted to the bar in Boston in 1790.

While attempting to build his practice, he produced a series of newspaper articles that brought him to the attention of President Washington and resulted in his appointment in 1794 as United States Minister to the Netherlands. Two years later, Washington appointed him Minister to Portugal but, on the election of his father John Adams as President, the young diplomat's destination was changed to Berlin. He assumed his new post in 1797, shortly after his marriage to Louisa Catherine Johnson in London. Adams was recalled from Berlin following his father's defeat by Thomas Jefferson in the presidential election of 1800. He reached Boston in 1801 and the next year was elected to the Massachusetts Senate. In 1803 the Massachusetts Legislature elected him to the Senate of the United States.

Though Adams had previously been regarded as a member of the Federalist party, he found himself in disagreement with its current policies. He arrived in Washington too late to vote for ratification of the treaty for purchase of Louisiana, opposed by the other Federalist senators, but voted for approriations to carry it out and announced that he would have voted for the purchase treaty itself. In 1807, he supported President Jefferson's suggestion of an embargo and urged instant action on it. The Embargo Act was distinctly unpopular with Massachusetts Federalists and his support of it cost Adams his Senate seat.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

When his successor was chosen in June 1808, several months before the usual time for electing a senator for the next term, Adams quickly resigned. In that same year, he attended the Republican congressional caucus which nominated Madison for the presidency, thus associating himself with that party. President Madison appointed Adams as the American Envoy to Russia in 1809 and in 1815 he became Minister to the Court of St. James. He returned to the United States in 1817 to become Secretary of State in the cabinet of President Monroe.

As Secretary of State, Adams played a leading role in the acquisition of Florida. In 1819, after lengthy negotiations, Adams won a treaty in which the Spaniards abandoned all claims to territory east of the Mississippi; in return, the United States relinquished all claim to what is now Texas. This was the first treaty to draw a boundary of the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Adams was also responsible for the conclusion of the treaty of 1818 with Great Britain, laying down the northern boundary of the United States from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains along the line of 49° N. latitude.

Adams was one of four candidates for the presidency in the election of 1824. When none of the candidates received a majority of electoral votes--Andrew Jackson received 99, Adams 84, William H. Crawford 41, and Henry Clay 37--the election was decided in the House of Representatives. Clay, long an opponent of Jackson, cast his influence for Adams and thereby secured his election on the first House ballot. Though the country as a whole prospered during Adams' presidency (1825-29), it was in many respects a political failure because of the virulent opposition of the Jacksonians, and Adams was defeated by Jackson in the election of 1828.

Adams retired to private life in 1829 but was elected to the House of Representatives in the following year. Throughout his career in Congress (1831-49), he was conspicuous as an opponent of the expansion of slavery. In 1839, he presented to the House a resolution for a constitutional amendment providing that every child born in the United States after July 4, 1842, should be born free; that with the exception of Florida no new state should be admitted to the Union with slavery; that neither slavery nor the slave trade should exist in the District of Columbia after July 4, 1845. When the 21st House rule, the famous "gag" rule imposed by southern Congressmen against all discussion of slavery, effectively blocked debate on Adams' proposed amendment, he began a campaign which ended in the repeal of that rule in 1844. Adams was also a supporter of the arts and science and did much to see that the Smithson bequest, a gift to the United States from an eccentric Englishman, was used to create and endow the Smithsonian Institution.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

Perhaps the most dramatic event in Adams' life was its end. On February 21, 1848, while protesting an honorary grant of swords by Congress to the generals who had won what he considered a "most unrighteous war" with Mexico, Adams suffered a cerebral stroke, fell unconscious to the floor of the House, and died in the Capitol two days later. His body was returned to Quincy where it lies, with those of his wife and parents, in the crypt of the First Parish Church.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Bemis, Samuel Flagg, John Quincy Adams and the Foundations of American Foreign Policy, (1949).

_____. John Quincy Adams and the Union (1956).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

western curbline of Franklin Street; thence, southwesterly along said western curbline to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the John Adams and the John Quincy Adams birthplaces because they are on the same city lot and are both owned by the city of Quincy and are both administered by the Quincy Historical Society. Separating them would be difficult and appears unnecessary. The park is included because it was a part of the original farm.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams, Charles Francis, ed., Memoirs of John Quincy Adams, Comprising Portions of His Diary from 1795 to 1848 (1874-77).

Adams, Henry. "The Birthplaces of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams in Quincy, Massachusetts," Old-Time New England, Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (January 1936).

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .70 acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	19	334630	4678060
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(shown in red on attached Quincy Zoning Plan #3006) Beginning at the intersection of the western curbline of Franklin Street and the eastern curbline of Presidents Avenue; thence, northwesterly along said eastern curbline to its intersection with the southern line of property now or formerly owned by Mary A. Omar (identified as Plot 3 on Quincy Zoning Plan #3006); thence, along the southern and eastern lines of said property to the southern line of property now or formerly owned by Jo-Ray Realty Corporation (Plot 19 on Plan #3006); thence, easterly along said southern line to its intersection with the

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (continued)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Charles E. Shedd, Jr., Historian, 2/19/60

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE 202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN Washington

STATE District of Columbia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

[NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS]

[NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS]

Landmark

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Designated: DEC 19 1977 date

Boundary Certified:

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE 4/3/78 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 4/3/78

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS]