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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Historic Furnishings Report: The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams

Volume 1, Historical Data

Adams National Historical Park
133 and 141 Franklin Street
Quincy, Massachusetts

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Enclosed please find two reports, *Historic Furnishings Report: John and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces* and *Historic Furnishings Report: Maggie L. Walker House, Richmond, VA*. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the distribution or content of these reports, please feel free to contact me at (617) 242-5613, ext. 15, fax (617) 242-1833, or laurel_racine@nps.gov.

Laurel Racine

Attachments

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HISTORIC FURNISHINGS REPORT

THE BIRTHPLACES OF PRESIDENTS JOHN ADAMS AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Adams National Historical Park
133 and 141 Franklin Street
Quincy, Massachusetts

Volume 1
Historical Data

by
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Northeast Museum Services Center
National Park Service
April 2001

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Management Summary

The current report was undertaken to fulfill recommendations for the Adams birthplaces made in Adams National Historical Park's 1996 *General Management Plan* (GMP). The GMP states that

> The Adams Birthplaces will be the focus for interpretation for children and students at Adams National Historic Site [as the park was then called] because they provide the opportunity for an interactive program telling the story of 17th and 18th century life. Education programs will take place at the John Adams Birthplace. . . . A furnishing plan will call for the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, including the birth room, to be furnished to reflect the occupancy during the crucial years of John Quincy's youth. John Adams's law office will be furnished as such.[1]

The GMP goes on to propose a neighboring shelter to be built outside the historic site. The structure would shelter visitors and provide interpretive and scheduling information.

The structures are currently displayed as former Superintendent Wilhelmina Harris furnished them in the early 1980s. The period and reproduction furnishings of the John Adams birthplace are loosely based on the 1761 inventory of John Adams' father, Deacon John Adams. Some of the reproduction objects were based on prototypes in the park's Old House collection and Harris' own collection. Those at the John Quincy Adams birthplace are period objects and reproductions of objects in the Old House collection with provenances to this birthplace.

In November of 1997, research for the historic furnishings reports commenced and continued into the summer of 1998. Interim reports were submitted in February 1998 and April of 1998. Two full drafts were submitted in October 1998 and October of 1999. Accompanying the second draft was the brief report, as specified in the project's Scope of Work, "Options for Use and Potential Themes: The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams" (see appendix K-1). This report was to be followed with a meeting at which the final treatment options for the houses were to be chosen. The intended next step was for a historic furnishings plan to be drawn up for the John Quincy Adams Birthplace and an interpretive exhibition plan (IEP) be written for the John Adams Birthplace.

However, two obstacles prevent further progress in the consideration of the Adams birthplaces in this study. First, the expense of the researching, writing, and production of the historical data section of the historic furnishings report precludes continuation of the project without further funding. The research phase of this project was complex and protracted due to the amount of available primary source information related to the Adams Birthplaces (Adams papers, court records, Federal records, visual documentation, extant objects, archeological finds, and oral history interviews), the lack of information related to the furnishings at the Adams birthplaces, the necessity of

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[1] Marianne Peak, *Adams National Historic Site, General Management Plan* (Boston: National Park Service, 1996), p. 31.

researching the many nineteenth-century tenants of the houses, and the documentation of the early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival interiors of each house.

Second, the staff of Adams National Historical Park no longer wishes to pursue the plan for the Adams Birthplaces as described in the 1996 GMP. Their current desire is to maintain both birthplaces as historic furnished interiors. Unfortunately, the level of site-specific documentation for furnishings at the birthplaces is sparse. Regarding the installation of historic furnished interiors in National Park Service structures, the *Cultural Resource Management Guideline* states,

> Historic furnishings are groups of objects (such as furniture, paintings, other decorative and utilitarian objects, books, wall and floor coverings) assembled according to a documented report that recreate historic interior spaces. In some cases one furnished room may be more evocative of an event or person than an entire furnished structure. In other cases effective interpretation may require the furnishing of multiple structures, both commercial and residential. In every case, furnishing must be as accurate as possible and must directly serve park interpretive objectives. The following general criteria apply:
>
> (a) Original furnishings present in their original arrangement will not be removed or replaced unless required for their protection or preservation, or unless the structure is designated for another use in an approved park plan. Before movement or replacement, the furnishings and their arrangement must be fully documented.
>
> (b) A structure may be refurnished, in whole or part, if it is significantly related to a primary park theme, if refurnishing is determined to be the best way to interpret that theme to the public, and if there is sufficient evidence of the design and placement of the original furnishings to refurnish with minimal conjecture.
>
> (c) To ensure accurate recreations of historic furnishings, reproductions will be based on existing prototypes.[2]

The crux of the problem at the Adams birthplaces is criterion "b" which poses three questions: Are refurnished interiors in the Adams birthplaces related to a primary park theme? Is refurnishing the houses the best way to interpret park themes to the public? And, is there sufficient evidence to refurnish with minimal conjecture?

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the park wishes to interpret life during the American Revolution, the role of Abigail Adams, and the youth of John Quincy Adams. A historic furnished interior would aptly convey these stories and there is significant extant information regarding Adams family life during the 1764 to 1784 Adams occupancy period. In order to fully explore the Abigail Adams story, it is necessary to furnish rooms beyond the GMP-recommended law office and birth room.[3] However, the level of documentation for historic furnishings is limited to a few extant objects at the

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[2] *Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, Release No. 5 (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1997), p. 159.

[3] Furnishings the second-floor birth room is contingent on structural and safety issues.

Old House and comparative inventories. Therefore, the more conservative approach of recreating a series of historic furnished vignettes, fully furnished *portions* of rooms, lessens the amount of conjecture and more truthfully represents the level of information available.[4]

Preliminary research into available comparative inventories has been undertaken. One line of inquiry was pursuing the inventories of Harvard alumni who graduated within the same decade as John Adams and who died between 1764 and 1784. Of the eleven candidates, five left inventories and three of these inventories will be of future use (see appendix K-2). Another useful source of information is Abbott Lowell Cummings' *Rural Household Inventories: Establishing the Names, Uses and Furnishings of Rooms in the Colonial New England Home, 1675-1775*. This book contains transcribed, room-by-room inventories from Massachusetts for the period 1675-1775. Of the thirty-nine inventories, thirty-four are from the 1760s or 1770s and twenty-one are for individuals whose professions likely put them in the same economic strata as John Adams. This research is just a start on what may be a lengthy process in locating more inventories, analyzing their contents, and formulating a composite inventory for the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Comparative inventory studies are a current and accepted method in the museum field for furnishing historic houses. However, in light of the National Park Service policy stipulating "minimal conjecture," such a study should be approached with the utmost training, caution, and sensitivity.

At the John Adams birthplace, the park's goal is to teach children about "duty, responsibility, and education . . . and the home life of the Adamses and the skills they used to fulfill their obligations and maintain their close family."[5] While a historic furnished interior could arguably support the "home life of the Adamses," there is little extant information regarding John Adams' childhood in this house. The main sources of information are Adams' unfinished autobiography which he wrote late in life and court and civic records regarding his father, Deacon John Adams. Installing a historic furnished interior is not the best way to interpret the stories of the John Adams birthplace or to convey the extant information to the public. An interpretive exhibition would be a more apt interpretive medium. Such an exhibition could contain furnishings. Deacon John Adams' 1761 inventory survives, yet, would need to be augmented with additional information from comparative inventories in order to represent a historically accurate interior. Because furnished vignettes based on comparative inventories are recommended for the John Quincy Adams birthplace, it is not recommended that the park reconstruct a second interior or series of vignettes at the John Adams birthplace. If the installation at the John Adams birthplace is converted to an interpretive exhibition, the park must take into consideration issues of the physical plant such as electrical supply and harmony between the exhibit infrastructure and the fabric of the historic building.

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[4] A "historic furnished interior" is a fully furnished room or series of rooms in a historic structure interpreted to one most significant time period based on sufficient supporting historical evidence. "Historic furnished vignettes" are fully furnished *portions* of rooms. They are based on sufficient supporting evidence, but allow for gaps in knowledge of furnishings and do not deceive visitors into thinking they are seeing a completely treated room when they are not. They also allow for a more flexible use of space because they do not occupy entire rooms. To the author's knowledge, the best and most recent examples of historic furnished vignettes are at the Society for New England Antiquities' Spencer-Pierce-Little Farm in Newbury, Massachusetts.

[5] Peak, *General Management Plan*, p. 31.

Adams National Historical Park will be starting a *Long Range Interpretive Plan* (LRIP) in July 2001. In terms of the Adams birthplaces, this plan must be informed by the strengths and weaknesses of the extant information regarding these houses. The interpretive media recommended for the houses should balance the park's interpretive goals and the amount of documentation available to support the media. At this time, the recommended course of action is to install an interpretive exhibition at the John Adams birthplace and install historic furnished vignettes interpreting the Adams period of occupancy, 1764 to 1784, at the John Quincy Adams birthplace (see appendix K-1 for the document "Options for Use and Potential Themes: The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams"). To accomplish these installations, a historic furnishings plan must be researched and written for the John Quincy Adams birthplace and an interpretive exhibition plan must be written for the John Adams birthplace.

National Park Service Administrative Background

The United States Congress designated the "Old House" located at 135 Adams Street as the "Adams Mansion National Site" in 1946. In 1952, Congress accepted the donation of additional land adjoining the Site and changed its name to the "Adams National Historic Site."

In 1977, Quincy Councilor-at-Large Paul Harold requested that Interior Committee chair U.S. State Representative Morris Udall consider making the John and John Quincy Adams birthplaces part of the National Park system. In January 1978, Udall visited the houses and later that year proposed section 312 of House Bill 12536 to annex the houses and land to the Adams National Historic Site. On 10 November 1978, Congress approved the bill. The National Park Service began to manage the birthplaces on 20 April 1979 and a ceremony was held to mark the occasion on 1 May. The John and John Quincy Adams birthplaces became part of the Adams National Historic Site for the educational benefit of the American People and have been used as such to the present time.

In 1998, the Park's name changed once again to "Adams National Historical Park."[6] The boundaries were not altered.

PRIOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS (in chronological order, specific to or in reference to the Adams Birthplaces)

Hart, David M. "Specifications for Preservation and Repairs—John Adams House," 1975.

_____. "Specifications for Preservation and Repairs—John Quincy Adams House," 1975.

Perrault, Carole. *Exterior Finishes Study with Recommendations for Repainting the Adams Birthplaces*, 1980.

Pratt, Marjorie K. "Archeological Survey at the Adams Birthplaces, Quincy, Massachusetts," November, 1981.

Towle, Linda and Dick Ping Hsu. "Archeological Monitoring at Adams' Birthplaces, Quincy, Massachusetts," 1983.

MacMahon, Darcie A. *Archeological Collection Management at Adams National Historic Site, Massachusetts*, ACMP Series No. 9, 1991.

Adams National Historic Site Collections Management Plan, 1993.

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[6] Due to the park's recent name change, the park is referenced in two ways in this report. When speaking of the park's history prior to 1998, it is called "Adams National Historic Site." When speaking of the park's current activities and collection holdings, it is called "Adams National Historical Park."

Perrault, Carole. *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*. Volume 1: Administrative Data and Historical Background, DRAFT, 1993.

North Atlantic Region, National Park Service. *A Quincy Area Agenda: Conservation, Use, and Interpretation of Historic Resources in Quincy, Massachusetts*, 1994.

Peak, Marianne. *Adams National Historic Site, Massachusetts: General Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment*, December 1996.

Lowenthal, Larry and Peggy A. Albee. *The Restoration of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace Including Description of the 1897 Restoration and Analysis of Integrity*, 1998.

NATIONAL REGISTER SIGNIFICANCE

I. Summary of National Register Statement of Significance

A. Established Areas of Site Significance

The Adams birthplaces are located about a mile-and-a-half from the Old House, in the southern part of Quincy, Massachusetts. Today they occupy less than an acre of land and are bordered by Franklin Street and Presidents Avenue. Built in the late-seventeenth or early-eighteenth centuries, the houses were purchased separately in the eighteenth century by Deacon John Adams, father of President John Adams. The houses remained under the control of the Adams family until 1940 when they were given to the City of Quincy. In 1979, the birthplaces were deeded back to the Adams family for their legal transfer to the United States.

The John Adams and John Quincy Adams birthplaces were designated National Historic Landmarks on 19 December 1960 and were placed on the National Register of Historic Places at its creation on 15 October 1966. The National Historic Landmarks documentation and boundary description were accepted on 3 April 1978. The original National Register Nomination recognizes the houses as significant in political and military affairs, 1793-1830. Using current National Register criteria for evaluation, the Adams birthplaces meet Criterion A: Event and Criterion B: Person.

Under criterion A, the Adams birthplaces are nationally significant because they are important parts of the farm the John Adams family occupied during the course of the Revolutionary War. Abigail and John Quincy Adams watched the burning of Charlestown from nearby Penn's Hill, soldiers trained on the farm's fields, refugees took shelter in both houses, and Abigail Adams maintained her family under adverse economic circumstances brought on by the war. In addition, the John Quincy Adams birthplace is significant at the state level because it contains the room in which John Adams drafted the Massachusetts Constitution.

The Adams birthplaces are nationally significant under Criterion B because they are the respective birthplaces and boyhood homes of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Among other accomplishments, John Adams served in the Continental

Congress, drafted the Massachusetts Constitution, and was the second president of the United States. John Quincy Adams' long political career spanned from 1781 to 1848. During that time he served as ambassador, senator, congressman, and president of the United States. Each man owned both houses during his productive years in political office, although they only inhabited the John Quincy Adams birthplace during that time.

The exterior integrity of the Adams birthplaces is good. Despite periodic renovations and restorations during their histories, the partially restored exteriors of the houses retain integrity of location, design, feeling, and association. Some integrity of materials and workmanship has been lost. The only aspect of integrity that is all but lost is the birthplaces' setting, or physical environment.

The interior integrity of materials and workmanship to the second half of the eighteenth century is moderate to low at the Adams birthplaces. The last Adams family members to occupy the John Quincy Adams birthplace were the John Quincy Adams family in 1806. The last Adams family members to occupy the John Adams birthplace were the Thomas Boylston Adams family to as late as 1820. From those dates on, both houses served as rental properties until the mid-1890s.

After years of neglect and repeated interior change, the Quincy Historical Society assumed management of the John Quincy Adams birthplace in early 1896 and the Adams Chapter of the Daughters of Revolution assumed management of the John Adams birthplace in late 1896. The respective societies proceeded to "restore" the houses to their "early" incarnations by removing large portions of original fabric along with later layers.

The National Park Service took possession of the houses in 1979 and began its own restoration project. The interior of the John Adams birthplace retained a higher degree of historic integrity than the John Quincy Adams birthplace whose interior had been significantly altered by the early Quincy Historical Society. The John Adams birthplace retained its original framing, doors, and some layers of wallpaper. The current interiors of the Adams birthplaces are primarily reconstructions. The extant architectural features maintain their integrity in terms of location, design, feeling, and association. The extant architectural features retain a lesser integrity of materials and workmanship. The integrity of the extant finishes is low because they are reproduced based on minimal extant physical evidence.

The integrity of the spatial organization of interior spaces is largely intact in both houses. Because of later changes to the rear of the John Adams birthplace, the lean-to and rear shed portions are areas of lesser integrity. The most problematic area of the John Quincy Adams birthplace is the north end of the northwest room, or kitchen, where a storage area has been altered over the years.

B. Potential New Areas of Site Significance

No new areas of site significance are proposed.

C. Areas of Site Significance Considered and Rejected.

No new areas of site significance were considered.

D. Collections as a Feature of the Site

The reproduction and period objects currently located in the John Adams and John Quincy Adams birthplaces should not be considered features of the site. Few of the period objects can be associated with the houses or the Adams family. They do not contribute to the significance of the houses under any of the National Register criteria.

Several of the reproduced objects are based on ones associated with the Adams family. These models were found in the collections of Adams National Historical Park, Wilhelmina S. Harris, and Adams family members. Some of the models for the reproductions are believed to be associated with John and Abigail Adams while others are simply period objects which descended in the Adams family. These traditional associations were passed from Brooks Adams, last occupant of the Old House in Quincy, to his personal secretary and later Adams National Historic Site superintendent, Wilhelmina S. Harris. Although undocumented until the twentieth century, these associations are generally considered reliable because of the Adams family's early sense of its own important place in American history. The most significant objects associated with the birthplaces in the Adams National Historical Park collection are John Adams' stand-up desk, Abigail Adams' kitchen dresser, and her tallcase clock. These objects possess integrity in terms of location, design, and association. Unfortunately, in some cases the integrity of materials and workmanship is moderate to low.

The reproduction and period objects do not appear to have great regional or cultural significance except to serve as backdrops for the interpretation of the Adams family story in a rural Massachusetts farming community. The reproduction objects based on Adams-related originals have some value by association, but are not constructed or finished exactly as the originals were. There is little inherent value in this collection of objects as examples of American decorative or fine arts.

In the early 1980s, two archeological investigations of the land surrounding the birthplaces were conducted. Many of the resulting artifacts, particularly those close to the houses' doors and windows, were used within the structures. However, very few can be positively identified as dating to the eighteenth century. The majority date to the nineteenth century and provide information on the ceramic and glass items used by tenants of that period. The excavated objects do not appear to be regionally or culturally significant.

The Adams National Historical Park owns two images related to the Adams birthplaces: an 1840-1850s daguerreotype of the John Adams birthplace executed by John Adams Whipple and an 1849-1850 oil painting of the two houses painted by Godfrey N. Frankenstein. The Adams National Historical Park does not own original historic documentary sources that relate to the Adams birthplaces.

II. Additional Areas of Significance for Site Collections

No additional areas of significance for site collections are proposed.

Historical Data

A NOTE ON SOURCES

- Letters and Diaries

The first two generations of the John Adams family wrote and saved copious numbers of letters and diaries. John and John Quincy Adams, particularly, were loath to part with any written matter. Unfortunately, their papers passed to Charles Francis Adams who systematically destroyed those he thought worthless or damaging to the family's reputation. Charles Francis Adams wrote in his diary on 6 June 1848, "I remained very quietly at home and at the study below where I pursued my old occupation of destroying superfluous papers. Steadily as this has been done for so long, it does not seem as if progress was made in them."[7] During this destructive "occupation," many bills, receipts, and other pertinent pieces of information were certainly lost.

Upon Charles Francis Adams' 1886 death, the papers of the first three generations passed into the hands of his four sons. After years of disagreement over their disposition, the sons formed the Adams Manuscript Trust in 1905. Shortly thereafter the papers of the first three generations were brought to the Massachusetts Historical Society for safe-keeping. These papers were essentially sealed to all but members of the Adams Manuscript Trust until 1954.

From 1954 to 1959, the Adams papers were reproduced on 608 microfilm reels. Also since that time the Massachusetts Historical Society has been editing the Adams papers to 1889, the death of Abigail Brooks Adams, into letterpress editions. The Adams papers in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society were officially given to that institution in 1956. Published to date are the Adams correspondence to 1785, John Adams' diary to 1804, John Adams' autobiography to 1780, John Quincy Adams' diary to 1788, and Charles Francis Adams' diary to 1840.

To facilitate the perusal of thousands of manuscript pages, the researcher used the findings of earlier historians and the series of typed transcriptions at the Adams National Historical Park as indicators of where relevant information could be found. Passages quoted in this study are taken directly from the microfilm edition of the Adams papers whenever possible. When passages could not be located on the film or were not among the papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society collection, the text is taken from the printed source in which it appears.

Few of the letters and diaries specifically discuss the furnishings of the Adams birthplaces. They do illustrate vividly the activities which took place both in and outside the houses. Because the John Adams family lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace, much more information is available for that house than its neighbor. The only writings that illuminate the early life at the John Adams birthplace are John Adams' early diaries and his autobiography.

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[7] Charles Francis Adams Diary, 6 June 1848, *The Adams Papers* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1954-1959), microform edition, Reel #70.

- Business Papers

There are very few papers relating to the expenses of the Adams family during their time at the Adams birthplaces. The majority of the account books left by John and John Quincy Adams concern expenses they incurred during stints of travel and living abroad. Accounts kept by those charged with managing the birthplaces during the eighteenth century including Abigail Adams, Cotton Tufts, Royall Tyler, and Mary Cranch do not appear to have survived. The most illuminating expense account was that kept by John Quincy Adams while he spent the summers of 1805 and 1806 at the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The accounts kept by Charles Francis Adams when he managed his father's real estate concerns are helpful in identifying nineteenth-century tenants.

There are very few extant bills and receipts related to the Adams birthplaces. The few that exist relate to repairs and payment of hired help. Presumably most bills and receipts were considered "superfluous" and destroyed by Charles Francis Adams in the nineteenth century.

- Inventories and Lists

A limited number of inventories and lists indicating the contents of the Adams birthplaces survive. Most of the occupant's estate inventories, Adams or otherwise, were taken well after the individuals moved from the houses. Those that date to the time of the person's occupancy include Samuel Belcher's of 1680, Gregory Belcher Jr.'s of 1729, and Deacon John Adams' of 1761.

Lists of John Adams' and John Quincy Adams' real estate holdings at various times exist, however, these do not aid in the research of interior furnishings.

There are also extant lists and inventories produced by the Quincy Historical Society and the Daughters of Revolution. When the Adams Chapter of the Daughters of Revolution vacated the John Adams birthplace in 1950, it produced a list of objects donated to that house for the use of the Quincy Historical Society. The Quincy Historical Society produced two later inventories of its collections, one dated 1956 and the other 1961.

- Administrative Papers, Wills, and Deeds

The researcher examined the administrative papers, wills, and deeds of as many owners and occupants as possible. These papers supply details concerning the history of ownership and occupancy as well as information about the people themselves. Administrative papers and wills include dates of death, names of close relatives, occupations, and personal possessions at the time of decease. Deeds provide names of transferees and transferors as well as descriptions of improvements on and boundaries of the land being transferred.

- Federal Censuses and Quincy Tax Lists

  Federal censuses and Quincy tax lists provide information related to the nineteenth-century tenants of the Adams birthplaces. The earliest censuses supply only the barest details of age and sex while the later ones include names, ages, occupations, and places of birth for all occupants. The tax lists are helpful in identifying the tenants in the houses from 1792 to 1825. Also available at the Quincy Historical Society is the 1778 Braintree tax list.

- Visual Documentation

There are no images from the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries depicting the Adams birthplaces. Until the 1890s, nineteenth-century images portray only the exterior of the houses. The earliest known nineteenth-century, exterior image is a watercolor painting executed from the top of Penn's Hill by Eliza Susan Quincy in 1822 (see ill. 1). On 12 August 1828, Ann G. Gray created what is possibly a watercolor painting of the houses from across the street (see ill. 2). The visual record rests until an 1840-1850s daguerreotype of the John Adams birthplace by John Adams Whipple (see ill. 4). A woodcut in the 17 November 1849 issue of *Scholar's Penny Gazette* depicts the John Quincy Adams birthplace (see ill. 5). Commissioned by Charles Francis Adams, artist Godfrey N. Frankenstein created an oil painting of the houses around 1850 (see ill. 6). An 1852 engraving in *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion* depicts the houses from the northeast, the opposite vantage point of Frankenstein's view (see ill. 7). An 1879-1880 lithograph based on original drawings by E. Whitefield again illustrates the facades of the houses. Several photographic images of the exteriors of both houses exist from the 1880s to early 1890s.

As the Quincy Historical Society renovated the John Quincy Adams birthplace, presumably librarian and leader of the restoration effort, William Gardner Spear, photographed the interior and exterior progress. These 1895-1896 photographs are the first visual documentation of the birthplace's interior. An engraving of the completed southeast chamber copyrighted in 1896 accompanied an 1898 newspaper article. After completing its restoration, the Quincy Historical Society produced a series of interior photographs which it copyrighted in 1897. These views were reproduced as engravings in period newspapers and the Society's own literature. One 1899 photograph by Allen Nightaldern depicts the southeast room fireplace.

For the John Adams birthplace, one circa 1897 photomechanical image exists depicting the south wall of the northwest room and the west wall of the southeast room.

There are no further interior views of either house until the 1930s. At this time both the Quincy Historical Society and the Daughters of Revolution produced series of interior views as postcards.

In 1942, artist Albert Herter was commissioned to produce a series of murals on the walls of the House of Representatives at the Massachusetts State House. One mural depicts the artist's interpretation of the meeting of John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Bowdoin in the southeast room of the John Quincy Adams

birthplace. Interestingly, the three men (among others) appear in John Adams' law office in its 1930s incarnation complete with identifiable Quincy Historical Society furnishings.

From its occupation of the John Adams birthplace in 1950 until it ceased to manage the houses in 1979, the Quincy Historical Society took a variety of photographs and slides of both houses. From the 1950s onward, exterior and interior views of the birthplaces augmented the occasional newspaper article written about them.

National Park Service architectural conservators fully documented the before, during, and after phases of their restoration project from 1979 to 1984. There are also photographs of some of the rooms after the houses were refurnished in the 1980s.

- Architectural Reports

Carole Louise Perrault of the National Park Service's Northeast Cultural Resources Center was among the architectural conservators who examined, researched, and partially restored the Adams birthplaces to their current condition. She drafted several architectural reports that have added greatly to the author's understanding of the structural evolution, changes in finishes, and room use during the history of the Adams birthplaces. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding these architectural reports, with the exception of the completed 1980 *Exterior Finishes Study*, are all in various draft forms.

The 1990 draft *Completion Reports* for the two houses are among the most refined of the documents. They outline the National Park Service's objectives in treating each room and detail the changes made during the 1980s restorations.

Also very refined is volume 1 of the *Historic Structure Report* (DRAFT 1993) which contains administrative and historical data for both houses. This resource was invaluable to the current study because it brings together many of the relevant secondary sources. While researching the current report, the author consulted volume 1 of the *HSR*, the secondary sources cited in the *HSR*, and the primary sources cited in these secondary sources. Thus, the current volume builds on the efforts of those who have investigated these well-researched houses before.

Volume 2 of the *HSR* contains architectural data for the John Adams birthplace. There are several informal 1994 drafts of volume 2 in the Cultural Resources Center's files. The author encountered these chronologically not knowing of the existence of later drafts, therefore, the bulk of the notes for this report are from the March 1994 draft. Additional or changed sections from the May and June 1994 drafts are included as necessary. Volume 2 provides information on basic room descriptions, conditions upon the National Park Service's receipt of the house, and the house's broad structural evolution. Citations for drafts of this volume contain pagination specific to each draft. While the text is quite refined, the conclusions drawn in volume 2 are still open to change. Therefore, caution must be exercised when considering the volume's content.

Volume 3 of the *HSR* contains architectural data for the John Quincy Adams birthplace. This volume remains in rough draft notes without preliminary

conclusions. Therefore, the current report draws upon volume 3 primarily for the existing conditions of the rooms when the National Park Service received the house.

- Interviews

The researcher conducted interviews with present and former employees of the Adams National Historical Park and Quincy Historical Society. Adams scholar Paul Nagel also shared his recollections. Interviewees addressed a variety of topics including the past, present, and future contents and interpretation of the houses. Also of interest are memories of the transfer of the houses from the City of Quincy to the National Park Service and of former Site superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris.

THE SETTING: THE NORTH PRECINCT OF BRAINTREE, LATER QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

The John and John Quincy Adams birthplaces are located in present-day Quincy, Massachusetts, a community about twelve miles south of Boston. The area was first inhabited by Europeans in the mid-1620s. It was annexed to Boston in 1634 and called "Mount Wollaston." It was incorporated as part of the town of Braintree in 1640.[8] Braintree and later Quincy were located in Suffolk County until 1793 when Norfolk County was founded.[9]

Old Braintree was composed of the present towns of Braintree, Quincy, Randolph, and Holbrook. In 1708, present-day Quincy became the North Precinct of Braintree. Later, in 1726, Randolph and Holbrook became the South Precinct of Braintree.[10] The town's government was a combination of church and state, so the precincts were political and parish divisions defined by geography. Thus the *Records of the North Precinct in Braintree in New England from 1709 to 1791* contains entries concerning matters both sacred and profane. The separation of church and state did not occur in Quincy until 1824.[11]

Interestingly, in 1766, Braintree was a highly loyalist community. Local historian William S. Pattee, wrote "The Repeal of the Stamp Act, in 1766, was received in Boston on the sixteenth of May, and general rejoicing was had in most of the towns of the Colony, by the firing of guns, ringing of bells and beating of drums. But in Braintree the Tory element was so strong and influential that no public demonstration was held." By 1774, the tide had turned in the Middle and South Precincts because citizens there felt those in the North Precinct, "sympathized with the parent government, and was by them considered the Tory end of town."[12] Living in the "Tory end of town" likely influenced John Adams' moderate early stands on hot political topics.

After fifty years of "agitation," the north and south precincts broke from Braintree to become separate towns. Quincy was incorporated in 1792. The town was named after Colonel John Quincy, Abigail Adams' grandfather and the source of John Quincy Adams' name. Boston-born Colonel Quincy had represented Braintree at the Massachusetts General Court from 1717 to 1741 and died in 1767 at the age of seventy-seven. However, many North Precinct citizens wanted to name the new town after native-born John Hancock who was governor of Massachusetts and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Despite his distinctions, Hancock did not meet the prerequisite of being deceased, so the honor passed to Colonel John Quincy.[13]

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[8] North Atlantic Region, *A Quincy Area Agenda: Conservation, Use, and Interpretation of Historic Resources in Quincy, Massachusetts* (Boston: North Atlantic Region, National Park Service, 1994), p. 5.

[9] "County Lines," *Quincy Sun*, 30 August 1979, Bicentennial Supplement.

[10] "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace, 1969[?], appendix D-13 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, vol. 1 (DRAFT, 1993), p. [3].

[11] William S. Pattee, *A History of Braintree and Quincy, with a Sketch of Randolph and Holbrook* (Quincy: Green & Prescott, 1878), p. 62.

[12] Pattee, pp. 387-388.

[13] "Quincy was almost Hancock," *Quincy Sun*, 27 June 1996, Bicentennial Supplement.

Like many Massachusetts towns, Braintree/Quincy was a rural village and remained so until well after the Civil War. Braintree/Quincy had the advantage that it was within riding distance of the port of Boston and had its own bay. Therefore, residents were able to keep abreast of the news and developments in the area's capital and abroad.

Pattee, the 1878 writer of *A History of Old Braintree and Quincy* which is still considered the most complete history of the towns, best describes the area in the late-eighteenth century:

> The surface of the town is diversified by hills, valleys and plains. Back from the bay some three miles is a range of elevated land, which, in some parts, is more than six hundred feet above the sea. These hills contain an inexhaustible supply of syenite. The height of Quincy, near the centre of the village is two hundred and ten feet above the sea; Great Hill ninety-four feet, and Squantum ninety-nine feet.
>
> Quincy is bounded on the northeast by Quincy Bay and Boston Harbor; on the south by Weymouth, Braintree and Randolph; and on the northwest by Milton and Boston. In territory it contains thirteen and one-half square miles.
>
> The soil of the town is generally of an excellent quality, and under fair cultivation. There are a number of fine, large and well cultivated farms; still, with all the skill, judicious and economical management, they are far from being profitable. Those who conduct milk farms reap a larger and more satisfactory financial income.
>
> The means of travel and transportation of merchandise to and from Boston and other places at the time of its incorporation, were very limited. Those living on the sea-coast usually went by water; others, living more inland slung their panniers across their backs and accomplished their journey on foot; while the more wealthy, or those able to own horses, either travelled on horseback or in carriages. There were in the town about a dozen one-horse chaises, cumbrous and antiquated in their construction and mechanical execution. We have heard elderly people relate how they used to sling their panniers across their horse's back or their own shoulders, and fill them with boots, shoes or other merchandise, and travel off to Boston and there exchange their goods for groceries or housekeeping materials, and return home the same day. Some quarter of a century after this, stage-coaches and omnibusses were established.
>
> The roads were few and poorly constructed, or not constructed at all. Franklin, School, Hancock, and Adams streets comprise what was then the Plymouth Turnpike, passing over Milton Hill, the only thoroughfare to Boston at that time.[14]

While Pattee's description relates to the larger Braintree/Quincy area in 1792, it relates in many ways to the more specific story of the Adams birthplaces throughout their eighteenth- and nineteenth-century histories. Geographically, the Adams birthplaces are at the foot of Penn's Hill, so they enjoyed the fertile soil of a valley, but Abigail and John Quincy Adams also were able to watch the burning of Charlestown from its top. The

[14] Pattee, pp. 65-66.

birthplaces were located on the road to Boston and the Adamses were able to afford horses, and later a chaise, with which to travel to the City. The Penn's Hill farm, though a dairy farm, was not especially prosperous. Typical of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Quincy, many of the houses' inhabitants were farmers, cordwainers, or both.

Today, the twelve miles that separate the City of Quincy from Boston are a negligible distance easily traveled by car, train, or water shuttle. Quincy is no longer a rural farming village, but a heavily populated, somewhat urban setting. While the community is able to maintain a separate identity from its larger neighbor, the effects of urban sprawl have vastly changed the landscape. There is little green space and few vistas which allow one to understand the hilly landscape Pattee describes.

The impact of the Adams birthplaces is greatly diminished by the small plot upon which they sit and the urban setting that presses in upon them. One of the greatest challenges in interpreting this site is removing the visitors from the insistent twentieth-century environment surrounding it and transporting them to the more vital time period for these houses, the second half of the eighteenth century.

JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

Analysis of Construction, Historic Ownership, Occupancy, and Use of Structure

Overview: Construction History and Present Structure

The exact date for the original construction of the John Adams birthplace is unknown. A majority of the house was built during the First Period of housing construction in New England which dates to roughly 1625-1725. The earliest date and configuration of the house are unknown. Anomalies in the house's construction and materials suggest it may have been built in stages or constructed from reused materials.

Likely by the time Deacon John Adams, John Adams' father, purchased the house in 1720 it was a typical two-room wide, one-room deep, hall-and-parlor plan house with a partial lean-to addition. By 1750, he had expanded the lean-to across the entire back of the house. With the extension of the lean-to, the house presented a "saltbox" profile. Deacon John Adams also may have been responsible for the later addition of the northern shed behind the lean-to sometime after 1750.

In the 1810s, Thomas Boylston Adams leased the house from his brother John Quincy Adams. At that time he made many interior changes and altered the size and design of the front door.

In the mid-nineteenth century, under the ownership of Charles Francis Adams, the northern shed was expanded into a larger gabled ell.

As the house stands today, it is restored as nearly as possible to its mid-eighteenth-century appearance under the ownership of Deacon John Adams. The northern ell was removed and the northern shed reconstructed. Nineteenth-century changes to the windows were reversed by replacing them with twelve-over-twelve pane windows. The design of the front door has been restored, but it is still the larger size installed by Thomas Boylston Adams.

The rooms inside the house were restored to reflect their mid-eighteenth-century appearance with the exception of the southwest room, which is restored to its 1810s appearance. This room features a Federal style mantel and trim, but lacks the wallpaper installed at that time.

Early Ownership

The early ownership and construction of the John Adams birthplace is difficult to discern from extant documentary and physical evidence. The below information is an attempt to provide a fair interpretation of the primary and secondary sources currently available.

- William Needham Ownership (1639/40-1675)

According to Waldo Chamberlain Sprague in his 1959 pamphlet *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces Quincy, Massachusetts*, William Needham (ca. 1614-1690) was the first owner of the site upon which the John Adams birthplace currently stands. On 27 January 1639/40, William Needham received

"'a great lot . . . at the Mount [Wollaston] for two heads, 8 acres, paying 3 shillings an acre according to the agreed order for them of the Mount."[15]

Needham deposed on 26 November 1690 that he was seventy-six years old placing his date of birth in England around the year 1614.[16] Needham's will describes his occupation as "Sett worke Coopering."[17] He married a woman named Grace before receiving the 1639/40 land grant. Because the Needhams had no children at the time of the land grant, they received an "unusually small" grant of eight acres. Sprague conjectures that Needham built his homestead on this site.[18] In 1667, the Needhams bought a house in Boston and in 1673 were dismissed from the Braintree Church.[19]

A 1675 mortgage indicates that Needham sold this tract to Joseph Penniman shortly after his departure from Braintree. On 31 August 1675 Joseph Penniman mortgaged a property containing "'all that his messuage or tenement, situate in Braintry with all the land adjoining to the same containing seven acres, with all houses, outhouses, gardens, orchards, yards, fences, and trees to the same belonging'" to physician Leonard Hoar of Boston. Penniman had "'lately purchased [the property] of William Needham of Boston, setwork cooper.'"[20] This document suggests that there were buildings on this site in 1675. The number of improvements indicates that Needham may have started clearing land and building his homestead soon after receiving the 1639/40 land grant. Sprague comments that the dwelling house could not have been substantial because the mortgage amount for this property plus another twenty acres, L28/10/0, was small for the time.[21]

The 1675 Penniman-Hoar mortgage strongly suggests that there was a dwelling house on the site, albeit a small one. However, it is unclear what, if any, portions of the current John Adams birthplace were part of an earlier house built by William Needham.

- Penniman Family Ownership (1675-1720)

As indicated by the above mortgage, Joseph Penniman (1639-1705) purchased the site of the present John Adams birthplace in 1675. Joseph Penniman was the son of early Braintree settlers James and Lydia Penniman.[22] James Penniman died in 1664 leaving his homestead to his son Joseph. Joseph married Waiting Robinson (d. 1690) in 1666 and they had six children. Waiting died in 1690 and Joseph married Hannah Stone in 1693.[23]

It is unclear whether the Joseph Penniman family ever lived on the John Adams birthplace tract. In his 1705 "Division of Property," this tract is not described as his homestead.[24] The Pennimans likely lived on the homestead Joseph received from his father in 1664. Penniman may have viewed the purchase of the John Adams birthplace property as an investment. He bought another parcel, likely as an investment, the same

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[15] Boston Town Records, Record Commissioner's Report, vol. 2, quoted in Waldo C. Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces, Quincy Massachusetts* (Quincy, MA: Quincy Historical Society, 1959), p. 19.

[16] William Needham, Land Grant, 1639/1640, *Bristol County Deeds*, vol. 1, p.217, quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 19.

[17] William Needham, Will, 1690, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 8, pp. 11-12, docket 1776, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[18] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 20.

[19] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 19.

[20] Joseph Penniman, Mortgage to Leonard Hoar, 1675, *Suffolk Deeds*, vol. 9, p. 257, quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 20.

[21] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 20.

year. He and William Veazy Jr. purchased "fourscore acres of land" in Braintree from William Penn.[25]

Sprague argues that Penniman built a larger house, possibly recycling building materials, on a small foundation constructed earlier by Needham. He supports this theory with a brick inscribed with the number "1681," the possible date of Penniman's larger house, found by the Daughters of Revolution during their 1897 restoration. He also cites the asymmetrical façade (the front door being a foot closer to the east than the west side) as an indication that an addition was made to an earlier house located on the eastern, or smaller, side.[26] Sprague also notes the anomalies that the southeast room, the early kitchen, does not have a cellar under it and its summer beam has early moldings found nowhere else in the house.[27]

Recent architectural conservators are more circumspect in their conclusions than Sprague. Perrault states,

> It is not clear whether the current house began its history as a half house (one-over-one, with integral lean-to off its north elevation) or whether it began its history as the two-over-two, central chimney plan house. . . . Nor can it be said with certainty whether the house commenced its history in the 17th century or in the first quarter of the 18th century.[28]

She continues,

> The analysis of the chimney bay suggests that the existing two-over-two, central chimney plan house was built at one time and it featured a lean-to off its north elevation. This lean-to encompassed the east half of the house and the chimney bay as evidenced by the presence of early clapboards at the second story level.[29]

However, she agrees with Sprague that there are puzzling anomalies:

> The question still remains that, if indeed the two-over-two, central-chimney portion of the house was built at one time, what is the explanation for the differences between the two halves and the earlier timbers found in the house. These anomalies continue to cloud the development of an evolutionary theory for the First Period house – i.e., does the east half of the house represent the core of an earlier half house or were both the east and west halves of the house raised at

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[22] H. Hobart Holly, "Notes on the PENNIMAN Family for Reference by Guides at the John Adams Birthplace," 1977, appendix A-1 in *Perrault, Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. [1].

[23] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 21.

[24] Carole Louise Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2 (DRAFT, May, 1994), p. 19.

[25] William Penn, Deed to Joseph Peneman and William Veazey Jr., 1675, *Suffolk County Deeds,* Liber. IX (Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1897), pp. 200-201.

[26] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 21.

[27] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 24.

[28] Carole Louise Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2 (DRAFT, June, 1994), p. 16.

[29] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, June 1994, p. 26.

the same time with the earlier timbers relating to a totally different structure that was dismantled (on this location or elsewhere)[?][30]

Perrault casts doubt on Sprague's reliance on the "1681" brick with the suggestion that the number was etched into a soft brick not intended to last indefinitely. Therefore, instead of a date marker, it may have been a "tally mark for a brick lot" indicating a quantity of bricks made or fired by the brick maker.[31] However, Abbot Lowell Cummings, author of *Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725*, believes that it is very unlikely that the number is a tally. However, he also believes "1681" cannot be considered the date of the house unless there is physical evidence to corroborate the date. The brick may be a reused part of an earlier, unrelated building.[32]

In his 1705 will, Joseph Penniman left the John Adams birthplace property to his youngest son James (1684-1724). James Penniman married Abigail Thayer the same year. Also in 1705, Abigail Thayer inherited her father's homestead on Middle Street in Quincy.[33] It is unclear whether the James Penniman family lived on the John Adams birthplace tract. James Penniman is known to have died while living in the house his wife inherited from her father, so the family lived in the Middle Street house at least at the end of his life.[34] However, the 1720 deed between Penniman and Deacon John Adams states that Penniman sold the land because he was moving.[35]

It is agreed among scholars that the majority of the John Adams birthplace predates 1725, the generally accepted end of the First Period architectural style. In considering extant architectural evidence, recent architectural conservators are more comfortable with a date attribution late in the period.[36] Although James Penniman may not have lived on the property, he may have been the one to enlarge or build the two-room wide, one-room deep, hall-and-parlor plan house with partial lean-to prior to Deacon John Adams' 1720 purchase of the property.

Deacon John Adams Ownership (1720-1761)

Deacon John Adams (1690/91-1761) purchased the John Adams birthplace site from James Penniman in 1720. For the price of L134, Adams received

> A Certain peice or parcell of Land In Brantrey aforesd Containing Sic Acres (be it more or less) being Orchard & Arable Land Adjacent to the Country Road Situate in the North precinct of Brantrey aforesd Bounded Eastwerdly on the aforesd Road Northwardly on the Lands of Moses Curtis Southwardly Westerly on the Lands of Dec: Gregory Belcher [the John Quincy Adams birthplace lot] or

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[30] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, June 1994, p. 26.
[31] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, June 1994, pp. 20-21.
[32] Abbott Lowell Cummings, Telephone conversation with author, 19 August 1998.
[33] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 22.
[34] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, May, p. 19.
[35] James Penniman, Deed to John Adams, 1720, *Suffolk County Deeds*, vol. 34, pp. 259-260, Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, MA.
[36] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, June 1994, p. 28.

> howsoever otherwise bounded or reputed to be bounded Together with a Dwelling house Barn & Well thereon and thereto appertaining.[37]

The dwelling house likely was the two-story, two-room wide, one-room deep, central chimney house with partial lean-to as described above. However, there is one letter written by John Adams to Dr. Benjamin Rush in 1812 that suggests otherwise. Adams wrote

> In the month of March last I was called to the house in another part of the town which was built by my Father, in which he lived and died and from which I buried him and in the Chamber in which I was born I could not forbear to weep over the remains of a beautiful child of my Son Thomas' that died of the Whooping Cough.[38]

What renders this letter unconvincing is the fact that this is his only mention of Deacon John Adams building this house. There are no such references in John Adams' autobiography or any other writings. John Adams was fond of listing his father's positive attributes and accomplishments, but never listed the construction of his boyhood home among them. Therefore, it is likely that most of the present John Adams birthplace structure was extant at the time of its 1720 purchase.

It is possible that Deacon John Adams expanded the house by adding a second, larger lean-to to the rear of the house. The addition of the northern shed may also date to the mid-eighteenth century, Deacon John Adams occupancy period (see ill. 7).[39]

- Deacon John Adams

Deacon John Adams was a member of the fourth generation of the Adams family to come to the American colonies from England. In 1638, during the Great Migration, Henry (ca. 1583-1646) and Edith Adams left Somersetshire with eight children to settle near Mount Wollaston (in present-day Quincy) in the Massachusetts Bay colony. Henry Adams was a farmer and malster. [40] Upon his 1646 death, only his son Joseph Adams (1626-1694) remained in Braintree. He took over his father's homestead and malting business.[41]

Joseph Adams' second son Joseph Adams (1654-1737) married Hannah Bass in 1688. Hannah Bass traced her roots back to the original Mayflower settlers of Plymouth colony. Her mother Ruth (Alden) Bass was the daughter of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden.[42] Deacon John Adams was the second son of Joseph and Hannah Adams. He was baptized on 15 January 1690 (Old Style) and joined the United First Parish Church on 16

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[37] Penniman, Deed to Adams, 1720.

[38] John Adams Letterbook, John Adams to Dr. Benjamin Rush, 19 July 1812, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, May, p. 18.

[39] Carole Louise Perrault, conversation with author, 17 May 1999.

[40] Lawrence D. Gall, "A Chronicle of Adamses in American History," 1979, in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 350.

[41] William C. Edwards, *Historic Quincy Massachusetts* (Quincy, MA: City of Quincy, 1957), p. 39.

[42] Edwards, *Historic Quincy*, p. 39.

October 1715 (O.S.).[43] His older brother, Joseph, received a Harvard education and became a minister while John became a farmer and cordwainer.

Deacon John Adams married Susannah Boylston Adams, a member of the well-to-do Brookline Boylston family, in 1734. This alliance represented an advance in Adams' social standing. The following year John Adams was born. The Adamses had two other boys, Peter Boylston Adams in 1738 and Elihu Adams in 1741.

Besides farming and cordwaining to support his family, Deacon John Adams was involved in the affairs of Braintree including the local militia and government. In 1774, John Adams transcribed his father's will and wrote on the exterior the following apt description of his multi-talented, but geographically limited father:

> This Testator, had a good education, tho not at Colledge, and was a very capable and usefull Man, in his Early Life he was an officer in a Company of Militia - after wards a Deacon of the Church, and a Select Man of the Town, almost all the Business of the Town being managed by him in that Department for 20 years together. - A Man of Strict Piety and great Integrity: much esteemed and beloved, wherever he was known. - which was not far.[44]

The first reference to Deacon John Adams being involved in local government is on 22 September 1726 when he was assigned to the committee to prepare for the ordination of Reverend John Hancock.[45] It is unclear when his involvement with the militia began, but he is not referred to by rank in government records until February 1744/45.[46] In a 1742 deed, he is called "Leiut. John Adams."[47] He is first listed as a deacon in March 1747/48.[48]

The duties Deacon John Adams performed in town varied from the practical to the financial to the managerial. Adams served on committees to plan and fund an ordination, to find temporary and permanent ministers, and to encourage ministers to accept appointments. He was a member of the committee in charge of the "prudentials of the Meeting house" for several years.[49] He also served on committees that managed the financial and practical issues surrounding the meeting house itself. They fenced in ministerial lands in the late 1720s then staked out and collected funds for a new meeting house in the early 1730s. Adams served on several committees to audit treasurer's reports and/or settle with treasurers. He also served as an assessor, presumably of taxes, more than once. He served occasionally as meeting moderator. His longest-held post was that of clerk which he held for the majority of the 1730s. At a time when church and state

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[43] Owen L. Della Lucca, "United First Parish Church Vital Records," n.d., United First Parish Church Archives, Quincy, MA.

[44] Deacon John Adams, Will, 1774 copy made by John Adams, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[45] *Records of the North Precinct of Braintree in New England from 1709 to 1791*, vol. 1, United First Parish Church, Quincy, MA, p. 26.

[46] *Records of North Precinct*, vol. 1, p. 74.

[47] Samuel and Abigail (Belcher) Nightingale, Deed to Lewis Vassal, 1742, *Suffolk County Deeds*, vol. 64, pp. 173-174, Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, MA.

[48] *Records of North Precinct*, vol. 1, p. 90.

[49] The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines "prudentials" as "matters of local government for which there is no need to go to the law courts." [*Oxford English Dictionary*, vol. II (New York: Oxford University Press, 1971), p. 1534.]

government were one and the same, Deacon John Adams held leadership positions that indicate his standing in the community and willingness to take on multiple tasks which must have taken time away from farm and family. Predictably, at his decease, Deacon John Adams left money to the North Precinct of Braintree.[50]

Deacon John Adams had a commitment to owning property in the town which he served. This was a commitment that he encouraged in his sons. John Adams wrote in his autobiography, "I heard my father say that he never knew a Piece of Land run away or break."[51] It appears that Deacon John Adams' first purchase of land was the 1720 Penniman tract he bought when he was about twenty-nine years old. At his father Joseph Adams' death in 1731, Deacon John Adams inherited "Twelve acres of Fresh meadow and upland at the East End of my [Joseph Adams'] Home Lot adjoining to his own Lands."[52] To further expand his contiguous property, in 1744 Deacon John Adams purchased from John and Richard Billings the house and grounds of what would become the John Quincy Adams birthplace next door. Also in 1744, he bought of Nathaniel Belcher

> A Certain Peice or parcel of Land in Braintree aforesaid lying in the middle precinct Containing Twelve Acres be it more or less being orchard and Pasture Land and is Bounded as the fence now stands Northerly on Land of Samuel Curtis and John Curtis Easterly on the Road & southerly on John Curtis's Land and Westerly on Capt. Ebenezer Thayers Land or however otherwise bounded or reputed to be bounded.[53]

Deacon John Adams clearly made other purchases of land during his lifetime because at his death of influenza in 1761 his probate inventory included the following:

An House Out Houses and 35 Acres / Land belonging to it	366.13.4
An House & Barn 10 Acres Land	186.13.4
An House 92 Acres land	400.0.0
7 Acres Salt Marsh	56.0.0
8 Acres fresh Meadow	40.0.0
12 Acres Upland	80.0.0
22 Acres Woodland	73.6.0
2 Acres Cedar Swamp	5.7.0

(see appendix A-1)[54]

In addition to these inventoried items, Deacon John Adams also held lands jointly with relatives Ebenezer Adams and Samuel Bass.[55]

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[50] *Records of North Precinct*, vol. 1, pp. 26, 29, 31, 34-36, 40, 43, 46-49, 51-53, 56, 61, 65, 72, 74, 76, 85, 90, 95, 105, 108, 112, 116, 123, 125, 127-128, 132-133, 136B-137, 140, 146.

[51] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1, p. 286.

[52] Joseph Adams, Will, 1731, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[53] Nathaniel Belcher, Deed to John Adams, 1744, *Suffolk County Deeds*, vol. 69, pp. 24-25, Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, MA.

[54] John Ferling, *John Adams: A Life* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1992), p. 28. Deacon John Adams, Inventory, 1761, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[55] Deacon John Adams, Will, 1761, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #307.

Adams willed the first listed house (John Adams birthplace) and thirty-five acres to Peter Boylston Adams, the second house (John Quincy Adams birthplace) and ten acres to John Adams, and the third house and 92 acres in the South Precinct of Braintree (later Randolph) to Elihu Adams. Peter Boylston Adams also received shares of saltmarsh and rights to Deacon John Adams' jointly held lands. John Adams received eight acres of fresh meadow, the twelve acres of pasture and orchard bought in 1744 from Nathaniel Belcher, and ten acres of woodland. Elihu Adams received a small amount of saltmarsh to augment his large farm.[56] Peter Boylston and Elihu Adams presumably received more land than John Adams because they were farmers by trade. John Adams inherited forty acres of the approximately 108 acres of Penn's Hill farm that he later would sell to his son John Quincy Adams in 1803.[57]

- Susannah Boylston Adams

Susannah (sometimes spelled "Susanna") Boylston Adams (1709-1797) was the daughter of Peter and Ann Boylston of Brookline.[58] John Adams briefly described his mother's genealogy on the exterior of a transcription of his father's will: "This Testator [Deacon John Adams] married Susanna Boylston, a Daughter of Peter Boylston of Brooklyne who was a son of Thomas Boylston, of the same Town a Physician, and Brother of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, the first Practiser of Inoculation for the Small Pox."[59] Thomas Boylston was an English physician who came to Massachusetts Bay in 1656.[60]

Susannah Boylston Adams seems to have been hot tempered based on a memorable episode recorded in John Adams' diary. In 1758, twenty-three-year-old John Adams wrote,

how a whole Family is put into a Broil sometimes by a Trifle. – my P. & M. disagreed in opinion about boarding Judah, that Difference occasiond passionate expressions. those Expressions made Dolly [presumably another servant] & Judah Snivell, Peter observd and mentiond it. I faulted him for it, and made him mad and all was breaking into a flame when I quitted the Room, and took up Tully [presumably a book] to amuse myself. – my P. continued cool and pleasant a good while, but had his Temper roused, at last, tho he utterd not a rash Word, but resolutely asserted his Rit to gov[?] – my Mamma was determind to know wt my P. chargd a week for ye Girls Board. P. said he had not determined wt to charge but wd have her Say wt it was worth. She absolutely refused to say. But I will know if I live and breath. I can read yet, why don't you tell me wt you charge? you do it on purpose to tease me, you are mighty arch this morning. I wont have all ye Towns Poor brought here stark nakd for me to clothe for nothing. I wont be a slave to other folks folk for nothing. – and after ye 2 Girls cried I must

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[56] Deacon John Adams, Will, 1761.

[57] John Adams, Deed to John Quincy Adams, 1803, *Norfolk County Deeds*, vol. 21, folio 32, Norfolk County Courthouse, Dedham, MA.

[58] Quincy Historical Society, "The Adams Family Line," 1965, appendix A-3 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

[59] Deacon John Adams, Will, 1774 copy.

[60] John Adams Letterbook, John Adams to Skelton Jones Esq., 11 March 1809, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #118.

> not Speak a word for your Girls, wenches, Drabs & c I'll kick both their fathers presently. you want to put your girls over me, to make me a slave to your womens.[61]

This description may allude to the actual state of his parents' tempers, but tells more about John Adams' perception of their behavior. From John Adams' point of view, his father was calm until his raving mother provoked him. Deacon John Adams felt he had the right to ask his wife to take in the two girls, but was willing to ask her what a fair compensation would be for boarding them. John Adams portrays his mother as unreasonable because she does not name a price.

For her part, Susannah Boylston Adams was frustrated by her husband's request because her household and her housework would increase with the addition of the two girls. She would have to make their clothing, give them shelter, and feed them. In her mind, Deacon John Adams had made her a "slave" to two of the town's poor.

In a less critical and more idealizing mood, John Adams wrote to his daughter Nabby in 1794, "My aged and venerable mother is drawing near the close of a virtuous and industrious life. May her example be ever present with me! May I be enabled to fulfill the duties of life, as well as she has done. I would not exchange her morals for all the offices, honours, and profits of the world."[62]

Judah, the cause of the Adams' dispute, remained a servant in the Deacon John Adams household beyond the time of his 1761 death. As John Adams and Abigail Smith were preparing to set up housekeeping, Susannah Boylston Adams offered to lend Judah to the young couple temporarily. John Adams wrote to Abigail Smith,

> my Mother says that Judah will do very well for your service this Winter - She is able to do a good deal of Business. - and my mother farther says that she shall have no occasion for her this winter and that you may take her if you please and return her in the spring, when it is likely she will have occasion again for some Help and you will it is likely want some better help.[63]

Apparently Judah had acquired some skills under the supervision of Susannah Boylston Adams, but Abigail Adams could still find "better help."

Susannah Boylston Adams lived with her family in the John Adams birthplace up to and past the 1761 death of her first husband Deacon John Adams. In 1766, she married Lieutenant John Hall and may have continued to live in the John Adams birthplace until Peter Boylston Adams married Mary Crosby in 1768.[64] By 1772, she was living in the John Quincy Adams birthplace because John Adams wrote, "My Father in

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[61] John Adams Diary, December 1758, quoted in Helen N. Skeen, "The Adams Family at the John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces: Excerpts from the Autobiography of John Adams, Family Diaries, Correspondence, and Documents," comp. Ann Diaz and Kelly Peterson, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA, photocopy, p. 16.

[62] John Adams to Nabby Adams, 7 January 1794, in *Correspondence of Miss Adams* (New York: Putnam, 1842), pp. 129-130.

[63] John Adams to Abigail Smith, 30 September 1764, quoted in Skeen, "Excerpts," p. 33.

[64] Helen N. Skeen, "Report on the John Adams' Birthplace (The Deacon John Adams Homestead) Quincy, Massachusetts," 1983, appendix F-6 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 14.

Law Mr. Hall and my Mother are well Settled in my Farm at Braintree."[65] In 1772 John Adams was living in Boston and did not yet own the John Adams birthplace, so his mother must have been living in his house, the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

In 1780, John Hall and Peter Boylston Adams' wife, Mary, died. Abigail Adams wrote

> as to our domestick affairs Mr. H[al]l is dead, and your M[othe]r went to your B[rothe]r he having lost his wife in the Spring, & was there taken Ill, I sent for her home, & have Nursed the old Lady through a severe Turn of a fever in which I feard for her life, she is however upon recovery & desires her tenderest regards to you, tho she fears she shall not live to see you return.[66]

At this time, Peter Boylston Adams and his family were living in a house he had inherited from his wife. Susannah Hall was living in this house at the time of her 1797 death.[67]

- Young John Adams

John Adams (1735-1826) was the oldest child of Deacon John and Susannah Boylston Adams born on 19 October 1735 (Old Style) or 30 October (New Style). The room in which the future president was born cannot be proven beyond a doubt, but the statement of his grandson is a convincing piece of family history. Isaac Hull Adams, son of Thomas Boylston Adams, wrote a letter in 1895 which was printed in the *Patriot Ledger* addressing the subject:

> John Adams, my grandfather, was born in the smaller house [John Adams birthplace] and in the front chamber nearest the street (not in the lower room) over the common parlor [southeast chamber].
>
> I was born in the same chamber in the smaller house in which John Adams came into the world and have often been told this by my father and mother.[68]

Probably on the basis of this letter the southeast chamber of the John Adams birthplace is considered to be the birthroom of John Adams.

John Adams grew to school age on the farm which presented him with a variety of outdoor leisure and work activities. In his autobiography, "John Adams recalled fondly his time spent flying kites, driving hoops, playing marbles and quoits, and swimming and wrestling in summer, as well as skating on ponds in winter. His great childhood passion was shooting, and he confessed an enthusiasm for it that exceeded any

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[65] John Adams Diary, 28 November 1772, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1.

[66] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 15 October 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #353.

[67] Henry Adams, "The Birthplaces of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams of Quincy, Massachusetts" (Quincy, MA: Adams Memorial Society, 1936), p. 6.

[68] "The Birthplaces: The Houses and Rooms Where Presidents Adams Were Born," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 8 August 1895.

he ever felt for business or study."[69] John Adams' work on the farm followed a similar seasonal structure:

> Plowing and sowing took place in spring, the principal crop being Indian corn. But there was also rye, wheat, oats and barley, as well as hay and flax. Fields had to be fertilized with manure hauled from the barns and gathered from the road right in front of the house. This was mixed with marsh and seaweed to form a compost that John Adams never tired of discussing in his letters. The sheep had to be sheared in spring for the wool which the womenfolk carded and spun into thread. By midsummer hay was mowed, raked, and stored for the livestock, which consisted usually of a pair of horses, a team of oxen for plowing and stone-and-stump pulling, several cows and a few yearlings, perhaps twenty sheep and a number of pigs. At summer's end the corn was harvested, shucked, shelled and hauled to the mill down the brook which ran across the Adamses' farm to be ground into meal. The apple orchard was also harvested, most of the crop being pressed in the cider mill on the farm to produce the universal beverage of the New England farm family, hard cider. If there was nothing else to do, there were stone walls and rail fences to be mended and built and wood to be cut – cords and cords of it –to feed the kitchen fire year-round and to help keep off winter's chill.[70]

While Deacon John Adams intended for John's brothers Peter and Elihu to become farmers, he had other plans for his eldest son John. Like his own older brother Joseph, Deacon John planned for John Adams to go to Harvard and become a minister.
Historian Peter Shaw interprets Deacon John's sending his son to Harvard not as the perpetuation of a model in his own family, but as his striving to improve the family's social prospects:

> That he [Deacon John Adams] was determined to have his son become a minister (for that was what Harvard College signified to him) was a measure both of his economic progress – he could afford to spare a hand from the work of the farm – and of his idealism, for it would be only with some difficulty that he could support that son at school. John Adams was expected to continue the family struggle for improvement.[71]

John Quincy Adams, looking back over the lives of his ancestors likewise saw a Harvard education as the doorway to a more promising future:

> Fortune in Life between those of my kindred who were educated at Cambridge and those deprived of that advantage – My father's uncle Joseph was graduated at Harvard and became an eminent minister at Newington, New Hampshire[.] If my

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[69] Lawrence D. Gall, "The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams: An Interpretive Presentation of the Grounds," 1978-1979, appendix F-5 in Perrault, *Historic Structures Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 7.

[70] Gall, "Interpretive Presentation of Grounds," pp. 5-6.

[71] Peter Shaw, *The Character of John Adams* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1976), p. 3.

Grandfather himself had received the same education, he would have been distinguished wither as a clergyman or as a Lawyer.

But knowledge to his eyes, her ample page
Rich with the Spoils of Time did ne'er enroll.

and the Summit of his political elevation was the Office of a Selectman of Braintree.[72]

John Adams started his education at Dame Belcher's school in Braintree learning to read, write, and perform simple arithmetic.[73] Next, he went to a free Latin school taught by Harvard graduate Joseph Cleverly where he learned Latin, Greek, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, some higher math, navigation, geography, and astronomy.[74] Despite his father's enthusiasm, young John Adams disliked Mr. Cleverly and desired to return to a life of farming. Deacon John Adams overcame his son's resistance first by indulging it and then by sending him to a new teacher, John Marsh. John Adams studied with John Marsh until passing the Harvard entrance examination in 1751.[75] John Adams received his A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1755. His class rank, undemocratically, was determined by his social rank, not his academic achievement. He ranked fifteenth out of twenty-four students based upon Susannah Boylston Adams' social standing.[76]

Upon graduation, John Adams struggled to decide upon a career path. Deacon John Adams assumed his son would become a church minister. However, John Adams could not decide if he should be a minister, a lawyer, or a physician. He recounts this difficult time in his autobiography:

it was whispered to me and circulated among others that I had some faculty for public Speaking and that I should make a better Lawyer than Divine. This last Idea was easily understood and embraced by me. My Inclination was soon fixed upon the Law: But my Judgment was not so easily determined. There were many difficulties in the Way. Although my Fathers general Expectation was that I should be a Divine, I knew him to be a Man of so thoughtful and considerate a turn of mind, to be possessed of so much Candor and moderation, that it would not be difficult to remove any objections he might make to my pursuit of Physick or Law or any other reasonable Course. My Mother although a pious Woman I knew had no partiality for the Life of a Clergyman. But I had Uncles and other relations, full of the most illiberal Prejudices against the Law. I had indeed a proper Affection and veneration for them, but as I was under no Obligation of Gratitude to them, which could give them any colour of Authority to prescribe a

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[72] John Quincy Adams Diary, 13 August 1826, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #38.

[73] Page Smith, *John Adams*, vol. 1 (Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, 1962), p. 11.

[74] "Copies of Placards Placed in the Rooms of the John Adams Birthplace," ca. 1978, appendix D-17 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. [2]. Ferling, p. 12.

[75] Ferling, pp. 13-14.

[76] Lawrence D. Gall, "The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams: An Interpretive Presentation of the Grounds [extended version]," 1978-1979, File L58a, K1817, D18, Interpretation and Feasibility Reports, Adams Birthplaces, 1978-1979, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA, p. 5.

course of Life to me, I thought little of their Opinions. Other obstacles more serious than these presented themselves. A Lawyer must have a Fee, for taking me into his Office. I must be boarded and cloathed for several Years: I had no Money; and my Father having three Sons, had done as much for me, in the Expences of my Education as his Estate and Circumstances could justify and as my Reason or my honor would allow me to ask. I therefore gave out that I would take a School and took my Degree at Colledge undetermined whether I should study Divinity, Law or Physick. In the publick Exercises at Commencement, I was somewhat remarked as a Respondent, and Mr. Maccarty of Worcester who was empowered by the Select Men of that Town to procure them a Latin Master for their Grammar School engaged me to undertake it.[77]

Adams accepted the teaching job in Worcester as a way to earn money and bide his time while making a life-long career decision. While his family wished him to become a minister, John Adams felt he did not have the temperament for the calling. He was also influenced by a distasteful dispute which took place between the people of the United First Parish Church and the current minister, a Mr. Bryant. John Adams also describes this event in his autobiography:

Between the Years 1751 when I entered, and 1754 [1755] when I left Colledge a Controversy was carried on between Mr. Bryant the Minister of our Parish and some of his People, partly on Account of his Principles which were called Arminian and partly on Account of his Conduct, which was too gay and light if not immoral. Ecclesiastical Councils were called and sat at my Fathers House. Parties and their Accrimonies arose in the Church and Congregation, and Controversies from the Press between Mr. Bryant, Mr. Niles, Mr. Porter, Mr. Bass, concerning the five Points. I read all these Pamphlets and many other Writings on the same Subject and found myself involved in difficulties beyond my Powers of decision. At the same time, I saw such a Spirit of Dogmatism and Bigotry in Clergy and Laity, that if I should be a Priest I must take my side, and pronounce as positively as any of them, or never get a Parish, or getting it must soon leave it. Very strong doubts arose in my mind, whether I was made for a Pulpit in such times, and I began to think of other Professions. I perceived very clearly, as I thought, that the study of Theology and the pursuit of it as a Profession would involve me in endless Altercations and make my Life miserable, without any prospect of doing any good to my fellow Men.[78]

In Worcester, Adams quickly grew weary of teaching young men and decided to pursue an apprenticeship with a lawyer.

While Adams attributed his choice to be a lawyer to understanding his natural abilities and being turned off by local ecclesiastical events, historian John Ferling attributes his choice to a desire for greatness. According to Ferling, a law practice would bring Adams the "recognition and esteem that he sought most." He "knew that lawyers

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[77] L.H. Butterfield, ed., *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams: Autobiography, 1777-1780* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1961), p. 263.

[78] Butterfield, *Autobiography, 1777-1780,* p. 262.

practiced in and presided over important courts, that through their counsel to influential businessmen they exercised considerable power, and that more lawyers had begun to enter public life, even to hold seats in the provincial assembly."[79] Adams saw his choice as using his skills for the good of his fellow man while Ferling sees his choice as using the legal system to garner glory for himself.

In late summer 1756, John Adams began an apprenticeship with young Worcester lawyer James Putnam. He studied with Putnam for the usual duration of two years. During that time he likely undertook the standard American study of law consisting of reading, observing his mentor in court, and preparing briefs for Putnam's cases.[80]

In 1758, Adams completed his studies with Putnam and received an M.A. from Harvard College.[81] The town of Worcester offered him the job of town registrar so that he would have a paying job while he started his law practice there. He turned this opportunity down in favor of moving back to the John Adams birthplace so that he could save money and practice law in Braintree without competition. Stressing John Adams' desire for importance, Ferling points to Braintree's location within the Boston judicial court system over Worcester's backwater status as a deciding factor in Adams' choice of location.[82]

Back in Braintree John Adams continued his study of law. In November of 1761, he was admitted to the Suffolk Bar under the sponsorship of prominent Boston lawyer Jeremiah Gridley.[83] During this time Adams also pursued other activities. He sought out causes to support such as temperance, reducing the number of inns in Braintree, and eliminating "pettifoggers," men acting as lawyers without legal training.[84] In 1763, under the pseudonym "Humphrey Ploughjobber," Adams wrote the first of his many letters to newspapers on political theory.[85] In 1764, John Adams appears in town government records as a trustee of precinct funds, likely the money left to the parish by his father. The same year he was asked to present an address regarding the overtaxation of the North Precinct of Braintree for the construction of highways.[86]

It is unclear where John Adams kept his law practice between his admission to the bar and his 1764 marriage and move to the John Quincy Adams birthplace. A tantalizing entry in his diary on 20 November 1761 is cited by the editors of the letterpress edition of the Adams papers as proof of his setting up his first law office:

> This day removed to my Chamber, and made a Fire - The Forenoon was Spent in Conversation with Zab, in walking to Dr. Turners, [illeg.] up Penns Hill, and this afternoon in Conversation with Gindal Rawson and Zab at Mrs. Marshes. Yet I have caught several snatches of Reading [&?] Thinking, in Blackstone, Gilbert & c. But I, as usual, expect great Things from this Chamber, and this Winter.

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[79] Ferling, p. 17.
[80] Ferling, pp. 19-20.
[81] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 353.
[82] Ferling, p. 22.
[83] Page Smith, vol. 1, p. 42.
[84] Ferling, p. 28.
[85] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 353. Ferling, p. 36.
[86] *Records of North Precinct*, vol. 1., pp. 147, 149.

The corresponding footnote reads

> This entry fixes the date of JA's fitting out and establishing himself in his law office in the house now known as the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, which he had inherited from his father . . . and which the Savils [tenants in the 1760s] must by now have vacated. The law office was in the southeast room on the ground floor and JA opened a new doorway into it from the street.[87]

Adams had certainly set up a work space in which he could read and think, but this entry does not specify that he opened an office in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. This entry could just as easily refer to a room set aside for his use in the John Adams birthplace. This supposition is confirmed by Abigail Adams' later suggestion regarding the disposition of some books: "there is one difficulty which is Mr. [John Quincy] Adams's Books [in the John Quincy Adams birthplace]. I have not anywhere to put them, unless I could have the Chamber at Frenchs [John Adams birthplace] which used to be an office."[88] Wherever he was working, John Adams continued to live in the John Adams birthplace until his 1764 marriage to Abigail Smith for he wrote in his autobiography, "I continued to live with my Mother and oldest Brother Peter Boylston, till my Marriage in 1764."[89]

John Adams' 1764 wedding was postponed until late in the year so that he could be inoculated for smallpox. He wrote to Abigail Smith in April, describing the beginnings of this ordeal:

> The people all gone to Meeting, but my Self, and Companion [brother Peter Boylston Adams], who are enjoying a Pipe in great Tranquility, after the operation of our Ipichac. Did you ever see two Persons in one Room Ipichacuana'd together. (I hope I have not Spelled that ineffable Word amiss!) I assure you they make merry Diversion. We took turns to be sick and to laugh. When my Companion was sick I laughed at him, and when I was sick he laughed at me. Once, however, and once only we were both sick together, and then all Laughter and good Humour deserted the Room. Upon my word we both felt sober. -- But all is now easy and agreable, We have had our Breakfast of Pottage without salt or Spice, or Butter, as the Drs. would have it, and are seated to our Pipes and our Books, as happily as Mortals, preparing for the small Pox can desire.[90]

The ipecacuanha the two men smoked is an exotic plant intended to purge the digestive system prior to inoculation. After a week's preparation at home, they checked into a Boston hospital with Abigail Smith's brother William Smith, her uncle Cotton Tufts, and

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[87] John Adams Diary, 20 November 1761, Adams Papers Microfilm Reel #1. L.H. Butterfield, ed., *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams: Diary 1755-1770* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1961), p. 225.

[88] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.

[89] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180, p. 277.

[90] John Adams to Abigail Smith, 8 April 1764, in L.H. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence, December 1761-May 1776* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1963), p. 16.

six others. The procedure involved a doctor placing an infected thread in the patient's arm.[91]

- Young Peter Boylston Adams

Deacon John and Susannah Boylston Adams' second son Peter Boylston Adams (1738-1823) was born in 1738. As a boy and young man, he learned the art of farming from his father. In 1764 Peter Boylston Adams underwent the smallpox inoculation with John Adams.[92] Otherwise, very little is known about his early life (see below for later life of Peter Boylston Adams).

- Elihu Adams

Deacon John and Susannah Boylston Adams' youngest son Elihu (1741-1775) was born in 1741. He learned to make his living as a farmer from his father. In 1765, he married Thankful White of the South Precinct of Braintree, later Randolph. It is believed that at that time he and Thankful took up housekeeping at the large farm his father left him in 1761.[93] The fact that his wife was from the South Precinct of Braintree indicates that he likely spent time farming there and may have lived there prior to their marriage. This theory is supported by John Adams' autobiography: "I continued to live with my Mother and my Brothers, for the first year [after his father died], when my youngest Brother, Elihu, removed to the South Parish of Braintree, now Randolph, to a Farm which my Father left him."[94] If John Adams' recollection is accurate, his brother moved to the South Precinct of Braintree to begin working the farm as early as the spring of 1762.

Elihu and Thankful Adams had four children: Susannah in 1766, John in 1768, Elisha in 1772, and Elihu in 1775. Youngest son Elihu died at a very young age.[95]

Elihu Adams was a captain in the local militia and served during the Revolutionary War. He died on 10 August 1775 of dysentery.[96]

Peter Boylston Adams Ownership (1761-1774)

In his 1761 will, Deacon John Adams left his second son Peter Boylston Adams his homestead farm consisting of the John Adams birthplace and thirty-five acres of surrounding land.[97] As stated above, following Deacon John Adams' death Susannah Boylston, John, Peter Boylston, and Elihu Adams all continued to live in the John Adams birthplace. John Hall may have moved into the house at the time of his 1766 marriage to Susannah Boylston Adams. Elihu Adams moved to his South Precinct farm in 1762,

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[91] Ferling, p. 33.
[92] Ferling, p. 33.
[93] Henry Adams, pp. 3, 6.
[94] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180, p. 277.
[95] Elihu Adams, Warrant for Division, 1789, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 75, pp. 355-356, docket 15842, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA. Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line." Susanna, John, and Elisha Adams, Bond of Guardianship, 1781, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 80, p. 338, dockets 15843-15845, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.
[96] Henry Adams, pp. 3, 6.
[97] Deacon John Adams, Will, 1761.

John Adams moved to the John Quincy Adams birthplace in 1764, and the Halls likely moved out when Peter Boylston Adams married Mary Crosby in 1768.

It is uncertain when Peter Boylston and Mary Adams left the John Adams birthplace. They eventually moved into a house on present-day Adams Street belonging to Mary's father, Joseph Crosby.[98] They had certainly moved by 1774 when Peter Boylston Adams sold the property to his brother John. Between their 1768 marriage and their departure from the John Adams birthplace, Mary gave birth to three children: Mary in 1769, Boylston in 1771, and Ann in 1773. After leaving they had three more children: Susannah in 1775 who died very young, a second Susannah in 1777, and Elizabeth in 1780.[99]

During his short ownership of the John Adams birthplace property, Peter Boylston Adams continued to run it as a farm. Like Deacon John Adams, Peter Boylston Adams also was very active in local government. While his brother John operated in the larger spheres of colonial, state, federal, and international affairs, Peter Boylston Adams remained active in town affairs. Starting in 1772 and continuing until the North Precinct of Braintree records end in 1791, Peter Boylston Adams held many of the same committee posts his father had held before him. He oversaw and raised money for meeting house repairs; he served as an assessor several times; he settled accounts with the treasurer and the minister; he was on the standing committee and the prudential committee; he raised money for the school; and oversaw the buying and selling of church pews. While Deacon John Adams served as clerk for many years and only occasionally moderated meetings, Peter Boylston Adams never served as clerk, but was a frequent moderator. One other interesting committee with which he was involved was the committee to petition the state to allow Dorchester to become a separate town from Braintree.[100]

In 1780, Peter Boylston Adams' wife Mary and Susannah Hall's husband John both died. At that time, Susannah Hall moved into the Crosby house to help Peter Boylston with his young children. She remained there until her death in 1797.

Around 1797, presumably in preparation for the 1798 Federal Direct Tax, Peter Boylston Adams helped Abigail Adams to assess John Adams' real estate holdings. The resulting document is entitled "The President's Valluation. A Valluation of Houses & Lands belonging to the Honbel John Adams Esqr as given by his Lady and Peter B Adams Esqr" (see appendix G-5). No information is available regarding Peter Boylston Adams from this time until his death in 1823.[101]

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[98] Sprague, Waldo C., *A Brief Story of The Birthplaces of the Presidents John and John Quincy Adams, Quincy, Mass.* (1954; reprint, Quincy, MA: n.p., 1964), p. [1].

[99] Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line."

[100] *Records of North Precinct,* vol. 2, pp. 14, 17-19, 21, 27, 30-32, 34, 42, 45, 47, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60-61, 63-64, 66, 68, 69, 73-74.

[101] Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line."

John Adams Ownership (1774-1803)

In 1774, Peter Boylston Adams sold to his brother John Adams, who was living in the neighboring John Quincy Adams birthplace,

> My House and Barn and thirty five Acres of Land more or less situate in said Braintree being the Homestead devised to me by my fathers last Will & bounded easterly on plymouth road so called southerly partly on said John Adams's other Land partly on Land of Joseph Field and partly on meadow of Ebenezer Adams Westerly on moses Adams's Land Northerly partly on Land of Ebenezer Adams partly on land of the Widow Elizabeth Adams and her children partly on Land of William Vesey as the bounds and fences now stand being all that was called my Fathers homestead.[102]

The John Adams family continued to live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace and rented the John Adams birthplace to tenants.

Like his father, John Adams continually added to his land holdings at the Penn's Hill farm. When he sold the farm to John Quincy Adams in 1803, his holdings included land willed to him by his father, the land he purchased of Peter Boylston Adams, and three additional lots. Of the four parcels of land willed to John Adams from his father, it appears he disposed of twelve acres of pasture and orchard and ten acres of woodland because they do not appear in the 1803 list of deeds.[103]

The three lots Adams added to the Penn's Hill farm were purchased in the 1780s. Abigail Adams purchased four acres of wood lot and four acres of pasture land from Moses Babcock in May of 1783. In February of 1788, undoubtedly through the aid of Cotton Tufts, the Adamses obtained forty-six acres from William and Sarah Vesey.[104]

From 1774 to 1784, John Adams was away from Braintree dealing with issues of national and international importance. During this time Abigail Adams took on his role as manager of the farm. In 1784, Abigail and daughter Nabby Adams departed for England to join John Adams and John Quincy Adams. The other two boys, Charles and Thomas Boylston, stayed in Haverhill, Massachusetts with Abigail Adams' sister Elizabeth Shaw. From 1784 to 1788 and then intermittently thereafter until 1801, Abigail's Uncle Cotton Tufts and her sister Mary Cranch managed the Adams' properties for them. The letters that were exchanged during this time provide some of the most illuminating information about the birthplaces.

- Hayden (ca. 1775-1778)

The first known tenant in the John Adams birthplace is an older man named Hayden. Abigail Adams, left in charge of the houses and farm during the Revolutionary War while John Adams attended the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, wrote

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[102] Peter Boylston Adams, Deed to John Adams, 1774, *Suffolk County Deeds*, vol. 125, pp. 128-129, Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, MA.

[103] John Adams, Deed to John Quincy Adams, 1803.

[104] Lawrence D. Gall, "Topographical Notes on John Adams' Farm at Penn's Hill," n.d., in "John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces Reference Book," Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA, pp. 5-6.

a very distressed letter to him seeking his advice and aid regarding this problematic tenant. She wrote,

> I have met with some abuse & very Ill treatment, I want you for my protector and justifier.
>
> In this Day of distress for our Boston Friends when every one does what in them lyes to serve them - your Friend Gorge Trott and family moved up to Braintree, went in with her two Brothers & families with her Father, but they not thinking themselves so secure as further in the country moved away. . . . he applied to me to see if I would not accommodate him with the next house [John Adams birthplace] - every other spot in Town being full - I sent for Mr. Hayden & handsomely asked him [to move], he said he would try - but he took no pains to procure himself a place, there were several in the other parish which were to be let - but my Gentleman did not chuse to go there - Mr. Trot upon account of his Business which is in considerable demand wanted to be here - mr. Trott, finding there was no hopes of his going out said he would go in with him, provided I would let him have the chamber I improved for a Dairy room and the lower room & chamber over it which hayden has - I then sent and asked Mr. Hayden to be so kind as to remove his things into the other part of the house and I told him he might improve the kitchen back chamber the bed room & the Dairy room in which he already had a bed. - he would not tell me whether he would or not - but said I was turning him out of Door to oblige Boston folks - and he would not be stired up, and if you was at home you would not once ask him to go out, but was more of a Gentleman. You must know that both his sons are in the army, not but one Days Work has been done by any of them this Spring - I as mildly as I could represented the distress of Mr. Trot and the difficulties to which he had been put - that I looked upon it as my Duty to do all in my power to Oblige him - and that he Hayden would be much better accomodated than hundreds who were turnd out of Town - and I finally said that mr. Trott should go in . . . I removed my dairy things, and once more requested the old Man to move into the other part of the house - but he positively tells me he will not and all the art of Man shall not stir him, even dares me to put any article out of one room into an other - Says Mr. Trot shall not come in -he has got possession & he will keep it – [']What not have a place to entertain his children in When they come to see him[?'] - I now write you an account of the matter - and desire you to write to him and give me orders what course I shall take[.] I must take mr. Trott in with me and all his family for the present - till he can look further or have that House.
>
> It would be needless to enumerate all his impudence. let it suffice to say it moved me so much that I had hard Work to suppress my temper - I want to know whether his things may be removed into the other part of the house, whether he consents or not? mr. Trott would rejoice to take the whole - but would put up with any thing rather than be a burden to his friends - I told the old Man I believed I was doing nothing but what I should be justified in - he says well tis a time of war get him out if I can - but cannon Ball shall not move him - if you think you

> are able to find 3 houses, for 3 such tenants as you have they must abide where they are, tho I own I shall be much mortified if you do not support me.[105]

Abigail Adams' letter describes the mass exodus from Boston during the Revolutionary War and the difficulty refugees had finding safe housing in the suburbs. As a patriot on the homefront, Abigail Adams wished to accommodate the needy Trott family, but was faced with a most uncooperative tenant.

It appears that Mr. Hayden and his two sons occupied a portion of the John Adams birthplace while another section contained Abigail Adams' dairy. This division of space does not seem to have been very rigid, however, because Hayden had a bed in her dairy room even before she said he could use the space. This letter is one of the few that discusses the use of space in the Adams birthplaces, but the familiar references and lack of punctuation make it difficult to read with any degree of accuracy.

Hayden not only was taking up valuable space at a time of great community-wide need, but his refusal to leave the John Adams birthplace cost Abigail Adams money. She wrote to John Adams, "I must beg you would give them [the Haydens] warning to seek a place before winter. had that house been empty I could have had an 100 a Year for it - many person[s] had applied before mr. Trot, but I wanted some part of it my self - & the other part it seems I have no command of."[106] Apparently Hayden's rent was to be paid through the work his sons performed on the farm. His sons were in the army at this time and therefore unable to work on the farm. Prior to 1777, short-term enlistments were the norm. According to Gross, "Militiamen were conscripted for short terms of three or six months in theaters far from home - New York, New Jersey, the 'Canady' country - as well as in nearby Rhode Island and in Massachusetts itself."[107] The sums paid enlisted men in 1775 were not large, however. In 1775 men were paid approximately a pound for a month and a half's time. Inflation and competition for volunteers would drive the price of an enlisted man's time up to a pound per day by 1780.[108]

To Abigail Adams' relief, John Adams supported her actions with regard to the Trotts and Haydens. He wrote,

> Your generous Solicitude for our unfortunate Friends from Boston, is very amiable and commendable, and you may depend upon my Justification of all that you have done or said to Hayden. - His sawcy, insolent Tongue is well known to me, but I had rather he should indulge it to me than to you. - I will not endure the least disrespectfull Expression to you. - In my Absence and in your Situation, it is brutal. - I send you a Warning to him to go out of the House immediately. - You may send it to him, if you see fit - if you do, let two or three Witnesses see it, before you send it, and let it be sent by a good Hand.[109]

John Adams' letter of warning was ineffectual, however, because in October of 1775 Abigail Adams still complained of her odious tenants:

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[105] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 12 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[106] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[107] Robert A. Gross, *The Minutemen and Their World* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1976), p. 147.
[108] Gross, p. 152.
[109] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 28 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

> Hayden does not stir[.] Says he will not go out of the parish unless he is carried out - and here nobody will let him come in[.] I have offered him part of the House that Field is in if he will but go out, but no where suits, and it is not to be wondered at as he has wood at free cost and has plundered pretty well from the family he live ~~with~~ [sic] many articles. I have great mind to send a sheriff & put him out.[110]

This letter indicates another family was sharing the John Adams birthplace with Hayden. It was likely not the Trott family because Abigail Adams would have referred to them by name as before. It was probably another family of Boston refugees.

It was not until mid-1778 that Abigail Adams was able to oust Hayden from the house. She wrote to John Adams,

> I will tell you after much embaresement in endeavoring to procure faithfull hands I concluded to put out the Farm and reduce my family as much as possible, I set about removeing the Tenants [the Haydens] from the House, which with much difficulty I effected, but not till I had paid a Quarters Rent in an other House for them - I then with the kind assistance of Dr. T[uft]s procured two young Men Brothers newly married & placed them as Tenants to the halves [meaning Abigail Adams received half the produce].[111]

- The Pratts (1778-ca. 1792)

Starting in 1778 Abigail Adams leased the John Adams birthplace and the farm to Matthew and James Pratt. The Pratts were charged taxes on John Adams' farm and a much smaller property listed as "Col. Verchild's" for that year.[112] The agreement described as "to the halves" indicates that Abigail Adams was entitled to half the produce of the farm.[113] She wrote to John Adams that the Pratt brothers were young and newly married, but there is no further information regarding their families. Presumably in 1778, there were two couples sharing the John Adams birthplace.

By 1784, it seems that James Pratt had left the house and farm because Cotton Tufts, during his management of the Adams' affairs, reported to Abigail Adams "Your Farm is well managed by Pratt at present - He has asked me to refund part of a Town Tax paid by him."[114] Cotton Tufts also credits Matthew Pratt for paying on his farm account in an accounting he sent to John Adams in 1788.[115] The James Pratt family may have moved from the house when the number of children between the two families exceeded the space available. In 1784, Matthew Pratt had children because Abigail Adams advised

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[110] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 21 October 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345.
[111] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 15 July ca. 1778, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #349.
[112] *Town of Braintree Tax List*, 1778, Manuscript 5270, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.
[113] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 193.
[114] Cotton Tufts to Abigail Adams, 1 December 1784, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #363.
[115] Cotton Tufts to John Adams, 10 August 1785, in Richard Alan Ryerson, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence, December 1784 – December 1785* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1993), pp. 256-260.

Cotton Tufts, "Mr. Pratt and his wife may have liberty to eat currants out of the Garden but no Children to be permitted to go in to the garden."[116]

A glimpse of the activities on the farm under Pratt's management appears in the letters exchanged between Abigail Adams and those overseeing her American affairs. It seems Pratt operated it as a dairy farm. Pratt kept livestock and in 1785 was "unfortunate in the Loss of Two Horn Cattle & one Hog, the first by the horn Distemper, the second a young Hefer of some Disease unknown, the Hog died of a Distemper which has prevailed in Braintree among Swine."[117] As when Hayden lived there earlier, there was likely a dairying operation based in the John Adams birthplace because Abigail Adams requested of Cotton Tufts, "the Butter upon pratts Farm I should like to have put up for me, & some cheese."[118] It is possible that Mrs. Pratt oversaw the dairy because at the thought of removing the Pratts from the farm in 1787, Abigail Adams needed to consider finding someone to manage the dairy: "There must be somebody to look after the dairy, and I think it may with safety be trusted to Pheby [a tenant of the John Quincy Adams birthplace] provided she will take it, but then she must have an assistant. The question is, can she get one? or keep one after she has got her?"[119]

Pratt was still a tenant on the farm in 1787 and maybe as late as 1791. In describing the 1787 graduation party held for John Quincy Adams and Billy Cranch, Elizabeth Shaw informed Abigail Adams that "the family tenants" including Pratt were there to help with the event.[120] Later the same year, Abigail Adams, preparing for her family's return to America, wrote to Mary Cranch, "Mr. Adams thinks it best that Mr. Pratt should go off in April as he means to take the Management of the place into his own Hands and to endeavor to recover it from the poverty into which it has fallen through want of manure & c."[121] Yet, it seems that Pratt continued his poor brand of farming on the Penn's Hill farm until 1790 because Abigail Adams was still complaining to Mary Cranch: "In short I do not know of any persons property so unproductive as ours is. I do not believe that it yealds us one pr. cent pr. Annum. . . . In the first place, I never desired so much Land unless we could have lived upon it. . . . I am really however very uneasy with Pratt as a Farmer. He has got a great swarm of helpless children round him, labors hard but has no skill."[122] Pratt, after twelve years of marriage, had apparently produced several children who were yet to become assets to his farming enterprise.

While Pratt was not a good farmer, he may have been a decent woodcraftsman. Preparing to return home from Washington, D.C. in 1791, Abigail Adams requested furniture to be made by Pratt for the Old House:

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[116] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 June 1784, in Richard Alan Ryerson, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence, October 1782 – November 1784* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1993), pp. 345-346.

[117] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 14 October 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366.

[118] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 1 September 1789, Miscellaneous Manuscripts - Adams, New York Historical Society, New York, NY, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 140.

[119] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, October 1787, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 126.

[120] Elizabeth Shaw to Abigail Adams, 22 July 1787, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #370.

[121] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, October 1787, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 126.

[122] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 10 October 1790, quoted in Stewart Mitchell, ed., *New Letters of Abigail Adams, 1788-1801* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1947), p. 61.

> I will be obliged to you [Mary Cranch] if you will go to the House, and look over the things and write me what you think I shall have absolutly need of towards keeping House. I have written to the Dr. to get Mr. Pratt to make me two kitchin tables and some other articles. There were some old Bed Steads in the House but none perfect. Will you ask Mr. Pratt if he can make me one that is moveable like one which Polly says he made for Mrs. Apthorp with a sacking bottom and doubles up together.[123]

By 1792, the Pratt family had moved away from the Penn's Hill farm because Pratt was not taxed for the property in Quincy's first tax list.[124] The family remained in the area, however, because as late as 1830 John Quincy Adams mentioned receiving acorns to plant from "Pratt, an old man who formerly lived for several years on my father's place at the foot of Penn's Hill."[125]

- James Faxon (1792-1794)

James Faxon was taxed on the new town of Quincy's first tax list (1792) for John Adams' farm and "Verchild's" pasture.[126] It appears Faxon leased the same land the Pratts did in 1778. The following year, he was taxed for the same properties along with "Domett's" land, likely another pasture.[127] No information is available about Faxon's family or whether he occupied the John Adams birthplace at this time. If he filled the same role on the Penn's Hill farm as Matthew Pratt, he likely occupied the John Adams birthplace.

In 1794 the Faxon family lived in the neighboring town of Braintree because James Faxon is listed in the Quincy tax list as a Braintree resident. The Faxon family does not appear on the 1810 Federal Census for the town of Quincy, so may have still lived in Braintree at that time.

In the 1820 Federal Census, James Faxon, again living in Quincy, is listed as over forty-five years of age and appears to have been married to a woman between the ages twenty-six and forty-five. Therefore, Faxon was at least eighteen years of age when he began to lease the Adams' land. He may or may not have been married at the time, but if he were, his wife was no older than seventeen. As expected, no children old enough to have been living in 1792-1793 are listed. It appears Faxon was a life-long farmer because he was described as an agricultural worker in 1820.[128]

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[123] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 12 March 1791, quoted in Mitchell, p. 70.
[124] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811*, Treasurer's Office, Quincy City Hall, Quincy, MA.
[125] John Quincy Adams Diary, 18 September 1830, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[126] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*
[127] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*
[128] *Population Schedules of the Fourth Census of the United States 1820*, Roll 52, Massachusetts, vol. 6 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1959), microform edition.

- 1794-1795

John Adams was taxed for his land and the Verchild land in 1794 and 1795, therefore, there were no tenants on the farm and likely no one living in the John Adams birthplace.[129]

- Moses French (1796-1800)

The next tenant taxed for John Adams' land was Moses French in 1796 who continued to be taxed through 1800. He was not taxed for the Verchild land until 1800, so may have been running a smaller farming operation than his predecessors.[130] Moses French appears in the 1790, 1800, and 1810 Federal Censuses. From this information, it is possible to determine that when he began to rent the Adams' property French was about twenty-two years old, his wife was at least twenty-three years old, and they had up to four boys under the age of ten.[131]

Moses French definitely lived in the John Adams birthplace because it is listed in his possession in the circa 1797 "President's Valluation" (see appendix G-5).[132] In 1800, the Adamses wished French to leave so they could install a more profitable tenant. Spring was the most common time for moving and changing tenants.[133] Apparently the Adamses did not decide how to let their property until too late in the year, for French remained there through 1800.

Letters regarding the fate of this farm passed back and forth from February to December 1800. Tufts began with a query to Washington, D.C.: "I was in Hopes the President would given [sic] some orders relative to the Farms on which Burrell & French live, it is already late in the Season if it is contemplated materially to alter the mode of Leasing of them."[134] Abigail Adams wrote back with directions for redistributing outbuildings and land between the houses: "The old Barn which is in the yard had better be considered as attached to the House [John Quincy Adams birthplace] & the spot on the ground which we used to make a Garden of, provided you have not already let it to French." In the same letter she directs the removal of books from the John Quincy Adams birthplace. She states, "there is one difficulty which is Mr. [John Quincy] Adams's Books. I have not anywhere to put them, unless I could have the Chamber at Frenchs which used to be an office."[135] Tufts suggests another alteration in the arrangement of the properties: "it would be best to reserve the Goose Pasture out of Mr. Frenchs Lease, and let it with the House - in this Case it would produce a much better

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[129] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*

[130] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*

[131] *Population Schedules of the First Census of the United States 1790*, Roll 4, Massachusetts, vol. 1 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1965), microform edition. *Population Schedules of the Second Census of the United States 1800*, Roll 18, Massachusetts, (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1959), microform edition. *Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States 1810*, Roll 18, Massachusetts, vol. 2 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1960), microform edition.

[132] John Adams, "President's Valluation," ca. 1797, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[133] Gross, p. 7.

[134] Cotton Tufts to Abigail Adams, 25 February 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.

[135] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.

Rent."[136] John Adams finally wrote to Tufts, "French['s] farm shall be common rather than be brested as it has been. . . . Frenches house shall be let separately to a number of tenants, unless we can get one good one to give a sufficient rent. And whoever has it shall be confined to plant but four acres of corn & one of potatoes. Frenchs house shall not be useless to me as it has been these five or six & twenty years."[137]

True to their wishes, Moses French left the Penn's Hill farm for another location in Quincy by 1801.

- James Shipley (1801)

James Shipley was taxed for John Adams' farm in the 1801 Quincy tax list.[138] It is unclear whether he alone or many tenants lived in the John Adams birthplace. Presumably, if he were following the farm's set rental pattern, at least Shipley lived in the house. No information is available about Shipley or his family.

- John Briesler (1802-1803)

John Briesler, a trusted servant and associate of the Adams family since 1784 when he traveled with them to Europe, leased the Penn's Hill farm from 1802 to early 1807.[139] As she was preparing to leave for Europe in 1784, Abigail Adams wrote to John Adams describing her new servant:

> I am lucky too in being able to supply myself with an honest faithfull Man Servant. I do not know but you may recollect him. John Brisler, who was brought up in the family of genll. Palmer; has since lived with Col. Quincy and is recommended by both families as a virtuous Steady frugal fellow, with a mind much above the vulgar, very handy and attentive for a maid servant I hope to have a sister of his, who formerly lived with Mrs. Trott, who gives her a good character.[140]

Abigail Adams was unable to procure the services of Briesler's sister, but hired Esther Field who became John Briesler's wife prior to the family's return from Europe in 1788.[141] Esther was seven months pregnant when leaving England that year and gave birth to what is assumed to be a stillborn child during the return voyage.[142] According to later census records, John Briesler must have been at least twenty-four and Esther must

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136 Cotton Tufts to Abigail Adams, 26 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.
137 John Adams to Cotton Tufts, 28 December 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #120.
138 *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*
139 *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*
140 Abigail Adams to John Adams, 11 February 1784, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #362.
141 Phyllis Lee Levin, *Abigail Adams: A Biography* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1987), p. 256.
142 Page Smith, vol. 2, p. 731. Levin, p. 256.

have been at least fourteen, but probably around eighteen or twenty, when they were first employed by the Adamses.[143]

Prior to their stint at the John Adams birthplace, the Brieslers appear to have been a mobile, flexible, and multi-talented couple. From 1788 to 1789, they lived at the Mount Wollaston farm.[144] According to Caroline Spear a hundred years later, "Old John Briesler carried on the old Mt. Wollaston farm for a short time after coming home from Europe with John Adams but I believe that he did not do very well as he knew very little about it."[145] In 1791, the Brieslers were out of town because Abigail Adams lamented preceding her return from Philadelphia, "I shall not have Brisler to manage for me." However, the ever helpful "Mrs. Brisler left some chairs which I shall take of her."[146]

By 1795 John Briesler was back in Quincy laying a foundation for a new barn: "Brisler laying the foundation of the new Barn [which] is to be rais'd tomorrow, at the East End of my Fathers barn."[147] In 1796 both John and Esther Briesler were acting as servants in the Old House.[148] By 1802, the Brieslers had taken up residence in the John Adams birthplace where John Briesler must have been trying his hand at farming again (continued below).

John Quincy Adams Ownership (1803-1848)

Under the advice of John Quincy Adams, John Adams invested a large amount of his money in the London-based banking house Bird, Savage & Bird. The family learned of the failure of Bird, Savage & Bird in April of 1803. Abigail Adams described to Thomas Boylston Adams the devastating effect the timing of the failure had on their fortunes:

> you know your Father had some money in Holland, which since your brothers return: he concluded to draw out, and vest in the Farm which belonged to your Great Grandfather Quincy. Mr. Tufts after keeping his part a year, made an offer of it to your Father and he concluded to take it; relying upon the property he had abroad to pay for it, your Brother undertook the management of the business abroad and as the exchange was more in favour of England than Holland, the money was drawn from thence, and placed in the Hands of the House which has lately failed - Bird Savage & Bird; a Catastrophe so unexpected to us, and at a time when we had become responsible for so large a sum: has indeed distrest us. at no other time of our lives could we have been equally affected by it.[149]

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[143] *1820 Federal Census. Population Schedules of the Fifth Census of the United States 1830*, Massachusetts, vol. 6 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1947), microform edition.

[144] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 1 November 1789, quoted in Mitchell, p. 32.

[145] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, 1967, typescript of original notes, box 108, shelf 18, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA, pp. 7-8.

[146] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 12 March 1791, quoted in Mitchell, pp. 70-71.

[147] John Adams Diary, 12 July 1795, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #2.

[148] John Adams Diary, 28 July 1795, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #2.

[149] Abigail Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, 26 April 1803, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #402.

Feeling responsible for his parents' plight John Quincy Adams sought to remedy the problem by liquidating his assets to buy his father's. In this way, the family's property holdings in Quincy stayed intact and John Quincy Adams provided monetary relief for his parents. Louisa Catherine best describes the determination with which John Quincy Adams undertook this business:

> Mr. Adams received the news of the suspention of Payment of the House Bird Savage and Bird. This was another severe strike to him and it confirmed his dislike to Commercial Houses. To prevent the possibility of loss to his Father he immediately began to dispose of his property so as to secure his Father from loss. The energy and decision with which he acted on this occasion was highly honourable and meritorious.[150]

In this process John Quincy Adams acquired the Penn's Hill farm described as "a certain Tract of Land, situated on the Plain below Penns hill, in Quincy aforesaid containing by estimation, about one hundred and Eight acres be the same more or less, with the three Houses, Three Barns and other buildings upon it, and bounded Easterly on the Country Road to Plymouth."[151]

It does not seem that John Quincy Adams added to the Penn's Hill farm during his ownership of it. In fact, he decreased the size by conducting a land survey in 1829. In October of that year Adams hired Lemuel Humphrey to survey his lands. Adams and his son Charles Francis accompanied the survey party. Adams had mistakenly thought that he owned a sixteen-and-a-half acre plot which his father had actually quit-claimed to Joseph Field in April of 1764.[152] When his lands were surveyed, he found that the Penn's Hill farm contained ninety-one acres, three roods, and fifteen rods.[153]

Occasionally John Quincy and Charles Francis Adams describe measuring out small parcels of land to sell to others. In 1829 before the October survey, John Quincy Adams wrote in his diary, "French measured off an half Acre of land, eight Rods upon the Plymouth Road, and ten Rods back, which I have agreed to sell to Samuel Curtis, and upon which he proposes to build a house."[154] In 1836, Charles Francis Adams describes, "my father [John Quincy Adams] crossed over to Penn's hill where he wished a piece of land surveyed for a purchaser - This part of the town is thriving from the extent to which the business of bootmaking is carried - Another kind of industry quite as profitable as cutting stone."[155]

As his father was before him, John Quincy Adams was often away from his Quincy properties and required someone in town to manage them for him. It is unclear who managed the Penn's Hill farm from 1803 to August 1809. Perhaps John Adams oversaw the property during this time. From August 1809 to at least 1819 John Quincy

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[150] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," 1840, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #269.

[151] John Adams, Deed to John Quincy Adams, 1803. Lengthy description of boundaries continues in original.

[152] John Quincy Adams Diary, 27 September 1830, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[153] John Quincy Adams, Schedule of Estate, Real and Personal to be Devised by Will, 4 August 1832, John Quincy Adams Miscellany in Skeen, "Excerpts," p. 185.

[154] John Quincy Adams Diary, 25 August 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[155] Charles Francis Adams Diary, 10 August 1836, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #63.

Adams' younger brother Thomas Boylston Adams managed the farm.[156] In 1832, Adams officially assigned his son Charles Francis to be his agent.[157] This was a difficult job for Charles Francis Adams for on one hand his father "expected financial difficulties to disappear 'as if by magic'" while on the other, the tenants evaded him when he went to collect rents: "I went to town, according to agreement for the purpose of collecting rent, but was disappointed, as I was also at Payne's hill where I called before starting."[158] In both men's diaries, starting in the mid-1820s and continuing into the 1840s there are also frequent references to a Deacon Spear managing John Quincy Adams' property and finances.

- John Briesler Continued (1803-1807)

After John Quincy Adams' acquisition of the farm, John Briesler continued to lease the John Adams birthplace and the surrounding farm. Again the Brieslers busied themselves improving the property and lives of the Adams family. In his personal financial record for October of 1804, John Quincy Adams noted that he "Paid John Briesler, on Account, towards building a Corn House on my Farm $70."[159] Presumably the corn house was constructed on land surrounding the John Adams birthplace. Also in late 1804 John Quincy Adams was pleased that the Brieslers were preparing for his return to Quincy in 1805: "I am very glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Briesler, have been laying in provisions to be prepared for us on our return, which I hope will be the last of March - We shall have occasion for such vegetables as can be preserved untill that Season and I hope they will have some for us, as well as the pork and bacon."[160] During Adams' 1805 and 1806 residencies in his birthplace, he relied on Briesler to manage some of his affairs like contracting a carpenter for the John Quincy Adams birthplace. He also probably asked Briesler to do other odd construction and repair jobs himself for John Quincy Adams paid six bills from Briesler in those years. In addition, in November of 1805 he paid Briesler for groceries and in November of 1806 he paid him for "sundries furnished."[161] John Quincy Adams probably settled with Briesler each year before returning to Washington, D.C.

In 1807, it appears that the relationship between Briesler and John Quincy Adams had soured. Adams complains to his diary, "I settle with Mr. Briesler the note due from me to him, wishing to finish off all my transactions with him as speedily as possible . . . my brother [Thomas Boylston Adams] gave me an account of his transactions respecting my farm, which is disposed of much better than it stands at present, and would have been better still, but for Briesler."[162] It is unclear how he managed it but, "Briesler defeated

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[156] John Quincy Adams, Personal Financial Record, 1802-1822, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #209.

[157] Wilhelmina S. Harris, *Furnishings Report of the Old House, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, Massachusetts*, vol. 1 (Quincy, MA: Adams National Historic Site, 1966), pp. 58-59.

[158] Harris, *Old House Furnishings*, vol. 1, pp. 58-59. Charles Francis Adams Diary, 22 July 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #61.

[159] John Quincy Adams, Personal Financial Record.

[160] John Quincy Adams to Abigail Adams, 19 December 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

[161] John Quincy Adams, Personal Financial Record. John Quincy Adams, Household Account Book, 1799-1822, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #208.

[162] John Quincy Adams Diary, 22 March 1807, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

my [John Quincy Adams'] purpose of making a distribution of my lands between two tenants, and the consequence is that it must again all go to one."[163] Although foiling Adams' plan, it does not seem that Briesler did this for his own benefit. It appears Briesler moved to another, larger Adams property in 1807.[164]

By 1815, Briesler was not paying any taxes on Adams property. Perhaps he had made enough money as a farmer to set himself up in a less labor-intensive business. In the 1820 Federal Census he is listed as employed "in commerce."[165] Although by 1829, according to John Quincy Adams, Briesler was back living on thirty-five acres of Adams' "paternal homestead."[166] In his 1834 will Briesler is described as a "gentleman."

There is no information regarding John and Esther Briesler's children until John Briesler's 1834 will.[167] Mentioned in the will are George M. Briesler, daughter Elizabeth Arnold, and John Briesler Jr.[168]

- 1807

Apparently John Quincy Adams' idea of having his property "better disposed," meant renting it to more tenants. However, there may have been a gap in the tenancy of the John Adams birthplace between John Briesler and Joseph Arnold because neither man was taxed for it in 1807. Tenants leasing smaller parcels of John Quincy Adams' land at this time include Ebenezer Adams, Lieutenant Jonathan Baxter, Noah Curtis, Frederick Hardwick, Henry Hardwick, and Samuel Capen of Braintree.[169]

- Joseph Arnold (1808-1809)

In 1808 and 1809, Joseph Arnold was taxed for a large portion of the Penn's Hill farm. Indicating that Arnold lived in the John Adams birthplace are the facts that taxpayer Joseph Faxon occupied the John Quincy Adams birthplace and Arnold moved when Thomas Boylston Adams took up residence in 1810.

Joseph Arnold may have been married to John Briesler's daughter who is called "Elizabeth Arnold" in Briesler's 1834 will.[170] In the 1810 Federal Census, Arnold's family consists of a man and woman between the ages of twenty-six and forty-five and two daughters below the age of ten.[171] Because their children were very young, the couple was probably on the younger side of the age bracket at the time of their residency in the John Adams birthplace. The Arnold family does not appear on later censuses, so may have left Quincy after 1810.

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[163] John Quincy Adams Diary, 3 May 1807, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
[164] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811. Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1811-1826*, Treasurer's Office, Quincy City Hall, Quincy, MA.
[165] *1820 Federal Census.*
[166] John Quincy Adams Diary, 21 November 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[167] *1810 Federal Census.*
[168] John Briesler, Will, 1834, case #2513, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.
[169] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*
[170] John Briesler, Will, 1834.
[171] *1810 Federal Census.*

- Thomas Boylston Adams (1810-ca. 1820)

John Quincy Adams' youngest brother, Thomas Boylston Adams, oversaw his real estate from 1809 to at least 1819 and lived in the John Adams birthplace from 1810 to as late as 1820.[172]

In 1811, John Quincy Adams granted Thomas Boylston Adams' request to make repairs to the John Adams birthplace. He wrote,

> I am glad that you have found it convenient, and warmly hope that it will prove as profitable as you expected to remove into the dwelling at the foot of Penn's Hill - As to the Repairs, being perfectly satisfied of your Discretion, and that you would incur no expence for them which would not be necessary for your comfort and that of your family, I subscribe in the most entire Confidence to all your arrangements, and shall be pleased in proportion as you make them suitable to your own wishes.[173]

Extant Thomas Boylston Adams "repairs" to the John Adams birthplace indicate that the house was remodeled significantly during his residency there. Architectural conservators were able to identify the changes made at this time by the identification of an early cut nail with a rounded head.[174]

The major changes Thomas Boylston Adams made during his renovations include moving the door to the cellar from the southeast room to the entry hall; installing wainscoting in the southeast room; introducing a small "central closet" in the northeast room; placing a stairwell to the cellar in the central closet; sealing off the door between the northwest and the southwest room; installing a new door to the attic in the second floor hall; opening a doorway between the southeast chamber and the northeast garret; and finishing the northeast garret, northwest garret, and east attic room with plaster.[175] These alterations allowed the family more genteel spaces on the first floor and more finished spaces to use as bedrooms on the upper floors. Other alterations gave the old house a more up-to-date appearance.

Thomas Boylston Adams

Thomas Boylston Adams was the youngest living child of John and Abigail Adams born in 1772.[176] He would have been just two years old when John Adams left to attend the first Continental Congress in 1774. He also was too young to accompany his father to Europe in 1778. When Abigail Adams went to England to join her husband there in 1784, Thomas Boylston and Charles Adams were left in Haverhill under the care of John and Elizabeth Shaw, Abigail's sister. John Shaw tutored the boys until they went

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[172] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1811-1826.*

[173] John Quincy Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, 29 March 1811, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #412,

[174] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, May, p. 50.

[175] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, May, p. 50.

[176] Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line." The Adamses had one younger child, Elizabeth Adams, who was stillborn in 1777.

to Harvard.[177] During his time in Haverhill Thomas Boylston Adams first met Ann "Nancy" Harrod who later became his wife in 1805.[178] Thomas Boylston Adams was admitted to Harvard in 1785. Brother Charles was a sophomore and in the spring of 1786 John Quincy Adams entered as a junior.[179]

By 1788, when his parents returned from Europe, "Thomas . . . had not been at his father's side in nine years, since he was a little boy of seven, and now, confused and disconsolate at his abandonment, he refused to write to either parent."[180]

Apparently the breach with his parents was healed by 1790 when Thomas Boylston Adams took up residence with them in Philadelphia to study law there. He was still engaged in his legal studies in 1794 when John Quincy Adams asked him to act as his private secretary while he was minister to The Hague.[181] Thomas Boylston Adams was John Quincy Adam's secretary during his term at The Hague and through part of his term as minister to Prussia.

In hopes of gaining independence from his family, Thomas Boylston Adams returned to Philadelphia to finish his legal studies in 1798.[182] However, his quest for independence did not yield much satisfaction because by 1799 he was serving as his father's secretary.[183] When the Adamses moved to Washington, D.C., the new capitol in November of 1800, Thomas Boylston wanted to remain in Philadelphia to set up his law practice. John and Abigail Adams preferred that he set up his practice in Quincy because they feared he lacked the skills to succeed in Philadelphia.[184] They were not far off the mark, because by about 1801 he had given up on law for a time to pursue literary interests. He attempted to "revive" a journal called *Portfolio* for two years and then quit that as well.[185]

Parental concerns only increased in 1802 as Thomas Boylston Adams considered marrying Ann Harrod with whom he had kept in contact over the years through letters. At this point he was jobless and receiving an allowance from his parents. By December of 1803, he moved into the Old House and began to practice law in Quincy.[186] Around this time, Thomas Boylston Adams and Ann Harrod were engaged. For financial reasons owing to the Bird, Savage & Bird collapse, the couple was unable to marry until 1805. Even at that point they were dependent on John and Abigail and lived at the Old House until 1810.[187]

While living at the Old House, Thomas Boylston Adams maintained a small law office in a farm house behind it. It is unknown whether he continued to keep his office in this location after moving to the John Adams birthplace. He had at least one law student

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[177] Ferling, p. 263.
[178] Paul C. Nagel, *The Adams Women: Abigail and Louisa Adams, Their Sisters and Daughters* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), pp. 198-199.
[179] Paul C. Nagel, *John Quincy Adams: A Public Life, A Private Life* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997), p. 46.
[180] Ferling, p. 291.
[181] Ferling, p. 322.
[182] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 115.
[183] Ferling, p. 390.
[184] Ferling, p. 388.
[185] Levin, p. 402.
[186] Levin, p. 402.
[187] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 200-201.

during his career in Quincy, named T. Greenleaf Jr. However, Greenleaf seems to have suffered from depression because John Adams wrote in 1817,

> Mr. T. Greenleaf junior last night in a fit of despondency and despair shot himself. As this gentleman had his Education in the Law under our roof as a pupil of your Brother: was in and out of the house like one of the Family and was connected with as many amiable and virtuous Families in the neighbourhood, the melancholy event of his sudden unexpected death, is very distressing.[188]

Thomas Boylston Adams also had his share of physical and emotional problems. He suffered from bouts of rheumatism, melancholia, and alcoholism. These problems intensified with the sinking of his parents' fortune in 1803.[189] In 1805 Thomas Boylston Adams was elected as Quincy's representative in the state legislature only to give up the post within a year probably due to alcohol abuse. His law practice was also slow at this time.[190] Family members believing Thomas Boylston only needed encouragement, entrusted him with their affairs. During the 1810s he was in charge of both John Adams' and John Quincy Adams' real estate concerns. In 1818 John Quincy Adams regained control of his father's accounts and then in 1819 took back control of his own.[191]

Despite all of his faults, at least some Quincy citizens found Thomas Boylston Adams to be the better endowed Adams brother when compared with John Quincy Adams. According to John Crane,

> Judge Thomas Boyleston Adams was a much finer looking man than his brother Ex President John Quincy Adams. He had a fine looking head and carriage. J.Q.A.'s head was low and flat, that is his forehead was flat and sloping. Many Quincy people who knew them both were of the op[in]ion that Tom Boyleston Adams was much the capabler or smarter man and scholar of the two.

Although Crane admitted, "Tom Boyleston Adams was a very hard drinking man and tis said that his bro. J.Q.A. requested the landlord at the Hancock House not to sell him liquor."[192]

The high point of Thomas Boylston Adams' career coincides with the 1811 beginning of the renovations at the John Adams birthplace. In that year he was made a chief justice for the Norfolk County Circuit Court of Common Pleas where he heard moderately important cases. He was also elected to the Governor's Council in the Massachusetts legislature.[193]

At her death in 1818, Abigail Adams willed to Thomas Boylston Adams the silver tankard currently owned by the Adams National Historical Park. Abigail Adams wrote,

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[188] John Adams to John Quincy Adams, 30 September 1817, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #123.

[189] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 200.

[190] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 201.

[191] Ferling, p. 438.

[192] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 29.

[193] Abigail Adams to John Quincy Adams, 24 September 1811, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #412. John Adams Letterbook, John Adams to Dr. Benjamin Rush, 21 June 1811, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #118.

"It is my request to my dear Husband that the old Silver Tankard given me by my Father as a peice of Family plate may be given to our son Thomas B Adams[.]"[194] It is commonly believed that the Thomas Boylston Adams family left the John Adams birthplace and moved back in to the Old House soon after Abigail Adams' death. John Adams wrote in early 1819 "'it seems to be very unnatural that y[?] & my son should have two separate establishments at a distance of only a mile & a half - their children will be nearer the schools & will be a comfort & amusement to me in many of my solitary hours.'"[195] The family may have moved, but it seems unlikely because Thomas Boylston Adams continued to pay taxes on the John Adams birthplace through 1820.[196] Either way, the Thomas Boylston Adams family, the last members of the Adams family to live in the Adams birthplaces, had left the John Adams birthplace by 1820.

In his 1826 will, John Adams shifted his responsibility for the Thomas Boylston Adams family to John Quincy Adams. John Adams states,

> my Will is that my Executors [John Quincy Adams and Josiah Quincy] herein after named shall retain in their hands, all the portions of my estate, herein above devised to my son Thomas Boylston Adams and to his six children above named.[197]

This is a clear statement that Thomas Boylston Adams could not be trusted with any money intended for the present or future benefit of his family.

Six years later, Thomas Boylston Adams died in 1832 of liver trouble resulting from his alcohol problem.[198] He died intestate and in debt to John Quincy Adams. In his 1847 will, John Quincy Adams restored to his nieces and nephews the lands in Braintree and Medford that their father had lost to him.[199]

Ann "Nancy" Harrod Adams and Children

Ann Harrod, usually called Nancy by her contemporaries, was born to Joseph Harrod and Hannah Treat Harrod in 1774. The Harrod family lived and kept an inn in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Ann Harrod was a friend of Thomas Boylston Adams' Aunt Elizabeth Shaw and also became a favorite with Abigail Adams. However, she did not like John Quincy Adams' wife Louisa Catherine probably because she enjoyed far greater success than Ann did.[200]

After their 1805 marriage Thomas Boylston and Ann Harrod Adams moved into the Old House with John and Abigail Adams. Their first three children were born there: Abigail Smith in 1806, Elizabeth Coombs in 1808, and Thomas Boylston in 1809. After moving to the John Adams birthplace, Ann Harrod Adams gave birth to four more children: Frances Foster in 1811, Isaac Hull in 1813, John Quincy in 1815, and Joseph

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[194] Abigail Adams, Will, 1818, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[195] John Adams to John Quincy Adams, 19 February 1819, quoted in Skeen, "Report on John Adams Birthplace," p. 21.

[196] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1811-1826.*

[197] John Adams, Will, 1826, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[198] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 224.

[199] John Quincy Adams, Will, 1847, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

[200] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 198-199.

Harrod in 1817.[201] Francis lived but eight months before expiring after a bout of whooping cough.[202]

Ann Harrod Adams wrote, in retrospect it appears, a short history of her children's medical and developmental histories spanning the years 1806 to 1822. Abigail Smith at four and Elizabeth Coombs at two-and-a-half years of age started school around the time the family moved to the John Adams birthplace in 1810. Isaac Hull suffered from a lung complaint starting in 1818 which confined him to the house during the winter for five years. She also noted that John Quincy went to school, but was "slow to learn."[203]

According to Nagel, Ann Harrod Adams was unhappy at the prospect of moving back to the Old House after the 1818 death of Abigail Adams. Understandably, she resented losing her independence. However, she tried to make the most of the situation by attempting to fill Abigail Adams' place as a leader in social circles, a role she was unable to successfully fill.[204] John Quincy Adams evicted the Thomas Boylston Adams family from the Old House in 1829.[205]

After Thomas Boylston Adams' 1832 death, Ann and her youngest children were almost wholly dependent on the money they received from John Quincy Adams through the provisions of John Adams' 1826 will. In his will, John Adams left all of his property to John Quincy Adams; only very small bequests of personal items were left to other family members. His intent was for John Quincy Adams to sell a majority of the land in order to pay bequests to thirteen family members, seven of whom were in the Thomas Boylston Adams family.[206] Because John Quincy Adams chose not to sell his father's property, but instead bought most of it, the trust fund to keep the Thomas Boylston Adams family afloat came mainly from his own pocket. John Quincy Adams also controlled properties Thomas Boylston Adams had mortgaged to him and which reverted to John Quincy Adams at his death. John Quincy Adams gave the Thomas Boylston Adams family the rents he received from these properties. However, what John Quincy Adams viewed as generosity on his part, Ann Harrod Adams expected and then wanted more.[207]

In addition to constant financial problems, Ann Harrod Adams also had problems with her children. In 1837, her son Lieutenant Thomas Boylston Adams died of typhoid fever. As indicated by his earlier school experience, John Quincy Adams II did not like to learn or work. He was in the navy, but wanted an easier assignment. He was lost at sea in 1854. Joseph Harrod was also in the navy, passed bad checks on John Quincy Adams' account, and died of typhoid fever in 1854. Isaac Hull had an alcohol problem and few skills. He went to West Point and was dismissed for deserting a guard post. He returned to live with his aunt Louisa Catherine Adams and worked as a surveyor. Elizabeth Coombs was engaged to be married to a John Gourgas from 1831 to 1835. She

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[201] Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line."

[202] John Adams Letterbook, John Adams to Dr. Benjamin Rush, 19 July 1812. Ann Harrod Adams, Family Record, 1806-ca. 1825, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #284.

[203] Ann Harrod Adams, Family Record.

[204] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 204.

[205] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 228.

[206] John Adams, Will, 1826.

[207] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 224.

discovered that he was an alcoholic and with difficulty extricated herself from the unfortunate engagement.[208]

Ann Harrod Adams discovered that she had breast cancer in 1839 and underwent surgery at the Old House. She continued her life in great pain and under the influence of opium until 1845. Abigail Smith (Adams) Angier died shortly before her mother the same year.[209]

Siblings Isaac Hull and Elizabeth Coombs Adams never married, but lived together for the latter half of the nineteenth century. Elizabeth Coombs Adams spent her time preserving Adams family objects and trying to keep her brother sober. According to Nagel, "Lizzie devoted much of her life thereafter to preserving letters and memorabilia of her famous grandparents and other relatives. She carefully pruned the manuscripts left by her parents, in the hope that by burning letters she might brighten history's memory of Nancy and her unfortunate husband. She also took pains to see that John and Abigail's furniture, removed from the Old House by Nancy when she was evicted in 1829, was eventually returned to its proper place."[210]

In the 1890s, Isaac Hull and Elizabeth Coombs Adams were treated as guests of honor at receptions held by the Daughters of Revolution at the John Adams birthplace. They also donated Adams family objects to both the Daughters of Revolution and the Quincy Historical Society for exhibition in the Adams birthplaces. These items include Abigail Adams' recipe for sponge cake and a cake pan, a cradle said to have been used by John Adams, and a shawl believed to have been made from John Adams' riding cloak.[211] Isaac Hull Adams died in 1900 and Elizabeth Coombs Adams died in 1903.

- The 1820s

The Curtises (1821-1830)

In 1820, Adam Curtis married Eliza Baxter.[212] They lived in the John Adams birthplace from 1821 to about 1829.[213] According to the Quincy Tax Lists, Adam's brother Samuel Curtis and his wife Jerusha moved into the house in 1822 and moved out in April 1830.[214] The two brothers ran a cordwaining shop in the house.

The Adam Curtis family appears in the federal censuses for 1830 and 1860. According to this information, Adam Curtis was twenty-one years old and Eliza Baxter was nineteen when they first moved into the John Adams birthplace.[215] In 1830, there were three boys in the household under the age of ten, two of whom probably were born in the John Adams birthplace.[216] In the same year, the household also contained one

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[208] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 226-228.
[209] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 228.
[210] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 228.
[211] "Historic Home: Adams Chapter D.R. Receive at President's Birthplace," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 20 October 1896. Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 27.
[212] Della Lucca, "United First Parish Church Vital Records."
[213] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1811-1826.*
[214] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1811-1826.*
[215] *Population Schedules of the Eighth Census of the United States 1860* (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1967), microform edition.
[216] *1830 Federal Census.*

male in his late teens who was likely an apprentice cordwainer and two men in their twenties who were probably journeymen. In addition, there was one female in her late teens and another in her twenties who may have been servants or female relatives.[217] Adam Curtis predeceased his wife in 1872.[218]

The Samuel Curtis family does not appear in the federal census until 1860. The information provided indicates that Samuel Curtis was twenty-four and his wife Jerusha was twenty-one when they moved into the John Adams birthplace in 1822. Their daughter Abigail was likely born in the house in 1826.[219]

In the mid-1890s, Caroline Spear described the Curtis' living arrangements in the John Adams birthplace during the 1820s:

> 'When [Adam] Curtis married Eliza Baxter . . . he had gone there [the John Adams birthplace] to live in one half of the house, the east half. Samuel Curtis his brother lived in the other half and they cooked and ate together in the large kitchen (in the leanto). This room had a great open fireplace where we burnt great logs and roots of trees in the fall. The southeast room had a fireframe set in the chimney. There was as long ago as I can remember as there is now (1896) a brick closet to the right of this fireframe. It was the only part of the house where stuff would not freeze, and Eliza Curtis wife of [Adam] made use of it and it was called 'Eliza's glory hole.'[220]

Spear's description gives some insight into the use of rooms in the John Adams birthplace. The brothers divided it into east and west halves, but shared the lean-to kitchen in the back. Unfortunately, she did not mention the location of a cordwainer's shop.

In his diary, John Quincy Adams described a visit to the house in 1829:

> I went this forenoon with my son John to the foot of Penn's Hill to enquire into the state of my farm at that place . . . The adjoining House in which my father was born is ocupied by two sons of Noah Curtis, who are shoemakers - One of them [Adam Curtis] is now building a house in the neighbourhood and the other [Samuel Curtis] wishes to do the same upon a spot of land belonging to me and adjoining the House where they live. . . . I told Curtis he should have half an Acre 8 rods front for 600[?] dollars - He said he would think of it. The two brothers were at work, and had five journeymen at work in the shop with them.[221]

During the 1980s restoration work performed on the John Adams birthplace, shoes and other leather items were found in the walls of the house indicating that the cordwainers' shop was located in the house:

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[217] *1830 Federal Census.*

[218] Adam Curtis, Will, 1872, case #4827, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.

[219] *1860 Federal Census.*

[220] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 32. Notes in parentheses are Sprague's.

[221] John Quincy Adams Diary, 26 June 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

> Of the shoes found within the walls, the ca.-1820 group was the largest. These undoubtedly related to the shop run by the Curtises. The reason for their concealment in the walls is not known, although it has been suggested that 'concealments' of this type have been reported in other locations (e.g. England) and may be a form of ritual practiced by shoemakers of the era. The conservator noted that all items were 'in need of repair before concealment, and split uppers, worn-through soles and run-down heels were common on all objects'. Men's, women's, and children's shoes were all present, in a variety of styles. Several specimens had intact labels attributing their origin to shoe shops in Boston, and one boy's boot was inscribed with the owner's name, George Curl. These shoes may thus have been made in Boston and other locations, and were brought to the Curtises for repair. For some unknown reason they were not repaired, were never returned to their owners, and instead were hidden away in the house walls.[222]

By 1860, the Curtises appear to have changed the focus of their footwear-making business because in that year they were both listed as "boot manufacturers" in that year's census.

Adam Curtis completed his house and moved in 1829. His son Franklin Curtis later told William Gardner Spear, that he was born in a house a short distance from the John Adams birthplace in 1829.[223] Samuel Curtis continued to live in the John Adams birthplace until April 1830. It was not until September 1829, or later, that Samuel Curtis received a deed for the property he bought from John Quincy Adams. In a conversation with Noah Curtis (Samuel's father), Adams "promised to execute the Deed of the half Acre of Land at the foot of Penn's Hill to his Son Samuel . . . He said my Warrenty would be sufficient for his Son."[224] He then noted in July of 1830 "Eliahim Turner was here this Evening; a messenger from Sam'l Curtis; and paid me his rent to the 1st. of April. He not renting the house the present year."[225] Presumably, Samuel Curtis' house on his recently purchased land was complete by this time.

In the 1890s, a bed and bed hangings originally in the Baxter family which descended in the Adam Curtis family were donated to the Quincy Historical Society for exhibit in the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[226]

The Crane Family (1827-pre 1829)

Although there is no documentary evidence, John Crane in an 1898 conversation with William Gardner Spear stated, "We [the Crane family] moved down to the birthplace of John Adams, Franklin St. So. Quincy in the year 1827."[227] According to Sprague, the Cranes lived in the house a short time and then John Crane lived near the

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[222] Darcie A. MacMahon, *Archeological Collection Management at Adams National Historic Site, Massachusetts*, ACMP Series No. 9, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991, p. 66.

[223] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 37.

[224] John Quincy Adams Diary, 2 September 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[225] John Quincy Adams Diary, 24 July 1830, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[226] "The Cottage: New-Old Home of John and Abigail Adams," *Quincy Advertiser*, 13 April 1897.

[227] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 44.

birthplaces the rest of his life.[228] If this was the case, the Cranes shared the house with the Adam Curtis and Samuel Curtis families. There is no way to confirm their residence at the house because the Quincy Tax Lists after the year 1825 are lost and John Quincy Adams does not mention the family. Nevertheless, they may have lived in the house for a short time.

- The 1830s

George Hardwick (1830-pre 1841)

According to John Quincy Adams, George Hardwick began to lease the John Adams birthplace after Samuel Curtis left. The house was also in need of some repair. This is not surprising because there is no mention of repairs made during the period between 1811 and 1830. John Quincy Adams wrote in August 1831,

> George Hardwick, who now rents the house which Samuel Curtis has hitherto hired came this morning to ask me to make some repairs on the house. I asked him if he wished to take it for another year - He said he wished to take it for he did not know how long; if repairs were made and the rent reduced. I told him I should not reduce the Rent nor allow for repairs unless he concluded to remain in the house; but that I would come and look at the place, and see what he wishes to have done.[229]

Apparently Hardwick agreed to stay and Adams agreed to repair the house because in September he asked Deacon Spear to arrange for the repairs to be made.[230] Arrangements for repairs were still being made in 1831: "George Veazie Carpenter was here and gave me a loose estimate of the repairs required by my Tennant George Hardwick in the house at the foot of Penn's Hill - He said it would take forty thousand shingles to Roof my two barns there."[231] Repairs were not limited to the barns, however, because John Quincy Adams wrote the next day, "George Veazie came with a final estimate of repairs for the house occupied by Joseph [George] Hardwick - about 140 dollars."[232] The repairs made at this time are unknown.

In 1830, the Hardwicks were a young couple both in their twenties. Also living with them was another female in her twenties who may have been a sister or servant.[233] No further information is available about the George Hardwick family except that they vacated the John Quincy Adams birthplace by at least 1841 when it was leased to the Charles Spear family.

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[228] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 37.
[229] John Quincy Adams Diary, 11 August 1830, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[230] John Quincy Adams Diary, 13 September 1830, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[231] John Quincy Adams Diary, 28 June 1831, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #41.
[232] John Quincy Adams Diary, 29 June 1831, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #41.
[233] *1830 Federal Census*.

Sukey Burrell (ca. 1833)

The occupancy of Sukey Burrell in the John Adams birthplace is, like that of the Crane family, known through oral tradition and cannot be verified by documentary records. According to Adam Curtis' son Franklin, Sukey Burrell kept a private school in the John Adams birthplace in 1833.[234] Franklin Curtis lived in the neighborhood and was four years old in 1833, so may have attended Burrell's school. It is unclear whether Burrell shared the John Adams birthplace with Hardwick or rented the house after he departed.

- Charles Spear (1841-1868)

No solid information is available about the tenants of the John Adams birthplace until the 1841 arrival of the Charles Spear family. Charles Francis Adams, in charge of his father's affairs at that time, recorded rent payments from Charles Spear for several dates ranging from 1841 to 1857.[235] According to Spear's wife Caroline Spear, the family stayed in the house until 1868. In response to a criticism that the Adams birthplaces had been inaccessible to visitors, she wrote to the *Quincy Patriot Ledger*,

> From 1842 to 1868 I was a member of one family that received with pleasure a large number of distinguished visitors each and every year.[236]

Charles Adams Spear was the son of Alpheus Spear and married a distant relative, Caroline Adams Green, daughter of Ebenezer Green.[237] Caroline Spear relates, "When I married Charles Spear we went to live in the house John Adams was born in."[238] According to census records, Charles Spear was twenty-one and Caroline Spear was eighteen when they moved into the house.

In the 1850 Federal Census, Charles is listed as a yeoman. At that time the Spears had two living children, Charles age six and Caroline age three. In addition, it appears the Spears took in four seaborne boarders: Thomas Magee age twenty-four, Joseph Berry age twenty-two and originally from New Hampshire, Warren Spear age seventeen, and Dennis Sheehan age thirty-seven and originally from Ireland. Warren Spear may have been related to Charles Spear. Also residing with the Spears was Ann O'Neil, age twenty-three and originally from Ireland. She was likely a servant.[239]

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[234] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 37.

[235] Charles Francis Adams, Accounts as Manager of John Quincy Adams' Finances 1838-1842, 27 March 1841, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #299. Charles Francis Adams, Financial Ledger 1852-1868, 7 April 1857, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #302.

[236] Caroline Spear, "'Members Wanted' If Quincy Desires a Progressive Historical Society." *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 21 September 1904.

[237] John Quincy Adams Diary, 17 May 1841, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #44. William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 6.

[238] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 31-32.

[239] *Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States 1850*, Roll 331, Massachusetts, Norfolk County (Part) (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1963), microform edition.

By 1860, the demographics of the Spear household had changed from boarding seamen to boarding farm laborers. Charles Spear was listed as a farmer at this time. They still had two children, Charles and Caroline. Also living with the Spears were farm laborers Caleb Rowell, age forty, and James Borland, age twenty-seven and born in New York. Another Irish woman, twenty-three-year-old Ellen Desmond, lived with the family and worked as a servant.[240]

In addition to renting out space in the John Adams birthplace, the Spears leased the John Quincy Adams birthplace from the Adams family and then sublet it to others.[241]

The Adams birthplaces received some physical care during the Spears' residence there. In 1841 Charles Francis Adams wrote, "In the afternoon I walked to the foot of Penn's hill with my boy Charles to note the progress made by the carpenters. They have nearly done, and it must be confessed the houses look better for the change. But these things cannot be done without expense, and I am frightened at the extent of it."[242] In Charles Francis Adams' 1853 financial ledger appears a payment of $120.03 for repairs to the Penn's Hill farm. Some of these repairs may have been made to the John Adams birthplace. The only improvement made to the John Adams birthplace specifically described by Caroline Spear is blinds: "I had the blinds put on the house that we lived in and Mr. [Charles Francis] Adams paid the bill."[243] It is unknown whether the blinds were part of the 1853 repairs.

Charles Spear died in 1868, apparently causing his family to move from the John Adams birthplace. Items of interest in his inventory include farming tools, livestock, and two pews in the United First Parish Church.[244]

Charles Francis Adams Ownership (1848-1886)

Upon the death of his father John Quincy Adams, Charles Francis Adams inherited the John Adams birthplace and surrounding land.[245] The Spear family continued to reside in the house until 1868. It is believed that after that time, the house and land continued to operate as a dairy farm until shortly before Charles Francis Adams' own death in 1886.[246] The names of any tenants living in the house at this time have been lost.

Through pictorial evidence it appears the windows of the John Adams birthplace were altered in the early 1880s (see ill. 8). A photograph from that time depicts two-over-two pane sash windows instead of the earlier twelve-over-twelve pane sash.[247]

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[240] *1860 Federal Census.*

[241] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 31-32.

[242] Charles Francis Adams Diary, 28 August 1841, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #66.

[243] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 31-32.

[244] Charles Spear, Inventory, 1868, case #17195, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.

[245] John Quincy Adams, Will, 1847.

[246] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 14.

[247] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, pp. 248-249.

Adams Real Estate Trust Ownership (1886-1940)

Shortly after the death of Charles Francis Adams, the heirs to his estate; John Quincy Adams, Charles Francis Adams Jr., Henry Adams, Mary Adams Quincy, and Brooks Adams, set up the Adams Real Estate Trust which was officially declared on 15 January 1887.[248] This body was created to manage the property remaining from Charles Francis Adams' estate including the Adams birthplaces and the land surrounding them. The trust does not specify how much of the Penn's Hill land was left at that time, but in proceedings conducted by the Adams Real Estate Trust in 1905, the lot upon which the two houses sat contained about 15,000 square feet.[249] According to Sprague, the Adams Real Estate Trust sold the rest of the Penn's Hill farm as house lots starting in 1886.[250] Outbuildings were taken down or moved.[251] One horse stable was moved from behind the birthplaces and is today attached to a nearby warehouse.[252]

According to a contemporary account, as late as 1894 the birthplaces were still being rented to tenants.[253] However, the houses were in a state of disrepair and lacked modern amenities making them undesirable rental properties capable of producing little revenue.[254] The houses' disrepair, lack of updating, and historic value, opened the door for two history-minded societies to occupy and restore the houses. The Quincy Historical Society led the way by obtaining the rights to the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The Adams Chapter of the Daughters of Revolution followed shortly thereafter by leasing the John Adams birthplace.

- Daughters of Revolution (1896-1940)

The general society of the Daughters of Revolution, or D.R., (different from the Daughters of the American Revolution, or D.A.R.) was founded in New York City in 1891 to work in association with the Sons of Revolution. The objectives of the society were

> To keep alive among its members and their descendants the patriotic spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence; to collect and secure for preservation the manuscript rolls, records and documents relating to the Revolutionary War to provide a place for their preservation and a fund for their purchase; to encourage historical research in relation to the Revolution and to publish the results; to promote and assist in the proper celebration of prominent events relating to or connected with the struggle for liberty; and to advance a friendly social intercourse and the feeling of fellowship among its members. The

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[248] Adams Real Estate Trust. Declaration of Trust, 1887, *Norfolk County Deeds*, vol. 588, pp. 188-192, Norfolk County Courthouse, Dedham, MA.

[249] Adams Real Estate Trust, Declaration of Trust, 1905, *Norfolk County Deeds*, vol. 1016, pp. 442-448, Norfolk County Courthouse, Dedham, MA.

[250] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 14.

[251] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 214.

[252] Gene Gabriel and Gardener Power, interview by author, tape recording, Quincy, MA, 22 April 1998.

[253] Alvin Lincoln Jones, *Under Colonial Roofs* (Boston: C.B. Webster, 1894), p. 196.

[254] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 14.

> Society has a philanthropic side as well, a secondary aim being to provide a home for and to furnish assistance to such as may be impoverished and who can prove their eligibility to membership in the organization.

The Daughters of Revolution eligibility requirements were as follows:

> Any woman above the age of eighteen is eligible to membership in the Society (always provided that she is acceptable as a woman of refinement and upright character,) if she can satisfactorily prove her lineal descent from an ancestor who served his country during the Revolutionary period as a military, naval or marine officer or private, always remaining loyal to the American cause. Other ancestors from whom eligibility may be derived are signers of the Declaration of Independence, members of the Continental Congress or the congress of any of the original Colonies or States.[255]

The D.R. was founded at a time when Americans were feeling the changes wrought by the influx of new immigrants to the United States. Jingoistic feelings produced two American responses which the Adams Chapter D.R. combined in its John Adams birthplace house museum. One reaction was to form groups with membership requirements that excluded new immigrant applicants. The other reaction was to educate immigrants so that they could behave "American" as soon as possible. The Adams Chapter D.R. excluded recent immigrants from its membership rolls on the one hand, but opened its house museum filled with American decorative arts and ideals on the other.

The D.R. restoration of the John Adams birthplace was a small effort in the larger Colonial Revival movement which prevailed in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century and still continues today. It is a nostalgic looking back to a time perceived as simpler when people acted with purer motivations. The signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States was considered the climax of the founding father's efforts while the following century represented a decline in the ideals of the early nation. To visually represent this idealized earlier time, Colonial Revivalists relied on symbols suggestive (in their minds) of the eighteenth-century lifestyle. Colonial Revival icons include spinning wheels, high chests of drawers, and turned armchairs. Some nineteenth-century literature took on a nostalgic bent and propelled other objects into the Colonial Revival limelight. Two of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poems, "The Old Clock on the Stairs" and "The Hanging of the Crane" caused the proliferation of tall case clocks on stair landings and increased interest in cranes in fireplaces.[256] The women of the Adams Chapter D.R. were not unaffected by the Colonial Revival efforts around them and the restoration of the John Adams birthplace is a product of this movement.

The first meeting of the Adams Chapter D.R. was 27 January 1896. The first regent Mrs. Nelson V. (Lillian Blanche) Titus and secretary Miss Ann L. Prescott

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[255] "A Patriotic Order: Sketch of the Daughters of Revolution," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 16 June 1896.

[256] Christopher Monkhouse, "Colonial Revival Furniture," (lecture presented at "At Home with the Colonial Revival" lecture series for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Waltham, MA, 14 April 1998.

spearheaded the organization effort. The Chapter was named after John and Abigail Adams and admitted as honorary members Elizabeth Coombs Adams and Abigail Adams, great-great granddaughter of John Adams.[257]

> At that meeting [January 27, 1896] I [Lillian B. Titus] stated to the members [of the Adams Chapter D.R.] that I had applied to the Hon. C.F. Adams for permission to use this famous old house [John Adams birthplace] for our Chapter meetings. For years these two houses had fallen into comparative disuse, and were occupied by tenants who cared nothing for their great historic value.
>
> It was decided finally that if I would sign the lease and be personally responsible for the house that the Chapter should have the use of it and permission was given to me to restore the house to the simple country farm house of John Adams boyhood days.
>
> On Oct. 19, 1896 the Adams Chapter took formal possession of the house Mr. Adams having dismissed the tenant so that we should have complete occupancy of the property (see appendix B-1).[258]

The day after taking possession of the house, the D.R. staged an "informal inauguration" at the John Adams birthplace with 200 people in attendance. Isaac Hull Adams and Elizabeth Coombs Adams were on hand to lend the occasion an air of continuity. Even before its restoration, there were artifacts in the house said to be related to the Adams family.

The Adams Chapter authorized Titus to spend up to $500 on the restoration effort. Not trusting others to do the job to her satisfaction, she supervised the restoration of the John Adams birthplace herself from August through October of 1897.[259] Titus stated the Chapter's goal in the restoration of the house: "No effort has been made by the Adams Chapter to beautify or change the house. We have aimed mainly to keep it the simple country farm house of John Adams' boyhood days" (see appendix B-1).[260] An avid restorationist, Mrs. Titus went on to supervise other similar efforts including the restoration of the Howland House in Plymouth, Massachusetts.[261]

However noble the D.R's goal, their "restoration" is considered aggressive by today's standards. Mrs. Titus supervised as workmen re-opened sealed chimneys to their widest extent (probably far wider than when John Adams lived there), restored a doorway and stairwell to the cellar from the entry hall, replaced later two-over-two windows with twelve-over-twelve windows, installed interior window shutters in the southeast and southwest rooms, removed old wallpaper and installed new wallpaper, and repainted the interior.[262] The most dramatic interior alteration was the removal of a wall between the

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[257] Lillian B. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams at Penn's Hill, Quincy, Mass.," 1890s, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA, pp. 2-3.

[258] Lilian B. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams, transcript of 1899 lecture, ca. 1993, appendix C-6 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 1.

[259] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, pp. 2, 6.

[260] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, p. 5.

[261] Lillian B. Titus to William Sumner Appleton, 1 October 1913, S.P.N.E.A. Archives, Boston, MA.

[262] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, May, p. 66.

southeast and northeast rooms so that the Chapter would have a large room in which to meet.

An exciting moment occurred when Titus' workmen uncovered what they believed to be a brick inscribed with the house's date of erection. It was first thought to bear the date "1687," but was later believed to read "1681." Titus described the event in 1899:

> the most interesting relic of the past, was the finding of the old brick. When the old sill of the house was removed, we found in the S.E. corner directly under the sill, a brick with the date '1681' widely scratched upon it. The workman who found it made an affadavit stating he found it & that the date was 1687- that affadavit is framed and hangs over the fire place, but since then closer examination & photography give it more clearly as 1681, and that has been accepted as the date of the erection of the house. The brick is now placed over the fire place in the living room (see appendix B-1).[263]

Changes made to the exterior included painting the house red based on finding red clapboards in the wall, installing a post-and-rail fence with turn-stile, and the later installation of a flag pole.[264]

The finding of a dated brick and painting the John Adams birthplace red, appear to be routine events in the restoration of the house, but, in fact, there was an emotional and competitive element behind these actions. According to Titus, there was an "unfriendly rivalry" between the Quincy Historical Society and the Daughters of Revolution. While this rivalry likely stemmed from personal differences between Quincy Historical Society curator and librarian William Gardner Spear and Lillian B. Titus, it centered upon the issue of which of the two houses was older. According to Lillian B. Titus, she and the D.R. bested Spear and the Quincy Historical Society on this score:

> There was much unfriendly rivalry on the part of Mr. G.[?] Spear - the former custodian of the J.Q. Adams Birthplace as he claimed that 'his' house, which he was also restoring was the older house of the two . . . Much was written pro & con in the daily papers at the time, but where I found the old brick with 1681 on it, and he found in one of the fireplaces a brick with 1716 on it, that seemed to settle the matter.
>
> He made a mistake in painting 'his' house red. He insisted on doing it because he wanted to make it appear that 'his' house was the older house. But John Quincy Adams writing from England speaks of it as 'The white house at the foot of Penn's Hill, where I was born.'
>
> That ought to settle it and it should be painted white by the Quincy His. Soc'y when it is done over again. It was painted about fifteen years ago the same

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[263] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, p. 4.

[264] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol.2, May, p. 66. Quincy Historical Society, "Quincy Historical Society: Materials for Its History," 15 June 1915, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

time that our house was restored. The Adams family paying for the expense and leaving it to the Quincy His. Society (see appendix B-3).[265]

Although Titus seemed to run the D.R. as her personal society, she may have resented Spear doing the same with "His. Society."

Upon completion of the initial restoration, the Adams Chapter D.R. hosted an opening on 19 October 1897. Period newspaper articles extolled the nostalgic feelings evoked by the "huge fireplace," the "large kettle," the crane, the "winding stairways," and the "good old-fashioned dishes" present at the event. It got underway at noon with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and then a member read Longfellow's poem "The Hanging of the Crane." The highlight of the opening was the actual "hanging of the crane" in the northeast room fireplace. "The procession was then formed and Miss Simmons and Miss Pierce, dressed in conventional colonial costumes carried the crane to the huge fireplace in the kitchen where it was presented to Mrs. N.V. Titus, the Regent of Adams chapter, who placed it in position."[266]

After the first restoration effort, the Adams family then spent more money on the structure to better suit it for the D.R.'s meetings and so that a caretaker could live in the house.[267] It is unclear when these renovations were undertaken, but a caretaker was living in the house at least as early as 1911 for Titus describes the caretaker having scarlet fever while residing in the house that year. According to Titus, Mrs. Smith became the D.R.'s caretaker in 1901, but she may not have lived in the house until later. Presumably the D.R.'s caretaker cleaned the house and provided a measure of security. Her most important job was to open the house and probably provide tours for guests. In 1904, the D.R. was praised for making the interior of the house available morning, afternoon, and evening.[268]

In 1904, the Quincy Historical Society paid Mrs. A. Smith a small sum for services rendered at its neighboring house, the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The Quincy Historical Society did not have a live-in caretaker, but did have a male caretaker. It is unclear whether Mrs. Smith cleaned the house, opened it for guests, or performed some other function.[269]

After his 1913 visit, William Sumner Appleton, the 1910 founder of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, wrote a letter critical of the restoration to Lillian B. Titus (see appendix B-2). He wrote, "There is much to be highly praised, and if I skip that and venture to make a few criticisms I feel certain you will understand that my motive is of the best and does not spring from any lack of appreciation of what you have done." In general, he felt the D.R.'s restoration did not portray the correct signs of age. He felt, they used too much paint and wallpaper and neglected to remove the ceiling in the southeast room. Regarding interior paint he wrote, "As to paint. The beauty of such a house as your[s] consists in its appearance of age, and a coat of paint

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[265] Titus to Appleton.

[266] "The Hanging of the Crane: Housewarming at Birthplace of President John Adams," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 20 October 1897. "Nation's Birthplace Restored: Cottage in which John Adams was Born Opened to the Public after Many Years, *Quincy Advertiser*, 22 October 1897.

[267] Titus to Appleton.

[268] Caroline Spear, "Members Wanted."

[269] Quincy Historical Society, "First Treasurer's Book and Earliest List of Members," 12 December 1904, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

which is time-stained, which is a wholly different thing from looking dirty, is something to be very highly valued and carefully preserved."[270]

He then went on to address the delicate issue of exterior paint color:

> As to the color of the red on the outside of the house, so far as my experience goes, it is not as near the old Indian red as the red on the other Adams house, having a shade too much blue in its composition. Should you in the course of years have to repaint the outside of the house I would advise that the color be made to match that of the other house, or such samples of Indian red as are found in the oldest architecture - such as architectural fragments in museums and elsewhere.[271]

Titus quickly answered Appleton's letter point for point. She often responded with practical reasons why the D.R. restoration did not meet Appleton's expectations (see appendix B-3). She explained that money and health concerns dictated the papering and painting of the walls. The reasons for leaving the southeast room ceiling intact were that the house was restored to the Revolutionary War period, the D.R. desired to retain heat in the room, and the D.R. disliked dust falling from the floor above. She took particular umbrage at Appleton's criticism of her choice of red for the exterior:

> Now as to the color of the wood[?] on the outside of the house. It was, to my way of thinking all right when it was put on fifteen years ago, but is not so[?] now.
>
> The fault lies in the paint. . . .
>
> [P]erhaps I know what the real Indian Red is. . . . for years I have made a study of our Indian history. Perhaps it has . . . before been brought to your attention that for many years I owned what was commonly known as the only located[?] Indian Burying Ground in Massachusetts.
>
> There, in excavating, the men see on the face of the bank, a streak[?] of red ochre they know at once they have found an Indian's grave.
>
> It is not the brick red, that color that you saw at the J.Q. Adams house but is a [illeg.] color, which however I suppose would fade with time & the elements to about that same shade To get this shade of red is difficult. The painters who 'knew it all' put in either too much blue or black. I feel sure this is the color that our ancestors[?] used to paint their houses but it is hard to get the color unless one took a good deal of trouble to get the paint manufacturer to make it just right.[272]

Titus' responses to Appleton's somewhat presumptuous and pedantic criticisms indicate that she was not going to let him belittle her knowledge or sway her from her goals. The D.R. intended to restore the John Adams birthplace to its most important historical era, the late eighteenth century, not to the time of its first building, a point Appleton ignored

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[270] Titus to Appleton.

[271] William Sumner Appleton to Mrs. Nelson V. Titus, 29 September 1913, S.P.N.E.A. Archives, Boston, MA.

[272] Titus to Appleton.

or missed. Also, as occupants of the building the D.R. needed to make certain practical concessions to render it useful to the Chapter.

No further information is available about the D.R. operation of the John Adams birthplace until 1950 (continued below).

City of Quincy Ownership (1940-1979)

In 1940 the Adams Real Estate Trust deeded the Adams birthplaces and the 14,695 square feet surrounding them to the City of Quincy. The City owned the property, but it was

> in trust to preserve and maintain said premises with any additions thereto or improvements thereon as places of historic and public interest and not for profit, with the purpose of fostering civic virtue and patriotism, and to these ends with the right to acquire and place in or about the premises personal effects and property of historical value and interest and, in general, to do all things which may be necessary or proper to preserve said premises and the buildings now built thereon and the personal property which may from time to time be placed thereon or therein.[273]

There is no statement of the reason for the Adams Real Estate Trust's transfer of the birthplaces, but it was probably for tax purposes and to ensure the continued care of the houses. As holdings of the City, the property was free from taxes. Also, tax money could be appropriated to care for the two houses which were once again in a state of disrepair.

Upon receiving the houses, Mayor Thomas S. Burgin appointed a committee of five as the Committee on Historical Places which later became known as the Board of Managers of Historic Places.[274] Henry Adams, son of Charles Francis Adams Jr., was a member of the original Board.[275] The Board of Managers worked in conjunction with the city historian to manage the City's historic properties, including the birthplaces. Shortly after obtaining the houses, the City Council appropriated $2,000 for repairing the Adams birthplaces. The bulk of the money was spent on the John Adams birthplace which required new sills, beams, flooring, and siding.[276] Also conducted at that time were minor improvements such as painting and wallpapering. In addition, fire codes required that the cedar shingles on the houses be replaced with black asphalt ones.[277]

In 1950 to 1951, the Adams birthplaces were closed for repairs. The City Council appropriated $6,600 for the repairs; the amount allocated for the John Adams birthplace was $2,625. This money was to go toward stopping the progress of termites and dry rot

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[273] Adams Real Estate Trust, Deed to City of Quincy, 1940, *Norfolk County Deeds*, vol. 2281, pp. 535-536, Norfolk County Courthouse, Dedham, MA.

[274] Sprague, *Brief Story*, pp. [2-3].

[275] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17.

[276] "Famous Old Adams Homestead Being Repaired, Old Metals Found in It," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 6 December 1941.

[277] Lawrence D. Gall, "The Adams Birthplaces: An Interpretive Study in New England Preservation History," 1978, appendix F-4 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, pp. [14-15].

and stabilizing the structure. However, "The work begun some weeks ago, revealed that much more extensive repairs were needed, as the two houses were far more advanced in decay than anticipated."[278] The total extent of the repairs is unknown, but one improvement was a new staircase in the entry hall.[279]

The caretakers' quarters in the rear of the John Adams birthplace were upgraded at this time as well. A partition wall, although not of the original wall's thickness, was reinstalled between the southeast and northeast rooms making the northeast room a living room for the caretaker. Electricity was introduced in part of the house.[280] The exterior of the houses was improved with new plantings and stepping stones between them.[281] The houses reopened to the public in April 1951.[282]

In 1956, the City of Quincy obtained two lots of property surrounding the Adams birthplaces. It took by eminent domain 9,061 square feet of property at 127 Franklin Street and appropriated over $8,000 with which to buy the neighboring "Craig property." The intent in acquiring this land was to remove the extant buildings, put in a parking lot and then "beautify" the remainder with "old fashioned flower gardens."[283] The buildings were pulled down, but neither the parking lot nor the gardens came to pass.

In 1971, the exteriors of the Adams birthplaces were stripped and repainted by Sears, Roebuck, and Co. They adorned the cover of Sears' catalogue and appeared in a Sears commercial the same year.[284] In 1975, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities employee David Hart prepared the reports "Specifications for Preservation and Repairs—John Adams House" and "Specifications for Preservation and Repairs—John Quincy Adams House" as guides for the future maintenance of the houses.

After the initial infusion of money into the Adams birthplaces in the 1950s, there was not a continued supply to keep up with the demands of the two needy older houses. Starting in 1977, Paul Harold, Quincy Councilor-at-Large and member of the Committee on Historical Places, began to lobby for the transfer of the Adams birthplaces into the National Park System. According to the *Quincy Patriot Ledger*,

> Structural deficiencies listed by the New England Society for the Preservation of Antiquities in 1975 could cost almost $300,000 to repair, according to a National Park Service architect.
>
> Discussed at the meeting were dry rot problems in the back sill and decay of the chimney in the John Quincy Adams house. Quincy Director of Planning Norman Lundin said a second-story beam in the John Adams house is sagging and causing the walls of adjacent rooms to separate.

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[278] "Council Votes to Repair Adams Cottages," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 19 September 1950.

[279] Quincy Historical Society, "Annual Report of the House Committee," 1952, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[280] Polly M. Rettig, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: John Adams Birthplace, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1960, revised 1975, p. [1].

[281] Grace Bonsall[?] to Marion U. Mansur, 7 May 1950, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[282] Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [2].

[283] Edwards, p. 45.

[284] "Adams Birthplaces to Star in Network TV Commercial," *Shopper*, 18 August 1971. "Adams Homes Adorn Catalog," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 11 March 1976.

'The city may be able to afford to repair the buildings temporarily, but not to properly restore them,' Councilor Harold said.

Subcommittee members already tend to favor National Park Service ownership, but Councilor Harold said all alternatives would be explored in the course of the next four months.

Because of the importance of the presidential birthplaces and because the park service already has personnel and maintenance equipment in Quincy . . . Councilor Harold said there is a good chance the houses would be accepted by the Interior Committee's national parks sub-committee and designated national historic sites.[285]

In April of 1979, the Adams National Historic Site assumed management of the Adams birthplaces.

- Daughters of Revolution Continued (1940-1950)

Through the 1940s, the Daughters of Revolution continued to occupy and manage the John Adams birthplace as a historic house museum. As of 1 January 1950, the Adams Chapter disbanded. The Board of Managers of Historical Places wrote to the Quincy Historical Society,

About three weeks ago the Board of Managers of Historical Places were informed that the Adams Chapter, Daughters of the Rev. had disbanded as of Jan. 1st, and were giving up the John Adams Birthplace. With the death of Miss Harriet Pierce, Mrs. Piper, the remaining member, did not feel that she could carry on alone.

Since it is one of the functions of the Bd. of Man. to see that the house is occupied, the Board held a meeting and voted that if the Quincy Historical Society would like the John Adams Birthplace in which to display their relics, they could have it, provided that they made application in writing, pursuant to a vote of the members at the regular meeting authorizing such application.[286]

The Quincy Historical Society accepted the offer to occupy the John Adams birthplace and the state society of the Daughters of Revolution made arrangements regarding the furniture belonging to the Adams Chapter. In April 1950, the D.R. voted to "give to the Quincy Historical Society all furniture (belonging to the Adams Family) that we left in the John Adams House in Quincy" (see appendix C-1).[287] The rest of the furniture was transferred to the then headquarters of the Massachusetts D.R., the Upham House in Melrose, Massachusetts.[288]

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[285] "Adams Houses Could Change Hands," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 25 August 1977.

[286] Grace Bonsall to Quincy Historical Society[?], 17 February 1950, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[287] Marion U. Mansur to Grace Bonsall, 25 April 1950, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[288] Bonsall to Quincy Historical Society[?]. Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 28.

- Quincy Historical Society (1950-1979)

In 1950, the Quincy Historical Society agreed to occupy the John Adams birthplace. Its function was to display items in the house and open it to the public as a house museum, while the City of Quincy would oversee the upkeep of the house and property.[289] The John Adams birthplace was furnished with extra objects from the John Quincy Adams birthplace, those donated to the Quincy Historical Society by the D.R., and a gift of furniture from Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman of Sharon, Massachusetts.[290]

The Quincy Historical Society continued to operate the John Adams birthplace as a house museum until April of 1979. Upon the transfer of the house to the National Park Service, the Quincy Historical Society removed its collections and moved them to its headquarters in the Adams Academy building also in Quincy. Some objects were sold at auction, some are in storage, and others have been incorporated into the Society's current exhibition on Quincy history. Caretakers under the employment of the Quincy Historical Society lived in the John Adams birthplace until 1979.[291]

National Park Service Ownership (1979-Present)

The Adams birthplaces were transferred to the National Park Service via the following bill

> Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to preserve for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations the birthplaces of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, the Secretary of the Interior . . . is authorized to accept the conveyance, without monetary consideration, of the property known as the John Adams Birthplaces at 133 Franklin Street, and the property known as the John Quincy Adams Birthplace at 141 Franklin Street, in Quincy, Massachusetts, together with such furnishings, other personal property, and adjacent real property as may be desirable, for administration as part of the Adams National Historic Site in Quincy, Massachusetts.[292]

The National Park Service began to manage the Adams birthplaces on 20 April 1979 and a ceremony was held to mark the occasion on 1 May. The birthplaces were closed from roughly 1979 to 1984 while National Park Service architectural conservators managed the restoration of the houses. While the houses were closed, the National Park Service interpreted the Adams family story from the exterior of the houses.[293] Documenting the

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[289] "Historical Society Accepts Offer from City to Occupy Birthplace of John Adams," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 18 February 1950.

[290] Aaron H. Smith Jr., "Priceless Antiques Donated for John Adams Birthplace," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 14 October 1950.

[291] Carole Louise Perrault, *Completion Report: Interior Stabilization of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, January 11 1982 – May 28 1982* (DRAFT 1990), p. 4.

[292] James A. Burke to William A. O'Connell, 12 April 1978, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA. City of Quincy, Deed to United States of America, 1979, Norfolk County Deeds, vol. 5612, pp. 485-486, Norfolk County Courthouse, Dedham, MA.

[293] Judith McAlister Curtis, interview by author, tape recording, Quincy, MA, 23 April 1998.

interpretation at the time is Lawrence Gall's 1978-1979 "The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams: An Interpretive Presentation of the Grounds" (see appendix C-8).

Changes made during the National Park Service work are outlined in Perrault's circa 1990 draft *Completion Report*:

> The exterior would be made weathertight and restored to its mid-18th century (John Adams Period) appearance. The interior would be made structurally sound and treated in the following manner: first story - restored to its mid-18th century (John Adams Period) with the exception of the southwest room which would be restored to its ca. 1810-1819 (Thomas Boylston Adams) appearance; second story - restored to its mid-18th century appearance (John Adams Period); garrets and attic maintained as is with minor alterations reflected by work in the abutting spaces. The north shed would be reconstructed. The exterior of the north shed would be constructed to its mid-18th (John Adams Period) appearance, while the interior would be finished to accommodate a modern lavatory and office space for the staff.[294]

The exterior of the John Adams birthplace is currently covered with weathered, unpainted clapboards. In 1980, the roofs were reshingled with wooden shakes. Major interior alterations include the closing of the door to the cellar in the entry hall; re-opening of the door to the cellar in the southeast room; the reinstallation of a thick wall between the southeast and northeast rooms; the removal of the "central closet" and staircases between the northeast and northwest rooms; the removal of the northern ell from the rear of the house; the replacement of the northern ell with the north shed; the removal of the door between the northwest and southwest rooms (although a false door remains on the northwest side); the removal of the doorway to the attic from the second floor hall; and the removal of the doorway between the southeast chamber and the northeast garret.[295] Also executed at this time were Historic American Buildings Survey drawings and the upgrading of the electrical system.[296]

When the architectural work was completed in 1984, the John Adams birthplace was furnished with reproduction and period furnishings based upon the research of Adams National Historic Site staff members. The effort to furnish the birthplaces was spearheaded by then Superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris. Harris, despite National Park Service policy advising against furnishing buildings in the absence of original objects, insisted that the Adams birthplaces be furnished. At times Harris personally absorbed the cost of the furnishings.[297]

Many furnishing choices were based upon the 1761 inventory of Deacon John Adams (see appendix A-1). A few reproduction objects were based upon objects that descended in the Adams family and were owned by the Adams National Historic Site or

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[294] Carole Louise Perrault, *Completion Report: Stabilization of the John Adams Birthplace (Including Grounds Work for the Adams Birthplaces' Site), May 1982 – January 1984* (DRAFT 1990), p. 15.

[295] Perrault, *Completion Report: John Adams Birthplace*, pp. 318-319.

[296] Perrault, *Completion Report: John Adams Birthplace*, p. 4.

[297] Curtis interview.

Mrs. Harris. Other furnishings were chosen in the belief that they were appropriate to the mid-eighteenth-century time period being portrayed in the house.

An informal "Furnishings Report" was created by curator Judith McAlister Curtis for the John Adams birthplace soon after the furnishings were installed. This report contains photographs of the major objects in the house accompanied by short captions containing information such as size, material, maker, original object upon which the reproduction was based, and historical information about the object type. Also included are articles and papers addressing activities such as spinning wool and cordwaining.

The interiors and exteriors of the Adams birthplaces stand essentially as they were left after the work in the 1980s was completed. Visitors currently experience both houses on guided tours led by Park Rangers. These tours focus on the people and activities related to the houses while the furnishings serve as a backdrop. The focus of the John Adams birthplace tour is the childhood of John Adams.

The future of the John Adams birthplace is stated in the Park's 1996 *General Management Plan,*

> The Adams Birthplaces will be the focus for interpretation for children and students at Adams National Historic Site because they provide the opportunity for an interactive program telling the story of 17th and 18th century life. Educational programs will take place at the John Adams Birthplace. At the Birthplace schoolchildren can learn about duty, responsibility, and education and can participate in activities highlighting the home life of the Adamses and the skills they used to fulfill their obligations and maintain their close family.[298]

The current study is a step in the process toward the development of the John Adams birthplace into a more interactive and engaging resource for school children and general audience visitors alike.

- Wilhelmina S. Harris, Superintendent

Wilhelmina S. Harris began her association with the Adams family in 1920 when she became the personal secretary of Brooks Adams. She lived with the Brooks Adams family in Boston and at the Old House. She also traveled abroad with the family. Before his 1927 death, Brooks Adams shared with Mrs. Harris extensive information about the objects in the Old House.

Because of this knowledge, Mrs. Harris was hired by the National Park Service as a Historical Aid in 1948. She became superintendent of the Adams National Historic Site in 1950. Mrs. Harris produced the detailed, nine volume *Historic Furnishings Report* for the Old House in the 1960s.

Based upon her knowledge of the Adams family and the Old House objects, Mrs. Harris formulated, almost single-handedly, the furnishings schemes for the Adams birthplaces in the 1980s. Several people including Judith McAlister Curtis, Lawrence Gall, Patricia Shaheen, and Paul Nagel aided her in her research on the birthplaces, yet,

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[298] Peak, *General Management Plan*, p. 31.

none felt they influenced her decision-making process to a significant degree.[299] Curtis describes the process in the greatest detail:

> Rather than study a period and then make selections, Mrs. Harris would say 'This is what I want.' We would then have to research the objects she suggested and see if they actually fit the time period. If they didn't we would tell her and she would come up with other suggestions. The process would begin again until suggestions and period agreed.
>
> The result was a mixture of period pieces, copies of pieces from the period and reproductions of the few known pieces from the Old House that were once at the Birthplaces.[300]

Wilhelmina S. Harris retired as superintendent at the age of ninety-one in 1987.[301]

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[299] Curtis interview. Paul C. Nagel, interview by author, tape recording, Quincy, MA, 25 June 1998. Pat Shaheen, interview by author, tape recording, Quincy, MA, 22 June 1998. Lawrence D. Gall, telephone conversation with author, 15 June 1998.

[300] Judith McAlister Curtis, electronic letter to author, 8 December 1998.

[301] William G. Sullivan, "Obituary: Wilhelmina S. Harris, 95, Superintendent of Historic Adams Mansion in Quincy," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 23 May 1991.

Summary: Ownership and Occupancy of the John Adams Birthplace

Owner	Date	Occupants	Date
William Needham	1639/40-1675	William Needham	1639/40-ca. 1667
Joseph Penniman	1675-1705	Unknown	
James Penniman	1705-1720	Unknown	
Deacon John Adams	1720-1761	Dea. John Adams	1720-1761
Peter Boylston Adams	1761-1774	Peter Boylston Adams	1761-ca: 1774
		Susannah B. Adams	1761-1768?
		John Adams	1761-1764
		Elihu Adams	1761-1762
John Adams	1774-1803	Hayden	ca. 1775-1778
		James Pratt	1778-1784
		Matthew Pratt	1778-ca. 1792
		James Faxon	1792-1794
		Vacant	1794-1795
		Moses French	1796-1800
		James Shipley	1801
		John Briesler	1802-1803
John Quincy Adams	1803-1848	John Briesler	1803-1807
		Vacant	1807
		Joseph Arnold	1808-1809
		Thomas Boylston Adams	1810- ca. 1820
		Adam Curtis	1821-1829
		Samuel Curtis	1822-1830
		Crane	1827-pre1829

Owner	Date	Occupants	Date
		George Hardwick	1830-pre1841
		Sukey Burrell	ca. 1833
		Charles Spear	1841-1848
Charles Francis Adams	1848-1886	Charles Spear	1848-1868
		Unknown Tenants	1868-1886
Adams Real Estate Trust	1887-1940	Unknown Tenants	1887-1895
		Daughters of Rev.	1896-1940
City of Quincy	1940-1979	Daughters of Rev.	1940-1950
		Quincy Historical Soc.	1950-1979
National Park Service	1979-Present	Adams Nat'l Hist. Site	1979-Present

Evidence of Room Use and Furnishings
(See appendices D-1 and D-2 for Floor Plans)

JABP 001, Cellar

Architectural Description and History

When it reached its largest extent, the cellar of the John Adams birthplace consisted of excavated spaces under the southwest room and northwest room and crawl spaces under the southeast room and northern shed/ell. The walls are composed of granite field stone and evidence of early plaster was found during the 1980s restoration. The floor is earthen. During its history, the number of windows lighting the cellar ranged from one to three. The number of stairwells giving access to the space varied from one to two.

In its early incarnation, the cellar under the southwest room was accessed via a flight of steps leading from the southeast room, or early kitchen

In the 1810s, during Thomas Boylston Adams' renovating campaign, access to the cellar was reworked. The entry to the existing stairwell was moved from the west wall of the southeast room to the north wall of the entry hall. The removal of cellar access from the southeast room reflected its earlier change from kitchen to a more genteel living space when the lean-to kitchen was added. To facilitate access to the cellar from the lean-to kitchen, a stairway was constructed in the central closet which was carved out of that room in the 1810s.

Further changes to the cellar took place during Charles Francis Adams' renovations in the mid-nineteenth century. At that time, the doorway to the cellar in the entry hall was removed preventing cellar access from the front of the house. Also, a storage room was installed in the cellar next to the stairs leading to the northeast room.

During the 1897 restoration conducted by the Daughters of Revolution, Titus' workmen encountered "A doorway which was found bricked up - in the front Hall on being opened disclosed the fine flight of stone steps leading to a large cellar unused for many years" (see appendix B-1).[302] Access to the cellar from the entry hall was re-established at this time.

During the 1980s restoration work conducted by the National Park Service, architectural conservators chose to restore the cellar to its eighteenth-century configuration. The doorway from the entry hall was sealed and the cellar door was moved back to the west wall of the southeast room. The central closet and stairwell leading to the cellar from the northeast room were dismantled. In the cellar itself, the storage room was removed. Also, the number of window openings was increased from one to three based upon indentations in the west and north walls. The walls were finished with whitewash.

History of Room Use

The cellar served as a storage space throughout its history. Although no evidence of its earliest use survives, it is likely the cellar was utilized, at least in part, as a storage

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[302] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, p. 4.

space for foodstuffs. Its subterranean location affords a constant cool temperature that protected foods from spoilage in hot weather and freezing in cold weather. Letters from Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams describe the storage of sugar and wine in the cellar of the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[303] In the John Adams birthplace, the moving of cellar access from the early to the later kitchen indicates that easy communication between the two areas was desirable.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a wooden storage room, believed to be a vegetable bin, was constructed. This storage space had a wooden floor, wooden walls, and a door opening to the cellar.

During the 1897 Daughters of Revolution restoration, the cellar ceased to house food and became a storage area for architectural fabric removed from the building. Titus boasted, "If you chance to see the cellar you will see our store closet [possibly the wooden storage room] piled full to the ceiling with choice pieces of oak and other things from the house. which it is expected will be made later into souvenirs to be sold for the maintenance of the house to visitors" (see appendix B-1).[304] This area continued to serve as a storage space during the Quincy Historical Society's occupancy of the house.

The National Park Service continues to use the cellar for storage and to house utilities. The cellar is not currently an exhibition space.

Documentary and Graphic References

1897, October 19. "John Adams Day," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the front hall, what was supposed to have been an old closet, was found to be the stone stairway leading to the cellar of the old house. This has been restored to its original condition."

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 2): "If you chance to see the cellar you will see our store closet piled full to the ceiling with choice pieces of oak and other things from the house. which it is expected will be made later into souvenirs to be sold for the maintenance of the house to visitors." (See appendix B-1)

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 4): "A doorway which was found bricked up - in the front Hall on being opened disclosed the fine flight of stone steps leading to a large cellar unused for many years." (See appendix B-1)

1983, January 27. "Sign Language," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the John Adams house, a nail helped specialists determine roughly when a cellar stairway that originally opened into the dining room was relocated to open into a hall area. The stairway is being moved back to its original position."

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[303] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 29 November 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366. Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 23 December 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366.

[304] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, pp. 2-3.

Ca. 1984, Perrault, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs of cellar.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 158: Cellar finishes schedule: existing walls and trim were whitewashed and ceiling and floor were unfinished. During treatment walls, trim, and underside of second-story stairs were whitewashed. Ceiling and floor left unfinished.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 223: "OBJECTIVE: To maintain the historic plan while adaptively using the space for modern utilities and storage."

"The floor plan of the cellar was slightly altered, as follows: the wood-partitioned storage room was dismantled; the rear stairs with access to the first-story northeast lean-to room was removed; access to the first-story entry was closed off while access to the first-story southeast room was reinstated. With these alterations, the cellar plan was restored to one large rectangle extending the width of the main house and lean-to."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 224: During the 1980s restoration, "One window location was maintained while two additional windows were introduced in historic locations. The extant window survived on the west wall's north end. The two restored window locations include the west wall's south end and the north wall to the west of the carrying beam. Indentations in the foundation wall provided evidence for these former window locations."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 262: During the 1980s restoration, "The northeast lean-to room was made larger by the elimination of the central closet and stairs to the cellar and second story which abutted the closet."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 38: During the 1980s restoration, architectural conservators found early plaster on the cellar walls.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. cellar 3: Description of extant cellar prior to the 1980s restoration: "The area directly under the first-story's southwest room, northwest lean-to room, and central closet is fully excavated, providing for a cellar rectangular in plan. . . . Only a crawl space exists under the entry. The space below the southeast room, northeast lean-to room, and gabled ell remains unexcavated. Two sets of stairs provide access to the cellar: a granite slab stairs (south stairs) that leads from the first-story entry and a wood stairs (north stairs) from the northeast lean-to room. . . . A small storage room has been partitioned-off between the rear stairs and the carrying beam that separates the main house from the lean-to extension. A single window serves the cellar, located in the west wall in the north corner. Three doorways are extant: one from the front entry; a second from the northeast

lean-to room; and a third in the storage bin. The cellar was last used as a storage area by the Quincy Historical Society."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. cellar 7-8: "Access to the cellar was from the southeast room via the extant granite stairs (south stairs) from the southeast room.

"The 1810-1819 remodelling brought the following changes to the cellar: access to the cellar was moved from the southeast room's west wall to the entry's north wall; a second access and a new set of stairs (north stairs) were provided from the northeast lean-to room. Door D-13 was moved from the south wall of the northeast lean-to room to serve [as] the door to the cellar.

"A component of the mid-19th century work was the construction of the wood storage bin (for vegetables?) along the east wall of the chimney foundation. In addition, a new set of stairs from the northeast lean-to room were built, as well, replacing the earlier stairs. These stairs may even be 20th-century. The nail type was not recorded when they were dismantled.

"The 1897 restoration replaced Door D-2 (doorway from entry to cellar) with an 'old door' from another house. The doorway may have been made smaller, as well."

JABP 101, Entry Hall

Architectural Description and History

The entry hall is a small rectangular space with doors to the exterior, the southeast room, and southwest room. A winder stair proceeds west to east on the north wall. For a small space, it has been altered several times during its history.

The first detectable renovations are those made by Thomas Boylston Adams in the 1810s. At that time access to the cellar was changed from the southeast room to the north wall of the entry hall. The dimensions and trim of the front entrance were also changed at this time.

In the mid-nineteenth century, the door to the cellar was sealed preventing access from the front of the house.

In 1897, the Daughters of Revolution re-opened the doorway to the cellar stairs. To cover this opening, the organization received a door made of fluted boards as a gift from Samuel T. Cushing. This antique door came from the General Benjamin Lincoln House in Hingham.

In 1951-1952, the City of Quincy installed a new staircase in the entry hall.

Nineteen-eighties National Park Service renovations included replacing the extant stairs and railing with ones based upon extant ghost marks on the wall; replacing the extant front door with a new one; and sealing the 1897 door to the cellar.

History of Room Use

The function of the entry hall has remained constant since its construction. It continues to be the room through which visitors enter the house. Then, as now, the hallway is limited by size. There is only space for a few people in the room at once and

with the exterior door open, excess people must enter the southwest room to the left. Water enters the open door on rainy days. Also, there is no room for furnishings unless they are small or flat. This space is currently on display, however, visitors quickly pass through it to enter rooms offering more space and interest.

Interior Features and Finishes

According to the findings of Titus and National Park Service architectural conservators, the entry hall walls were originally whitewashed and the woodwork was coated with resinous finishes. It is unclear when the entry hall was first wallpapered, but there was paper on the walls which Titus removed to expose a yellow whitewash.

At least by the 1970s but probably as early as the 1950s, the Quincy Historical Society had repapered the hall with a patterned paper. The vertically striped pattern was composed primarily of small diamonds and triangles. The wooden trim and ceiling were painted white and the floor was painted gray.

National Park Service crew members removed the existing wallpaper and took paint samples from the woodwork. One paint sample included materials ranging from very early resinous finishes to twentieth-century finishes confirming the long history of coatings in this well-traveled space. During the 1980s, the plaster was whitewashed, the wooden trim and doors were coated with a resinous finish, and the door to the southwest room was painted. The floor, stairs, and handrail were left unfinished.

Furnishings

As stated above, the furnishings possibilities for the entry hall are few. There is no evidence indicating the early furnishings in the hall. At least as early as 1961, the Quincy Historical Society displayed a fire bucket and a lantern in the entry hall (see appendix C-2). A photograph of the room during the Quincy Historical Society's occupation shows a leather fire bucket labeled "Thos. B. Adams/ Quincy/ No. 9[?]/ 1800" in the southwest corner.

The National Park Service displays a reproduction mirror on the north wall of the entry hall. This mirror was reproduced based upon a mirror that descended in the Adams family and was later owned by Superintendent Harris.[305]

Documentary and Graphic References

1897, October 19. "John Adams Day," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Regarding the 1897 restoration: "The interior of the house shows a large amount of work. Old English paper has been hung upon the walls, while in the hall and in the room where President Adams was born, the walls are in the old yellow whitewash, the color being found by removing some of the old paper.

"In the front hall, what was supposed to have been an old closet, was found to be the stone stairway leading to the cellar of the old house. This has been restored to its original condition and the door now leading to this stairway was given by Samuel T. Cushing of Hingham, and was one of those in the old Gen. Benjamin Lincoln house [in

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[305] Curtis interview.

Hingham]. It is made of fluted boards, similar boards being found in the attic of the Adams house, showing that they were also used in this house."

1952, April 18. "Three Historical Houses Open Tomorrow for Season," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Repairs at the birthplaces this year included a new staircase in the John Adams cottage."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 2: List of furnishings in entry hall. (See appendix C-2)

Ca. 1969[?], Quincy Historical Society, "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-13, p. 1): List of selected items in entry hall. (See appendix C-6)

Pre-1979, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of southwest corner, floor level of entry hall.

1980, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, figs. 376-377: Photographs (2) of existing conditions in entry hall, north wall, and staircase.

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photograph of entry hall, north, east, and south walls.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 158: Entry hall finishes schedule:

Existing:	Plaster Walls - wallpapered with patterned paper
	Trim and Ceiling - painted white
	Flooring - painted gray
Treatment:	Plaster walls - removed wallpaper; whitewashed
	Trim - removed paint from trim; applied a resinous wash, except door to southwest room which was painted
	Ceiling - whitewashed
	Flooring - installed new floor; maintained unfinished
	Stairs - installed new stairs; maintained unfinished
	Stair Hand-rails - installed new hand-rails; maintained unfinished

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 227: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the John Adams period, mid-18th century appearance (although the early-19th century width of the door opening would be maintained)."

"No change in use was implemented, although a slight change in floor plan was made. The doorway to the cellar (Door D-2) on the north wall was closed-off."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 227: During the 1980s, "The extant stairs were dismantled and removed from the premises."

"The stairs were reconstructed based on the historic evidence extant on walls and wood trim. . . . A new handrail was installed. Historic evidence survived only for the handrail's location, not its configuration."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 227-228: During the 1980s, "The extant [front] door was removed and a newly fabricated double door was introduced. The double door exhibits (6) panels on the exterior and (2) vertical panels on the interior. Its design is based on the extant law office door in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. New trim was introduced around the door to reflect the historic period, although the dimension of the door opening represents the early-19th century alteration to the door opening."

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 12-13: "It appears that the entry and stairway to the second story were not significantly altered until the 19th century. The 1810-1819 remodeling and the 1897 restoration affected this space. The changes impacted the doorways on each wall. The stairs appear to have been rebuilt in the 20th century and possibly in the 19th-century, as well."

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 13: "The south wall has undergone alteration since construction. The north wall of the entry appears to have been altered as well. Both walls appear to reflect changes to doorways made during the circa 1810-1819 period. . . . The south wall doorway appears to have been made smaller during this period. A new doorway to the cellar was introduced during this period because the door to the same from the southeast room was closed-up. . . . The paint sample from the north wall baseboard (P068) appears to have very early resinous finishes extant followed by the finishes from circa 1897 to the present."

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 61: During the mid-nineteenth-century renovations, "the door from the first-story entry to the cellar was closed-up."

JABP 102, Southeast Room (Old Kitchen)

Architectural Description and History

The southeast room is a rectangular room with a window in the south and east walls. From south to north, the west wall is composed of a door to the entry hall, a door to the cellar stairs, and a fireplace. The north wall has changed over time. Architectural conservators believe there was originally a door in the north wall and reconstructed one in that position in the 1980s.

There is evidence that the windows and fireplace were altered during the eighteenth century. These alterations likely coincided with the construction of the lean-to kitchen and change in the southeast room's function.

During the 1810s, Thomas Boylston Adams further upgraded the southeast room. The door to the cellar was moved from the room's west wall into the entry hall; wainscoting and a dado were applied to the lower portion of the walls; interior shutters

were added to the windows; and the fireplace was reduced in size. These modifications indicate a more genteel, but unclear, use for the space.

At some time during the second half of the nineteenth century, the fireplace was further reduced in size. By the time Titus of the D.R. saw the opening in the late-nineteenth century, it was covered with a sheet of iron and a stove "funnel" was in place.

During their 1897 restoration, the D.R. made several changes to the southeast room. The greatest change was the removal of all but a portion of the north wall which partitioned the room from the northeast room, or lean-to kitchen. During this removal, Titus discovered that she was removing the original exterior wall of the southeast room. The D.R. located early interior shutters in the house. They produced reproduction shutters and installed them in the southeast and southwest rooms. On the south wall, exposed brick nogging was placed under glass for display. The D.R. restoration also involved reopening the fireplace to its earlier, wider width. In the process of repairing the walls and sills, Titus' crew discovered a brick under the sill of the southeast corner with the number "1681" carved into it.

William Sumner Appleton of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities criticized Titus' choice not to remove the plastered ceiling as Spear had at the John Quincy Adams birthplace. She responded with practical concerns:

> Personally, I would have liked to tear down the plastered ceilings [illeg.] the floor above as was done in the adjoining house [John Quincy Adams birthplace], but my experience with the other old houses has been that it makes a house that is used much - very[?] unclean as the dirt is continually falling - as one walks upon the floor above the dust will fall. In the J.Q Adams house they had to nail laths over the cracks in the flooring for this reason[?] as perhaps you noticed. Then, too, with an unplastered ceiling the heat rises and at best we[?] find it infeasible to heat the room on the right of the front door of the Adams House, so the ladies had[?] to practically abandon the house during the winter months and hold their meetings elsewhere (see appendix B-3).[306]

During its 1950-1951 renovations, the Quincy Historical Society reinstalled between the southeast and northeast rooms a thin north wall lacking a dado. This reinstalled wall may have had less to do with restoring the house's original floor plan than with separating this exhibition space from the northeast room which was to be used as additional living space for the on-site caretaker.

The National Park Service made great changes to the room during its 1980s restoration. The thin wall was replaced with a thicker one pierced by a doorway to the northeast room. Based on nail evidence, the doorway to the cellar was reintroduced to the south of the fireplace. Based on ghost marks on original wall studs, the walls were plastered from baseboard to ceiling. Items removed from the room included the "1681" brick, wallpaper and interior shutters.[307] In addition, a nogging display was covered.

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[306] Titus to Appleton.

[307] The "1681" brick is in the collection of architectural fragments removed from the house currently located at the Cultural Resources Center in Lowell, MA.

History of Room Use

The southeast room was originally the hall, a multipurpose living space in which, among other activities, cooking and eating took place. The room's large fireplace and bake oven attest to its early use as a kitchen. When the lean-to was added to the rear of the house, the activities of preparing and cooking food moved to the northeast room.

It is unclear what the exact functions of the southeast room were following the lean-to addition. In 1894, the room is described as a "dining room."[308] The Quincy Historical Society later supposed it was a "sitting room" during this time (see appendix C-3).

The pattern of use in the southeast room likely changed when the house went from housing a single family in the 1810s, to housing two families in the 1820s. Regardless of the room's function, Eliza Curtis used the brick closet to the north of the fireplace for storage. Caroline Spear recalled in the 1890s, "There was as long ago as I can remember as there is now (1896) a brick closet to the right of this fire frame. It was the only part of the house where stuff would not freeze, and Eliza Curtis wife of [Adam] made use of it and it was called 'Eliza's glory hole.'"[309] The existence of a fire frame in the fireplace confirms that the room was not used as a kitchen at this time. During their occupancy, the two Curtis families shared the lean-to kitchen.

Under the management of the Daughters of Revolution, the southeast room was a multipurpose meeting, entertaining, and exhibition space. It was likely rearranged depending upon the activity. The most notable celebration that took place in this space was the formal opening of the house on 19 October 1897. Isaac Hull Adams and Elizabeth Coombs Adams presided in this room during the occasion.

The D.R. also discovered a mark on the southern window sill. It is believed that when the sun aligned with the mark on the sill that the stagecoach from Plymouth to Boston was due to pass. A note on a circa 1978 placard interpreting the southeast room, disagrees with this interpretation. The note reads,

> [There are] no references to JA or AA taking stage coach into Boston at the time they lived on the farm. 1st stage service from Boston south was to Providence, beginning 1767 – Plymouth in these years was reached by water, not land. As late as 1823 there were only 3 trips weekly by[?] stage on the Boston-Plymouth run (see appendix C-7).[310]

The mark remained in place through the occupancy of the Quincy Historical Society.

With visitors in mind, the D.R. left areas of early wall nogging exposed behind glass and installed the brick inscribed with the number "1681" under glass over the fireplace.

The Quincy Historical Society interpreted the southeast room as "The Old Kitchen" for visitors. Because the lean-to was occupied by the on-site caretaker, the newer kitchen could not be presented, so the interpretation of the house reflected the

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[308] Jones, p. 196.

[309] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 32. Parentheses are Sprague's.

[310] "Copies of Placards," p. [4].

earlier hall-and-parlor floor plan. By the mid-1970s, if not before, interpretation of this room included a discussion of John Adams' family background including his father's middling status, the size of the family, and Deacon John Adams' ability to send his son to college.[311]

In the 1950s and 1960s, this room was the first stop for visitors to the Adams birthplaces site. Here they registered and could purchase merchandise. A guide then showed them through the house. By the mid-1970s, the registration area had been moved to the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[312] By 1978, tickets were sold from the southwest room of the John Adams birthplace and visitors toured the house on a self-guided basis. The entrances to the rooms were cordoned off and placards on the walls offered didactic material.

The National Park Service currently interprets the southeast room for school children and the general public. Despite the configuration of the entry hall, visitors usually see this room first. The interpretation of the southeast room varies depending on the interpreter and visitor interest. Typical topics covered in the southeast room include the history of the Adams family, Deacon John Adams, John Adams, and early cooking practices.

Interior Features and Finishes

Like in the entry hall, the plaster in the southeast room was originally whitewashed. Architectural conservators found many layers of finishes on the wooden elements, the earliest of which were pigmented oil washes. They also were able to discern that the main rooms in the house were painted white, gray, and cream in the 1840s.

There were layers of wallpaper dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on the walls. Datable nineteenth-century papers include three roller-printed designs: an 1860-1875 floral stripe, an 1870s geometric pattern, and an 1880-1890s winding vine.

The D.R. found old, yellowed whitewash on the original walls, but did not have enough funding to satisfactorily replaster and whitewash the walls. Titus chose instead to cover the walls with a yellow cartridge paper which recalled the color of the early whitewash. Fellow-restorationist William Sumner Appleton wrote to Titus, "Of course, the room to the right of the front door [southeast room] is wholly ruined by the paper now on its walls, and that was the comment I heard freely expressed by many of those having the privilege of visiting the house" (see appendix B-2).[313] She defended her choice as one of financial expediency, not lack of knowledge. The woodwork in the room was painted, a decision also frowned upon by Appleton.

The cartridge paper may have remained in place until the Quincy Historical Society's 1950-1951 remodeling. At that time a large-scale, scenic wallpaper was applied. In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed all wallpaper from the walls. The plaster is currently whitewashed, the woodwork is coated with a resinous wash, and the floor is unfinished.

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[311] Susan Mackiewicz, telephone conversation with author, 23 June 1998.
[312] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.
[313] Appleton to Titus.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the southeast room. The earliest extant inventory related to this house is that of Deacon John Adams. However, because it is not a room-by-room inventory, it is difficult to attribute specific objects to occupying specific rooms at that time (see appendix A-1). In the 1980s, the National Park Service found a trammel and chain in the fireplace likely dating to this time or earlier.

Materials recovered during two archeological excavations conducted in the 1980s by the National Park Service suggest the types of items, many of them dating to the nineteenth century, used in this space. Furnishings-related objects recovered during the 1981 archeological excavation conducted by Marjorie Pratt include clear and colored vessel glass, undecorated white ironstone, molded ironstone, brown glazed redware, unglazed redware, transfer-printed wares, and a black shoe button and eyelet. The ball clay pipe stems recovered had 5/64" bores meaning they may date to the eighteenth century.[314] During the 1983 archeological investigation, Linda Towle and Dick Ping Hsu located redwares, creamwares, pearlwares, and whitewares. The greatest number of shards were from pearlware and creamware vessels. They also located a small number of porcelain, stoneware, and bottle and vessel glass shards.[315] The area bordering this room produced the largest number of bottle glass and clay pipe fragments around the house. The location of numerous fragments of possibly eighteenth-century pipes indicates the room may have been used as a "common parlor" after its earlier kitchen function was moved to the lean-to. The southeast room was not used as a kitchen in the later eighteenth century, but the concentration of nineteenth century ceramics around the room indicates it may have been used as a cooking or dining area later in the nineteenth century when multiple families lived in the house.

There is no further evidence concerning the furnishings in the southeast room until 1897. After the 1897 restoration, the Daughters of Revolution placed the "1681" brick and the workmen's affidavits conspicuously over the fireplace for all to see. When a meeting space, the room was likely filled with chairs for members and guests.[316] For entertaining, covered tables, serving vessels and utensils, and candlesticks were brought in. During the formal opening of the house on 19 October 1897,

> Mr. [Isaac Hull] Adams and Miss [Elizabeth Coombs] Adams sat before the south window in the sunshine and, opposite a blazing fire upon the hearth. Over the mantel blue and buff[,] the colors of the Daughters of Revolution were artistically draped within a panel. [Members of the Daughters of the Revolution are thanked] for the disposal of flags on the various rooms and a pennant that was hung horizontally around the outside of the house. . . .
>
> Another table was spread in the east corner front room. Mrs. Frank Brewer presiding at the chocolate urn and Miss Emily Wilde over the tea. The

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[314] Marjorie K. Pratt, "Archeological Survey at the Adams Birthplaces, Quincy, Massachusetts," in fulfillment of Contract No, CX1600-9-0061 with the National Park Service (Quincy, MA, November 1981), p. 38.

[315] Linda Towle and Dick Ping Hsu, "Archeological Monitoring at Adams' Birthplaces, Quincy, Massachusetts." (In-house report, 1983), tables 1-2.

[316] It is unknown if the D.R. used historic chairs during meetings.

candle sticks and many of the plates used on both tables were more than a hundred years old.

Miss Elizabeth Adams brought a sponge cake, baked by an old recipe in the pan used by Mrs. Abigail Adams. The pan and recipe Miss Adams has presented to the Quincy Chapter.[317]

A circa 1897 photograph shows a portion of the room as it was displayed for visitors between functions. In view are simple, utilitarian objects including spinning wheels and Windsor chairs (see ill. 16).

By the 1930s, it seems the meeting and entertaining functions of the room had been replaced almost entirely by museum display. Two extant postcards show opposite corners of the room, called the "livingroom," at this time. The earlier swags and flags are gone. In the corner near the fireplace, simple utilitarian objects remain. Firearms and lighting devices were added to the earlier spinning wheels and Windsor chairs. The other corner of the room offers the genteel contrast of an Empire style stool and piano over which hangs a copy of Gilbert Stuart's unfinished portrait of George Washington (see ills. 11-12).

When it reopened the John Adams birthplace in the 1950s, the Quincy Historical Society continued to display utilitarian objects in the "Old Kitchen." The piano was moved to the southwest room, or parlor. Besides cooking and fiber processing equipment, the Quincy Historical Society displayed a cordwainer's bench and tools in order to interpret Deacon John Adams' part-time occupation as a cordwainer. Other interesting additions include a school master's desk, which was probably used for visitor registration, and a "child's pine cart."[318] The room's basic interpretation as a kitchen remained the same throughout the Quincy Historical Society's occupancy (see ills. 13-14).

The National Park Service has sparsely furnished the room with primarily reproduction artifacts including ladderback chairs, a table, candlesticks, a settle, and a chest of drawers. The earlier kitchen theme is continued with the display of a hanging iron pot. One of the period objects in the room is a large Bible used to discuss Deacon John Adams' involvement with the church.

Documentary and Graphic References

Ca. 1897[?], Photomechanical image (Photomechanical File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photomechanical image of south and west walls of southeast room looking from northeast room.

1897, October 19. "John Adams Day," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the west [east] room in the south window is the old sun dial mark.

In this room the boards which covered up the large brick fire-place have been removed and the old mantle restored. Over this the brick found in the corner has been placed and covered with glass, while near it are the sworn affidavits of the workmen who found it."

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317 "Historic Home."

318 "Contents of Especial Interest," p. 1.

1897, October 20. "Historic Home," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Mr. [Isaac Hull] Adams and Miss [Elizabeth Coombs] Adams sat before the south window in the sunshine and, opposite a blazing fire upon the hearth. Over the mantel blue and buff the colors of the Daughters of Revolution were artistically draped within a panel. [Members of the Daughters of Revolution are thanked] for the disposal of flags on the various rooms and a pennant that was hung horizontally around the outside of the house.

"Another table was spread in the east corner front room. Mrs. Frank Brewer presiding at the chocolate urn and Miss Emily Wilde over the tea. The candle sticks and many of the plates used on both tables were more than a hundred years old.

"Miss Elizabeth Adams brought a sponge cake, baked by an old recipe in the pan used by Mrs. Abigail Adams. The pan and recipe Miss Adams has presented to the Quincy Chapter."

1897, October 20. "The Hanging of the Crane," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "On Tuesday three long tables were spread in the long room [southeast room] which faces Franklin street and they almost groaned with those good old-fashioned dishes. . . . Miss Elizabeth C. Adams contributed several loaves of delicious sponge cake made from the recipe of Mrs. Abigail Adams. One loaf was made in one of her scalloped pans which Miss Adams forwarded with the cake together with the receipt."

Ca. 1897[?], Photomechanical image (Photomechanical File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photomechanical image of west wall of southeast room.

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 4): "On exploring the small closets under the eaves, several treasures were disclosed. In one was found one of the original wooden shutters, which was found to fit the window in this room [southeast room] so that it was possible to have others made like it for the other windows. . . . An interesting relic of the past was the finding [of] the sundial mark on the sill in the south window in the long room." (See appendix B-1)

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 4): "[T]he most interesting relic of the past, was the finding of the old brick. When the old sill of the house was removed, we found in the S.E. corner directly under the sill, a brick with the date '1681' widely scratched upon it. The workman who found it and made an affadavit stating he found it & that the date was 1687 - that affadavit is framed and hangs over the fire place, but since then closer examination & photography give it more clearly as 1681, and that has been accepted as the date of the erection of the house. The brick is now placed over the fire place in the living room." (See appendix B-1)

1913, September 29. William Sumner Appleton to Lillian Titus (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "Of course, the room to the right of the front door [southeast room] is wholly ruined by the paper now on its walls, and that was the

comment I heard freely expressed by many of those having the privilege of visiting the house."

1913, September 29. William Sumner Appleton to Lillian Titus (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "The room immediately to the right of the front door has great possibilities and can easily be made of surpassing interest. . . . It would doubtless be accurate to remove every scrap of paint from the woodwork in that room, with the possible exception of the floor. It would also be an improvement to remove the paint from all of the frame work - especially the summer beam, which is a very good one.

"The room would also be much improved by the removal of the ceiling, exposing the floor joists on which the boards of the floor above rest, the underside of which forms the ceiling of this lower room. It should be possible to do this in such a way as to leave the floor sufficiently solid to prevent dust and dirt from sifting down through the cracks between the boards into the room below. On top of the ceiling there would very probably be found a great deal of sand, formerly used for sanding the floor of the upper room, which sifted down through to the top of the ceiling. It would be a good plan to collect a quantity of this sand in a glass jar as a curiosity."

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "Personally, I would have liked to tear down the plastered ceilings [illeg.] the floor above as was done in the adjoining house, but my experience with the other old houses has been that it makes a house that is used much - very[?] unclean as the dirt is continually falling - as one walks upon the floor above the dust will fall. In the J.Q Adams house they had to nail laths over the cracks in the flooring for this reason[?] as perhaps you noticed. Then, too, with an unplastered ceiling the heat rises and at best we[?] find it infeasible to heat the room on the right of the front door of the Adams House [southeast room], so the ladies had[?] to practically abandon the house during the winter months and hold their meetings elsewhere."

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "I put on the yellow cartridge[?] paper in the East room [southeast room] because I found in taking off the old wall paper that the original wall had a yellow whitewash which however[?] was badly crumbling. Lacking money to replaster the walls - that seemed the best thing to do. The entire east side of that room was taken out during the work of restoration & it is all new - the sills and uprights were wholly gone. In taking out the old sill I found the old brick with the date 1681 on it under the S.E. corner of the house."

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "In taking down a partition to [illeg.] two rooms into one [the southeast room and northeast room] - in order to have a sufficiently large room for the Chapter meetings, I found I was really taking down a part of the exterior wall of the house and under many layers of wall paper I found the old red clapboard which proved the statement made by Miss Elizabeth Coombs Adams, the granddaughter of John Adams that our house was the older house of the two and was always called 'The Red House.'"

1930s, Stillman Powers Co. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 11).

1930s, Stillman Powers Co. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of east and south walls of southeast room (see ill. 12).

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 3: "The kitchen, used as a combined living and dining room, was always kept warm by its enormous open fireplace. . . . These cottages were both enlarged, at some unknown date, by extending the roof almost to the ground and slightly raising the rafters. . . . After it [the lean-to] was built it served as kitchen, dining room, and for general housework. The former kitchen then became the living room, but can always be recognized by its big open fireplace and oven."

1950, April 14. "Inventory of Furniture and Articles in John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society): Inventory of objects donated by Daughters of Revolution to Quincy Historical Society. (See appendix C-1)

1955, August, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west and north walls of southeast room.

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 26: Prior to 1897, "The early fireplaces had been either bricked up or greatly reduced in size. That in the ancient kitchen had an iron fire frame or Franklin stove in it. It opened up to its original size [in 1897] but the over mantel or small shelf used does not represent its original appearance."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 28: "At this time [1950] a partition was put back between the older and newer kitchens that had been removed by the ladies in 1897 but it lacks the thickness of the older one and has no dado as the other walls do now in the ancient kitchen."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 32: During an 1896 conversation between William Gardner Spear and Caroline Spear: "'The southeast room had a fireframe set in the chimney. There was as long ago as I [Caroline Spear] can remember as there is now (1896) a brick closet to the right of this fireframe. It was the only part of the house where stuff would not freeze, and Eliza Curtis wife of Noah (she should have said Adam) made use of it and it was called "Eliza's glory hole."'"

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. [1]: "The furniture in this room is very old. The old baby carriage is at least

200 years old. Notice the ingenious way the spring under the seat is made. The wheel in front of the fireplace is a great wool wheel, and the piece beside the blanket chest is a wool winder. The clock has a picture of the White House on it, and John Adams was the first president to live there. The old mortar and pestle for grinding were a household necessity. The cob[b]ler bench belonged to John Adams (Deacon). The wooden pegs were cut by hand. The shop hours were between farm hours." (See appendix C-3)

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [7 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. [1]: "The furniture in this room is very old. The Queen Anne highboy dates to 1700. The blanket chest is the oldest (1620-1640). The old cart is at least 200 years old."

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [7 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. 2: "The two dog-eared chairs were Abigail's kitchen chairs. The pewter lamps and hand-blown glass lamps show methods of lighting. A gun was always at hand. The old rocker by the fireplace is an interesting old chair."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 2-3: List of furnishings in southeast room. (See appendix C-2)

1963, May 12. "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*: "Apocryphal yet fascinating is the story behind a deep, diagonal scratch on the window sill in the main room downstairs. When the sun caused a shadow from the window frame to align with the scratch, the Plymouth stagecoach was due."

Ca. 1969[?], Quincy Historical Society, "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-13, p. 1): List of selected items in southeast room. (See appendix C-6)

1969, "The John Adams House" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-14, p. 2): "In 1950, the lean-to was remodeled to make living quarters for a resident caretaker, and when the house was reopened to visitors in 1951, this room became the one where visitors entered first, registered, and could buy articles offered for sale as mementos of the house."

1969, December 21. Quincy Historical Society, "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-12, p. 5): List of selected items in southeast room. (See appendix C-5)

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west and north walls of southeast room.

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of west wall of southeast room (see ill. 13).

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north wall of southeast room.

1974, November, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north wall of southeast room.

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, p. 20: "The other first floor front room (southeast room) and the two second floor front rooms (the Birth Room and Billings Room) are open to the public on a self guided basis. The entrances are roped off and placards provide interpretive information."

1978, Holly, "Birthplaces," draft for article in *Magazine Antiques* (Quincy Historical Society), p. 3: "There is an indication that the family may have lacked faith in the clock, because still to be seen on a window sill is a time line which on sunny days indicated the time when the Plymouth stagecoach was due."

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1345: Color photograph of west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 14).

1980, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, figs. 386-387: Photographs (2) of existing conditions in southeast room, south wall and east wall.

1983, January 27. "Sign Language," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the John Adams house, a nail helped specialists determine roughly when a cellar stairway that originally opened into the dining room was relocated to open into a hall area. The stairway is being moved back to its original position."

1983, Towle, "Archeological Monitoring," p. 3: "The largest concentration [of artifacts] occurred along the southern half of the eastern wall, . . . around the window of the southeast room. This room had served as the kitchen until about 1760 when new rooms were added to the house and it became a parlor (Carrol Perrault, personal communication). The only diagnostic artifacts recovered from these units which could predate 1760 were three pieces of plain white salt-glazed stoneware. The remainder of the ceramics were creamwares, pearlwares, and whiteware, all of which must have been associated with the use of the room as the parlor."

1983, January 27. "Sign Language," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Since the 1890s when the DAR [D.R.] restoration took place, it had been believed that the John Adams house dated to 1681, because of a brick that was discovered in the foundation bearing that number.

"But Perrault said while the house may well be that old, it is doubtful the number inscribed in the brick was meant to date the house. The brick is probably a tally brick, representing the number of bricks in a certain batch produced by a manufacturer. Tally

bricks were used just like any other bricks, and have been found in the foundations of other colonial houses, she said."

1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (3) of southeast room, all walls.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 158-159: Southeast room finishes schedule:

Existing: Plaster Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, scenic paper
Trim - painted white, except for the north girt and the summer beam which are painted dark brown
Ceiling - painted white
Flooring - painted gray

Treatment: Plaster Walls - removed wallpaper, prepared walls; whitewashed
Trim - removed paint; applied resinous wash on bare wood, including doors and windows
Ceiling - whitewashed
Flooring - installed new floor; maintained unfinished.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 235: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the John Adams period, mid-18th century." "The room is furnished as a mid-18th century parlor."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 235: In the 1980s, "The north wall partition introduced circa 1950, between the southeast room and the northeast lean-to room was removed. The wainscoting with its integral baseboard was removed from all walls. The plaster and lath work covering up the former doorway to the cellar was removed."

"A new partition wall between the southeast room and northeast lean-to room was reconstructed. . . . The exhibit of brick nogging visible on the south wall was covered over as well. A doorway to the cellar was introduced on the west wall between the doorway to the entry and fireplace."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 236: In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed interior shutters from the southeast room windows.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 16: Prior to National Park Service occupancy, "The room was last furnished and displayed as a colonial kitchen by the Quincy Historical Society. It also served as their registry room for tourists."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 17: Prior to the 1980s restoration, "The upper two-thirds of the walls are

constructed of plaster on wood lath, while the lower one-third features a wood wainscot, chair rail and baseboard; except the recessed section of the north wall that is sheet rock."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 21: "It is presumed that the southeast room was originally constructed to serve as the 'hall,' complete with a large cooking fireplace on the west wall. The doorway leading to the southeast room from the entry is an original feature, although its trim and door have undergone change. The original plan for the room provided for access to the cellar. The wall that now separates the entry door from the fireplace was fitted with a doorway to the cellar's south stairs. The north wall offers the greatest puzzle related to access to the first addition. Whether a doorway existed on this wall can only be speculated - no evidence survives. The room at construction was furnished with two windows. The windows survive today, although significantly altered, appear to be in the original location of the first window openings."

"The specific use of this room from the mid-to-late eighteenth century is unknown. Scant evidence survives indicating that the firebox was altered, suggesting the change in role of this space. By this time the lean-to was expanded to include a kitchen with a cooking fireplace, presumably transferring this function of the hall to the lean-to. Evidence survives for a door to the lean-to existing at the time of the lean-to stairhall (adjacent to the chimney) was served by a door on its east side. The north wall door in the southeast room would have been approximately centered on the north wall."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 21: "Throughout the first half of the twentieth century this room remained unaltered in plan. The Quincy Historical Society in 1950 re-instituted the north wall separating this room from the lean-to. The room during the twentieth century was restored to represent a first period 'hall.'"

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 22: "Originally, the walls were finished from baseboard to ceiling with plaster on hand-rived wood lath. The evidence for this was found on the original studs that portrayed ghost marks for the former plaster and lath when the extant wainscoting was removed."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 24: There is "Scant evidence that implies a change to the fireplace during this period [the eighteenth century]. A possible ghost for a second mantel shelf is visible as well as fragments of red paint on the south jamb."

"The firebox was made smaller at some point and splayed as described by Lillie Titus in her lecture to the Daughters of the Revolution."

"The fireplace that survives today is a product of [the 1897] restoration. The fireplace and hearth were drastically changed from the previous period as chronicled in Lillie Titus' account of the 1897 restoration. The [She?] records having found the firebox opening only 3' across with 'a sheet of iron with a hole cut in for a modern stove funnel.' Upon removing the later bricks, the original configuration surfaced."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 25: In the eighteenth century the windows "were made longer and converted to plank frames."

In the nineteenth century, "The windows were fitted with new interior trim that was placed over the plaster. New 2-over-2, double-hung sash were introduced during the late-nineteenth century."

In 1897, twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash windows and interior shutters were installed. The shutters remained in place until the 1980s restoration.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 25: "Originally, this room had at least two doors, if not three. Specific evidence remains verifying the existence of a doorway to the entry and one to the cellar. No evidence survives on the north wall for a door to the lean-to. This fact does not discount the possibility that a door originally served the lean-to, however."

"Although it is not known for certain whether a doorway existed on the north wall prior to its removal, the reuse of the ca. 1810 trim on the wall seam strengthens the possibility."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast room 26: During the 1980s, "A few fragments of wallpaper has surfaced, all relating to the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries."

"Exactly when the first finishes were applied to this room is not known, presumably it was not at the time of construction since so little early paint survives on the original members. Typical of other spaces in the structure, the 18th-century paints appear to have been pigmented oil washes, which penetrated the woods and offered a patina to the surfaces. These finishes were not flat and opaque, but appear to have . . . offered some luster to the surfaces."

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 2-6): "Investigations of the first story southeast room produced five samples of wallpaper. . . . At least four layers of wallpapers was identified, all presumably dating to the last half of the nineteenth century. The earliest layer(s) could not be successfully separated because they were so fragmented and deteriorated.

"The two layers of wallpaper found under the window trim imply that the windows underwent change twice in the mid-19th century -- at the time or before layer 'b' was introduced and after layer 'c' was introduced. The manufacture dates attributed to these layers include 1860-75 for layer 'b' and the 1870's for layer 'c.' Presumably the second change occurred prior to the introduction of layer 'd' that was given a manufacture date of circa 1880-1890's."

Wallpaper layers:

a - other
b - floral stripe; ca. 1860-1875; roller-printed; green, gray, ivory
c - tan geometric; ca. 1870s; roller-printed; ivory, tan, beige
d - winding vine; ca. 1880-1890s; roller-printed; blue-green, different values of olive green, black and gold on mauve ground

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 54: During the 1810s, Thomas Boylston Adams "relocated doorway to cellar from west wall of southeast room to north wall of entry"; "remodeled closet and fireplace in southwest room and presumably fireplace in southeast room, as well"; and "Interior shutters were installed in the first-story southeast and southwest rooms."

The walls "received wainscoting and new baseboard."

Also, the doors between the northeast lean-to room and southeast room and between the southeast room and cellar were removed.

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 66-70: The 1897 restoration work included "restoring the fireplaces in the first story southeast room and northeast lean-to room"; "fabricating and installing interior window shutters in the first-story southeast and southwest rooms"; and removing "the wall partition between the southeast and northeast lean-to room (except for 41" at the west end which abutted the northeast room's south wall stair closet)." The firebox in the southeast room was enlarged. Also, "Exhibit cases were introduced on the south wall of the first story, SE and SW rooms."

1998, August 19. Cummings, telephone conversation with author. It is very unlikely that the number "1681" carved in a brick in the John Adams birthplace is a tally number. It should also not be assumed to be a date unless there is physical evidence to corroborate it. The brick easily could have been part of an earlier building and then reused at the John Adams birthplace.

JABP 103, Northeast Room (Lean-to Kitchen)

Architectural Description and History

A partial, possibly integral, lean-to was built to the northeast of the John Adams birthplace at an early date. The early configuration and use of this lean-to is unknown. The northeast room, or lean-to kitchen, was constructed later during the eighteenth century. This later lean-to may have housed a kitchen flanked by two smaller rooms: a buttery on the east and possibly a bed chamber on the west. However, there is little proof that a small room on the east existed.

Evidence for this small east room includes Titus' reference to removing what she believed was a closet partition to create a larger meeting room:

> We found on taking down what we supposed was a partition for [a] closet in this room [northeast room], in order to make a large assembly room for the Chapter, that we were in reality taking down what was once an exterior wall of the house (see appendix B-1).[319]

Architectural conservators found anomalies in the northeast room which also suggest a small room in the southeast corner. Perrault describes, "The current ceiling has

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[319] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, p. 4.

a scar indicating a former partition. When the partition was introduced and removed is questionable. Possibly it was original."[320] The condition of the floor is also suggestive:

> The flooring in this room represents two different periods of work. The area in the southeast corner monopolized by large boards is earlier than the rest of the floor.
>
> Presumably the later extant flooring dates to the mid-nineteenth century when work was also being performed on the firebox and hearth.[321]

It appears the mid-nineteenth century work on the floor did not include the southeast corner of the room because it was unseen inside a closet or buttery.

Currently, the northeast room is a rectangular room with a window on the east wall and two windows on the north wall. Also on the north wall is a doorway to the northern shed. There is a door to the northwest room on the west wall. From east to west, the south wall is composed of a door to the southeast room, a stair closet for the second floor stairs, a large fireplace, and a door to the southwest room.

During Thomas Boylston Adams' 1810s renovations, the west side of the northeast room was partitioned off to create a "central closet" which housed a shelved pantry to the south and a cellar stairway to the north. Other changes made at that time include increasing the number of windows on the north wall from two to three and possibly removing the door to the southeast room.

During the second half of the nineteenth century further changes were made. A stairway to the second floor was constructed in the central closet and a new beehive oven was installed to the rear of the firebox.

In 1897, the Daughters of Revolution removed the wall between the northeast and southeast rooms to create a large meeting and entertaining space.

In 1950 to 1951, under Quincy Historical Society management, the John Adams birthplace was closed for major renovations focused on the lean-to. At that time, a thin partition wall was reintroduced between the northeast and southeast rooms. The on-site caretaker's quarters were expanded into the northeast room which became the living room. Also, the stairway to the east of the fireplace was converted into a closet.

When the National Park Service assumed management of the house in 1979, the caretaker moved and the room was converted back to its eighteenth-century configuration. The central closet including its two stairways were removed. The fireplace which had been covered and replaced with a stove was reopened. On the east wall, four built-in shelves were constructed based on extant physical evidence. On the north wall, the number of windows was decreased from three to two.

History of Room Use

The main function of the northeast room was as a cooking and dining area. There may originally have been a smaller room divided off to the east which functioned as a buttery, or cold storage area.

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[320] Carole Louise Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2 (DRAFT, March, 1994), p. 42.

[321] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, March, p. 45.

Abigail Adams refers to the lean-to portion of the house when writing to John Adams concerning her ill-tempered tenant Hayden and the need to house refugees from Boston.

> [M]r. Trott, [a refugee from Boston fleeing the Revolutionary War] finding there was no hopes of his [Hayden's] going out said he would go in with him, provided I would let him [Trott] have the chamber I improved for a Dairy room and the lower room & chamber over it which hayden has - I then sent and asked Mr. Hayden to be so kind as to remove his things into the other part of the house and I told him he might improve the kitchen back chamber the bed room & the Dairy room in which he already had a bed.[322]

Unfortunately, Abigail Adams' references to rooms are vague and the lack of punctuation further clouds the issue of how many rooms were located in the lean-to. The "kitchen back chamber" may have been a bedroom to the west of the kitchen and the "dairy room" may have been located in the northern shed. Or, she may have been listing a kitchen, a back chamber, a bedroom, and a dairy room. If this were the case she was referring to the northeast room, a second-floor garret, the northwest room, and the northern shed. In any case, the northeast room was the kitchen.

During their occupancy of the house, the Adam Curtis and Samuel Curtis families shared the lean-to kitchen. In the late 1890s, Caroline Spear described the Curtis' living arrangements:

> 'When [Adam] Curtis married Eliza Baxter . . . he had gone there to live in one half of the house, the east half. Samuel Curtis his brother lived in the other half and they cooked and ate together in the large kitchen (in the leanto). This room had a great open fireplace where we burnt great logs and roots of trees in the fall.'[323]

In 1897, when the Daughters of Revolution assumed management of the house, the kitchen portion of the northeast room became a part of the large meeting and entertaining room. The most notable celebration that took place in this space was the formal opening of the house on 19 October 1897. The *Quincy Advertiser* reported,

> The work of the restoration has been done by the Adams chapter, Daughters of Revolution and the ceremonies on Tuesday were conducted by the members of that organization. The exercises opened at noon by the singing by all present of 'Auld Ang Syne' [sic] and this was followed by the reading by Miss Elizabeth Porter Gould of Longfellow's poem 'The Hanging of the Crane.'
>
> The procession was then formed and Miss Simmons and Miss Pierce, dressed in conventional colonial costumes carried the crane to the huge fireplace

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[322] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 12 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[323] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 32. Parentheses are Sprague's.

> in the kitchen where it was presented to Mrs. N.V. Titus, the Regent of Adams chapter, who placed it in position.[324]

The *Quincy Patriot Ledger* recorded the food available: "In the back kitchen, or long room, a table was set with delicious sandwiches cakes, chocolate and tea. Mrs. H.M. Faxon presided over the chocolate and Miss Belle Nightingale over the tea."[325]

In addition to using the northeast room as a meeting and entertaining space, the D.R. also displayed it as an early kitchen.

When the Quincy Historical Society assumed management of the John Adams birthplace, the house was closed for renovations from 1950 to 1951. At that time, the northeast room was again separated from the southeast room by a wall and converted into a living room for on-site caretakers. The former pantry in the central closet and the stairway to the east of the fireplace became clothing storage spaces.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service restored the northeast room to its former configuration as a kitchen prior to the renovations undertaken in the 1810s, 1897, and the 1950s. The room is currently interpreted as a kitchen. Themes discussed in the room include early cooking, dining practices, and Susanna Boylston Adams.

Interior Features and Finishes

Titus uncovered evidence of the early hardware in the fireplace during her 1897 restoration. She described,

> Here in this fireplace we found on the left hand side the irons for a crane, and as that, in time was abandoned we find on the right hand side of the chimney back a part of it has been cut away, and a brick oven with an iron door inserted. The crane was probably then abandoned as too ancient for we found no trace of one in the house - the one you see in the fire place having been obtained from another ancient residence (see appendix B-1).[326]

Sprague later doubted the wisdom of this much-heralded installation of the crane:

> the house was opened by the Adams Chapter, D.R. Oct. 12, 1897 with a ceremonial procession and hanging of a crane . . . in the leanto fireplace. It is doubtful if this should have been done as in the inventory of Dea. John Adams taken in 1761 two trammels were shown and no crane mentioned (see appendix A-1).[327]

However, the cranes not being mentioned in Deacon John Adams' inventory may have been because the crane was considered part of the house, not because it did not exist.[328]

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[324] "Nation's Birthplace Restored."
[325] "Historic Home."
[326] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, pp.3-4.
[327] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 27. Sprague's date is wrong. The D.R. formally opened the John Adams birthplace on 19 October 1897.
[328] Nancy Waters, Telephone Conversation with author, February 1998.

There is little evidence of the early finishes of the northeast room. Three wallpaper samples, all dating to the second half of the nineteenth century were located by architectural conservators in the 1980s. The deepest layers were too small to analyze, although the second layer could be identified as a floral pattern. The third layer was an 1880s, roller-printed, Japanese influenced paper composed of compartmentalized vignettes.

Many more wallpapers, all dating to the nineteenth century, were located in the central closet. Suggesting a relationship between the two areas, the earliest two layers in the central closet match the earliest two layers in the southwest room. The earliest paper was an 1800-1810 block-printed pattern of leaves and dots. Next was an 1820s, block-printed pattern of stripes and a small-scale repeat pattern. The remainder were roller-printed papers dating to 1840-1880 including an architectural scene; reform-style paper; a stylized floral design; a striped vine design; a floral and dotted design with a classical border; and a foliate design.

The northeast room's final treatment before the National Park Service assumed management was a large-scale, repeat-patterned striped and foliate wallpaper. The woodwork was "yellowish cream," the ceiling was white, and the floor was a red-brown.

The National Park Service removed the wallpaper and painted finishes. The walls ceiling, and unencased framing members were whitewashed, the trim was coated with a resinous wash, and the floor was left unfinished.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the northeast room. The archeological evidence suggesting the furnishings used in the northeast room is very sparse. During the Pratt study no "squares" were dug close to the northeast room. Six excavation units from Towle and Hsu study were located along the perimeter of this room. The furnishings-related objects they collected include a small number of creamware, whiteware, porcelain, stoneware, clay pipe, bottle glass, and vessel glass shards. The largest number of shards were from pearlware vessels. The area surrounding this room also produced the largest number of redware vessels around the house. The large number of shards from redware cooking vessels and pearlware dining vessels reflects this room's food preparation and consumption functions. Other objects of interest include a parian doll's head and marble.[329] The appearance of toys among the assemblage reflects the presence of children on the site in the second half of the nineteenth century.

From an extant line engraving and photograph, it appears that the D.R. furnished the northeast room sparsely. On 19 October 1897, the room crowded with people is devoid of permanent furnishings save for the crane, a small suspended kettle, firewood, and a few hanging dried herbs. The emptiness on this day may be attributed to the number of people who attended the event (see ill. 15). A circa 1897 photograph shows the room decorated with oil lamps over the fireplace, cooking utensils in and around the fireplace, a stool, a Windsor chair, and a braided rug (see ill. 16). By the 1930s, the display had changed very little with the exception of the prominent display of a reflector oven (see ill. 17).

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[329] Towle, tables 1-2.

In 1950-1951, the Quincy Historical Society converted the northeast room into the on-site caretaker's living room. In the mid-1970s, this space served as a combination living and dining area containing a couch on the south wall to the east of the fireplace and a dining table and chairs in front of the fireplace.[330] Prior to the National Park Service restoration, the fireplace was covered with a wooden panel painted to match the trim in the room. A gas heater sat in front of the western half of the fireplace.

During the 1980s restoration the National Park Service removed the gas heater and a cast iron stove from the northeast room. The northeast room currently is interpreted as an eighteenth century kitchen. The fireplace is furnished with iron cooking utensils, a reflector oven, and a ceramic pipkin. The built-in shelves in the northeast corner display an array of ceramic mugs, bowls, storage jars, and cooking vessels. There are also pewter plates and additional iron cooking utensils. A large spinning wheel and a basket stand in the southeast corner. Along the north wall are a trestle table, ladderback chairs, and a bench. The northwest corner of the room contains a child's high chair, a chest of drawers, and a wooden bowl.

Documentary and Graphic References

1775, July 12. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344): "[M]r. Trott, [a refugee from Boston] finding there was no hopes of his [Hayden's] going out said he would go in with him, provided I would let him [Trott] have the chamber I improved for a Dairy room and the lower room & chamber over it which hayden has - I then sent and asked Mr. Hayden to be so kind as to remove his things into the other part of the house and I told him he might improve the kitchen back chamber the bed room & the Dairy room in which he already had a bed."

1890s, Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams at Penn's Hill, Quincy" (Quincy Historical Society), pp. 12-13: "On Oct. 19, 1897 the house was formally opened and the crane hung once more in the long silent fireplace, the fires were lighted on the hearth and a goodly company made merry with speech & song."

Ca. 1897[?], Photomechanical image (Photomechanical File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photomechanical image of south wall of northeast room (see ill. 16).

1897, October 20. "Historic Home," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the back kitchen, or long room, a table was set with delicious sandwiches cakes, chocolate and tea. Mrs. H.M. Faxon presided over the chocolate and Miss Belle Nightingale over the tea."

1897, October 22. "Nation's Birthplace Restored," *Quincy Advertiser*: "The work of the restoration has been done by the Adams chapter, Daughters of the Revolution and the ceremonies on Tuesday were conducted by the members of that organization. The exercises opened at noon by the singing by all present of 'Auld Ang Syne' [sic] and this was followed by the reading by Miss Elizabeth Porter Gould of Longfellow's poem 'The Hanging of the Crane.'

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[330] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.

"The procession was then formed and Miss Simmons and Miss Pierce, dressed in conventional colonial costumes carried the crane to the huge fireplace in the kitchen where it was presented to Mrs. N.V. Titus, the Regent of Adams chapter, who placed it in position. . . .

"The 'lean to' addition was built, Mrs. Titus says, about 1700 and in removing a partition, a red clapboard of the older house was discovered which tends to prove that this building was the 'red house.'"

1897, October 22. "Nation's Birthplace Restored," *Quincy Advertiser*: Line engraving of south and west walls of northeast room (see ill. 15).

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6), pp. 3-4: "The next evolution of the Adams House is the 'lean-to' or 'leanter' as it was commonly called which was built about 1770. A new chimney was then added, which was built up against the sides of the first one with a separating flue, making it all one great chimney stack in the center of the house.

"Here in this fireplace we found on the left hand side the irons for a crane, and as that, in time was abandoned we find on the right hand side of the chimney back a part of it has been cut away, and a brick oven with an iron door inserted. The crane was probably then abandoned as too ancient for we found no trace of one in the house - the one you see in the fire place having been obtained from another ancient residence." (See appendix B-1)

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6), p.4: "We found on taking down what we supposed was a partition for [a] closet in this room [northeast room], in order to make a large assembly room for the Chapter, that we were in reality taking down what was once an exterior wall of the house, and on taking off the wall-paper - we found underneath the old red clapboards which proved beyond a doubt that the house was formerly painted red, as stated by Miss Elizabeth Adams the Grand-daughter of President Adams - which some disputed." (See appendix B-1)

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 6): "Then on Oct. 19, 1897 the house was formally opened and the crane hung in the long silent fireplace while a goodly many made merry with speech and song. Those of you who were present remember . . . the four young ladies dressed in white carried the crane, trimmed with laurel through the rooms, singing 'Old Lang Syne' and then the crane was hung in the fireplace and the fire lighted once more upon the hearth. While Miss Gould read the poem the 'Hanging of the Crane.'" (See appendix B-1)

1930s, Stillman Powers Co. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of south wall of northeast room (see ill. 17).

1950, October 14. "Priceless Antiques Donated," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "It is hoped that, when the repairs have been completed, permanent caretakers will be installed by the Historical society in the John Adams house, at least by next spring, thereby making it possible to have both of these shrines open and constantly attended throughout the year."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 27: In 1897, "custodian's quarters were made in the west part of the leanto and in a small addition made in back for a kitchen."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 27: "[T]he house was opened by the Adams Chapter, D.R. Oct. 12, 1897 with a ceremonial procession and hanging of a crane . . . in the leanto fireplace. It is doubtful if this should have been done as in the inventory of Dea. John Adams taken in 1761 two trammels were shown and no crane mentioned."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 28: During 1950-51 repairs, "The house remained closed to visitors during 1950 while large sums were spent chiefly on renovation of the custodian's quarters. At this time a partition was put back between the older and newer kitchens that had been removed by the ladies in 1897 but it lacks the thickness of the older one and has no dado as the other walls do now in the ancient kitchen. The whole of the leanto now is given over to the resident custodians and the large fireplace closed once more."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 32: According to Caroline Spear, "Samuel Curtis his [Noah Curtis'] brother lived in the other [west] half and they cooked and ate together in the large kitchen (in the leanto). This room had a great open fireplace where we burnt great logs and roots of trees in the fall."

1980, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, figs. 413-414: Photographs (2) of existing conditions in northeast room, south wall and east wall.

1983, Towle, "Archeological Monitoring," pp. 3-4: "A second concentration of artifacts occurred along the back (north) wall under two former window locations in the post-1760 kitchen and near the old door from the lean-to . . . These units contained a greater variety of artifacts than most, including a glass marble, a porcelain doll's head, pieces of coral, and pieces of animal harness."

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (5) of all walls of northeast room.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 159: Northeast room finishes schedule:

Existing:	Plaster walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, modern wallpaper
	Trim - painted a yellowish-cream
	Ceiling - painted white
	Flooring - painted a reddish-brown
Treatment:	Plaster Walls - removed wallpaper; prepared walls; whitewashed
	Trim - removed paint; applied a resinous wash on bare wood; unencased framing members were whitewashed
	Ceiling - whitewashed
	Flooring - new floor; maintained unfinished.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 262: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the John Adams period, mid-18h century appearance."

"The northeast lean-to room was made larger by the elimination of the central closet and stairs to the cellar and second story which abutted the closet. The plan was altered in the following manner: the central closet partition was removed; and the adjacent stairs to both the cellar and second-story garrets were eliminated and the flooring and ceiling openings which served those features were closed-up; the south wall closet was restored back to a stairway to the second-story central garret with the opening on its east wall; a door to the shed on the north wall was moved to the west side to its pre-circa 1810-1819 location. The room was furnished as a mid-18th century kitchen."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 262: In the 1980s, "Evidence for built-in shelving was located on the east wall. The shelving was reconstructed accordingly and exhibits (4) shelves, between the northeast corner-post and the window. The shelving stretched from floor to ceiling."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 263: In the 1980s, "The wall board was removed to reveal several steps for a former stairs to the central garret." "The five lower steps of the stairs were rebuilt with eastern white pine and T-headed nails. The doorway was relocated from the north to the east wall."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 263: In the 1980s, "The brick wall enclosing the firebox opening was dismantled. . . . The stove pipe and gas furnace were removed during the 1982 to 1984 stabilization work. The 19th-century cast-iron stove was removed as well."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 263: In the 1980s, "The window opening was maintained in its extant location on the east wall, but on the north wall the window openings were not retained in their extant locations. They were reduced from three to two . . . The evidence for their placement was found in the plate. The typical plank-frame window type, with 12 over 12 sash was introduced into the (3) window openings for this room."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northeast room 37: "Prior to National Park Service management, this room served the caretaker of the birthplaces as a living room.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northeast room 41: Prior to the 1980s restoration: "The masonry face of the firebox, the conduits, and all wood trim in the room are painted a yellow cream."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. northeast room 41-42: "An exact date can not be attributed to the rebuilding of the lean-to. Based upon the extant evidence, the construction of the second lean-to appears to have presented the following plan for its northeast room:

(1) the west wall extending to the northwest lean-to room;
(2) a fireplace and stair closet abutting the main chimney on the south wall;
(3) a door to the northwest lean-to room and to the southeast room; and
(4) two windows on the north wall and one on the east wall.

"Several elements of the as built plan remain hypothetical. The current ceiling has a scar indicating a former partition. When the partition was introduced and removed is questionable. Possibly it was original."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. northeast room 41-42: "Several changes related to the circa 1810 remodeling dramatically altered the plan of the northeast lean-to room.

(1) a partition was introduced in line with the west end of the fireplace cutting the room in two, thus creating the central closet and a stairs to the cellar;
(2) the chimney stairhall to the garret had its entry door opening moved from the east side to the north; winder steps were installed at the base; . . .
(4) a door and stairs to the cellar were introduced in the northwest corner adjacent to the central closet;
(5) with the introduction of the cellar stairs, the north wall door was moved to the east a couple of feet to accommodate the change; and
(6) three windows were introduced on the north wall, the earlier two were removed.

"As mentioned earlier, the ceiling scar indicated a partition. This partition may have survived until at least the mid-nineteenth century or even until the 1897 restoration. The mid-nineteenth century flooring was not introduced into the closet area, as earlier boards survive where the closet stood."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. northeast room 42-43: "In 1950-1951, "The northeast lean-to room was converted into a living room. The central closet was modernized into a clothes closet and the stairhall to the garret adjacent to the chimney was remodelled into a closet. The lower steps were removed."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northeast room 45: The firebox originally had straight sides. A cast iron stove and a beehive oven were installed in the nineteenth century. The original hearth was wider than what exists today. "Presumably the alteration to the hearth's size dates to the mid-nineteenth century work when the firebox was remodelled to house cast iron stove."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northeast room 47: "The flooring in this room represents two different periods of work. The area in the southeast corner monopolized by large boards is earlier than the rest of the floor.

"Presumably the later extant flooring dates to the mid-nineteenth century when work was also being performed on the firebox and hearth.

"Particularly in the southeast corner the boards are of varying sizes. The largest board in the room was found here."

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 18-19): "Only three samples of wallpaper were discovered in [the northeast] room during architectural investigations, all from the same element. Three layers were identified. Layers 'a' and 'b' however, were not sufficient to analyze. Presumably all layers date to the second half of the 19th century."

Wallpaper layers:

a - not sufficient to analyze

b - floral wallpaper, not sufficient to analyze

c - anglo-japanese wallpaper, Japanese influenced compartmentalized pictorial vignettes, ca. 1880s, roller-printed, red, turquoise, cream, black, olive green, light blue, and dark gold on a greenish-gold ground.

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 21-25): "The wood partition in the central closet featured numerous layers of wallpaper. A model was constructed of the paper on the wall and apparently it all dates to the 19th century. Only small samples were removed, however larger areas of the paper survive *in situ*. The first two layers (layers 'a' and 'b') are the same papers (also, layers 'a' and 'b') that decorated the 1st story, southwest room during the first quarter of the 19th-century. Nails in the partition date to the Thomas Boylston Adams period, i.e. between 1810 and 1819."

Wall paper layers:

a - leaves and black pin-dots; ca.1800-1810; possibly English; block-printed, green and black on ivory

b - striped, with small-scale repeat pattern; 1820s; block-printed; dark blue and white design on yellow-ochre

c - sample not large enough to analyze; roller-printed; green and red on ungrounded paper

d - architectural scene and stonework; ca. 1840-1860; roller-printed; blue, brown, tan on light brown

e - reform-style wallpaper; ca. 1860-1870; roller-printed; orange, reddish brown, green, blue, white on beige ground

f - stylized flower wallpaper; ca. 1870-1880; roller-printed; brown and tan on beige

g - striped vine; ca. 1870-1880; roller-printed; white and tan on cream

h - floral with dots, border classical; ca. 1870-1880, border appears earlier; roller-printed; paper - bright blue, brownish pink, and yellowish

green on beige, border - bright blue, charcoal gray, light gray, yellowish green, and black

i - foliate (sample too small); ca. 1880s; roller-printed; yellow, olive green, pink, dark brownish tan.

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 39: It is conjectured that when the lean-to reached its full length that it housed three rooms on the first floor, one large flanked by two smaller ones. A kitchen may have been in the center with a chamber on the west and a pantry or buttery on the east.

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 66, 68: The 1897 restoration included "restoring the fireplace in the first story . . . northeast lean-to room"; and removing "the wall partition between the southeast and northeast lean-to room (except for 41" at the west end which abutted the northeast room's south wall stair closet)."

JABP 104, Northern Shed/Ell

Architectural Description and History

The exact date for the building of the northern shed is unknown. Nail evidence found in the 1980s suggests the shed was built in the eighteenth century after the completion of the lean-to.

The 1852 edition of *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion* gave architectural conservators helpful evidence regarding the exterior configuration of the early shed. This picture shows a door and window on the east wall and no openings on the north wall of the single-story shed (see ill. 7).

The first known change to the northern shed was during Thomas Boylston Adams' 1810s renovations. At that time the insertion of the central closet in the northeast room required that the interior door to the northern shed be moved to the east.

At some time between 1852 and the 1880s, the northern shed was enlarged to be a gabled ell. According to an 1880-1885 photograph, the gabled ell exhibited the same fenestration as the earlier shed, but its roof had been raised, a chimney added, and another addition attached to its northwest corner (see ill. 10).

In 1897, the D.R. converted this space into a kitchen and bathroom area with plumbing and water for the use of an on-site caretaker.

In 1950 to 1951, the Quincy Historical Society updated the northern ell by introducing electricity and gas to the kitchen. The bathroom occupied the northeast corner. There were two windows on the west wall and one on the east wall in the bathroom. There were doors to the northeast and northwest rooms on the south wall. There were also two exterior entrances through the approximate centers of the east and west walls. Off the west entrance, was a small storm porch with a door on the south wall and a window on the west.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service chose to return the northern ell to its former configuration. The northern ell was removed and the shed was reconstructed. This shed is a one-story addition with a door and window on the eastern elevation.

History of Room Use

It is possible that the room in the northern shed is the one Abigail Adams refers to as her "Dairy room" when writing to John Adams in 1775.[331] If so, it likely served as a dairy at least as late as the Matthew Pratt occupation to circa 1792, but may have continued to be used as such to as late as circa 1886.

There is no further evidence of how this space was used until the 1897 renovations conducted by the Daughters of Revolution. In 1897, this space was converted into a kitchen and bathroom area with plumbing and water for the use of an on-site caretaker.

There is no record of other renovations until the Quincy Historical Society updated the kitchen and bathroom facilities in 1950-1951. At that time, if not before, the bathroom occupied the northeast corner of the northern ell.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed the northern ell and rebuilt the earlier, smaller northern shed addition. This area now houses an L-shaped office/dining area and a lavatory for interpretive staff members. The interior of the northern shed is not currently on public view.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence of early finishes in the northern shed/ell. The National Park Service found no wallpaper in the northern ell in the 1980s. The current finishes in the recreated northern shed are minimal. The southern wall displays sheathing from a mixture of periods on the back of the lean-to. The east, west, and north walls are unfinished as is the ceiling. The only finished area in the northern shed is the lavatory which has plastered walls, a plastered ceiling, and a red-brown colored linoleum floor.

Furnishings

There is little evidence for the early furnishing of the northern shed. If it were Abigail Adams' dairy, her "dairy things" may have included a butter churn, a cheese press, a butter working table, a sour cheese tub, a butter scale, milk strainers, milk pans, keelers (shallow wooden tubs for holding milk while cream rises), cream skimmers, butter scoops, butter workers, firkins (pails for storing butter), butter prints, and cheese cloth.[332] During his residence, Adams' tenant Hayden may have kept a bed in the dairy: "I then sent and asked Mr. Hayden to be so kind as to remove his things into the other part of the house and I told him he might improve the kitchen back chamber the bed room & the Dairy room in which he already had a bed."[333]

Materials recovered during two archeological excavations conducted in the 1980s by the National Park Service suggest the types of items, many of them dating to the nineteenth century, used in this space. The Pratts located creamware and midden

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[331] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 12 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[332] Marilyn Arbor, *Tools & Trades of America's Past: The Mercer Museum Collection* (Doylestown, PA: Bucks County Historical Society, 1994), p. 19.

[333] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 12 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

deposits in the square they excavated closest to the northern shed/ell. Furnishings-related objects recovered during the Towle and Hsu project include redwares, creamwares, pearlwares, and whitewares. Most of the shards were from pearlware and whiteware objects, but there were also a good number of redware shards. Milk pans were commonly made of redware and may account for some of these redware finds. Towle and Hsu also found a small number of stoneware, clay pipe, and bottle and drinking glass shards. The area surrounding the northern shed/ell produced the most stoneware shards around the house.[334] The number of stoneware shards indicates a storage function for the northern shed/ell. Also, more twentieth century objects appeared here than anywhere else reflecting the occupancy of the caretakers in this area.

There is no evidence as to how the 1897 to 1979 caretakers furnished the space. Presumably there were built-in counters, cabinets, and appliances. In the mid-1970s, there were two tables in the kitchen area.[335]

The northern shed recreated by the National Park Service has a counter and microwave oven in the office/dining area. There is also a minimal number of cleaning supplies and other utilitarian objects stored in this area.

Documentary and Graphic References

1775, July 12. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344): "[M]r. Trott, [a refugee from Boston] finding there was no hopes of his [Hayden's] going out said he would go in with him, provided I would let him [Trott] have the chamber I improved for a Dairy room and the lower room & chamber over it which hayden has - I then sent and asked Mr. Hayden to be so kind as to remove his things into the other part of the house and I told him he might improve the kitchen back chamber the bed room & the Dairy room in which he already had a bed."

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of northern shed/ell, south and west wall and east wall.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 15: "The north shed would be reconstructed. The exterior of the north shed would be constructed to its mid-18th (John Adams Period) appearance, while the interior would be finished to accommodate a modern lavatory and office space for the staff."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 160:
Northern ell/shed finishes schedule:
Treatment: Walls - plaster in lavatory and historic sheathing on the south wall are whitewashed; other walls are unfinished
Trim, Ceiling, and Flooring - unfinished

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 286-287: "OBJECTIVE: To adaptively use the interior for staff and toilet facilities."

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[334] Towle, tables 1-2.
[335] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.

"In the rectangular shed, a room was partitioned-off in the northwest corner to serve as a lavatory -- complete with toilet and sink. The introduction of this space introduced an L-shaped office and lunch space, which extends the length of the shed's interior. A door and window were placed on the east wall; and a door to the northeast lean-to room at the east end of the south wall."

"The door to the northeast lean-to room was moved to the east slightly during the Ca. 1810-1819 period of work. During the current stabilization work it was returned to its earlier position."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 8: Prior to 1980s work, "The gabled-ell consists of one large room which was furnished as a kitchen for the caretaker. A bathroom has been partitioned-off in the northeast corner of the kitchen. The gabled ell is accessible from both the northeast and northwest lean-to rooms and from the outside. Two doorways to the exterior exist on axis with one another, approximately centered on the east and west walls. A small storm porch is located off the west wall. This storm porch has a door on its south wall and a window on its west. Three other windows punctuate the walls of the gabled ell: two on the west wall on either side of the door and one on the east wall, serving the bathroom. The attic of the gabled ell exists as an unfinished crawl space."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 8: "Wallpaper covers all the first-story rooms, with the exception of the gabled ell."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northeast room 42: In the 1810s, "with the introduction of the cellar stairs, the north wall door was moved to the east a couple of feet to accommodate the change."

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 46-47: "A shed addition off the north elevation of the lean-to, at its west end, appears in an 1852 edition of *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*. As this shed no longer exists, the image was helpful in alerting researchers to the possibility of an appendage to the lean-to that presumably preceded the current gabled-ell addition. During architectural research on the house, specific evidence for a shed was found to corroborate the documentary source. The shed is referred to herein as the north shed. The details on this shed's appearance and construction history is sketchy at best. The only architectural evidence that has survived for the north shed is found on the lean-to's roof and north exterior wall. This information provided information on the relative dimensions of the shed, while not providing any information on the materials and details."

"The exact date of the north shed's construction is not known. Nor is it known when the shed was removed. Presumably, its removal occurred in conjunction with the construction of the gabled ell. A definite date has not been given to the gabled ell construction. If, indeed, the Gleason's image was made the same year it was published we know that the shed was extant until then at least."

"The conjectural appearance of the north shed is based upon only several pieces of architectural evidence and the image that appeared in the 1852 edition of the *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion.* The architectural evidence offered information on

the placement of the shed. The documentary evidence offered information on how the exterior east and north elevations appeared. The west elevation, interior plan and details, construction materials and details are not known.

"The historic illustration showed that a door and window were present on the east elevation. The window was located north of the door."

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 67, 68: The 1897 restoration included "the rebuilding of the gabled ell's chimney stack." The gabled ell was "remodelled as a caretaker's quarters with kitchen and plumbing and water."

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 72: During the 1950-1951 renovation the "gabled ell and lean-to [were] remodelled for caretaker's quarters" and electricity and gas heat were installed.

JABP 105, Northwest Room

Architectural Description and History

Currently, the northwest room is a small rectangular room with a door to the northeast room in the east wall, a false door on the south wall, and windows centered on the north and west walls. One feature noted in the 1980s was that the framing in this room was encased like that in the southwest room and chamber.

The dimensions of the room have remained the same, but its configuration has changed over the years. Based on extant evidence in the wall, architectural conservators believe there was originally a window on the west wall. There may also have been one on the north wall. There were also doors to the northeast and southwest rooms on the east and south walls.

During Thomas Boylston Adams' 1810s renovations, the door to the southwest room was sealed.

Around the middle of the nineteenth century, several alterations in the room's plan took place. The door to the southwest room was reopened. With the introduction of a staircase to the second floor in the central closet, the door that formerly led into the central closet on the east wall was "made inoperable."[336] The enlargement of the northern shed eliminated the northwest room's north window (if one existed) and a door to the new space may have been put in its place.

In 1897, the northwest room was remodeled to accommodate an on-site caretaker, but no known structural alterations were made at that time.

In 1950-1951, the room was again remodeled to accommodate caretakers. At that time electricity was introduced. Also, the door to the northern ell extant in 1979 may have been constructed.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service strove to return the northwest room to its eighteenth-century appearance. The northern ell was reduced in size to its earlier northern shed appearance allowing the removal of the door and reintroduction of a window on the north wall. A false door was placed on the south wall. This door allows

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[336] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, March, p. 58.

the northwest room to reflect the eighteenth century, while the southwest room reflects its 1810s Thomas Boylston Adams appearance.

History of Room Use

There is no conclusive evidence for the earliest use of the northwest room. It may be the room that Abigail Adams refers to as the "kitchen back chamber" in her 1775 letter to John Adams regarding her problems with Hayden.[337] This room may have been used as a bedroom during its early history.

In 1897, the northwest room was renovated as a bedroom for an on-site caretaker.

When the Quincy Historical Society assumed management of the house, the room was remodeled in 1950-1951 again for use as a bedroom by on-site caretakers. One or more caretakers lived in these quarters until the National Park Service assumed management in 1979. At that time the room was converted from a living space into an exhibition space.

The room is currently interpreted as a cordwainer's shop. The theme of cordwaining allows the discussion of Deacon John Adams' second profession as a shoemaker, the fact that many middle class farmers in the eighteenth century had a second source of income, and the Curtis brothers who were cordwainers in the house in the nineteenth century.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is little evidence for the early finishes in the northwest room. The walls were likely whitewashed because traces of whitewash appeared on the back of the earliest wallpaper removed from the walls in the 1980s. When compared to other rooms in the house, this room was not as actively redecorated as others.

Architectural conservators found six layers of wallpaper on the room's walls all dating from the nineteenth century. The earliest layer was an 1830s, block-printed pattern of stylized leaves and flowers. The next three layers could not be dated but presented roller-printed patterns. Next was an 1890s roller-printed pattern of stylized leaves and flowers.

The National Park Service also found layers of wallpaper applied during the twentieth century. The outer two layers of paper were modern patterned papers, one scenic and one with a bluebell pattern. The other finishes in the room matching the latest bluebell paper were a white ceiling, light blue trim, and a clear-varnished floor.

The National Park Service removed the wallpaper and whitewashed the walls and ceiling. The paint was removed from the trim and it was treated with a resinous wash. The floor is unfinished.

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[337] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 12 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the northwest room. If it were a bedroom throughout its history, it would have contained bedding and perhaps a bed. Presumably there was a bed in this room at least as early as 1897 when it became a caretaker's bedroom. Other objects in the room would include storage furniture possibly ranging from trunks to a chest of drawers. By 1897, there was likely a chest of drawers in the room. Other items stored in the room would include clothing and personal items such as toilet articles. A curtain rod found in the 1980s indicates there were curtains over the window on the west wall by at least the late 1970s.

Archeological evidence provides some indication of the types of objects used in this room. Towle and Hsu found redware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, porcelain, stoneware, clay pipe, bottle glass, and drinking glass shards.[338] The assemblage yielded mostly pearlware, but the number of redware shards was larger than anywhere else around the house. These finds may simply reflect the proximity of the northwest room to the kitchen and dairy. Or, they may suggest the room was used as something other than a bedroom during its history. Perhaps it served as a part of the dairy or as a dining area at one time.

The National Park Service currently displays the northwest room as a cordwainer's shop. The discovery of sixty pairs of nineteenth-century shoes in the house's walls during the 1980s restoration contributed to the decision to furnish the northwest room in this way.[339] Included in the display are a workbench covered with tools and shoes in various stages of completion, a soiled apron, a rack of lasts or shoe forms, buckets, barrels, and a simple rope bed with a jacquard coverlet. The bed represents the sleeping quarters of a servant or apprentice in the cordwainer's shop.

Documentary and Graphic References

1775, July 12. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344): "[M]r. Trott, [a refugee from Boston] finding there was no hopes of his [Hayden's] going out said he would go in with him, provided I would let him [Trott] have the chamber I improved for a Dairy room and the lower room & chamber over it which hayden has - I then sent and asked Mr. Hayden to be so kind as to remove his things into the other part of the house and I told him he might improve the kitchen back chamber the bed room & the Dairy room in which he already had a bed."

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "Then two years ago an excellent caretaker Mrs. Smith who has been with us twelve years, most[?] unfortunately was taken ill with Scarlet fever. The Board of Health not only obliged us to fumigate the house but required us to paper and paint the room next to her bed-room on the first floor."

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[338] Towle, tables 1-2.
[339] MacMahon, p. 2.

1975, Rettig, National Historic Landmarks Nomination Form: John Adams Birthplace, p. [1]: During the 1950s alterations: "The entire leanto was renovated for use by the custodian and electricity was installed in part of the house."

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of northwest room, north and west walls and south wall.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 277-278: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the John Adams period, mid-18th century appearance."

"Several changes were made to the plan of the northwest lean-to room involving doorways, as follows: the doorway to the gabled ell and to the stair closet to the central closet were eliminated while the doorway to the southeast [southwest?] room was moved slightly. The room has been furnished to interpret the shoemaking history connected with the birthplace and Deacon John Adams."

"A second window was introduced in this room on the north wall. The evidence for its placement was found in the wall plate. The typical plank-frame window type, with 12 over 12 sash, was installed in both window openings."

"Door and door trim [were] removed [from the doorway to the southwest room]. A new (false) door was installed slightly east of the current location. This door is a 2-panelled door."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 159: Northwest room finishes schedule:

Existing:	Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, modern wallpaper
	Trim - painted light blue
	Ceiling - painted white
	Flooring - finished with a clear varnish
Treatment:	Walls - removed wallpaper; prepared walls; whitewashed
	Trim - removed paint; applied a resinous wash on bare wood
	Ceiling - whitewashed
	Flooring - new floor; maintained unfinished.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 8-9: "The post and beam framing is exposed in the main house and lean-to. The framing has been encased in the southwest room, southwest chamber, [and] northwest lean-to room."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. northwest room 58-59: "The circa 1810 remodelling changed the floor patterns. The door opening from the southwest parlor was closed up. To enter one had to travel into the central closet and pass through the east wall of the northwest lean-to room.

"The next major alterations to the plan of this room occurred during the mid-nineteenth century. The gabled ell and stairs to the garret in the central closet were introduced. Whether both events occurred simultaneously is not known. Changes to the plan of the northwest lean-to room were initiated because of the stairs and presumably because of the gabled ell addition.

"To allow for room for the stairs in the central closet, the east wall door of the northwest lean-to room was made inoperable. A new door opening was provided at the north end of the same wall, no longer allowing direct passage into the central closet but rather entrance to the stairhall. A small closet/stair landing was constructed in conjunction with the stairs.

"The south wall door was reinstituted, but approximately 11" to the east of the original position. This opening is that which is extant today.

"Exactly how the north wall was affected by the addition of the gabled ell can only be speculated. Presumably the window was removed, but it is not clear whether a door was installed at that time. Currently, a door opening is located at the east end of the wall. This wall was reworked in 1950 and the door trim relates to that construction.

"No known change in plan was performed during the Daughters of the Revolution restoration in 1897. It was not until 1950 that the room was renovated. This renovation transformed the room into a bedroom for the caretaker. The floor plan pattern was not affected, however."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northwest room 63: "According to existing evidence the first story, northwest lean-to room and central closet . . . were not as actively redecorated as other spaces."

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 29-31): "Six wallpaper samples were removed from the architectural fabric in this room. Eight layers were separated, all dating to the 19th century. The evidence is very sketchy, not allowing a complete model of the 19th century wallpaper treatments to be constructed. The model that is presented lacks dates for several layers.

"The two samples removed from under the south wall door trim . . . are of the wallpaper treatment designated as layer 'a.' This is the earlier paper found on the wall. Whitewash is visible on the reverse side of the wallpaper. A circa date of 1830's for manufacture of the paper has been given."

Wallpaper layers:

a - stylized leaves and flowers; ca. 1830s; block-printed; green and red on ungrounded paper

b - sample not large enough; roller-printed; green and red on plain paper

c - sample not large enough; roller-printed; yellow, green, black, red on tan

d - sample not large enough; roller-printed; white, light yellow-green on off-white

e - stylized leaves and flowers; ca. 1890s; roller-printed; brown, off-white, tan

f - floral; ca. 20th c.; roller-printed; gray, dark green, pink, white on buff

JABP 106, Southwest Room (Parlor)

Architectural Description and History

The southwest room is a rectangular room with windows centered on the south and west walls. From south to north, the east wall is composed of a door to the entry hall, fireplace, and closet. A door at the eastern side of the north wall leads into the northeast room. Over time, the size of the room has remained the same, but the configuration has changed in response to structural changes in the lean-to and advances in heating technology.

Before the lean-to was completed, the room's north wall was an exterior wall. When the lean-to was complete, a door to the northwest room may have been added.[340] The early fireplace was large with straight jambs.

In the 1810s, the door to the northwest room was closed and a door to the new central closet was opened. The room's framing may have been encased at this time. The east wall and fireplace were also extensively reworked. The earlier fireplace was cut down in size, given splayed sides to better reflect heat into the room, and a Federal-style mantel with pilasters was installed. Interior shutters were also added to the windows.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, a door to the northwest room was reintroduced. Also at this time the fireplace was redecorated. Architectural conservators found *in situ* later-nineteenth-century tiles, a board over the mantel shelf, and black 1860s Greek Revival-style trim.

In 1897, the Daughters of Revolution introduced a glass-covered nogging exhibit in the southwest corner. The D.R. located early interior shutters in the house. They produced reproduction shutters and installed them in the southeast and southwest rooms. An undated feature that drew comment from 1897 to 1979, was a small "courting" window near the top of the door to the entry hall.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service restored the southwest room to the 1810s Thomas Boylston Adams period. The interior window shutters were removed and the nogging display was covered. The door to the northwest room and the window in the door to the entry hall were removed. The late-nineteenth-century additions to the fireplace and courting window were also removed at this time.

History of Room Use

The southwest room was the "parlor" in the hall-and-parlor plan house. Its higher status than the southeast room, or hall/kitchen, is indicated by its larger size, lack of a bake oven, and encased framing.[341] The southwest room was (and is) the most refined space in the house. However, it may have served more utilitarian functions when families began to share the house in the 1820s.

In 1897, the D.R. opened the southwest room as a period room. No information about this interior is available until the publication of postcards depicting the "West Room" in the 1930s. It seems to have been interpreted as a mixture of parlor and office

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[340] There is no extant evidence indicating whether there was originally an exterior door on the north wall.

[341] It is unclear when the framing was first encased. It may not have been encased until the 1810s.

at that time. Early building techniques also could be discussed in this room because there was a glass-covered display of nogging in the southwest corner.

When the Quincy Historical Society assumed management of the house in 1950, it interpreted the southwest room as a parlor. By the mid-1970s, the interpretation of the southwest room included a discussion of the respect for history held by people in the eighteenth century and their desire to better themselves through society. The importance of music in the parlor was also discussed.[342] The interpretation seems to have degraded in the later 1970s, because a circa 1978 placard explained to visitors the purpose of the window in the door to the entry hall. The window was called a "courting window" and according to the placard, "The young couple were allowed alone in the room with the door closed, but were chaperoned frequently by an adult who had visible access through the courting window" (see appendix C-7).

The Society's sales area moved among houses and rooms during its management. By 1978, tickets were sold from the southwest room of the John Adams birthplace and visitors toured the house on a self-guided basis. The entrances to the rooms were cordoned off and placards on the walls offered didactic material (see appendix C-7).

In the 1980s, the National Park Service chose to restore the southwest room to the 1810s period of Thomas Boylston Adams' occupation of the house. All parts of the room were restored to that era, with the exception of the windows which were restored to their mid-eighteenth century appearance to agree with the other windows in the house. The room is currently displayed as the Thomas Boylston Adams family's parlor. Interpretive themes discussed in the southwest room include the Thomas Boylston Adams family, Susannah Boylston Adams, the Boylston family, parlor activities, and John Adams' later years at the John Adams birthplace.

Interior Features and Finishes

The evidence for the room's earliest finish was collected by Titus in 1897. She recounted, "On taking off layer after layer of old wallpaper the final color of the walls were disclosed. They were found to be covered with a wash of regular Continental buff - so that the walls are now papered to preserve the same effect" (see appendix B-1).[343] In the 1980s, the National Park Service found traces of early red and black paint on the fireplace.

Likely, the room was first wallpapered between 1800 and 1810, the date of the earliest wallpaper recovered in the 1980s. Over the years most of the wallpaper was removed by the D.R. and Quincy Historical Society leaving the National Park Service only small scraps to analyze. The first two layers of wallpaper in the southwest room match the first two layers found in the central closet. The earliest layer is an 1800-1810 block-printed paper with a pattern of leaves and pin dots. The second paper is dated to circa 1815 and has stripes and a small-scale repeat pattern.

Three other papers adorned the walls to the middle of the nineteenth century: an undated block-printed pattern of flowers, baskets, leaves, and pin dots; an 1830s block-printed pattern of leaves, flowers, and some pin dots; and an 1850s, possibly striped, paper with a pattern of leaves and flowers.

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[342] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.
[343] Titus, "Restoration," 1899, pp. 4-5.

Papers dating to the second half of the nineteenth century include an 1860-1875 floral and small-scale repeat pattern; an 1860-1875 roller-printed foliate and grape pattern; an 1860-1875 roller-printed geometric and diaper pattern; an 1880s roller-printed, possibly geometric, pattern; and an 1890s, possibly stylized, pattern. The 1860-1875 papers are composed of interesting materials. The foliate and grape pattern was printed on what may have been a tan satin ground. The geometric and diaper pattern was flocked and gilt.

The finishes of the wood trim and doors that accompanied these different layers of wallpaper are unknown except for those of the 1840s. Architectural conservators were able to discern that at that time the main rooms in the house were painted white, gray, and cream with black trim around the fireplace. They also found *in situ* a late-nineteenth century fireplace treatment with tiles, a board over the mantel shelf, and black 1860s Greek Revival style trim.

As mentioned above, in 1897, Titus chose to replicate the look of the early buff whitewash with a look-alike wallpaper, perhaps the cartridge paper she used in the southeast room. The wallpaper changed around 1910 as indicated by the letters exchanged between William Sumner Appleton and Titus. Appleton wrote,

> [I]t seems to me that the greatest mistake that has been made in your house as it now stands is in the choice of the wall papers on the ground floor, especially in the room to the left of the entrance door [southwest room]. My own opinion is that that room would have looked better without any wall paper of any kind, and that the whole house should be without wall papers, but if paper is to be put on it should be of a kind appropriate to the house.

He later continued,

> The room to the left of the entrance has, if I am not mistaken, been freshly painted, and might to all intents and purposes be in a modern apartment house. If I may venture the advice I should say it would be much better not to repaint the interior of any part of the house, for a house of the date of its creation had hardly any paint at all, and even at the time of the birth of the president must have been a country farm house of the rudest simplicity. Accordingly, time-stained walls and much worn floors are thoroughly in keeping with the memorial you are maintaining (see appendix B-2).[344]

Titus responded,

> [T]wo years ago an excellent caretaker Mrs. Smith who has been with us twelve years, most[?] unfortunately was taken ill with Scarlet fever. The Board of Health not only obliged us to fumigate the house but required us to paper and paint the room next to her bed-room on the first floor [the southwest room].

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[344] Appleton to Titus.

> That is why the new paper [and] paint are on the room to the left as you enter. That paper is a reproduction of an old wall paper on a house at Mt. Vernon and is of the period of the Revolution (see appendix B-3).[345]

The earliest photographs showing wallpaper in the room are two 1930s picture postcards. This paper is decorated with wide vertical stripes. Every other stripe contains a larger, vertical floral pattern. Between these stripes are bands of a light color. The wooden trim is a light color, possibly white (see ills. 18-19).

According to a 1969 slide, by that time the paper had been replaced with a lavender, scenic pattern featuring women churning butter outdoors. The trim was white and the floor was gray. These finishes remained until the National Park Service period.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed the wallpaper and painted finishes. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed, the trim was painted a "greenish-gray," and the floor was painted gold.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the southwest room. Archeological evidence offers little indication of the objects used in the southwest room during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Towle and Hsu found a small number of redware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, porcelain, stoneware, clay pipe, bottle glass, and drinking glass shards.[346] The area surrounding the southwest room had the lowest concentration of shards around the house. This reflects the southwest room's position furthest from utilitarian spaces such as the kitchen and dairy.

No early accounts of the furniture displayed in the southwest room survive. The earliest images are the 1930s postcards of the "West Room" mentioned above. The room is filled with rural and urban furniture dating from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. In opposite corners of the room are two large pieces of furniture, one a Federal-style-inspired desk-and-bookcase and the other an Empire style parlor organ. A rococo style fall-front desk and Empire style chair border the south wall. Over these hang a large gilt, probably nineteenth-century, mirror. Two other chairs are pulled up to what appears to be a leather-covered desk or table laden with a book, papers, candle, and a gavel. Another item of interest is the canon ball on the hearth. It appears that this room was interpreted as a cross between a parlor and an office space.

When the D.R. vacated the John Adams birthplace it left the following items in the southwest room for the Quincy Historical Society: the gilt mirror, the cannon ball, the parlor organ, two small chairs, and the fireplace equipment (see appendix C-1). Over the next few years the Quincy Historical Society strove to refill the room. The *Quincy Patriot Ledger* reported in 1950, "Mrs. Cushman has . . . given two side chairs, a tip-top table and a Pembroke table for installation in the downstairs parlor in the John Adams House."[347] In 1952, the Society acquired a large, new rug for the southwest room. If this rug is the same as the one in the room in 1970, it was an oriental rug.

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[345] Titus to Appleton. .
[346] Towle, tables 1-2.
[347] Aaron Smith, "Priceless Antiques Donated."

The parlor organ appears to have been removed by the time of Coyne's 1961 inventory of the room. Additional items on this list include an oval French cabinet, a square piano and stool (formerly in the southeast room), an Empire style sofa, a flax wheel, and a tavern table. The walls were adorned with several Adams-related pictures including a print of John Adams, a pastel of John Adams, a print of Samuel Adams, and an engraving based upon a daguerreotype of John Quincy Adams. Other objects of interest include fifteen leather-bound books, a velvet mourning picture dated 1840, and a music box (see appendix C-2).

Interpretive information written in the 1950s and 1960s for tour guides provides further information pertaining to the objects in the southwest room. The information combines fact and tradition:

> The piano was made in Boston, 1824, by the Currie Company and is known as a horizontal piano. The wood is flame mahogany. The mahogany divan has had a varied career. It originally belonged to John Adams. A certain young woman in his employ left to go to Maine to be married, and the sofa was given to her. After many years the upholstery gave out, and the frame was relegated to the wood pile. A passerby saw it, and as the lines were good, and she had an eye for beauty, she inquired about it of a little old lady who told her it was to be split for kindling.
>
> She was glad to sell it, however, and instead of burning it up, received $5 for it. She then told her how the sofa had been acquired as a wedding gift. It has long since been repaired, returned from Maine to Quincy, and finally placed in this first house of John Adams.
>
> This is a rope leg table of about 1800. The gilt mirror over the piano belonged to the Adamses, and the pair of brass candlesticks which are very old, belonged to Josiah Quincy, a cousin of Abigail Adams, and a prominent man of the community. This pair of chairs upholstered in red plush, are country Chippendale. The pair of old glass lamps are hand blown. The painting over the mantle was done by a 14-year-old girl on velvet. In the corner appears the first parish church. The H and L hinges on the door of the closet are of handwrought forged iron. There is a saying that people felt safer if they had some H and L hinges because they stood for:
>
> Heaven help us
> Lord help us
> Heavenly Lord-Holy Lord
>
> The picture over the table shows Boston Harbor as it appeared in 1757, when John [Adams] was a young man.[348]

The circa 1969 "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace" explains that the tavern table "belonged to the Faxon family who lived here. It was in the house prior to 1806" (see appendix C-6). This table is believed to have been

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[348] "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]," n.d., folder 8398.1-6, Notes on Adams Birthplaces, box 15, shelf 101, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA, p. [2].

owned by the Adams family, used by the Faxons after 1806, taken by the Faxons when they moved, and descended in that family through the nineteenth century.[349]

According to two 1970 photographs, the Quincy Historical Society display changed little from the 1950s to the 1970s (see ills. 20-21). An item added to the room after 1965, was an "Adams genealogy chart with the emphasis on the presidential line of the family" dating to that year.

Currently, the National Park Service interprets the southwest room as the 1810s parlor of the Thomas Boylston Adams family. A copy of a portrait of Dr. Edward Boylston, cousin of Susannah Boylston Adams on the north wall allows a discussion of the Boylston family and his medical practice. The southwest room also contains a variety of reproduction furniture which, curiously, does not match the early-nineteenth-century target date of the room. Beneath the Boylston portrait is a reproduction of a seventeenth-century virginal with a music book and stand intended to inspire a discussion of music in the parlor. There are several chairs which were reproduced based upon early-eighteenth-century designs. These earlier designs may have been chosen to indicate Thomas Boylston Adams' inability to purchase up-to-date furniture for his Federal style parlor. A small gateleg table and a rococo style mirror with a gilt shell were reproduced from Adams-related objects owned by Superintendent Harris.[350]

Documentary and Graphic References

1897 October 19. "John Adams Day," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the west room a square has been cut out of the wall showing the hand made lathes and the brick walls.

In the door leading from this room to the front hall was a peep hole such as used in Revolutionary times."

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 4): "In the door leading to the west room, high up you will see a 'peep-hole' which commands a view of anyone standing in the front door." (See appendix B-1)

1899, April 3. Titus, "The Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-6, p. 4): "The curious old hinges & the fire place in the west room must be seen to be appreciated. On taking off layer after layer of old wallpaper the final color of the walls were disclosed. They were found to be covered with a wash of regular Continental buff - so that the walls are now papered to preserve the same effect." (See appendix B-1)

1913, September 29. William Sumner Appleton to Lillian Titus (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "[I]t seems to me that the greatest mistake that has been made in your house as it now stands is in the choice of the wall papers on the ground floor, especially in the room to the left of the entrance door [southwest room]. My own opinion is that that room would have looked better without any wall paper of

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[349] Quincy Historical Society, Object Card Files, Card .6484.
[350] Curtis interview.

any kind, and that the whole house should be without wall papers, but if paper is to be put on it should be of a kind appropriate to the house."

1913, September 29. William Sumner Appleton to Lillian Titus (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "The room to the left of the entrance has, if I am not mistaken, been freshly painted, and might to all intents and purposes be in a modern apartment house. If I may venture the advice I should say it would be much better not to repaint the interior of any part of the house, for a house of the date of its creation had hardly any paint at all, and even at the time of the birth of the president must have been a country farm house of the rudest simplicity. Accordingly, time-stained walls and much worn floors are thoroughly in keeping with the memorial you are maintaining, and should some of your Chapter members consider that these conflict with their convenience in using the house as a Chapter home, it seems to me they should sacrifice their own convenience or convictions for the sake of the important trust they have assumed in the care of the house as a memorial of the president's birth."

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "Then two years ago an excellent caretaker Mrs. Smith who has been with us twelve years, most[?] unfortunately was taken ill with Scarlet fever. The Board of Health not only obliged us to fumigate the house but required us to paper and paint the room next to her bed-room on the first floor [the southwest room].

"That is why the new paper [and] paint are on the room to the left as you enter. That paper is a reproduction of an old wall paper on a house at Mt. Vernon and is of the period of the Revolution."

1930s, Stillman Powers Co. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of north and east walls of southwest room (see ill. 18).

1930s, Stillman Powers Co. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of south and west walls of southwest room (see ill. 19).

1950, April 14. "Inventory of Furniture and Articles in John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society): Inventory of objects left by Daughters of Revolution for Quincy Historical Society. (See appendix C-1)

1950, October 14. "Priceless Antiques Donated," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Mrs. Cushman has also given two side chairs, a tip-top table and a Pembroke table for installation in the downstairs parlor in the John Adams House."

1952, April 18. "Three Historical Houses Open Tomorrow for Season," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Recent acquisitions included a large new rug for the John Adams birthplace parlor.

1955, August, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of east and south walls of southwest room.

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. [2]: "The piano was made in Boston, 1824, by the Currie Company and is known as a horizontal piano. The wood is flame mahogany. The mahogany divan has had a varied career. It originally belonged to John Adams. A certain young woman in his employ left to go to Maine to be married, and the sofa was given to her. After many years the upholstery gave out, and the frame was relegated to the wood pile. A passerby saw it, and as the lines were good, and she had an eye for beauty, she inquired about it of a little old lady who told her it was to be split for kindling.

"She was glad to sell it, however, and instead of burning it up, received $5 for it. She then told her how the sofa had been acquired as a wedding gift. It has long since been repaired, returned from Maine to Quincy, and finally placed in this first house of John Adams. (Mrs. Slade and Family)

"This is a rope leg table of about 1800. The gilt mirror over the piano belonged to the Adamses, and the pair of brass candlesticks which are very old, belonged to Josiah Quincy, a cousin of Abigail Adams, and a prominent man of the community. This pair of chairs upholstered in red plush, are country Chippendale. The pair of old glass lamps are hand blown. The painting over the mantle was done by a 14-year-old girl on velvet. In the corner appears the first parish church. The H and L hinges on the door of the closet are of handwrought forged iron. There is a saying that people felt safer if they had some H and L hinges because they stood for:
Heaven help us
Lord help us
Heavenly Lord-Holy Lord

"The picture over the table shows Boston Harbor as it appeared in 1757, when John was a young man." (See appendix C-3)

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 1-2: List of furnishings in southwest room. (See appendix C-2)

Ca. 1969[?], Quincy Historical Society, "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-13, p. 1): List of selected items in southwest room. (See appendix C-6)

1969, August, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of south and east walls of southwest room.

1969, December 21. Quincy Historical Society, "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-12) p. 5: List of selected items in southwest room. (See appendix C-5)

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west and north walls of southwest room.

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of north wall and east wall of southwest room.

1974, November, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (4) of north and east walls, north and west walls, and south wall.

1977, William Owens, Photographs (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (2) of east wall and south wall of southwest room (see ills. 20-21).

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, p. 20: "The Historical Society has tried various systems of operation. Currently, there is a ticket sales and concession desk in the left front room of the John Adams House."

1980, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, figs. 404-405: Photographs (2) of existing conditions in southwest room, east wall, south wall, and north wall.

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of southwest room, east wall and north and west walls.

1989, October. Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west and north walls of southwest room.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 15: "The interior would be made structurally sound and treated in the following manner: first story - restored to its mid-18th century (John Adams Period) with the exception of the southwest room which would be restored to its ca. 1810-1819 (Thomas Boylston Adams) appearance."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 159: Southwest room finishes schedule:

Existing:	Plaster Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, scenic paper
	Trim and Ceiling - painted white
	Flooring - painted gray
Treatment:	Plaster Walls - removed wallpaper; whitewashed
	Trim - painted a greenish-gray
	Ceiling - whitewashed
	Flooring - painted gold

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 251: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the Thomas Boylston Adams period (1810-1819), except for the windows -- restore the windows to the John Adams period (mid-18th century)."

"The floor plan was affected by one change: the doorway (Door D-7) to the northwest lean-to room was eliminated. The room has been furnished as the parlor of the Thomas Boylston Adams family."

The south wall nogging exhibit was plastered over.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. southwest room 28-29: "Although the prime framing members for this room have not been entirely hidden in the walls, they have been encased with boards finished with a quarter-round bead."

There is a brick nogging display on the west side of the south wall.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southwest room 33: "Originally, the north wall was an exterior wall without door. Shortly after construction a door was introduced; possibly the introduction of the door related to the enlargement of the lean-to to extend across the full length of the house. This door connected the 'parlor' with the northwest lean-to room. Its location was to the west of the existing door opening. Presumably this was the plan when John Adams resided in the house.

"During the circa 1810-1819 remodelling, the parlor underwent rather extensive changes. With the introduction of the 'central closet' space, a new door was introduced to provide access to it and the older west door was eliminated. Apparently, during the mid-nineteenth century . . . a stairway [was added] in the central closet . . . preventing direct access to the northwest lean-to room [. T]o correct this a door was reinstated on the north wall of the parlor leading to the northwest lean-to room. This door was not cut into the exact position of the earlier door, but was rather placed to the east, surviving in that location until the present."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southwest room 33: It is unknown whether the framing was always encased.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. southwest room 34-35: "Stylistically, the wood finish and treatment of the firebox as it currently exists reflects the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Kelly notes in his book *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* the 'the pilaster arrangement represented the conventional manner of fireplace treatment' of that period. . . . Physical evidence for attributing the ca. 1810 date survives, as well."

The early fireplace may have been painted red based on plaster and mortar found in the basement. The early firebox had square sides rather than slightly splayed sides.

The fireplace tiles are early nineteenth century. There is a late nineteenth-century board on the mantel shelf fastened with late cut nails. There is also black 1860s Greek Revival style trim. An 1873 train ticket fell behind the wooden strip. There is grape wallpaper underneath.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. southwest room 50, 55: During the 1810s renovations the following work occurred: "remodelled closet and fireplace in southwest room and presumably fireplace in southeast room, as well"; "eliminated doorway and door connecting southwest room and northwest lean-to room"; and "Interior shutters were installed in the first-story southeast and southwest rooms."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. southwest room 60-61: In the 1840s, "In the main house, it appeared to be consistently shades of white, gray, and cream, with some black introduced to the fireplace trim in the first-story southwest room." "[A] door was reinstituted between the southwest room and the northwest lean-to room, although this door was approximately one foot east of its earlier location."

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 8-11): "The largest sampling of wallpaper for this house was uncovered in this room. Sixteen samples were extracted and 47 fragments of layers separated. All the layers date to the 19th century, spanning from circa 1810 to the 1890's. When assembling the model for wallpaper treatments for the room, at least ten different wallpaper treatments emerged as having decorated its walls during the 19th century. The first layer (layer 'a') having been applied as part of the circa 1810 remodelling work by Thomas Boylston Adams and the last layer (layer 'j') introduced during the 1880's or early 1890's."

Wallpaper layers:

a - leaves and black pin dots, ca. 1800-1810, possibly English, block-printed; green and black on ivory

b - striped, with small-scale repeat pattern, ca. 1815, block-printed, dark blue and white on ochre

c - floral, with basket and leaves, featuring pin-dots, block-printed, light blue, green and black on ivory and light blue

d - leaves and flowers, featuring some pin-dots, ca. 1830s, block-printed; green, red, grayish white on ivory

e - possibly striped, leaves and flowers visible, ca. 1850s, block-printed; bright green, reddish pink, light pink and white on ungrounded paper

f - floral, appears to be small-figures repeat pattern, monochromatic, ca. 1860-1875, block-printed; white and brown on gray ground

g - foliate, grape vines, ca. 1860-1875, roller-printed; olive green, brown and bright blue on tan, possibly satin, ground

h - geometric with diaper pattern, ca. 1860-1875; paper - roller-printed, border - flocked and gilt, possibly block-printed; paper - bright blue on buff, border - orange-tan, gold on yellow-ochre, flock orange-red and black

i - geometric? [sample too small], ca. 1880s, roller-printed; white and tan on buff? ground

j - stylized? [sample too small], ca. 1890s, roller-printed; brown and white on tan.

JABP 201, Second Floor Hall

Architectural Description and History

The second floor hall is rectangular in plan with a window on the south wall and doors to the adjacent chambers on the east and west walls. The north wall contains the stairwell to the first floor to the west and a partition wall to the east.

According to architectural evidence, the window is not original to the structure, but was added shortly after initial construction.

In the 1810s, a door to a stairway leading to the attic was introduced on the east side of the north wall. In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed this doorway to the attic.

History of Room Use

The second floor hall functions has always served as a passage. From here the southeast chamber, southwest chamber, and first-floor staircase are accessible. In the nineteenth century there was also a door leading to the attic.

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Adams birthplace.[351] Therefore, the second floor hall is not currently an exhibition space.

Interior Features and Finishes

If the second floor hall was originally finished in the same manner as the entry hall, the walls were whitewashed. In the 1980s, the National Park Service found three layers of nineteenth-century wallpaper. The earliest layer was a roller-printed pattern. As noted by architectural conservators, the two outer layers appear out of chronological date order, so may or may not represent the actual application of paper. The middle layer is an 1860s roller-printed paper with a floral medallion and fleur-de-lis pattern. The outermost layer is a possibly 1850s roller-printed paper with a marbleized and fleur-de-lis pattern. Assuming that the D.R. treated the second floor hall the same as the entry hall, the walls would have been papered in 1897 with cartridge paper to replicate the earlier whitewash.

There is no evidence of later wall treatments until 1979 when the National Park Service found a gold and navy blue patterned paper on the walls. At that time the trim was painted white and the floor was painted gray. The National Park Service removed the paint and wallpaper. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed. The trim and floors were maintained unfinished except for a resinous wash applied to the window trim.

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[351] This policy may be reconsidered with regards to management, structural, and personal safety issues.

Furnishings

There is no evidence concerning any furnishings located in the second floor hall. An exterior photograph dated from the 1880s to early 1890s shows a shade drawn halfway down the window. Presumably at least since the D.R. occupation of the house curtains were hung in the window. The earliest photographic evidence of curtains in this window is a picture dating to circa 1910 displaying an indistinguishable type of curtain. The National Park Service currently displays tie-back curtains in the window.

Documentary and Graphic References

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photograph of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photograph of second floor hall, south and west walls.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 160: Second-floor hall finishes schedule:

Existing: Plaster Walls - wallpapered with a patterned paper
Trim and Ceiling - painted white
Flooring - painted gray

Treatment: Plaster Walls - removed wallpaper; prepared walls; whitewashed
Trim - removed paint, maintained unfinished, except for a resinous wash applied to the window
Ceiling - whitewashed
Flooring - removed paint, maintained unfinished

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 291: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the John Adams period, mid-18th century."
The door leading to the gabled attic and its trim was removed.

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 33-34): "Only one [wallpaper] sample was recovered in the second story, entry. This sample exhibited three layers of wallpaper. The circa 1850's marbleized patterned wallpaper (layer 'b') was above the circa 1860's medallion patterned paper (layer 'c') in the sample. This sample may not represent an accurate placement of papers because it was stuffed behind the trim. All the layers are 19th century. Gold paint was found on the reverse side of layer 'b,' with a few specks of the same on the reverse side of layer 'c.'"

Wallpaper layers:

a - sample too small; roller-printed; blue, gray and black
b - floral medallion with fleur-de-lis; ca. 1860s; roller-printed; gray, white, gold, pink, red, greens
c - marbleized with fleur-de-lis; ca. 1850s?; roller-printed; brown, gray, white, light brown

JABP 202, Southeast Chamber (Birthroom)

Architectural Description and History

The southeast chamber is a rectangular room with a window on the south and east walls. From south to north, the west wall is composed of a door to the second floor hall, a fireplace, and a closet. The original fireplace was tall, had a wooden lintel, and a firebox with straight jambs.

In the 1810s, Thomas Boylston Adams remodeled the room. At that time a door between the southeast chamber and the northeast garret was introduced and the fireplace was reworked.

No other known changes were made to the room until the National Park Service's 1980s restoration at which time the door to the northeast garret was removed and the fireplace was restored to its earlier size.

History of Room Use

Early in its history the southeast chamber functioned as a bed chamber. It is believed to be the 1735 birthroom of John Adams. His grandson Isaac Hull Adams wrote, "John Adams, my grandfather, was born in the smaller house and in the front chamber nearest the street (not in the lower room) over the common parlor. . . . I was born in the same chamber in the smaller house in which John Adams came into the world and have often been told this by my father and mother [Thomas Boylston and Ann Harrod Adams]."[352] Isaac Hull Adams was born in the room in 1813.

Like John Adams, the other two sons of Deacon John and Susannah Boylston Adams likely were born in the southeast chamber. Besides Isaac Hull Adams, other Thomas Boylston Adams family members likely born in the southeast chamber are Frances Foster in 1811, John Quincy in 1815, and Joseph Harrod in 1817. The southeast chamber was also the room in which eight-month-old Frances Foster's body was laid out after he died of whooping cough.[353]

It can safely be assumed that the room was used as a bed chamber during the rest of the nineteenth century until the D.R. assumed management of the house.

In June of 1897, prior to the restoration of the house, the D.R. opened the house to visitors briefly. This opening coincided with that of the newly restored John Quincy Adams birthplace next door. The *Quincy Patriot Ledger* reported, "The inside of the house was . . . decorated, especially the room in which John Adams was born. Only a few relics were exhibited as the work of restoring the old house to its former style is to beg[i]n next week."[354] The house was again opened on 19 October 1897 after the restoration was complete. At that time,

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[352] "The Houses and Rooms Where Presidents Adams Were Born."

[353] John Adams Letterbook, John Adams to Dr. Benjamin Rush, 19 July 1812, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Adams Birthplace*, vol. 2, May, p. 18.

[354] "The Adams Houses: Birthplaces of the Presidents Open to the Public," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 18 June 1897.

Above in one front room Mrs. Lewis Bass presided over most interesting relics, articles sent by the family. A scarlet mantle of heavy cloth which used to envelop the President's form on horseback, was one of many things of interest. Opposite, separated from the people by a flag was the cradle in which the infant President was rocked. Many generations of juveniles have found shelter in it since his day. Over the cradle was a placard with the inscription

JOHN ADAMS
Born October 19, 1735
Died July 4, 1826

> The height of the walls of the chambers was a surprise to all, and one wonders why in the days when we supposed ceilings were low, so much height was used. Was it to accommodate high posted bed-steads?[355]

The southeast chamber was thus interpreted as the birthroom of John Adams.

The Quincy Historical Society continued to interpret the room as John Adams' birthroom. In the 1950s and 1960s, guides offered tours of the room, but by 1978, visitors viewed the room in a self-guided way. The entrance was roped off and placards offered didactic material (see appendix C-7).

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Adams birthplace. Therefore, the southeast chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is scant evidence for the early finishes in this room. The National Park Service found evidence of whitewash under the wallpaper it removed in the 1980s. The walls were papered at least as early as the 1840s, because the *Quincy Patriot Ledger* reported, "Up stairs in a closet [in the southeast chamber] is that paper that was put on the walls by Charles Francis Adams in 1840."[356] Park Service crew members also found two layers of wallpaper, one from the nineteenth century and one from the twentieth. The nineteenth century paper was an 1860s roller-printed floral paper. This paper does not appear in the 1930s picture postcard of the room. At that time the walls appear to be painted or covered with the cartridge paper Titus used to cover the southeast room (see ill. 22). The twentieth-century paper postdates the 1930s postcard. It was a roller-printed paper with a floral and vine pattern.

The last paper put on the walls by the Quincy Historical Society was a small-repeat pattern of stylized rosettes that viewed from a distance created a diamond pattern. To match this paper, the trim and ceiling were painted white and the floor was painted gray. Also at this time, the firebox jamb was red and the fireplace and hearth were painted black.

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355 "Historic Home."

356 "John Adams Day: His Birthday Being Observed Today by Daughters of the Revolution," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 19 October 1897.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed the extant wallpaper and paint. Crew members then whitewashed the walls and ceiling. The trim was left unfinished except for new wood which was treated with a resinous finish. The nineteenth-century floor was removed to reveal the original floor which was left unfinished.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the southeast chamber. Presumably because this room was a bed chamber it contained a bed, storage furniture, clothing, and other personal items such as toilet articles.

The earliest photograph of the room is a 1930s picture postcard. This photograph shows a Federal style bed with a fringed white canopy and coverlet. Next to the bed is a hooded cradle with what appears to be a quilt inside. Over the fireplace is a portrait of John Adams. Two chairs appear before the fireplace. The floor is covered with a circular braided rug and what appears to be a striped rag rug (see ill. 22).

In 1950, the D.R. donated all its furnishings in the southeast chamber to the Quincy Historical Society including a four poster bed and its coverings, a cradle, a copy of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of John Adams, a glass case of Adams-related objects, two trunks of clothing, and several rugs. This donation indicates the room's display and interpretation changed little between the 1930s and 1950 (see appendix C-1).

Around the time of the Quincy Historical Society's reopening of the house in 1951, the room contained a canopy bed with a green coverlet, bobbin winder, gravy boat, and a copy of Gilbert Stuart's portrait of John Adams.[357] Interpretive information compiled for the use of Quincy Historical Society guides in the 1950s to 1960s gives a fuller picture of what was displayed in the room. It conveys,

> This embroidered vest was worn by John Adams when he married Abigail Smith in 1764. John remar[k]ed that the sprays of wheat reminded him that he was still a farmer (lawyer). This collar, scarf, and piece of a sleeve, were worn by Abigail at some time, and are of embro[i]dered mull. The china tankard on the table belonged to the younger brother of John, Elihu, and came down in his family. It has finally come back here.
>
> This fine old chest dates to about 1700. There were no closets in those days, and these chests were used for family bedding and clothing. It has a long drawer at the bottom. This is an old carpet bag; notice the interesting lock This work box was made for Mrs. John Adams by her granddaughter, Rebecca Taylor. Here is a ladder back bird-cage Windsor chair.
>
> In this room John Adams was born [o]n Oct. 19 1735. His portrait over the mantle is a copy of one done by Gilbert Stuart. This one was done by Miss Lyle Durgin for the Massachusetts Room in the N.E. States Building of the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo New York in 1903. It was bought by the Daughters of the Revolution, Adams Chapter, (whose headquarters were in this house) -- in 1906, for $150, and has hung here ever since. Vandals came into the house in Feb. (1951), and slashed it in three places. It has since been repaired. A knitting job was done on it, and now it is hard to find where the damage occurred.

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[357] "Historic Adams Birthplaces Ready for Tourist Trade," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 18 April 1951.

The gravy boat under the portrait was brought from Holland by John and Abigail when he was minister to that Country. It is china. The quill wheel is also called a bobbin winder. The fine old bed is of mahogany, and like all old beds of the period, the posts in the rear are plain. It has a rope spring and this tool was used to tighten the ropes. The material in the hand quilted coverlet is linzey woolsey. John Adams was rocked in this cradle, as well as his brothers Peter and Elihu. The scarlet shawl in the trunk was made from a circular riding cloak worn by John Adams. He used to wear it on horseback as late as 1810. After that it was cut up by Abigail Adams.[358]

The display and interpretation of the room remained essentially the same through at least the mid-1970s (see ills. 23-25). In the "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" more information is provided about certain objects. A tag on the "old trunk" read "E.C. Adams, care of Mrs. J.Q. Adams, F St. Washington, D.C." Also in the room was a "Piece of dress worn by Abigail Adams in London in the 1780s." A doll displayed under glass was said to have been "given by Abigail Adams to her granddaughter Elizabeth Coombs Adams" (see appendix C-5).

The placard giving information for self-guiding visitors circa 1978, was more truthful regarding the cradle in the room. Instead of being billed as John Adams' cradle, it was described as a "pine hooded cradle, ca. 1820" (see appendix C-7). This placard and the photograph of the room accompanying Holly's 1979 article indicate the vest attributed to John Adams' ownership had been moved from this room by the later 1970s (see ill. 26).

The southeast chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture.

Documentary and Graphic References

1894, Note added to Family Journal of Ann Harrod Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #284): "The three oldest [children] born in the old house & Isaac Hull born in the old Farm house after we moved[?] up there, in 1813."

1895, July 30. Isaac Hull Adams to William Gardner Spear (1895, August 8. "The Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*): "John Adams, my grandfather, was born in the smaller house and in the front chamber nearest the street (not in the lower room) over the common parlor.

"I was born in the same chamber in the smaller house in which John Adams came into the world and have often been told this by my father and mother."

1897, June 18. "The Adams Houses," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "The inside of the house was also decorated, especially the room in which John Adams was born. Only a few relics were exhibited as the work of restoring the old house to its former style is to beg[i]n next week and the summer spent in the work, so that when the Chapter meets in the fall they hope the house will be as ancient as old times."

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[358] "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]," p. [3].

1897, October 19. "John Adams Day," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Up stairs in a closet [in the southeast chamber] is that paper that was put on the walls by Charles Francis Adams in 1840."

1897, October 20. "Historic Home," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Above in one front room Mrs. Lewis Bass presided over most interesting relics, articles sent by the family. A scarlet mantle of heavy cloth which used to envelop the President's form on horseback, was one of many things of interest. Opposite, separated from the people by a flag was the cradle in which the infant President was rocked. Many generations of juveniles have found shelter in it since his day. Over the cradle was a placard with the inscription

JOHN ADAMS
Born October 19, 1734
Died July 4, 1826

The height of the walls of the chambers was a surprise to all, and one wonders why in the days when we supposed ceilings were low, so much height was used. Was it to accommodate high posted bed-steads?"

1930s, Stillman Powers Co. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of west and north walls of southeast chamber (see ill. 22).

1950, April 14. "Inventory of Furniture and Articles in John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society): Inventory of objects left by Daughters of Revolution for Quincy Historical Society. (See appendix C-1)

1951, April 18. "Historic Adams Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "The furnishings are the old mahogany high canopied bed on which is a soft green, handmade Linsey Woolsey coverlet, a quill wheel or bobbin winder, a gravy boat (under portrait) a part of a dinner set brought from Holland by John and Abigail Adams when he was ambassador to that country, and the portrait, a copy of a Gilbert Stuart done by Miss Lyle Durgin."

1955, June 27. Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west wall of southeast chamber.

1955, October. Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of south and east walls of southeast chamber.

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. [3]: "This embroidered vest was worn by John Adams when he married Abigail Smith in 1764. John remar[k]ed that the sprays of wheat reminded him that he was still a farmer (lawyer). This collar, scarf, and piece of a sleeve, were worn by Abigail at some time, and are of embro[i]dered mull. The china tankard on the table

belonged to the younger brother of John, Elihu and came down in his family. It has finally come back here.

"This fine old chest dates to about 1700. There were no closets in those days, and these chests were used for family bedding and clothing. It has a long drawer at the bottom. This is an old carpet bag; notice the interesting lock This work box was made for Mrs. John Adams by her granddaughter, Rebecca Taylor. Here is a ladder back bird-cage Windsor chair.

"In this room John Adams was born [o]n Oct. 19 1735. His portrait over the mantle is a copy of one done by Gilbert Stuart. This one was done by Miss Lyle Durgin for the Massachusetts Room in the N.E. States Building of the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo New York in 1903. It was bought by the Daughters of the Revolution, Adams Chapter, (whose headquarters were in this house) -- in 1906, for $150, and has hung here ever since. Vandals came into the house in Feb. (1951), and slashed it in three places. It has since been repaired. A knitting job was done on it, and now it is hard to find where the damage occurred.

"The gravy boat under the portrait was brought from Holland by John and Abigail when he was minister to that Country. It is china. The quill wheel is also called a bobbin winder. The fine old bed is of mahogany, and like all old beds of the period, the posts in the rear are plain. It has a rope spring and this tool was used to tighten the ropes. The material in the hand quilted coverlet is linzey woolsey. John Adams was rocked in this cradle, as well as his brothers Peter and Elihu. The scarlet shawl in the trunk was made from a circular riding cloak worn by John Adams. He used to wear it on horseback as late as 1810. After that it was cut up by Abigail Adams." (See appendix C-3)

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [7 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), pp. 4-5: "The scarlet shawl in the trunk was made from a circular riding cloak worn by John Adams. He used to wear it on horseback as late as 1810. After that it was cut up by Abigail Adams into four half shawls. She gave them to members of the family, and Mrs. Thomas Boylston wore this one for many years."

The room contains "Two dove-cote Windsor chairs."

There are "H and L hinges on door of closet - of handwrought forged iron."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 5: List of furnishings in southeast chamber. (See appendix C-2)

1963, May 12. "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*: "In the east bedroom, where on Oct. 19, 1735, the second President was born, hangs a copy of a portrait of him by Gilbert Stuart."

1964, Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [2]: Photograph of north and west walls of southeast chamber.

1964, Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [3]: "In the east bedroom where the Second President was born hangs a copy of a portrait of him by Gilbert Stuart made in 1901 for the Massachusetts Room of the New England Building at the Pan-American Exposition

by Miss Lyle Durgin, and removed here in 1906 by Charles Francis Adams and the Daughters of the Revolution."

1966, April, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast chamber.

Ca. 1969[?], Quincy Historical Society, "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-13, pp. 1-2): List of selected items in southeast chamber. (See appendix C-6)

1969, December 21. Quincy Historical Society, "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-12, pp. 5-6): List of selected items in southeast chamber. (See appendix C-5)

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west and north walls of southeast chamber.

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (3) of north wall (2) and south wall (1) (see ills. 23-24).

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of south and east walls and west wall of southeast chamber.

1975, Rettig, National Historic Landmarks Nomination Form: John Adams Birthplace, p. 2: "With the exception of pieces donated by the Adams family, most of them in the east chamber where John Adams was born, the furnishings of the house are not original." (See appendix E-3)

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of west and north walls of southeast chamber (see ill. 25).

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, p. 20: "The other first floor front room and the two second floor front rooms (the Birth Room and Billings Room) are open to the public on a self guided basis. The entrances are roped off and placards provide interpretive information."

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1346: Photograph of west and north walls of southeast chamber (see ill. 26).

1982, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, fig. 473: Photograph of south wall of southeast chamber.

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of west wall and south and east walls of southeast chamber.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 160: Southeast chamber finishes schedule:

Existing: Plaster Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, modern paper
Trim and Ceiling - painted white
Flooring - painted gray

Treatment: Plaster Walls - removed wallpaper; prepared walls; whitewashed
Trim - removed paint; maintained unfinished, except for new wood which was finished with resinous wash
Ceiling – whitewashed
Flooring – removed floor to expose original unfinished floor; maintained as is

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 295-296: "OBJECTIVE: To restore the room to the John Adams period, mid-18th century."

"The plan of the southeast chamber has been altered by one significant change -- the door to the northeast garret on the north wall has been eliminated. The room is furnished as John Adams['] birth chamber."

"The north floor to ceiling jamb, the mantel surround and shelf were all replaced based on historic evidence."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. southeast chamber 73-74: Development of the southeast chamber: "Traditionally this room is regarded as the John Adams birth chamber. No research has come forth that suggests that the southeast chamber was ever used for any function other than as a bed chamber. The room appears to have been altered in plan, however.

"Originally the room only had one access through an opening on the west wall from the stair hall. A second door was located on the west wall serving the closet. The closet door opening was a different configuration to that which survives today. Evidence suggests that the closet plan was similar to that extant in the southwest chamber. Apparently, the north wall originally did not feature a door to the northeast garret.

"Major alterations to the plan presumably first occurred during the circa 1810 remodeling. At this time the closet and fireplace were remodeled to their current state. In addition, the north wall wind brace, mortised and tenoned into the northeast corner post was cut to accommodate an opening to the northeast garret. The opening features only circa 1810 trim, suggesting that access to the garret was not provided until this time. This circa 1810 plan of the chamber has survived until this time."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southeast chamber 76: The original firebox would have been taller and had a wooden lintel. In the 1810s the north jamb, closet panel, mantel surround, and the north side of the firebox were changed. An iron lintel was introduced and the present hearth was also created at this time. There is evidence for an earlier hearth.

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 35-36): "Three samples were removed from the walls of this room. Only two layers were identified; one a mid-19th century and the second a 20th century layer. Layers of paint have survived on the wall, suggesting that the primary treatment throughout the 18th and 19th centuries was lime-based paint."

Wallpaper layers:

a - floral with tiny blue flowers; ca. 1860s; roller-printed; two blues, greenish-yellow, reddish-brown on ivory

b - floral vines on light blue ground; ca. 20th c.; roller-printed; brown, bright blue, brownish-tan on light blue

JABP 203, Northeast Garret

Architectural Description and History

The northeast garret is a small rectangular room with a window on the east wall. Originally it was an unfinished chamber with one door to the central garret on its west wall. The ceiling slopes with the shape of the roof above. In the 1810s, the room was converted into a finished space. At that time, a short wall was constructed to the north; the walls and ceiling were plastered; and a door leading to the southeast chamber was installed.

No other known changes were made to the room until the National Park Service's 1980s restoration when the door to the southeast chamber was sealed.

History of Room Use

There is no evidence of the specific use of the northeast garret during its early history. At different times it may have been a bedroom for children or servants. It also may have been used as a storage space. In the 1810s, Thomas Boylston Adams upgraded the garret from an unfinished to a finished space indicating it may have been used as a bed chamber at least from that time forward.

The D.R. interpreted the room as a bedroom because when it vacated the house it left a rope bed and bed coverings in the room for the Quincy Historical Society. In the 1930s picture postcard of the southeast chamber one can see a made bed through the doorway to this room (see ill. 22).

The Quincy Historical Society continued to interpret the room as a bedroom. In the 1960s, if not also at other times, this room was interpreted as John Adams' childhood room (see appendix C-4). The interpretation of the northeast garret as John Adams' bedroom has no basis in fact. By December 1969, the interpretation had been adjusted. The "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" reads, "There is access to this and the other leanto bedroom from the kitchen in the leanto, so that it could have been used by a servant, or possibly by one of the family" (see appendix C-5). Photographs from the 1970s confirm that the room was still interpreted as a bedroom until 1979.

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Adams birthplace. Therefore, the unfinished northeast garret is not currently an exhibition space.

Interior Features and Finishes

The northeast garret was unfinished until it was remodeled in the 1810s. Aside from the fact that the walls and ceiling were plastered there is no evidence of how the room was finished at that time. The earliest known wallpaper is an 1880-1890s roller-printed scenic pastoral-patterned paper.

When the National Park Service examined the room, it found a modern paper on the walls. Photographs of the existing condition indicate the paper had a nested-diamond, repeat pattern. The trim and ceiling were painted white and the floor was painted gray. The National Park Service left all finishes intact.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the northeast garret. If the northeast garret functioned as a sleeping space, it would have held bedding and personal items belonging to the inhabitant(s). There may or may not have been beds in the room depending on who and how many people slept there. If a servant or child slept in the room and a small bed was available there may have been one in the room. If there were many people, loose textiles may have served as bedding instead.

When the room functioned as a storage space, clearly any manner of furnishings or household goods or supplies could have occupied the space.

It appears that the D.R. and Quincy Historical Society interpreted the room as either a servant's or John Adams' boyhood room throughout their management of the house. When the D.R. vacated the house, it left to the Quincy Historical Society in the "SMALL BACK ROOM off Birth room" a rope bed, bed coverings, and a chair. In the 1930s picture postcard of the southeast chamber one can see a made bed through the doorway to this room. It is unclear what type of bed covering was on the bed, but it may have been a patchwork quilt (see ill. 22).

In 1961, the "Small Bedrooms" in the John Adams birthplace contained two chairs, a green coverlet and a "Hired mans bed" (see appendix C-2). These items were likely in the northeast garret room. By 1970, the green coverlet had been exchanged for a jacquard woven coverlet of contrasting light and dark colors (see ill. 23).

The northeast garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1950, April 14. "Inventory of Furniture and Articles in John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society): Inventory of objects left by Daughters of Revolution for Quincy Historical Society. (See appendix C-1)

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 3: List of furnishings in northeast and northwest garrets. (See appendix C-2)

1969, December 21. Quincy Historical Society, "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-12, p. 6): List of selected items in northeast garret. (See appendix C-5)

Ca. 1978, "Copies of Placards, John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-17, p. [3]: "The small room you see under the leanto [looking from southeast chamber] was John's bedroom when he was a boy. [Written note next to this sentence reads '? No evidence Whatsoever.']" (See appendix C-7)

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1346: Color photograph showing portion of north wall of northeast garret through southeast chamber doorway.

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of north wall and west wall of northeast garret.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 159: Northeast garret finishes schedule:

Existing:	Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, modern wallpaper
	Trim and Ceiling - painted white
	Flooring - painted gray
Treatment:	All finishes maintained as is

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 318: "The plan was slightly altered as a result of a change to the second-story southeast chamber. The doorway accessing this chamber was eliminated."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 7: "The first- and second-story rooms of the main house were last on exhibit by the Quincy Historical Society. . . . The second-story garret spaces, the main house's attic, and the cellar were used for storage by the society."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northeast garret 89: Development of the northeast garret: "Virtually no information has come to light that identifies the historic function of this room. Physical architectural evidence has provided more detailed data on the evolution of the plan. Originally the room appears to have been open to the eave, without a crawl space partition at its north end. The garret featured only one door opening. Located on its west wall, this opening has survived until the present time. The room underwent no known change in plan in the eighteenth century. In ca. 1810 the garret was completely remodelled. The north wall creating the crawl space was introduced. The south wall was altered with the installation of a door

opening to the southeast chamber. This circa 1810 remodelling upgraded the appearance of the garret into a finished room. The circa 1810 plan has been retained."

"The wall treatment of plaster on hand-rived lath, unembellished baseboard encircling room, dates to circa 1810. Presumably the walls were unfinished prior to that date."

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, p. 42): Wallpaper found in the northeast garret was a circa 1880-1890s, roller-printed scenic pastoral scene in gold, brown, blue, red, and white on a bluish green ungrounded paper.

JABP 204, Central Garret

Architectural Description and History

The central garret is an unfinished rectangular space. The ceiling slopes with the shape of the roof above. There is a door to the adjacent rooms on the east and west walls. To the east of the chimney, a stairwell leads to the northeast room below.

During the 1810s renovations, a stairway leading to the attic was constructed on the south wall. A dormer in the ceiling may also have been introduced at this time. Around the middle of the nineteenth century, a stairway to the northeast room was constructed in the central closet.

During the 1950s, the Quincy Historical Society blocked the stairwell near the chimney with a closet.

No other known changes were made to the central garret until the National Park Service's 1980s restoration. At that time, the stairwell in the central closet was removed, the stairwell near the chimney was reopened, and the dormer was removed.

History of Room Use

The use of the central garret is unknown. It was never a finished space and presumably was used as a passage and storage area. The D.R. likely continued to use the space as a storage area and did not show it to the public. The Quincy Historical Society also used this area for storage. Today, the National Park Service maintains the room as an unfinished, empty space with no public access.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence that the central garret was ever finished beyond the whitewashing of the walls, trim, and ceiling. The finishes remain the same today.

Furnishings

There is no evidence of the types of objects and household goods that would have been stored in this room during its history. If the central garret of the John Quincy Adams house can be used as a representative example, the D.R. and Quincy Historical

Society stored in this space objects in poor condition, redundant, or otherwise unwanted for display in museum exhibits (see appendix H-1). There may also have been modern objects and supplies stored in this space.

The unfinished central garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of east and north walls and north, west, and south walls of central garret.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 161: Central garret finishes schedule:

Existing:	Walls, Trim, Ceiling - whitewashed
	Flooring - unfinished
Treatment:	All finishes maintained as is

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 8: "Access to the garrets is no longer possible from the first-story of the lean-to because the former stairs have been made inaccessible. The remains of two former stairways are extant located at the southeast and northwest corners of the central garret. The only access to the garrets is from the southeast chamber and the gabled attic. Original clapboards are still intact west of the stairs to the attic on the former exterior wall of the main house."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. central garret 96: "Like most other spaces in the structure, the central garret did not escape the circa 1810 remodelling. This work included the stairs to the gabled attic, constructed over the rear flue of the main chimney stack. In addition, the dormer is suspected as having been a product of the early nineteenth century. The nail evidence is sketchy, thus it is difficult to determine the exact date of the dormer. The 1852 Gleason print, shows it extant. The mid-to-late nineteenth century saw the introduction of the northwest stairs, altering the floor in that corner of the garret. Specific historic uses of this room are not known."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. central garret 96: All finishes are whitewash.

JABP 205, Northwest Garret

Architectural Description and History

The northwest garret is a rectangular room and has a window in the west wall. This window was originally a six-over-six plank window. The ceiling slopes with the shape of the roof above. A door in the east wall leads to the central garret.

During the 1810s renovations the previously unfinished space was finished with a short northern wall and plaster on the ceiling and walls.

After the 1810s renovations, the window was expanded to accommodate a twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash window. The National Park Service changed the window from its twelve-over-twelve pane configuration to the current six-over-six configuration.

History of Room Use

There is no evidence of the specific use of the northwest garret during its early history. At different times it may have been a bedroom for children or servants. It also may have been used as a storage space. In the 1810s, Thomas Boylston Adams upgraded the garret from an unfinished to a finished space indicating it may have been used as a bed chamber at least from that time forward.

Presumably, the D.R. and the Quincy Historical Society used the northwest garret as a storage space. Although it does not seem that visitors were brought into the northwest garret, one 1969 Quincy Historical Society compilation of information for guides stated, "Across the hallway [central garret] the small bedroom [northwest garret] was Peter's" (see appendix C-4). Like the interpretation of the northeast garret, the interpretation of the northwest garret as Peter Adams' bedroom has no basis in fact.

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Adams birthplace. Therefore, the northwest garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Interior Features and Finishes

The National Park Service found a heavy layer of whitewash under the twentieth-century wallpaper it removed from the walls of the northwest garret. This suggests that the room was probably whitewashed for a long period of time, possibly beginning when it was first constructed. A twentieth-century roller-printed paper with a floral design was found on the walls in 1979. To match this paper the trim was painted gray, the ceiling was painted white, and the floor was unfinished. The National Park Service left these finishes intact.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the earliest furnishings in the northwest garret. If the northwest garret functioned as a sleeping space, it would have held bedding and personal items belonging to the inhabitant(s). There may or may not have been beds in the room depending on who and how many people slept there. If a servant or child slept in the room and a small bed was available there may have been one in the room. If there were many people, loose textiles may have served as bedding instead.

When the room functioned as a storage space, clearly any manner of furnishings or household goods or supplies could have occupied the space.

If the southwest garret of the John Quincy Adams birthplace can be used as a representative example, the D.R. and Quincy Historical Society stored in this space

objects in poor condition, redundant, or otherwise unwanted for display in museum exhibits. There may also have been modern objects and supplies stored in this space.

The northwest garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 3: List of furnishings in northeast and northwest garrets. (See appendix C-2)

1969, "The John Adams House" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-14, p. 4): "The first room (as you leave the birth room) was John's room. Then came a hallway with two stair wells, one leading to the old kitchen and one to the lean to. Across the hallway the small bedroom was Peter's."

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of all walls of northwest garret.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 161: Northwest garret finishes schedule:

Existing:	Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, modern wallpaper
	Trim - painted gray
	Ceiling - painted white
	Flooring - unfinished
Treatment:	All finishes maintained as is except for areas of repaired plaster which were left unfinished.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 7: "The second-story garret spaces . . . were used for storage by the [Quincy Historical] society."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. northwest garret 99: The window is twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash, unlike northeast garret.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. northwest garret 100-102: "The plan of the northwest garret appears to have developed similarly to its counterpart east of the central garret space. The plan differs in that no door was ever introduced on the south wall leading to the southwest chamber. The historic use of this room can only be speculated. With the circa 1810 remodelling, the room presumably became a bed chamber."

The walls were plastered around 1810.

"[There are] Two major periods in the history of the northwest garret's window. . . . The earliest window was a plank window. Presumably featuring six-over-six sash

according to the window size. This change had to have occurred in the late-nineteenth century, post-dating the introduction of the plaster to this room in circa 1810."

There is a heavy whitewash under wallpaper.

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 42, 44): The wallpaper found in the northwest garret was a twentieth-century, roller-printed floral in bright blue, light blue, red, green, gold, and black on ivory.

JABP 206, Southwest Chamber

Architectural Description and History

The southwest room is the room in the house that has changed least over its history. The room is rectangular with a window in the south and west walls. From south to north, the east wall is composed of the door to the second floor hall, a fireplace, and a closet.

The fireplace remains as it was originally built and the surrounding woodwork may be original. The framing in the room is encased and the mantel is the most elaborate in the house.

In 1897, the D.R. placed the mantel on hinges so the underlying brickwork could be exposed.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service set the hinged mantel in place.

History of Room Use

The southwest chamber functioned as a bed chamber in its early history. It is conjectured that the southwest room was John Adams' bedroom. He may have slept in the room, but likely did not occupy it alone. There is no evidence for who or how many people slept in this room during the Deacon John Adams, or any other, period. The southwest chamber may have been the room to which John Adams and his brother Peter Boylston retired to prepare for their smallpox inoculations: "My room is prepared for a Seven Days' retirement, and my Plan is digested for 4 to 5 Weeks. My brother retreats with me, to our preparatory Hospital and is determined to keep me Company, through the Small Pox."[359]

The D.R. and later the Quincy Historical Society displayed the southwest room as a bed chamber. In 1897, the D.R. placed the floor-to-ceiling fireplace surround on hinges so that the brickwork behind could be displayed (see ill. 29). The intent was likely to show visitors the construction of an early chimney. Unfortunately, at some point the interpretation became confused. By the middle of the twentieth century, guides were being instructed that "This room has a secret hiding place. The mantle opens, and this place by the chimney was used as a hideout. When the Indian[s] were alarming the countryside, and threatening the inhabitants, the family could climb up here and stay, or

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[359] John Adams to Abigail Smith, 7 April 1764, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, p. 16.

get into the attic and over the roof to the back, and flee into the woods, till the raid was over" (see appendix C-3).

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Adams birthplace. Therefore, the southwest chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture.

Interior Features and Finishes

As with the structure, the finishes in the southwest room are the least changed in the house. The room retained its original resinous finishes later than any other room. The D.R. and National Park Service found an early "verdigris" green paint in the closet indicating a dark green treatment of the plaster walls in the room.

The National Park Service also discovered three patterns of mid-nineteenth-century wallpaper. The earliest was an 1830s, possibly block-printed, paper with a stylized floral and foliate pattern. The next layer was an 1850s roller-printed paper with a striped geometric and floral design. The latest paper was an 1860s roller-printed floral and striped paper.

In 1897, the D.R. repapered the walls with buff wallpaper to simulate the earlier whitewashed appearance. The next recorded wallpaper appears in a 1950 photograph of the room. This paper was decorated with large, decoratively bordered rectangles containing scenes of what appear to be country houses. This paper remained on the walls until the National Park Service restoration. The accompanying finishes were white trim and ceiling with a gray floor (see ills. 27 and 29).

In the 1980s, the National Park Service removed the paint and wallpaper. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed. The trim and floor were left unfinished.

Furnishings

There is no record of the early furnishings in the southwest chamber. Presumably there were a bed, storage furniture, clothing, and other personal items such as toilet articles.

There is also no evidence for the early D.R. furnishings until the 1950 list of objects it donated to the Quincy Historical Society. This list contains a bust of John Adams, a glass case of Adams clothing, a tall silk hat in a leather box, a portrait of Dr. Walter J. Adams, a draped table, a wooden box, and "several pictures" (see appendix C-1).

In addition to the D.R. donation, the Quincy Historical Society received another gift of furniture in 1950, this one from Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman of Sharon, MA. The southwest chamber became the "Billings Room" in honor of Mrs. Cushman's father Dr. Frank Seaver Billings. The *Quincy Patriot Ledger* reported,

> The furniture was formerly in the guest room at her home on Brook road, Sharon, most of it originally was the property of the Hon. Ebenezer Seaver (1763-1844) whose homestead was situated in Roxbury.

The room which Mrs. Cushman has furnished will be called the Dr. Frank Seaver Billings Room, in honor of Mrs. Cushman's father, who was the great grandson of Squire Seaver. . . .

Mrs. Cushman's gift, already installed in the Billings Room, includes:

A Sheraton bureau with shaving mirror on top; a Sheraton four-poster bed and homespun coverlet; a child's armchair; two rush-bottom chairs; a mahogany washstand with pitcher and bowl of English pottery; a mahogany chest of drawers with its original brass handles; a brass warming pan; a sewing table; a camphor wood chest; and many smaller items, including samplers and portraits of several Billings family members.[360]

The homespun coverlet appears to be a large patchwork or plaid pattern. In 1951, Mrs. Cushman donated a pair of andirons and antique lamps for the room. By 1965, a rounded frame supporting a netted canopy was suspended over the bed (see ill. 28). The gift of furniture from Mrs. Cushman remained intact in the Billings room until the National Park Service assumed management of the house in 1979.

The southwest chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture.

Documentary and Graphic References

1897, October 19. "John Adams Day," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Up stairs in a closet [southeast chamber] is that paper that was put on the walls by Charles Francis Adams in 1840 while the interior of another closet [southwest chamber] is painted the original green.

"For the purpose of showing the construction of the massive old brick chimney, the panel and mantle covering the fire-place in the west room upstairs has been placed upon hinges so that it can be opened."

1950, April 14. "Inventory of Furniture and Articles in John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society): Inventory of objects left by Daughters of Revolution for Quincy Historical Society. (See appendix C-1)

1950, October 14. "Priceless Antiques Donated," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Regarding donation of furniture to the John Adams birthplace by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman of Sharon, MA: "The furniture was formerly in the guest room at her home on Brook road, Sharon, most of it originally was the property of the Hon. Ebenezer Seaver (1763-1844) whose homestead was situated in Roxbury.

"The room which Mrs. Cushman has furnished will be called the Dr. Frank Seaver Billings Room, in honor of Mrs. Cushman's father, who was the great grandson of Squire Seaver." The article makes a link between Dr. Billings and the Billings who sold the John Quincy Adams birthplace to Deacon John Adams.

"Mrs. Cushman's gift, already installed in the Billings Room, includes:

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[360] Aaron Smith, "Priceless Antiques Donated."

A Sheraton bureau with shaving mirror on top; a Sheraton four-poster bed and homespun coverlet; a child's armchair; two rush-bottom chairs; a mahogany washstand with pitcher and bowl of English pottery; a mahogany chest of drawers with its original brass handles; a brass warming pan; a sewing table; a camphor wood chest; and many smaller items, including samplers and portraits of several Billings family members."

1950, October 14. "Priceless Antiques Donated," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Photograph of north and east walls of southwest chamber (see ill. 27).

1950, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of east and south walls of southwest chamber.

1951, April 18. "Historic Adams Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Among the new gifts to the society are . . . a pair of old andirons for the Billings room and antique lamps given by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman of Sharon, who last year made several gifts to the society."

1955, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of southwest chamber.

1957, April 20. "Secret Space" (Newspaper clipping, Unknown newspaper, folder 8498.1-6, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of east wall of southwest chamber.

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. [4]: "All the furnishings in this room [southwest chamber] were given by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman of Sharon. It's called the Frank Seaver Billings Room in honor of her father, a doctor, and in honor of her great great grandfather Squire Ebenezer Seaver whose homestead, from which all this furniture came, was in Roxbury. The Squire was born in 1761. A picture of him, and one of the homestead, hang by the fireplace. The Squire's daughter married a Billings, the grandfather of the doctor. A picture of Dr. Billings as a boy, with his sister, is on the opposite wall. Pictures of his mother and grandmother hang opposite in the oval frames.

"The Billings family was one of the old Quincy Families, living in the north part of town. Dr. Billings was in the 8th generation from Roger Billings, the emigrant ancestor, a first settler here in Old Braintree. (Came with a group of people from Braintree England - settled here and called the village Braintree. Family well settled by 1632.)

"The mahogany furniture has always been kept together in one unit. On your left is a washstand with a blue Staffordshire bowl and pitcher, and above it two very fine samplers of the 1790's[.] A child's chair with rush seat, and a doll's cradle, dated June 1, 1790.

"The swell front bureau has a shaving stand and mirror. Do you know what this little brass piece is? (Wick pick for lifting a lamp wick.)

"Under the window is an old camphor wood chest in very fine condition. This niddy noddy is a hand reel for winding linen or wool thread into knots and skei[n]ing.

Perhaps you have heard the old riddle; Niddy-noddy, niddy-noddy,/ Two heads and one body." (See appendix C-3)

1950s-1960s[?], "John Adams Birthplace [4 pages]" (Quincy Historical Society Library), p. 7: "On the bedside table is a Bohemian glass carafe, and an interesting candlestick with a spiral candle and snuffer. On the Sheraton bed is a hand-woven wool coverlet.

"The four-drawer chest has its original brasses, and is a very valuable antique; it dates back to the middle of the 18th century.

"The comb-back rocker with the sewing box beside it has been used by many generations. This is a footwarmer by the fireplace, and the brass warming pan was filled with hot coals and passed back and forth over the bed on cold nights to warm it.

"This room has a secret hiding place. The mantle opens, and this place by the chimney was used as a hideout. When the Indian[s] were alarming the countryside, and threatening the inhabitants, the family could climb up here and stay, or get into the attic and over the roof to the back, and flee into the woods, till the raid was over."

[Handwritten below:] "We have a complete fireplace set - andirons, tongs, shovel, jamb hooks - Museum of Fine Arts Boston has an incomplete set of the same.

"Sandwich glass lamps & spillholder/ ribbed pineapple pattern.

"This material was given to Mrs. Bell when she first took over the job of showing the John Adams Birthplace - for background material. [appears to be signed by Grace Bonsall above this sentence]." (See appendix C-3)

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 4: List of furnishings in southwest chamber. (See appendix C-2)

1965, May 19. "Scenes at the Adams Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Photograph of southwest chamber (see ill. 28).

Ca. 1969[?], Quincy Historical Society, "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-13, p. 2): List of selected items in southwest chamber. (See appendix C-6)

1969, December 21. Quincy Historical Society, "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-12, p. 6): List of selected items in southwest room. (See appendix C-5)

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of east wall of southwest chamber.

1974, November, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of southwest chamber.

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of east wall of southwest chamber (see ill. 29).

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of east wall of southwest chamber.

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1345: Photograph of east wall of southwest chamber.

1980, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, figs. 480-481: Photographs (2) of existing conditions in southwest chamber, south wall and southwest corner post.

1983, Skeen, "Report on John Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix F-6, p. 11): "The chamber used by John Adams in his childhood home was upstairs and had a fireplace as is evidenced from the following passage in his diary:

"'I should be more confined to my Chamber. Should read and muse more. Running to Dr., to the Barn, down to meals and for Pipes and Coals and Tobacco &c. take up much of my Time.' [1760, June 10 in Butterfield, *John Adams Diary and Autobiography*, vol. 1, p. 133]

"My [Skeen's] conjecture is that John used the front upstairs bedchamber on the left side of the house, since the birth chamber next to the road was probably his parents' room. Here John attempted to concentrate on his law studies, but he frequently recorded his distraction by other activities."

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photographs (2) of east wall and south and west walls of southwest chamber.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 309: "The mantel which was placed on hinges in 1897, so that it could open outward to expose the chimney, was permanently set."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 160-61: Southwest chamber finishes schedule:

Existing: Plaster Walls - wallpapered with a repeat pattern, modern wallpaper
Trim and Ceiling - painted white
Flooring - painted gray

Treatment: Plaster Walls - removed wallpaper; prepared walls; whitewashed
Trim - removed paint, maintained unfinished, new wood was left unfinished
Ceiling - whitewashed
Flooring - removed paint, maintained unfinished

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 8-9: "The post and beam framing is exposed in the main house and lean-to. The framing has been encased in the southwest room, southwest chamber, northwest lean-to room. Where

the posts and beams are exposed they generally feature a chamfered edge with lambs tongue stops. Mantel treatments vary from room to room, with the southwest chamber featuring the most elaborate floor-to-ceiling panelled mantelpiece."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 63: "According to existing evidence . . . the second story, southwest chamber and garret spaces; and gabled attic [was] not as actively redecorated as other spaces. In fact, the southwest chamber maintained its resinous finish longer than other rooms in the main house of the structure."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. southwest chamber 82: The walls are papered with a repeat patterned paper. The closet walls are covered with a dark green verdigris paint.

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 38-39): "Seven wallpaper samples were discovered in this room during architectural investigations. These seven samples produced 14 layers, with three distinct wallpaper patterns composing the population. These layers date to the mid-19th century."

Wallpaper patterns:

a - stylized flowers and leaves; ca. 1830s; blockprinted?, green paint covering; green and red on ungrounded

b - striped geometric and floral design; ca. 1850s; roller-printed; brown, green, blue, light gray on ungrounded

c - striped floral; ca. early 1860s; roller-printed; green, light and dark blue, white on buff.

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 70: The 1897 restoration included the "Removal of wallpaper in the second-story southwest chamber; buff wallpaper replaced to simulate original painted wall."

JABP 301, West Attic Room

Architectural Description and History

The west room of the attic is a rectangular space with one window in the west wall. The west room is, and probably was originally, separated from the east room by a vertical-board wall. The chimney occupies a majority of the eastern third of the room. Originally the attic was reached by a ladder through a trap door in the floor to the south of the chimney.

In the 1810s, access to the attic was increased with the addition of two stairwells, one from the central garret to the north and one from the second floor hall to the south.

At an unknown time the original four-over-four-paned window was enlarged to a eight-over-twelve-paned window.

In the 1980s, the National Park Service changed the window size back to four-over-four panes. The opening for the stairs to the second floor hall was closed and replaced with a trap door.

History of Room Use

The early history of the attic is unknown. The west room was never a finished space and presumably was used as a storage area. The D.R. and the Quincy Historical Society likely continued to use the room as a storage area and did not show it to the public. The only known interpretation of the attic was during the Quincy Historical Society's management when guides opened the door from the second floor hall to exhibit the "barn roof" construction.[361] Today, the National Park Service maintains the attic as an unfinished, empty space with no public access.

Interior Features and Finishes

The west room of the attic is mostly unfinished with the exception of a portion of the eastern vertical-board wall which is whitewashed. Also, the stairway to the second floor hall was finished with a combination of whitewash and lining paper. A wallpaper fragment too small to analyze was also located in this area. The National Park Service has maintained the west room of the attic as an unfinished space.

Furnishings

There is no evidence of the objects stored in the attic by early residents, the D.R., or the Quincy Historical Society. When the house was a residence, clearly any manner of household goods or supplies could have been stored in the attic. According to Sprague's 1956 inventory of the John Quincy Adams birthplace attic, the Society stored in this space objects in poor condition, redundant, or otherwise unwanted for display in museum exhibits (see appendix H-1). For example, after vandals damaged a bust of John Adams in 1951, it was stored in the attic of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. There may also have been modern objects and supplies stored in this space which were not listed on the inventory. Likely, the attic of the John Adams birthplace functioned in a similar manner for the D.R. and the Quincy Historical Society.

The unfinished west attic room is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

JABP 302, East Attic Room

Architectural Description and History

The east attic room is a small, nearly square room with a window on the east wall. This window was originally a four-over-four-paned window, but was later changed to

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[361] "Notes for the Hostess of the John Adams Birthplace," unpublished paper, 1969, appendix D-12 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 6.

six-over-six-panes. The room was unfinished until the 1810s. At that time, the ceiling was plastered and short walls were created to the north and south.

The only change made by the National Park Service in the 1980s was converting the window back to its original four-over-four-paned size.

History of Room Use

The early history of the attic is unknown. The east room was likely always set off from the west room by the vertical-board wall to the west. The reason for this division is unknown but may have separated different kinds of items in storage. At one point, it was conjectured by the Quincy Historical Society that this space was Elihu Adams' bedroom (see appendix C-4). Like the conjectures that the two garret rooms belonged to John and Peter Adams, there is no foundation for this interpretation.

Presumably the east room was used as a storage space until it was finished in the 1810s. From that time to the 1890s, this space may have been used as a bed chamber for a boarder, servant, or child.

There is no evidence as to how the D.R. and Quincy Historical Society used the space, but it was likely a storage area.

Today, the National Park Service maintains the attic as an unfinished, empty space with no public access.

Interior Features and Finishes

The east attic room was originally an unfinished room. It was plastered and whitewashed in the 1810s. Around the same time it was also wallpapered because the National Park Service found small fragments dating to 1810 in the room. At some point, the trim was painted gold which was the color found there in the 1980s. The National Park Service left these finishes intact.

Furnishings

When the east room was used as a bed chamber, it may have contained a small bed, but would certainly have contained bedding, extra clothing, and personal items such as toilet articles.

There is no evidence as to how the D.R. and Quincy Historical Society used the space, but it was likely a storage area for damaged, redundant, or unnecessary objects. The space also may have housed modern supplies.

Today, the National Park Service maintains the east attic room as an unfinished, empty space with no public access.

Documentary and Graphic References

1951, April 18. "Historic Adams Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "The bust of the second president, also damaged by the vandals, is for the time being up in the attic."

1969, "The John Adams House" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-14, p. 4): "A ladder leads up the center wall to the attic, and this attic room was Elihu's."

Ca. 1984, Post-restoration Photographs of John Adams Birthplace (Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park): Post-restoration photograph of east wall of attic.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 162: West section of attic finishes schedule: All existing elements were unfinished. During treatment all elements were left unfinished.
East room of attic finishes schedule:

Existing:	Plaster Walls - whitewashed, fragments of wallpaper
	Trim - painted gold
	Ceiling and Exposed Framing - whitewashed
	Flooring - unfinished
Treatment:	All finishes maintained as is except for repaired plaster which was left unfinished.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 331-332:
West attic:

The eight-over-twelve window was replaced with a four-over-four window.

The door to the second story entry was removed and a trap door introduced on attic floor.

East attic:

The six-over-six window was replaced with a four-over-four window.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. 7: The attic was used as storage by Quincy Historical Society.

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. attic 103: "The east attic room is finished while the remainder of the attic is unfinished."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. attic 109: In the east attic room, the ceiling is plaster and cove shaped.

There are "fragments of wallpaper to the east of the south crawl space, and whitewash throughout."

1994, March, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, p. attic 110: "Originally [the attic was] divided with vertical sheathing boards."

1994, March, Perrault, "Wallpaper Inventory" (*John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, Appendix D-4, pp. 42, 44): A fragment of wallpaper too small to analyze was located in the south stairwell of the attic.

1994, May, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 2, DRAFT, pp. 48, 51: During the 1810s renovations, "the garrets and attic were finished with plaster and lath walls."

Also at that time, Thomas Boylston Adams "removed trap door at opening from the entry to the gabled attic and fitted second-story landing with a door"; "installed new stairway from the central garret to the gabled attic, positioned over chimney's north flue"; and "northeast and northwest garrets and east room of gabled attic finished in plaster, creating crawl spaces."

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

Analysis of Construction, Historic Ownership, Occupancy, and Use of Structure

Overview: Construction History and Present Structure

The exact date for the original construction of the John Quincy Adams birthplace is unknown. A majority of the house was built during the First Period of housing construction in New England which dates to roughly 1625-1725. William Ellis built a dwelling on the site as early as 1660 which may or may not be related to the present structure. By 1727, the house was a typical two-room wide, one-room deep, hall-and-parlor plan house.

Deacon Gregory Belcher may have constructed a lean-to, or partial lean-to, at the rear of the house before his 1727 death. A full lean-to was in place by the time of John and Abigail Adams' occupancy in 1764. With the addition of the lean-to, the house presented a "saltbox" profile. Two shed additions, one on the north and one on the west face of the northwest corner, were added to the house in the later eighteenth century or first half of the nineteenth century.

The John Quincy Adams birthplace as it stands today is partially restored to its late-eighteenth to early-nineteenth-century appearance. The two smaller shed additions are not included because they were not extant when the National Park Service assumed management of the house and the time of their construction is unknown. The house is painted "stone" color based on a letter written by Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts asking him to have the house painted that color. The rooms on the interior, including the reconstructed northwest buttery, are restored to the same time period.

Early Ownership

As with the John Adams birthplace, the early ownership and construction of the John Quincy Adams birthplace is difficult to discern from extant documentary and physical evidence. In this case, the earliest ownership is clouded by the 1993 discovery of a 1660 deed. The below information is an attempt to provide a fair interpretation of the primary and secondary sources currently available.

- William Ellis (also spelled "Allis" and "Alis") (Unknown-1660)

Until the 1993 discovery of a 1660 deed, it was commonly believed that Gregory Belcher was the first owner of the land where the John Quincy Adams birthplace stands today. The unregistered deed was located in the collection of the Randolph Ladies Library Association. H. Hobart Holly, former Quincy Historical Society historian, announced the find in the Fall, 1993 issue of *Quincy History*.[362] The document is

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[362] H. Hobart Holly, "An Interesting Find on the John Quincy Adams Birthplace," *Quincy History* (Fall 1993): 4.

currently on indefinite loan to the Quincy Historical Society.[363] The deed reads as follows:

> Know yee that the sayd William Ellis is for [illeg.] good and [illeg.] causes and considerations him thereunto mooving, and espertially for and in consideration of the some of one hundred twenty and seven pounds sterl & to him in hand payd by Gegorye Bellcher of Brantre aforesd farmer . . . [Ellis] hath given granted bargayned sold [illeg.] and [illeg.], and by these p'sents doth give, grat bargayne[?] sell entross[?] and confearmt[?] unto the sayd Gregorye Bellcher his hayors and assignes forever, one dwelling house situate and being in Braintree [illeg.] with the Barnes buildings cowhowses stables shops & outhowses orchyards gardins and seventene alews[?] of land be it more or less, lying in Braintre aforesd. And betwene the lands of Rich Ellisone and William Penns on the Southside, and the lands of Tho Gattliff and John Sanders on the North and bounded westerly uppon[?] the mill brooke, and Esterly uppon the Commons and on the lands of the sd. John Sanders, the Comon Roadway leading to Waymouth running through the middle thereof[.][364]

According to Holly,

> The property could only have been at or near the foot of Penns Hill in order to abut the South Common in the east. . . . The portion of the deeded property west of the Road is compatible with the 9 1/2-acre house lot with dwelling house that Deacon John Adams purchased in 1744, now the John Quincy Adams Birthplace.[365]

It was previously believed that Gregory Belcher was the original owner of the land because there was no record of his son Samuel Belcher, the next owner, buying the land. On 30 December 1639, Gregory Belcher received from the town of Boston "a lot of fifty-two acres, or at the customary rate of four acres for the thirteen people in his family, and at a price of three shillings per acre."[366] Because the borders of the property are not described, it was thought possible that Gregory Belcher gave his son a portion of this original land grant at the time of his 1663 marriage. Instead, it appears that Gregory Belcher purchased a separate piece of property for his son.

According to the deed, the site was quite developed in 1660 boasting one dwelling house and a variety of agricultural outbuildings. It is unknown whether this early structure or reused parts from it were incorporated into the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

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[363] "Adams Birthplaces Deed Presentation at [Quincy] Historical Society," *Quincy Sun*, 22 January 1998.

[364] William and Mary Allis, Deed to Gregorye Bellcher, 20 March 1660, Library, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA. [On indefinite loan from Ladies Library Association of Randolph, Randolph, MA.]

[365] Holly, "Interesting Find," p. 4.

[366] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 1.

There is currently no information available about the William Ellis family except that he was married to wife Mary at the time of the 1660 deed to Belcher.[367]

Gregory Belcher Ownership (1660-1663)

Gregory Belcher (1606-1674) was born near Aston, Warwickshire, England, and arrived in Boston around 1635.[368] By the time of his son Samuel's birth in 1637, he had moved to Mount Wollaston which became the town of Braintree in 1640.[369] Belcher raised cattle, farmed, and owned a large amount of property. At his death he owned over 140 acres of land.[370]

Belcher's family of thirteen heads described in the 1639 land grant consisted of his wife Katherine and their five sons: Josiah, Joseph, John, Moses, and Samuel. The other six people were likely a combination of household servants and farm laborers.[371] It is unlikely that the Gregory Belcher family ever lived on the former Ellis property because they arrived in Braintree before its 1660 purchase and lived elsewhere at the time of Belcher's 1674 death.

Samuel Belcher Ownership (1663-1679)

Samuel Belcher (1637-1679) married Mary Billings in 1663. Gregory Belcher probably gave the couple the former Ellis property to use as a homestead. Samuel and Mary Belcher had three children: Gregory (1664/5-1727), Samuel (1666-1714), and Moses (1672-1728).[372] Presumably Samuel Belcher was a farmer like his father because his probate inventory lists land and livestock, but no books or tools indicating another trade (see appendix F-1).[373]

There is no documentary or physical evidence that the Samuel Belcher family made any structural changes to the dwelling house.

Samuel Belcher died intestate in 1679. According to Henry Adams, his sons Samuel and Moses Belcher quit-claimed to their brother (Deacon) Gregory their interests in Samuel Belcher's homestead which consisted of a "Dwelling house Barn Orchard & Land adjoining" (see appendix F-1).[374] Samuel Belcher Jr. remained in Braintree living near Gregory Belcher. Moses Belcher moved to Preston, Connecticut.[375] Mary, Samuel Belcher's widow, married Samuel Niles in 1680 and moved to the South Precinct of Braintree.[376]

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[367] Allis, Deed, 1660.

[368] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 1.

[369] H. Hobart Holly, "Notes on the Belcher Family of Quincy, Massachusetts," 1977, appendix A-2 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. [1].

[370] Gregory Belcher, Inventory, 1674, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 5, pp. 234-237, docket 720, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[371] Holly, "Belcher Family," p. [1]. Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 1.

[372] Holly, "Belcher Family," p. [1].

[373] Samuel Belcher, Inventory, 1680, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 9, pp. 14-15, docket 1150, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[374] Henry Adams, pp. 2-3. Samuel Belcher, Inventory, 1680.

[375] Holly, "Belcher Family," p. [1].

[376] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 4.

Deacon Gregory Belcher (1679-1727)

Deacon Gregory Belcher is listed in period documents as a carpenter, shipwright, and housewright.[377] In addition, Belcher was involved in the local government. He served on committees to call precinct meetings and on the prudential committee. He also served terms as assessor and treasurer. In 1719, he was asked to secure a bell and custodian for the meeting house. In 1726, before Deacon John Adams was appointed to John Hancock's ordination committee, Deacon Gregory Belcher was asked to express the church's pleasure that Hancock would be settling in Braintree.[378] He married Elizabeth Ruggles in 1690 and the couple had eight children.[379]

Several factors indicate that it was Deacon Gregory Belcher who built the majority of the John Quincy Adams birthplace as it stands now. He was a carpenter, he had a large family, and there is a date brick in the fireplace of the southeast chamber which reads "June 6, 1716." His oldest son Gregory Belcher Jr. (1691-1727/28) was also a housewright and probably helped his father with the project.[380] This phase of building likely produced a two-story, two-room wide, one-room deep house with a large central chimney.

Deacon Gregory Belcher's son, Gregory Belcher Jr., married Abigail Bracket in 1719. They had a daughter Abigail in 1720. It appears this family may have lived with Deacon Gregory Belcher. Gregory Belcher Jr. inherited his father's dwelling house when he "'died July 4, 1727 in the 63rd year of his age, being killed with a plough.'"[381] Gregory Belcher Jr. died less than a year later.[382] In his 1727/28 probate inventory there is only one dwelling house which was to be divided between his widow and daughter (see appendix F-2). This is probably the house he inherited from his father because it seems unlikely that he had a second dwelling house that he was able to sell and move from while he was ill himself.

Architectural conservators believe Deacon Gregory Belcher may have constructed a lean-to, or partial lean-to, at the rear of the house before his 1727 death.[383] It was likely added between the 1716 expansion of the house and 1727. A logical time for the expansion is around 1720, shortly after Gregory Belcher Jr. married and had a child.[384]

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[377] *Suffolk Deeds*, vol. 41, p. 249; *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 14, p. 340; *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 25, p. 241; *Suffolk Probate New Series*, vol. 14, p. 231, all quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 5-6.

[378] *Records of North Precinct*, vol. 1, p. 25.

[379] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 6.

[380] Gregory Belcher, Administrator's Account, 1734, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 30, pp. 345-346, docket 5601, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[381] "Town Record," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 5.

[382] Gregory Belcher, Will, 1728, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 26, pp. 221-224, docket 5601, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[383] Perrault, conversation with author, 17 May 1999.

[384] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 7.

Gregory Belcher Jr. (1727/28)

Gregory Belcher Jr. inherited his father Deacon Gregory Belcher's homestead in July of 1727. Gregory Belcher Jr. wrote his will in January of 1727/28 because he was "very Sick and weak in Body." In addition to real estate, he gave his wife and sole executrix, Abigail, the power to sell a "negroe Girl Meriah" if she needed money to satisfy his debts. After the payment of debts and funeral expenses, his personal and real estate were to be divided between his wife and daughter Abigail Belcher when she came of age.[385]

Abigail Bracket Belcher (1728)

Abigail Bracket Belcher, Abigail Belcher, and their black slave Meriah lived in the house for a very short period of time. Abigail Bracket Belcher died before mid-March of 1728.[386]

Abigail Belcher (1728-1742)

After her mother's decease, Abigail Belcher inherited her father's estate. It is unlikely that she lived in the dwelling house after her mother's death. She probably went to live with her guardian, Nathan Bracket, likely a relative of Abigail Bracket Belcher.

There are no extant administrative records for Abigail Belcher's guardianship until 1734. At that time Nathan Bracket and Richard Faxon produced what appears to be the first account of the estate made since Abigail Baxter Belcher's death. This account was probably produced because Abigail was changing guardians. At the age of fourteen, Abigail Belcher was placed under the guardianship of Edward Adams, a cordwainer from Milton.[387]

The 1734 accounts reveal that by that time Meriah had been sold. The house was occupied by tenants for at least a portion of the intervening six years because L89.5.0 had been collected in rent. Throughout Abigail Belcher's ownership of the house, the identities of the tenants are unknown. Upkeep on the property consisted of fencing in the yard and some repairs involving boards and nails on both house and barn. Deacon John Adams was paid from the estate on three separate occasions. Once for supplying "sundrys for the Funeral of ye Deced Wido," once without an explanation, and once he received L1.16.6 for "shoes for Abigail."[388]

Abigail Belcher married Samuel Nightingale in 1740.[389] They were living in Pomfret, Connecticut when they sold her father's homestead to Lewis Vassal.[390] They later moved to Providence, Rhode Island.[391]

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[385] Gregory Belcher, Will, 1728.

[386] Abigail Belcher, Letter of Guardianship, 1728, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 27, pp. 92-93, docket 5749, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[387] Abigail Belcher, Letter of Guardianship, 1734, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 30, pp. 406-407, docket 5749, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[388] Abigail Belcher, Letter of Guardianship, 1734.

[389] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 10.

[390] Nightingale, Deed to Vassal, 1742.

[391] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 10.

Lewis Vassal (1742-1743)

In 1742, the Nightingales sold to Lewis Vassal, a former Braintree resident then living in Boston, a

> Certain tract or Parcel of - Land situate lying and being in Braintree in the County of Suffolk aforesaid Containing about Nine acres and an half be the same more or less and is Butted and Bounded as followeth Viz. Easterly on the Road that leads to Plymouth or Plymouth Road so called southerly on Land in the Possession of the Widow Sarah Belcher Relict of Samuel Belcher Deceased and Westerly and Northerly on Land In the Possession of Leiut. John Adams [John Adams birthplace lot] or however otherwise the same is Butted and Bounded or Reputed to be . . . with all the Edifices Buildings Fences Trees Wood Underwoods Ways Passages Rights Easements Profits Commodities and appurtenances.[392]

Vassal owned the John Quincy Adams birthplace for a very short period of time and his family did not live in it. In his will, Vassal wished that his executors pay the remaining amount he owed on a different Braintree property where his family likely was living at the time of his 1743 death. It is unknown whether the John Quincy Adams birthplace was inhabited by tenants at this time. Upon Vassal's death, the John Quincy Adams birthplace passed to John and Richard Billings who held the mortgage on the property.[393]

John and Richard Billings (1743-1744)

John and Richard Billings' interest in the John Quincy Adams birthplace was purely business-related. They financed Vassal's purchase of the Belcher homestead and then received it upon his death in 1743. Neither of their families lived in the house. On 13 April 1744 they sold the nine-and-a-half acres of land with improvements to Deacon John Adams living in the John Adams birthplace next door.[394]

Deacon John Adams Ownership (1744-1761)

Deacon John Adams purchased the neighboring John Quincy Adams birthplace in order to expand his farm and perhaps with his sons' futures in mind. The Deacon John Adams family continued to live in the John Adams birthplace. In his 1761 will, Deacon John Adams willed the John Quincy Adams birthplace to his son John Adams who took up residence in the house when he married Abigail Smith in 1764 (see appendix A-1). Until that time the house was either empty or occupied by tenants.

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[392] Nightingale, Deed to Vassal, 1742.

[393] Lewis Vassal, Will, 1743, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 36, pp. 446-448, docket 7976, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA. Lewis Vassal, Inventory, 1744, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 37, pp. 169-172, docket 7976, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[394] John Quincy Adams, List of Deeds by Categories, 1826, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306.

- Dr. Elisha Savil (ca. 1751-ca. 1761)

During the period of Deacon John Adams' ownership only one tenant is known by name, Dr. Elisha Savil. Dr. Elisha Savil married Ann Adams, the niece of both Deacon John and Susannah Boylston Adams, in 1751.[395] The Savils likely moved into the John Adams birthplace shortly after their marriage. They are known to have been living in the house from as early as 1756 to as late as 1761.[396]

Dr. Savil was the local physician, but appears also to have had a retail business on the side that caused John Adams to think less of him:

> What Passion is most active and prevalent in Dr. Savel's mind? The Desire of Money. He retails Sugar by the Pound, by the bunch, Pins, Pen knifes, to save these Articles in his family, and net a few Shillings Profit. He makes poor People who are in his Debt pay him in Labour. . . . Thus by practice of Physick, by trading and bargaining and scheming he picks up a Subsistence for his family and gathers very gradually, Additions to his Stock. But this is low. The same Application and scheming in his Profession would raise and spread him a Character, produce him profitable Business and make his fortune. But by this contemptible Dissipation of mind, among Pins, Needles, Tea, Snuff Boxes, Vendues, Loads of Wood, day labour etc. he is negligent of the Theory of his Profession, and will live and die unknown.[397]

In other words, John Adams felt Dr. Savil should have focussed on his practice as a physician rather than dilute his efforts by selling sundries. It is unknown whether Savil conducted his retail business from the John Quincy Adams birthplace or during his rounds to patients.

John Adams Ownership (1761-1803)

Prior to his 1761 death, Deacon John Adams had given John Adams half of what would become the John Quincy Adams birthplace. This fact is confirmed in his will as he bequeathed the second half to his son:

> I have given my Son John Adams by deed of gift one half of the house that Doctr. Elisha Savel lives in that I bought of Mr. John & Richard Billing with half the Barn & half the Land belonging to the said House which I Confirm to him and his heirs & assigns forever to which I add the other half of the above said House & Barn & land thereto belonging the whole Containing about ten acres be it more or less also the Priviledge [of] drawing water out of my Well (see appendix A-1).[398]

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[395] Della Lucca, "United First Parish Church Vital Records." Deacon John Adams' youngest brother Ebenezer Adams married Susannah's sister Ann Boylston. Ann Adams was the daughter of Ebenezer and Ann Adams.

[396] Butterfield, *Diary, 1755-1770*, p. 133. Deacon John Adams, Will, 1761.

[397] Butterfield, *Diary, 1755-1770*, pp. 52-53.

[398] Deacon John Adams, Will, 1761.

John and Abigail Adams took up residence in the house after their 25 October 1764 marriage.

- John Adams Family (1764-1768, 1771-1772, 1774-1784)

Prior to their marriage John Adams wrote to Abigail Smith from the John Adams birthplace, "I should be glad to see you in this house and there is another very near it, where I should rejoice much more to see you and to live with you till we shall have lived enough to ourselves, to Glory, Virtue and Mankind, and till both of us shall be desirous of Translation to a wiser, fairer, better World."[399] Later letters are more practical concerning servants and the cart that would carry Abigail and her belongings to the house. To inform him of her preferences about the servants and the progress of her moving Abigail Smith wrote,

> I am much obliged to you for the care you have taken about help. I am very willing to submit to some inconveniences in order to lessen your expences, which I am sensible have run high for these 12 months past and tho you know I have no particular fancy for Judah yet considering all things, and that your Mamma and you seem to think it would be best to take her, I shall not at present lookout any further.
>
> The cart you mentioned came yesterday, by which I sent as many things as the horse would draw the rest of my things will be ready the Monday after you return from Taunton. And - then Sir if you please you may take me.[400]

Thus, three weeks before their wedding, Abigail Smith began moving her belongings into her new home. When she first took up housekeeping there, Judah, Susannah Boylston Adams' servant, went to work, and most likely live, with the young Abigail Adams.

It is unclear what changes John Adams made to the John Quincy Adams birthplace before and while his family lived there. By the time he and Abigail Adams moved into the house, there was a full lean-to at the rear.[401] In his autobiography, John Adams describes this home: "My house humble as it was, with a few repairs and a very trifling Addition served for a comfortable habitation for me and my family, when We lived out of Boston, till our return from Europe in 1788."[402]

John Adams probably added a small shed to the existing lean-to.[403] From photographic and archeological evidence, two sheds, one on the north face and one on the west face of the northwest room, are known to have existed (see ills. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9). A receipt for Adams' addition is extant, but is vague and may not represent the full extent of the work (see appendix G-1). In 1767, John Adams paid Luke Lambard for work executed in 1764. Lambard and a Mr. Dyear worked intermittently from February to

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[399] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 11 April 1764, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 117.

[400] Abigail Smith to John Adams, 4 October 1764, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #343.

[401] Perrault, conversation with author, 17 May 1999.

[402] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180.

[403] Images as early as 1849 document the existence of two sheds attached to the lean-to of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Neither shed survived into the twentieth century, so the dates of construction could not be ascertained.

October doing masonry, lathing, and "whiten."[404] These activities could describe the full construction of an addition working from foundation, to walls, to painting. Archeological evidence for a shed to the north of the lean-to is described as "The cellar for the shed was constructed of sizable stones, faced on the interior, and had a laid brick floor."[405] This floor could be the result of Lambard's "2 days Laing Bricks."

John Adams is also credited with the addition of the door in the southeast corner of the southeast room. This room is strongly believed to have been John Adams' law office and that he added the door so clients could enter the office without entering the house.[406] The only dissenting voice is that of Henry Adams who believes the door previously led into the old kitchen before its use as a law office.[407]

Although there is no physical or documentary evidence, it is believed that the law clerks that lived with John and Abigail Adams occupied the southwest room to the rear of the law office.

- Later John Adams

John Adams married Abigail Smith on 25 October 1764 and moved into the John Quincy Adams birthplace shortly thereafter. The nature of their marriage was affected from the start by Adams' work as a lawyer and politician. Early in his career, Adams was a circuit riding lawyer meaning he frequently spent time away from home while attending courts from Cape Cod to Maine. Two of his court cases thrust him into the limelight before the American Revolution. His political career followed a natural progression of posts from local to colonial to intercolonial to international importance. Adams' reputation drew him to increasingly distant geographic locations away from his young family.

Ferling describes Adams as a man with an "air of softness." He was overweight, awkward, pale, and his eyes watered from a chronic allergy. He was a self-contained man who enjoyed his solitude. His natural restraint was at times mistaken as an "air of withering snobbery and scornfulness." He was also prone to making tactless comments that drove others away. However, those who did befriend him respected him.[408] He often woke as early as 4:00 AM to read. During the day he performed public duties and then conducted correspondence in the evening.[409]

While Adams received the academic grounding for his legal and political pursuits during his studies at Harvard and Worcester, a major source of his knowledge was the library he amassed at the John Quincy Adams birthplace. He stated in 1766, "I am mostly intent at present, upon collecting a library, and I find, that a great deal of Thought, and Care, as well as Money, are necessary to assemble an ample and well chosen assortment of Books."[410]

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[404] Luke Lambard, Receipt to John Adams, 1767, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #343.
[405] MacMahon, pp. 49-50.
[406] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 12-13. Gall, "Interpretive Presentation of Grounds," p. 11.
[407] Henry Adams, p. 7.
[408] Ferling, pp. 170-171.
[409] Ferling, p. 173.
[410] John Adams Diary, 1766, quoted in Skeen, "Excepts," p. 46.

In the 1760s, as a freeholder, John Adams served the town of Braintree as a surveyor of highways and common lands.[411] Like his father before him John Adams was also a selectman for the town of Braintree.[412]

In 1765, John Adams became involved with the nationally-significant issue of the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act, the first direct tax imposed on the American colonies by English Parliament, placed a tax on every public paper issued in the American colonies.[413] It was also contentious because it was levied upon the colonists without an American representative physically present in Parliament. While his cousin Samuel Adams took a more active leadership role in the Stamp Act crisis, John Adams limited his participation to writing anonymous newspaper essays and composing the Braintree Instructions. The Braintree Instructions expressed the town's stance on the Stamp Act and instructed its delegate attending the Massachusetts legislature. Braintree believed that the Stamp Act should be repealed through constitutional means before it injured the American economy.[414] Forty other Massachusetts communities adopted the Braintree Instructions the same year and the Stamp Act was repealed in 1766.[415]

In 1767-1768 Adams reluctantly, but successfully, defended John Hancock against the next offensive piece of English legislation, the Townshend Acts. The Townshend Acts placed duties on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea. Hancock's vessel *Liberty* was impounded for allegedly smuggling wine into the American colonies. Adams did not want to draw the wrath of the English Empire on himself by defending the symbol of American rebellion, yet at the same time he did not want to offend popular American opinion.[416] Contrary to his fears, Adams' reputation was enhanced by his success in this notable case. He describes his endeavors at this time as "In the Years 1766 and 1767 my Business increased, as my Reputation spread, I got Money and bought Books and Land."[417]

The John Adams family moved from Braintree to Boston in April of 1768. Two years later he defended another controversial cause, the British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre. Again Adams was successful. The leader Captain Thomas Preston and six soldiers were acquitted while two other soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter. Ferling believes that because Adams liked to find the middle road and did not like to be involved in such controversy, he probably agreed to defend the soldiers in exchange for a political office. Three months later he won a seat representing Boston in the House of Representatives.[418] In 1770, Adams had one of the heaviest case loads in Massachusetts. To keep up with the work, he employed law clerks completing their legal studies after attending Harvard.[419]

The next few years the Adams family busily moved back and forth between Boston and Braintree. Adams kept law offices in both locations. The Adamses lived in Boston from 1768 to 1770. "Early in the Spring of 1771 I [John Adams] removed my

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411 Skeen, "Excerpts," p. 3.
412 Ferling, p. 54.
413 Gross, p. 30. Page Smith, vol. 1, p. 73.
414 Ferling, pp. 46-48.
415 Gross, p. 34.
416 Ferling, pp. 57-59.
417 John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180, p. 286.
418 Ferling, pp. 67-69.
419 Ferling, pp. 70-71.

family to Braintree, still holding however an office in Boston."[420] They returned to Braintree in 1771 only to move back to Boston in 1772. Ferling attributes this movement of his family to Adams' solitary nature. In 1771 Adams stated, "I find that I shall spend more Time in my office than ever I did. Now my family is away, I feel no Inclination at all, no Temptation to be any where but my Office."[421] As much as Adams wanted his family nearby, once they were near he found them annoying and wanted to be away from them.[422] However, as soon as they were away, he wanted them near. For example, when he was on a restorative trip to the mineral springs at Stanford, Connecticut he wrote, "I shall not suddenly take such a Ramble again, merely for my Health. I want to see my Wife, my Children, my Farm, my Horse, oxen, Cows, Walls, Fences, Workmen, Office, Books, and Clerks."[423]

In 1774, the family moved back to Braintree for the last time and John Adams bought the John Adams birthplace from his brother Peter Boylston Adams.[424] This move to Braintree was in response to the American Revolution: "To prepare myself as well as I could, for the Storm that was coming on, I removed my Family to Braintree. They could not indeed have remained in Safety in Boston."[425]

Starting in 1774, John Adams received a variety of political appointments which kept him away from his family for the better part of ten years. In September 1774, he attended the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. From November to December he represented Braintree at the first Provincial Congress in Cambridge. From 1775 to 1778, he attended the Continental Congress leaving Abigail Adams to care for farm and family. He served on the committee to create an American Navy in 1775. In 1776, he was appointed president of the Continental Board of War and Ordinance and named to the committee of five to draft the Declaration of Independence.[426] To apprize Abigail Adams of the momentous events in which he took part, John Adams wrote in 1776:

> The Second Day of July 1776 [the day Congress voted for Independence], will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. - I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.[427]

According to his autobiography, by 1777 Adams was ready to retire from political office and return to Braintree. He recognized the toll it was taking on his family, farm, and career:

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[420] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180.
[421] John Adams Diary, 16 April 1771, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1.
[422] Ferling, p. 94.
[423] John Adams Diary, 7 June 1771, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1.
[424] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," pp. 354-355.
[425] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180.
[426] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," pp. 356-357.
[427] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 3 July 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.

When I asked Leave of Congress to make a Visit to my Constituents and my Family in November 1777, it was my intention to decline the next Election, and return to my practice at the Bar. I had been four Years in Congress, left my Accounts in a very loose condition, my Debtors were failing, the paper Money depreciating, I was daily loosing the fruits of seventeen years industry, my family was living on my past Acquisitions which were very moderate, for no Man ever did so much Business for so little profit. My children were growing up without my care in their Education: and all my imoluments as a Member of Congress for four Years, had not been sufficient to pay a labouring Man upon my Farm.[428]

While his intentions were good, John Adams did not return to his family.

From 1778 to 1788, John Adams' endeavors took him, for the vast majority of the time, across the Atlantic to various European capitals. In 1778 he was a joint commissioner to the French court. In 1779, during a brief respite in Braintree he drafted the Massachusetts Constitution with Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin. The same year he went abroad to negotiate with Great Britain and then France. From 1780 to 1783 he found himself in Amsterdam and The Hague negotiating a loan and a treaty of amity and commerce with the Netherlands. In 1783, he signed the Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolution. Abigail and Nabby Adams went to England in 1784 to meet John Adams. They took up residence in Auteuil, France outside of Paris. The following year Adams was appointed as the first American Minister-Plenipotentiary to Great Britain. John, Abigail, and Nabby Adams lived in London until their return to America in 1788.[429]

John Adams never lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace after 1779. When the family returned to Braintree in 1788 they took up residence in the Vassal-Borland House which John and Abigail purchased from Leonard Vassall Borland in September of 1787.[430] John Adams referred to this house as "Peacefield." This homestead which continued to house Adams family members through 1927 was later referred to as the "Old House."

From 1789 to 1801, John Adams shuttled back and forth between the American capitals and Braintree. He became the first Vice President of the United States in 1789. At that time the U.S. capital was in New York. Then from 1790 to 1800 John and Abigail Adams dwelt in Philadelphia. Adams was inaugurated the second President of the United States in 1797. In 1800, he and Abigail Adams were the first to inhabit the new Presidential Mansion, later called the White House. John Adams lost the presidential election the same year. In 1801, he returned to the Old House where he lived year round for the rest of his life.[431] In 1805, Adams began his autobiography which he completed up to the year 1780.

John Adams' death is considered momentous because both he and Thomas Jefferson died within hours of one another on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1826. John Quincy Adams expressed his thoughts on the occasion:

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[428] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180.
[429] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," pp. 357-360.
[430] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 360.
[431] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," pp. 360-363.

This morning out from Baltimore, and was informed there that my father died on the fourth of this Month, about five o'clock in the afternoon. From the letters I had yesterday received this event was so much expected by me that it had no sudden and violent effect on my feelings - My father had nearly closed the ninety-first year of his life[.] A life illustrious in the Annals of this Country and of the World - He had served to great and useful purpose his Nation, his Age, and his God - He is gone and may the blessings of Almighty grace have attended him to his Account[?] - I say not may my last end be like his it were presumptuous - The time, the manner, the coincidence with the decease of Jefferson are visible and palpable marks of divine favour, for which I would humble myself in grateful and silent adoration before the Ruler of the Universe - For myself all that I dare to ask is that I may live the remnant of my days in a manner worthy of him from whom I came, and at the appointed hour of my maker die as my father has died, in peace with God and man, sped to the regions of futurity with the blessings of my fellow man.[432]

- Abigail Adams

Abigail Adams was the second child and daughter of Reverend William and Elizabeth Quincy Smith. Elizabeth Quincy Smith was the daughter of the area's leading citizen, Colonel John Quincy.[433] Abigail Adams had three siblings, older sister Mary, younger brother William, and younger sister Elizabeth.[434] The family lived in Weymouth where Reverend Smith was minister. Smith comfortably supported his family from the profits of two farms and his ministerial salary.[435]

The Smith sisters did not attend school, but were well-educated at a time when most women were illiterate.[436] Abigail Adams had access to books in the libraries of her father and grandfather. Starting when Abigail was eleven years old, Richard Cranch, Mary's future husband and a self-taught theology and literature scholar, tutored the Smith sisters in literature.[437] Their education included, among others, the works of William Shakespeare, John Milton, Alexander Pope, and James Thompson.[438] Also, the girls were often exposed to the learned visitors to the parsonage, not the least of which were their grandparents, the Quincys.[439]

The sisters married and remained supportive of one another throughout their lives. The women's brother, William Smith, was a disappointment to his family for he died of alcoholism in 1787.[440] Mary married Richard Cranch, a relatively unsuccessful scholar and watch repairman ever in need of funds, and settled in Braintree.[441] Elizabeth married

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[432] John Quincy Adams Diary, 9 July 1826, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #38.
[433] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 8.
[434] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 9-10.
[435] Ferling, p. 31.
[436] Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds," p. 10.
[437] Ferling, p. 31. Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 12.
[438] Ferling, p. 31.
[439] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 10-11.
[440] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 81.
[441] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 12.

Reverend John Shaw and lived in Haverhill, a good distance from her sisters.[442] Reverend Smith married his daughter Abigail to John Adams on 25 October 1764 in Weymouth. As John Adams' mother had outranked his father when they married, Abigail Smith socially outranked John Adams because she was the daughter of a minister and related to the Quincy family.[443] John and Abigail Adams set up housekeeping in the John Quincy Adams birthplace in Braintree soon after their wedding.

Abigail Adams' marriage to John Adams would require her to do the ordinary and the extraordinary in order to maintain her family. As a wife, she supported her ambitious, often absent husband emotionally and in business matters. As a mother, she provided her children with food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and education. To fulfill her domestic duties, she managed the food preparation, textile processing, and maintenance of her home. As "deputy-husband" in John Adams' place, she managed the work of tenant farmers on his property, the collection of rents from his tenants, and the purchase of land and goods in his name. These roles concerned her with the welfare of many individuals beyond her own family including servants, law clerks, and tenants.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich describes the ordinary sphere of a typical housewife during the eighteenth century:

> If we were to draw a line around the housewife's domain, it would extend from the kitchen and its appendages, the cellars, pantries, brewhouses, milkhouses, washhouses, and butteries which appear in various combinations in household inventories to the exterior of the house, where, even in the city, a melange of animal and vegetable life flourished among the straw, husks, clutter, and muck. Encircling the pigpen, such a line would surround the garden, the milkyard, the well, the henhouse, and perhaps the orchard itself – though husbands pruned and planted the trees and eventually supervised the making of cider, good housewives strung their wash between trees and in season harvested fruit for pies and conserves.
>
> The line demarking the housewife's realm would not cross the fences which defined outlying fields of Indian corn or barley, nor would it stretch to fishing stages, mills, or wharves, but in berry or mushroom season it would extend into nearby woods or marsh and in spells of dearth or leisure reach to the shore. Of necessity, the boundaries of each woman's world would also extend into the houses of neighbors and into cartways of a village or town. Housewives commanded a limited domain. But they were neither isolated nor self-sufficient. Even in farming settlements, families found it essential to bargain for needed goods and services. For prosperous and socially prominent women, interdependence took on another meaning as well. Prosperity meant charity, and in early New England charity meant personal responsibility for nearby neighbors.[444]

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[442] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 26-27.

[443] Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds," p. 10.

[444] Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Goodwives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in New England, 1650-1750* (New York: Vintage Books, 1991), pp. 13-14.

Abigail Adams fulfilled all of the usual offices of housewife in addition to taking on the additional role of deputy-husband.

According to Ulrich, "Should fate or circumstance prevent the husband from fulfilling his role, the wife could appropriately stand in his place. As one seventeenth-century Englishman explained it, a woman 'in her husband's absence is wife and deputy-husband, which makes her double the files of her diligence. At his return he finds all things so well he wonders to see himself at home when he was abroad.'"[445] John Adams must have felt this sensation because even after Abigail Adams went abroad herself, she continued to run his affairs in Braintree. She complained to Cotton Tufts in 1785,

> Mr. A has been so long a statesman that I cannot get him to think enough upon his domestick affairs. he loves to have every thing as it should be, but does not wish to be troubled about them, he chuses I should write & think about them & give directions. Tho I am very willing to relieve him from every care in my power, yet I think it has too much the appearance of weilding instead of sharing the scepter.[446]

Ulrich continues "Under the right conditions any wife not only *could* double as a husband, she had the responsibility to do so."[447] Abigail Adams not only accepted the double responsibility allotted her on the Braintree farm but executed it with a skill likely exceeding that of John Adams. When he left he farm, his tenants were in arrears and not disposed to work.[448] During his absence and through a war, Abigail Adams was able to maintain and improve the situation on the Penn's Hill farm. She proudly wrote to her husband, "I have contracted no debts that I have not discharg'd, and one of our Labourers Prince I have paid seven months wages to since you left me. besides that I have paid Bracket near all we owed him which was to the amount of 15 pounds lawfull money."[449] Her ability to run Adams' affairs while he was away was essential to his success as a public figure. Her level-headed and independent management style allowed John Adams to leave his family to pursue American national and international concerns.

However, Abigail Adams never accepted her dual role of wife and deputy-husband as a normal state of affairs. She felt her position was temporary and abnormal caused by the Revolutionary War and her husband's involvement with it. According to Gelles,

> Abigail was not an early missionary of feminism. She disapproved of women who breached the code of domestic behavior. Much as she was compelled in the absence of her husband to take on unfeminine roles, she believed it was extraordinary, aberrant, expedient, unnatural. She often referred to her conduct as a patriotic sacrifice to her country.[450]

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[445] Ulrich, p. 36.
[446] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 8 March 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #364.
[447] Ulrich, p. 38.
[448] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 30 June 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[449] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.
[450] Edith B. Gelles, "The Abigail Industry," *William and Mary Quarterly* 45, no. 2 (1988): 517-518.

Abigail Adams looked forward to the day her husband would return to Braintree so she could resume the female roles she had expected to fill when she married.

Abigail Adams fulfilled her dual role of wife and deputy-husband with the aid of family and friends. Her Uncle Cotton Tufts assisted her when she needed help with such matters as purchasing land or large goods, farm labor, and the sale of imported goods. Mary Cranch, Elizabeth Shaw, and Mercy Otis Warren provided emotional support and buttressed Abigail Adams' efforts as a wife and mother. Her sisters at various times cared for and educated Abigail's children. They even went so far as to set her three sons up at college and stage a graduation party for John Quincy Adams. Mercy Otis Warren helped Abigail with her sales of imported goods and assured her that her sacrifices were justified by the contributions John Adams was able to make to his country.[451]

Despite the help of family and friends, one of Abigail Adams' greatest enemies was the loneliness she experienced in the absence of John Adams. She combated this loneliness in a variety of ways. At times she romanticized her sacrifice and claimed to rise above their physical separation:

> How lonely are my days? How solitary are my Nights? . . . How insupportable the Idea that 3,000 leigues, and the vast ocean now devide us – but devide only our persons for the Heart of my Friend is in the Bosom of his partner. More than half a score years has so rivetted it there, that the Fabrick which contains it must crumble into dust, e'er the particles can be separated.[452]

Visiting friends and family filled part of the void, but the steady presence of John Adams' law clerks was particularly helpful in dispelling her loneliness. Likely their presence at meals and aid in educating the children were of great consolation. She wrote to John Adams, "I am not so lonely as I should have been without my two neighbours [John Thaxter and Nathan Rice]. we make a table full at meal times."[453]

When all else failed, Abigail Adams viewed her loneliness as a necessary sacrifice for the betterment of the country. According to Ferling, "she had begun the emotional process of compensating for the loss of her husband by seeking to convince herself of the utter necessity of his political activities. By making his service appear to be indispensable, she elevated her own contribution and ennobled her personal sacrifice."[454] Her feelings were not that far off the mark. While John Adams' personal necessity to the politics surrounding the Revolutionary War are debatable, America did need intelligent men to forward its interests in the international arena. By freeing John Adams from his cares at home, Abigail Adams allowed him to rise above his ordinary lot in life to participate in the lasting changes that formed the United States of America.

An activity that presumably occupied a fair portion of Abigail Adams' time was the writing of the letters that linked her family in Braintree to the absent John Adams. These letters served many purposes and for that reason provide the reader today a rich description of the activities at the John Quincy Adams birthplace. She reported to John Adams her accomplishments and failures as mother, wife, and deputy-husband. She also

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[451] Ferling, p. 186.
[452] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 27 December 1778, quoted in Levin, p. 111.
[453] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[454] Ferling, p. 168.

reported the local political and physical conditions in Massachusetts. She requested him to send her things. She asked him questions about his work and current events. She complained, she congratulated, she reminisced, and she dreamed in her letters. The one aspect of her daily life Abigail Adams rarely wrote of was her physical surrounding; she did not discuss furniture or buildings with John Adams unless there was a new development or problem of which he needed to be informed. Otherwise, her letters are rich in activity, but lack a setting, for John Adams, unlike today's reader, knew the setting.

It is difficult to discern where and when Abigail Adams composed her letters to John Adams. The majority are thoughtful, coherent, and written in one sitting suggesting that she wrote alone after the children had gone to bed or while they were in the care of others. A 1776 description of a visit to her aunt's house in Boston enumerates luxuries Abigail did not have at home:

> I have possession of my Aunts chamber in which you know is a very convenient pretty closet with a window which looks into her flower garden. In this closet are a number of Book Shelves, which are but poorly furnished, however I have a pretty little desk or cabinet here where I write all my Letters & keep my papers unmollested by any one - I do not covet my Neighbour's Goods, but I should like to be the owner of such conveniences, I always had a fancy for a closet with a window which I could more peculiarly call my own.[455]

Abigail's covetousness implies that she did not have a room set aside in which she wrote her letters. A 1780 letter to John Adams suggests she wrote in the northeast chamber which she likely shared with some of her children at night: "I had just retired to my Chamber and taken up my pen to congratulate you upon the arrival of the Fleet of our Allies at Newport, when I was called down to receive the most agreable presents - Letters from my Dearest Friend."[456] It also seems she did not have a secure place to put her papers to keep them from "molestation."

Abigail Adams' letters reveal her views on a variety of political issues. Gelles asserts that "She commented on politics, she even became political, but not just because she was interested and intelligent. It was the best hold she had on her marriage to a man who was committed more to public service than to family life."[457] However, her strongest commentaries, come not from John Adams' political involvement, but straight from her experience as a woman and human-being. She implored John Adams to consider giving women more rights by law:

> I long to hear that you have declared an independency – and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebelion,

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[455] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 29 August 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.
[456] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 July 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #352.
[457] Gelles, "Abigail Industry," p. 658.

and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice or Representation. . . . That your Sex are Naturally Tyrannical is a Truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no dispute, but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of Master for the more tender and endearing one of Friend. Why then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and Lawless to use us with cruelty and indignity with impunity. Men of Sense in all Ages abhor those customs which treat us only as the vassals of your sex. Regard us then as Beings placed by providence under your protection and in immitation of the Supreme Being make use of that power only for our happiness.[458]

She later spoke of the wonders of female patriotism from her first-hand experience:

> patriotism in the female Sex is the most disinterested of all virtues - excluded from honours and from offices, we cannot attach ourselves to the State or Government from having held a place of Eminence - even in the freest countrys our property is subject to the controul & disposal of our partners to whom the Laws have given a sovereign Authority - Deprived of a voice in Legislation, obliged to submit to those Laws which are imposed upon us, is it not sufficient to make us indifferent to the publick Welfare! Yet all History & every age exhibit Instances of patriotick virtue in the female Sex; which considering our situation equals the most Heroick of yours.[459]

Her views on slavery were equally as strong and particularly meaningful because she was raised by a minister who kept four slaves: "I wish most sincerely there was not a slave in the province. It allways appeared a most iniquitous Scheme to me – fight ourselves for what we are daily robbing and plundering from those who have as good a right to freedom as we have."[460] The Adamses put her ideals to practice by not owning slaves, but instead hiring men much to their greater expense.

In her role as mother, Abigail Adams gave birth to six children: Abigail or Nabby in 1765, John Quincy in 1767, Susannah or Suky in 1768, Charles in 1770, and Thomas Boylston in 1772. Susannah Adams died in 1770.[461] Elizabeth Adams was stillborn in 1777. On this occasion, John Thaxter reported to John Adams, "The day before Yesterday Mrs. Adams was delivered of a daughter; [but] it grieves me to add, Sir, that it was still born. It was an exceedingly fine looking Child."[462] Despite her depression following this event, Abigail Adams continued to be the mainstay on the Braintree farm.

Abigail Adams started the crucial process of each child's education at home. She likely shared her love of reading and writing with her children during their early childhood years. Some sources suggest she taught them Latin and French as well as English.[463] However, she felt unequal to the task and probably thought most other mothers were as well. She suggested to John Adams that provisions for the education of women be included in the United States Constitution. She complained for herself, "With

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458 Abigail Adams to John Adams, 31 March 1776, quoted in Levin, p. 82.
459 Abigail Adams to John Adams, 17 June 1782, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #357.
460 Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 September 1774, quoted in Levin, p. 82. Ferling, p. 31.
461 Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line."
462 John Thaxter to John Adams, 13 July 1777, quoted in Levin, p. 97.
463 Peak, *General Management Plan*, p. 8.

regard to the Education of my own children, I find myself soon out of my debth, and destitute and deficient in every part of Education." For the future she desired "that our new Constitution may be distinguished for learning and virtue. If we mean to have Heroes, Statesman and Philosophers, we should have learned women." [464] In other words, if children are expected to achieve these heights, their mothers must be educated in order to provide proper training. As Gelles states, "The Adamses held a view of educated women compatible with domesticity; it was a prescription for improving women's functioning in their domestic role."[465]

In addition to providing education, she also provided for her children's good health. Her day-to-day health care methodology was influenced by Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. Both Rush and Abigail Adams believed strongly in the application of bleeding for many ailments. Adams also used emetics and bark, "a form of quinine made from various species of the cinchona tree," to treat her family's illnesses.[466] She engaged in one forward-thinking approach to healthcare, the fairly new method of inoculating against smallpox pioneered by John Adams' relative Dr. Zabdiel Boylston. John Adams had received the smallpox inoculation in 1764 prior to his wedding. In 1776, a smallpox epidemic in Boston prevented Abigail Adams from inspecting the family's Boston house after the British ceased to occupy the city. Perhaps prompted by this instance of helplessness, without consulting John Adams, Abigail arranged for the inoculation of sixteen people including her immediate family, servants, John Thaxter, and the Cranches.[467]

In her role as domestic manager Abigail Adams oversaw female servants. These women lived with the family and aided with the dairying, textile processing, cooking, and cleaning of the house. On average, she probably had at least two female domestic servants because in July of 1778 after "endeavoring to . . . reduce my family as much as possible" Abigail Adams still retained two "domestics." Her earliest female domestic was likely Judah, Susannah Boylston Adams' maid. Judah probably only remained for the winter for of 1764-1765 and was replaced by Rachel Marsh.

John Adams first mentioned Rachel Marsh in fall of 1764: "one Rachael Marsh, has been recommended to me as a clever, girl and a neat one that wants a Place, she has lived in the Family of one of our substantial Farmers and it is likely understands Country Business, But whether she would answer your purposes, so well as another, I am somewhat in doubt."[468] Doubtful or not, Rachel Marsh was hired and stayed with the family through at least early 1767. There are two extant receipts for Marsh's labor, one dated 23 February 1765 and the other 23 February 1767 (see appendices G-2 and G-3).[469] It is possible that 23 February was the date of her hire because she was twice paid on that date.

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[464] L.H. Butterfield, *Adams Family Correspondence, June 1776 – March 1778* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1963), pp. 93-94.

[465] Edith B. Gelles, "Abigail Adams: Domesticity and the American Revolution," *The New England Quarterly* 52 (1979): 520.

[466] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 85.

[467] Ferling, p. 160. Abigail Adams to John Thaxter, 7 July 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.

[468] John Adams to Abigail Smith, 30 September 1764, in Skeen, "Excerpts," p. 33.

[469] Rachel Marsh, Receipt to Abigail Adams, 23 February 1765, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #343. Rachel Marsh, Receipt to Abigail Adams, 23 February 1767, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

Patty was a servant in Abigail Adams' household from 1771 to 1775. Patty became ill during the 1775 dysentery epidemic and Adams nursed her until her death in October of that year.

> The death of Patty came very near me, having lived four years with me, under my care. I hope it will make me more continually mindful and watchfull of all those who are still committed to my charge. Tis a great trust. I daily feel more & more of the weight and importance of it, and of my own inability. I whis [sic] I could have more of the assistance of my dear Friend but these perilous times swallow him up. . . . Susy is returned to me again.[470]

Apparently another female domestic, Susy, was ill at the same time, but recovered. Her recovery seems to have taken place somewhere other than in Adams' home. It is unclear whether the maid, Esther Field, that accompanied Abigail and Nabby Adams to Europe was ever a servant living at the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[471]

Abigail Adams' dairy was located in the John Adams birthplace. There she and her domestics processed milk into butter and cheese. Their produce was beyond the want of her immediate family so Adams was able to either share it with extended family or sell it through them. Mary Cranch wrote, "Mr. Tufts will take your cheese so you may send them as soon as you please."[472] During the Revolutionary War, Adams' family was never short of dairy goods.[473]

In addition to making dairy-related goods, Abigail Adams also made her own cider from the apples on the Penn's Hill farm. In 1775, she lamented the loss of apples and cider:

> we have lately had a week of very cold weather, as cold as January, and aflight of snow, which I hope will purify the air of some of the noxious vapours - it has spoild many hundreds of Bushels of Apples, which were designd for cider, and which the great rains had prevented people from making up. Suppose we have lost 5 Barrels by it.[474]

In 1777, John Adams told his wife "We must bring ourselves to live upon the Produce of our own Country. What would I give for some of your Cyder?"[475] In response, Abigail Adams stated that she had "set up a cider press & c."[476]

Abigail Adams, and perhaps her female domestics, formed a link in the local fiber processing chain. Adams raised flax on her own farm. In August of 1777 she hoped to yield a crop of "a hundred & 50 weight of flax."[477] The processing of flax into cloth could take two years from the time of planting. The steps she and her servants performed to prepare linen for spinning included harvesting, drying, cleaning, breaking, and

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[470] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 October 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345.
[471] Levin, p. 167.
[472] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 20 August 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[473] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.
[474] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 27 November 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345.
[475] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 11 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.
[476] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.
[477] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.

straightening the fibers.[478] She likewise raised sheep at least in part for their wool which she cleaned and carded.[479] She then spun the cleaned wool and flax into threads and yarns for weaving or knitting. She also took in other people's wool and flax to spin. She told John Adams, "As for me I will seek wool and flax and work willingly with my Hands, and indeed there is occasion for all our industry and economy."[480] The scope of her fiber processing operations is best described in a letter to Mary Cranch:

> I sent your Camblet [a plain woven wool or linen cloth] to Unkle Smiths last week, and hope it has reach'd you before now. The coulour I know you will not like. I do not think Dawson used me well, tis a discouraging thing, when one has tried to have a thing look well and done their part towards it, then to have it ruined in the dying or weaveing, is very provoking . . . for from Sermons I must desend to Cards and tell you I should be glad, Mr. Cranch would send me a pair.[481]

This communication indicates that Abigail Adams prepared the fibers up through the stage of spinning and then had to rely on others to weave it into cloth and dye it. The "cards" she requests were for the carding of wool. In addition to watch repair, Richard Cranch also made wool cards.[482]

Her duties as deputy-husband took her business beyond that of homemade goods, to the larger world of real estate and vehicles. Her first real estate transaction involved land from the estate of John Adams' deceased brother Elihu. She wrote to John Adams, "I am desired by sister A[dam]s to ask you if you will take 28 acres of wood land which she mentioned to you, it must be sold, has a very fine growth of walnut wood upon it, as well as other wood . . . the distance which it lies from us is the chief objection in my mind."[483] Adams approved the purchase.[484] John Adams' approval, or at least indulgence, was necessary because

> In the eyes of the law, a married woman was more like a privileged child than a responsible adult. The signatures of married women on deeds, contracts, or work orders were valueless without the authorization of their husbands. Since they could not be sued for debt, they were poor risks for lenders. Shielded from financial concerns, married women were also barred from opportunities for profit.[485]

Each purchase Abigail Adams made was legally on behalf of her husband.

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[478] Arbor, p. 88.
[479] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, pp. 57-58.
[480] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 October 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[481] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 31 January 1767, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, p. 61. Florence M. Montgomery, *Textiles in America, 1650-1870* (W.W. Norton & Company, 1984), p. 188.
[482] Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, p. 62.
[483] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 27 May 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.
[484] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 16 June 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.
[485] Gloria L. Main, "Widows in Rural Massachusetts on the Eve of the Revolution," in *Women in the Revolution* (n.p., n.d.), pp. 68-69. [In Birthplaces Reference book]

In 1782, her land speculation got much farther afield when she purchased property in Vermont. By this date her confidence had grown because it appears she drew the matter to a close without the final approval of John Adams:

> I could pay the money myself [for a chaise] but I must then relinquish the object I have in view, of purchaseing an original right in the state of virmont and I have brought that matter so near a close that I think you would not advise me to do it - I expect the deeds in a week or two for 10 hundred and 20 acres of Land when I must pay the money as it is on the Neighbourhood of some of our Friends who are purchasers and I have set my Heart upon it, I am loth to relinquish it - the Town is called salem laid out in lots of 300 & 30 acres, no one person permitted to own more than one Lot in the same township, but you may purchase in the Names of yourself and children. I have engaged one for my best Friend & each of our children the 5 lots will amount to 200 Dollors.[486]

She definitely went through with the sale because in 1804 the Adamses were in possession of a 2 April 1782 deed for land in Salem, Vermont.[487]

In addition to real estate, Abigail Adams also purchased a chaise while John Adams was out of the country. This purchase illustrates the systems in which Abigail Adams had to work as a purchaser and as a woman. She wrote to John Adams,

> I am about purchaseing an article [chaise] which you directed me to, and for which you gave me Liberty to draw upon you for payment, I shall only do it in part, the remittance lately made me in handkerchiefs only would make the purchase, but as the person would gladly take Bills for the whole I thought I would give one for a part as the risk would be his, & pay the remainder here.[488]

Ten days later Richard Cranch stated much more plainly,

> Sister Adams has drawn a bill on you for one Hundred Dollars or L22-10-0 Sterling in favour of Mr. Thos. Bumstead who is making a genteel. Chaise for her, she pays the rest here. The lowest Price I could get it for was three hundred hard Dollars.[489]

In order to pay for her chaise, Abigail Adams was obligated to draw on her husband's credit as she did not have her own. She could have, she informed John, paid the total amount out of the money she made selling imported goods, but she instead put the "risk" (presumably the potential change in the value of money) on Thomas Bumstead, the chaise maker. However, it was Richard Cranch who seems to have done the negotiating on Abigail's behalf. Thus, with her entrepreneurial skills and within the confines of acceptable social norms, Abigail Adams was able to make this large purchase.

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[486] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 25 April 1782, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #356.
[487] John Quincy Adams Miscellany, post-1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #200.
[488] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 15 April 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #351.
[489] Richard Cranch to John Adams, 26 April 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #351.

Her activities as deputy-husband also put Abigail Adams in charge of affairs on the larger Penn's Hill farm. With the absence of John Adams, her world expanded from the "kitchen and its appendages" to the fields beyond her fenced yard. She needed to hire men as farm laborers. The Adamses did not own slaves, so she had to contract with men at the going labor prices which during the American Revolution soared. These men presumably did not live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace, but traveled to perform odd jobs or agricultural work. Among the people she mentioned as employees on the farm are Isaac Copeland, Prince, Belcher, and a "negro" fellow.[490]

Abigail Adams also had to take on John Adams' role as landlord to the tenants in the John Adams birthplace. With the exception of her protracted battle with Hayden, she seems to have little trouble from that quarter. However, Hayden's treatment of Abigail Adams indicates that although she acted the part of the deputy-husband, she did not necessarily command the same respect as John Adams. Hayden was able to second-guess her judgement to buy time. In order to finally dispel him she was forced to make a deal: "I set about removeing the Tenants from the House, which with much difficulty I effected, but not till I had paid a Quarters Rent in an other House for them."[491]

Abigail Adams and her children continued to live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace until 1784. In January of that year she began to make arrangements to join her husband in Europe:

> On consequence of your last Letters I shall immediately set about putting all our affairs on such a train as that I may be able to leave them in the spring.
>
> If I come out in the Spring I hope to prevail with Dr. Tufts to take under his patronage our little cottage and Farm. the care of our two sons I will leave in charge with my two sisters.[492]

Her arrangements placed Cotton Tufts and Mary Cranch in charge of the Penn's Hill farm. Her father's former slave, Phoebe, was installed as resident caretaker of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Thomas Boylston and Charles were left in the care of John and Elizabeth Shaw in Haverhill. Abigail and Nabby Adams departed for England in June 1784 where they met John and John Quincy Adams. When the Adamses moved back to America in 1788, their Braintree home was no longer the John Quincy Adams birthplace, but Peacefield, or the Old House.

Abigail Adams followed her husband's political peregrinations to France, England, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. In 1801, they finally settled in the Old House in Quincy for the remainder of their lives. Abigail Adams lived there until 1818 when she died of typhoid fever.[493] A contemporary newspaper printed the following in tribute to this multi-faceted woman:

> When a biographer of a future age, shall do justice to the characters of the illustrious women of our country, Mrs. Adams will be found conspicuous on his

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[490] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 7-11 April 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345. Abigail Adams to John Adams, 14 May 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.

[491] Abigail Adams to John Adams, ca. 15 July 1778, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #349.

[492] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 3 January 1784, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #362.

[493] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 156-157.

> page, as a dutiful daughter, an excellent wife, a kind, affectionate and careful mother; one who lived long and did much, who discharged the duties of common life with faithfulness and alacrity, and filled the highest stations with success and honour; one, who, though a politician, 'could be defended from the cradle to the grave,' and who, though a philosopher, had no doubts of the christian religion.[494]

- The War Years

Although managing the Penn's Hill farm during John Adams' absence would have been challenging at any time, Abigail Adams' task was made even more difficult by the Revolutionary War raging through the American colonies from 1775 to 1783.

As mentioned above, John Adams relocated his family to Braintree so they would be safe from the danger in Boston. John Quincy Adams wrote years later of leaving Boston: "I remember the packing up and sending away of Books, and furniture from the reach of Gage's troops while we ourselves were hourly exposed for many months to have been butchered by them."[495] While citizens left Boston, the troops in Boston prepared the city for battle: "the Govenor is making all kinds of warlike preparations such as mounting cannon upon Beacon Hill - diging entrenchments upon the Neck - placeing cannon there, encamping a regiment there throwing up brestworks & c & c."[496]

Even though they were in the countryside relatively safe from harm, Braintree was close enough to the early fighting in Boston and Dorchester to be emotionally affected by these battles. John Quincy Adams remembered feeling unsafe at this time as a child. His sense of fear was intensified by the absence of his father:

> The year 1775. was the eighth year of my age. . . . Boston became a walled and beleaguered town garrisoned by British Grenadiers with Thomas Gage their commanding General, commissioned Governor of the Province - For the space of twelve months my mother with her infant children dwelt, liable every hour of the day and of the night to be butchered in cold blood or taken and carried into Boston as hostages, by any foraging or marauding detachment of men, like that actually sent forth on the 19th of April, to capture John Hancock, and Samuel Adams, on their way to attend the continental Congress at Philadelphia - My father was separated from his family on his way to attend the same continental Congress and there my mother and her children lived in unintermitted danger of being consumed with them all in a conflagration, kindled by a torch in the same hands which in the 17th of June Lighted the pires of Charlestown - I saw with my own eyes, those fires and heard Britannia's[?] thunders in that Battle of Bunker's Hill, and witnessed the tears of my mother, and mingled with them my own.[497]

Abigail Adams described her experience during the battle at Dorchester Heights to John Adams:

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[494] "Obituary Notice of Madam Abigail Adams," *New England Galaxy and Masonic Magazine*, 13 November 1818.

[495] John Quincy Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, 3 April 1813, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #139.

[496] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 14 September 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[497] John Quincy Adams to Joseph Sturge, April 1846, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #155.

> I went to bed about 12 and rose again a little after one. I could no more slepp [sic] than if I had been in the engagement. The rattling of the windows, the jar of the house and the continual roar of 24 powders, the Bursting of shells give us such Ideas, and realize a scene to us which we could scarcly form any conception . . . I sometimes think I cannot stand it -- I wish myself with you, out of hearing as I cannot assist them.[498]

Despite the distinct possibilities of personal danger, Abigail Adams appears to have risen to the challenge of war. She wrote to John Adams in June of 1775 shortly after the battle on Breed's Hill, "I think I am very brave upon the whole - if danger comes near my dwelling I suppose I shall shuder."[499] John Adams wrote back, "It gives me more Pleasure than I can express to learn that you sustain with so much Fortitude, the Shocks and Terrors of the Times -- You are really brave, my dear, you are an Heroine."[500]

Besides protecting her family, Abigail Adams also provided food and shelter to militiamen and refugees from Boston. Abigail described the crowded quarters to John Adams: "Our house has been upon this alarm in the same Scene of confusion that it was upon the first -- Soldiers comeing in for lodging, for breakfast, for Supper, for Drink &c. &c. Sometimes refugees from Boston tierd and fatigued, seek an assilum for Day or Night - a week - you can hardly imagine how we live."[501]

John Quincy Adams later remembered the making of bullets at the John Quincy Adams birthplace shortly after the battle of Lexington and Concord: "I remember the melting of the pewter spoons in our house, into bullets, immediately after the 19th of April 1775."[502] It is traditionally believed that Abigail Adams melted her own spoons and poured them into the bullet mold now in the collection of the Adams National Historical Park. Adams' letter does not specify her involvement and a recent communication to the Adams National Historical Park casts some doubt on the actual use of this particular mold:

> it appears to be a mould made for a much smaller caliber ball than that used in military smoothbore muskets -- perhaps for a fowler or a pistol. Militiamen were expected to provide their own ball, so it would seem that if Abigail cast any ball at all, it would be for the use of an immediate family member(?). However, militia troops often drew additional supplies of fixed cartridges or loose powder and balls from state stores (when on actual service). In this situation, however, the cartridges or cast ball were generally made by contractors or purchased by the state or made by state artificers (such as those in the Massachusetts Train of Artillery) and not by spouses of militiamen.[503]

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[498] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 5 March 1776, Interpretation Files, Interpretation Office, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA.

[499] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 June 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[500] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 7 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[501] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 24 May 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[502] John Quincy Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, 2 April 1813, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #139.

[503] James L. Kochan to John Stanwich, 24 March 1993, Interpretation Files, Interpretation Office, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA.

However, it was not unheard of for local women to supply troops with ammunition. According to Gross, fifteen-year-old Meliscent Barret of Concord had been taught to make cartridges from pine by a British officer. When the time came, she supervised other women in the making of these cartridges. While she may or may not have molded bullets, Abigail Adams did consider making gun powder: "You [John Adams] inquire whether I am making Salt peter. I have not yet attempted it, but after Soap making believe I shall make the experiment."[504]

John Quincy Adams had mixed memories of the militia training on the Penn's Hill farm. In 1827, he wrote in his diary,

> [Jonathan] Cary asked me if I remembered a Company of Militia who about the time of the battle of Lexington in 1775 came down from Bridgewater and passed the night at my fathers house and barn at the foot of Penn's Hill; and in the midst of whom my father placed me then a boy between seven and eight years and I went through the manual exercises of the musket, by word of command from one of them - I told him I remembered it as distinctly as if it had been last week. He said he was one of that company.[505]

However, he recalled in 1829 that when he was ten years old, "There was a training day for a Regiment of Militia, upon the Fields behind my House at the foot of Penn's Hill; but I had no inclination to behold it."[506] It seems the novelty of war and drilling had worn off in the intervening two to three years.

The war created shortages of many items in Massachusetts. The military required all manner of supplies, the colonies were cut off from their usual trade with each other and other countries, and greater concentrations of people in suburbs like Braintree resulted in local shortages. Abigail Adams told her husband, "Medicine cotton wool & some other articles we are in great want of. . . . I cannot mention the article in the English goods way which is not double [the usual price]."[507] Certain edible goods were also in short supply: "I hope we shall not now have famine added to war - Grain is what we want here - meat we have enough of & to spair . . . we shall very soon have no coffee nor sugar nor pepper here - but huckle berrys and milk we are not obliged to commerce for."[508]

As evidenced by Abigail Adams' letters, these shortages brought out the best and the worst in people. To remedy a lack of imported molasses, several Massachusetts towns started to make their own from a local staple: "Necessity is the Mother of invention there is a Manufactory of Molasses set up in several Towns - green corn stalks ground & boild down to Molasses, tis said an acre will produce a Barrel. I have seen some of it, it both tastes and looks like Sugar Bakers molasses."[509] The shortages also caused greed. At times citizens took upon themselves the matter of punishing greedy neighbors:

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[504] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 31 March – 5 April 1776, in Skeen, "Excerpts," p. 113.
[505] John Quincy Adams Diary, 20 August 1827, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #40.
[506] John Quincy Adams Diary, 24 September 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[507] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 10 December 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #355.
[508] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 5 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[509] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.

it was rumourd that an eminent, wealthy, stingy Merchant . . . had a Hogshead of Coffe in his store which he refused to sell to the committee under 6 shillings per pound. A Number of Females some say a hundred, some say more assembled with a cart & trucks marchd down to the Ware House and demanded the keys, which he refused to deliver, upon which one of them seazd him by his Neck & tossd him into the cart, upon his finding no Quarter he deliverd the keys, when they tipd up the cart and dischargd him, then opend the warehouse Hoisted out the Coffe themselves, put it into the trucks & drove off.[510]

Abigail Adams tried her best to keep her family supplied with the necessities. In 1777, through the bounty of her farm and her own talents Abigail Adams was able to provide food and clothing for her family:

> Heaven has blessd us with fine crops. I hope to have 200 hundred Bushels of corn and a hundred & 50 weight of flax. english hay we had more than last year, notwithstanding your ground wants manure. we are like to have plenty of sause [garden vegetables]. I shall fat Beaf and pork enough, make butter and cheesse enough. If I have neither Sugar molasses coffe nor Tea I have no right to complain. I can live without any of them . . .
>
> as to cloathing I have hithertoo procured materials sufficient to cloath my children & servants which I have done wholy in Home Spun.[511]

She also took advantage of John Adams' position and location in order to supply some of her other wants. Shortly after the war commenced she wrote to Adams in Philadelphia,

> every article here in the West india way is very scarce and dear - in six weeks we shall not be able to purchase any article of the kind - I wish you would let Bass get me one pound of peper & 2 yd. of black caliminco for Shooes. . . . you can hardly imagine how much we want many common small articles which are not manufactured amongst ourselves - but we will have them in time, Not one pin is to be purchased for Love nor money. I wish you could convey me a thousand by any Friend travelling this way.[512]

She wrote later the same year for more goods:

> I am very loth to trouble you about articles of convenience for myself. Especially as they are so much out of your way of Business[.] I will only mention two or three which if you can direct Bass to get for me will much oblige me one black Barcelona hadkerchief, two or 3 yd of black Caliminco for Shooes & binding for same he knows how much will be proper & 3 or 4 common manchester check handkerchiefs for the pocket, not a handkerchief of any kind can be purchased

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[510] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 30 July 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.
[511] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 22 August 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.
[512] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

here, but out of the store for the Army, & they are allowd only to those who inlist.[513]

After John Adams had gone to Europe, Abigail Adams used his ability to procure and send rare items to even greater advantage. Rather than requesting items only for herself and close associates, she began to request commodities which she could sell for profit or exchange for necessities. The money she received from such sales was essential to her family's comfortable survival. To get items that would best sell, Abigail was choosy about what Adams sent her:

> should you send any thing of the kind in the same way, be so good as to let it be blew white or red, silk gloves or mittins, black or white lace, muslin or a Bandano hankechief, and even a few yd of ribbon might be conveyed in the same manner, I mention these things as they are small articles & easily contained in a Letter all of which by Resolve[?] of congress are orderd to come [illeg.], the Articles you orderd me from Bilboa are of great service to me, the great plenty of Barclona hankerchiefs make them unsaleable at present, but Linnens are an article in great demand, & will exchange for any family necessary[?] to good account, or sell for money which is in greater demand at present than I have known it since paper was first Emitted, high prices high taxes, high bounties [paid to enlisted men] render such a quantity of it necessary.[514]

In addition to textiles, Abigail Adams also sold ceramics. She awaited payment for a sale in May of 1783:

> if it should so happen that you should be detained abroad longer than you expect you may make me a little remittance by a careful hand - I shall not need it if a sum which is due to me for some china which I sent for without Bills, I expected when I was requested to send for it.[515]

In her letters no mention is made of a formal shop at her home, but Abigail Adams sold these imported goods informally herself and through family and friends including Cotton Tufts and Mercy Otis Warren.[516]

To add to the troubles of Abigail Adams and the region, illness ravaged the area during the war. Illnesses such as dysentery were encouraged in areas like Braintree by the summer heat and the increased population density caused by Boston refugees. Henry Adams aptly describes the scene in Braintree: "As in all raw untrained levies, illness broke out, that in this case developed into an epidemic of dysentery which swept that summer [1775] through the country. Neighbors were stricken and died, and Abigail's cottage was like a hospital."[517] Abigail Adams herself complained to John in 1775, "Our House is an hospital in every part, and what with my own weakness and distress of mind

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[513] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 10 December 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #355.
[514] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 24 July 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #352.
[515] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 7 May 1783, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #360.
[516] Gelles, "Domesticity," p. 512.
[517] Henry Adams, p. 14.

for my family I have been unhappy enough."[518] The epidemic made nearly every family member ill and claimed the lives of Abigail Adams' mother Elizabeth Smith, John Adams' brother Elihu, and the Adams' maid Patty. Abigail Adams described to John Adams Patty's horrifying last days in the John Quincy Adams birthplace:

> we live in Daily expectation that Patty will not continue many hours a general putrification seems to have taken place and we can not bear the House only as we are constantly clensing it with hot vinegar - I had no idea of the disentery producing such a state as hers till now. . . . two of the children John & Charles I have sent out of the house, finding it difficult to keep them out of the chamber.[519]

Abigail was lucky that she did not lose any children in the epidemic for some families lost as many as five children and other families were wiped out altogether.[520]

In addition to physical woes, the residents of Massachusetts also experienced financial concerns. As the war continued, inflated currency became an issue. Gross describes the escalating inflation problem:

> the Continental Congress faced a dilemma: it had taken charge of the sixteen-thousand-man army outside Boston, but it had no cash to pay the troops and no power to raise any through taxes. The only solution was to turn the printing press and issue paper money of its own. Congress took the plunge - again and again. Meanwhile, every state government was doing the same. And that was not all. Other forms of currency were added to the flood: the interest bearing bonds that both Congress and states gave in exchange for private loans; the 'I.O.U.'s' that Army commissary officers forced on reluctant farmers for supplies; and the counterfeit bills that British agents spread in order to disrupt the American war effort. Until late 1776 this infusion of money, combined with the Army demand for provisions, pumped new life into the state economies and brought good prices and prosperity to town and country alike. But no one bets on a likely loser without demanding higher and higher odds. As American military fortunes deteriorated, paper money inevitably sank in value, and prices and wages soared.[521]

Although not intending to, Abigail Adams complained of the inflation to John Adams in Europe:

> the real[?] Estimation is a Dollor at a copper, yet exchange at the highest has been at 75 for one - Country produce exceeds foreign articles, Lamb at 10. Dollors pr pound veal at 7, flanel[?] a hundred & 60 pr hundred Rye 100 & 10 Dollors pr bushel - I determined not to have written you the account of prices & c have

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[518] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[519] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1775, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, pp. 278-279.
[520] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16-17 September 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345.
[521] Gross, p. 137.

avoided it all along. chose you should learn it from inquiring of others but insensibly fell into it.[522]

Inflation and the outflow of local men to the war effort greatly increased the price of labor in New England. Gross states, "Armies normally campaigned during the warmer months, then retired to winter quarters. Men were thus called away to the fields of battle at the very time they were most urgently needed in the fields at home."[523] Therefore, Abigail Adams had to pay top wages to sub-par workers. She lamented,

> the great difficulty has been to procure Labourers, There is such a demand of men from the publick & such a price given that the farmer who Hires must be greatly out of pocket . . . Isaac insisted upon my giving him 20 pounds or he would leave me he is no mover & I found very unfit to take the lead upon the farm, having no forethought or any contrivance to plan his Business tho in the Execution faithfull, I found I wanted somebody of Spirit who was wiser than myself, to conduct my Business. I went about and my Friends inquired but every Labourer who was active was gone and going into service, I asked advice of my Friends & Neighbours [and] they all adviced me to let Isaac go, rather than give that price. I setled with him and we parted, Mr. Belcher is now with me & has undertaken to conduct the Business, which he has hitherto done with Spirit and activity. I know his virtues I know his faults. . . . Daniel Nightingale works with him at the same lay.[524]

The cost of the war increased taxes on New Englanders. Abigail was lucky enough to have the income from her foreign imports to pay her taxes, but felt the pinch through her tenants:

> The Articles you sent me from Bilboa have been of vast service to me, & greatly assisted me in dischargeing the load of Taxes which it would have otherways been, impossible for me to have paid. . . . our town tax only is four times larger than our continental . . . my Tenants say they must leave the Farm, that they cannot live, I am sure I cannot pay more than my proportion yet I am loth they should quit, They say two Cows, would formerly pay the taxes upon this place, and that it would now take ten, they are not alone in their complaints. The burden is greater I fear than the people will bear - and whilst the New england states are crushed by the weight, others are lagging behind.[525]

On the whole, Abigail Adams' experience during the Revolutionary War was typical of that shared by other residents living in the suburbs of Boston. She was near the early battles, she witnessed the plight of Boston refugees, she suffered from inflation, she experienced the loss of friends and family, she assisted with the feeding and supplying of militiamen, and she maintained her home and family despite all challenges. Even the

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[522] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 24 July 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #352.
[523] Gross, p. 137.
[524] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 14 May 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #346.
[525] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 13 November 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #353.

absence of a husband was not uncommon. Yet, while many men were away from their families periodically during the course of the Revolutionary War, John Adams' absence throughout the experience was an extreme case. Long term enlistments of three years in the Continental Army did not come into practice until 1777.[526] Even these stints do not match the nearly solid ten years John Adams spent away from his family. Also unique to Abigail Adams' experience was John Adams' presence in the heart of America's decision-making body. On a fairly regular basis, she received information about important political occurrences and the experiences of other colonies during the crisis. However typical or unique her experiences were, Abigail Adams was an extraordinary woman living in an extraordinary time.

- Abigail "Nabby" Adams

John and Abigail Adams' first child, Abigail or "Nabby" Adams (1765-1813) was born in 1765. Nagel describes the development of Nabby Adams' personality:

> Nabby was left without a male parent [after 1774], and was reared by a dynamic mother who skillfully managed the family and its property. Nabby soon discovered that her relatives expected her to be like her mother, a difficult task even had the two been alike in personality and ability. Nabby, however, was a more ordinary person than her remarkable mother.
>
> At an early age, Nabby became repressed, aloof, and highly self-critical. Much of her authentic personality was suppressed by resentment and anxiety over the expectations placed upon her. She matured into a silent, withdrawn young woman, characteristics that made Abigail impatient.[527]

Perhaps as a way to escape her "remarkable" mother, Nabby occasionally spent time with friends of the family in Plymouth and Boston. In 1778, she attended school in Boston away from her family.[528]

Starting in 1782, Royall Tyler, a twenty-five-year-old Braintree lawyer, began to court Nabby Adams. There are differing reports on the nature of this courtship. According to Nagel, Nabby was cool toward Tyler while Abigail Adams found him impressive. Upon hearing of the situation from Europe, John Adams encouraged his daughter's cautious behavior because Tyler had the reputation of a rake and Adams feared for his daughter's future. Mary Cranch shared his view and gathered information to use against Tyler. However, Abigail Adams asked Richard Cranch to write a positive letter about Tyler to John Adams who relented and left the decision in Nabby's hands. In part to spite her Aunt Mary Cranch, Nabby agreed to marry Tyler in 1784 before leaving for England with her mother.[529] Ferling reverses the roles of mother and daughter portraying Abigail as cautious and Nabby as amorous. He reads the women's 1784 departure from

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[526] Gross, p. 150.
[527] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 99.
[528] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 100. Page Smith, vol. 1, p. 411.
[529] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 103-106.

New England as Abigail's way of removing her daughter from the situation so that Nabby could consider it at a distance.[530]

While they were away, Tyler was given two trusts as the Adams' future son-in-law. John Adams offered him the use of his library and made him responsible for collecting money from his debtors. Abigail Adams described Tyler's status in a June 1784 letter to Cotton Tufts: "The Library to be under the care of Mr. Cranch. No Books to be Lent out unless to him and Mr. Tyler without ~~the~~ your permission ~~of~~. No house furniture to be lent out. Mr. Adams account Books to be left in the hands of Mr. Tyler who is desired to collect what debts are due, and pay the same to you."[531]

In England, Nabby was disappointed by Tyler's lack of attention. In 1785, she and her family were impressed by John Adams' new secretary, Colonel William Steuben Smith. Smith was formerly an aid to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Shortly after meeting Smith, Nabby ended her engagement with Tyler.[532] With difficulty, Cotton Tufts regained control of Adams' account book and found that the money Tyler remitted to him was short.[533] Tyler went on to become a chief justice of the Vermont Supreme Court and wrote *The Contrast*, the first American-written play to be commercially produced in America.[534]

In 1786, Nabby Adams married Smith. They remained in England until after the birth of their first son, William Steuben Smith, in 1787. They then moved to Smith's home state of New York where Nabby learned that her husband was a spendthrift lacking a positive work ethic. He periodically left Nabby and the children while seeking political appointments and land deals.[535] John Adams tried to help his daughter by obtaining appointments for Smith in New York. In 1789, Smith was the New York Federal Marshal and in 1791 he was the supervisor of revenue in the same state.[536] Whether through mismanagement or theft, Smith's accounts were short and Adams was unable to keep him employed. Nabby found herself temporarily abandoned without adequate funds on more than one occasion. During these times she joined the Adamses at the Old House when she could. Inevitably, Smith retrieved his family and brought them back to New York only to abandon them again.[537]

During one particularly desolate time during the 1790s, Smith swallowed his pride and accepted the command of a regiment in New Jersey. There Nabby lived with her family in a log hut.[538]

Nabby gave birth to three other children: John Adams Smith in 1788, Thomas Hollis Smith in 1790, and Caroline Adams Smith in 1795. Thomas Hollis died in 1791.[539]

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[530] Ferling, p. 263.

[531] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 June 1784, in Ryerson, *Adams Correspondence, 1782 – 1784*, pp. 345-346.

[532] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 108. Levin, p. 216.

[533] Levin, p. 225.

[534] Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]," pp. 24-25. Levin, p. 226.

[535] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 118, 122.

[536] Ferling, p. 323.

[537] Levin, p. 282. Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 130.

[538] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 127-128.

[539] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 124.

In 1805, Smith was sentenced to prison for his indebtedness. Nabby presumably went to Quincy shortly thereafter because Smith removed her from the Old House in 1808.[540] In 1811, Nabby discovered she had breast cancer. She went to the Old House to undergo a mastectomy performed by Dr. Benjamin Rush. She remained there through the summer of 1812 and then returned to New York where Smith left her destitute and in pain. At the beginning of August she returned to the Old House and died there two weeks later.[541] Ironically, Smith was elected to the United States Congress the same year.[542]

- Young John Quincy Adams (1767-1802)

John Quincy Adams, John and Abigail Adams' second child, was born 11 July 1767 in the house now called the John Quincy Adams birthplace. It is not possible to positively confirm in which room of the house he was born, but Adams family oral tradition holds that it was the northeast chamber above the parlor. In 1895, Isaac Hull Adams wrote, " John Quincy Adams was born in the larger house [John Quincy Adams birthplace] in the east front chamber nearest the smaller house [John Adams birthplace]."[543] Later in life, Adams recorded in his diary the manner in which he received his name:

> The Deacon [Daniel Spear] spoke also of the antiquities, and genealogies of the town of Quincy; and told me that my father had related to him the anecdote of the manner how my name came to be John Quincy – It was the name of my maternal great grandfather. I was born on Saturday the 11th of July 1767. my mothers mother, Elizabeth Smith, wife of William Smith, minister of the first Parish of Weymouth, was with my mother at the time of my birth. Her father John Quincy was on his death-bed, and she requested that his name might be given to me, which it accordingly was on Sunday the 12th of July. my great grandfather died the next morning in the 79th year of his age.[544]

John Quincy Adams' education was a piecemeal affair that he later regretted. Abigail Adams started her children's education with lessons in religion and French.[545] John Quincy Adams may have gone on to attend school in Braintree, but if so, he did not remain there long. In 1774, the school in Braintree, which would soon close like the schools in many other Massachusetts communities, was still open and by August was being conducted by one of John Adams' law clerks, Nathan Rice. But Abigail Adams wrote to John, "I have not sent Johnny [to school], He goes very steadily to Mr. Thaxter who I believe takes very good care of him - and as they seem to have a likeing to each other believe it will be best to continue with him."[546] John Thaxter tutored Adams in

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[540] Ferling, p. 421. Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 130.
[541] Ferling, p. 430. Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 143-144.
[542] Ferling, p. 427.
[543] "The Houses and Rooms Where Presidents Adams Were Born."
[544] John Quincy Adams Diary, 9 September 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.
[545] Adams National Historic Site, "John Quincy Adams' Birthplace," n.d., in Skeen, "Excerpts," p. 1.
[546] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

America from 1774 until John Quincy Adams left for France with his father in early 1778. Thaxter accompanied the Adamses on their second trip to Europe in 1779. He may have tutored Adams to as late as 1782 when Thaxter returned to America.

Living in Braintree during the Revolutionary War provided John Quincy Adams with another type of education. When he was eight years old, he bore witness to military training in his backyard and the bombing of Charlestown. In 1776, John Quincy Adams took an active role not in the war, but in the communication between Boston and Braintree. He became a post-rider carrying mail between the two localities regularly riding a pony twelve miles round trip.[547]

In 1778, John Quincy Adams accompanied his father to France. There he enrolled in a weekday boarding school in Passy where he studied Latin, French, fencing, dancing, drawing, and music. In addition to school, he attended the theater regularly; it was his favorite pastime and improved his understanding of the French language.[548]

John Quincy Adams returned briefly to Massachusetts with John Adams in 1779 and set out for Europe with him again the same year. On this trip they were accompanied by Charles Adams and John Thaxter. In Europe, John Quincy and his brother Charles moved from school to school depending on their father's location and their inclination. While in France, they went to school in Paris at L'Ecole Mathematiques.[549] In September 1780, when John Adams was transferred to Amsterdam, the boys were enrolled in a Latin school. This school experience was miserable and unproductive because they did not speak Dutch, so they studied under Benjamin Waterhouse, a medical student at the University of Leyden, and John Thaxter. By January 1781, John Quincy Adams was formally admitted to the University of Leyden.[550]

In July of 1781, Francis Dana asked John Quincy Adams to accompany him as an aid on a diplomatic mission to St. Petersburg, Russia.[551] Adams' primary task was to interpret French, then the Russian court language, for Dana who did not speak it. Adams' education suffered during the year he spent in St. Petersburg because it lacked an affordable school.[552] In October of 1782, when John Adams' private secretary John Thaxter returned to America, John Quincy Adams left Russia for the Netherlands where he studied under a tutor and served as his father's secretary.[553] His protracted return took six months and crossed Sweden, Denmark, Northern Germany, and France.[554]

In 1784, John Quincy Adams met Abigail and Nabby Adams in England. He then accompanied the family to Auteuil, France. Given time to assess her son's development, Abigail Adams felt that John Quincy Adams needed to return to America to establish himself there.[555] John Adams agreed that it was important his son study in the country in which he would work.[556]

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547 Henry Adams, p. 18.
548 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 14-15.
549 Ferling, p. 222.
550 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 22.
551 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 23-24.
552 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 26.
553 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 27, 29.
554 Gall, "Chronology of Adamses," p. 359.
555 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 29.
556 Ferling, p. 275.

In 1845, John Quincy Adams would look back upon the first eighteen years of his life and write,

> My reminiscences are complicated and associated with very different sensations when bearing upon different periods of life – The Siege of Boston – The Battle of Lexington and Bunkers hill – the death of my grandmother Smith – the evacuation of Boston the small pox and the Declaration of Independence are among the first – Then the [illeg.] fever of 1777 the Boston Frigate – The voyage to France . . . The return home in The Sensible and the second voyage to Europe the same year – Spain France Holland Russia Sweden Denmark – The Hague . . . my return home in 1785 – I must pause.[557]

Yet for a young man who had seen so much, he still had more to learn in America.

By August 1785, he was back in New England with hopes of matriculating at Harvard College.[558] On 28 August he visited his birthplace:

> When the afternoon service was over I went with Mr. [Royall] Tyler down to my father's house [John Quincy Adams birthplace], and no object ever brought to mind such a variety of different Sensations. It reminded me of the days of my Childhood, most of which were past in it, but it look'd so lonely, and melancholy without its inhabitants, as drew a deep sigh from my breast. I paid a visit to the Library, and found it in pretty good order.[559]

His Harvard aspirations were put on hold briefly, however. His Greek and Latin were found lacking and he was sent to his Uncle John Shaw for remedial study.

In spring of 1786, he was admitted as a junior to Harvard where his two brothers were already studying.[560] John Quincy Adams took items from his birthplace to furnish his quarters at Harvard: "The whole forenoon, I was with my Cousin [Billy Cranch], down at our house, packing up, furniture, though many articles, are yet to be got."[561] Later that spring he spent at least one night at his birthplace: "Charles [a friend from Harvard] and my self lodg'd down at our house, it is almost 7 years since I pass'd a night there before this."[562]

John Quincy Adams graduated from Harvard in 1787 and went to Newburyport to pursue legal studies under Theophilus Parsons. Three years later he was admitted to the Suffolk bar and opened a law office in Boston.[563] Starting in 1791, he began to write anonymous letters on political matters to newspapers. The same year he took over the family's business affairs through power of attorney.[564]

In 1794, Adams was appointed as minister resident to The Hague. Adams was an apt choice for this position as Bemis states:

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[557] John Quincy Adams Diary, 8 July 1845, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #48.
[558] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 37, 39.
[559] John Quincy Adams Diary, 28 August 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #13.
[560] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 39.
[561] John Quincy Adams Diary, 20 March 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #13.
[562] John Quincy Adams Diary, 24 April 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #13.
[563] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 65-66.
[564] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 72.

It would be difficult to suggest a background, education, and experience better designed for a statesman destined to become one of America's greatest diplomatists. These were: Adams's New England Puritan ancestry; the formative influence of illustrious patriot parents; vivid and ineffaceable childhood memories of the first battles and hardships of the Revolution; extensive trans-Atlantic travels with his father after the conflict spread to Europe; schooling in France and in Holland; diplomatic apprenticeship at the age of fifteen on the first American mission to Russia; Harvard College during the 'critical period' of the Confederation; and, finally, conscientious self-education for the law and struggle for practice in Boston during General Washington's first administration.[565]

His brother Thomas Boylston Adams accompanied him as his secretary.

The Adamses stopped in England en route to the Netherlands and returned in 1795 when John Quincy was asked to assist with Jay's Treaty.[566] During their stay in England, the men spent time at the popular home of Joshua Johnson. While there, John Quincy Adams became interested in Louisa Catherine Johnson whom he married on 26 July 1797. Louisa Catherine Adams later described their first meeting:

> In the autumn of this year [1794] Mr. Adams was introduced by Col. Trumbull – the first Evening he supped with us he was in high spirits conversed most agreeably and after he retired all the family spoke well of him – His dress however produced some mirth as it was completely dutch and the coat almost white.[567]

After their marriage John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams went to Berlin where Adams took up the post of minister to Prussia which he occupied for the next four years.[568] During this time they took a tour of Silesia, a region visited by few tourists of the day. To record his visit, John Quincy Adams wrote forty-three letters to his brother Thomas Boylston Adams who had returned to America. These letters were published without his knowledge in the 1801 journal *Portfolio*, then under Thomas Boylston Adams' management, and then later appeared in English, German, and French editions under the title *Letters from Silesia*.[569]

In 1801, one of John Adams' last acts as U.S. president was to recall John Quincy Adams from his diplomatic post in Prussia.[570] By September 1801, he and his family returned to the United States.[571] Back in Massachusetts he resumed his law practice and became actively involved with the Federalist party. In 1802, he became a member of the Massachusetts State Senate (continued below).[572]

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565 Samuel Flagg Bemis, *John Quincy Adams and the Foundations of American Foreign Policy* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1949), p. 3.
566 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 85.
567 Louisa Catherine Adams Miscellany, November 1794, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #265.
568 Harris, *Old House Furnishings*, vol. 1, p. 26.
569 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 120.
570 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 126.
571 Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 363.
572 Bemis, p. 113.

- Charles Adams

John and Abigail Adams' third child Charles (1770-1800) was born in Boston in 1770.[573] In fall of 1779, at the age of nine he accompanied John and John Quincy Adams to Europe.[574] While in France, Charles went to school in Paris at L'Ecole Mathematiques.[575] In September 1780 when John Adams was transferred to Amsterdam, Charles was enrolled in a Latin school. This school experience was miserable and unproductive because he did not speak Dutch, so he studied under Benjamin Waterhouse, a medical student at the University of Leyden, and John Thaxter.[576] In 1781, Charles became ill while studying at the University of Leyden and went home to Braintree.[577]

Charles lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace until Abigail and Nabby Adams left for England in 1784. At that time he and Thomas Boylston Adams went to live with Elizabeth and John Shaw, Abigail Adams' sister and brother-in-law in Haverhill. John Shaw prepared Charles to go to Harvard College which he entered in 1785.[578] He did not see his parents again until 1788.

In 1789, Charles Adams completed his studies at Harvard and moved with his parents to New York City where he studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1792. Although seemingly on the right track, Charles was a continual matter of concern for John and Abigail Adams. According to Nagel, Charles had a dark side, was unhappy, and had a drinking problem. He also traveled with the "wrong crowd." At one point he lived with a Revolutionary War Veteran, Baron Friedrich von Steuben, who was rumored to be a homosexual.[579]

Charles Adams announced his intentions to marry Sarah "Sally" Smith, sister of Nabby Adams' husband Colonel William Smith in 1795. Historians disagree as to his parents' reaction to this news. According to Ferling, John and Abigail Adams were relieved that their son was settling down.[580] Smith describes the event differently:

> John was furious. For his son to risk everything just at the moment when he appeared at last to have made a start on his career seemed to Adams the wildest folly and indulgence. At the age of twenty-five, without prospects of supporting a wife adequately for years, he had taken on a burden that would almost inevitably drag him down to penury and disaster. The marriage seemed as unfortunate to Abigail as to her husband but she was readier to reconcile herself to the fact than John. After all they had been madly, desperately in love for almost two years and Sally, a year older than Charles, could not wait indefinitely for him to establish himself in the practice of law.[581]

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[573] Quincy Historical Society, "Adams Family Line."
[574] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 358.
[575] Ferling, 222.
[576] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 22.
[577] Ferling, p. 239.
[578] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 19 July – 7 August 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #365.
[579] Ferling. pp. 322-323.
[580] Ferling, p. 323.
[581] Page Smith, vol. 2, pp. 875-876.

Whatever the reaction, Charles married Sarah Smith on 29 August 1795.[582]

In 1794, before leaving for Europe as Minister Resident to The Hague, John Quincy Adams entrusted Charles with thousands of dollars of his savings. By 1798, Charles lost all of his brother's money through mismanagement.[583]

When John Adams visited his son in New York in 1799, Charles was such an advanced alcoholic that his father renounced him and never visited him again.[584] By 1800, Charles was destitute and living in New York City with Nabby who cared for him in his illness. On 30 November 1800 he died leaving behind his wife and two daughters, Susanna Boylston and Abigail Smith Adams. Soon thereafter, Charles' family went to live with John and Abigail Adams at the Old House.[585]

- Thomas Boylston Adams

See "Thomas Boylston Adams" section above under "John Adams Birthplace - John Quincy Adams Ownership."

- Law Clerks

John Adams' law practice burgeoned in the 1770s necessitating the employment of clerks in his law office. While Adams was away a majority of the time some of these men worked in his office, it seems his reputation and fine library kept them there.

Two law clerks are known to have worked for Adams, but likely did not live with the family at the John Quincy Adams birthplace. From May 1771 to February 1773, Braintree native Elisha Thayer (d. 1774) was Adams' law clerk, but probably lived at home and only worked at the birthplace.[586] John Trumbull (1750-1831) was a law clerk in Adams' office from 1773 to 1774. The Adamses lived in Boston throughout 1773 and to June of 1774, so Trumbull may never have resided at the John Quincy Adams birthplace either.[587]

Nathan Rice (1754-1834) was born and raised in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard in 1773 and started his legal training under Adams in 1774. In August of 1774, the former Braintree schoolmaster, a Mr. Crosby, left. Rice took over as schoolmaster in addition to his legal studies.[588] Less than a year later, Abigail Adams informed John Adams that Rice had military aspirations: "Mr. Rice has a prospect of an adjutant place in the Army. I believe he will not be a very hardy Soldier. He has been sick of a fever above this week, and has not been out of his chamber, he is upon the recovery now."[589] Despite her predictions, Rice left Braintree in 1775 and served through the Revolutionary War. He started as the captain of his company, but through much of it

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[582] Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 361.
[583] Levin, p. 361.
[584] Ferling, p. 386.
[585] Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 130.
[586] John Adams Diary, 1 May 1771, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1.
[587] Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, pp. 90-91, 352.
[588] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 15 August 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344. Abigail Adams to John Adams, 26 September 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.
[589] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 24 May 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

he was a major and an aide-de-camp to General Benjamin Lincoln.[590] As described by Nabby Adams, Rice married Meriel Leavitt of Hingham in 1781: "Mr. Rice has at last drawn the prize in the matrimonial Lottery; past a short time in the Society of hs Lady; and returned to camp to take a part in the next campaign."[591] Rice's activities from the end of the Revolution to the time of his 1834 death are unknown.

John Thaxter Jr. (1755-1791) was Abigail Adams' first cousin born to John Thaxter Sr. and her Aunt Anna (Quincy) Thaxter.[592] Thaxter was born and raised in Hingham, Massachusetts and then attended Harvard until 1774. He began his legal studies with John Adams the same year. He lived a majority of the time at the John Quincy Adams birthplace, but left periodically to spend time in Hingham.[593] He was admitted to the Suffolk bar in July of 1777.[594] In addition to his legal studies, Thaxter instructed John Quincy Adams until Adams' departure for Europe in 1778. Presumably Thaxter remained at the John Quincy Adams birthplace until he accompanied John Adams to Europe as his private secretary in 1779. He remained John Adams' assistant in Europe until 1782.[595] At a later date he married and fathered a daughter named Anna Quincy Thaxter, named after his mother.[596] He died in 1791 at the untimely age of thirty-six.[597]

A third law clerk who worked in John Adams' office is known through Abigail Adams' letters as "Mr. Mason." Mr. Mason first came to the John Quincy Adams birthplace during the dysentery epidemic in September of 1775. Abigail Adams could not accommodate him them, but he was living at the house by October.[598] The only information available about this young lawyer is Abigail Adams' positive endorsement written to John Adams: "Mr. Mason is a youth who will please you, he has Spririt, taste and Sense. His application to his Studies is constant and I am much mistaken if he does not make a very good figure in his profession."[599] No further information is available regarding Mr. Mason.

- The Halls (1772-1774?)

When the John Adams family left the John Quincy Adams birthplace in November 1772, his mother Susannah Hall and her husband Captain John Hall moved into the house. Their tenancy is indicated by John Adams' 28 November 1772 diary entry: "My Father in Law Mr Hall and my Mother are well Settled at my Farm at

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[590] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 4 May 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[591] Nabby Adams to John Thaxter, 25 May 1781, in L.H. Butterfield and Marc Friedlander, eds., *Adams Family Correspondence, October 1780-September 1782* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1973), p. 132.

[592] Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1776-1778*, p. 252.

[593] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1775, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, pp. 278-279.

[594] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 4 June 1777, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #347.

[595] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 5 September 1782, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #358.

[596] John Thaxter, Sr., Will, 1802, *Suffolk Probate*, vol. 100, pp. 438-440, docket 21763, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, MA.

[597] Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1776-1778*, p. 142.

[598] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345.

[599] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 27 November 1775, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1776-1778*, p. 330.

Braintree."[600] At this time John Adams did not own the John Adams birthplace, so the Halls could only have lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

- Phoebe (1784-1788 or 1790)

Phoebe was an African American slave owned by Abigail Adams' father, Reverend William Smith until his death in 1783. The portion of his will related to Phoebe reads as follows

> I give unto my Negro Woman Phoebe her freedom, in case she should chuse it; but if she should not chuse it I do then give the said Phoebe unto either of my Daughters Mary Cranch, Abigail Adams or Elizabeth Shaw, viz, unto such one of them as she shall within three months from my decease manifest to my Executors her desire to live and dwell with; And it is my will that one hundred pounds be retained out of my estate, and that to such my daughter with whom the said Phoebe shall live, the annual interest thereof shall be paid so long as she shall live with her if by sickness, or age the said Phoebe shall become a charge to her; or otherwise my Executors shall have full liberty to apply the said one hundred pounds or any part thereof for the comfortable maintenance and support of said Phoebe if they shall judge it necessary and expedient. And if it should so happen that the aforesaid one hundred pounds or any part thereof should not be expended for the purposes aforesaid, the same shall be divided among my residuary legatees.[601]

Although Phoebe chose her freedom, she remained in a state of dependence on the Smith sisters at least until 1800.

The first mention of Phoebe after Smith's death is an informative letter from Abigail to John Adams written in February of 1784. At that time Abigail Adams was considering the disposition of her Braintree affairs while she went to Europe to be with her husband. She wrote,

> I have determined to put into this house my Pheby, to whom my Father gave freedom by his Will, and the income of a hundred a year during her Life, the Children furnished her to house keeping, and she has ever since lived by herself, untill a fortnight ago she took unto her self a Husband in the person of Mr Abdee whom you know, as there was no setled minister at Weymouth I gave them the liberty of celebrating their nuptials here [presumably the John Quincy Adams birthplace], which they did much to their satisfaction.
>
> I proposed to her taking care of this House and furniture in my absence, the trust is very flattering to her, & both her Husband and She Seem pleased with it. I have no doubt of their care and faithfullness, & prefer them to any other family.[602]

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[600] Diary of John Adams, 28 November 1772, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1.

[601] Reverend William Smith, Will, 12 September 1783, in Ryerson, *Adams Family Correspondence, 1782-1784*, pp. 247-248.

[602] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 11 February 1784, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #362.

Phoebe married William Abdee and went to live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace in June of 1784 when Abigail Adams left for Europe.

Abigail's instructions regarding the Abdees to Cotton Tufts are quite detailed:

> The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house upon condition that they keep out all Hogs cattle & c., but this does not mean to exclude the cattle belonging to the Farm from passing through the yard in the winter Season. They are to be allowed to keep a pig, in the yard upon which the Barn stands and which I used to occupy for the same purpose. They are during the present year to have the use of the Garden east of the House and that part of the Great Garden next the road - all the fruit which grows in the Garden. . . . ~~They~~ [sic] Pheby is to be allowed a pint of milk a day. But in case there should not be more than a pint a day in the winter season, then it is to be divided. They are allowed to clear up Brush . . . in what is called Curtises pasture - but to take no wood. I give them 6 pd. of salt pork, 6 pd. of tallor in consideration of Phebys making up what is now in the house into candles and disposeing of them - 1 Bushel of corn, 1 Barrel of cider or what remains in the house. I give her also a pig seven weeks old 3 pd. hogs lard and what Salt Beaf there is in the house. What Salt pork, hogs lard, tallor are left after what I have given her is deducted, she is to dispose of and account with you for the Same. The House and furniture to be taken care of by opening and airing rubbing and cleaning it - Pheby always to be under your direction and controul to be continued or displaced when ever you think proper, and always to apply to you for advice and direction. They are to be allowed the use of the Team in the fall to bring up a load of sea wead.[603]

Abigail Adams limited the rooms that the Abdees were to live in, but there is no evidence that there were other tenants who lived regularly in the other section of the house. Because Phoebe had a knack for housing people less fortunate than herself, it is possible that she and her occasional guests occupied more than the rear lean-to of the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

Although relieved of many of the concerns Abigail Adams herself managed on the Penn's Hill farm, Phoebe was still a busy woman. In the above description alone, Abigail Adams expected her to care for the house, furniture, and garden. She also expected Phoebe to make and sell tallow candles. To maintain themselves the Abdees needed to fertilize, plant, and harvest the garden; gather brush for the fire; and care for livestock. In addition to the pig Abigail Adams left her, Phoebe also kept poultry.[604]

Even with the provisions Reverend Smith and Abigail Adams made for her, Phoebe had trouble making ends meet. To supplement the Abdees' income, Phoebe took in washing but this still did not supply all their needs. According to Mary Cranch, "She

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[603] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 June 1784, in Ryerson, *Adams Family Correspondence, 1782-1784*, pp. 345-346.

[604] Cotton Tufts to Abigail Adams, 14 October 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366.

washes for some of the Neighbours. She does so for me. She complains that she cannot get work enough to do."[605]

Part of Phoebe's problem was that her husband William Abdee did not contribute his fair share to the marriage. Quoting Phoebe, Mary Cranch wrote to Abigail, "'He is always Puddering about but does not bring much to pass.'" Another part of the problem was that those for whom Phoebe provided services did not pay her promptly, if at all. Mary Cranch described the situation: "Abdy & Pheby do very well Live very comfortably - they were a little distress'd for wood last Winter -- but it was because people who ow'd them would not pay them as the[y] ought to have done."[606] Phoebe's not receiving pay for her work was likely due to racial prejudice. Cranch described her mistreatment by neighbors: "She looks very happy & would be so I believe if some of the Neighbours did not trouble her - She says She Believes they think that you left her your Almoner, for she cannot think that they can Suppose her able to supply all their wants. They impose on her sadly."[607] To fulfill their predictions, they neglected to pay Phoebe.

To add to her concerns, Phoebe took on those of other people. The ever vigilant Mary Cranch informed Abigail,

> We have had some difficulty to keep Pheby from admiting stragling Negros lodging & staying in the House sometimes three or four days together. I have forbid her doing it, & the Doctor [Cotton Tufts] did also, but these have been poor objects who have work'd upon her compassion sometimes! Mr. T[yler']s Negro who I told you was like to have a child, was put there (&-- wood & provision promis'd if she would keep her) by Mr V[e]s[e]y -- Mr T[yler] did not chuse to appear in it himself. She was not a good girl & did not think your things safe . . . She went of att last, & poor Pheby got nothing for all her trouble.[608]

Starting in 1787 Abigail proposed the new task of dairying for Phoebe: "There must be somebody to look after the dairy, and I think it may with safety be trusted to Pheby provided she will take it, but then she must have an assistant. The question is, can she get one? or keep one after she has got her?"[609] It is unknown whether Phoebe did take on this aspect of managing the Penn's Hill farm.

The Abdees may have vacated the John Quincy Adams birthplace as early as 1788 because there was some written discussion of who would occupy the house at that time.[610] However, they may have remained in the house as late as 1790 for Abigail Adams wrote in April, "as to [Samuel] Clark [living in the John Adams birthplace] I should suppose there was garden enough both for Pheby & him in the peice fenced of."[611]

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[605] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 3 December 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369.
[606] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 14 July 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #368.
[607] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 7 August 1784, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #363.
[608] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 9 October 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369.
[609] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, October 1787, in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 126.
[610] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 22 February 1788, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #370.
[611] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 April 1790, Miscellaneous Manuscripts - Adams, New York Historical Society, New York, NY, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 126.

Or, they may have been living in a smaller neighboring house. When the circa 1797 "President's Valluation" was taken, the Abdees were living in another house owned by John Adams. The house "in the occupation of Phebee" in 1797 was smaller than the John Quincy Adams birthplace with eight windows and located on one-eighth of an acre of land. It was valued at less than a quarter of the birthplace's value (see appendix G-5).[612] To make their property more profitable, the Adamses likely moved the Abdees to a smaller, less desirable house so that they could rent the birthplace to others. The Abdees had certainly left by 1790 because in October Abigail Adams was considering leasing the house to other tenants.

In 1798, William Abdee was very ill and likely died that year. Phoebe was not ill, but old and becoming an increasing concern for Abigail. She wrote to Mary Cranch,

> I expect that your next Letter will bring me tydings of Abbe's death. I look upon it [as] a release to Pheby, but I am fully sensible her days of usefullness are nearly over and what is to be done with her I cannot tell. For this winter she must remain where she is, but there is no reason that the whole of the House should be devoted to her as it is in a manner, for no other person will occupy it, who will give any thing for it, whilst she resides there, and she must have somebody to look after her. 12 or 13 years she has lived there, and never paid a sou. More than that she has lately received as much as the House rent from me, and as long as I am able I shall be willing to do for her, but I think some new plan must be struck for her.[613]

Her reference to Phoebe living in the same house she occupied in 1797 for twelve or thirteen years suggests that she did not live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace later than the 1780s. However, she did not leave the birthplace any earlier than 1788.[614]

The "new plan" concerning Phoebe moved the burden of her care and maintenance entirely to Mary Cranch's shoulders by at least 1800. Also by this time she had apparently remarried for Abigail wrote, "I have inquired once or twice concerning Pheby. I hope she is comfortable in her marriage and well provided for."[615] No information is available regarding Phoebe after 1800.

- The 1790s

Starting in late 1789 Abigail Adams was reconsidering the tenancy of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. She wrote to Cotton Tufts, "I think it would be advisable to Let our whole place & House together provided any gentleman wanted it, as early in the Spring as might be."[616] It does not seem that anyone moved in that year because in late 1790 she was again considering the issue: "With Regard to our House, I should have no objection to a carefull person living in the kitchin to take care of it, but as to letting it I

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[612] John Adams, "President's Valluation."
[613] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 5 January 1798, quoted in Mitchell, p. 122.
[614] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 22 February 1788, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #370.
[615] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 27 February 1800, quoted in Mitchell, p. 235.
[616] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 1 September 1789, Miscellaneous Manuscripts - Adams, New York Historical Society, New York, NY, quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 140.

cannot consent unless any person offers to take the House and furniture together."[617] The house may have been vacant from 1790 to before 1797 for there is no discussion of tenants in family correspondence or references to tenants in the Quincy tax list.

- Reverend William Clark (1797 or earlier-1800)

The next known tenant in the John Quincy Adams birthplace is Reverend William Clark (d. 1815) who is listed in the circa 1797 "President's Valluation" as the occupant (see appendix G-5).[618] By February of 1800, Clark was considering leaving the house for Mary Cranch wrote to Abigail Adams,

> Doctor Tufts desir'd me to tell you that Mr Clark who lives in your House wrote him that he understood that when your furniture was removed from the other end of it that you would let the whole - that as he did not want it all & there was an other end of a House he could have he would take it & deliver up yours at once.[619]

This letter makes it clear that Clark did not rent the whole house, but it is unknown which rooms he inhabited. Presumably he occupied the northwest room, or new kitchen, and the northeast room, or parlor, on the first floor. It is almost certain that the Adamses kept John Adams' former office as a storage area. Items stored included the Adams' furniture, John Quincy Adams' books, and John Briesler's furniture.[620] The disposition of the other rooms is unclear. Clark left the house in April of that year and moved to another location in Quincy for he died there intestate in 1815.[621]

The little information available regarding Reverend Clark is contained in his 1815 administrative papers. At the time of his death he was married to Alotta Clark. He may have had a grown son living in Boston named William F. Clark who signed the Bond of Administratix.[622]

- Reverend Peter Whitney (1800-1804)

Reverend Peter Whitney (d. 1843) was the much heralded tenant who arrived at the John Quincy Adams birthplace in 1800. There was debate beforehand as to whether the house could be rented to the new pastor of the First Congregational Society because of space constraints and repair issues.[623] Whitney was eager to have the house so he accommodated the Adams' continued need to store furniture there. To make clear Whitney's anxiety, Mary Cranch wrote to Abigail Adams, "mr Whitney really looks distress'd to think he cannot get a place to live in now he is settled."[624] A month later

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[617] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 10 October 1790, quoted in Mitchell, p. 61.
[618] John Adams, "President's Valluation."
[619] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 9 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.
[620] John Quincy Adams Diary, 1 November 1802, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #27. Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 18 March 1800, quoted in Mitchell, p. 240.
[621] William Clark, Bond of Administratix, 1815, case #4029, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.
[622] William Clark, Bond of Administratix, 1815.
[623] "Adams Houses at Quincy," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 30 September 1837.
[624] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 9 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.

Mary Cranch had worked out a plan for disposing of the stored items: "Mr. Black has a large dry chamber in which Mr [John Quincy] Adams Books may be put. Mr. Black has offer'd the Room. The furniture Mr. Whitney says may have left till you wish to remove it. Mr. Mears will remove mr Brislers so all things seem to go on very smoothly."[625] It is unclear when these items were moved because as late as 1802, John Quincy Adams' books were still at the house.[626] Besides the stored items, the Whitney family occupied the house alone because according to Mary Cranch, "mr whitney must have a house to himself."[627]

John and Abigail Adams requested their agents plan extensive repairs prior to Whitney's arrival:

> I have mentiond it to the president, and he directs me to say to you that mr Whitney shall have the House and requests that you would sit Mr. Beals to paint the outside stone coulour, to repair the Garden fence and he is willing that the Rooms should be new painted within and paperd, the stairs in front made new and anything else you think necessary to make it decent & in good order. The old Barn which is in the yard had better be considered as attached to the House & the spot on the ground which we used to make a Garden of, provided you have not already let it to French. I mention this to avoid all interference between families a Fence between the two places had better be run of post & rails, or if you think best of part wall this French can do immediately. the well must always be in common - but if the yards lie in common, as they do now cattle will trespass and offences will come, which it is desirable to avoid particularly between minister and people - the president is so desirous to accommodate mr Whitney that he is willing you should expend two hundred dollors in repairs if they cannot be accomplished under.[628]

These interior and exterior repairs and/or updates to the John Quincy Adams birthplace may be the first executed since John Adams readied the house for his occupancy in 1764.

Reverend Peter Whitney married the same year he moved into the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[629] A glimpse of his family demographics is available in the 1810 and 1820 Federal Censuses. Whitney himself was at least twenty-five and his wife was between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four when they moved into the birthplace. During their time in the house, the Whitneys may have had one child because in 1810 they had a daughter under the age of ten.[630] In May 1804, the Whitneys moved to a new house in Quincy.[631]

In July 1826, Reverend Whitney delivered a sermon at the funeral of John Adams. Mrs. Whitney died in late 1832 or early 1833.[632] Whitney himself died around 1843.[633]

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[625] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 11 April 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.
[626] John Quincy Adams Diary, 1 November 1802, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #27.
[627] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 9 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.
[628] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 March 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.
[629] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 11 April 1800, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397.
[630] *1810 Federal Census. 1820 Federal Census.*
[631] John Quincy Adams to Louisa Catherine Adams, 9 May 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.
[632] John Quincy Adams Diary, 22 April 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.

John Quincy Adams Ownership (1803-1848)

John Quincy Adams acquired the John Quincy Adams birthplace from John Adams in 1803 as a way to alleviate John Adams' financial problems related to the collapse of the banking house Bird, Savage & Bird.[634]

- 1804

In 1804, John Quincy Adams, suffering from financial straits brought on by the fall of the house of Bird, Savage & Bird, began to consider using his birthplace as a summer residence. Yet, Louisa Catherine Adams was reluctant to move to Quincy from Washington, D.C. for the summer. In an apologetic but warning tone Adams wrote to her,

> If I can find a tenant, I shall let it [John Quincy Adams birthplace] for another year - at least I shall not go to expence to fit it up for your reception, untill I determine to make it my own continual abode - It is not and never can be made such a place as I could wish to provide for your residence; but it may prove a shelter hereafter, and supply means of subsistence, to ourselves and our children, when we shall find none else - My situation and circumstance since we married, have very materially declined - As the alteration affects myself, I would not waste a thought upon it, but as it has taken from me the means, of contributing every comfort and enjoyment that your heart could wish, it is a perpetual source of concern, and anxiety to me - It is with extreme difficulty that I now find the means of defraying our necessary expences as they rise, without intrenching upon the litle property which helps to support us - Additional expence, without any future prospect of addition income, would infallibly lead me to ruin, and what would be to me ten thousand times worse, to the greatest distress to you and our children - These considerations alone have induced me to wish that you could have reconciled your mind to this place, and to so humble a residence as that house - As however you cannot, you shall at all events reside where you yourself choose - I shall bear the charge as long as I have the means, and trust to Providence for future support.[635]

By May, Adams was unable to place a tenant or his family in the house for he wrote to his wife, "My farming advances slowly - Mr. Whitney moves into his new house this day. The one he leaves [the birthplace] will probably remain vacant this Season - And next Spring I hope you come and take a taste of farming, too."[636] Adams was farming his land while living with his parents in the Old House. He did, however, hold out hope that Louisa Catherine would agree to join him in the house the next year.

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[633] Peter Whitney, Inventory, 1843, case # 20206, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.

[634] John Adams, Deed to John Quincy Adams, 1803.

[635] John Quincy Adams to Louisa Catherine Adams, 24 April 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

[636] John Quincy Adams to Louisa Catherine Adams, 9 May 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

In mid-May 1804, Louisa Catherine Adams responded that she had misunderstood the family's affairs and would consider living in the John Quincy Adams birthplace with some alterations. She wrote,

> had I imagined my remaining here would have proved more expensive than living at your Farm I should never have proposed it if you will send the means of return I will with pleasure take charge of the Children provided you will let me bring one of my sisters to assist me. . . . As for the House while my family are obliged to live upon the bounty of others any house is good enough for me. I believe I never made any objection to it I only said that in the state you represented your affairs to be that it would be imprudent and inconsistent to build. I think you had better make what alterations you please as soon as possible if Mrs. Adams could reside there with four Children I can certainly live there with two.[637]

The next month she attempted to jump-start any building projects so that they would be finished for her stay the following year. She also included suggestions for alterations she wanted to see take place:

> I think if you intend to make any alterations in the House as there is nobody there at present residing there it would be better to have them done this Summer. We talked of adding a couple of Chambers and if it is possible without too great expense I should very much desire to have some change made in the staircase which makes the entrance to the House intolerable as it stands at present. Should this be attended with any difficulty I entreat you to excuse the request as it is only made from an idea that it would contribute both to health & comfort.[638]

Unfortunately, John Quincy Adams was unable to fulfill her request: "The house where I hope we shall pass together the next Summer, I am afraid I shall not have it in my power previously to enlarge, as I intended - We shall of course be somewhat straitened in it; but I hope to be able another Season more effectually to accomplish the purpose of enlarging it."[639]

Because John Quincy Adams was unable to alter the house, as late as December 1804, it was uncertain whether the family would move into it. The family definitely planned to move to Quincy, though, because he wrote to his mother regarding provisions, servants, and the rental of another house:

> I am very glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Briesler, have been laying in provisions to be prepared for us on our return, which I hope will be the last of March - We shall have occasion for such vegetables as can be preserved untill that Season and I hope they will have some for us, as well as the pork and bacon - If Mrs. Shaw's house should be let on very reasonable terms, and an opportunity of letting mine

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[637] Louisa Catherine Adams to John Quincy Adams, 12 May 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

[638] Louisa Catherine Adams to John Quincy Adams, 10 June 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

[639] John Quincy Adams to Louisa Catherine Adams, 23 September 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

should offer, it would suit our convenience much better than it will be suited to find ourselves confined in the narrow bounds of my native mansion - But for this additional convenience, I cannot afford to be at much expence. - There is one want which will be of the utmost pressure, and which I must beg you to look out for providing us in, at a seasonable time. I mean of Servants - man or boy, to do the ordinary business of a family, and a woman to do our Cookery, will be indispensable; with these we can begin our house-keeping, as we shall have one maid with us.[640]

Abigail Adams asked Mrs. Shaw about her house and thought she had another tenant for the John Quincy Adams birthplace, but the John Quincy Adams family moved into the birthplace in April 1805.

- John Quincy Adams Family (summers 1805, 1806)

John Quincy Adams was unable to address the structural work at his birthplace until he arrived in Quincy in early April 1805. It appears that his aim at that point was simply to make necessary repairs. He wrote in his diary, "I went up to my own house this forenoon, and examined what would be necessary to be done upon it, before we go into it - Desined Briesler to engage me a Carpenter to begin to-morrow."[641] Briesler hired the carpenter, Mr. Page, who rendered unspecified services for six dollars and ten cents.[642] In mid-April John Quincy Adams watched a mason working at the house.[643] On 18 April, the family began to move its belongings into the house. The move was protracted into a week due to bad weather.[644] Adams wrote in his diary on 25 May a summary of his past and present intentions regarding his birthplace:

> On coming into my own house, I am entering upon a new mode of life, as it regards my family and myself - It is attended with many circumstances upon which I am not desirous to dwell; but as it was dictated by necessity so I hope it will eventually prove highly advantageous to us all - That it will ensure us to some of its inconveniences, and enable us to remove others - That it will reduce our desires to a level with our circumstances, and compensate to us in safety, whatever it may take from us in elegance or ease - I have taken this step upon full and long deliberation - More than two years since the occasion happened, which made it necessary - The determination was then taken which is now carrying into effect. Here I purpose to reside during the Summer Seasons; in the intervals from my attendance upon Congress.[645]

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[640] John Quincy Adams to Abigail Adams, 19 December 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

[641] John Quincy Adams Diary, 8 April 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

[642] John Quincy Adams Diary, 12 April 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30. John Quincy Adams Diary, 26 April 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

[643] John Quincy Adams Diary, 15 April 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

[644] John Quincy Adams Diary, 18-25 April 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

[645] John Quincy Adams Diary, 25 April 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

Thirty-five years later in her unpublished memoirs "Adventures of a Nobody," Louisa Catherine wrote her perception of the family's move to the John Quincy Adams birthplace:

> We arrived at Quincy after a tedious and unpleasant journey and our House not being ready we remained a week or two with the Gentleman's family . . . The family being so large we removed as soon as possible and not being able to procure any Servant or more properly help I had to cook and perform all the duties of the house with the assistance of my Sister [Eliza] who was more successful in milking Cows as I confess with all my labor for want of knack I could not get a drop of milk.

Shortly thereafter, she was relieved of some of her most onerous duties: "One of my neighbours kindly relieved us of the milking department: and at the termination of three days we began our usual routine with the assistance of a boy and two females with my assistance occasionally and superintendance." Despite her lightened workload, Louisa Catherine still had complaints related to the location of the house: "The House in which we lived was nearly tow [sic] miles from the Family and the neighborhood was in many respects unpleasant there being two or three insane persons under no controul of whom we were very much afraid."[646]

Besides the move, the only other events the Adamses discuss during their 1805 residence in the John Quincy Adams birthplace are accidents related to the children. In May their son John Adams nearly drowned:

> One morning while hearing Mr. Adams read a book of some interest to us, the children playing in the paddock close to us my oldest boy [George] came running into the room and called to his aunt [Eliza Johnson] to come and see his little brother [John] who had fallen into the water - at first she took little notice; but got up and went out to see what was the matter; when she found the Child had fallen head fore most into the rain water Tub, and was in imminent danger of losing his life - she lifted him out had a fire made immediately; stripped and used warm portions of hot rum and sent emmediately for the doctor - I wondering that she did not return, opened the door of the room and beheld my beautiful boy as I thought in agonies of death black in the face and struggling for breath . . . The presence of mind of his Aunt produced the best effect; and in the evening the Child appeared to be out of all danger playing about the room.[647]

This passage is illuminating because it illustrates to a degree how the John Quincy Adams birthplace functioned as a house. The rainwater barrel was likely at a corner to the rear of the house where the lean-to roof is low. Adams must have been reading to the women in the front of the house because Eliza Johnson was able to pull the boy from the water, take him into the kitchen, and build a fire without Louisa Catherine knowing anything was amiss. Because she only needed to open a door to see the trouble, Louisa

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[646] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," p. 185.

[647] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," pp. 185-186. John Quincy Adams Diary, 25 May 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

Catherine was likely in the northeast room, or parlor. In the morning, the northeast room would have been preferable to the southwest room on the other side of the kitchen because of its exposure to the sun.

Another, more minor, accident befell John while John Quincy Adams again was reading to the women: "I was reading Cumberland's Memoirs to the Ladies, we were alarmed by John's falling out of bed in the chamber over our heads - He received a severe bruise in the head, and bit his lip badly in the fall, but we hope without dangerous injury."[648] If the reading once again took place in the northeast room, then John was sleeping in a bed in the northeast chamber above the adults. Because he was severely bruised, it seems that he was sleeping in a high bed and not a trundle bed.

In fall of 1805, John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams went to Washington, D.C and left sons George and John with their grandparents. Years later Louisa Catherine described this heart-wrenching time: "The journey was dreadful I could not help grieving for my Children. It was my first separation from them and my heart was almost broken but our finances were low and the Children were troublesome and I conceded that I had no right to refuse what Mr. Adams thought just."[649]

John Quincy Adams returned to Quincy well before Louisa Catherine in 1806. He was in town at least as early as May and she did not arrive until August. Presumably Adams and the children stayed with John and Abigail at the Old House. Expecting the arrival of his wife, he decided to move to his birthplace in August: "letter from Mrs. A. whom I now expect here in four or five days. I wrote to her, and determined upon consideration of all circumstances, to go into my House at Quincy again for the remainder of the Summer." [650]

Louisa Catherine was distressed upon her arrival because her children had all but forgotten her and little had been prepared at the John Quincy Adams birthplace for her arrival:

> We went out to Quincy [from Boston] and were kindly greeted but my Children received me as a stranger and I was almost forgotten. After dinner we moved to our own house and arranged every thing as well as we could for our accommodation. Little or nothing had been done even in the arrangement of the Furniture and we had only a small boy to do anything for us for two or three days. God gave us strength and we soon became comfortable.[651]

Her comfort appears to have remained intact until several elite women from Baltimore called upon her:

> I was making and baking Cake, and was obliged to <u>dress</u> before I could appear. - The rooms of my house were literally too small to hold my company: - These Ladies were the elite of Baltimore - There was something truly ridiculous in my position - The shaking off of the Kitchen drapery for the parlour finery; and the assumption of the fashionable manners of my Station: was such a transition: as

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[648] John Quincy Adams Diary, 18 August 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
[649] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," pp. 186-187.
[650] John Quincy Adams Diary, 28 July 1806, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
[651] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," p. 194.

> robes Cinderella as a Princess; and I could scarcely fancy that the smoke spots had left me fair; when I presented myself to the company.[652]

Louisa Catherine was baking her cake in the bake oven in the lean-to kitchen. Her female servant, Sally Cleverly, probably received the Baltimore women at the front door and took them into the parlor. If Louisa Catherine needed to greatly alter her dress, she must have gone up the back stairwell from the kitchen through the back garrets and into one of the front chambers. From there she could descend the front staircase and appear in the parlor. It seems that she did not have a looking glass with which to examine her complexion because she worried that her face was unclean.

Another unpleasant event that befell the John Quincy Adams family was a robbery while they were away from the house. Adams makes brief mention of this occurrence in his diary: "On reaching home I found that my house had been broken open and robb'd last night - principally of articles of provision."[653] Because the missing items were mostly consumables and the Adamses were due to leave the birthplace the next month, there seems to have been little alarm.

One last piece of drama occurred on the November morning when the family was vacating the house for the last time. "While we sat at breakfast we were annoyed by a strong smell of fire: and looking round in every direction we discovered, that a red hot coal from the wood fire was burning the floor under my Sisters [Eliza Johnson's] Chair and that her woollen garment was much injured."[654] There are many first story fireplaces, so it is difficult to narrow down in which room the family was dining. However, because the family had packed and was leaving that day, it seems that only one fireplace, that in the kitchen, would have been lit to prepare breakfast. Therefore, they were likely dining in that room.

During his family's time at the John Quincy Adams birthplace, Adams kept an account book of his purchases and payments for services. His purchases fit into the expected categories of clothing and adornment, edibles, furnishings, lighting, gifts and books, hardware, and utensils. Most items were utilitarian falling into the clothing and utensils categories. The list of edibles may have been short for two reasons. First, the Adamses may have been able to supply many of their dietary needs by growing food themselves, receiving food from tenants and other family members, or bartering with other farmers. Also, there appear in the accounts bills submitted by John Briesler, some of which specify that he supplied the family with groceries or sundries. The other payments to Briesler may be for similar items.[655]

John Quincy Adams also paid people besides his regular servants to perform services for his family. He paid Phoebe for "washing the house" as the family moved into the John Quincy Adams birthplace in April of 1805. Mr. Page the carpenter received payments in April, June, and July of the same year. Later in 1805 Mrs. Field was paid for "cleaning out the wall" and William was paid for "work at the Garden." Mrs. Bracket received payment for "schooling George." In 1806, the only specific service payments were to Patterson for "new footing my boots" and to Mrs. Smith for making a gown.

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652 Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," no page number.
653 John Quincy Adams Diary, 3 October 1806, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
654 Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," no page number.
655 John Quincy Adams, Household Account Book, 1799-1822.

Others who did not receive steady wages but performed unspecified services for the family were Mr. Bass and Asa, Becca, Katy Copeland, Betsey Hunt, Mrs. Hunt, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Cleverly. Mr. Bass and Asa may have been the masons that Adams employed to repair his home. Otherwise, the list contains only women who likely helped Louisa with heavy cleaning or dairying.[656]

- Later John Quincy Adams (1803-1848)

Bemis describes the mature John Quincy Adams:

> He appeared to contemporary portrait painters and observers as a short, stocky man of vigorous health, plump in figure, with a well-shaped bald head, a composed countenance, a manner circumspect and cautious, reserved but not always distant, grave but not always forbidding, plain in dress, with a not unkindly face and a quick, black, penetrating eye. One of the most entertaining dinner companions of his day in a select group, he had before the world at large few of the social graces of his colleagues and rivals in the Cabinet.[657]

In 1803, John Quincy Adams was elected to the United States Senate, but soon proved himself to be something other than what the Federalist Party wanted as a representative. He considered himself a nonpartisan participant working in what he considered the best interest of the United States. In this role he alienated the Federalist Party and mercantile New England in general by supporting issues such as Thomas Jefferson's 1807 Embargo Act. In May 1808, the Massachusetts General Court voted for Adams' successor six months earlier than usual. Upon hearing of this vote, Adams immediately resigned his seat in June.[658]

In June of 1805, Adams was, in an interesting twist of fate, selected to fill the new chair of the Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard College. In 1771, Harvard received money from Nicholas Boylston to establish this teaching position. The school neglected to fill the position until Ward Nicholas Boylston sued the college for not fulfilling its obligations. Boylston agreed to drop the suit if Harvard installed John Quincy Adams as the new professor. Not wishing to lose the money, the college agreed to hire Adams despite his obscure qualifications and bowed to his many personal demands. Adams would not live in Cambridge, he would teach only a portion of the school year because of his work in Washington, D.C., he would not make the required "declaration of religious conformity," and he would reserve the right to choose a substitute professor for himself when necessary.[659]

President James Madison selected Adams to be minister-plenipotentiary to Russia in 1809. He accepted the post, but was forced to leave the Harvard professorship. His students requested that he publish his lectures. In response, the thirty-six lectures were published in 1810 under the title *Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory, Delivered to the Classes of Senior and Junior Sophisters in Harvard University* under the supervision of

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656 John Quincy Adams, Household Account Book, 1799-1822.
657 Bemis, p. 253.
658 Bemis, p. 149.
659 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 159-160.

Thomas Boylston Adams.[660] Louisa Catherine and his son Charles Francis accompanied him to Russia. Adams served as minister to Russia until 1814 when he was assigned to go to Ghent to negotiate a peace treaty with Britain.[661]

The following year Adams was assigned to be minister to the Court of St. James in London, a post his father held before him. There he lived with his wife and son until 1817 when he was called back to the United States to serve as secretary of state under James Monroe. In September of that year his family moved to Washington, D.C. His important accomplishments while in that position include signing the Transcontinental Treaty in 1819, submitting the *Report on Weights and Measures* to the Senate in 1821, and shaping the Monroe Doctrine in 1823.[662]

From 1825 to 1829, Adams served an unhappy term as President of the United States. Around 1829-1830, he returned to Quincy for an extended period during which he was elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers. In 1830 he was elected as a representative of the Plymouth District to the United States Congress in which he served until his death in the House of Representatives on 23 February 1848. During his time in Congress he was notably against the spread of slavery.[663]

- Louisa Catherine Adams

Louisa Catherine Johnson was born 12 February 1775 to an American father, Joshua Johnson, and an English mother, Catherine Nuth. Louisa Catherine was one of nine children; she had seven sisters and one brother. Johnson was a Maryland businessman who moved to London in 1771. During the American Revolution, Johnson, not a loyalist, moved his family to France. There Louisa Catherine went to school and became fluent in French. Her other interests included music and writing poetry.[664]

At the conclusion of the American Revolution, the Johnson family moved back to London where Johnson became the first American consul to England. The Johnson home became a popular attraction for visiting Americans partially because of the extravagant entertainment. In fact, Johnson entertained to such a degree that he put himself in great debt.[665]

It was as a visitor at the Johnson household that John Quincy Adams first met Louisa Catherine in 1795. The family thought he had feelings for her older sister Ann, but he asked for Louisa Catherine's hand in marriage four months later. The engagement pleased neither set of parents. Joshua Johnson felt his daughter could marry better.[666] Abigail Adams was particularly displeased because she felt a foreign wife with exotic tastes would not be a good match for an aspiring American politician.[667] The engagement dragged on for thirteen months. Pressure from Joshua Johnson and Adams' increased salary as minister to Portugal prompted their marriage on 26 July 1797.[668]

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660 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 196.
661 Bemis, p. 215.
662 Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," p. 366.
663 Gall, "Chronicle of Adamses," pp. 367-373.
664 Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 159-160. Ferling, p. 348.
665 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 160.
666 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 165.
667 Ferling, p. 349.
668 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 167.

Immediately after the wedding, the elder Johnsons left scores of unpaid bills behind when they left England for Maryland. Louisa Catherine's promised dowry of L500 was never paid.[669]

After their belongings had been sent to Portugal, the Adamses learned that John Quincy had been reassigned to be minister to Prussia in the city of Berlin. While in Berlin, Louisa Catherine suffered four discouraging miscarriages. John Quincy and Louisa Catherine's first child, George Washington Adams, was born in the spring of 1801. That fall, John Quincy Adams was recalled to the United States.[670]

When the couple returned, John Quincy went to Quincy to see his parents while Louisa Catherine went with her son to Washington, D.C. to spend time with her family. In October, John Quincy escorted his wife home to Quincy to meet his parents for the first time. Abigail Adams greeted her coolly, but John Adams liked her immediately.[671] There was also friction between Louisa Catherine Adams and the less fortunate wife of Thomas Boylston, Ann Harrod Adams.

In 1802, Louisa Catherine's mother Catherine and one of her sisters visited her in Quincy. From that time on, one or more of her sisters stayed with her while she was in Quincy.[672] This arrangement offered Louisa Catherine company and help while it eased the financial burden on the Johnson family.

In 1803, their second son, John Adams II, was born. In late 1803, when John Quincy Adams was elected to the United States Senate, the family went to live with one of Louisa's sisters in the Washington, D.C. area. Louisa Catherine and her two sons spent the summer of 1804 in Washington while John Quincy Adams visited his parents in Quincy.

Louisa Catherine Adams joined John Quincy Adams in his birthplace for the summers of 1805 and 1806. Her sister Eliza lived with the family at that time. The family also employed live-in female servants. Prudy Newcombe, a former employee, was to be engaged through Abigail Adams for 1805.[673] Either the same girl or a sister, "Hetty Newcomb," earned wages throughout the Adams' stay in 1805. Other women who earned wages during the same year were Debby who worked until June; Eliza Hardwick who worked in June and July; and Betsey Copeland who appears to have worked in August, September, and October. Like Abigail Adams before her, Louisa Catherine had two female domestics while living in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The family also employed the services of a young man named Newell Adams for the duration of their stay.[674] Newell, like the female domestics, lived with the family.[675]

When the Adamses left Quincy in 1805, they left George Washington and John Adams II behind with the Cranches and John and Abigail Adams. Louisa found this separation intolerable and it was not repeated the following year. However, the boys were left behind again in 1807.

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669 Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 167-168.
670 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 170.
671 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 174.
672 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 175.
673 Abigail Adams to Louisa Catherine Adams, 27 January 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #404. Louisa Catherine Adams to Abigail Adams, 11 February 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #404.
674 John Quincy Adams, Household Account Book, 1799-1822.
675 John Quincy Adams Diary, 11 August 1806, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

In 1806, there is less evidence of who and how many servants the Adamses employed. Sally Cleverly served as a maid during the duration of Louisa Catherine's stay in the house.[676] The Adamses also employed Newell's brother Charles Adams who, like Newell, probably lived with the family.[677] The duration of his employment is uncertain because his wages do not appear in John Quincy Adams' household accounts.

Through Louisa Catherine's later memoir, "Adventures of a Nobody," it is possible to get a glimpse of what her social life was like in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. In some instances she even describes her clothing. Once when she seemed pleased with her outfit she wore "a small white French lace Cap ornamented on one side with a delicate bunch of [illeg.] Roses; with a simple white India muslin dress; a pink belt to match the flowers in my Cap and bouquet & pink Satin Shoes."[678] At a more harassed time, "Mr. Adams sent for us to Quincy [she was residing in Boston at the time] to go to an Assembly there . . . I was not very willing to go but arranged a dress of grey Muslin trimmed with black velvet and bugle fringe with a black bugle tiara on my head."[679]

The year 1806 seems to have been a particularly busy social season for Louisa Catherine in Quincy. She arrived in town in August, later than John Quincy Adams, because she chose to await the birth of a baby in Washington, D.C. The baby was stillborn. This sad event may have prompted her or the family to fill her time socially once she arrived in Quincy. Louisa Catherine described the month of September: "It was varied by occasional Parties: one at our own House, and others in the lawn[?], town[?]. They were always full dressed: plenty of Cake and fruit; a number of Ladies; few gentlemen; and mosquito in abundance: and they usually broke up at nine o'clock." Her emphasis on the party at their house implies that this was a rare occasion. Women also visited her for tea. In October, "Miss Edes was a lively agreeable girl very amusing in conversation. She came to take tea with us accompanied by Miss Welsh." And there were the family visits: "Time wore on with the usual course of the family: constant interchanges of social visits as far as strength and weather would permit."[680]

The Adamses left Quincy in 1806 for Boston where their third son Charles Francis Adams was born in the fall of 1807. Leaving the other two boys in New England, John Quincy, Louisa Catherine, and Charles Francis Adams went to Washington, D.C. for John Quincy Adams' final term in the U.S. Senate. They returned to Boston in 1808 when Adams resigned.

In 1809, when John Quincy Adams was appointed minister-plenipotentiary to Russia, Louisa Catherine Adams was again forced to part with her two oldest sons. George Washington and John Adams II remained in Quincy while baby Charles Francis Adams accompanied his parents. Louisa Catherine resented this separation feeling that the boys needed her care more than her husband.[681] During their time in Russia, Louisa Catherine gave birth to a daughter of the same name in 1811. Sadly, their only daughter died in 1812.[682]

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[676] John Quincy Adams Diary, 29 August 1806, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30. John Quincy Adams Household Account Book, 1799-1822.

[677] John Quincy Adams Diary, 11 August 1806, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

[678] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," no page number.

[679] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," p. 200.

[680] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," no page number.

[681] Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 183-184.

[682] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 209.

In 1814, John Quincy Adams, leaving his wife in Russia, went to Ghent to negotiate the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain. He then asked Louisa Catherine to sell their belongings in Russia and travel with Charles Francis across northern Europe during the winter in order to meet him in Paris. Meanwhile, John and Abigail Adams sent the two older boys to meet their parents in London where John Quincy Adams was to be minister.[683] There the reunited family remained until John Quincy Adams was recalled to America in 1817. Although John Quincy Adams retained possession of his birthplace, his family was never to reside there after 1806.

At the conclusion of John Quincy Adams' presidential term, the Adamses moved back to the Old House in Quincy. Louisa Catherine remained in Quincy when Adams went to Washington, D.C. during his time in Congress from 1830 to 1848.[684] She suffered a stroke in 1849 and died in 1852.[685]

- George Washington Adams

John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams' first son, George Washington Adams was born in 1801 while they were in Berlin. He came to America at the age of six months. He lived with his parents until 1805 at which point he went to live and study with Richard and Mary Cranch.[686] He was reunited with his parents in the summer of 1806 and lived with them until the fall of 1807 when he went to study at the academy run by his great aunt Elizabeth (formerly Smith) and Reverend Stephen Peabody in Atkinson, New Hampshire.[687] He did not see his parents from the time they left for Russia in 1809 until he was sent to live with them in England in 1815.[688]

When he assessed his son in 1815, John Quincy Adams found George's education to be lacking and proceeded to tutor him for admission to Harvard.[689] When the Adamses returned to America in 1817, George was still found deficient and again studied for admission with a Cambridge family.[690] In 1820, he was at last admitted to the college as a freshman.[691] He completed his Harvard education and then went to Washington, D.C. to prepare for the Suffolk bar under his father's supervision.[692] He later returned to Boston to study under Daniel Webster.[693]

During the 1820s George had at least two unfortunate involvements with women. Prior to 1828, George was engaged to Mary Hellen who married his younger brother John instead.[694] In 1828, George was boarding in Massachusetts with the Welsh family and impregnated their employee Eliza Dolph.[695] This incident and other issues may have led to his early demise. Harris describes Adams at the time of his death:

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683 Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 189-193.
684 Nagel, *Adams Women*, p. 285.
685 Nagel, *Adams Women*, pp. 290-291.
686 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 162.
687 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 173.
688 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 224-225.
689 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 225.
690 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 236.
691 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 254.
692 Bemis, p. 275.
693 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 279.
694 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 317.
695 Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, pp. 329-330.

> Young George Washington [Adams] was unstable, squandered his income, and had no useful direction to his life.
>
> Upon receiving his father's letter assigning the responsibility to him for the travel with his adoring mother, George grew panicky, very nervous, and was disturbed by hallucinations. After boarding the steamboat *Benjamin Franklin* at Providence for New York, he apparently grew more disturbed. In the course of the night he jumped overboard and was drowned – his watch stopped at 3:40 A.M. He had complained of feeling ill to one of the passengers.[696]

Whether George Washington Adams' death in October of 1828 was an accident or suicide is unknown.

- John Adams II

John Adams II was born in 1803. He lived with his parents until fall of 1805 when he went to live with his grandparents John and Abigail Adams.[697] He lived with his parents again from the summer of 1806 to the fall of 1807 when he returned to his grandparents' house.[698] He did not see his parents from the time they left for Russia in 1809 until he was sent to live with them in England in 1815.[699]

While in England he went to boarding school at Dr. William Nicholas' academy.[700] Upon his return to America in 1817, he went to Boston Latin.[701] He later attended Harvard from which he was expelled for taking part in a protest.[702] After his adventures at Harvard, John Quincy Adams put John in charge of Columbian Mills, a flour-making enterprise located near Washington, D.C. which Adams had purchased from George Johnson, a relative of Louisa Catherine's.[703] The business was badly in need of upgrades which John Quincy Adams could not afford. Unfortunately, John Adams II was not a talented or interested manager and the already floundering company was left in a very poor state when he died in 1834. He had been alcohol-dependent since the early 1830s.[704] In October of 1834 he slipped into a coma and died of alcohol abuse. He left behind wife Mary Hellen, two children, and around $15,000 in debts.[705]

- Charles Francis Adams

The Adams' youngest son Charles Francis Adams was born in Boston in 1807, so never lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. He did become involved with it later

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[696] Harris, *Old House Historic Furnishings*, vol. 1, pp. 39-40.
[697] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 162.
[698] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 173.
[699] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 205.
[700] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 224.
[701] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 236.
[702] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 280.
[703] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 350.
[704] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 341.
[705] Nagel, *John Quincy Adams*, p. 346.

as his father's agent starting in 1832. He inherited the Penn's Hill farm upon his father's death in 1848.[706]

Charles Francis Adams graduated from Harvard College and studied law in Washington, D.C. while John Quincy Adams served as president. He later clerked under Daniel Webster in Boston and was admitted to the bar in 1828. In 1829, he married Abigail Brooks, a member of a wealthy Massachusetts family. The couple had seven children including Charles Francis Adams, Jr., Henry Adams, and Brooks Adams who would live in the Old House from 1889 to 1927.

From 1840 to 1845, Charles Francis Adams served in the Massachusetts legislature where he opposed the westward expansion of slavery. He unsuccessfully ran for the vice presidency on the Free Soil ticket in 1848 with Martin Van Buren. Shortly thereafter he began to edit the papers of and wrote a biography for his grandfather John Adams.

Charles Francis Adams was elected to Congress in 1859 and became minister to Great Britain in 1861. Adams returned to America in 1868. He went back to Europe from 1871 to 1872 to adjudicate proceedings in which the United States won a settlement of $15 million from Britain for damages inflicted by the Confederacy's British-built warships during the United States Civil War.

In late life, Adams returned to editing the Adams family papers. He also made changes to the Old House grounds. He removed earlier farm buildings and oversaw the construction of a carriage house, greenhouse, and the Stone Library where the family's library is still kept.[707]

- Tenant Joseph Faxon (1807-1813)

In March to early April of 1807, John Quincy Adams moved furniture from his birthplace to his residence in Boston.[708] In May of the same year Joseph Faxon became the new tenant in the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[709] He was taxed for the house from 1807 to 1812. He likely is also "Jobb" Faxon who was taxed for the same property in 1813. According to Faxon family tradition as transmitted to the Quincy Historical Society, Joseph Faxon married his wife Hepzibah in 1806. A tavern table in the Society's collection is believed to have been owned by the Adams family, used by the Faxons after 1806, apparently taken by the Faxons when they moved, and then descended in that family through the nineteenth century. No further information about this family or its activities is available.[710]

John Quincy Adams noted in 1809 that he "Went with my brother to my old dwelling house; now inhabited by Mr. Faxon - to examine the number of the boxes of books which are to be sent to me at Boston."[711] Two weeks later he records, "The remainder of my books came in this morning from Quincy - They have been pack'd up in boxes twelve complete years; and I have never had an opportunity to open then - Even

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[706] John Quincy Adams, Will, 1847.
[707] Peak, *General Management Plan*, pp. 12-13.
[708] John Quincy Adams Diary, 20 March – 4 April 1807, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
[709] John Quincy Adams Diary, 3 May 1807, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
[710] Quincy Historical Society, Object Card Files, Card .6484, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.
[711] John Quincy Adams Diary, 30 April 1809, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

now, I have not room for my whole library in my house; and am apprehensive I ne[']er shall."[712] Thus, Faxon finally saw the removal of the books formerly stored at the house.

- Luther Spear (1814)

According to the Quincy tax list, Luther Spear was a tenant at the John Quincy Adams birthplace for one year.[713] He is also the first tenant that Isaac Hull Adams remembers living there. Adams was born in 1813, so may have remembered the Spear family[714].

Information available in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 Federal Censuses indicate that Spear and his wife were at least twenty-four when they lived at the John Quincy Adams birthplace. They had one daughter in 1810. It is possible that they had as many as three living with them at the John Quincy Adams birthplace in 1814. Spear had one male servant or brother living with him in 1810 and three in 1820, therefore there was likely one or more in his 1814 household. His wife had no female servants in 1810 and three in 1820. If she had three daughters in 1814, she may have had at least one female servant at that time. Spear was a farmer. His wife did not own a loom, but may have used a neighbor's for weaving because the family owned twenty yards of cloth in 1810.[715]

According to Caroline Spear, Luther Spear rented the Mount Wollaston farm from the Adamses at some point after his tenancy at the birthplace. In 1833 John Quincy Adams describes land negotiations with Luther Spear that do not sound as if they amounted to anything: "I went with Luther Spear to the farm at the foot of Penn's Hill and over the grounds. Spear wants to purchase part of the land there to build a house upon it, but expects to have it very cheap."[716] No other information regarding Spear is available.

- Ebenezer Green (1815-1823)

Ebenezer Green was taxed for the John Quincy Adams birthplace from 1815 to 1823 although his name is missing from the 1821 tax list. He may have continued to occupy the house in 1824, but the records for that year are missing.[717] According to Sprague, Green married Mary Ann Adams, the daughter of John Adams' cousin, Elijah Adams.[718] Federal census records indicate that when the Greens moved into the John Quincy Adams birthplace Ebenezer was thirty-four and Mary Ann was thirty-one years old.

In 1810, the Greens had two young daughters. By 1820 they had eight children, four daughters and four sons under the age of ten. As Isaac Hull Adams recalled, "I remember Mr. Green & family being there. He had quite a number of daughters and was very poor. Could not pay his rent promptly."[719] The Greens had at least one more

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[712] John Quincy Adams Diary, 13 May 1809, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.
[713] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1792-1811.*
[714] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, p. 60.
[715] *1810 Federal Census. 1820 Federal Census. 1830 Federal Census.*
[716] John Quincy Adams Diary, 22 May 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.
[717] *Town of Quincy Tax Bill, 1811-1826.*
[718] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 25.
[719] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, p. 60.

daughter after 1820, because Caroline Green, who later married Charles Spear, was born in the northeast room, or parlor, in 1822.[720] One of Green's sons was named after John Quincy Adams because as Caroline Spear later related, "When my brother John Quincy Green was born[,] John Quincy Adams, Esq. came to the house one day giving my Mother a silver dollar for the baby said [']I will give the child this money if you name him after me.[']"[721]

The Ebenezer Green family left the John Quincy Adams birthplace by the mid-1820s, but, according to Sprague, may have shared the house with another family later in life.[722] In the 1860 Federal Census, the elderly Ebenezer and Mary Green are listed as living with the Branbury family (see below).

- The 1820s

The chronology of tenants in the John Quincy Adams birthplace becomes murky in the 1820s. Farmers and manufacturers shared the house for short periods of time. Crane describes the occupancy of the house in the later 1820s as, "like a steamboat wharf, people leaving and arriving almost every hour."[723]

John Faxon (1824?-1827)

John Faxon was the next tenant to live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. He may have arrived as early as 1824, but certainly was leaving the house by 1827 because John Quincy Adams wrote to his brother Thomas Boylston Adams in March, "I am content that the place which has been occupied by Mr. Faxon should be leased as you proposed to Mr. Clark, and the manure and the shed which Faxon may leave, should be taken at a reasonable appraisement." The "shed" to which Adams refers may be a free standing shed on the property, or it could be one of the two small shed additions added to the north and west elevations of the house (see ills. 2, 3, 5, 7, 9). Adams also was interested in making some improvements at this time for in the same letter he wrote, "I concur with you in the opinion that the dwelling House at the foot of Penns Hill should be painted, and made externally to resume a decent appearance which I regretted much to see that it had not last summer."[724]

The Faxons "carried on their sheep killing and mutton business at and from that place [the John Quincy Adams birthplace]."[725] Faxon's vocation is confirmed by the administrative papers of his estate which describe him as a butcher and the inventory

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[720] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 25, 34.

[721] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, p. 7.

[722] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 37.

[723] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34.

[724] John Quincy Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, 19 March 1827, in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 155.

[725] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34.

taken at his death which lists "2 Butcher Wagons and Harnesses" as well as a "Lot of Butchers Tools."[726]

Information available in census records indicates that Faxon was in his mid-thirties while living at the birthplace. He was married to Lucy Faxon whose age cannot be determined but was likely about the same age.[727] In 1830, the Faxons had a daughter and two sons who definitely lived at the birthplace and two younger sons who also may have lived there. In addition, in 1830 Lucy Faxon had the help of a female servant or younger sister. Her situation was probably much the same in the mid-1820s.[728]

According to Crane, John Faxon bought a house at auction. Faxon likely bought and moved into this house in 1827.[729] In 1845, Faxon died intestate.[730]

Noah Clark and Tom Hayden (1825?-1829?)

As indicated in the above letter from John Quincy Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, Noah Clark was the next tenant in the house. He moved there in 1827 and leased farmland with it. Crane stated that Clark lived in the north half of the house and Thomas Hayden lived in the south half.[731] The only information available about the Clark family is in the 1830 Federal Census. At that time Clark was in his twenties and his wife was in her thirties. They had three young children, two under the age of five and one under the age of ten.[732]

Thomas and Esther Hayden lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace in their middle age.[733] They were both at least in their mid-forties when they arrived at the house.[734] According to Crane, Hayden was a shoemaker working nearby for Joseph Field. Hayden also was described as a cordwainer at the time of his death.[735] Esther Hayden opened in the southeast room, John Adams' former law office, what is reportedly the first apothecary shop in Quincy.[736] Crane places the opening of this shop as early as 1825, so it is possible that the Haydens shared the house with the Faxons at that time. Crane dates their leaving the house to 1827. However, they could not have left the house in 1827 and shared the house with the Noah Clark family as he also states. At some time after 1827, the Haydens moved elsewhere in Quincy where Esther Hayden continued to maintain an apothecary shop.[737]

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[726] John Faxon, Administration of Widow's Allowance, 1845, case #6698, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA. John Faxon, Inventory, 1845, case #6698, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.

[727] John Faxon, Administration of Widow's Allowance, 1845.

[728] *1830 Federal Census. Population Schedules of the Sixth Census of the United States 1840,* Roll 192, Massachusetts, vol. 10 (Washington, D.C.: The National Archives and Record Services Administration, 1967), microform edition.

[729] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 25.

[730] John Faxon, Administration of Widow's Allowance, 1845.

[731] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34.

[732] *1830 Federal Census.*

[733] Thomas Hayden, Will, 1838, case #9149, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.

[734] *1820 Federal Census. 1830 Federal Census.*

[735] Thomas Hayden, Administrative Document, 1843, case #9149, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.

[736] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 11.

[737] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 11.

The division of the John Quincy Adams birthplace during the occupancy of the Clarks and Haydens may have been an even split down the center. However, Esther Hayden's apothecary shop poses a potential problem. She may have used the southeast room as both shop and kitchen. She would then have had a small parlor in the southwest room and sleeping and storage on the second floor. If she did not, the two families may have shared the lean-to kitchen in the back.

- Later Tenants (1829-1848)

At this time Charles Francis Adams found it difficult to collect rent upon his father's behalf: "In the afternoon I walked to Payne's hill after my usual business of dunning the Tenants and with usual success." Not long after he complained again, "I went to town, according to agreement for the purpose of collecting rent, but was disappointed, as I was also at Payne's hill where I called before starting."[738]

The Fields (1829?-1833?)

The next tenants known to have lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace are Harvey Field and William Field in 1829. William Field was Harvey's nephew.[739] At that time there was a fire in the house and then a debate as to who would pay for the repairs. John Quincy Adams describes the event in his diary:

> Harvey Field came to give me notice that on Saturday Night, my house at the foot of Penn's Hill; the house in which I was born, had taken fire and suffered very considerable injury - The fire by the blessing of God was extinguished so that the house was saved - . . . It was now[?] in the part of The House occupied by William Field; and Harvey asked who was to be at the expense of the repairs[.] I said it must be he who made the fire; but he said William Field had been told the repairs must be made by me. For the damage had been occasioned by placing a Fire-frame in the chimney, for which[?] Field had received permission from my brother. I said my brother had not given him permission to set the house on fire. He asked me to come and look at it, which I promised to do to-morrow.[740]

As promised, Adams went to assess the damage and recorded it in his diary:

> The floor has burnt through from the cellar, and two large beams are entirely burnt off. The damage to the house is considerable; but the house has been spared. In that house I was born. It cannot last many years longer yet I cannot suppress a hope that it will outlast me.- Had it been consumed I would have felt it as a calamity far beyond its intrinsic value.[741]

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[738] Charles Francis Adams Diary, 22 July 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #61.
[739] John Quincy Adams Diary, 26 June 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[740] John Quincy Adams Diary, 2 November 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[741] John Quincy Adams Diary, 3 November 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

John Quincy Adams hired George Vesey to repair the damage: "Mr. George Vesey came this morning and informed me what he thought was the extent of the damage done by the fire, to the house at the foot of Penn's hill, which I directed him to repair."[742]

It is not entirely clear, but it appears that the two families shared the house much the way the Haydens and Clarks had before them. Both families spent a short amount of time in the house.

William Field and his wife Louisa were a young couple of twenty-one and eighteen when they first moved into the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Field likely was employed in the quarrying of stone because in censuses he is described as in "mining" and later as a "stone contractor."[743] The last mention of William Field making a rent payment is in July of 1833. He may have moved from the house before that time.[744]

In 1830, Harvey Field was unmarried and his household contained two younger men, one in his teens and one in his twenties. Field himself was in his thirties.[745] At the time of his death Field was described as a farmer, but he had other occupations as well. John Quincy Adams described him in 1929: "Field is a butcher and finds the occasional occupations - He said he had for two months past been keeping three or four fishing boats out supplying the town with fish; but that the season for that was now over."[746]

Harvey Field may have moved about the same time as William because by 1834 John Quincy Adams refers to "Harvey Field's house."[747] Field's short stay in the house is confirmed by a late-nineteenth-century newspaper article describing objects displayed in the house by the Quincy Historical Society: "This kettle once before was suspended here when the late Harvey Field took temporary residence while the house where the younger Harvey now resides was building."[748] After moving from the John Quincy Adams birthplace, Field rented land from Adams from about 1838 to 1841.[749] Harvey Field would later have a family and he died in 1878.[750]

- Other Tenants

Carr (1833): The only reference to Carr as a tenant is in John Quincy Adams' diary in April 1833: "My first visitor this morning was my Tenant Carr, who came to ask for alterations and repairs upon the farm."[751] Carr may have been moving in as a new tenant and had requests to make the house more livable.

Henry Wilson (pre-1834): Henry Wilson is mentioned in John Quincy Adams' diary: "Henry Wilson heretofore a Seaman in the Navy and before that, during the last War with Great Britain a soldier in the Army came this morning and said he wished me

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[742] John Quincy Adams Diary, 12 November 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[743] *1840 Federal Census. 1850 Federal Census.*
[744] John Quincy Adams Diary, 30 July 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.
[745] *1830 Federal Census.*
[746] John Quincy Adams Diary, 26 June 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[747] John Quincy Adams Diary, 9 September 1834, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.
[748] "The Cottage."
[749] Charles Francis Adams, John Quincy Adams' Finances 1838-1842, 6 November 1838.
[750] Harvey Field, Administrative Bond, 1878, case #20928, Norfolk County Probate Court, Dedham, MA.
[751] John Quincy Adams Diary, 22 April 1833, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.

to obtain a pension for him next winter in Washington . . . He said he belonged to this town - had formerly been a tenant of my farm at the foot of Penn's Hill, and was now working at the stone cutting business."[752]

Charles Spear (1841-Unknown): Caroline Spear, then resident of the John Adams birthplace stated in 1896, "We hired both of the old houses and let the 'cottage' to good people when we could, but it was untenanted most of the time till Charles F. Adams Sr. took it off our hands and let it himself. It was then rented to anyone that would hire it."[753]

Thomas Kelley (1840s): According to Sprague, "During repairs to the 'cottage of John and Abigail Adams in 1896 or 1897 Thomas Kelley, carpenter, who was at work on the Barnicoat house nearby and given permission to eat his dinner in the 'cottage' remarked that he had not been in the house for fifty years and also said that he had formerly boarded there. 'Four of us young fellows slept in the N.W. room under the eaves and there was another family in the other side of the house.'"[754] Kelley likely boarded at the house while it was under lease to the Charles Spear family.

Charles Francis Adams Ownership (1848-1886)

Upon his father John Quincy Adams' death, Charles Francis Adams inherited the John Quincy Adams birthplace and surrounding land.[755] The house continued to be occupied by a series of tenants many of whose names have been lost.

Pictorial evidence suggests that changes in the windows of the John Quincy Adams birthplace took place during Charles Francis Adams' ownership of the house. In Frankenstein's 1849-1850 oil painting the garret and attic windows are small, four-paned casement windows.[756] By the early 1880s, these windows were converted to six-over-six double-hung sash.[757]

- Ebenezer Green and Joseph Branbury (ca. 1860?)

Sprague believes that former tenants Ebenezer and Mary Ann Green returned to live in the John Quincy Adams birthplace because they appear in the 1860 Federal Census. Although they do appear in the census, it is unclear why Sprague believes they occupied this house.

In the 1860 Federal Census, the elderly Ebenezer and "Mary" Green are listed as living with the Branbury family. The Branburys consisted of Joseph, a thirty-nine-year-old bootmaker originally from Germany, his thirty-year-old Irish wife Ann, and their three Massachusetts-born young sons, William, James, and Joseph. In addition the

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[752] John Quincy Adams Diary, 9 August1834, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #42.
[753] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, pp. 6-7.
[754] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 34, 37.
[755] John Quincy Adams, Will, 1847.
[756] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, pp. 240-241.
[757] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, pp. 248-249.

household contained Mary Cacklin, a forty-year-old Irish servant, and Samuel Rum, a twenty-four-year-old bootmaker originally from Nova Scotia.[758]

- Other Tenants

Gillett (Unknown): Edwin Marsh "called in at the 'cottage' of John and Abigail Adams [in 1899 when occupied by Quincy Historical Society]. When he first came in he said 'I have not been in this house before for 70 years and that was when I went to school to Mr. Gillett the stage (Boston) driver['s] wife.'"[759]

Newton (Unknown): According to John Crane, "The present Herbert Newton of North Weymouth, grand-father lived here with his family once. Henry the father of Herbert was a child there."[760] Edwin Marsh confirmed Crane's statement in 1899: "I know that Herbert Newton (of Weymouth) father once had a shoe shop in this house."[761]

Arad "Ike" Linfield (Unknown): According to Crane, "Ike Linfield who before Hall drove the Boston stage from Weymouth, lived with his family in the J & A.A. 'Cottage.'" Sprague conjectures that this is a reference to Arad Linfield a stage driver from Weymouth.[762]

Adams Real Estate Trust Ownership (1886-1940)

The Adams Real Estate Trust was formed at the time of Charles Francis Adams' death in 1886. The real estate under its supervision included the John Quincy Adams birthplace and an unspecified amount of land surrounding it (see "John Adams Birthplace" - Adams Real Estate Trust Ownership). The house continued to be leased to tenants at least until 1894. In 1896, the Quincy Historical Society assumed occupancy of the house and began a large "restoration" project.

- Irish Tenants (ca. 1892)

Gall paraphrases a newspaper article in the *Boston Evening Transcript*: "The writer had visited the J.Q.A. birthplace and found it in shambles, occupied by Irish tenants who had the audacity to hang a portrait of the pope in John Quincy Adams' birth room."[763]

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[758] *1860 Federal Census.*
[759] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, p. 9.
[760] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 2, pp. 32-33.
[761] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Senior Citizens, 1895-1899," vol. 1, p. 9.
[762] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34.
[763] Ernest [Illeg.], Letter to *Boston Evening Transcript*, 13 December 1892, quoted in Gall, "New England Preservation History," p. [7].

- Quincy Historical Society (1896-1940)

The Quincy Historical Society was founded by William Gardner Spear in 1893, just over one hundred years after the town of Quincy was incorporated. The *Quincy Patriot Ledger* printed the mission of the new Society:

> 'for the purpose or the prosecution of historical and antiquarian work and research, the collection and preservation of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and other articles of historical and antiquarian interest, the publication of periodicals, tracts and pamphlets devoted to or treating of historical, antiquarian or kindred subjects, and other historical and antiquarian objects and purposes.'[764]

The Quincy Historical Society was notable at the time of its inception for opening its membership to women. A period newspaper commented,

> Unlike most of the older historical societies of the state, women are here admitted to active membership and instead of causing discord, as the old story goes, the society has profited much by the indefatigable work of the women and the collection rooms in the Adams building are replete with results of their labors.[765]

Spear, the Society's first librarian and curator, moved to Quincy in the 1870s and lived there until 1903 when he married and moved to Pembroke. He is described in the 1917 edition of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*:

> Mr. Spear early evinced a deep interest in town and family history although he by no means confined his researches to those fields of investigation. He devoted the last thirty years of his life to seeking after truth along historical, genealogical, and antiquarian lines, and he shared the knowledge thus gained with many who resorted to him for information.

Spear died in 1916.[766]

The Quincy Historical Society's first headquarters was in the Adams Building, a Quincy office building. In early September of 1895, the *Quincy Patriot Ledger* announced the Society's move into the building.[767] Just over a month later, the Quincy Historical Society welcomed the public to view its collection. At that time, the Society had 568 bound volumes and a multitude of pictures, archival materials, furnishings, and utensils. As well they might have been, "The many people who took advantage of the opening to visit the rooms were loud in their praises, and were surprised at the extent of the collection which had been accumulated in the two year's time the society had been formed." Donated items were clearly marked with the donors' names to encourage

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[764] *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 21 October 1893.

[765] "In the Old Adams House: Quincy Historical Society Will Be Proud," 17 June 1897, appendix C-2 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

[766] "William Gardner Spear," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 71 (1917): 46.

[767] "Through the Kindness of Charles F. Adams, 2d, the House Committee of the Quincy Historical Society Has Been Able to Secure a Room in the Adams Building," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 6 September 1895.

further donations. Spear ordered via a posted sign that those who were not donors were "requested to make themselves comfortable by standing."[768]

By early 1896, Spear had convinced Charles Francis Adams Jr., first president of the Quincy Historical Society, to allow the Society to lease the John Quincy Adams birthplace. A period newspaper article praised the state of affairs:

> The news that the birth place of President John Quincy Adams at South Quincy is to be given to the Quincy Historical Society by Hon. Charles Francis Adams, to be occupied by them as a museum will be welcomed by the citizens of Quincy. Of late years but little in the way of repairs has been done to the old house and unless some such movement as proposed is carried out, the old house would in a few years be beyond repair or preservation and nothing left to mark the historic spot.
>
> It is understood that the historical society may convert the house into a colonial mansion of the Revolutionary period and to have the furnishings as far as possible correspond, and the many historic relics of a local and national nature will be here preserved.[769]

In addition to the lease, Charles Francis Adams Jr. agreed to spend about $825 to "restore" the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Spear oversaw the restoration of the house from 1896 into 1897. He stated his intent in the restoration: "'It is Abigail Adams' ideas that I am striving to reproduce in restoring and refurnishing the place, for it was her hand and mind that predominated in the household.'"[770] The project's final cost was about $1650, twice the proposed amount, but Adams paid the bill anyway.[771]

No written documentation of Spear's restoration survives today. A few photographs of the interior and exterior progress during the project exist. Otherwise, the changes Spear made can only be inferred from conditions described by twentieth-century historians and architectural conservators. As Gall stated in 1979, Spear's restoration was not as sensitive to historic fabric and authenticity as today's restorations are expected to be:

> Some of Spear's methods would undoubtedly be questionable by today's standards. Like many early restorationists, he tended to 'early up' the appearance of the house. Removing the plaster from the law office ceiling to expose the joists and floor boards of the chamber above satisfied the prevailing taste for rusticity, but it may have violated Spear's original intention to restore the house to the John Adams period, for by that time the room was an office and library, not a kitchen. Opening the fireplace and exposing the brick surrounds is even more dubious.[772]

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[768] "Historical Rooms. A Large Collection of Relics Now on Exhibition. The Quincy Historical Society Well Established in Adams Building," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 11 October 1895.

[769] "Historical Museum: The Birthplaces of One of the Presidents to be Thus Used," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 27 January 1896.

[770] Article, Unknown source, 3 March 1897, in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 163.

[771] Gall, "New England Preservation History," pp. [8-10].

[772] Gall, "New England Preservation History," pp. [11-12].

Based on documentary and *in situ* evidence, Albee summarized Spear's work in the 1998 report "Description of the 1897 Restoration and Analysis of Integrity." As far as alterations to the framing and wall cavity "During the [1897] restoration, the majority of first story, exterior wall studs were replaced; nogging (brick and clay) was removed from east, north and south exterior walls, except for a few spots as evidence; Sills were replaced." "New sheathing boards, more narrow than the earlier lean-to era sheathing, secured with late-cut nails, were installed at the first story, at former window patches on south gable, and possibly at very top of north gable. The majority of second story sheathing remained unchanged (as did the siding)." As with the sheathing the first story siding was changed: "First story exterior siding was replaced with beaded weatherboards, purchased from A.T. Stearns Lumber Co., Boston, Mass. These weatherboards are finely planed, beaded, secured with late-cut nails, and butt-joined. Patching with these boards also occurred on the south elevation, second story, at changes in window openings. New wood shingles or shakes were installed on the rear elevation of the lean-to." Changes to openings included "A small-paned window sash found under the eaves and restored to 'its former position.' Window openings in the attic and at the lean-to ends of the second story were restored to their former small size. The door in the main entrance was replaced with an old door from another house." The corner boards were also replaced at this time. The rear or west shed which appeared in earlier photographs was removed during Spear's restoration.[773]

On the interior,

> extensive plasterwork was performed on the birthplace. The hand-rived lath from walls throughout the first and second stories was replaced with sawn lath. The walls were freshly plastered, but the surface texture and finish of the 1896 plaster was grainy and rough in appearance, not the smooth finish of the earlier plaster. In addition, it was a poor grade of plaster. . . . Extensive plasterwork was undertaken on all first- and second-story rooms. Interior painted finishes were restored to a designated historic time period. Where possible interior wood trim, stairs, doors, and hardware were restored.[774]

In addition, a corner cupboard was installed in the northeast corner of the northeast room, or parlor.[775] No extensive repairs were made to the house after the initial restoration until 1913, when a water closet was installed in the basement.[776]

On the exterior of the house, the Society erected a stone wall, set up "an old-fashioned well curb" in the yard, and displayed "the model of the First church which for many years was in the yard of the Briesler estate."[777]

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[773] Larry Lowenthal and Peggy A. Albee, *The Restoration of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace Including Description of the 1897 Restoration and Analysis of Integrity* (Boston: Boston Support Office, National Park Service, 1998), pp. 9-10.

[774] Perrault, *Completion Report: John Quincy Adams Birthplace*, p. 17.

[775] "Notes for the Hostess of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace," ca. 1969[?], appendix D-15 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 7.

[776] Quincy Historical Society, Treasurer's Report #5, 16 June 1913, in "First Treasurer's Report and Earliest List of Members," Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[777] "The Quincy Historical Society Has Caused a Stone Wall to be Constructed about the John Quincy Adams Birthplace," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 20 October 1896.

Inside, the Society displayed its growing collection of furnishings and utensils. The majority of the objects were donated by local families. Many of these objects were made or used locally and spanned the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Few objects were related to the Adams family. The first floor (with the exception of the southwest room) and the two front rooms on the second floor were displayed as period rooms. The conglomeration of furnishings was intended to evoke the idea of Quincy's past but did not portray a particular time period. The southwest room was the "Museum Room." It housed the Society's library, Native American artifacts, and other exhibits on book shelves and in display cases.[778]

Although not completed, the Society opened the John Quincy Adams birthplace on 4 March 1897 to celebrate the centennial anniversary of John Adams' inauguration.[779] The house officially opened to the public on 17 June 1897.[780] Visitors presumably took guided tours through the house with Spear or other Quincy Historical Society members. Beginning by at least 1904, the Society employed a caretaker to clean, repair, and show the house for visitors.[781] The Society's lack of a live-in caretaker was a cause of complaint because the house was not open as often as the John Adams birthplace.[782] In addition to public events and tours, Spear also had two smaller dinner parties for select groups of guests.[783]

Hoping to appeal to the public's desire to consume, Spear marketed architectural elements as souvenirs. *The Boston Daily Globe* mocked Spear's attempt to sell used bricks for five dollars apiece:

> Man is but clay. Yet as a commodity there is nothing quite so cheap, and so when a price of $5 is asked for a brick made of burnt clay it seems extravagant.
>
> Yet such a price is asked in Quincy. They are very ordinary bricks, and many of them are only half done and contain much foreign matter; but 'tis their association that fixes the price asked for they did do service as shelter to three of America's most foremost citizens, John, Abigail and John Quincy Adams.[784]

Other merchandise extant today in the Quincy Historical Society collection are nails and pieces of lath attached to cards extolling their origins and associations. For example,

> This ancient handmade nail was once a part of the 'cottage' of John and Abigail Adams. Into a humble farmhouse it went, but now it is interesting for has it not done its part in sheltering an illustrious citizen, his worthy comrade and brilliant son?

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[778] "Notes for Hostess of John Quincy Adams Birthplace," p. 6.

[779] "John Adams' Inauguration. Its Centennial Anniversary to be Celebrated Today at the Place of His Birth," newspaper article, unknown newspaper, 4 March 1897, appendix C-1 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

[780] "John and Abigail Adams' Home. Cottage Has Been Restored and Will be Opened to the Public Today—Bricks for Sale with Pictures of the Historic House," *Boston Daily Globe*, 17 June 1897.

[781] Quincy Historical Society, Treasurer's Report #1, 1 June 1908, in "First Treasurer's Report and Earliest List of Members," Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[782] John Smith, "Want House Open to Public," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 1 September 1904.

[783] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16.

[784] "Bricks for Sale."

Taken from the 'cottage' of John and Abigail Adams
Built A.D. 1716. Restored A.D. 1896.[785]

Brooks Adams succeeded his brother Charles Francis Adams Jr. as the Society's president. Brooks Adams took a greater interest in the John Quincy Adams birthplace than his predecessor had. He encouraged members to use the house for social events.[786] On 15 June the Society entertained fifty people:

> During the social hour President Brooks Adams entertained with dainty sandwiches, delicious ices, fancy cakes, frappes, Russian tea, etc. Mrs. Emery L. Crane presided at the frappe bowl, and Mrs. George W. Morton at the tea urn.
>
> [T]he banquet table was attractively set and adorned with bouquets of tiger lilies. There were also in the rooms bouquets of beautiful columbine, snow balls and other flowers.[787]

Social events of this type continued to be held until as late as 1941 when seventy-five people attended a tea at the house.[788]

The Quincy Historical Society made extensive repairs to the house in the early 1920s. According to the *Boston Sunday Herald*, "'The birthplace of John Quincy Adams, which stands in Quincy beside that of his father, John Adams, is to be completely restored at once.'"[789] The house was resided, repainted, and a new split cedar shingle roof may have been applied.[790]

Little is known of the early history of the Quincy Historical Society and the John Quincy Adams birthplace after the 1920s. In 1937, the Society moved its library to the Adams Academy building where the Society is housed today.[791]

City of Quincy Ownership (1940-1979)

In 1940 the Adams Real Estate Trust deeded the Adams birthplaces and the 14, 695 square feet surrounding them to the City of Quincy (see "John Adams birthplace - City of Quincy Ownership").[792] The following year the City Council appropriated $500 for repairing the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[793] Sprague states that these

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[785] Quincy Historical Society Collection, Boxed Objects Numbered .3407.

[786] Lowenthal, p. 20.

[787] "Historical Society Holds Annual Meeting and Plans Old Home Week," newspaper article, unknown newspaper, 15 June 1907, in "Quincy Historical Society: Materials for its History," Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[788] "Quincy Historical Society Has Tea," newspaper article, unknown newspaper, 14 June 1941, in "Quincy Historical Society: Materials for its History," Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[789] Carole Louise Perrault, *Exterior Finishes Study with Recommendations for Repainting the Adams Birthplaces* (Boston: North Atlantic Preservation Center, North Atlantic Region, National Park Service, 1980), p. JQABP siding 5. "To Restore Adams Birthplace: Quincy Home of John Quincy Adams to be Placed in Condition of Days When Abigail Adams Occupied It in 1777," *Boston Sunday Herald*, 28 May 1922.

[790] Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, p. JQABP siding 5. Lowenthal, p. 20.

[791] Lowenthal, p. 21.

[792] Adams Real Estate Trust, Deed to City of Quincy, 1940.

[793] "Old Adams Homestead Repaired, Metals Found."

improvements included painting and wallpapering on the interior and "The roof was again shingled, this time with dark composition shingles as wood was no longer permissible in the city."[794]

In 1950-1951, both of the Adams birthplaces were closed for repairs. The City Council appropriated $6,600 for the repairs; the amount allocated for the John Quincy Adams birthplace was $3,876. This money was to go toward stopping the progress of termites and dry rot and stabilizing the structure. Also, "'In the John Quincy Adams house the underpinning is in such state that it is unsafe for occupants to walk on the first floor'" so new beams were introduced. Electric lighting and plumbing were installed in the houses, as well.[795] The grounds of the houses were improved with new plantings and stepping stones between the houses.[796] The houses reopened to the public in April 1951.[797]

In 1971, the exteriors of the Adams birthplaces were stripped and repainted by Sears, Roebuck, and Co. They adorned the cover of Sears' catalogue and appeared in a Sears commercial the same year.[798] In 1975, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities employee David Hart, prepared the reports "Specifications for Preservation and Repairs—John Adams House" and "Specifications for Preservation and Repairs—John Quincy Adams House" as guides for the future maintenance of the houses.

After the initial infusion of money into the Adams birthplaces in the 1940s and 1950s, there was not a continued supply to keep up with the demands of the two needy, older houses. Starting in 1977, Paul Harold, Quincy Councilor-at-Large and member of the Committee on Historical Places, began to lobby for the transfer of the Adams birthplaces into the National Park System. In April of 1979, the Adams National Historic Site began to manage the Adams birthplaces.

- Quincy Historical Society Continued (1940-1979)

The Quincy Historical Society continued to operate the John Quincy Adams birthplace as a house museum until April of 1979. In August of 1978, thieves broke into the house and removed a vest purportedly worn by John Adams on his wedding day. This unfortunate event highlighted the need for burglar alarms in the birthplaces, a utility the City could not afford but which the pending acquisition by the National Park Service would allow.[799]

Upon the transfer of the house to the National Park Service, the Quincy Historical Society removed its collections and moved them to its headquarters in the Adams Academy building. Some objects were sold at auction, some are in storage, and others have been incorporated into the Society's current exhibition on Quincy history.

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[794] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17.
[795] "Council Votes to Repair."
[796] Bonsall[?] to Mansur.
[797] Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [2].
[798] "Adams Birthplaces to Star." "Adams Homes Adorn Catalog."
[799] "Wedding Vest Stolen from Adams House," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 14 August 1978. Paul Harold, interview by author, tape recording, Quincy, MA, 22 April 1998.

National Park Service Ownership (1979-Present)

The National Park Service began to manage the Adams birthplaces on 20 April 1979 and a ceremony was held to mark the occasion on 1 May (see "John Adams birthplace - National Park Service Ownership").[800]

Prior to closing for major repairs, the National Park Service refurbished the John Quincy Adams birthplace for a short-term exhibition of the original Massachusetts Constitution in John Adams' law office. The event marked the bicentennial anniversary of the drafting of the document. Efforts were focused on the first floor where walls were repainted and extant wallpaper was removed. The National Park Service covered exposed brick nogging (formerly displays of early wall construction) in the southeast and northeast rooms, removed the corner cabinet and a furnace in the northeast room, and removed shelving from the southwest room. Also at that time, the northwest cellar stairs were replaced.[801] The event was popular and successful according to Superintendent Harris:

> On September 6 the John Quincy Adams Birthplace was opened temporarily for the celebration of John Adams's drafting of the Constitution of Massachusetts, which took place in his law office. Under the supervision of Carol Perrault, Historical Research Analyst, NARO, the first floor rooms were all cleaned and painted. The change was dazzlingly lovely. For this event the Commonwealth of Massachusetts displayed the early copy of the Constitution, and the National Park Service exhibited some documents appropriate for the times. Everyone who came was given a copy of page one of the Constitution, and it was through this distribution that we counted 7,500 visitors during the four days.[802]

Following the special event the John Quincy Adams birthplace was closed.

The birthplaces were closed from roughly 1979 to 1984 while National Park Service architectural conservators managed the restoration of the houses. While the houses were closed, the National Park Service interpreted the Adams family story from the exterior of the houses.[803] Documenting the interpretation at the time is Lawrence Gall's 1978-1979 "The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams: An Interpretive Presentation of the Grounds" (see appendix C-8).

The changes made during the National Park Service work are summarized in Perrault's circa 1990 draft *Completion Report*:

> the scope of work which included removal of non-historic plaster from interior walls and ceilings and the restoration of the same; the removal of non-historic wall, door and window trim and the introduction of historic trim; the restoration of historic finishes and hardware; restoration of masonry work; the relocation of a

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[800] City of Quincy, Deed to United States of America, 1979.

[801] Perrault, *Completion Report: John Quincy Adams Birthplace*, p. 5.

[802] Wilhelmina S. Harris to Holly Bundock, 14 November 1979. File A-82, John Adams Birthplace and John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Archival Box 2, Archival Administrative Files, Carriage House, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA.

[803] Curtis interview.

window in the lean-to and a wall according to historic evidence; and an updating of the plumbing, electrical, security and fire detection systems.[804]

The exterior of the John Quincy Adams birthplace is currently covered with clapboards painted a "stone" color. A new front door was installed and the south door of the southeast room was made useable. The windows were changed from twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash to nine-over-six double-hung sash. The roof was reshingled with wooden shakes. Major interior alterations include removing a closet and installing a partition wall to create the northwest buttery to the north of the northwest room; removing a window in the west wall of the northwest room; renovating the hearth in the southeast room; plastering the ceiling in the southeast room; removing paneling in the southwest garret; removing plaster from the northwest garret; and removing the door between the northwest garret and the northeast chamber. Also executed at this time were Historic American Buildings Survey drawings and the electrical system was upgraded.[805]

When the architectural work was completed in 1982, the John Quincy Adams birthplace was furnished with reproduction and period furnishings based upon the research of Adams National Historic Site staff members. The effort to furnish the birthplaces was spearheaded by then Superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris. Harris, despite National Park Service policy advising against furnishing buildings in the absence of original objects, insisted that the Adams birthplaces be furnished. At times Harris personally absorbed the cost of the furnishings.[806]

The basis for furnishing the John Quincy Adams birthplace was a combination of Adams-family objects in the collection of the Adams National Historic Site and references to furnishings and activities in the Adams papers. Reproduction objects made based on originals in the Old House collection include John Adams' stand-up desk, his Windsor chair, Abigail Adams' kitchen dresser, and her tallcase clock. Other furnishings were chosen in the belief that they were appropriate to the mid-to-late-eighteenth-century time period being portrayed in the house.

The interiors and exteriors of the Adams birthplaces stand essentially as they did when the 1980s work was completed. Visitors currently experience both houses on guided tours led by Park Rangers. These tours focus on the people and activities related to the houses while the furnishings serve as a backdrop. The focus of the John Quincy Adams birthplace tour is on the 1764 to 1784 John and Abigail Adams occupancy of the house. Inherent themes are the childhood of John Quincy Adams and the American Revolution. In the future, the John Quincy Adams birthplace will be presented as a partially- or fully-furnished historic interior. The current study is intended to improve the accuracy, ambience, educational quality, and visitor interest level manifested by the house's furnishings.

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804 Perrault, *Completion Report: John Quincy Adams Birthplace*, pp. 8-9.
805 Perrault, *Completion Report: John Quincy Adams Birthplace*, p. 4.
806 Curtis interview.

Summary: Ownership and Occupancy of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Owner	Date	Occupants	Date
William Ellis	Unknown-1660	Unknown	
Gregory Belcher	1660-1663	Unknown	
Samuel Belcher	1663-1679	Samuel Belcher	1663-1679
Deacon Gregory Belcher	1679-1727	Dea. Gregory Belcher Gregory Belcher Jr.	1679-1727
Gregory Belcher Jr.	1727/28	Gregory Belcher Jr.	1727/28
Abigail Bracket Belcher	1728	Abigail Bracket Belcher	1728
Abigail Belcher	1728-1742	Unknown Tenant	
Lewis Vassal	1742-1743	Unknown	
John & Richard Billings	1743-1744	Unknown	
Deacon John Adams	1744-1761	Dr. Elisha Savil	ca. 1751-ca. 1761
John Adams	1761-1803	John Adams	1764-68, 1771-72
		John & Susannah Hall	1772-1774?
		John Adams	1774-1784
		William & Phoebe Abdee	1784-1788/1790
		Rev. William Clark	1797?-1800
		Rev. Peter Whitney	1800-1804
John Quincy Adams	1803-1848	Vacant	1804
		John Quincy Adams	1805-1806
		Joseph Faxon	1807-1813
		Luther Spear	1814

Owner	Date	Occupants	Date
		Ebenezer Green	1815-1823
		John Faxon	1824?-1827
		Noah Clark	1827-1829?
		Tom Hayden	1825?-1829?
		William Field	1829?-1833?
		Harvey Field	1829?-1833?
		Carr	1833
		Henry Wilson	pre-1834
		Thomas Kelley	1840s
Charles F. Adams	1848-1886	Ebenezer Green	ca. 1860?
		Joseph Branbury	ca. 1860?
Adams Real Estate Trust	1886-1940	Irish Tenants	ca. 1892
		Quincy Historical Soc.	1896-1940
City of Quincy	1940-1979	Quincy Historical Soc.	1940-1979
National Park Service	1979-Present	Adams Nat'l Hist. Site	1979-Present

Evidence of Room Use and Furnishings
(see appendices I-1 and I-2 for floor plans)

JQABP 001-002, Cellar and Water Closet

Architectural Description and History

> Perrault best describes the cellar of the John Quincy Adams birthplace:
>
> The cellar is not fully excavated under the entire house; the area below the southeast room is only partially excavated, existing as a crawl space. In the approximate center of the cellar is the main chimney foundation and abutting it on the west are two brick arches which support the leanto chimney and the first floor hearths. The fully excavated portion of the cellar presents an L-shaped plan, with the longer section represented by the rear of the house under the leanto extension. Three stairs provide access into the cellar: from the southeast room, from the northeast room and from the south outside elevation of the leanto.[807]

The walls and chimney bases in the cellar are constructed of granite fieldstone and the floor is earthen. In the 1980s architectural conservators found three extant windows in the cellar, two in the west wall and one in the north wall under the northeast room's window. There is a bulkhead at the top of the south wall.

It is believed that a small shed addition was made to the north face of the lean-to after the construction of the main cellar because the walls of the sections were not bonded (see ills. 2, 3, 5, 7). "The cellar for the shed was constructed of sizable stones, faced on the interior, and had a laid brick floor. Archeologists were unable to identify a builder's trench or other feature that may have indicated the date of construction." This shed appears in depictions of the house as early as Ann Gray's 1828 watercolor and is shown in an 1852 woodcut in *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion* (see ills. 2 and 7). The shed was removed by the time of an 1895 photograph of the north elevation of the house. Although archeologists suppose this structure was a cold storage area or cistern, the specific function of this shed addition and its cellar is unknown.[808]

In 1829, a fire damaged the floor and framing above the cellar during the occupancy of the Fields. John Quincy Adams wrote, "The floor has burnt through from the cellar, and two large beams are entirely burnt off."[809] He hired George Vesey to repair the damage shortly after the incident.[810]

The first recorded renovations of the cellar appear in the 1913 Quincy Historical Society treasurer's report. The Society paid P.J. Williams & Co. to build a wooden "closet" in the basement. William Bradford likely installed the plumbing because he was paid $75.00 for installing a "water-closet."[811]

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[807] Carole Louise Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Quincy Adams Birthplace*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. cellar survey 1.

[808] MacMahon, p. 50.

[809] John Quincy Adams Diary, 3 November 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[810] John Quincy Adams Diary, 12 November 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[811] Treasurer's Report #5.

The first work the National Park Service performed in the cellar was the replacement of the stairs to the northwest room in 1979. Further work during the 1980s included the removal of the existing water closet and installation of a new one constructed of cement blocks.

History of Room Use

The cellar's earliest known use was as a storage space for foodstuffs. Mary Cranch wrote to Abigail Adams, "I have taken the Sugar you left in you[r] Seller to make cake for Charles - it had contracted such a dampness by being so long there that it is dark as the brownest of Sugar."[812] Later the same year she wrote, "The wine you left in the Seller Cousin John says he shall make very free with when [he] gets into college as it will soon spoil."[813] Mary Cranch's commentary indicates the limitations of such storage. Then, as now, there was a problem with moisture in the cellar causing preservation problems. Also, cellar storage could not extend the life of food and drink indefinitely. While Cranch availed herself of her sister's stores, Abigail Adams also had given Phoebe Abdee permission to use the cellar.[814]

When she first sent John and John Quincy Adams to Europe Abigail Adams made a list of the stores she sent with them on board the *Boston*. Some items on her list may have been stored in the cellar including "1 Bushel Indian Meal," "1 Case Rum," "30 w Brown sugar," "2 Bottles Mustard," "2 w Tea," "2. w Chocolate," "5 bushels of Corn," "1 barrel of apples," "6 or 7 doz of syder," "1 Ten galln Keg of old Spirit," "2 barrel of 2 or 3 doz Medeira Wine," "7 Loves of Sugar," "2 doz & 4 bottles Port Wine," and pepper (see appendix G-4).

As at the John Adams birthplace, when the John Quincy Adams birthplace became a museum, the objects stored in the cellar changed from food to discarded architectural elements and other utilitarian items. Sprague describes how "The bricks [removed from the John Quincy Adams birthplace] were chiefly of irregular or broken shape and not useable where weather and frost could get at them. They remained piled in the cellar until after 1940 when finally disposed of as of no further use. Mr. Spear had tried selling them as souvenirs with attested inscriptions of $5 apiece."[815] In 1928, the house committee received permission to store firewood in the cellar.

Starting in 1908, prior to the installation of the water closet, curator Benjamin King took visitors on tours of the cellar by the light of an "old time lantern."[816] It is unclear how long this practice continued.

The National Park Service uses the cellar to store a limited number of items including winter window coverings. It continues to maintain a restroom and sink in this location. Also, a majority of the house's utilities are in the cellar. The walls were whitewashed in the 1980s.

The cellar is not currently an exhibition space.

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[812] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 29 November 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366.
[813] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 23 December 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366.
[814] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 June 1784, in Ryerson, *Adams Family Correspondence, 1782-1784*, p. 345.
[815] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 15.
[816] "Birthplace of a President," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, 9 December 1908.

Documentary and Graphic References

1784, June 18. Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts (*Adams Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 345): "The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house."

1785, November 29. Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366): "I have taken the Sugar you left in your Seller to make cake for Charles - it had contracted such a dampness by being so long there that it is dark as the brownest of Sugar."

1785, December 23. Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #366): "The wine you left in the Seller Cousin John says he shall make very free with when [he] gets into college as it will soon spoil."

1829, November 3. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39): Describing damage of 1829 fire during Fields' occupancy: "The floor has burnt through from the cellar, and two large beams are entirely burnt off."

1908, December 9. "Birthplace of President," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "The new curator [of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace] Benjamin King, is enthusiastic over his work, and takes pleasure in keeping the house attractive and showing people about. He has recently opened up the cellar to visitors, and put in commission an old-time lantern which is necessary down there."

1913, June 16. Quincy Historical Society Treasurer's Report #5 ("First Treasurer's Report and Earliest List of Members"):

"Wm. A. Bradford, plumber, brass cesspool.....1.25
City of Quincy for sewer.....22.51
P.J. Williams & Co. bld. closet in basement of cottage.....34.40
. . . Wm. A. Bradford for install water-closet in cottage.....75.00"

1928, May 25. "Secretary's Records, 1926-1930": "Miss Nightingale was given permission to have wood in the cellar of the cottage, [illeg.] for use in the fire-place."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 15: "During this process [the 1896 restoration] most of the old soft brick and yellow clay filling was removed from the front and sides of the house. The bricks were chiefly of irregular or broken shape and not useable where weather and frost could get at them. They remained piled in the cellar until after 1940 when finally disposed of as of no further use. Mr. Spear had tried selling them as souvenirs with attested inscriptions of $5 apiece. In a few spots they were left in the walls exposed to indicate the original type of construction. Also at this time the whole house was raised about two feet, to meet a changed street level. This accounts for the space of that width found now

under the oldest part, the southeast room which had no cellar under it. It was so well done that one can hardly tell now where the new stones were added to the old under the sills."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18: During 1957 renovations "a sink was installed in the cellar to be used for obtaining water near where a toilet had been placed many years before."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. cellar survey 1: "The cellar is not fully excavated under the entire house; the area below the southeast room is only partially excavated, existing as a crawl space. In the approximate center of the cellar is the main chimney foundation and abutting it on the west are two brick arches which support the leanto chimney and the first floor hearths. The fully excavated portion of the cellar presents an L-shaped plan, with the longer section represented by the rear of the house under the leanto extension. Three stairs provide access into the cellar: from the southeast room, from the northeast room and from the south outside elevation of the leanto. Three windows are extant: two on the west wall and one on the north wall. A lavatory has been constructed off the west wall adjacent to the south window. The cellar was used for storage and toilet facilities by the Quincy Historical Society."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, pp. cellar survey 2, 5: "The walls of the foundation are constructed of granite fieldstone, randomly laid."

There is a bulkhead on the south wall; the stairs to the bulkhead are eight stone steps.

The ceiling of the cellar is unfinished. The floor is earth. The walls show remnants of whitewash.

1981, Pratt, "Archeological Survey," p. 49: "A foundation with a brick floor was located off the north side of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace. The fill in this foundation is primarily 19th century with a small amount of possible 18th century material. A shed is shown in 19th century photographs of this area. This foundation may relate to a cellar under this shed or possibly a cold storage area or cistern."

1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (3) of cellar.

1983, Towle, "Archeological Monitoring," p. 5: "[Archeological excavation] Unit 22 was excavated to investigate what appeared to be a stone paving encountered at the base of Units 13 and 13B. The stone was in fact the remaining portion of a cellar wall. . . . The southeast corner of the unit came down on top of the cellar corner, but level III of the unit stopped at 41" below grade because of lack of time.

"The cellar definitely served as a domestic refuse dump. Whole patent medicine bottles, broken but complete domestic ceramic vessels, and animal bones made up the majority of the artifacts. Some mixing had occurred as some delft, creamware, and white

salt-glazed stoneware were found in level one and mold blown bottles, low base brass UMC 12 gauge shotgun shells, and wire nails in level III."

1983, Towle, "Archeological Monitoring," pp. 8-9: "The period of construction and primary function of the cellar . . . of the John Quincy Adams house has not been satisfactorily determined yet. Walls of the subterranean structure are independent of the cellar walls beneath the western half of the house, or the lean-to. Architectural data (Perrault 1983) indicate the lean-to was a later addition to the original house. The construction sequence could have been one of three possibilities: 1) cellar constructed before lean-to; 2) lean-to and cellar constructed at same time with no basement under lean-to; or 3) lean-to with no basement preceding cellar, with basement added later. It is highly unlikely the two cellars were constructed simultaneously with no bonding of mutual walls."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 5: Work completed before the 1979 Massachusetts Constitution event included the "removal of the cellar's northwest stairs and the construction of a new run of stairs."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 148: "OBJECTIVE: To maintain the historic plan while adaptively using the space for interpreter's services, modern utilities, and storage of supplies."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 150: "The wooden cellar [lavatory] unit was completely dismantled, including the floor. New concrete walls . . . were introduced on the south, east and north walls, with the foundation wall serving as the west wall.

1991, MacMahon, *Archeological Collections Management*, pp. 49-50: "The cellar for the shed was constructed of sizable stones, faced on the interior, and had a laid brick floor. Archeologists were unable to identify a builder's trench or other feature that may have indicated the date of construction. Although we do not know the exact date of the shed's construction, it is likely that it was built while John Quincy Adams owned the house (1803-1848). It is even possible that it was constructed while he lived in the house during 1805 and 1806."

JQABP 101, Entry Hall

Architectural Description and History

The entry hall is a small rectangular space with doors to the exterior, southeast room, and northeast room. A winder stair proceeds north to south on the west wall. There is no documentation or physical evidence suggesting the entry hall was ever structurally remodeled. However, Louisa Catherine Adams requested that John Quincy Adams remodel it before the family moved there in 1805. She wrote in 1804, "I should very much desire to have some change made in the staircase which makes the entrance to

the House intolerable as it stands at present."[817] Because of a lack of funds, John Quincy Adams was unable to comply with his wife's request.

During the National Park Service's 1980s restoration, a new exterior door was installed.

History of Room Use

The function of the entry hall has remained constant since its construction. It remains the room through which visitors enter the house. The small hallway is limited by size. There is only space for a few people in the room at once. With the exterior door open, excess people must enter the southeast room to the left. Water enters the space when the door is opened on a rainy day. Also, there is no room for furnishings unless they are small or flat. This space is currently on display, however, visitors quickly pass through it to enter larger rooms offering more space and interest.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence for the early finishes in the entry hall. It was wallpapered starting at least as early as 1923 when the Quincy Historical Society is known to have papered the walls. In 1940, the trim was painted a pumpkin yellow. According to Sprague the room was repapered in 1959.[818] Assuming that this wallpaper lasted until photographs were taken in 1970, the paper had a repeat pattern consisting of wavy-edged, interlocking diamonds containing small geometric motifs. This is likely the same patterned paper architectural conservators found on the walls in 1979. Also at that time the trim and handrail were painted orange-brown, the stairs and floor were painted gray, the hardware was painted black, and the ceiling was painted white.

In preparation for the Massachusetts Constitution event, the National Park Service removed the wallpaper, whitewashed the plaster, and repainted or retouched painted surfaces orange-brown.

During the 1980s restoration, the walls and ceiling were whitewashed, baseboards were painted dark red ochre; doors, trim, and hardware were painted light yellow ochre; and the floor was painted deep yellow ochre.

Furnishings

As stated above, the furnishings possibilities for the entry hall are few. There is no evidence indicating how historic occupants or the early Quincy Historical Society furnished the hall. Two inventories of the John Quincy Adams birthplace from this time period exist. One was compiled by Waldo C. Sprague in 1956 and another including estimated values was compiled by Robert P. Coyne in the fall of 1961 (see appendices H-1 and H-3). In 1956, the hall contained two fire buckets, two "fireman's poles" (probably the warden poles later seen in the southeast room), two "old guns," and a "lantern on the

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[817] Louisa Catherine Adams to John Quincy Adams, 10 June 1804, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403.

[818] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17.

stairway." The 1961 inventory indicates that little changed in five years (see appendix H-3).

The only extant photographs of the entry hall during the Quincy Historical Society's mid-twentieth-century occupancy are dated 1970. These show that the fire buckets were suspended on pegs near the ceiling at the front corners of the room. These photographs do not show the other fire-related objects or the guns. However, hanging from a pegboard on the north wall of the stairwell are four swords in scabbards. Behind the swords hangs a certificate identifying the house as a national historic landmark.

The National Park Service displays one object in the entry hall. A reverse-painted mirror is on the west wall beneath the stairs. This reproduction mirror was created based upon a mirror located in the Old House Kitchen. Traditionally, the original is believed to have belonged to Abigail Adams.

Documentary and Graphic References

1804, June 10. Louisa Catherine Adams to John Quincy Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #403): "I should very much desire to have some change made in the staircase which makes the entrance to the House intolerable as it stands at present. Should this be attended with any difficulty I entreat you to excuse the request as it is only made from an idea that it would contribute both to health & comfort."

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 1-2: Annotated inventory of objects in southeast room. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17: "Wallpaper had been used in the front entry and parlor since 1923 and was renewed this year."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. [1]: List of furnishings in entry hall. (See appendix H-3)

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photographs (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (2) of entry hall, east wall and north wall.

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. entry hall and front stairs survey 4: The walls are wallpapered with a patterned paper; the trim is painted orange-brown; the stairs are painted gray; the ceiling is painted white; the floor is painted gray; the hardware is painted black; and the hand rail is painted orange-brown.

1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (2) of all walls of entry hall.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 5: In 1979, the Massachusetts Constitution "was scheduled to be exhibited for several days in the former law office. The event required the refurbishing of the first floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Existing colors in the John Quincy Adams house were matched; the project architectural conservator removed the wallpaper from the entry hall and parlor and supervised an in-house National Park Service crew in the work. The work included the following: . . . removal of wallpaper where extant, preparing all surfaces for painting, painting all surfaces."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 124: Entry hall finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Baseboards - dark red ochre
Doors, Trim, Hardware - light yellow ochre
Floor - deep yellow ochre

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 159: In the 1980s, a new exterior door was installed.

JQABP 102, Northeast Room (Parlor)

Architectural Description and History

The northeast room is a nearly square room with a window on the north and east walls. The south wall is composed of, from east to west, the door to the entry hall, a fireplace, and a closet. The north wall has a door to the northeast room and a closet.

The northeast room's importance and refinement is indicated by its size and amount of decoration. It is larger than its counterpart the southeast room. Conversely, its fireplace is smaller because it did not contain a cooking fire. It also boasts the most decorative framing and most elaborate paneling in the house.

Under the management of the Quincy Historical Society, the parlor appears to have suffered few, if any, physical changes deeper than the changes in finish discussed below.

The National Park Service covered a nogging display and installed a new door between the northeast and northwest room.

History of Room Use

Throughout its history the northeast room has been the most genteel space in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. In its earliest incarnation, the northeast room served as the parlor in the hall-and-parlor plan house. Unlike the old kitchen, the parlor retains its original role as a genteel display and entertainment space.

In addition to display and entertainment, the John Adams family may have used the parlor for day-to-day activities as well. John Adams described the northeast room as "my Office of Evenings and Mornings" meaning that he likely sat in this room before and

after stints in his southeast-room law office.[819] Abigail Adams also seems to have spent time in the parlor in the evenings for an acquaintance wrote to her while she was in Europe, "to stand for hour's - alas! - didnt you wish for the arm'd chair, in the Corner of the Parlour at the foot of the Hills?"[820] The parlor was not solely a space for special occasions, it also served as a room for relaxation and genteel activities.

The extent of the Adams' activities in the room is difficult to discern. It is supposed that Abigail Adams educated her children in the northeast room. While this may have been, there is no documentary evidence to support it. Abigail Adams may also have composed letters in the parlor, but, again, there is no evidence to support this.

During their 1805 to 1806 stay at the house, John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams may have spent time reading in the parlor. On two separate occasions their children injured themselves while John Quincy was reading to Louisa Catherine and her sister Eliza on the first floor. Because reading aloud is a refined leisure activity, the parlor may have been the location for this pastime.

Another leisure activity the Adamses likely enjoyed in the parlor was smoking. During their archeological investigation, the Pratts located several clay pipe stems with 5/64" bores which may date to the eighteenth century indicating the Adamses or others smoked in the northeast room.[821] Towle & Hsu also located many pipe stems during their investigation.[822]

Louisa Catherine Adams described an occasion when visitors caught her in the kitchen:

> I was making and baking Cake [in September 1806], and was obliged to *dress* before I could appear. - The rooms of my house were literally too small to hold my company: - These Ladies were the elite of Baltimore - There was something truly ridiculous in my position - The shaking off of the Kitchen drapery for the parlour finery; and the assumption of the fashionable manners of my Station: was such a transition: as robes Cinderella as a Princess; and I could scarcely fancy that the smoke spots had left me fair; when I presented myself to the company.[823]

Her necessary transformation of dress and manner illustrates the mental distance between parlor and kitchen activities.

Caroline Spear believed that John Quincy Adams was born in the northeast room. However, Adams tradition holds that he was born in the chamber above. However, Caroline Spear (née Green) may have been born in this room. According to John Crane, "Mrs. Spear was born in the lower northeast room which room Mrs. Spear says is the one that John Quincy Adams was born in, as it was the custom in early days for the mother to be sick (at childbirth) in the best room in the house."[824]

As when earlier occupants lived in the house, the Quincy Historical Society maintained the northeast room as a parlor. In addition to parlor furniture, the northeast

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[819] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, in Butterfield, *Autobiography, 1777-1780*, p. 284.
[820] Eliza Palmer to Abigail Adams, 23 September 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #365.
[821] Pratt, p. 33.
[822] Towle, table 2.
[823] Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody," no page number.
[824] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," quoted in Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34.

room also displayed a glassed-in display of nogging to allow discussions of early building techniques. Paul Harold said of the nogging displays, "you could always pull a piece of horsehair out just to show that it [the plaster] was made with horsehair."[825] In the mid-1970s, the interpretation of this room included discussions of the courtship of Abigail Smith by John Adams, the background of Abigail Smith, and parlor activities such as tea parties.[826]

When the National Park Service acquired the house in 1979, the northeast room was a part of the brief Massachusetts Constitution event held that September. For this event, the northeast room was a formal exhibition space containing, among other displays, a small case of objects related to Abigail Adams.

The National Park Service currently interprets the northeast room for school children and the general public. Interpretive themes in the room include the courtship and marriage of John Adams and Abigail Smith, Abigail Adams' life without John Adams during the Revolutionary War, and leisure activities appropriate to a parlor setting.

Interior Features and Finishes

Little evidence of early finishes survived the thorough "restoration" conducted by William Gardner Spear in 1896. Therefore, architectural conservators were unable to study layers of paint and wallpaper as they could at the John Adams birthplace. The only recording of physical evidence is Sprague's discussion of Spear's late-nineteenth century examination of paint layers: "The interior trim and panelling was found to have many coats of paint but was restored to the colors of the earliest coat next the wood, a rather deep olive gray green for the main part and gray in the leanto and parlor."[827] A circa 1897 photograph of the room indicates the walls were not wallpapered at that time (see ill. 30).

Whether out of fancy or necessity, the Quincy Historical Society repainted and repapered the northeast room several times. By the 1930s, there was a large-scale floral-patterned paper on the walls (see ill. 31). In 1940, the woodwork was painted "orchid" and the wallpaper was a pink floral pattern.[828] In 1956, the woodwork was painted gray to match the color Spear found in 1896 (see appendix H-1). In 1957, the wallpaper was removed, the plaster was painted blue, and the woodwork was painted white.[829] By at least 1970, the walls were again papered, this time with a light blue paper with a darker blue swirling floral pattern. Again, the woodwork was painted white (see ills. 32-34). Although not mentioned prior to 1975, there were "view panels" of earlier wallpaper in the northeast room. This room also had sections of wall exposed as "nogging displays."

When the National Park Service acquired the house in 1979, the northeast room was a part of the brief Massachusetts Constitution event held that September. In preparation for the event, the wallpaper was removed, the nogging display was covered, the walls were whitewashed, and the trim was painted white.

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[825] Harold interview.
[826] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.
[827] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16.
[828] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17.
[829] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18.

In the 1980s, the finishes were changed for the last time. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed, the baseboards were painted a light yellow ochre, the doors, trim and hardware were painted a deep yellow ochre, and the floor was painted a dark red ochre.

Furnishings

No evidence survives indicates how occupants before John and Abigail Adams furnished the northeast room. Luckily there are in the Adams' correspondence a few references to the types of furnishings the family displayed there. In letters to Abigail Adams in Europe, the Cranches mention the preservation of objects in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Betsy Cranch complained, "The dampness for want of Fires being kept in the Rooms moulds the things very much, & makes the Paper peal off, & it requires considerable care, to keep them in tolerably good order."[830] Mary Cranch wrote discussing floor coverings:

> Your things at your cottage as you call it are in as good a situation as I could expect, every thing has been done that we could to preserve every thing from the moths your cloth & carpet were safe a few weeks since - both keep tied up in linnin & only took out to be examined - but about these oil cloths - We will send you the dimentions of your rooms but my advice is not to get them cut to them - you can never live in that house when you return it is not large enough.[831]

It is difficult to know what type of carpet the Adamses had in the parlor. Cranch distinguishes between oil cloths and carpets, so presumably a "carpet" was a different type of textile. Because the northeast room was the room with the highest degree of finish in the house, it can be assumed that it contained items such as wallpaper and carpets.

When preparing Charles Adams' room at Harvard College in 1785, the Cranches took objects from the John Quincy Adams birthplace to furnish it. Mary Cranch reported, "Betsy [Smith] and Lucy [Tufts] spent a forenoon this week over-looking the things at your House & picking out furniture for master Charles chamber who is become a student at Harvard college - He is hear[sic?] & very well." Presumably among other objects from the house, "he ha[d] the Square Tea Table to stand in his study."[832] While at the John Quincy Adams birthplace, Abigail Adams had at least two tea sets for her tea table. When Mary Cranch was preparing John Quincy Adams' room at Harvard College, she again borrowed furnishings from the house, but needed to buy some additional items. She explained, "A tea Kettle & a Tea apparatus were wanting. I did not chuse to use[?] your best Blue & White for him - Charles had the others."[833]

The blue and white teaware Mary Cranch speaks of may be the same set that Abigail Adams wrote about to John Adams. In November of 1780 she requested "1 Doz of blew & white china/ tea cups & sausers half a doz pint china Bowls."[834] In April of

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[830] Betsy Cranch to Abigail Adams, 20 May 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #368.
[831] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 22 April 1787, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369.
[832] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 14 August 1785, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #365.
[833] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 22 March 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #367.
[834] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 13 November 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #353.

1781 she reported, "the Box of china was delivered safe to our L[ovel]l [in Philadelphia]."[835] This china may not have reached her until early 1782, however, because she wrote to Lovell, "your kind endeavors have at last happily succeeded & the Boxes have arrived in safety. all the articles in much better situation than I expected, the contents agree with your former invoice thow not with mr A-s memorandum - the china came all safe one plate & Glass excepted, which for such a journey is trifling indeed."[836]

Based upon Abigail Adams' correspondence, the set of willow-patterned Chinese export porcelain today in the Middle Pantry of the Old House is believed to be this same set of blue and white china.[837] However, the willow pattern did not appear on Chinese export porcelain until the nineteenth century.[838] Also, the objects in the Middle Pantry are more consistent with the set of dishes she wanted for a dining table which she may not have received in the 1780s. In 1781, she wrote,

> I sent for a compleat set of china for a dining table some time ago, & know not whether you [John Adams] received the Letter if you did whether you will know what a set is - now I take it to consist in a doz dishes 6 different sizes 3 doz of table flat plates & 2 of soup - 6 pudding dishes 2 pr Butter Boats - to which I should like 2 pr of double flint cut salts - all to set my table neat & trim when dear cellia[?] returns.[839]

As late as 1783, she wrote, "I once wrote to you requesting you to send me a set of china for dining table but whether you never received the list or thought me extravagnt I know not."[840] Therefore, she may not have obtained these dining and serving dishes until after she left the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Whether she received the service at this time or not, special occasion dining involving many people seated around a dining table probably took place in the parlor.

In addition to her tea table and tea apparatus, Abigail Adams also owned canisters of tea which, whether stored in the parlor or not, were certainly used there. Commenting on the different qualities of tea John Adams sent her, she wrote to him in Europe, "by the way I hope you are not charged Eaquelly dear for the last Canister as for the first, the first is the Best of Hyson the other very Good Suchong."[841]

In speaking of Abigail Adams' ease at home, Eliza Palmer described her "arm'd chair, in the Corner of the Parlour at the foot of the Hills." Presumably this armchair would have stood in the southwest corner of the room near the fire. Whether it was a Windsor armchair or an upholstered wing chair is unknown. However, Palmer's implication of the chair's comfort suggests the latter.

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[835] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 23 April 1781, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #354.

[836] Abigail Adams to James Lovell, ca. 8 January 1782, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #356.

[837] Harris, *Old House Furnishings*, vol. 7, p. 648.

[838] The Willow pattern was introduced in England around 1780, but it was not used extensively until 1800. The willow pattern on Chinese export porcelain is derived from the English pattern and appeared later. George Savage and Harold Newman, *An Illustrated Dictionary of Ceramics* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1992), p. 315.

[839] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 5 August 1781, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #357.

[840] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 7 May 1783, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #360.

[841] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 29 September 1776, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1776-1778*, pp. 135-136. .

Another object which may have been stored in the northeast room was the silver tankard that was given to Abigail Adams by her father, Reverend William Smith. His will reads, "I do give unto my Said Daughter Abigail Adams y Silver Tankard."[842] Also likely to have been in the northeast room was a clock made in 1774 by Simon Willard. John Quincy Adams wrote in his 1830 diary, "a mender of Clocks was here and cleaned the Old Clock made by Willard at Lexington for my father and now about 60 years old."[843] He wrote seven years later,

> Simon Willard the clock maker came [to Washington, D.C.], and said he was here to set[?] up a Clock which he had made for the Supreme Court of the United States, and thought he must call to see me, and remind me of that old Clock the first that he ever made, and which when I was President was one of the first Things in the world that I remembered - I told him it was yet standing in the chamber entry of my house [Old House] at Quincy and was now the best time piece I ever knew, not excepting a pocket Chronometer made for me by French the first chronometer maker in the world, which I took from my pocket and showed him - That when at Quincy, I regularly wound up the Clock every Sunday morning; but that it now wanted repair - a new suspension of the weights; and when he got home, I wished he would go out and repair it - He said he would - He is now 85 years old and his name is on the face of the clock dated Lexington 1774.[844]

The northeast room also may have contained portraits of Adams family members and their friends. There exist pastel portraits of John and Abigail Adams executed by Benjamin Blyth in 1766, shortly after their marriage. Also extant is an engraving made to accompany a nineteenth-century article written about an original pastel portrait of John Quincy Adams at age sixteen. This portrait was executed by Isaak Schmidt in 1783.[845] Wilhelmina Harris also noted in her *Historic Furnishings Report* for the Old House, "General Warren was a physician to Abigail and John Adams. This [1772-1774] portrait was a gift to them."[846]

Some of John and Abigail Adams' furniture remained in the John Quincy Adams birthplace as late as 1800, if not later. At that time Reverend Peter Whitney moved into the birthplace and allowed the Adamses to store furniture there until they were able to move it. Although parlor furniture may have remained in the house, it was likely stored somewhere other than the northeast room.

Archeological evidence offers some indication of the objects located in the northeast room during the nineteenth century. The Pratts found shards from green spongeware, blue spongeware, and brown transfer-printed ironstone.[847] Towle and Hsu located fragments of redwares, creamwares, pearlwares, whitewares, clay pipes, bottle glass, and drinking glass. The majority of the fragments were creamwares, pearlwares,

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[842] Reverend William Smith, Will, 1783.
[843] John Quincy Adams Diary, 28 August 1830, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.
[844] John Quincy Adams Diary, 21 November 1837, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #36.
[845] Adams National Historic Site, Object Catalog Card ADAMQ14, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA.
[846] Harris, *Old House Furnishings*, vol. 3, p. 334.
[847] Pratt, p. 33.

and whitewares.[848] While there were more shards surrounding this parlor than that of the John Adams birthplace, they mostly reflect refined wares from which tea or dining vessels were made.

There is no further evidence regarding the furnishings of the room until the Quincy Historical Society occupied the house in 1896. At that time, the northeast room was not fully furnished. The most noticeable change made in 1896 was the installation of a corner cupboard in the northeast corner of the room. Period writers referred to it as the "Bowfat," reflecting a regional pronunciation of "buffet."[849] A circa 1896 photograph, illustrates the sparseness of the northeast room which contained the corner cupboard, a Queen Anne style chair, a Windsor chair, and curtains (see ill. 30). The *Quincy Advertiser* described these furnishings in detail:

> Beneath this room [northeast chamber] is the parlor with its showy andirons of polished brass, tongs and shovel with glistening handles [and?] a bright painted hearth broom and bellows hanging on their old-fashioned brass knobs. The windows have sash curtains of old dimity and draperies of very fine sprig muslin with small ball fringe. They are frail from age and come from the wife of Mr. E.W. Henry Bass, in whose family they had been for many years.
>
> One interesting part of this room is the corner that contains the 'Bowfat'; it may be called a buffet, when one is outside of the house, but it is against the rules to so pronounce it while under the roof. No attempt will be made to specify its contents, but [it] is filled with that which delighted the good housewife's eyes long ago, the 'company' china, etc.[850]

The Quincy Historical Society maintained a heating source in the northeast room starting around 1925. At that time there was a gas radiator. In the 1950s a "Bryant Hot Air" furnace was placed in the room.[851]

By the 1930s, the parlor presents a completed appearance in postcards. A large-scale floral wallpaper covered the walls. The tie-back curtains were replaced by split half-panel curtains. Copies of the Blyth and Stuart portraits of John and Abigail Adams adorn the walls. The corner cupboard is filled with bulky nineteenth-century teawares. Furniture includes Windsor and ladder back chairs, a round tea table, and a mid-sized braided rug (see ill. 31).

Several objects of interest appear in Sprague's 1956 annotated inventory of the room. There is a "Green-painted, high-back Windsor Arm chair that belonged to Pres. John Adams." It is described as "John Adams Favorite Chair" and was donated by the Adams family (Sprague believes this may have been Isaac Hull and Elizabeth Coombs Adams) on 26 April 1897. There was also a yellow upholstered Federal-era wing chair. Instead of a braided rug, oriental rugs were on the floor. Also in this room was a rococo pine slant-top desk holding a variety of writing utensils. Nothing changed according to Coyne's 1961 inventory (see appendices H-1 and H-3).

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[848] Towle, tables 1-2.

[849] "The Cottage."

[850] "The Cottage."

[851] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18. Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: John Quincy Adams Birthplace*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES part 2, p. northeast room 3.

In 1963, the parlor also contained a "rare comb-back rocker."[852] In around 1969, visitors were told that some of the objects in the corner cupboard belonged to Abigail Adams (see appendix H-5). This statement was not made on the earlier inventories, so is likely inaccurate. By 1970, most of the objects remained the same, but the tea table had been moved under the north window, covered with a small cloth, and laid with nineteenth century teawares (see ill. 32-34).

The first National Park Service display in the northeast room was a small, formal exhibition of Adams-related objects from the collection at the Old House. In preparation for this event, the corner cupboard and furnace were removed. The themes of Abigail Adams as an eighteenth-century woman and mother were clearly the focus of the exhibition. In a small case were Abigail Adams' hair curler, watch, and bullet mold. Also in the case were the Smith family seal, a locket John Adams gave to her when he first left for France, and a book that belonged to John Quincy Adams. Another case held baby clothes made by Abigail Adams for John Quincy Adams. Also in the room were a copy of the Blyth portrait of Abigail Adams, a portrait of John Quincy Adams at age sixteen, and a mirror. The mirror was from the Kitchen of the Old House, presumably the reverse-painted mirror attributed to Abigail Adams' ownership.

Circa 1982 when the National Park Service installed furnishings in the house, a small number were placed in the northeast room (see ills. 35-36). Reminiscent of the Quincy Historical Society installation are the Windsor chairs and Blyth portraits. Other prominent objects are a reproduction of Abigail Adams' 1680 tallcase clock located in the Old House Kitchen and hooked rugs with geometric and floral patterns. Also included is a reproduction, Federal-style, lady's writing desk. According to Judith McAlister Curtis,

> The desk is a reproduction of Abigail's writing desk which a member of the [Adams] family still has. She sent us pictures of it and we had that made from it. But there [were] a lot of interesting things about that. Because . . . it's still of the period, but it's much squarer than her desk actually was. Her desk actually had like Queen Anne-shaped legs.[853]

Added later were a small, upholstered settee reproduced loosely based upon the settee in the Paneled Room in the Old House; a candlestand; a reproduction of G.N Frankenstein's 1849-1850 oil painting of the birthplaces; and a reproduction Queen Anne style upholstered footstool. In the closet to the west of the fireplace are reproduction books.[854]

Documentary and Graphic References

1785, Eliza Palmer to Abigail Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #365): "Your Dress Madm I like extreamly, and the festoons of artificial flowers round Amerlias Petticoat Take[?] my fancy exactly - but to stand for hour's - alas! - didnt you wish for the arm'd chair, in the Corner of the Parlour at the foot of the Hills?"

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[852] "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*, 12 May 1963.
[853] Curtis interview.
[854] Curtis interview.

1805, John Adams Autobiography (Butterfield, *John Adams Diary and Autobiography*, vol. 3, p. 284): "'On the 14 day of July of this Year 1765, Mrs. Adams presented me with a Daughter and in her confinement in her Chamber. I was much alone in the ~~Parlour below~~ [sic] my Office of Evenings and Mornings.' . . .

[Footnote:] "Cancelled portion of this sentence indicates AA's chamber was above the parlor. This verifies Henry Adams II's statement that JQA was born in the 'southeast bedroom,' corresponding to the room in which his father was born in Deacon John's cottage. (*The Birthplaces of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams*, 1936)."

1840, Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody" (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #269): "I was making and baking Cake [in September 1806], and was obliged to *dress* before I could appear. - The rooms of my house were literally too small to hold my company: - These Ladies were the elite of Baltimore - There was something truly ridiculous in my position - The shaking off of the Kitchen drapery for the parlour finery; and the assumption of the fashionable manners of my Station: was such a transition: as robes Cinderella as a Princess; and I could scarcely fancy that the smoke spots had left me fair; when I presented myself to the company."

1897, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of north and east walls of northeast room (see ill. 30).

1897, March 5. "Historic House," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "The parlor is not wholly finished as yet, though there are a large number of valuable pieces of china ware, a hundred and a hundred and fifty years old on the shelves of the china closet."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "Beneath this room [northeast chamber] is the parlor with its showy andirons of polished brass, tongs and shovel with glistening handles [and?] a bright painted hearth broom and bellows hanging on their old-fashioned brass knobs. The windows have sash curtains of old dimity and draperies of very fine sprig muslin with small ball fringe. They are frail from age and come from the wife of Mr. E.W. Henry Bass, in whose family they had been for many years.

"One interesting part of this room is the corner that contains the 'Bowfat'; it may be called a buffet, when one is outside of the house, but it is against the rules to so pronounce it while under the roof. No attempt will be made to specify its contents, but [it] is filled with that which delighted the good housewife's eyes long ago, the 'company' china, etc.

"Much old-fashioned molding and panelling are seen in this room."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: Line engraving of north and east walls of northeast room.

1897, William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors" (Quincy Historical Society Library): According to John Crane, "Mrs. Spear was born in the lower northeast room which room Mrs. Spear says is the one that John Quincy Adams was born in, as it

was the custom in early days for the mother to be sick (at childbirth) in the best room in the house."

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: "The other room [besides the southeast room] on the original ground floor of the cottage, now styled the parlor, then the 'best room,' displays andirons of polished brass, shovel and tongs with handles brightly glistening, and the bellows hung on a convenient knob. The old dimity half-curtains at the window and other draperies of spring muslin attract the attention of lady visitors. In a corner is a buffet, a sort of sideboard built into the wall, and showing specimens of provincial and colonial crockery, glass and china ware, plate, and similar articles. Its contents once would evidence the rank and respectable gentility to which the family had attained. The finish of the wainscoting about the fireplace exhibits good styles of ancient moulding and panels. A high straight-backed, rush-bottomed chair and a home-made wooden chair with spread legs were the only furniture. Mr. Spear has, however, several choice bits of antique for future ornament of this best room."

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: Line engraving of north and east walls of northeast room.

1901, September, "Residence of John Adams," *The Home Monthly*: Line engraving of north and east walls of northeast room.

1930s, William H. Rice, Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A Archives): Photograph of north and east walls of northeast room (see ill. 31).

1951, April 18. "Historic Adams Birthplaces Ready for Tourist Trade," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Some of the society's most valuable pieces of china - Lowesdoft china, rare spatter ware, copper lustre plates, cups, and saucers, two wine bottles of Rococo design and a child's tea set - were put into the corner cupboard, taking them from what is known as the china room."

1955, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and east walls of northeast room.

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 9-11: Annotated inventory of objects in northeast room. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16: In 1896, "The interior trim and panelling was found to have many coats of paint but was restored to the colors of the earliest coat next the wood, a rather deep olive gray green for the main part and gray in the leanto and parlor. A corner cupboard or 'beaufat' as locally pronounced (for buffet) was placed in the parlor. Where it came from no one now seems to know."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17: "Changes made in 1940 were chiefly repainting and papering. The parlor became an orchid color."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18: In 1957, "The wall paper was removed from the parlor and a blue color used on the plaster. The woodwork there had been painted gray the year before after smoothing down roughness in the panelling."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 15-16: During the 1896 restoration, "The old fireplaces were reopened to their original widths except in the parlor and parlor chamber where they remain with the smaller mid-eighteenth century size in use by John Adams' time, and probably the one in the leanto south room has been cut down from its original size."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34: "She [Caroline Green] reported being born in the lower northeast room. (She explained to Spear that someone told her that it was the room in which John Quincy Adams was born in because it was the custom for the birthroom to be the best room in the house. Spear disputed this information by noting that Isaac Hull Adams was positive that his uncle John Quincy Adams was born in the chamber above. This would be the northeast chamber.)"

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 5: List of furnishings in northeast room. (See appendix H-3)

1963, May 12. "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*: "'Nogging,' a form of brick and mortar insulation built between inner and outer walls is exposed in several spots. . . . A rare comb-back rocker is displayed in the parlor of the John Quincy Adams house."

1964, May, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and east walls of northeast room.

Ca. 1969[?], "Contents of Especial Interest in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-16, p. [2]): "The corner cupboard [not original] was installed in 1897 when the house was restored. In it are some pieces that belonged to Abigail Adams.

"The gray paint is the color of the bottom layer found when the house was restored. The wall paper is a reproduction of an early paper found in the house. (Wallpapers found in the house are on display)." (See appendix H-6)

1970s, Photograph (Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2): Photograph of north and west walls.

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of north wall of the northeast room (see ill. 32).

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of east wall of the northeast room (see ill. 33).

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (4) of north and east walls of northeast room.

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of south wall of northeast room (see ill. 34).

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, pp. 4-5: "[I]t was here [the John Quincy Adams birthplace] that Abigail Adams supervised the education of her children and from here she served as an inspiration to her husband during the critical years of the founding of independence for the new nation. By the warmth of the fire in the parlor Abigail Adams taught her children the religious concepts which she had been brought up with and encouraged their study of literature and French."

1979, "Display at the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, September 6-9, 1979" (File A-82, "John Adams Birthplace and John Quincy Adams Birthplace Special Events," Archival Administrative Files, Carriage House, Adams National Historical Park): Items in the northeast room during Massachusetts Constitution event:

"Abigail Adams' portrait (photograph taken from the Blyth portrait)
Small case with Abigail's memorabilia
Hair Curler
Abigail's watch
Smith Seal (Reverend Smith, Abigail's father)
Locket given to Abigail from John when he first left for France
Bullet mold (may be in kitchen)
John Quincy Adams' book #4
John Quincy Adams' portrait (at age 13)
Case with John Quincy Adams' baby clothes made by his mother
Mirror (from kitchen at Old House, was originally, according to Brooks Adams, at Birthplace)"

1979, Davi, Photographs (Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, figs. unnumbered): Photographs (2) of the west wall and northeast corner of the northeast room.

1979-1980, Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]" (File L58a, K1817, D18, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park), pp. 24-25: "Very little can be said with certainty about the appearance of this room two centuries ago. The woodwork must have been painted and the walls papered in the best room because we know paint and paper were used. Again, it seems certain that there

were carpets on the floor for Abigail and carpets of some description in the house. While in Europe she considered fitting the floors of the best rooms with oil cloth and requested her sister Mary Cranch to take measurements so that she could buy the oil cloth and ship it home. This was never done, however, because the Adamses decided to purchase the more commodious Borland house -- the 'Old House' on Adams Street. We know that Abigail had a square tea table which was probably used in this room, and a family letter refers to an 'arm'd chair' in the corner of the parlor.

"In this room the Adamses must have entertained countless friends and relatives. Abigail's sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Richard Cranch, frequently called, as well as her uncle, Dr. Cotton tufts, who performed so many services for the family during their years of absence in Europe. The Sam Adamses and the Francis Danas enjoyed Abigail's hospitality on numerous occasions, and Elbridge Gerry stopped on journeys to and from the Continental Congress.

"It was probably here, too, that a promising young lawyer named Royall Tyler paid his court to seventeen-year-old Nabby with Abigail's full approval."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, pp. northeast room survey 1-3: Less framing is exposed here than in the southeast room. The exposed framing has chamfered edges and lamb's tongue stops.

The south "wall is the most elaborately decorated wall in the structure displaying floor to ceiling raised panelling which occupied two-thirds of the wall. . . . The panelled wall is designed symmetrically. Three vertical panels are placed above the firebox opening. Flanking on each side of the opening are two vertical panels arranged one on top of the other."

Prior to the 1980s restoration, the west "wall is characterized by a large [Bryant Hot Air] furnace which sits in front of the wall in the south corner. A hole has been cut in the wall to provide access for a pipe to run to the leanto chimney flue. North of the furnace is a wall display of brick nogging."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. northeast room survey 4: "Positioned in the northeast corner, this floor to girt corner cupboard is designed with a window in its upper half and a solid lower panel below. The glazed panel is hinged with H hinges on its south side. The cabinet doors are flanked on each side by pilasters. Above the pilaster capitals and the upper glazed panel door is a fluted frieze. A crown molding completes the piece."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. northeast room survey 5: Extant conditions prior to the 1980s restoration: the walls are papered with a reproduction repeat patterned paper with a border; trim painted cream; ceiling painted white; flooring painted gray; hardware painted black; firebox painted red; and closets painted green.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Photographs (5) of all walls of northeast room (see ills. 35-36).

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 5: Regarding the 1979 renovations prior to the Massachusetts Constitution event: "The event required the refurbishing of the first floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Existing colors in the John Quincy Adams house were matched; the project architectural conservator removed the wallpaper from the entry hall and parlor and supervised an in-house National Park Service crew in the work. The work included the following: . . . covering brick nogging display in the southeast and northeast rooms, removal of the china cabinet and furnace from the northeast room, . . . [and] preparing all surfaces for painting, painting all surfaces."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 124: Northeast room finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Baseboards - light yellow ochre
Doors, Trim, Hardware - deep yellow ochre
Floor - dark red ochre

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 172-173: "OBJECTIVE: To restore the 'parlor' of John and Abigail Adams during the last quarter of the 18th century."

A new door to the northwest room was installed.

JQABP 103, Northwest Buttery

Architectural Description and History

The northwest buttery has undergone several changes in size during its history. The original configuration of the room is unclear, and likely was affected by exterior sheds that projected from the north and west walls of the house. Based on physical evidence, it is believed that the northwest buttery was originally a room covering the northern end of the northwest room, or kitchen. At a later time before 1896, it was reduced to a large closet (with shelves) in the northeast corner of the northwest room. It is currently restored to occupy the northern end of the northwest room. The rectangular room has a window in the north wall and a door in the south wall.

The Quincy Historical Society removed a wooden grate in the buttery's floor during repairs in 1950-1951. It appears the opening was reintroduced by the 1970s because the grate was shown on tours and Holly's 1979 article states, "The built-in chest at the lower right is open at the bottom to the cool cellar air to help preserve milk and other perishables."[855]

In the 1980s, the grate was removed again.

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[855] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation. H. Hobart Holly, "The Birthplaces of John and John Quincy Adams, Quincy, Massachusetts," *Magazine Antiques* (December 1979): 1347.

History of Room Use

Abigail Adams herself called this space a "buttery" when she wrote to Cotton Tufts in 1784: "The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house."[856] Past scholars have supposed that she used this space as a storage area or as a dairy room. The former is more likely because her dairy was located in the rear of the John Adams birthplace.

No further information regarding this room is available until the mid-twentieth century. As dictated by its size and configuration at the time, the Quincy Historical Society interpreted this space as a storage closet or pantry. A major feature in the buttery was a cooler with a grated floor. Sprague describes the cooler: "An ingenious cooler with openings between hand wrought slats at floor level and a chest with a lid above it kept the crockery food containers cool with the colder air in the cellar below."[857] Holly went into more detail in 1970: "The cooler consisted of a rectangular wooden chest with vertical sides and a hinged top, but no bottom. At present, the floor below it is solid, whereas originally the open grating formed the bottom within the chest, permitting circulation of cool air from the cellar directly below."[858] It is unknown when this cooler was introduced. In the mid-1970s, the northwest buttery was interpreted as cold storage and the grate in the floor was shown to visitors.[859]

The National Park Service chose to expand the northwest buttery to the width of the northwest room. Despite the expansion of space, the National Park Service continues to interpret the room as a storage area. The room lacks the earlier wooden cooler with slatted bottom.

Furnishings

It is unknown exactly what types of foods and containers Abigail Adams and other early occupants stored in the northwest buttery. When she first sent John and John Quincy Adams to Europe Abigail Adams made a list of the stores she sent with them on board the *Boston*. Some items on her list may have been stored in the northwest buttery including "1 Bushel Indian Meal," "1 Case Rum," "30 w Brown sugar," "1 Box Wafers," "2 Bottles Mustard," "2 w Tea," "2. w Chocolate," "5 bushels of Corn," "1 barrel of apples," "6 or 7 doz of syder," "1 Ten galln Keg of old Spirit," "2 barrel of 2 or 3 doz Medeira Wine," "7 Loves of Sugar," "2 doz & 4 bottles Port Wine," and pepper (see appendix G-4). Presumably wooden barrels and boxes, stoneware jugs and jars, baskets, and textile bags would have been among the storage methods she used.

Archeological evidence offers some indication of the types of vessels used in the northwest buttery, however, the areas directly abutting it have been disturbed over time by the building and demolition of the shed to the north. The hole created by the demolition of the shed to the north was used as a dump, so offers a greater density and

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[856] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 29 October 1784, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #363.

[857] "Historic Houses: Where the Two Adamses First Saw Light, Rooms in the Cottage are Being Restored, Quincy Does Honor to Her Illustrious Sons," *Boston Journal*, 5 March 1897.

[858] H. Hobart Holly to Abbot Lowell Cummings, 6 December 1970, Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives.

[859] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.

variety of archeological evidence than what the northwest buttery alone would have produced. Fragments found by the Pratts possibly dating to the eighteenth century include a piece of annular ware and a piece of scratch-blue, salt-glazed stoneware. Remains of nineteenth-century objects include a portion of a Boston & Sandwich Glass drinking goblet with a "beaded mirror" pattern from the 1870s, an "igloo type" ink bottle from the 1860s to 1890s, a bone button from 1800 to 1830, and a clear pressed-glass lid with a bellflower design which originated in Sandwich, MA in the 1830s. Fragments which may date from the nineteenth or twentieth centuries include yellow ware and a Dorflinger glass tumbler with a heavy fluted pattern.[860] The Towle and Hsu survey produced mostly pearlwares and whitewares and a lot of bottle glass.[861] Of these finds, those that may have occupied the northwest buttery are the annular ware, yellow ware, and bottle glass. The other wares, including the scratch-blue stoneware, more likely were used in the northwest or the northeast room.

No early photographs of the buttery exist. The 1956 and 1961 inventories of the house list the expected storage items in the room, "Crockery jars etc." and a "Tin cylinder type candle box" hanging on the back of the door. For lack of a better place, two bear traps also were kept in the buttery (see appendices H-1 and H-3). A 1979 photograph indicates that the interpretation and display in the space changed little over the years (see ill. 37).

In the buttery, the National Park Service displays reproduction storage containers including covered barrels, covered wooden boxes with handles, and buckets (see ill. 38). There is also a bench, ladderback chair, barrel rest, and round corn broom. Some of the containers are labeled with their fictitious contents in black-stenciled letters. Red-checked tieback curtains matching those in the northwest room adorn the window.

Documentary and Graphic References

1784, June 18. Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts (*Adams Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 345): "The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house."

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 9: Annotated inventory of objects in northwest buttery. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8: "At the north end of the leanto was the buttery which has now been changed into a smaller closet. An ingenious cooler with openings between hand wrought slats at floor level and a chest with a lid above it kept the crockery food containers cool with the colder air in the cellar below."

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[860] Pratt, p. 30.
[861] Towle, tables 1-2.

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 5: List of furnishings in northwest buttery. (See appendix H-3)

1970, December 6. Hobart Holly to Abbot Lowell Cummings (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "The cooler consisted of a rectangular wooden chest with vertical sides and a hinged top, but no bottom. At present, the floor below it is solid, whereas originally the open grating formed the bottom within the chest, permitting circulation of cool air from the cellar directly below.

"The grating was removed in 1950 when new floor beams were installed under the first floor. Virtually all of the original flooring was put back, some badly worn boards being turned over. Some boards in the leanto, including some under the buttery had to be replaced. For some reason, the floor boards under the cooler were not cut away for the grating."

1979, December, Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1347: "Buttery of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace. The built-in chest at the lower right is open at the bottom to the cool cellar air to help preserve milk and other perishables."

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1347: Photograph of small closet buttery in northeast corner of northwest room (see ill. 37).

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (2) of all walls of enlarged buttery (see ill. 38).

1982, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, figs. unnumbered: Photographs of existing conditions of interior and exterior of small buttery in northeast corner of northwest room.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 17: The 1980s alterations included the "removal of the northeast closet and restoration of the partition wall, creating a north room, thought to have been a dairy room."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 189: "OBJECTIVE: "To restore the room to a late 18th century kitchen, complete with a dairy room."

"The plan of this room [northwest room] was altered with the removal of the east pantry closet in the northeast corner of the room. The partition wall which served as the south wall of the pantry was extended to the west wall of the northwest lean-to room, creating a separate room. . . . An entrance to this room was restored at the junction of the existing and new walls. The room was presumed to have been a dairy room and was furnished as such."

JQABP 104, Northwest Room (Kitchen)

Architectural Description and History

The northwest room is a rectangular room with a large fireplace dominating its east wall. To the north of the fireplace is a door to the stairway leading to the cellar below. Further north is a hall to the northeast room off of which leads a stairway to the garret spaces above. The buttery occupied the northern portion or the northeast corner of the room during its history. An exterior door is located on the northern half of the west wall. A door to the southwest room is located on the south wall. Over time the room had one to three windows.

The configuration of the northern end of the northwest room changed as the buttery changed. In the 1980s, the National Park Service extended the room the width of the northwest room covering the window in the north wall. Also at that time, a window next to the exterior door on the west wall was covered, reducing the number of windows in the room to one. The doors were also replaced.

History of Room Use

When the lean-to kitchen was added, the cooking and dining functions moved there from the old kitchen in the southeast room. These remained the primary functions of the room until the Quincy Historical Society occupied the house. In contrast with the framing in the northeast room, that in the northwest room is among the crudest in the house. The crudely finished framing members confirm the utilitarian nature of this space.

Before the house was opened to the public in 1897, Spear hosted at least two dinner parties in the kitchen for small groups of select people. In April of 1897, the *Boston Journal* reported,

> Yesterday the scenes of a century ago were once more repeated . . .
>
> It was a purely informal affair . . . The object in having the old house opened yesterday was to test the baking qualities of the place, and to say that the results were very satisfactory was the unanimous opinion of everyone who was privileged to be present. . . .
>
> The dinner was a reproduction of the old-time New England midday meal, and every detail was carried out with a faithfulness that was pleasing to the reminiscently inclined, as well as proving to be an epicurean delight.
>
> The dinner consisted of a shoulder of roast pork, with vegetables, baked beans and brown bread, and old-fashioned apple sauce, old-fashioned Indian pudding, water from the old Adams well, and tea. Many of the dishes used were pieces of rare chinaware that had been received from the houses of many prominent families in Quincy and Braintree.[862]

When the house was opened to the public, the northwest room was interpreted, for obvious reasons, as a kitchen.

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[862] "The Adams Cottage: Home of a Former President Thrown Open to a Party Yesterday," *Boston Journal*, 9 April 1897.

In 1979, the National Park Service staged a brief event for the bicentennial of the writing of the Massachusetts Constitution. During the event the kitchen housed an exhibition of items related to the pending restoration of the Adams birthplaces.

The National Park Service currently interprets the northwest room as the kitchen used by Abigail Adams and Louisa Catherine Adams.

Interior Features and Finishes

The oven adjacent to the fireplace attests to the baking which took place in this room. The location of the oven outside the firebox was considered an improvement over the earlier location of the oven in the rear of the firebox as in the southeast room. Another updated feature of the fireplace in this room are the splayed sides of the firebox which reflected more heat into the room. According to Sprague, the fireplace had a crane and a chain and trammel for the suspension of cooking vessels.[863]

No specific information regarding features of the northwest room is available until the Quincy Historical Society's occupation of the house in 1896. Sprague attributes the addition of a copper-lined sink and "gas plate" to the late nineteenth century. During the 1950-1951 renovations, the copper-lined sink and gas plate were removed. Another feature of the northwest room was a latchstring in the exterior door. The Quincy Historical Society believed the latchstring was less of a security device than a method of regulating visitors. In 1964 Sprague noted, "the back entrance still has an old fashioned latch string which can be put out to let in welcome visitors."[864]

In 1896, Spear examined the paint layers in the lean-to and determined that the woodwork in the lean-to originally matched the gray of the woodwork in the northeast room, or parlor. The woodwork was repainted to reflect its early finish. The woodwork remained gray from 1896 to 1979.

For the 1979 Massachusetts Constitution event, the woodwork was repainted with gray paint to match the existing color. Later, the National Park Service changed the colors of the woodwork in the room so that the baseboards are dark red ochre; the doors, trim, and hardware are blue-gray; the floor is deep yellow ochre; and the hearth and masonry are dark red ochre.

Furnishings

There is little evidence of the furnishings in the northwest room during the John Adams family's occupation. Two objects in the collection of the Old House that likely stood in this room are a pine dresser and reflector oven believed to have been owned by Abigail Adams.

Archeological materials suggest the types of items, most of them dating to the nineteenth century, used in this space. Eighteenth-century fragments located by the Pratts are limited to pipe stems with a 5/64" bore. Pipe bowls of varying designs also were located including one with a basket weave design and another with a vertical line design. Nineteenth-century findings include shards of pearlware, benningtonware, porcelain with a "corn kernel" design, ironstone, and amethyst glass with a "daisy and button" pattern

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[863] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8.

[864] Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [4].

possibly made by the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company in the 1880s.[865] The majority of the fragments located around this room by Towle and Hsu were pearlware.[866] Almost all items found near the northwest room are, as expected, directly related to the preserving, preparing, serving, and consumption of food characteristic of a kitchen. The pipe fragments suggest smoking took place in the northwest room or perhaps outside the back door.

The *Quincy Advertiser* describes the room prior to the Quincy Historical Society's opening of the house in 1897:

> In the rear of this room [southeast room] is the newer kitchen, with its more shallow fireplace, yet one can stand in it and see daylight above. A heavy fire-set bears the burden of immense logs, above which, suspended from the old crane, are the pots and kettles of old shape. Up in the chimney here are iron bars, serving in place of the green hardwood sticks of the older chimney, from one of which is hanging by chain and pot hooks a large brass kettle, begrimed by smoke and wear on the outside, but polished bright within. . . . Above this fireplace is the long, narrow mantel shelf, just the right width to hold the candle sticks, tinder box and old clock which are there. Up, higher still, is a piece of slab wood, from which branch out a pair of deer's horns (the deer having been shot many years ago in Quincy), sustaining the old flint lock gun and powder horns. At the right of the fireplace is the old brick oven, with its heavy removal oak door. It is circular in shape and large enough to contain, as it has, pies and bread enough to last till the next cooking day at the end, treasured if the household is to be kept neat and clean. Standing behind the oven and reaching above its opening is a work[?] of a week. Beneath the oven is the 'woodash hold,' for the ashes . . . and battered iron shovel [peel] which, in its day, has lifted much food in and out of the old oven.
>
> Here is the old-fashioned water bucket, with its bands and handle of wood, all gray with age, and by its side on the long plank sink sits the 'tin pint' dipper, which is also of remarkable age. From the rafters, hanging by the old hand-made hooks and spikes, are bunches of seed corn and herbs for family use.
>
> This room would not be complete without the old-fashioned dresser to hold the pewter, and it is here. A mamouth bread trough, with its cross of uneven but smooth oak, and a cheese press wholly six feet high.[867]

A period photograph confirms this description of the room's contents (see ill. 39).

The majority of these objects and many more appear in the 1930s postcard of the northwest room (see ill. 40). The only obvious objects removed are the antlers and flintlock over the fireplace. Added to the room were a large spinning wheel and a braided rug which greatly diminish the floor space. The spinning wheel may have been put in place for the occasion of the photograph because it blocks the door to the southwest room. Photographs, slides, and the 1956 and 1961 inventories indicate that the contents of the room did not change much, if at all, from the 1930s to the 1960s (see

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[865] Pratt, pp. 24-26.
[866] Towle, table 1.
[867] "The Cottage."

appendices H-1 and H-3). The only significant change made in the 1970s, was that a tavern table supporting a changing assortment of utilitarian items was moved into the center of the room (see ills. 41-44).

During the 1979 Massachusetts Constitution event, the northwest room housed an exhibition of items related to the pending restoration of the Adams birthplaces. The extant list of objects is vague but includes "measured drawings of John Quincy Adams Birthplace" and "other materials concerning restoration studies being done at Birthplace." Also considered for display in the kitchen were the reflector oven in the Old House Kitchen and the bullet mold attributed to Abigail Adams' ownership.

The room is now much more sparsely furnished than during the Quincy Historical Society's occupation (see ills. 45-46). Objects displayed in the room to indicate use of the room by Abigail Adams include a reproduction of her pine dresser at the Old House, new blue and white willow-patterned china resembling what is believed to be her Chinese export porcelain in the Old House Middle Pantry, a reproduction eel spear with a head based on one in the Old House Kitchen, a reproduction bullet mold, and a reproduction of the reflector oven in he Old House Kitchen. Louisa Catherine Adams' occupancy is reflected by reproduction onion-patterned china over the fireplace.

Documentary and Graphic References

1784, June 18. Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts (*Adams Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 345): "The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house."

1790, October 10. Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch (*New Letters*, p. 61): "With Regard to our House, I should have no objection to a carefull person living in the kitchin to take care of it, but as to letting it I cannot consent unless any person offers to take the House and furniture together."

1840, Louisa Catherine Adams, "Adventures of a Nobody" (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #269): "I was making and baking Cake [in September 1806], and was obliged to *dress* before I could appear. - The rooms of my house were literally too small to hold my company: - These Ladies were the elite of Baltimore - There was something truly ridiculous in my position - The shaking off of the Kitchen drapery for the parlour finery; and the assumption of the fashionable manners of my Station: was such a transition: as robes Cinderella as a Princess; and I could scarcely fancy that the smoke spots had left me fair; when I presented myself to the company."

1896, June 17. "The Old Adams House: QHS will be proud" (Article, Unknown Source, Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-2) "The kitchen will be fitted up with old kitchen furniture, andirons, cranes, bakers, and an old pot."

1897, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 9): Photograph of east and south walls of northwest room (see ill. 39).

1897, March 5. "Historic House," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "In the kitchen, the large open fireplace was filled with logs waiting only the touch of a spark to fan them into a roaring mass, while overhead swung a large iron kettle that was brought from the famous old Fairbanks house in Dedham."

1897, April 9. "The Adams Cottage," *Boston Journal*: "Not for over a hundred years before had the old brick fireplaces and ovens felt the roar and the crackle of the huge logs as they threw out their blazing heat and lent their aid to cooking of the family dishes.

"Yesterday the scenes of a century ago were once more repeated.

"It was a purely informal affair . . . The object in having the old house opened yesterday was to test the baking qualities of the place, and to say that the results were very satisfactory was the unanimous opinion of everyone who was privileged to be present.

The dinner was a reproduction of the old-time New England midday meal, and every detail was carried out with a faithfulness that was pleasing to the reminiscently inclined, as well as proving to be an epicurean delight.

The dinner consisted of a shoulder of roast pork, with vegetables, baked beans and brown bread, and old-fashioned apple sauce, old-fashioned Indian pudding, water from the old Adams well, and tea. Many of the dishes used were pieces of rare chinaware that had been received from the houses of many prominent families in Quincy and Braintree."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "In the rear of this room is the newer kitchen, with its more shallow fireplace, yet one can stand in it and see daylight above. A heavy fire-set bears the burden of immense logs, above which, suspended from the old crane, are the pots and kettles of old shape. Up in the chimney here are iron bars, serving in place of the green hardwood sticks of the older chimney, from one of which is hanging by chain and pot hooks a large brass kettle, begrimed by smoke and wear on the outside, but polished bright within. This kettle once before was suspended here when the late Harvey Field took temporary residence while the house where the younger Harvey now resides was building. Above this fireplace is the long, narrow mantel shelf, just the right width to hold the candle sticks, tinder box and old clock which are there. Up, higher still, is a piece of slab wood, from which branch out a pair of deer's horns (the deer having been shot many years ago in Quincy), sustaining the old flint lock gun and powder horns. At the right of the fireplace is the old brick oven, with its heavy removal oak door. It is circular in shape and large enough to contain, as it has, pies and bread enough to last till the next cooking day at the end, treasured if the household is to be kept neat and clean. Standing behind the oven and reaching above its opening is a work[?] of a week. Beneath the oven is the 'woodash hold,' for the ashes, must be and battered iron shovel which, in its day, has lifted much food in and out of the old oven.

"Here is the old-fashioned water bucket, with its bands and handle of wood, all gray with age, and by its side on the long plank sink sits the 'tin pint' dipper, which is also of remarkable age. From the rafters, hanging by the old hand-made hooks and spikes, are bunches of seed corn and herbs for family use.

"This room would not be complete without the old-fashioned dresser to hold the pewter, and it is here. A mamouth bread trough, with its cross of uneven but smooth oak, and a cheese press wholly six feet high."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: Line engraving of south and east walls of northwest room.

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: "The later kitchen, in the newer portion of the house, has a shallower fireplace, yet one can stand in it, and, looking up, see the light of heaven. The set of irons, or fire dogs, which here, as everywhere in former days, 'when we lived under the king,' played an important function in the maintenance of a fire, are massive and well loaded with huge logs. Pots and kettles of old style and shape hang from a crane in the chimney beneath the iron bars, which here fill the duty of the lug-pole. From these bars now hangs a brass kettle, bright within, but grimed and sooty without. The shelf, serving as a mantel, is long and narrow, barely sufficient for tinder box, candlesticks and a clock which it supports. A pair of deer's horns, the prowess of some sportsman, gathered within the limits of Quincy, are fixed higher up, and across the antlers rests a flintlock gun with powder horns. To the right of the fireplace is the circular opening to the capacious brick oven, closed with a heavy oaken door. The ash pit is directly under it. . . . Such a shovel [peel] stands in the corner near the oven in the Adams kitchen. . . . Other articles in the kitchen are common but well worth preserving, such as the water bucket, handle and hoops, all of wood, the bread trough, the cheese press, with curd cutter and churn two hundred years old."

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: Line engraving of south and east walls of northwest room.

1901, September, "Residence of John Adams," *The Home Monthly*: Line engraving of south and east walls of northwest room.

1922, May 28. "To Restore Adams Birthplace," *Boston Sunday Herald*: "The long kitchen is, perhaps, more interesting than the living room and its quaint furnishings speak eloquently of the simple home life of those days. The great fireplace is the most impressive part of the room. Against it lean long-handled fire tools and cooking utensils, among them a frying pan with a handle about four feet long that is said to have been used by Abigail Adams. Within the fireplace is a crane from which is hung a quaint collection of kettles. At one side, set in the brick masonry is a large bake oven large enough to have held the liberal weekly supply of bread and pies that were cooked by every housewife of the time. The broad mantel shelf holds several old lamps, some of pewter, others of glass. Among them is a double bull's eye lamp, with a pewter base, and another made of glass, which has a glass peg in its base, often set in a potato to make it stand. At that time lamps were a luxury since kerosene cost at retail $1 a quart."

1929, July 31. "Noble Simplicity," *Christian Science Monitor*: "The kitchen was a great center of life and activity, too, with its great fireplace and oven at one end, the polished pots hanging from their hooks and the crane swinging on its savory errands."

1930s, William H. Rice, Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A Archives): Photograph of east and south walls of northwest room (see ill. 40).

1930s, Print ("Quincy Scenes," Box 3, Shelf 166, Quincy Historical Society): Print of south and east walls of northwest room.

1930s, Thichnor Bros., Postcard Print (Postcard File, Quincy Historical Society): Print of south and east walls of northwest room.

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 3: "The kitchen, used as a combined living and dining room, was always kept warm by its enormous open fireplace."

1950, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of south and east walls of northwest room.

1955, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of south and west walls of the northwest room.

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 5-9: Annotated inventory of objects in northwest room. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8: "The leanto fireplace, though larger than the earlier one, has its oven at the right hand side, not in the back as in the earlier one. . . . This great fireplace is splayed at the sides to help reflect heat into the room. It has a large crane for the cooking utensils which it has been said came into use about 1720. But it also had a chain or trammel for hanging the pots."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16: "The house was opened for visitors in April 1897. Twice Mr. Spear and a dozen or more members and friends of the society enjoyed a dinner cooked at the hearth and in the old oven in the leanto kitchen to celebrate the completion of their undertaking."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16: "The interior trim and panelling was found to have many coats of paint but was restored to the colors of the earliest coat next the wood, a rather deep olive gray green for the main part and gray in the leanto and parlor."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18: "[T]he copper lined sink and gas plate, late nineteenth century additions in the kitchen were taken out."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 2-4: List of furnishings in northwest room. (See appendix H-3)

1963, October 3. "Cooking Utensils," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Photograph of east wall of northwest room.

1964, Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [3]: "The newer kitchen in the leanto contains another large fireplace with its old baking ovens and utensils, and the back entrance still has an old fashioned latch string which can be put out to let in welcome visitors."

Ca. 1969[?], "Contents of Especial Interest in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-16, p. [1]): "This was the center of life in an early farmhouse. The fireplace is of the style that came in around 1720, and is a contrast to the one in the old kitchen, now the law office." (See appendix H-6)

1970s[?], Quincy Historical Society, Contact Sheet Prints (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Small photographs (4, badly degraded) of all walls of northwest room.

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photographs (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (2) of south and west wall and east wall of northwest room (see ills. 41-42).

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of east and south walls of northwest room (see ill. 43).

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, p. 5: "It was in the kitchen of this house that Abigail melted her pewter spoons for bullets using a bullet mold now exhibited at the Adams National Historic Site."

1979, "Display at the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, September 6-9, 1979" (File A-82, "John Adams Birthplace and John Quincy Adams Birthplace Special Events," Archival Administrative Files, Carriage House, Adams National Historical Park): Items in the northwest room during Massachusetts Constitution event:

> "measured drawings of John Quincy Adams Birthplace
> other materials concerning restoration studies being done at the Birthplace
> kitchen stove and bullet mold (not definite yet)"

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1347: Photograph of east, south, and west walls (see ill. 44).

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. northwest room and northwest buttery survey 2, 5:

The exposed framing is cruder than other examples on this floor. Surfaces are hand hewn surfaces and the post has beveled edge.

The walls are painted white, the trim is painted gray, the shelving is painted gray, the ceiling is painted white with gray girts, the flooring is painted gray, the hardware is painted black, the firebox is red on the face of the jamb.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (7) of all walls of northwest room (see ills. 45-46).

1983, September 15. "Adams Houses Seen as Symbols," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "There is a reproduction of Abigail's kitchen cabinet in the birthplace. Copies of blue and white china purchased by her husband while in Holland now decorate the cabinet. Off to the side of the kitchen is Abigail's buttery, where provisions were stored."

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 125: Northwest room finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Baseboards - dark red ochre
Doors, Trim, Hardware - blue-gray
Floor - deep yellow ochre
Hearth and Masonry - dark red ochre

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 189-190: "OBJECTIVE: "To restore the room to a late 18th century kitchen, complete with a dairy room."

"The plan of this room was altered with the removal of the east pantry closet in the northeast corner of the room. The partition wall which served as the south wall of the pantry was extended to the west wall of the northwest lean-to room, creating a separate room."

"The north window opening on the west wall was closed-up. The window on the north wall was moved to align with the girt mortises."

The doors were replaced.

JQABP 105, Southwest Room

Architectural Description and History

The southwest room is a rectangular room with a window on the south and west walls. There is a door on the north and east walls. A fireplace occupies the northeast corner of the room. Beaded edges on exposed framing indicates a more genteel function for this room than for the neighboring kitchen.

Sprague believes the decorative wooden elements may have been added after the original construction of the room. He states,

> The large panel over the fireplace and fluted pilasters each side of it appear to be of mid-eighteenth century style. The pilasters it should be noted very closely resemble those at the sides of the front door of the house. These, with the pediment over the door, along with the moldings added to the beams in the parlor ceiling which are the same as moldings found in the leanto around the ceilings may all have been put in place when the house was improved probably between 1742 and 1764, possibly in the latter year for John Adams and his bride.

Also, he believes the fireplace may have been larger when originally built.

In preparation for the 1979 Massachusetts Constitution event, shelves installed by the Quincy Historical Society were removed from the walls.

History of Room Use

The exact use of the southwest room during its early history is unclear. Gall and Sprague, citing the large size of early families, suggest the room was used as a bedroom.[868] The John Adams family may have housed John Adams' law clerks in the southwest room while servants likely occupied the garret rooms on the second floor. Adjacent to the law office and separate from the family's quarters, the southwest room would have been a practical choice for housing the law clerks. When Abigail Adams wrote to John Adams, "Mr. Rice came this afternoon. he and Mr. Thaxter are setled over at the office," she may have considered the southwest room a part of the law office into which the men settled.[869] When Patty, a servant, became ill with dysentery in 1775, Thaxter was likely displaced from the southwest room which may have become her sick room. Abigail Adams wrote to John Adams, "Mr. Thaxter has been obliged to go home as it was not possible for me to accommodate him, mr. Mason came this week, but if he had been inclined I could not have taken him now."[870]

Sprague believes the room may have been used as a food preparation area during the nineteenth century. He found a crane in the fireplace and states, "the room has certainly been used for preparing meals at times when more than one family lived in the house."[871]

Upon taking up occupancy in 1896, the Quincy Historical Society used the southwest room as a combination library and formal exhibition space rather than a period room. This room was probably chosen to be the library/exhibition space because of its indeterminate earlier function. Shelves were installed along the walls to hold books and the Society's library remained in this room until 1937 when the books were moved to the

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[868] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8. Gall, "Interpretive Presentation of Grounds [Extended Version]," p. 22.

[869] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 15 August 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[870] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1775, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, pp. 278-279.

[871] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8.

Adams Academy building.[872] After the removal of the library books, the southwest room continued to be a formal exhibition space.

Because the room was not displayed as a period room by the Quincy Historical Society, guides had difficulty interpreting it. Often, guests simply were allowed to browse the ceramics and other objects in the room.[873]

In 1979, the southwest room was used as an exhibition space during the short Massachusetts Constitution event. The theme of the exhibits in this room centered on John Adams.

The National Park Service currently displays the room as a dining room dating to the 1805-1806 occupancy of the John Quincy Adams family. The area serves as a space to discuss that family and its relationship to the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

Interior Features and Finishes

In 1896, Spear examined the layers of paint on the woodwork and determined that the woodwork in the lean-to rooms was originally gray. The woodwork in the southwest room was painted accordingly and remained gray until the 1980s. At that time, the walls and ceiling were whitewashed; the baseboards were painted dark red ochre; the doors, trim, and hardware were painted blue-gray; the floor was painted deep yellow ochre; and the hearth and masonry trim were painted dark red ochre.

Furnishings

There is no record of the early use and furnishings of the southwest room. During the occupancy of the John Adams family, it was probably a bedroom occupied by John Adams' law clerks. A bed, fire set, trunks, clothing, and toilet articles may have been in the room at that time.

Archeological evidence indicates the types of furnishings historically located in the southwest room. The Pratts located mostly nineteenth-century shards and a few eighteenth-century shards. The types of materials found included unglazed redware, pearlware, blue feathered ware, colored glass, and a large quantity of blue transfer-printed ironstone.[874] Towle and Hsu located mostly redwares in the area surrounding the room.[875] Both investigations produced a number of clay pipe fragments. The Pratts found some with bores of 5/64," probably dating to the eighteenth century and others with bores of 4/64" which could date from the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries.[876] The remains of pipes indicate smoking in the southwest room. The large quantity of ironstone tablewares suggests this room may have been used as a dining area in the nineteenth century.

When the Quincy Historical Society moved into the house, shelves were installed in the southwest and northwest corners. The southeast corner was free of bookcases and the fireplace was in the northeast corner. In addition to housing the Society's library, the

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[872] Lowenthal, p. 21.
[873] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.
[874] Pratt, p. 35.
[875] Towle, table 1.
[876] Pratt, p. 35.

room also held a collection of Native American artifacts. A writer in 1897 extolled, "The collection of Indian relics here is almost unequaled. There are gouges, axes, arrow and spear heads, and pestle stones picked up in old Massachusetts fields, Merry Mount and along Quincy beaches."[877] In an undated inventory of "Indian Relics" probably taken by Sprague in 1956, the collection contained approximately sixty objects. Josiah Quincy donated a majority of these to the Society in 1897, but the collection continued to grow over time (see appendix H-2). It is unclear how these object were housed in early years, but probably by 1937 the collection occupied the lower shelves of the former bookcases as it did in 1970 (see ill. 47).

In 1935-1936, Mrs. William B. Nichols donated a collection of ceramics and glass to the Quincy Historical Society.[878] These objects were mostly wares from Staffordshire, England, including some lusterware. After the library books were removed in 1937, this collection and other ceramic objects were displayed on the upper shelves in the southwest room. Sprague's 1956 inventory lists the other objects displayed in the room including chairs, a spinning wheel, a swift, a tavern table, a glass showcase "made at the High School" in 1952 containing "small household items," and fire tools (see appendix H-1). The majority of these items remained in this room into the 1970s.

For the Massachusetts Constitution event in 1979, the National Park Service displayed a selection of objects related to John Adams. An exhibit case contained three law dockets, Adams' watch, a lock of his hair, an early picture of him, a book on Boston markets, and the grape scissors currently located in the Old House Study. Another case contained Adams' copy of the Articles of Confederation. Also exhibited were a 1755 Mitchell map, a Windsor chair from the Old House Memorial Room, and the table from the Old House Kitchen.[879]

The National Park Service currently interprets the southwest room as a dining room dating to the 1805-1806 occupancy of the John Quincy Adams family (see ills. 48-49). For this reason, a reproduction of the drop-leaf table in the Old House Kitchen appears along the west wall. On the table are reproduction pewter warming plates based on a pair in the Old House Kitchen believed to have been owned by Abigail Adams.[880] Other furniture includes reproduction, red-painted Windsor chairs based on the one in the Old House Memorial Room. The original is believed to have been owned by John Adams.[881] Against the east wall is a glass-covered bookcase filled with reproduction books. On the walls are prints depicting Silesia, John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams' travel destination in 1800; portraits of the couple as adults; and Eliza Susan Quincy's renderings of the Old House and the birthplaces. The floor is covered with a large floral hooked rug.

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[877] "In the Old Adams House."

[878] Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace," unpublished inventory, 1956, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA, p. 4.

[879] John Adams consulted a copy of the 1755 Mitchell map when negotiating in 1782 for American fishing rights off the coast of British North America.

[880] Object Catalog Card ADAMQ37.

[881] Object Catalog Card ADAMQ7.

Documentary and Graphic References

1897, June 17. "The Old Adams House" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix C-2): "The collection of Indian relics here is almost unequaled. There are gouges, axes, arrow and spear heads, and pestle stones picked up in old Massachusetts fields, Merry Mount and along Quincy beaches."

1905, October 24. "J.Q. Adams House," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "There is now a large library in the house."

1941, "Quincy Historical Society has Tea" (Quincy Historical Society: Materials for Its History, Quincy Historical Society): "In one room is a valuable collection of rare old china a gift of the late Mrs. William B. Nichols."

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 4-5: Annotated inventory of objects in southwest room. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8: "At the south end of the leanto is a room with a small fireplace, probably now smaller than originally built. There is a crane in it and the room has certainly been used for preparing meals at times when more than one family lived in the house. It is not known at present what this room was used for at the time of the Adams family occupancy. Originally such rooms were nearly always bedrooms for families were large in those days. The large panel over the fireplace and fluted pilasters each side of it appear to be of mid-eighteenth century style. The pilasters it should be noted very closely resemble those at the sides of the front door of the house. These, with the pediment over the door, along with the moldings added to the beams in the parlor ceiling which are the same as moldings found in the leanto around the ceilings may all have been put in place when the house was improved probably between 1742 and 1764, possibly in the latter year for John Adams and his bride. About this time also paint was first used inside and outside, though definitely sometime after the construction of the leanto, whenever that was."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16: "The interior trim and panelling was found to have many coats of paint but was restored to the colors of the earliest coat next the wood, a rather deep olive gray green for the main part and gray in the leanto and parlor."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 2: List of furnishings in southwest room. (See appendix H-3)

1963, May 12. "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*: "Downstairs is a museum room that contains handsome antique china and other day-to-day memorabilia of the 1700's and 1800's."

Ca. 1969[?], "Contents of Especial Interest in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-16, p. [1]): "This room was fitted out with shelves for the Society's library when the house was first opened in 1897. It is used for display and exhibitions rather than as a live-in space like the rest of the house. It is hoped that before long it can be refitted and furnished in keeping with its original use." (See appendix H-6)

1970s, Quincy Historical Society, Contact Sheet Prints (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Small photographs (4, badly degraded) of all walls of southwest room.

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of west and north walls of southwest room (see ill. 47).

1979, "Display at the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, September 6-9, 1979" (File A-82, "John Adams Birthplace and John Quincy Adams Birthplace Special Events," Archival Administrative Files, Carriage House, Adams National Historical Park): Items exhibited in the southwest room for the Massachusetts Constitution event:

"Case with John Adams' Memorabilia
Three law dockets (one showing John Hancock as client)
John Adams' watch
Lock of John Adams' hair
Early picture of John Adams
Book on markets of Boston
Grape scissors
Mitchell Map, 1755 (Used by John Adams in determining fishing boundaries for treaties)
Red Chair (from Memorial Room originally at Birthplace)
Case with Articles of Confederation (copy which was given to John Adams)
Kitchen table (from Old House, originally at Birthplace according to B[rooks] A[dams])"

1979-1980, Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]" (File L58a, K1817, D18, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park), p. 22: "In typical farm houses of this type the large leanto room next to the kitchen usually served as a bedroom. In one of Abigail's letters she writes that her 'family', including domestics, numbered 13 or 14; and if only a part of them slept in this house, virtually every room must have become a bed chamber."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. southwest room survey 1, 4: The exposed post has a beaded edge, but no lamb's tongue molding.

The walls are painted light gray; trim is painted gray; ceiling is painted white; flooring is painted gray; hardware is painted black; and firebox shows evidence of red paint.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (4) of all walls of southwest room (see ills. 48-49).

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 5: Regarding renovations for the Massachusetts Constitution event: "The event required the refurbishing of the first floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Existing colors in the John Quincy Adams house were matched. . . . The work included . . . removal of the shelving in the southwest lean-to room, removal of wallpaper where extant, preparing all surfaces for painting, painting all surfaces."

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 124: Southwest room finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Baseboards - dark red ochre
Doors, Trim, Hardware - blue gray
Floor - deep yellow ochre
Hearth and Masonry Trim - dark red ochre

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 181: "OBJECTIVE: To maintain as a dining room, dating to the last quarter of the 18th century."

JQABP 106, Southeast Room (Old Kitchen, Law Office)

Architectural Description and History

The southeast room is a rectangular room with a large fireplace on the north wall. To the east of the fireplace are doors to the cellar and entry hall. A window is centered in the south and east walls. At the southeast corner of the south wall is an exterior door. There is a door to the southwest room in the west wall.

Eighteenth-century modifications include the reduction in size of the fireplace and the placement of a door in the west wall leading to the newly added southwest room. It is unclear whether the southeast room's exterior door was extant when John Adams inherited the house or if he had the door constructed for his clients' entrance. Henry Adams states, "When John Adams moved into his cottage in 1764, he opened his law office in the old kitchen--the door which used to be the kitchen door serving as a special entrance."[882] While Sprague feels strongly that "As far as now known the only change in the house that can be definitely attributed to John Adams was a new doorway at the

[882] Henry Adams, p. 7.

southeast corner by which his law clients could enter the room which he used as his law office."[883]

The southern door remained in place into the early 1820s because it appears in the 1822 watercolor by Eliza Susan Quincy (see ill. 1).[884] This door appears to have been sealed off by the mid-nineteenth century because it does not appear in G.N. Frankenstein's 1849-1850 oil painting nor in an 1879-1880 lithograph based on the drawings of E. Whitefield (see ill. 6).[885] The door remained sealed until the Quincy Historical Society re-opened it in 1896. An 1896-1897 post-restoration photograph shows the newly opened doorway. However, because of its age, the exterior of the door was covered again in 1923.

The 1896 renovations of the southeast room undertaken by the Quincy Historical Society under the direction of librarian William Gardner Spear were quite severe (see ill. 50). This room may have received the most intensive treatment because it is one of the earliest and most utilitarian parts of the house. For instance, the plaster ceiling and overmantel were removed to restore the room to its eighteenth-century appearance. However, Perrault states, "'There is no evidence that the beams were charred by smoke from the fireplace so they must have been covered. . . . Holes in the lathe lines in the beams were made by hand-wrought nails, which indicates the covering was there in pre-19th-century."[886] In addition, the "restoration" of the southeast room included the re-opening of the door on the south elevation, removal of brick nogging from within the walls except where it was retained for display purposes, replastering the walls, and repainting the woodwork.

In preparation for the 1979 Massachusetts Constitution Bicentennial exhibition, a National Park Service crew refurbished the first floor rooms. In the southeast room, the brick nogging display was covered and the walls were repainted.

The 1980s restoration work in the southeast room included the re-introduction of a lath and plaster ceiling, re-introduction of plaster and a mantel of correct profile over the fireplace, relaying of the hearth with reproduction bricks, and making the exterior door functional. In terms of the exterior door, a "six-panelled 18th-century door, purportedly installed for John Adams' law office, painted turquoise" was extant in 1980. According to the draft project completion report, the door was repaired and a new frame and trim were introduced during restoration work.[887]

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[883] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces,* pp. 12-13.

[884] Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, pp. 228-231. The omission of the southern door in this depiction may not be conclusive evidence that the door was sealed at that time because the angle from which it was composed precludes a full view of the southern elevation.

[885] The door at the very southeast corner of the house does not appear in Frankenstein's painting, but there is a door in place of the window on the south wall. Whether this moving of the door was actual or artistic license is unclear. There is definitely not an exterior door to the southeast room in the 1880-1885 photograph (see ill. 9).

[886] "Little Red Farmhouses were Probably Once Cream," *Quincy Sun,* Bicentennial Supplement, 30 August 1979.

[887] Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, p. JQABP doors 1. Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, p. 165.

History of Room Use

The southeast room was originally the hall, a multipurpose living space in which, among other activities, cooking and eating took place. The room's large fireplace and bake oven attest to its early use as a kitchen. When the lean-to was added to the rear of the house, the activities of preparing and cooking food moved to the northeast room. It is unclear how this room was used after the addition of the lean-to kitchen and before John Adams' occupation of the house.

From references contained in early newspaper articles, it appears that early members of the Quincy Historical Society believed the southeast room became a dining room when the new kitchen was added. The *Quincy Advertiser* describes the room as "the room which was originally the kitchen, but was later the dining room."[888] In 1927, tea was served in "what is believed to have been the dining room of the Adams family."[889] In 1929, the room was described as "The dining room, which was used also as a general living room, has a wide fireplace, with a single settle."[890] While this room may have served as a combination dining and living area prior to the John Adams occupancy, it is generally believed that he reserved this room as a law office during his time in the house.

Abigail Adams never specified in her letters a room used as a dining room, although she twice mentioned a dining table in requests to John Adams for china.[891] The dining habits of the family indicate that they ate together necessitating a fair-sized table: "I am not so lonely as I should have been without my two neighbours [Nathan Rice and John Thaxter]. we make a table full at meal times."[892] At that time, in 1774, a full table would have contained at least Abigail Adams, her four children, and the two law clerks. Her two domestics also may have eaten with the family. Day-to-day dining likely took place in the kitchen. Special occasion dining involving a dozen people seated around a table probably occurred in the large northeast room, or parlor.

When John and Abigail Adams moved into the house after their 1764 marriage, John Adams used the southeast room as his law office.[893] In a small house filled with

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[888] "Artistic Consistency," *Quincy Advertiser*, 15 January 1897.

[889] "Guests are Entertained at Adams House: Quincy Historical Society Has Informal Tea for Over 100," newspaper article, unknown newspaper, 9 June 1929, in "Secretary's Record Book, 1926-1930," Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

[890] "Noble Simplicity Marks Homes of John Adams and John Quincy Adams," *Christian Science Monitor*, 31 July 1929.

[891] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 5 August 1781, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #357. Abigail Adams to John Adams, 7 May 1783, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #360.

[892] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 September 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[893] Occasionally other rooms are suggested as the location of John Adams' law office, but the overwhelming consensus is that it was in the southeast room. One article describes an upper chamber as the location for the office: "The south bed room was used by John Adams as a study. Behind the large closet door, fastened with a wooden button, one finds overlapping slats of wood running its entire width in such a way as to form pockets. This was his ingeniously planned letter-file and one of the earliest examples of the cardograph system." [Isabel Meldrum, "The Adams Houses: Birthplaces of John and John Quincy Adams and Mansion of John Adams," article, unknown newspaper, n.d., folder 8498 1-6, Notes on Adams Birthplaces, box 15, shelf 101, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.] Unfortunately, there is no surviving evidence of the "cardograph system" in the closet today. Nor did Perrault find overlapping slats during the 1980s treatment of the house. Without extant evidence, it is not possible to confirm that the southeast chamber was John Adams' study.

people, it is significant that John Adams designated a large room for the sole use of his law practice. Adams required such a space in order to receive clients in a confidential setting. There was a door on the southern elevation of the house which led directly into the office. This exterior door allowed for a distinction between business and private visitors to the house.

The Adamses used the word "office" to refer both to the room where John Adams worked and to the objects in it. The site where John Adams practiced law and the objects which defined his office moved, but during his occupancy in the John Quincy Adams birthplace the southeast room was the primary location of his office. John Adams wrote to his wife in 1774, "I have advised you before to remove my Office from Boston to Braintree. It is now, I think absolutely necessary. Let the best Care be taken of all Books and Papers."[894] Here Adams uses "office" to refer to his place of work rather than a particular room, but the most important items in it are the books and papers. Abigail Adams described her diminishing space as she housed war refugees in her home when she wrote, "Mr. Trot . . . I have accommodated by removing the office into my own chamber."[895] In other words, she moved the objects normally in the office and which defined it as John Adams' work space into her chamber so the office could temporarily house refugees.

In his writings, John Quincy Adams refers to his father's "library" which was likely housed in the southeast room, or office. On 21 July 1786 he "Spent great part of the day at my father's library reading and writing."[896] Earlier the same year he "went down to our Office, to see if there was a Gravesande [Willem Jacob van Gravesande's *Mathematical Elements of Natural Philosophy*] there, but there was none to be found."[897] John Adams' library contained non-fictional works on law, history, and theology as well as fictional novels and poems. It seems that John Adams' books would have been located in the large area he set aside for his reading and writing. Once "closeted," he probably would have been loathe to retrieve a book from another part of the house. Even after the John Adams family moved from this house, his library stayed there, presumably in the southeast room. In 1798, Abigail Adams wrote to Mary Cranch regarding the transfer of John Adams' books from the John Quincy Adams birthplace to the Old House:

> I hope he [William Shaw] will be attentive to arrange all the Books up in the Book Room & to replace all he pulls down. Order strick order, & method will be

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Another reference to the southeast chamber as Adams' office is an 1897 newspaper article which reads, "In the chamber used by John Adams as his study a date brick was discovered in the old fireplace or in the wall of the old fireplace." The accompanying line-engraving depicts the dated brick in the left-hand wall of the fireplace in the southeast chamber. ["Bricks for Sale."]

The 1978 *New Area Study* states "John Adams' law office was in the northeast corner room." [North Atlantic Region, National Park Service, *New Area Study: The Birthplaces of President John Adams and John Quincy Adams, Quincy, Massachusetts* (Boston: North Atlantic Region, National Park Service, 1978), p. 5.] However, this is probably a misunderstanding of directions or an adoption of inaccurate information provided in the informational sheets "Working Sketch of John Adams" and "John Quincy Adams Birthplace," because the northeast corner room is commonly understood to be the parlor.

[894] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 7 October 1774, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[895] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 July 1775, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344.

[896] John Quincy Adams Diary, 21 July 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #14.

[897] John Quincy Adams Diary, 1 April 1786, in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 138.

> required of him in the place designd for him. Every Letter & paper are placed in Alphabitical order in desks & places designd for them, and every different department relative to War office, Marine office, Secretary & Treasury office distinct, so that no trouble occurs in searching for papers.[898]

In addition to John Adams and later John Quincy Adams, law students Nathan Rice and John Thaxter, and "Mr. Mason" also used the office as a place of study in the mid-1770s. Since John Adams was away during a majority of their stay, it must have been his books they found educational for they spent long periods of time in the office. Royall Tyler, a young Quincy lawyer, and possibly others, also had access to John Adams' library while he was out of town.

The southeast room is historically important because John Adams wrote the majority of the Massachusetts Constitution there. From September first through seventh 1779, delegates from 190 Massachusetts towns met in Cambridge to discuss the drafting of the document. The delegates selected a committee of thirty to write a draft. This committee selected James Bowdoin, Samuel Adams (John Adams' cousin from Boston), and John Adams as a special subcommittee who in turn selected John Adams to be the principal author of the Massachusetts Constitution. After composing his draft, John Adams is said to have met with James Bowdoin and Samuel Adams in the southeast room to discuss the document before submitting it to the Convention during its second session. John Adams attended the first two sessions of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, but missed the following two because he was sent to France to aid Benjamin Franklin in negotiating a treaty with the French. The Massachusetts Constitution was formally adopted on 15 June 1780 during the Convention's fourth session.[899]

No specific information on the southeast room is available from Abigail Adams' departure for Europe in 1784 to John Quincy Adams' occupancy of the house in 1805.

The John Quincy Adams family spent the summers of 1805 and 1806 in the house. On 7 August 1805 John Quincy Adams recorded in his diary that he "drew a meridian line yesterday and this morning in the window of my South-east Room."[900] Perhaps such a line was intended to aid the lawyer in telling time while in what may have still been his office. If John Quincy Adams did not retain his father's use of the room, it is unknown how his family used it.

The house was again inhabited by tenants after John Quincy Adams removed his belongings in early 1807. There is evidence that in the mid-1820s, Mrs. Esther Hayden opened an apothecary's shop in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. John Crane, in an 1896 conversation with William Gardner Spear said

> About this time fall of 1824 or spring of 1825 he [Crane's brother Joe] came home (on Common St.) one night my father asked what was new down in the 'city' (Quincy). My brother said there was no news. Sometime afterwards he remarked that Tom Hayden's wife Esther had opened an apothecary shop in her house. My father exclaimed [']What and don't you call that news?['] I myself did not know

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[898] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, 12 July 1798, quoted in Mitchell, p. 202.

[899] James Cameron, "A Constitution is Born in Quincy," *Quincy Sun*, Bicentennial Supplement, 30 August 1979.

[900] John Quincy Adams Diary, 7 August 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

> what kind of a shop it was to be never having heard of an apothecary before. The Haydens then lived in the South end of the John Quincy Adams house at So. Quincy. Mr. Noah Clark lived in the North half.[901]

This passage strongly suggests that Mrs. Hayden's apothecary shop was in the southeast room because the Haydens lived in that half of the house and the room had an exterior door. Also well-described is the sharing of the house by tenants. It seems that each family had first and second floor rooms in their half of the house. This rental and subdivision of the house likely took place through the remainder of the century until the whole house was rented to the Quincy Historical Society in 1896. There is no information available regarding the use of this room through most of the nineteenth century. However, it may have been used as a kitchen by families living in the southern half of the house while those in the northern half used the northwest room, or lean-to kitchen.

During the Quincy Historical Society's tenancy, the southeast room was displayed as a period room. Although the objects in the room during the early years were not very suggestive, a pamphlet with a line engraving of the room executed in 1897 is entitled "The Old Kitchen in Cottage of John and Abigail Adams." The furnishings and wall treatments changed over time, but, according to extant photographs and slides, the Quincy Historical Society kept the "old kitchen" theme as part of its interpretation of the room throughout its administration of the house. Slides from the 1950s exist showing a round table with books in the room, possibly used to interpret it, in part, as the law office of John Adams. The room is described in Sprague's 1956 inventory as the "OLD KITCHEN or LAW OFFICE" (see appendix H-1). In an interpretive guide from the late 1960s, the room was referred to as the law office, yet its former use as a kitchen was still mentioned (see appendix H-5). According to a 1978 photograph, the law office interpretation of the room had gained primacy for a large table filled with books, papers, and writing equipment dominates the room (see ill. 58).

In the mid-1960s, the southeast room was the first room visitors entered at the John Quincy Adams birthplace, although they purchased tickets and toured the John Adams birthplace first. At that time, there was a genealogical chart on a table in this room. According to Paul Harold,

> people would come in from all parts of the Midwest and the first thing they'd say is they're a direct [Adams] descendent. Then she [Mrs. Ames, a guide] would confront them, because . . . on the table as you came in on the left . . . There was [an] . . . old family tree. So she'd say, 'Okay, who are you descended from?' And I think five out of ten times they'd always come up with a name that had no descendants and that was like their first welcome to the house.[902]

In the mid-1970s, the southeast room became the room in which visitors purchased tickets.[903]

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[901] William Gardner Spear, "Conversations with Seniors, 1895-1899," vol. 2, p. 11.
[902] Harold interview.
[903] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.

The National Park Service took possession of the house in 1979, the year of the Massachusetts Constitution Bicentennial. To mark the occasion, the State of Massachusetts lent the original Massachusetts Constitution to the City of Quincy for display in the southeast room from September sixth to ninth of that year (see ill. 59). From the early 1980s, after intensive stabilization and restoration work, the National Park Service also interprets the southeast room as John Adams' law office (see ills. 60-61).

Interior Features and Finishes

The first reference to finishes in the house is an 1800 letter from Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts regarding the refurbishing of the house for the tenancy of Reverend Whitney. She wrote that John Adams "was willing that the Rooms should be new painted within and papered."[904] This indicates the rooms were painted prior to 1800, but may or may not have been papered before then.

There is no evidence of early painted finishes in the southeast room except for the investigation performed by Spear in 1896. As with the other rooms in the house, Spear likely examined the layers of paint in the southeast room. He determined that "a rather deep olive gray green [pertained] for the main part" of the house.[905]

Because Sprague removed previous wallpapers in 1896, the National Park Service was unable to document the history of papers used in the southeast room. However, several nineteenth-century remnants were found under the hearth bricks during the 1980s restoration. These roller-printed papers were all dated to the 1880s to 1890s based on their style. The decorative motifs were described as Anglo-Japanese, floral with a classical border, floral, and floral striped. A period photograph of the 1896 Quincy Historical Society restoration shows bare walls but give no indication of the color of the woodwork (see ill. 51).

By the 1930s, the walls were adorned with a wallpaper bearing a large, possibly floral, motif. This may be the twentieth-century, roller-printed wallpaper depicting stylized trees which architecural conservators found under the window trim during the 1980s restoration (see ill. 52).

In 1940, the interior of the house was repainted and papered. Sprague states that the woodwork in the southeast room was painted a pumpkin yellow but does not mention a change in the wallpaper.

By at least 1954-1955, the wallpaper was removed leaving white plaster walls, the floor was painted gray, and the woodwork was left natural. These finishes seem to have pertained until the 1980s National Park Service restoration work. Before work, Perrault described the walls painted light gray; the trim decorated with simulated wood graining in an orange-brown color; the flooring painted gray; the hardware painted black; and the firebox displayed remnants of red and black paint. In the 1980s, the walls and ceiling were whitewashed; baseboards were painted dark reddish brown; doors, trim, and hardware were painted light yellow ochre; and the floor was painted deep yellow ochre.

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[904] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 18 March 1800, as quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 141.

[905] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16.

Furnishings

Due to the indeterminate early history of the present John Quincy Adams birthplace, it is difficult to draw conclusions from the surviving inventories of possible early inhabitants. Objects listed in Samuel Belcher's 1680 inventory which may have occupied the southeast room include objects for sleeping: a bedstead with sheets, a coverlet, and a blanket; objects for sitting: joint stools and old chairs; objects for food preparation and serving: kneading trough, two skillets, iron pot, kettle, trammel, pot hooks, frying pan, gridiron, and pewter; and heating: warming pan, box heater, and irons (see appendix F-1). In 1959, Sprague notes that the lug pole and trammel bar from the fireplace's earliest use were still extant. He believes "The older hearth never had a crane used in it until cut down in size in later years."[906]

No inventory of Deacon Gregory Belcher's estate exists. His son Gregory Belcher, Jr. died less than a year later and left an inventory. With the possible expansion of the house, it is impossible to state which items appeared in which rooms at that time (see appendix B-2). No further information is available regarding the furnishings of this room until the John Adams occupancy.

Information is sparse for the period of John Adams' occupation of the house. He and John Quincy Adams both refer to the office containing books and papers. Presumably there were also writing supplies and surfaces in the office. A simple pine, "standup" desk attributed to John Adams' ownership is in the Stone Library at the Old House. This desk may have been among the furnishings in this room. It is unclear whether a high stool or chair was used with this desk. The desk probably contained such supplies as paper, ink, quill pens, and sealing wax. When he first went to Europe, John Adams brought "1 Quire paper," "2 Account Books," "1/4 hundred Quills," and "1 Bottle Ink." Other objects on the list which he may have stored in the southeast room when at home are "1 doz. pipes" and "2 w Tobacco" (see appendix G-4). In a letter concerning the maintenance of the house's contents during the family's absence, Mary Cranch wrote to Abigail Adams, "Well but the carpet – had you not better have that on your office painted."[907] This suggestion likely refers to a worn painted floorcloth.

No documentary or illustrative information is available regarding the furnishings of the room during the occupancy of John Quincy Adams or the various eighteenth- and nineteenth-century tenants. Archeological materials suggest the types of items, many of them dating to the nineteenth century, used in this space. Furnishings-related objects recovered during the Pratt project include vessel glass, "plain and blue transfer printed 'pearlware,' plain, blue and purple transfer printed white earthenware, black, brown, and clear glazed and unglazed redware and plain yellow ware." The four ball clay pipe stems recovered each had a 4/64" bore and therefore related to the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.[908] Towle and Hsu recovered mostly whiteware and one piece each of redware, coarse buff earthenware, westerwald-produced stoneware, other-produced stoneware, and bottle glass.[909] Although the John Adams family did not use the southeast

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[906] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8.

[907] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 22 April 1787, as quoted in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 139

[908] Pratt, p. 22.

[909] Towle, tables 1-2.

room as a kitchen and eating area, nineteenth-century families sharing the house probably did. Therefore, finding kitchen and tableware dating from this period in the vicinity of the southeast room is not surprising. The location of ball clay pipes near the former office of John Adams is intriguing because both John and John Quincy Adams smoked pipes. John Quincy Adams recalled

> I smoked tobacco and read Milton . . . from the same motive, to find out what was the recondite charm in them which gave my father so much pleasure - After making myself four or five times sick with smoking I mastered that accomplishment, and acquired a habit, which thirty years afterwards, I have more difficulty in breaking off.[910]

The volume of pipe smoking these men engaged in is possibly indicated by the consumption of John and his cousin Samuel Adams during November of 1775. For that month Joseph Bass billed the two men for two-and-a-half dozen pipes and two pounds of tobacco.[911]

The Quincy Historical Society first furnished the room as an early kitchen. An 1897 photograph shows the room sparsely furnished with a rocking chair, a Windsor chair, fire tools, andirons, a kettle in the fireplace, and a hanging scale over the fireplace (see ill. 51). The number of furnishings increased by the writing of an 1898 newspaper article.

> Into this room Mr. Spear has gathered furniture and utensils of the provincial period, which are an interesting study. A broad-backed settle, on which the children sat to concentrate the heat from the open fire; a rocking chair, whose short rockers, flattened by age, give little comfort to-day. The more modern plastering of the ceiling has been removed to exhibit the oaken rafters, from one of which hangs an old-time lantern, a sheet-iron cylinder pierced with apertures, and furnished in front with a door of horn, scraped thin, and a socket in the centre of the interior for the candles. Skillets, trivets, and pots, all with legs, for no pans without were used at that period, reveal how the busy matron boiled over coals. Other relics repose on the walls, so that this ancient kitchen becomes uncommonly interesting.[912]

By the production of a 1930s postcard, the walls were hung with portraits and landscapes, two long-barreled firearms appear crossed over the fireplace, and a braided rug adorns the floor (see ill. 52).

In 1942, artist Albert Herter was commissioned to produce a series of murals on the walls of the House of Representatives at the Massachusetts State House. One mural depicts the artist's interpretation of the meeting of John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Bowdoin in the southeast room of the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

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[910] John Quincy Adams Diary, 24 September 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[911] Butterfield, *John Adams Diary, 1771-1781*, p. 226.

[912] "Adams House. Quincy. Preservation of the Home of Two Presidents and as Valuable Contents Suggests that Proper Attention Be Given to Historical Relics in Somerville," *Somerville Journal*, 24 June 1898.

Interestingly, the three men (among others) appear in John Adams' law office in its 1930s incarnation complete with identifiable Quincy Historical Society furnishings (see ill. 53).

In a 1954 photograph, the items surrounding the fireplace included a large spinning wheel, powder horns hung over the firearms, a foot-warmer, and a splat-backed side chair (see ill. 54). In slides taken in 1951 and 1955, a round table laden with books appears before the fireplace. This table may have been moved to this position for the camera, because this very arrangement appears in a 1955 slide showing the opposite, or southeast, corner of the room. Also in the southeast corner of the room were prints on the walls and chairs flanking the table.

Very few changes occurred within the five years between Sprague's 1956 and Coyne's 1961 inventories (see appendices H-1 and H-2). Highlights of the items in the room include chairs (Windsor and otherwise), a high desk, a tavern table which formerly occupied other locations in the house, a settle, lanterns, iron and ceramic cookware, a flax wheel, firearms and powder horns, braided rugs, and crude portraits of John and Abigail Adams. In an interpretive guide dating to the late 1960s, one of the highlighted items in the southeast room was "John Adams[']s Favorite Chair – This high-back Windsor was presented to the Society by Elizabeth Coombs and Isaac Hull Adams, grandchildren of the 2nd President" (see appendix H-5).

In 1960s slides, neither the table nor the spinning wheel appear before the fireplace, but a rug or runner, possibly of eastern origin is on the floor. As early as 1968 "warden poles," appear in the northwest corner of the room next to the fireplace.[913]

In the 1970s, the southeast room retained many of the earlier furnishings including the settle, hanging lantern, and kettle (see ills. 55-57). In the late 1970s, a large rectangular table displayed with books, writing supplies, and candlesticks was added to strongly portray this room as John Adams' law office. Under the table is a large braided rug (see ill. 58).

For the September 1979 Massachusetts Constitution event, the National Park Service placed in the southeast room a display case containing the Massachusetts Constitution, the standup writing desk attributed to John Adams' ownership, books belonging to Superintendent Harris, and a photographic reproduction of Benjamin Blyth's portrait of John Adams (see ill. 59).

The room is currently interpreted as John Adams' law office (see ills. 60-61). The room is sparsely furnished with reproduction objects believed to reflect furnishings from the second half of the eighteenth century. Included are a reproduction of the John Adams standup desk and an ironing table in the Old House collection; a glass-enclosed bookcase filled with leather-bound blank books reflecting those owned by John Adams; a geometric-patterned hooked rug; andirons and logs in the fireplace; candlesticks; a reproduction of the Massachusetts Constitution; and other papers and pamphlets. Also in the room are a pair of pretzel-back sidechairs which descended in the Adams family. They were located in the Adams law office in Boston and then donated to the Old House

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[913] Warden poles, or tappers, are long poles with carved finials at the top. Before organized police forces, volunteer firefighters patrolled city streets at night keeping order. They walked with long poles and announced their presence by tapping them on the cobble stones as they walked. [Eugene Morris, Telephone conversation with author, August 1998.]

where they were exhibited in the hall. In the 1980s, they were transferred to the southeast room.[914]

Documentary and Graphic References

1761, November 20. John Adams Diary (Butterfield, *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 225): "This day removed to my Chamber, and made a Fire - The Forenoon was Spent in Conversation with Zab, in walking to Dr. Turners, [illeg.] up Penns Hill, and this afternoon in Conversation with Gindal Rawson and Zab at Mrs. Marshes. Yet I have caught several snatches of Reading [&?] Thinking, in Blackstone, Gilbert & c. But I, as usual, expect great Things from this Chamber, and this Winter. . .

[Footnote:] "This entry fixes the date of JA's fitting out and establishing himself in his law office in the house now known as the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, which he had inherited from his father . . . and which the Savils must by now have vacated. The law office was in the southeast room on the ground floor and JA opened a new doorway into it from the street. During the 19th century the doorway was boarded over but it has since been restored."

1771, June 7. John Adams Diary (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #1): While on a visit to the mineral springs at Stanford, Connecticut John Adams wrote, "I begin to grow weary of this idle, romantic Jaunt. - I believe it would have been as well to have staid in my own Country and amused myself with my farm, and rode to Boston every day. - I shall not suddenly take such a Ramble again, merely for my Health. I want to see my Wife, my Children, my Farm, my Horse, oxen, Cows, Walls, Fences, Workmen, Office, Books, and Clerks."

1774, August 15. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344): "Mr. Rice came this afternoon. he and Mr. Thaxter are setled over at the office."

1774, October 16. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344): "You mention the removal of our Books & c. from Boston. I believe they are safe there, and it would incommode the Gentlemen to remove them, as they would not then have a place to repair for study - I suppose they would not chuse to be at the expence of bording out."

1775, July 16. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #344): "Mr. Trot I have accommodated by removeing the office into my own chamber - and after being very angry & sometimes persuaideing I obtaind the mighty concession of the Bed room - but I am now so crouded as not to have a Lodging for a Friend that calls to see me."

1779, March 20. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #350): "I could not board our two sons under 40 dollors per week a peice at a school I therefore thought it most prudent to request Mr. T[haxte]r to look after them, giving him

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[914] Curtis interview.

his board and the use of the office -- which he readily accepted and having passed the winter with me, will continue through the summer, as I see no probability of the times speedily growing better."

1784, April 3. John Adams to Royall Tyler (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #362): "[I]f my Library may be of use to you, in the Prosecution of your studies or your Practice; the loan of it is at your service."

1785, August 28. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #13): Upon returning from Europe after stay of nearly six years: "When the afternoon service was over I went with Mr. [Royall] Tyler down to my father's house [John Quincy Adams birthplace], and no object ever brought to mind such a variety of different Sensations. It reminded me of the days of my Childhood, most of which were past in it, but it look'd so lonely, and melancholy without its inhabitants, as drew a deep sigh from my breast. I paid a visit to the Library, and found it in pretty good order." Royall Tyler had access to John Adams' law library while he was in Europe.

1786, April 12. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers, Reel #13; Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 138): "On April 12, 1786, John Quincy Adams wrote in his diary that he 'went down to our Office, to see if there was a Gravesans [Willem Jacob van Gravesande's Mathematical Elements of Natural Philosophy] there.' One might presume from this reference that the office and library were one."

1786, July 21. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #14): "Spent great part of the day at my fathers library reading and writing - this day and to-morrow the Government of the College are employ'd in examining those that intend to enter the University this year: Tom waits till the end of the vacation."

1787, April 22. Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369): "Billy shall study at home for a year at least under the direction of some gentleman in Boston he will attend the office the last weeks before courts & can attend all the courts. We must take that method which will be least expensive - if we can make it any way as advantageous. If we should pursue this plan we shall be greatly oblig'd if Mr Adams will permit him the use of his Law Library. He will take great care of the books & I hope make good use of them. He is at present both steady & studious.

"Well but the carpet - had you not better have that on your office painted."

1798, July 12. Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch (*New Letters*, p. 202): Regarding moving of John Adams' office from John Quincy Adams birthplace to the Old House: "I hope he [William Shaw] will be attentive to arrange all the Books up in the Book Room & to replace all he pulls down. Order strick order, & method will be required of him in the place designd for him. Every Letter & paper are placed in Alphabitical order in desks & places designd for them, and every different department relative to War office, Marine office, Secretary & Treasury office distinct, so that no trouble occurs in searching for papers."

1800, March 18. Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #397): "[T]here is one difficulty [with Clark's renting the house] which is Mr. [John Quincy] Adams's Books. I have not anywhere to put them, unless I could have the Chamber at Frenchs which used to be an office."

1802, John Adams Autobiography (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #180): "I suffered very much for Want of Books, which determined me to furnish myself, at any Sacrifice, with a proper Library; and Accordingly by degrees I procured the best Library of Law in the State."

1805, August 7. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers, Reel #30): "I drew a meridian line yesterday and this morning in the window of my South-east Room."

1896, William Gardner Spear, Photograph (Negative 26759A, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of north wall of southeast room (see ill. 50).

1896, May 15. John Crane Conversation with Spear ("Conversations with Seniors," vol. 2, p. 11): "I had a brother named Joe, born 2 or 3rd Sept. 1803. He had his freedom at age 21 yrs. in 1824. He left home and worked shoe making with Eb. Nightingale on Granite St. in Quincy for 1 year that is till Sept. 1825. . . . About this time fall of 1824 or spring of 1825 he came home (on Common St.) one night my farther [sic] asked what was new down in the 'city' (Quincy). My brother said there was no news. Sometime afterwards he remarked that Tom Hayden's wife Esther had opened an apothecary shop in her house. My father exclaimed [']What and don't you call that news?['] I myself did not know what kind of a shop it was to be never having heard of an apothecary before. The Haydens then lived in the South end of the John Quincy Adams house at So. Quincy. Mr. Noah Clark lived in the North half."

1897, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 9): Photograph of west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 51).

1897, Quincy Historical Society, "The Old Kitchen in Cottage of John and Abigail Adams" (folder 8498.1-6, Quincy Historical Society): Line engraving of north and west walls of southeast room.

1897, January 15. "Artistic Consistency," *Quincy Advertiser*: "Everything in the house [John Quincy Adams birthplace] which is not original has been removed as far as practicable by Mr. Spear, for instance, in the room which was originally the kitchen, but was later the dining room, the plastering and lathing have been removed from the ceiling revealing the old joists and floor boarding above browned with the smoke of generations."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "In its original state the left-hand room as you go in by the front door was the kitchen, and in order to conform to the practice of house building in early New England days, this room had a door facing the South, the present front entrance being, no doubt, added at the time the house was

enlarged. In this room is to be found the old fireplace, with the mammoth iron pot hanging from an ancient trammel, no crane having ever been in use there. It was the custom in the old farmhouse to suspend the trammel from a round stick of green hard wood placed crosswise up the chimney in holes left for that purpose and when it became used up by the heat to replace it with a new piece. A portion of the last stick so in use was found in the chimney, and is now suspended from a hook in the great oak mantel tree as a relic. For many years the ceiling to this room bore no plaster; it has been uncovered and shows the oak rafters, and wide pine floor boards of the room above [approximately 5 words illeg.] one of these rafters hangs a forefather's perforated lantern, the door of which contains a piece of horn made thin by much scraping, so that the feeble rays of the dipped candle might cast a light into the darkness of the night. Beneath this crude lantern we find an ancient rocking chair which by its roominess, invites repose, but alas, it has rocked its last peaceful rock, for it has worn itself out in the service of a woman. The short rockers of the early style are flattened by use that it has only a jerky motion when movement is given to it. The chair came from a Braintree family who now resides in northern New York."

1897, June 17. "John and Abigail Adams' Home," *Boston Daily Globe*: "In the chamber used by John Adams as his study a date brick was discovered on the old fireplace or in the wall of the old fireplace."

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: "In its earlier history this house . . . was five-roomed, one deep and two high, with an attic. The ground floor was divided into two rooms, the southern of which, with its sunny exposure, cheerful light and prospect, was the kitchen. In its ample fireplace are seen, well up the throat of the chimney, the ledges on which rested the ends of the lug pole, a stout, heavy stick of green timber, reaching across the entire space. From it the trammels and hooks hung for the suspension of the cooking pots over the fire below.

"Into this room Mr. Spear has gathered furniture and utensils of the provincial period, which are an interesting study. A broad-backed settle, on which the children sat to concentrate the heat from the open fire; a rocking chair, whose short rockers, flattened by age, give little comfort to-day. The more modern plastering of the ceiling has been removed to exhibit the oaken rafters, from one of which hangs an old-time lantern, a sheet-iron cylinder pierced with apertures, and furnished in front with a door of horn, scraped thin, and a socket in the centre of the interior for the candles. Skillets, trivets, and pots, all with legs, for no pans without were used at that period, reveal how the busy matron boiled over coals. Other relics repose on the walls, so that this ancient kitchen becomes uncommonly interesting."

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: Line engraving of north and west walls of southeast room.

1899, Allen Nightaldern, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of north and west walls of southeast room.

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "Personally, I would have liked to tear down the plastered ceilings [illeg.] the floor above as was done in the adjoining house, but my experience with the other old houses has been that it makes a house that is used much - very[?] unclean as the dirt is continually falling - as one walks upon the floor above the dust will fall. In the J.Q Adams house they had to nail laths over the cracks in the flooring for this reason[?] as perhaps you noticed."

1927, June 9. "Guests are Entertained at Adams House" ("Secretary's Records, 1926-1930," Quincy Historical Society): "Fragrant cut flowers and greenery sent by members and friends of the organization, converted the historic rooms into a bower of loveliness. . . . interested guests [100] made a tour of inspection through the house led by Miss Mary E. Griffin of Franklin street, South Quincy, who as caretaker of the historic shrine, is an authority on the history of the homestead having lived in the vicinity for a number of years.

"Tea was served in what is believed to have been the dining room of the Adams family. The daintily appointed tea table, with decorations of cut flowers and spotless napery . . . The tea service used for the occasion and recently purchased by the ladies of the society, was of old English china a reproduction of the John Quincy Adams period."

1929, July 31. "Noble Simplicity, *Christian Science Monitor*: "The dining room, which was used also as a general living room, has a wide fireplace, with a single settle."

1930s, William H. Rice, Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A Archives): West and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 52).

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 3: "The former kitchen then [when the lean-to kitchen was built] became the living room, but can always be recognized by its big open fireplace and oven."

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 7: "When John Adams moved into his cottage in 1764, he opened his law office in the old kitchen -- the door which used to be the kitchen door serving as a special entrance."

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, pp. 18-19: "Before sailing for Europe, Abigail had arranged for the two cottages to be occupied by tenants she knew, and left all her personal property and John Adam's law library just as it was."

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 20: "Until June, 1788, when John and Abigail came home and transferred the contents of their cottage to their new abode, John Quincy Adams, on his visits to his Aunt Cranch, spent much of his time in his father's library in the Penn's Hill cottage."

1942, Photograph ("Quincy Scenes," Box 3, Shelf 166, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of 1942 Albert Herter mural in House of Representatives at Massachusetts State House. Mural depicts west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 53).

1951, August, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast room.

1954, July. Laban H. Whittaker, Jr. [photographer], "Foot-Warmer, Old Spinning Wheel," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Photograph of west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 54).

1955, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of north and west walls and south and east walls of southeast room.

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 2-4: Annotated inventory of objects in southeast room. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 4-5: "No cellar exists under this part of the house [southeast room]. The fireplace is of ancient type with small baking oven in back, and is nearly six feet wide. Probably this room had an entry from the south and no doubt had small diamond paned window casements of which we now have no evidence.

"All seventeenth century aspect is now gone except in the fireplace which retains its old lug pole and trammel bar, no crane being used there until it had been much cut down in size at a later date."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 8: "The leanto fireplace, though larger than the earlier one, has its oven at the right hand side, not in the back as in the earlier one. . . . This great fireplace is splayed at the sides to help reflect heat into the room. It has a large crane for the cooking utensils which it has been said came into use about 1720. But it also had a chain or trammel for hanging the pots The older hearth never had a crane used in it until cut down in size in later years."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 12-13: "As far as now known the only change in the house that can be definitely attributed to John Adams was a new doorway at the southeast corner by which his law clients could enter the room which he used as his law office. This wide six panel door shows in a sketch of the houses made from Penn's Hill in 1822 by Miss Eliza S. Quincy. About this time the room was in use as an apothecary shop said to be the first in town and this entrance was apparently still in use. It was boarded over soon after and forgotten. It does not show in the painting of the old houses made about 1848 by Frankenstein. When restorations began in 1896 it was found in place with the hinges,

latch, and door casing removed and was covered on the inner side with hand split laths and plaster. As it is much worn and cracked and now unusable a covering was again placed over the exterior about 1923, but the inner side may still be seen. There are no panels, just boards on this side. By John Adams' time the large fireplace also may have been reduced in size since it no longer served as a hearth for cooking as it did before the leanto was built."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 17: "Changes made in 1940 were chiefly repainting and papering. The parlor became an orchid color and the law office and entry a pumpkin yellow. Wallpaper had been used in the front entry and parlor since 1923 and was renewed this year."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. [1]-2: Inventory of objects in southeast room. (See appendix H-3)

1962, Smith, *John Adams*, p. 309: "[T]he greatest of luxuries was to be among his books, which stretched to the ceiling of the little room that served as a combination office and library and overflowed into the sitting room and even into the kitchen."

1963, May 12. "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*: "The former kitchen was used by the President John Adams as his law office. What is described as his 'favorite chair' - it is a green, low-seat, high-back Windsor - stands by the fireplace, and the door by which clients entered is still in place.

"In this small room in the fall of 1779, John Adams, James Bowdoin and Samuel Adams drafted the constitution of Massachusetts. It was the model for the one adopted the following year."

1964, Sprague, *Brief Story*, p. [4]: Photograph of mural by Albert Herter, State House, Boston.

1965, May 19. "Scenes at the Adams Birthplaces, *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Photograph of north and west walls of southeast room.

1966, July, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast room.

1968, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast room.

Ca. 1969[?], "Notes for Hostess of John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-15, p. 2): "Here in John Adams law office was drafted one of the most important documents in the history of democratic government. In this room in 1779, John Adams, Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin drew up the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This document, the oldest democratic constitution still in use, served as the prototype for our national constitution,

most of the other state constitutions, and many of the constitutions of foreign democracies. That this great document was drafted in a simple farmhouse is indeed symbolic of the importance under it of the common man. John Adams was the principal author of this constitution, and many historians consider it his greatest contribution to history." (See appendix H-5)

Ca. 1969[?], "Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace," (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-16, p. [1]): "This was the kitchen of the early house before the leanto was added. The fireplace is of the earliest type with the straight sides and the oven in the back. John Adams used this room as his law office, and had the door in the south wall so that clients could enter the office directly from the road. A law office in a farmhouse is very unusual if not unique. How and where John Adams kept his law library is a question to which we would like very much to have the answer." (See appendix H-6)

Ca. 1970, Quincy Historical Society, Contact Sheet Prints (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Small photographs (16, badly degraded) of all walls of the southeast room.

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photographs (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (4) of west and north walls of southeast room (see ills. 55-56).

Ca. 1973, "Kitchen of the Home of John & Abigail Adams" (Newspaper clipping, Unknown newspaper, Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of north and west walls of southeast room.

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast room.

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (2) of west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 57).

1978, Gall, "Interpretive Study in New England Preservation History" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix F-4, pp. [10-11]): In 1896, "Brick nogging was removed, except for a few areas left exposed to show the original construction. . . . [Spear] located and restored the exterior doorway on the south side leading into the old kitchen, which served John Adams as a law office."

1978, Gall, "Interpretive Study in New England Preservation History" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT," Appendix F-4, p. 11): In 1896, "On the interior, fireplaces were opened up, plaster and lathe removed from the ceiling of the old kitchen (later the law office), painting and papering restored."

1978, Gall, "Interpretive Study in New England Preservation History" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix F-4, p. 11): "Some of Spear's methods would undoubtedly be questionable by today's standards. Like many early restorationists, he tended to 'early up' the appearance of the house. Removing the plaster from the law office ceiling to expose the joists and floor boards of the chamber above satisfied the prevailing taste for rusticity, but it may have violated Spear's original intention to restore the house to the John Adams period, for by that time the room was an office and library, not a kitchen. Opening the fireplace and exposing the brick surrounds is even more dubious. It is well known today that our eighteenth-century ancestors had no taste for exposed brick, and that by the latter part of the century the huge, inefficient fireplaces of earlier times had been considerably reduced in size."

1979, Perrault, "The Case of the Adams Birthplaces" (Interpretation Files, Interpretation Office, Adams National Historical Park), p. 7: "The 1807 period was a transitional time in nail making where early cut nails were introduced. This indicates that the ceiling in the Law Office was most probably plastered in 1807."

1979, August 30. "The Herter Painting State House Mural," *The Quincy Sun Bicentennial Supplement*: On December 16, 1942 five murals on the walls of the House of Representatives at the State House in Boston were presented to the Commonwealth. Albert Herter's portrayal of the drafting of the Massachusetts Constitution is one of the murals entitled 'Milestones on the Road to Freedom in Massachusetts.'

"In the mural, John Adams is shown seated at a table in the law office of his home on Franklin St., Quincy. Bowdoin, his hand to his chin, stands at one side of Adams, while Sam Adams, in riding boots, is on the other. Two men seated at the left are not identified."

1979, August 30. Cameron, "Constitution is Born," *The Quincy Sun Bicentennial Supplement*: "Delegates from 190 towns attended the first session of the Constitutional Convention which met in the First Church in Cambridge during the week of September 1-7, 1779. After electing James Bowdoin president and Samuel Barrett secretary, the Convention selected a committee of 30 to prepare a draft. This special committee selected from its members a subcommittee of three; James Bowdoin, Samuel Adams and John Adams. The subcommittee then delegated its functions to John Adams, who became the principal author, drafting the document in his law office in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace in what is now Quincy. An annotated copy of John Adams' draft is included in Volume IV of *The Works of John Adams*, edited by his grandson, Charles Francis Adams (1851). The committee of Thirty submitted its report to the second session of the convention in Cambridge on Oct. 28, 1779. The report was read and printed copies distributed.

"John Adams attended the second session of the convention but left for France the [day?] after it ended to join Benjamin Franklin in negotiating a treaty of peace. The efforts of the second session were devoted entirely to a discussion of the Declaration of Rights. A third session, which met in January, 1780, discussed the organization of the new government. Copies of the proposed constitution were sent to every town where special town meetings were to be called to discuss the document, paragraph by

paragraph. A fourth session of the convention declared the constitution formally adopted on June 15, 1780."

1979, August 30. "Little Red Farmhouses," *The Quincy Sun Bicentennial Supplement*: "John Adams law office, in which most of the Massachusetts Constitution was drafted, probably looked different in 1779. For one thing, the ceiling, where the beams have been exposed since an earlier restoration in 1896, probably was plastered.

"'There is no evidence that the beams were charred by smoke from the fireplace so they must have been covered,' says Ms. Perrault. 'Holes in the lathe lines in the beams were made by hand-wrought nails, which indicates the covering was there in pre-19th-century.'

"The outside entry door at the corner of the law office probably was there in 1779, although it was not necessarily cut through the wall as an entrance for the office. . . . 'When the house was restored in the 1890's, they took the plaster out and found the door just as it is today,' says Ms. Perrault.

"Indications are that the fireplace was there in 1779, but it probably was larger and of a different shape. The lintel is probably the hand-hewn original but the hearth almost certainly has been rebuilt. The small bricks are not characteristic of the 18th century."

1979, September, "Display at the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, September 6-9, 1979" (File A-82, Archival Box 2, Archival Administrative Files, Carriage House, Adams National Historical Park): Contents of John Adams' law office during the Massachusetts Constitution Bicentennial Celebration included a display case containing the Massachusetts Constitution, the stand-up writing desk which belonged to John Adams (books belonging to superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris were to be placed on top), and a photographic reproduction of Benjamin Blyth's portrait of John Adams.

1979, September 13,. "The Massachusetts Constitution Comes Home to Its Birthplace," *Quincy Sun*: Photograph of Massachusetts Constitution in display case in southeast room (see ill. 59).

1979, November 14. Wilhelmina S. Harris memorandum to Holly Bundock (File A-82, Archival Box 2, Archival Administrative Files, Carriage House, Adams National Historical Park): "On September 6 the John Quincy Adams Birthplace was opened temporarily for the celebration of John Adams's drafting of the Constitution of Massachusetts, which took place in his law office. Under the supervision of Carol Perrault, Historical Research Analyst, NARO, the first floor rooms were all cleaned and painted. The change was dazzlingly lovely. For this event the Commonwealth of Massachusetts displayed the early copy of the Constitution, and the National Park Service exhibited some documents appropriate for the times. Everyone who came was given a copy of page one of the Constitution, and it was through this distribution that we counted 7,500 visitors during the four days."

1979, November 23. Carole L. Perrault memorandum to Dwight Pitcaithley (Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, pp. memo [4-5]: "It is my opinion, based on the existing

evidence that major work was conducted on the John Quincy Adams' Birthplace between the 1822 sketch and the 1850 painting. Not only does the chimney appear in the 1850 painting, but the side 'law office' door visible in the 1822 sketch has disappeared."

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1348: Photograph of west and north walls of southeast room (see ill. 58).

1979-1980, Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]" (File L58a, K1817, D18, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park), pp. 19-20: "John [Adams] built up a large library of law books supplemented by the classics, history, literature, the sciences and agriculture. Most of the wall space in this room must have been devoted to his books. To avoid using the front entrance, which was typically used by visitors coming into the parlor, John Adams apparently had a door cut through the south wall of the room. The earliest drawing of the house shows this door, which was later covered over until the house was restored in 1896. (A copy of Eliza Susan Quincy drawing of the birthplace in 1822 would be a helpful interpretive tool here.)"

1979-1980, Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]" (File L58a, K1817, D18, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park), p. 21: "Here [in the southeast room] John Adams taught a succession of young law clerks the intricacies of the legal profession. Here, too, John must have sat smoking his pipe before the hearth and talked politics, literature and agriculture with his Braintree neighbors and Boston friends.

"Unfortunately, we have very few clues to the manner in which the Adamses furnished their home. Family correspondence indicates that interiors had been painted and walls papered. We know that there was carpeting of some sort, and there is a suggestion that a carpet was placed on the office floor. At the Old House on Adams Street there is a handsome inlaid desk which family tradition states traces it origin from the Boylstons, John's mother's family. If the desk was used in this house, it could have been placed here in the office; but so fine a piece might well have graced the parlor instead."

1979-1980, Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]" (File L58a, K1817, D18, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park), p. 21: "In 1896 this house underwent a restoration directed by William Gardner Spear, an antiquarian associated with the Quincy Historical Society. The present appearance of the [southeast] room dates to that time. Spear had the fireplace opened and discovered a massive early fireplace with a huge wooden lintel and bake oven in the rear, indicating that the room was originally used as a kitchen, probably before the addition of a leanto kitchen to the rear of the house. It is doubtful, however, that the large, inefficient kitchen fireplace would have remained in this form in John Adams' day when the room was used as an office. We know that by this time fireplaces were becoming smaller and shallower in order to throw more heat into the room and lose less up the chimney. Spear also removed the plaster and lathe from the ceiling. The effect is quaint but probably introduces another inaccuracy. If even the kitchen ceiling in the leanto was plastered,

there is no reason to suppose that the ceiling in the office -- a more formal room -- would be left with exposed floor boards and joists. And we know that rooms were painted and papered when John and Abigail lived here; yet these exposed boards show no trace of paint. The conclusion must be that they were covered with plaster and lathe by that time."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. southeast room survey 1: The exposed framing in the southeast room displays chamfered edges and lamb's tongue stops.

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. southeast room survey 6: The finishes in the southeast room are the following: walls are painted light gray; trim is simulated wood graining, orange-brown in color; ceiling is unfinished; flooring is painted gray; hardware is painted black; firebox displays remnants of red and black paint."

1980, Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, p. JQABP Doors 1: In 1980, there was "a six-panelled 18th-century door, purportedly installed for John Adams' law office, painted turquoise" on the south elevation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

1980, Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, fig. 9A: Photograph of six-paneled door, found in a wall and installed in southeast corner of southeast room.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (4) of all walls of the northeast chamber (see ills. 60-61).

1983, September 15. "Adams Houses Seen as Symbols of City's History," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: Photograph of north and west walls of southeast room.

1985, June, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast room.

1990, August, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 5: In July 1979, "Preparation began for a special event in September -- the 'Massachusetts Constitution Bicentennial.' . . . The event required the refurbishing of the first floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Existing colors in the John Quincy Adams house were matched; the project architectural conservator removed the wallpaper from the entry hall and parlor and supervised an in-house National Park Service crew in the work. The work included the following: . . . covering brick nogging display in the southeast and northeast rooms, . . . removal of wallpaper where extant, preparing all surfaces for painting, [and] painting all surfaces."

1990, August, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 5: The Quincy Historical Society removed its furnishings from the John Quincy Adams birthplace in August of 1979.

1990, August, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 124: Southeast room finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Baseboards - dark reddish brown
Doors, Trim, Hardware - light yellow ochre
Floor - deep yellow ochre

1990, August, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 164: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to John Adams' Law Office."

"The door on the south wall was re-opened. . . . Architectural conservators also worked on the mantel."

1990, August, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 165: "The extant hearth [in the southeast room] was dug up because it was laid in modern bricks, presumably dating to the circa 1896 work. Numerous fragments of late 19th-century wallpaper debris were found under the hearth."

1990, August, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 165: "Hand-rived lath was secured to the bottom of floor joists for the second story, southeast chamber. Two coats of plaster were then applied."

1991, MacMahon, *Archeological Collections Management Plan*, p. 65: "There was not direct evidence for the apothecary shop at the John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Although medicinal bottles were recovered from the various locations across the site, all of those that could be dated were from the second half of the 19th century. The apothecary shop may have been open too briefly to have left evidence in the archeological record. It is also possible that there are apothecary-related materials that were not located by the two archeological projects to date."

1992, Ferling, *John Adams*, p. 131: "He [John Adams] was not a loner, but he was the type who liked to closet himself in the sanctuary of his study for hours on end, there to work, to think, to write. He must have been frustrated by the lack of privacy at home. Instead of a retreat, his house was also home to a wife starved for adult companionship and three bawling, troublesome youngsters ever able to create a noisy, distracting environment."

1992, Ferling, *John Adams*, p. 174: "The bulk of his [John Adams'] library remained at home, of course, and consisted principally of his legal books, numerous histories, some theological tracts, and a few novels and works of poetry, although he once admitted that upon reaching middle age, poetry no longer held any fascination for him."

1996, Peak, *General Management Plan*, p. 31: "John Adams's law office will be furnished as such, thus allowing for the interpretation of the writing of the Massachusetts Constitution. Stories told in this building will focus on life during the American Revolution, the role of Abigail Adams, and the youth of John Quincy Adams."

JQABP 201, Second Floor Hall

Architectural Description and History

The second floor hall is a small rectangular room with a window on the east wall and a door on the north and south walls. On the east side of the west wall is the stair landing from the first floor. On the west side is a door leading to a short flight of steps to the attic.

The corner posts in the hall are flared at the top and are finished with chamfered edges and lamb's tongue stops.

History of Room Use

The second floor hall functions now, as it did in the past, as a passage. From here the northeast chamber, southeast chamber, and stairs to the attic are accessible.

In addition to use as a passage, the Quincy Historical Society displayed an exposed area of nogging for visitors to view.

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Therefore, the second floor hall is not currently an exhibition space.[915]

Interior Features and Finishes

According to architectural conservators, all the walls in the second floor hall were wallpapered at one time. Architectural conservators found a patterned paper on the walls in the 1980s. Assuming that this paper was the same as that in photographs of the entry hall in 1970, it was a repeat-patterned paper consisting of wavy-edged, interlocking diamonds containing small geometric motifs. A 1970 photograph suggests, but does not confirm this pattern in this room (see ill. 75). At that time the trim was painted orange-brown, the ceiling was painted white, the floor was painted gray, and the hardware was painted black.

In the 1980s, architectural conservators removed the wallpaper from the walls. The walls and ceiling were then whitewashed; the baseboards were painted dark red ochre; the doors, trim, and hardware were painted light yellow ochre; and the floor was painted deep yellow ochre.

Furnishings

There is no evidence of the furnishings that occupied the second floor hall until the later Quincy Historical Society occupation of the house. Presumably, at least since its occupation, curtains adorned the window. The first discernible visual evidence of curtains in this window is in a photograph taken in 1900-1910 which displays tie-back

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[915] This policy may be reconsidered with regards to management, structural, and personal safety issues.

curtains. In 1970, a set of double-hung tab curtains covered the window. The National Park Service displays tie-back curtains in the second floor hall.

The second floor hall is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "As we step out into the upper hall we find a section of the old hand-made lathing exposed. The laths are of all widths and thicknesses, and are held in place with hand-made nails."

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph showing east wall and floor of second floor hall through doorway of southeast chamber.

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. second floor stair hall survey 1-3: The posts are flared, have chamfered beaded edges, and have lamb's tongue stops.

The walls are papered with patterned paper; the trim is painted orange-brown; the ceiling is painted white; the flooring is painted gray; and the hardware is painted black.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (2) of all walls of second floor hall.

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 124: Second floor hall finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Baseboards - dark red ochre
Doors, Trim, Hardware - light yellow ochre
Floor - deep yellow ochre

1990, Perrault, *John Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 205: "Objective: To restore [the second floor hall] to the residency of John and Abigail Adams.

JQABP 202, Northeast Chamber (Birthroom)

Architectural Description and History

The northeast chamber is nearly square in plan. There is a window on the north and east walls. From east to west, the south wall is composed of the door to the second floor hall, a fireplace, and a closet. There was formerly a door to the northwest garret in the west wall.

A structural feature remarked upon at least as early as the 1890s, is the floor composed of two-foot wide pine boards. The corner posts in the room are flared and

finished with beaded edges and lamb's tongue stops. The mantel is recessed and has a patch where a hole was made for a stove pipe. An 1896 photograph of the northeast chamber survives. At that time there was a patch over the stovepipe hole and the fireplace was covered except for an open square hole in the center. The Quincy Historical Society apparently removed this covering.

The major change made by the National Park Service in the 1980s was the removal of the door between the northeast room and northwest garret on the west wall.

History of Room Use

When the house was a residence, the northeast chamber was used as a bed chamber. Because of large family size and a limited amount of space, family members likely shared bed chambers. Mary Cranch refers to this practice in warning Abigail Adams to purchase a larger house before returning from Europe: "[Y]ou can never live in that house [John Quincy Adams birthplace] when you return it is not large enough. You cannot crowd your Sons into a little Bed by the side of yours now & you will never inlarge it you had better buy mr. Borlands [the Old House] or Build one."[916]

The northeast room was the room in which Abigail Adams likely gave birth to three of her six children; the others were born during stints in Boston. John Adams describes Nabby's birth in his autobiography: "'On the 14 day of July of this Year 1765, Mrs. Adams presented me with a Daughter and in her confinement in her Chamber. I was much alone in the ~~Parlour below~~ my Office of Evenings and Mornings.'"[917] Adams family tradition as passed down by Isaac Hull Adams holds that the northeast room is the 1767 birthroom of John Quincy Adams. Isaac Hull Adams wrote, " John Quincy Adams was born in the larger house [John Quincy Adams birthplace] in the east front chamber nearest the smaller house [John Adams birthplace]."[918] The Adams' final child, stillborn Elizabeth, probably was also born in this room in 1777.

Abigail Adams presumably stored clothing and textiles in this chamber in a storage chest or chest of drawers. Mary Cranch wrote to her regarding the supply of handkerchiefs she left in Braintree when she departed for Europe: "The children will want some Bandino[?] Hankerchifs soon I have taken all yours except the three best."[919] These handkerchiefs were undoubtedly the last of the stash Abigail Adams received from John Adams while he was in Europe.

Abigail Adams also wrote letters in her chamber. She wrote to John Adams in 1780, "I had just retired to my Chamber and taken up my pen to congratulate you upon the arrival of the Fleet of our Allies at Newport, when I was called down to receive the most agreable presents - Letters from my Dearest Friend."[920]

In 1805, when the John Quincy Adams family occupied the house, son John fell out of bed likely while sleeping in the northeast chamber. John Quincy Adams wrote, "After I returned as I was reading Cumberland's Memoirs to the Ladies, we were alarmed by John's falling out of bed in the chamber over our heads - He received a severe bruise

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[916] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 22 April 1787, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369.
[917] John Adams Autobiography, 1805, in Butterfield, *Autobiography, 1777-1780*, p. 284.
[918] "The Houses and Rooms Where Presidents Adams Were Born."
[919] Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams, 9 October 1786, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369.
[920] Abigail Adams to John Adams, 16 July 1780, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #352.

in the head, and bit his lip badly in the fall, but we hope without dangerous injury."[921] John Quincy Adams and the "ladies" were likely in the northeast room, or parlor, when they heard the fall. Judging from the sound and injury, the boy appears to have been sleeping in a full-sized bed, not a trundle bed.

No further information is available regarding the northeast chamber until 1892, just before the Quincy Historical Society took over management of the house. At that time the writer of a letter to the *Boston Evening Transcript* described the house in "shambles" and Irish tenants occupying the northeast chamber.[922]

Starting in 1897, the Quincy Historical Society interpreted the northeast chamber as the bed chamber of John and Abigail Adams and the birthroom of John Quincy Adams. By 1922, the northeast room was labeled with a didactic panel reading, "'Chamber of Abigail (Smith) Adams; here her son, John Quincy Adams, was born, and 'twas here that she wrote many of those letters which time have not dimmed, for they have become a part of our nation's history.'"[923] Topics interpreted in the room included marriage, conception, childbirth, and the beginnings of modern medicine with smallpox inoculations.[924]

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Therefore, the northeast chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture and reproduction costumes worn by staff members for school programs.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence of early painted finishes in the northeast chamber except for the investigation performed by Spear in 1896. As with the other rooms in the house, Spear likely examined the layers of paint in the northeast chamber. He determined that "a rather deep olive gray green [pertained] for the main part" of the house.[925]

An extant 1896 photograph shows wallpaper with a diamond pattern with dark, possibly circular, motifs in the middle (see ill. 62).

Sprague complained in 1959, "Again in 1957 painting was done in the upper rooms, unfortunately not matching the original colors used at the restoration in 1896." In the 1980s, the National Park Service found the walls and ceiling painted white; the trim and hardware painted a yellowish green; and the floor painted gray. The National Park Service removed the finishes from the wood and refinished the surfaces in the room. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed; woodwork was coated with a clear substance; and the floor and hardware were left unfinished.

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[921] John Quincy Adams Diary, 18 August 1805, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30.

[922] Ernest [Illeg.], *Boston Evening Transcript*, quoted in Gall, "New England Preservation History," p. [7].

[923] "To Restore Adams Birthplace."

[924] Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.

[925] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16.

Furnishings

The early furnishings in the northeast chamber can only be discerned from the correspondence between Adams family members. Mary Cranch's commentary regarding Abigail Adams' boys sleeping on a small bed beside her suggest that at one time there may have been two or more beds in the room.

Because Abigail Adams was writing in her chamber, there must have been a writing surface in the room whether it was a desk, table, or low dressing table. Writing instruments and supplies were likely at this writing station. John Quincy Adams refers to a desk when remembering his birthplace years later. He wrote to Thomas Boylston Adams in 1813, "It is as your remark about the old walnut-desk and the spot where I was born - There is a charm in the remembrances of our infancy which to my feelings becomes more vivid the further I advance in years."[926] This reference may indicate that the walnut desk was in the northeast chamber where he was born.

John Quincy Adams also recalled some of the books his mother kept in her closet:

> At ten years of age I read Shakepeares Tempest, As you like it, Merry wives of Windsor, Much Ado about nothing, and King Lear. . . . With these books in a closet of my mother's bed chamber there was also a small Edition in two Volumes of Milton's Paradise Lost, which I believe I attempted ten times to read and never could get through half a book.[927]

Another book Abigail Adams is known to have owned is Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*. John Adams wrote to her,

> I sent you from New York a Pamphlet intitled Common Sense, written in Vindication of Doctrines which there is Reason to expect that the further Encroachments of Tyranny and Depredations of oppression, will soon make the common Faith: unless the cunning Ministry by proposing Negotiations and Terms of Reconciliation should divert the present Current from its Channell.[928]

This closet may have become the resting place for John Quincy Adams' books years later. Abigail Adams wrote to him, "I have the pleasure to inform you that your Books have all arrived Safe and are lodgd in the House and room of your Nativity. They are all in good order and will remain, where they are, in safety."[929]

There is no further information about the furnishings of the chamber until 1892. At that time a very indignant reader wrote to the *Boston Evening Transcript* that the Irish tenants living in that portion of the house had the nerve to hang a portrait of the Pope in John Quincy Adams' birthroom.[930] Also, at some point during the second half of the nineteenth century a stove occupied the space in front of the fireplace.

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[926] John Quincy Adams to Thomas Boylston Adams, 3 April 1813, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #139.

[927] John Quincy Adams Diary, 24 September 1829, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39.

[928] John Adams to Abigail Adams, 18 February 1776, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #345.

[929] Abigail Adams to John Quincy Adams, 30 July 1799, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #395.

[930] Ernest [Illeg.], *Boston Evening Transcript*, quoted in Gall, "New England Preservation History," p. [7].

By 1898, newspaper writers were describing the room for the public:

> A noticeable feature in this room is the flooring,- pine boards over two feet in width, without a knot in them. The bedstead here is an oval-topped pattern, once considered extremely stylish. The drapery around the tester, the valance, and the window curtains are of the dimity of former days. Quaint andirons, fashioned into the shape of men walking with hands in their pockets, stand in the fireplace.[931]

The 1897 line engraving accompanying the article downplays the bed and focuses instead on the northeast corner of the room which contains a Windsor chair with a small footstool; a skirted, D-shaped dressing table; a washstand with wash basin and ewer; and a rococo style mirror (see ill. 63).

By 1922, the bed had changed and more Adams-attributed objects were in the room. According to a writer at the time,

> The room contains a curtained four-poster bed, a trundle bed, a dressing table and mirror draped in muslin, and a long glass case filled with family heirlooms. Among them are several white kid slippers, with high and low heels, that belonged to Abigail Adams, and a dainty quilted pink petticoat, which she wore in 178[?] and later.[932]

The nineteen-thirties photographs and a postcard show a canopy bed with a bare trundle bed frame pulled from underneath (see ill. 64). The draped dressing table was changed for a chest of drawers exhibiting Federal style brasses. Also evident are a candlestand holding a candle and book, a different Windsor chair, an oil lamp, and a mirror and print on the north wall.

The contents of the room are most clearly described in Sprague's 1956 inventory. Objects attributed to the ownership of John Adams include leather riding breeches and a night cap. Those purported to have belonged to Abigail Adams are a dress, petticoat, pocket, set of stays, and a dressing table.[933] In photographs taken in 1970, several of these objects are still visible.

By 1970, if not earlier, the bed coverings had changed (see ills. 65-69). The earlier solid, white canopy with straight fringe was exchanged for a larger netted canopy with ball fringe. The earlier whitework quilt was exchanged for a patchwork quilt with a star design (see ill. 68). The trundle bed also was covered with a patchwork quilt in 1977. Also on the trundle bed is a bed key for the discussion of tightening rope beds. Added to the floor by 1977 was a mid-sized braided rug. In the mid-1970s, a highlight in the room was a dress interpreted as Abigail Adams' wedding dress. According to Paul Harold, John Adams' "wedding" vest was in the John Adams birthplace when it was stolen in 1978. It was likely located in this room as part of the interpretation of marriage. In 1979, the room was unchanged with the exception of the braided rug being exchanged for an oriental rug (see ill. 69).

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931 "Adams House. Quincy."
932 "To Restore Adams Birthplace."
933 Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings," p. 14.

The northeast chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture and reproduction costumes worn by staff members for school programs. The windows are covered with tie-back curtains.

Documentary and Graphic References

1780, July 16. Abigail Adams to John Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #352): "I had just retired to my Chamber and taken up my pen to congratulate you upon the arrival of the Fleet of our Allies at Newport, when I was called down to receive the most agreable presents - Letters from my Dearest Friend."

1787, April 22. Mary Cranch to Abigail Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #369): "[Y]ou can never live in that house [John Quincy Adams birthplace] when you return it is not large enough. You cannot crowd your Sons into a little Bed by the side of yours now & you will never inlarge it you had better buy mr. Borlands or Build one. He has offer'd to sell it I hear."

1799, July 30. Abigail Adams to John Quincy Adams (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #395): "I have the pleasure to inform you that your Books have all arrived Safe and are lodgd in the House and room of your Nativity. They are all in good order and will remain, where they are, in safety."

1805, John Adams Autobiography (Butterfield, *John Adams Diary and Autobiography*, vol. 3, p. 284): "'On the 14 day of July of this Year 1765, Mrs. Adams presented me with a Daughter and in her confinement in her Chamber. I was much alone in the ~~Parlour below~~ [sic] my Office of Evenings and Mornings.'

[Footnote:] "Cancelled portion of this sentence indicates AA's chamber was above the parlor. This verifies Henry Adams II's statement that JQA was born in the 'southeast bedroom,' corresponding to the room in which his father was born in Deacon John's cottage. (*The Birthplaces of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams*, 1936)."

1805, August 18. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #30): "After I returned as I was reading Cumberland's Memoirs to the Ladies, we were alarmed by John's falling out of bed in the chamber over out heads - He received a severe bruise in the head, and bit his lip badly in the fall, but we hope without dangerous injury."

1829, September 24. John Quincy Adams Diary (Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #39): "At ten years of age I read Shakepeares Tempest, As you like it, Merry wives of Windsor, Much Ado about nothing, and King Lear. . . . With these books in a closet of my mother's bed chamber there was also a small Edition in two Volumes of Milton's Paradise Lost, which I believe I attempted ten times to read and never could get through half a book."

1892, December 13. Letter from Ernest [Illeg.] to *Boston Evening Transcript* (Gall, "Study in New England Preservation History in Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix F-4, p. [7]): "The writer had visited the J.Q.A. birthplace and found it in

shambles, occupied by Irish tenants who had the audacity to hang a portrait of the pope in John Quincy Adams' birth room."

1895, July 30. Isaac Hull Adams to William Gardner Spear (1895, August 8. "The Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*): "John Quincy Adams was born in the larger house in the east front chamber nearest the smaller house."

1896, William Gardner Spear, Photographs (Negative 26763A, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photographs (2) of south wall of northeast chamber (see ill. 62).

1897, March 5. "Historic House," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "The northerly sleeping room in which John Quincy Adams was born is not furnished as yet, but Mr. Spear intends to equip the whole house before summer. The trouble has been securing furniture of a time corresponding to the period when the house was occupied by the Adams's."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "Crossing the hall and opening the next door we stand in Abigail Adams' room, the place where ex-President John Quincy Adams first saw the light of day.

Here we find beneath our feet pine floors of over two feet in width. This room contains an oval top big bed from the Faxon family through Mrs. Lawton, with curtains and valance of ancient dimity, as are also the window curtains of [rest of paragraph illegible]."

1897, December 26. "In Colonial Style Again," *Quincy Advertiser*: Line engraving of north wall of northeast chamber (see ill. 63).

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: "Opposite, over the best room, was Mrs. Adams' room - my lady's chamber - and herein was John Quincy Adams born.

"A noticeable feature in this room is the flooring, - pine boards over two feet in width, without a knot in them. The bedstead here is an oval-topped pattern, once considered extremely stylish. The drapery around the tester, the valance, and the window curtains are of the dimity of former days. Quaint andirons, fashioned into the shape of men walking with hands in their pockets, stand in the fireplace."

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: Line engraving of north wall of northeast chamber.

1922, May 28. "To Restore Adams Birthplace," *Boston Sunday Herald*: "On the second floor of the house, at the head of a steep, narrow flight of stairs, is a bedroom [northeast chamber] on the wall of which is inscribed 'Chamber of Abigail (Smith) Adams; here her son, John Quincy Adams, was born, and 'twas here that she wrote many of those letters which time has not dimmed, for they have become a part of our nation's history.'

"The room contains a curtained four-poster bed, a trundle bed, a dressing table and mirror draped in muslin, and a long glass case filled with family heirlooms. Among them are several white kid slippers, with high and low heels, that belonged to Abigail Adams, and a dainty quilted pink petticoat, which she wore in 178[?] and later."

1930s, William H. Rice, Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A Archives): Photograph of west and north walls of northeast chamber (see ill. 64).

1934, July 22. "Still Standing," *Boston Sunday Post*: Photograph (printed in reverse) of north and west walls of northeast chamber.

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 8: Photograph of north and west walls of northeast chamber.

1955, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slides (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (2) of all walls of northeast chamber.

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 13-16: Annotated inventory of objects in northeast chamber. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18: "Again in 1957 painting was done in the upper rooms, unfortunately not matching the original colors used at the restoration in 1896."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 15-16: During the 1896 restoration, "The old fireplaces were reopened to their original widths except in the parlor and parlor chamber where they remain with the smaller mid-eighteenth century size in use by John Adams' time."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 34: "She [Caroline Green] reported being born in the lower northeast room. (She explained to Spear that someone told her that it was the room in which John Quincy Adams was born in because it was the custom for the birthroom to be the best room in the house. Spear disputed this information by noting that Isaac Hull Adams was positive that his uncle John Quincy Adams was born in the chamber above. This would be the northeast chamber.)"

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 6-7: List of furnishings in northeast chamber. (See appendix H-3)

1963, May 12. "Where John and John Quincy Adams Were Born," *New York Times*: "John Quincy Adams, the sixth President was born in the north bedroom of the

farmhouse in 1767. In this room today is an original trundle bed; it rolls out from beneath the foot of the large tester bed."

1968, July, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of south and west walls of northeast room.

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photographs (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (6) of all walls of the northeast chamber (see ills. 65-67).

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of south and west walls of northeast chamber (see ill. 68).

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, p. 20: "In the John Quincy Adams birthplace, guides provide an interpretive tour through the entire first floor (4 rooms) and through the front two rooms on the second floor."

1979, December, Richard Cheek [photographer] in Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1348: Photograph of south and west walls of northeast chamber (see ill. 69).

1979-1980, Gall, "Interpretation of Grounds [extended version]" (File L58a, K1817, D18, Curatorial Files, Curatorial Office, Adams National Historical Park), pp. 25-26: "On July 11, 1767 Abigail gave birth to John Quincy Adams in this room, and it is likely that her other children were born here as well. During the war years when she took in soldiers and refugees from Boston, Abigail could hardly have enjoyed the luxury of a bedchamber to herself. At least part of that time her three small boys slept together in one little bed in this room."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, pp. northeast bedroom survey 1-2, 4: "Like the fireplace in the southeast chamber, the mantelpiece is recessed in this chamber."

The posts are flared. Framing members have chamfered beaded edges and lamb's tongue stops.

The walls are painted white, the trim is painted yellowish green, the ceiling is painted white, the flooring is painted gray, and the hardware is painted yellowish green.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 17: During the 1980s restoration, the door between the northeast chamber and the northwest garret was removed.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 126: Northeast chamber finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash

Woodwork - clear

Flooring - bare
Hardware - unfinished except reused wood pieces.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 218: "OBJECTIVE: To restore the birthroom of John Quincy Adams, [Sixth] President of the United States."

1996, Peak, *General Management Plan*, p. 31: "A furnishing plan will call for the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, including the birth room, to be furnished to reflect the occupancy during the crucial years of John Quincy's youth."

JQABP 203, Northwest Garret

Architectural Description and History

In the northwest garret there is a window in the north wall, a door to the central garret in the south wall, and formerly a door in the east wall. The ceiling slopes with the shape of the roof above. The floor of the northwest garret is over a foot higher than that in the northeast room.

At some point between 1852 and 1879, the small four-paned casement window in the northwest garret was enlarged to a six-over-six double-hung sash window. The enlargement of the window coincided with the improvement of the interior space. At that time the ceiling was plastered and the room was painted. These improvements may have been in response to the increased use of the room as a sleeping space for boarders.

The only recorded change made by the Quincy Historical Society was changing the window from a six-over-six double-hung sash to a four-paned casement window in 1897.

During its 1980s restoration, the National Park Service changed the room from a finished chamber back to an unfinished space by removing the plaster and wood trim. Also, the door to the northeast chamber was removed.

History of Room Use

There is no evidence of the specific use of the northwest garret during its early history. At different times it may have been a bedroom for children or servants. It also may have been used as a storage space. This garret was likely one of the "2 Back chambers" Abigail Adams allowed Phoebe to inhabit while the Adamses were in Europe.[934]

When the John Quincy Adams birthplace housed more than one family at once starting in the late 1820s, the garret spaces may have been used more intensively. Certainly by the 1840s when Thomas Kelley boarded in the room with three other young men, the room was very well used.

There is no information regarding the early interpretation of the northwest garret by the Quincy Historical Society. According to Sprague's 1956 inventory, the room was

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[934] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 8 June 1784, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, p. 345.

interpreted as a servant's bedroom (see appendix H-1). It was apparently not a highlight on the house tour because it is not mentioned in period interpretive guides.

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Therefore, the unfinished northwest garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence of the early finishes in the northwest garret. Presumably until the 1850s or 1860s, the garret would have been unfinished or simply finished with whitewash.

When the National Park Service crew examined the house in the 1980s, they found the walls and ceiling painted white; the trim and hardware painted yellow-green; and the floor painted gray.

After changing the garret back to an unfinished chamber, the National Park Service whitewashed all surfaces except the floor which was left unfinished.

Furnishings

When the northwest garret functioned as a sleeping space, it would have held bedding and personal items belonging to the inhabitant(s). There may or may not have been beds in the room depending on who and how many people slept there. If a servant or child slept in the room and a small bed was available there may have been one in the room. With four men sharing the space in the 1840s, they likely used loose textiles for bedding instead.

When the room functioned as a storage space, clearly any manner of furnishings or household goods or supplies could have occupied the space.

At least as early as 1956, when the Quincy Historical Society exhibited the space, it was furnished as a servant's room. There was a low "Hired man's bed," a worn dressing table, a wash stand, ladderback chair, and a calfskin trunk. The inclusion of a child's commode chair and chamber pot indicates the Society may have interpreted the room more broadly (see appendix H-1 and ill. 66).

The unfinished northwest garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1784, June 18. Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts (*Adams Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 345): "The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house."

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 16: Annotated inventory of objects in northwest garret. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 9: "The new longer rafters for the leanto raised the former roof line enough to provide a back stairway with hall and small rooms at each end under the eaves. The one at the north was plastered and used as a chamber, the other never finished off and used for storage."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 15-16: In 1896, "The window openings in the attic and at the leanto ends of the second story were restored to their former small size."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 7-9: List of furnishings in garrets and attic. (See appendix H-3)

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, pp. northwest garret survey 1, 3: "The room is raised about 12-1/2" above the finished level of the northeast chamber."

The walls are painted white, the trim is painted yellowish green, the ceiling is painted white, the floor is painted gray, and the hardware is painted yellowish green.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (2) of north, south, and west walls of northwest garret.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 126: Northwest garret finishes schedule:

Framing, North, West, South walls, Ceiling, Window Trim - whitewashed
Floor – unfinished

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 233: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the last quarter of the 18th-century."

"The plan for this room was altered slightly in that the door to the northeast chamber was eliminated. The room was converted from a finished chamber back into an unfinished garret."

1993, Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, p. 152: "Sprague identified a carpenter named Thomas Kelley as having boarded in the house. Kelley remarked that he had not been in the house for fifty years noting that: 'Four of us young fellows slept in the N.W. Room under the eaves and there were another family in the other side of the house.'"

JQABP 204, Central Garret

Architectural Description and History

The central garret is an unfinished rectangular space between the northwest and southwest garrets. The ceiling slopes with the roof above. There is a door to adjacent rooms on the north and south walls. On the east wall are stairs leading to the northwest room below. One can see the gabled attic over the east wall.

The only recorded alterations to the space is the National Park Service's removal and replacement of a partition wall to the south of the lean-to chimney stack. A skylight was also removed at this time.

History of Room Use

The history of the central garret prior to the occupation of the Quincy Historical Society is unknown. It was never a finished space and presumably was used as a passage and storage area. The Quincy Historical Society used the space as a storage area and did not show it to the public. Today, the National Park Service maintains the room as an unfinished, empty space with no public access.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence that the central garret was ever finished.

Furnishings

There is no evidence of the types of objects and household goods that would have been stored in this room during its early residential use or early occupancy of the Quincy Historical Society. According to Sprague's 1956 inventory of the "BACK UPPER HALL," the Society stored in this space objects in poor condition, redundant, or otherwise unwanted for display in museum exhibits (see appendix H-1). There may also have been modern objects and supplies stored in this space which were not listed on the inventory.

The unfinished central garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 16-17: Annotated inventory of objects in central garret. (See appendix H-1)

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 7-9: List of furnishings in garrets and attic. (See appendix H-3)

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. central garret survey 4: All surfaces are unfinished.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (6) of all walls of central garret.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 126: Central garret finishes schedule:

No finishes applied.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 229: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the last quarter of the 18th-century."

The partition to the south of the lean-to chimney stack was removed. New vertical sheathing board was put in place of the removed partition.

JQABP 205, Southwest Garret

Architectural Description and History

In the southwest garret there is a window in the south wall, a door to the central garret in the north wall, and formerly a door to the southeast chamber in the east wall. The ceiling slopes with the shape of the roof above. There is a single-paneled door to a crawl space in the west wall. The floor of the southwest garret is higher than that in the northeast room.

At some point between 1852 and 1879, the small four-paned casement window in the northwest garret was enlarged to a six-over-six double-hung sash window. The enlargement of the window likely coincided with the paneling of the walls and ceiling. These improvements may have been in response to the possibly increased use of the room as a sleeping space for boarders. Although Sprague states, "The one [garret] at the north was plastered and used as a chamber, the other never finished off and used for storage."[935] The addition of paneling suggests the room was used as something other than a storage space at one time.

The only recorded change made by the Quincy Historical Society is altering the window from a six-over-six double-hung sash to a four-paned casement window in 1897.

During its 1980s restoration, the National Park Service changed the room from a finished chamber back to an unfinished space by removing the paneling from the walls and ceiling.

History of Room Use

There is no evidence of the specific use of the southwest garret during its early history. At different times it may have been a bedroom for children or servants. It also may have been used as a storage space. This garret was likely one of the "2 Back chambers" Abigail Adams allowed Phoebe to inhabit while the Adamses were in

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[935] Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 9.

Europe.[936] When the John Quincy Adams birthplace housed more than one family at once starting in the late 1820s, the garret spaces may have been more intensively used.

The southwest garret may have changed functions during the Quincy Historical Society occupation of the house. An undated, probably circa 1956, photograph shows the room being used as a storage space. However, in 1975, Hart refers to it as the "Cobbler's Room" (see appendix I-1). Also indicating the location of a cordwainer's shop in this room are shoes in the Quincy Historical Society collection that were once located in the "loft" of the John Quincy Adams birthplace.[937]

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Therefore, the unfinished southwest garret is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Interior Features and Finishes

When the National Park Service crew examined the southwest garret, it found paneled walls and a gray ceiling. The south wall and floor were unfinished. It removed the existing paint and paneling leaving the room unfinished.

Furnishings

If the southwest garret functioned as a sleeping space, it would have held bedding and personal items belonging to the inhabitant(s). There may or may not have been beds in the room depending on who and how many people slept there. If a servant or child slept in the room and a small bed was available, there may have been one in the room. If there were many people, loose textiles may have served as bedding instead.

When the room functioned as a storage space, clearly any manner of furnishings or household goods or supplies could have occupied the space.

Like the central garret, the Quincy Historical Society used the southwest garret as a storage space. In 1956, the room contained an architectural fragment from the 1731 Third Meetinghouse of the First Parish Church, a linen drying or stretching frame, a butter churn, and a weathervane (see appendix H-1). If the room were later interpreted as a cordwainer's shop, it contained shoes and other unspecified items.

The unfinished southwest chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1784, June 18. Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts (*Adams Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 345): "The dwelling house, Garden and furniture to be left in the care of Pheby and Abdee, who are to have their Rent the privilege of occupying the kitchen, Buttery, 2 Back chambers and cellar with the yard belonging to the house."

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[936] Abigail Adams to Cotton Tufts, 8 June 1784, in Butterfield, *Adams Correspondence, 1761-1776*, p. 345.

[937] Quincy Historical Society, Object Catalog Cards .2803a-b and .2804.

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 17: Annotated inventory of objects in southwest garret. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 9: "The new longer rafters for the leanto raised the former roof line enough to provide a back stairway with hall and small rooms at each end under the eaves. The one at the north was plastered and used as a chamber, the other never finished off and used for storage. No clay and brick filling was put in the walls of the leanto as in the older part and it had no ornamental molding on the ceiling beams or corner posts."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, pp. 15-16: In 1896, "The window openings in the attic and at the leanto ends of the second story were restored to their former small size."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 7-9: List of furnishings in garrets and attic. (See appendix H-3)

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. southwest garret survey 1-3:

All walls are paneled except south wall.

Ceiling is paneled.

The paneled walls are painted gray. The south wall is unfinished. The trim is painted gray. The ceiling paneling and rafters are painted gray. The floor is unfinished.

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, figs. unnumbered: Photographs (2) of existing condition of southwest garret, south and east walls and west wall.

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photograph of south wall of southwest garret.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 126: Southwest garret finishes schedule: No finishes were applied and extant paint was removed from woodwork.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, pp. 225: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to the last quarter of the 18th-century."

"The panelling was removed, transforming this room from a finished chamber to an unfinished garret."

JQABP 206, Southeast Chamber

Architectural Description and History

The southeast chamber is a rectangular room with a window on the south and east walls. From east to west, the north wall is composed of the door to the second floor hall, a fireplace, and a closet. There is a door to the southwest garret in the west wall.

A dated brick which reads "June 6, 1716" is located in the upper left wall of the fireplace (see ill. 71). It is unknown what this date brick signifies. Henry Adams wrote,

> There has been some contention regarding the age of these cottages. . . . the cottage in which John Quincy Adams was born is thought to have been built in 1716, because a brick with the date, June 6, 1716, cut in it, is built into the fireplace in the southwest bedroom. But as both cottages have been repaired from time to time, what the bricks commemorate is not known.[938]

The brick may signify the work Deacon Gregory Belcher and his son Gregory Belcher Jr. executed at the house in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

The only known alteration made in this room by the Quincy Historical Society was the nailing of laths over the cracks in the floors to reduce the amount of dirt falling into the room below.

In the 1980s, architectural conservators noted that the posts were flared at the top and finished with beaded edges and lamb's tongue stops. On the east wall, north of the window, there was a display of early clapboards in the wall. These clapboards had been moved to this position for display. Also evident was a patch over the fireplace where a stovepipe had been let into the wall. The National Park Service made few changes to the structure in the southeast chamber. The clapboard display was removed or covered during the 1980s restoration.

History of Room Use

During its early history, the southeast chamber was used as a bedroom. Two sources conjecture about early uses. The *Quincy Advertiser* states in 1897, "The room just above this old kitchen is the one used by John Quincy Adams as his own. To the left of the old fireplace is quite a deep and narrow closet where he kept his library, which on his departure from Europe was stored in the attic."[939] It is certainly possible that John Quincy Adams slept in this bedroom, but it was likely not his alone. He also may have, like his mother in the northeast room, kept his books in the closet.

Isabel Meldrum wrote much later,

> The south bed room was used by John Adams as a study. Behind the large closet door, fastened with a wooden button, one finds overlapping slats of wood running

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[938] Henry Adams, p. 2.
[939] "The Cottage."

its entire width in such a way as to form pockets. This was his ingeniously planned letter-file and one of the earliest examples of the cardograph system.[940]

This is a unique and intriguing statement because most other sources indicate that John Adams kept his study in the southeast room on the first floor. Unfortunately, there is no surviving evidence of the "cardograph system" in the closet today. Nor did Perrault find overlapping slats during the 1980s treatment of the house. Without extant evidence, it is not possible to confirm that the southeast chamber was John Adams' study.

Under Quincy Historical Society management, the southeast chamber was displayed as a period room. Lacking today's fear of fire in a house museum, Spear lit fires in the fireplace of the room: "This room . . . had a warm fire of logs glowing in the open fireplace."[941] In the mid-1970s, a wash basin in the room served as a point of departure for discussing bathing, plumbing, and household technology.[942] The room continued to be interpreted as a bedroom until 1979.

Due to issues of safety code and structural weakness, the National Park Service does not allow visitors on the second floor of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Therefore, the southeast chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence for early finishes in the southeast chamber except for the investigation performed by Spear in 1896. As with the other rooms in the house, Spear likely examined the layers of paint in the southeast chamber. He determined that "a rather deep olive gray green [pertained] for the main part" of the house.[943] Sprague complained in 1959, "Again in 1957 painting was done in the upper rooms, unfortunately not matching the original colors used at the restoration in 1896." In the 1980s, the National Park Service found the walls and ceiling painted white; the trim and hardware were painted a yellowish green; and the floor was painted gray. The National Park Service removed the finishes from the wood and refinished the surfaces in the room. The walls and ceiling were whitewashed; woodwork was coated with a clear substance; and the floor and hardware were left unfinished.

Furnishings

Due to the indeterminate early history of the present John Quincy Adams birthplace, it is difficult to draw conclusions from the surviving inventories of possible early inhabitants. Objects listed in Samuel Belcher's 1680 inventory which may have occupied the southeast chamber include a bedstead complete with sheets, coverlet, at least one blanket, bolster, curtains, and valance. Another bedstead with sheets, coverlet, and a blanket may also have occupied this chamber. Other items that may have been in

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940 Meldrum.
941 "Historic Houses."
942 Mackiewicz, telephone conversation.
943 Sprague, *The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16.

this room include a box, a "wheel" (likely a spinning wheel), an old tub, and a cradle (see appendix F-1).

No inventory of Deacon Gregory Belcher's estate exists. His son Gregory Belcher, Jr. died less than a year later and left an inventory. With the possible expansion of the house, it is impossible to state which items appeared in which rooms at that time (see appendix F-2).[944]

As indicated by the hole for the stovepipe, a stove occupied the space in front of the fireplace starting at some time after 1840.

In 1897, the Quincy Historical Society began to display the room to the public as a period room. The *Quincy Advertiser* reported,

> This room contains an old-fashioned four-post bedstead with its hangings of old 'patch'; the curtains are double, the outer layer showing large pink roses on a blue ground, with a spread and valance of the same, while the inner part of the curtains are blue of a darker shade with pictures of cranes in panels. The bed and its trappings descended from the Baxter family by way of the Adam Curtis family, and are quite old. A set of high chest drawers ('high boys') also is to be found in this room, much worn by constant use, and from the same family.
>
> The dressing table is of the old D pattern, made of pine, and covered with fine muslin. It was once used by Abigail Adams. The wash-stand is of the three-cornered shape, also very old, from the Souther family by way of Mrs. George W. Morton, and, with its old-fashioned wash bowl and pitcher of blue, looks in keeping with the chairs of old-time make about this room.[945]

The photograph of the room at this time confirms the above description (see ill. 70). By 1922, a quotation taken from one of Abigail Adams' letters was posted on the wall. The excerpt read, "'I have witnessed the luxury and pomp of riches and the influence of titles, and beheld all ranks bow before them as the only shrine worthy of worship; notwithstanding this, I feel that I can return to my little cottage, and be happier than here; and if we have not wealth, we have what is better, integrity.'"[946] What relationship this quotation bears to this particular chamber and how it was used in interpretation by guides is unknown. In 1929, a chair said to be used by the Adamses was given by "a descendent" to the Society and displayed here.[947]

In 1980, Perrault noted that

> A second location where early clapboards were discovered was on the east wall, second floor, Southeast Chamber Room. These clapboards were designed into an exhibit case built into the wall during the 1896 Restoration. Although taken out of context, they are similar to those found on the former rear wall of the structure.[948]

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945 "The Cottage."

946 "To Restore Adams Birthplace."

947 "John Adams House With Rail Fence, Typifies Colonial Farmers' Home," *Christian Science Monitor*, 27 July 1929.

948 Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, p. siding 1.

This exhibit was used to discuss the early building and cladding of the house possibly in conjunction with the dated brick in the fireplace.

By the 1930s, the D-shaped dressing table had been replaced by a rococo style fall-front desk. Other pieces of furniture not displayed in the earlier photograph include a hooded cradle and a rococo style rocking chair (see ill. 72).

A slide dated 1950, shows the north side of the room including the fireplace. There one sees a blanket chest, spinning wheel, child's commode chair and chamber pot, and Queen Anne style high chest. The commode chair and chamber pot moved to the northwest garret by the 1956 inventory (see appendix H-1). Items of interest listed in Sprague's 1956 inventory include an 1828 letter from Thomas Boylston Adams to his daughter Abigail Smith Adams and the death mask of Elizabeth Marston (Channel) Bass which was located in the closet. A "Small hooked red and blue mat" is the only possible floor covering listed on the inventory (see appendix H-1).

By the 1970s, the "old patch" bed coverings had been changed for a calico canopy and headcloth and a white, textured coverlet. The washstand, cradle, and Queen Anne high chest remained, but had changed positions in the room. A display of hats occupied the top of the high chest. The child's commode chair and chamber pot had returned from its 1956 location in the northwest garret. A copy of the portrait of John Quincy Adams at age sixteen hung in the southeast corner of the room. At least one oriental rug was on the floor. By 1977, at least two mid-sized oriental rugs covered the floor. Also the cradle and washstand had either been moved to another side of the room or had been removed altogether (see ills. 73-76).

The northeast chamber is not currently an exhibition space. It serves as a storage area for period and reproduction furniture. The windows are covered with sash tie-back curtains.

Documentary and Graphic References

1897, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Photomechanical File, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): Photograph of south and west walls of southeast chamber (see ill. 70).

1897, March 5. "Historic House," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*: "Up stairs in the south room the surroundings were found more congenial in the cool March weather that made itself felt in the lower rooms of the house. This room referred to, had a warm fire of logs glowing in the open fireplace. The room was furnished throughout as in ye oldene times even to the high bed surrounded with quaint blue curtains. The furnishings of the room were all quaint to the modern eye, but all of them had some history connected with them and were once prized as priceless heirlooms in the families from whom the Historical Society obtained them. One of the most curious was an old-fashioned tooth-puller. The inscription on this says that it was stolen from the house of John Adams and was returned to the society by a thief."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "The room just above this old kitchen is the one used by John Quincy Adams as his own. To the left of the old fireplace is quite a deep and narrow closet where he kept his library, which on his departure from Europe was stored in the attic. A[s?] the old fireplace is shown a four-foot opening, two-

feet deep, and in the upper left hand corner at the front is the brick bearing what was undoubtedly the date of the raising of the house, viz., June 6, 1716. The date was evidently scratched in the brick with a pointed stick before the baking.

"This room contains an old-fashioned four-post bedstead with its hangings of old 'patch'; the curtains are double, the outer layer showing large pink roses on a blue ground, with a spread and valance of the same, while the inner part of the curtains are blue of a darker shade with pictures of cranes in panels. The bed and its trappings descended from the Baxter family by way of the Adam Curtis family, and are quite old. A set of high chest drawers ('high boys') also is to be found in this room, much worn by constant use, and from the same family.

"The dressing table is of the old D pattern, made of pine, and covered with fine muslin. It was once used by Abigail Adams. The wash-stand is of the three-cornered shape, also very old, from the Souther family by way of Mrs. George W. Morton, and, with its old-fashioned wash bowl and pitcher of blue, looks in keeping with the chairs of old-time make about this room."

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: Line engraving of south and west walls of southeast chamber.

1897, June 17. "John and Abigail Adams' Home," *Boston Daily Globe*: Line engraving of north wall of southeast chamber.

1898, June 24. "Adams House. Quincy," *Somerville Journal*: "In the second story, and over the kitchen [southeast room], is a chamber, with a suggestive fireplace. On one side of it is an opening, four feet by two, serving as a warm closet. In an angle of this front may be seen one of the original bricks in the chimney, rudely impressed with 'June 6, 1716' - unquestionably made with a stick on the soft clay before burning by its moulder. It is accepted as marking the year of the erection of the original cottage. A four-post bedstead is hung with patch and double curtains, the outer displaying large pink roses on an azure field - the bedspread and valance being of the same fabric - the inner face of the curtains bearing cranes in panels on a darker field. An ancient 'high-boy,' or chest of drawers is seen in the same room; so are a dressing table, the work of a provincial carpenter, with a triangular wash-stand, supplied with blue ware in harmony with the chairs of the chamber."

1897, June 17. "John and Abigail Adams' Home. Cottage Has Been Restored and Will be Opened to the Public Today—Bricks for Sale with Pictures of the Historic House." *Boston Daily Globe*: Line engraving of north wall of southeast chamber (see ill. 71).

1901, September, "Residence of John Adams," *The Home Monthly*: Line engraving of south and west walls of southeast chamber.

1913, October 1. Lillian Titus to William Sumner Appleton (Administrative Correspondence, S.P.N.E.A. Archives): "Personally, I would have liked to tear down the plastered ceilings [illeg.] the floor above as was done in the adjoining house, but my

experience with the other old houses has been that it makes a house that is used much - very[?] unclean as the dirt is continually falling - as one walks upon the floor above the dust will fall. In the J.Q Adams house they had to nail laths over the cracks in the flooring for this reason[?] as perhaps you noticed."

1922, May 28. "To Restore Adams Birthplace," *Boston Sunday Herald*: "On the wall of the bedroom across the hall is an excerpt from a letter which Abigail Adams wrote to her sister just before she returned to America. It shows her character very clearly, for she says: 'I have witnessed the luxury and pomp of riches and the influence of titles, and beheld all ranks bow before them as the only shrine worthy of worship; notwithstanding this, I feel that I can return to my little cottage, and be happier than here; and if we have not wealth, we have what is better, integrity.'"

1929, July 27. "John Adams House, With Rail Fence," *Christian Science Monitor*: "In a bedchamber above, a four-poster has a mattress held by ropes; and there is one chair which was used by the Adamses and returned to the caretakers [Quincy Historical Society] of the house a little time ago by a descendant."

1930s, William H. Rice, Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society (Postcard File, S.P.N.E.A Archives): Photograph of south and west walls of southeast chamber (see ill. 72).

1936, Henry Adams, *Birthplaces of Presidents*, p. 2: "There has been some contention regarding the age of these cottages. . . . the cottage in which John Quincy Adams was born is thought to have been built in 1716, because a brick with the date, June 6, 1716, cut in it, is built into the fireplace in the southwest bedroom. But as both cottages have been repaired from time to time, what the bricks commemorate is not known."

1950, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of north and west walls of southeast chamber.

1955, June, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of west wall of southeast chamber.

1955, August, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of south and east walls of southeast chamber.

1955, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slides (3) of north, west, and south walls of southeast chamber.

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 11-13: Annotated inventory of objects in southeast chamber. (See appendix H-1)

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 16: In 1896, "The interior trim and panelling was found to have many coats of paint but was restored to the colors of the earliest coat next the wood, a rather deep olive gray green for the main part."

1959, Sprague, *President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces*, p. 18: "Again in 1957 painting was done in the upper rooms, unfortunately not matching the original colors used at the restoration in 1896."

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 5-6: List of furnishings in southeast chamber. (See appendix H-3)

1970s[?], Meldrum, "The Adams Houses" (Notes on Adams Birthplaces, Quincy Historical Society): "The south bed room was used by John Adams as a study. Behind the large closet door, fastened with a wooden button, one finds overlapping slats of wood running its entire width in such a way as to form pockets. This was his ingeniously planned letter-file and one of the earliest examples of the cardograph system."

1970, Quincy Historical Society, Photographs (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photographs (3) of all walls of southeast chamber (see ills. 73-75).

1974, October, Quincy Historical Society, Slide (Slide Box II, Quincy Historical Society): Color slide of south and east walls of southeast chamber.

1977, William Owens, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of west and north walls of southeast chamber (see ill. 76).

1978, North Atlantic Region, *New Area Study*, p. 20: "In the John Quincy Adams birthplace, guides provide an interpretive tour through the entire first floor (4 rooms) and through the front two rooms on the second floor."

1980s, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace HSR*, vol. 3, DRAFT NOTES, part 2, p. southeast chamber survey 1, 4: A display case is north of the window on the east wall. "The display exhibits hand-rived clapboards. A door has been constructed to cover the display. The door is hinged with strap hinges on its south side and exhibits a wooden pull knob and latch on the north side."

"The exposed framing shows handtool marks; the posts are flared with beaded edges and lamb's tongue stops. The girts and summer beam are finished in a similar manner.

"The walls are painted white, the trim is painted yellowish green, the ceiling is painted white, the flooring is painted gray, and the hardware painted yellowish green.

1980, Perrault, *Exterior Finishes*, p. siding 1: "A second location where early clapboards were discovered was on the east wall, second floor, Southeast Chamber Room. These clapboards were designed into an exhibit case built into the wall during the 1896 Restoration. Although taken out of context, they are similar to those found on the former rear wall of the structure."

Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photographs (4) of all walls in southeast chamber.

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 126: Southeast chamber finishes schedule:

Walls and Ceiling - whitewash
Woodwork - clear
Floor - unfinished
Hardware - unfinished except reused wood pieces

1990, Perrault, *John Quincy Adams Birthplace Completion Report*, DRAFT, p. 211: "OBJECTIVE: To restore to a bed chamber, dating to John and Abigail Adams residency."

JQABP 301, Attic

Architectural Description and History

The attic is a rectangular space accessed by a short flight of stairs from the second floor hall.

A 1969 interpretive guide encouraged the inclusion of a look at the attic on tours: "Up the stairs [from the second floor hall] to the leanto attic can be seen the unpainted clapboards on the back of the 1716 house" (see appendix H-6).

In the 1980s, architectural conservators located beaded clapboards in the attic. Perrault determined that they were originally on the exterior of the house. There was also evidence of "red paint and white trim in the attic crawl space," but nothing to prove these were the original colors of the house.[949]

History of Room Use

There is no evidence of a specific early function for the attic. In 1897, the *Quincy Advertiser* published, "The room just above this old kitchen is the one used by John Quincy Adams as his own. To the left of the old fireplace is quite a deep and narrow closet where he kept his library, which on his departure from Europe was stored in the attic."[950] However, there is no proof his books were stored in the attic. In fact, in 1799,

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[949] Carole Louise Perrault, "In Defense of the White and Stone Gray," 1980, Interpretation Files, Interpretation Office, Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, MA, pp. 17-18.

[950] "The Cottage."

Abigail Adams told him his books were stored in the northeast room.[951] Presumably the attic was always used as a storage space because there is no indication that it was ever finished for human habitation. The Quincy Historical Society use the attic for storage space. Also, the door to the attic from the second floor hall could be opened to show visitors the unpainted clapboards believed to cover the house early in the eighteenth century.

Interior Features and Finishes

There is no evidence that the attic was ever finished.

Furnishings

There is no evidence of the objects stored in the attic by early residents. A photograph of December 1896 shows only a weathervane and wooden plank stored there by the Quincy Historical Society. According to Sprague's 1956 inventory of the attic, the Society stored in this space objects in poor condition, redundant, or otherwise unwanted for display in museum exhibits (see appendix H-1). There may also have been modern objects and supplies stored in this space which were not listed on the inventory.

The unfinished attic is not currently an exhibition space. It is an empty space not used for storage.

Documentary and Graphic References

1896, December, Quincy Historical Society, Photograph (Adams Birthplaces Photo File, Quincy Historical Society): Photograph of attic.

1897, April 13. "The Cottage," *Quincy Advertiser*: "The room just above this old kitchen is the one used by John Quincy Adams as his own. To the left of the old fireplace is quite a deep and narrow closet where he kept his library, which on his departure from Europe was stored in the attic."

1956, Sprague, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), p. 17: Annotated inventory of objects in attic. (See appendix H-1)

1961, fall, Coyne, "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society), pp. 7-9: List of furnishings in garrets and attic. (See appendix H-3)

Ca. 1969[?], "Contents of Especial Interest in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace" (Perrault, *HSR*, vol. 1, DRAFT, Appendix D-16, p. [1]: "Up the stairs to the leanto attic can be seen the unpainted clapboards on the back of the 1716 house." (See appendix H-6)

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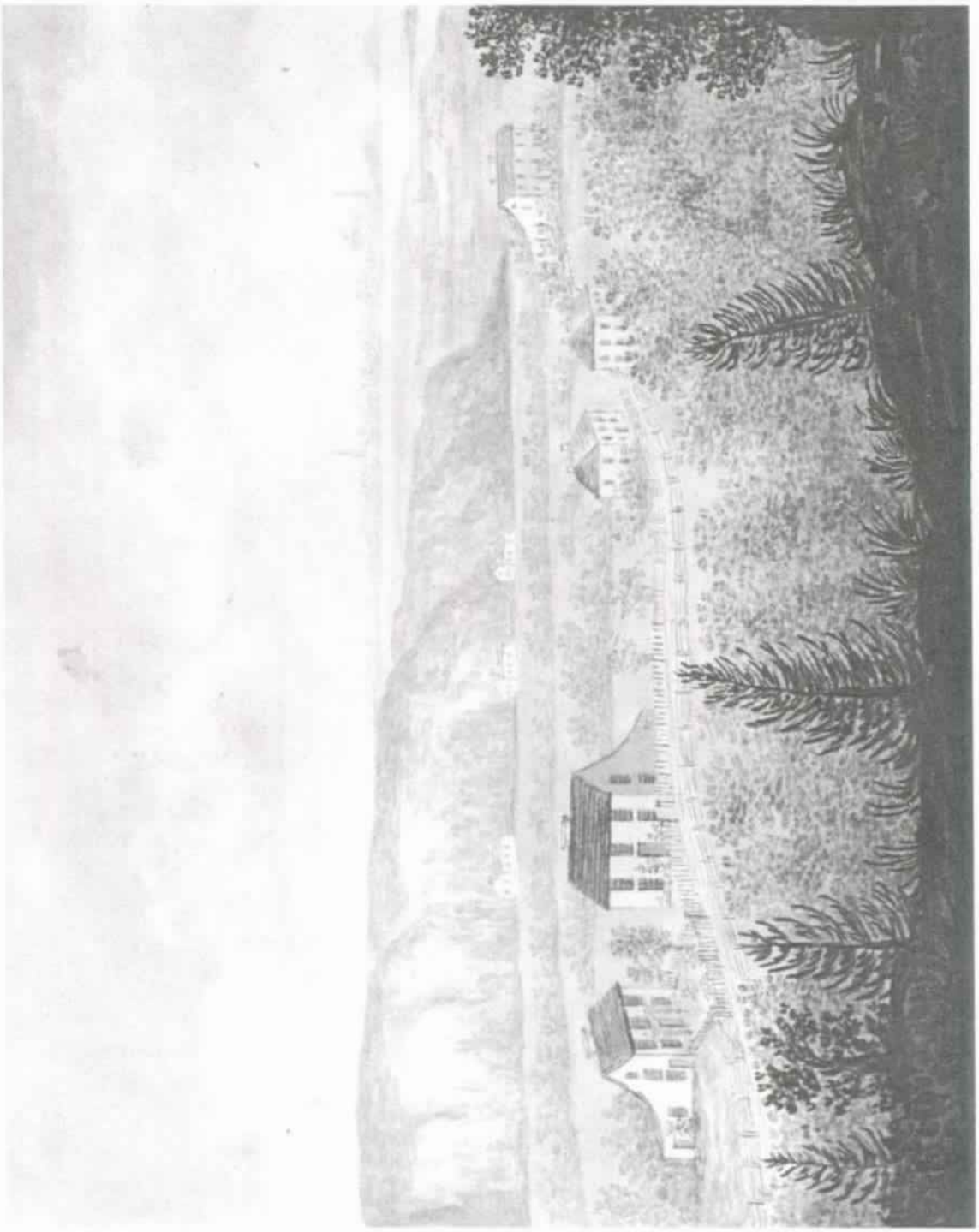
[951] Abigail Adams to John Quincy Adams, 30 July 1799, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #395.

1980, Perrault, "In Defense of the White and Stone Grey," pp. 17-18: "Located in the attic were several beaded clapboards - which through an analytical process I was able to verify that they once clad the John Quincy Adams Birthplace." There was "Evidence of red paint and white trim in an attic crawl space - but not conclusive."

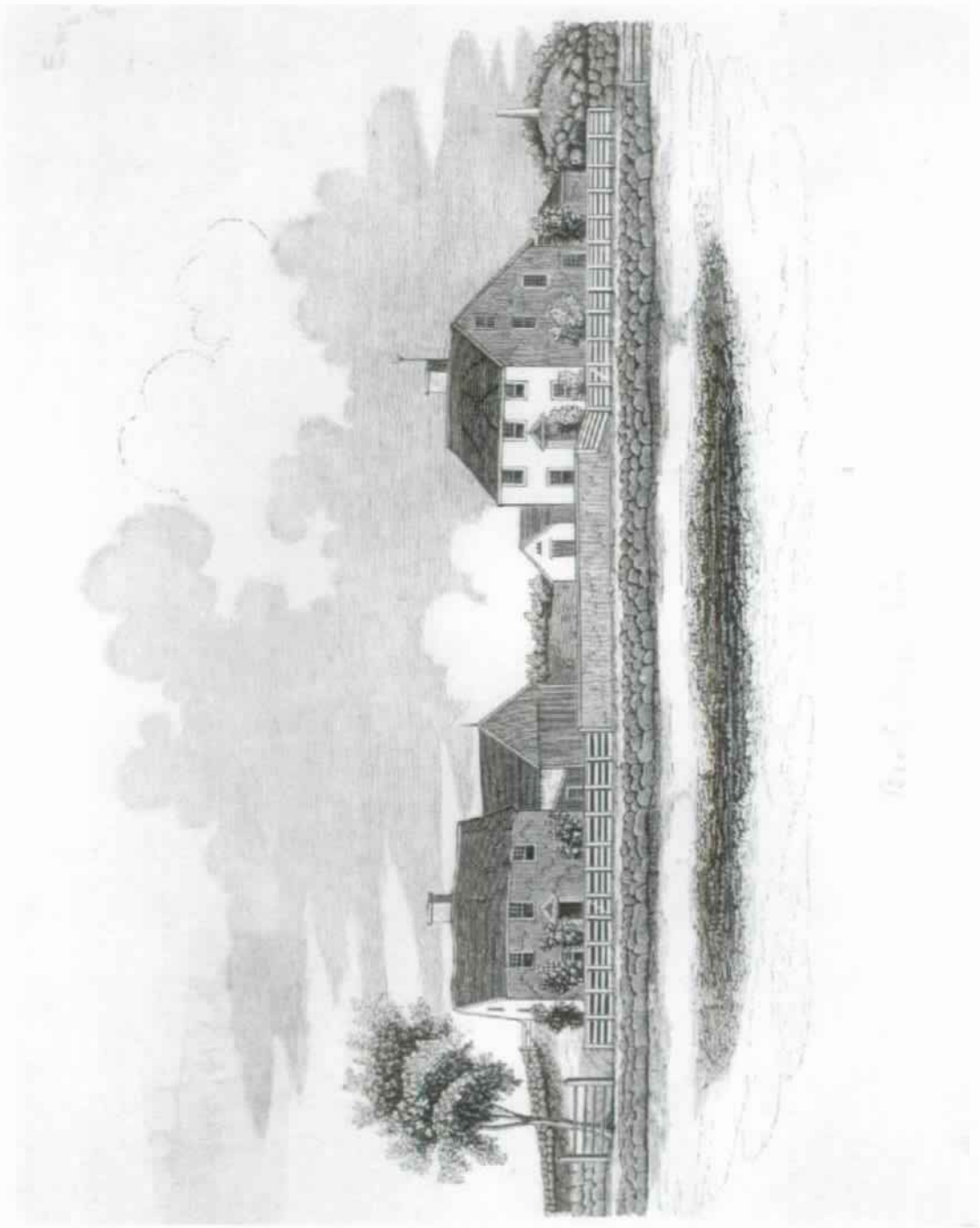
Ca. 1982, Post-restoration Photographs of John Quincy Adams Birthplace (Cultural Resources Center, Lowell): Post-restoration photograph of attic.

Illustrations

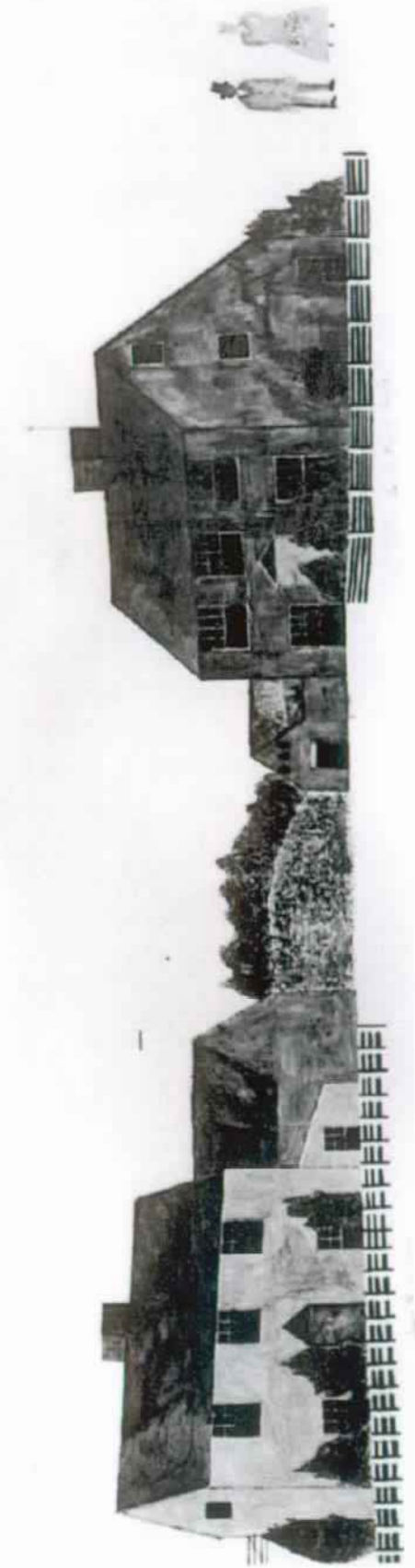
1. Eliza Susan Quincy. South and East Elevations of Adams Birthplaces and Neighboring Structures. Watercolor, 1822, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.



2. East and South Elevations of John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces. Engraving, 1839, *American Magazine*. Based on Ann G. Gray, watercolor, 12 August 1828. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

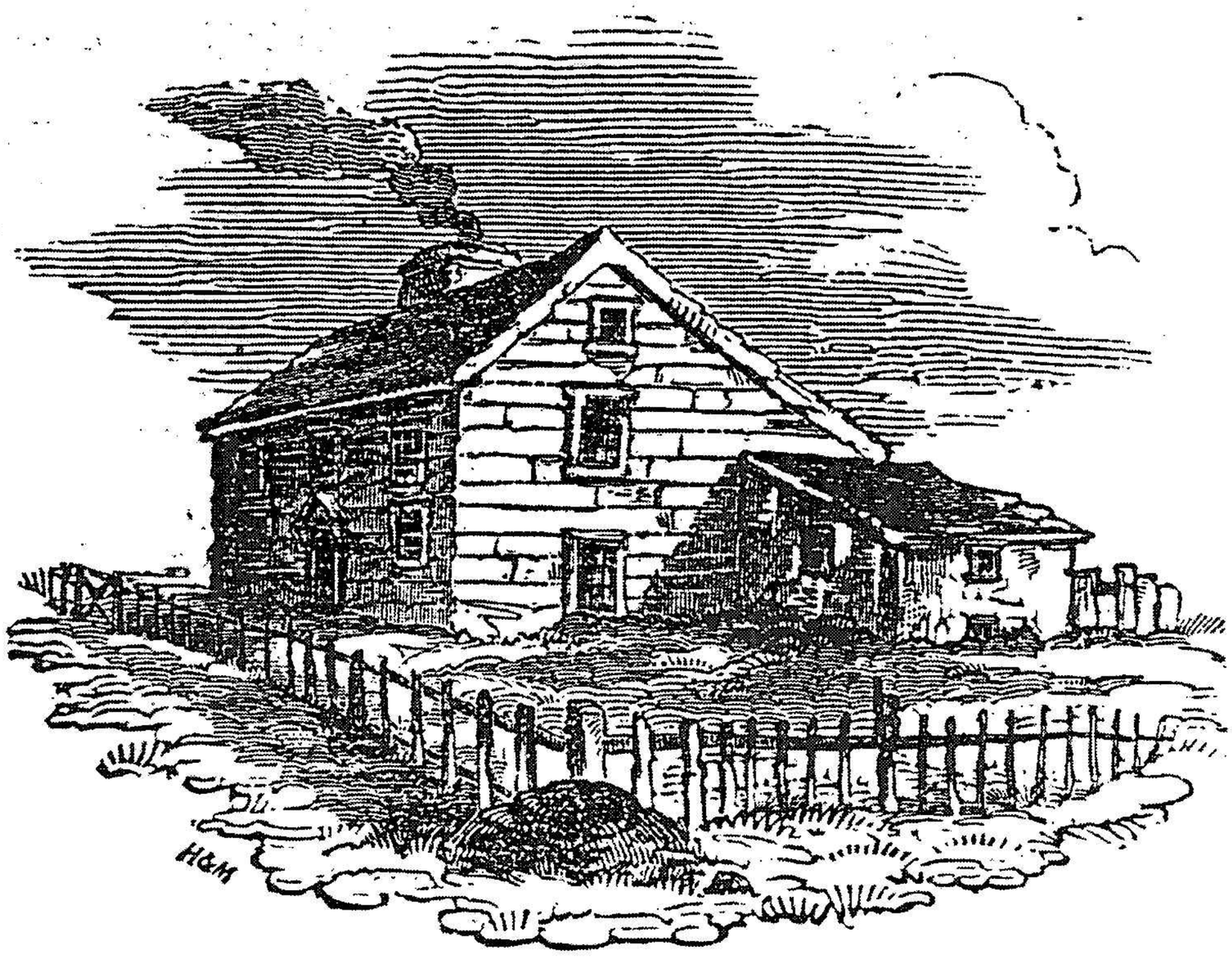


3. South and East Elevations of John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces. Unknown medium, n.d., catalogue number 73.445. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



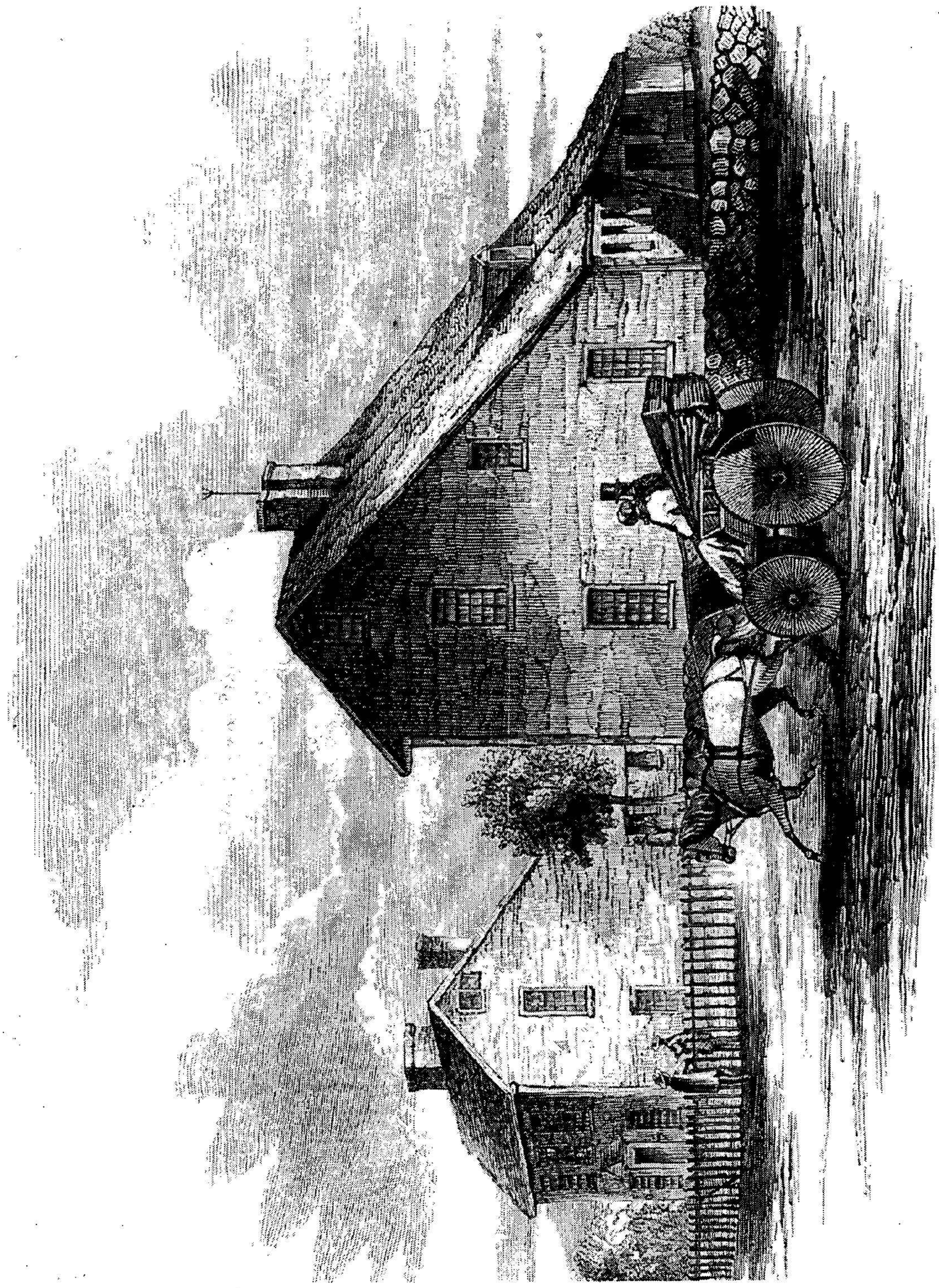
4. John Adams Whipple. South Façade and East Elevation of John Adams Birthplace. Daguerreotype, 1840-1850s, catalogue number ADAM18379, Adams National Historical Park.

5. H&M. East façade and North Elevation of John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Woodcut, 17 November 1849, *Scholar's Penny Gazette*, Adams National Historical Park.


H&M

6. Godfrey N. Frankenstein. South and East Elevations of John Quincy Adams Birthplace and West and South Elevations of John Adams Birthplace. Oil painting, 1849-1850, catalogue number ADAM8453, Adams National Historical Park.

7. East and North Elevations of John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces. Engraving, August 1852, *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion*, negative number 2336-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



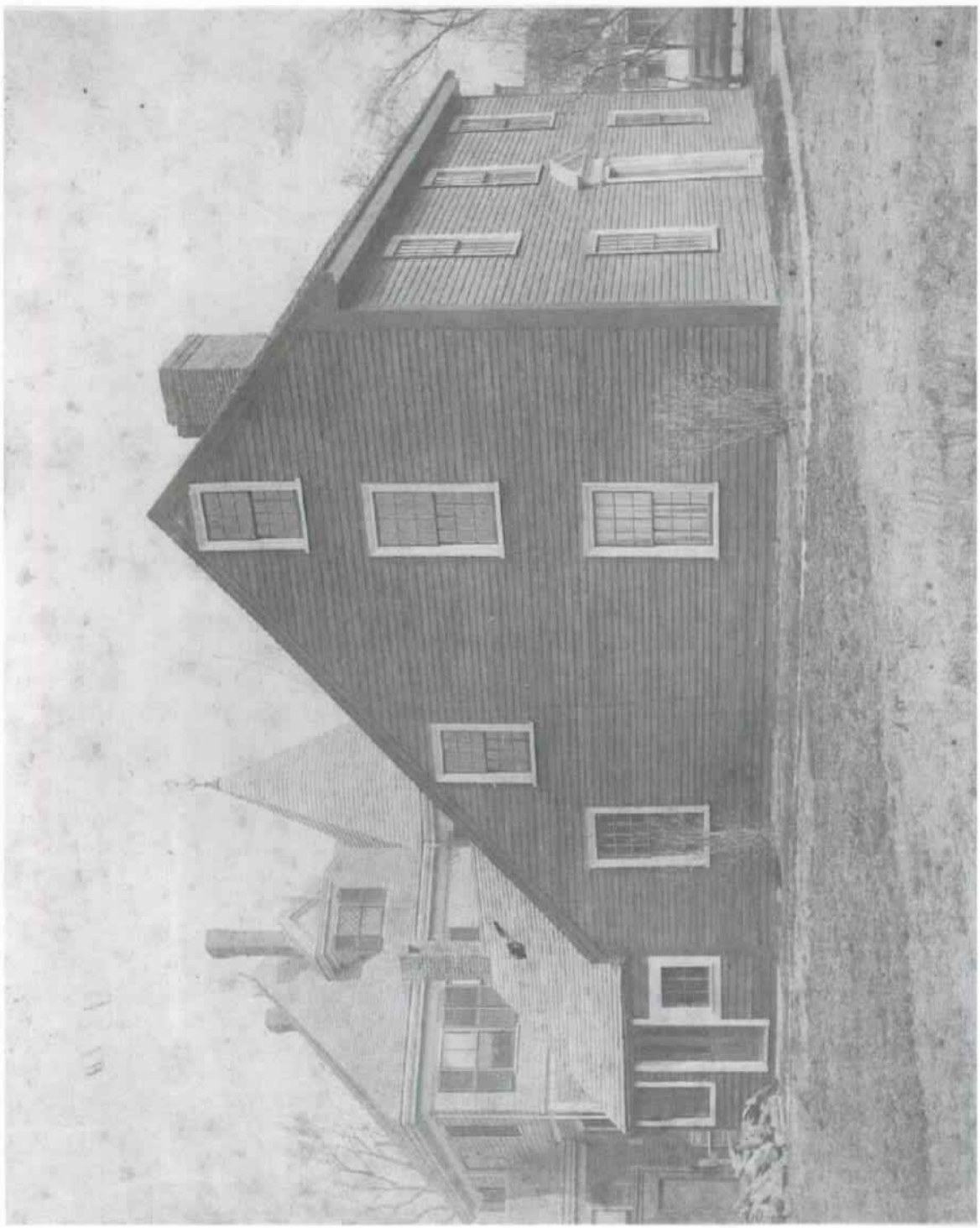
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS'S BIRTHPLACE, AT QUINCY, MASS.

8. South and East Elevations of John Quincy Adams Birthplace and West and South Elevations of John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1880-1885, catalogue number 74.83.3. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

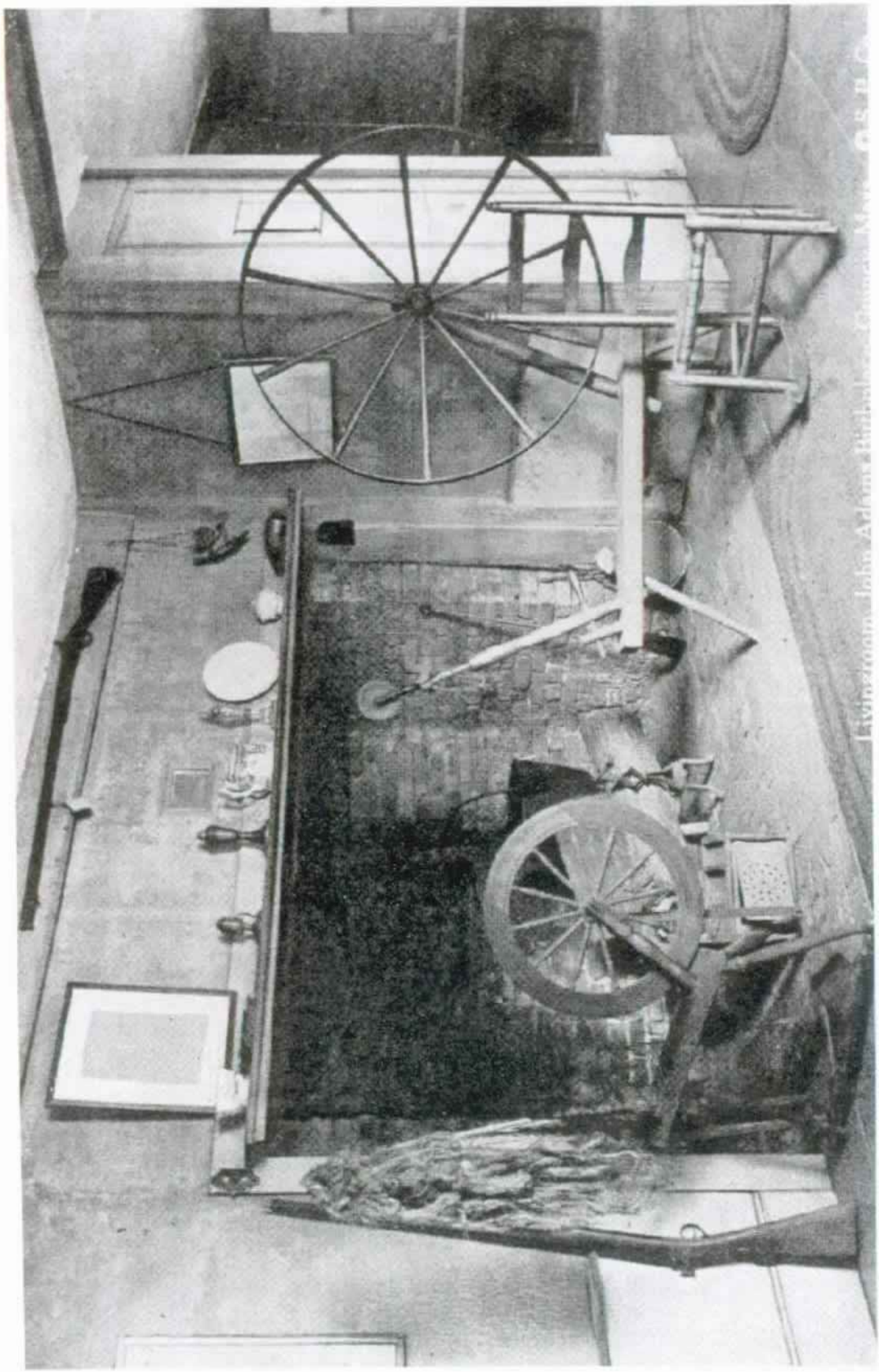
74.83-E
74.83.3

9. West and South Elevations of John Adams and John Quincy Adams Birthplaces. Photograph, early 1890s, negative number H-2457e. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

10. West Elevation and South Façade of John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1897, catalogue number .0361. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



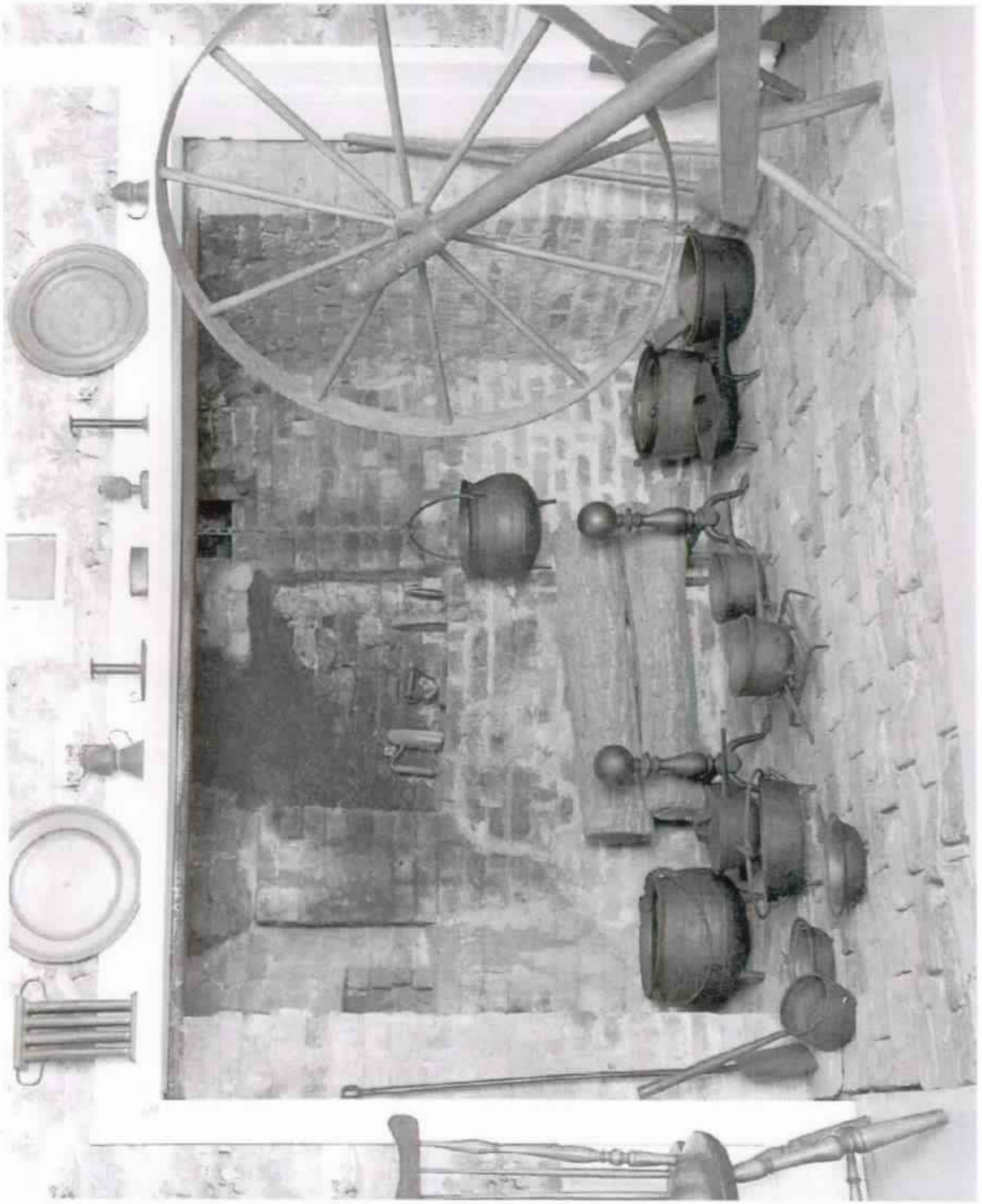
11. Stillman Powers Co. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49786-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



12. Stillman Powers Co. East and South Walls of Southeast Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49791-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Livingroom, John Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Mass. © S. P. Co.

13. Quincy Historical Society. West Wall of Southeast Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970s, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.8. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



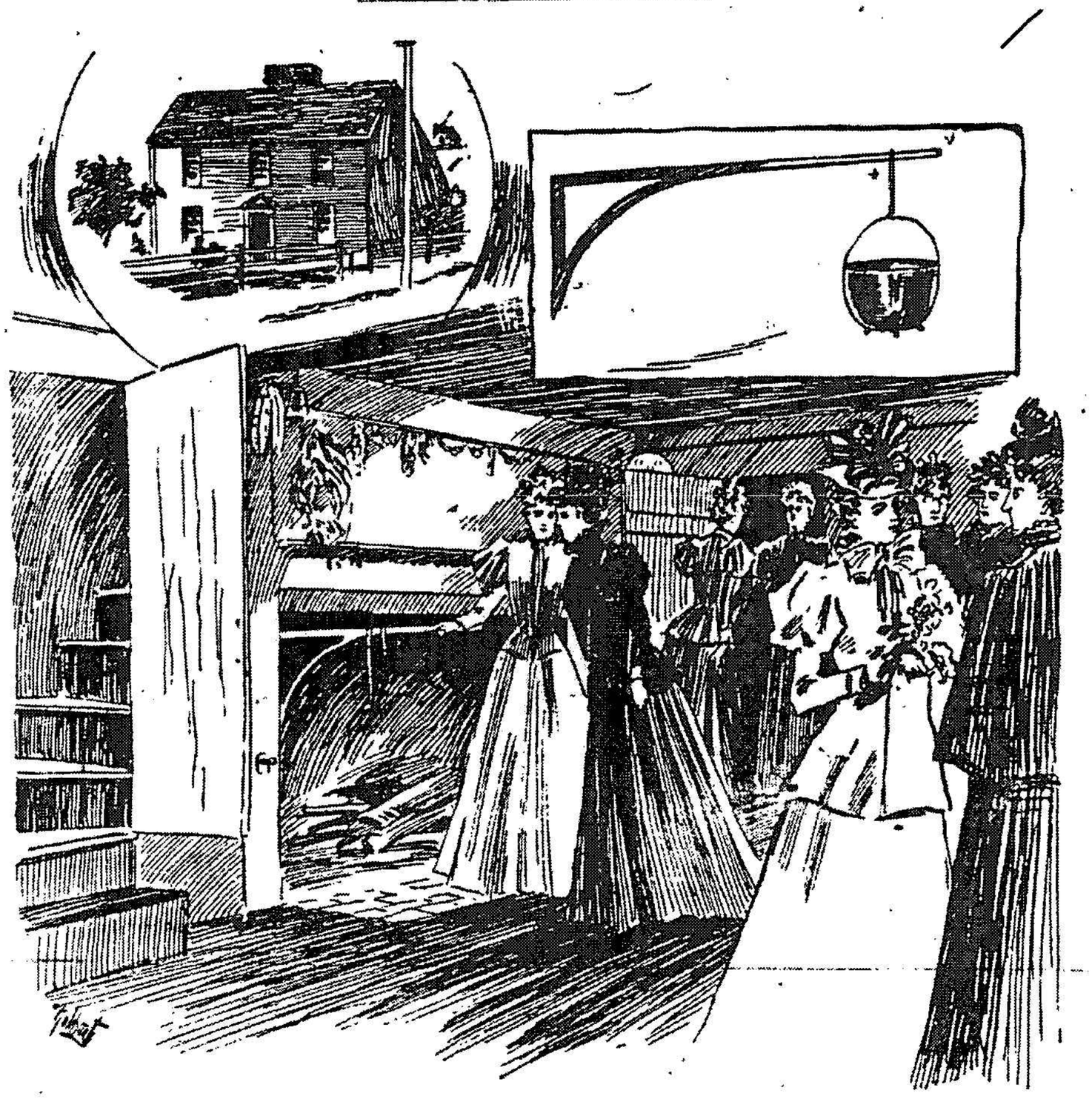
14. Richard Cheek. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1979, H. Hobart Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1345. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

15. South and West Walls of Northeast Room, John Adams Birthplace, John Adams Birthplace. Line engraving, 22 October 1897, "Nation's Birthplace Restored," *Quincy Advertiser*.

NATION'S BIRTHPLACE RESTORED.

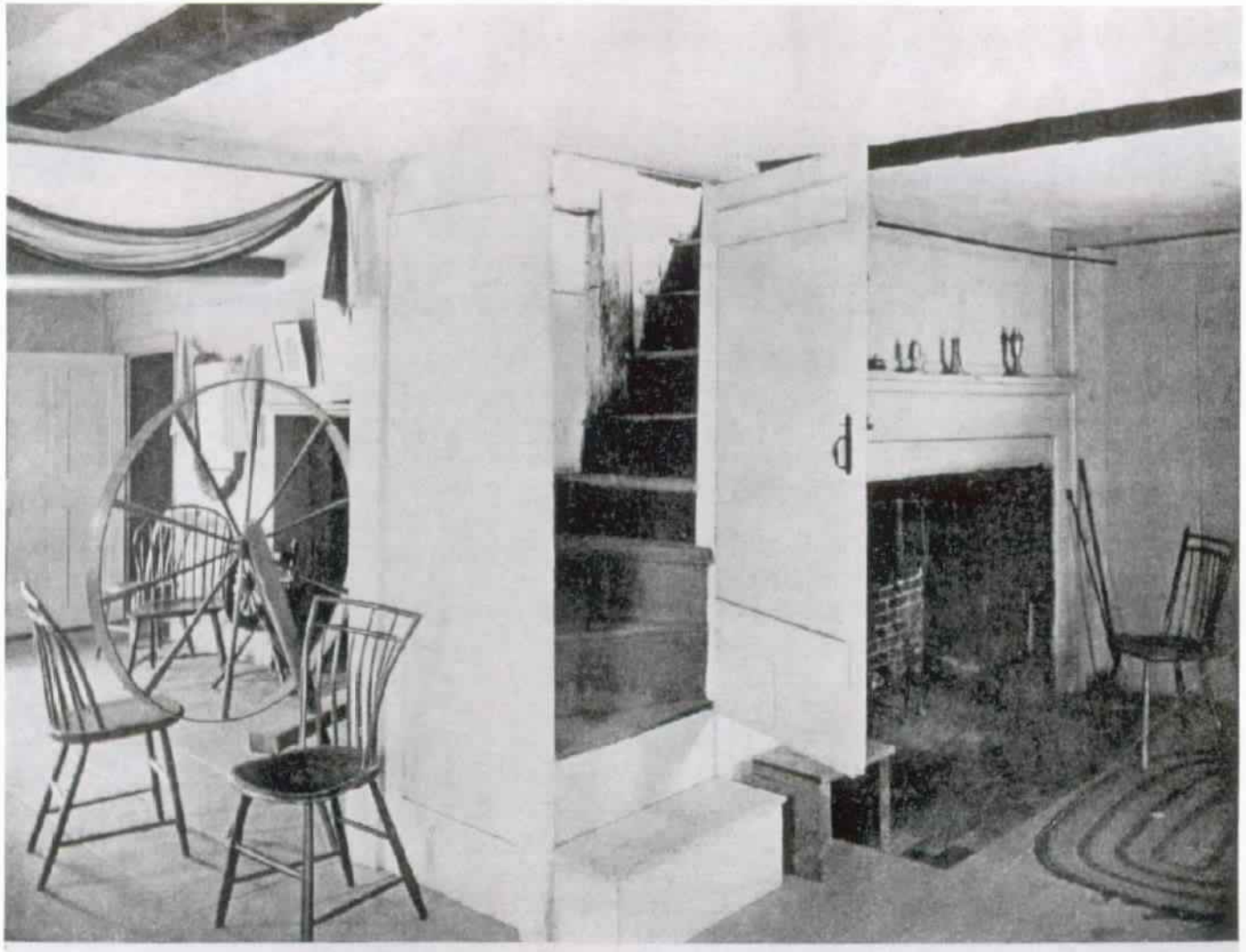
Cottage In Which John Adams Was Born Opened to the Public After Many Years.

Daughters of the Revolution Commemorate the Restoration of This Famous House by the Hanging of the Crane.



SCENE AT THE HANGING OF THE CRANE IN THE OLD ADAMS HOUSE.

16. South Wall of Northeast Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photomechanical Image, ca. 1897[?], Photomechanical File, negative number 49796-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



KITCHEN OF THE JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE—QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS.

17. Stillman Powers Co. South Wall of Northeast Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49794-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Kitchen, John Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Mass. © S. P. Co.

18. Stillman Powers Co. North and East Walls of Southwest Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49795-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

West Room, John Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Mass. © S. P. Co.

19. Stillman Powers Co. South and West Walls of Southwest Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49797-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

West Room, John Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Mass. © S. P. Co.
always the parlor

20. William Owens. South Wall of Southwest Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.1. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

21. William Owens. East Wall of Southwest Room, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.7. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

22. Stillman Powers Co. West and North Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Daughters of Revolution, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49790-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Room in which John Adams, second President of United States, was born
Oct. 30, 1735, Quincy, Mass.
Over Best Co.

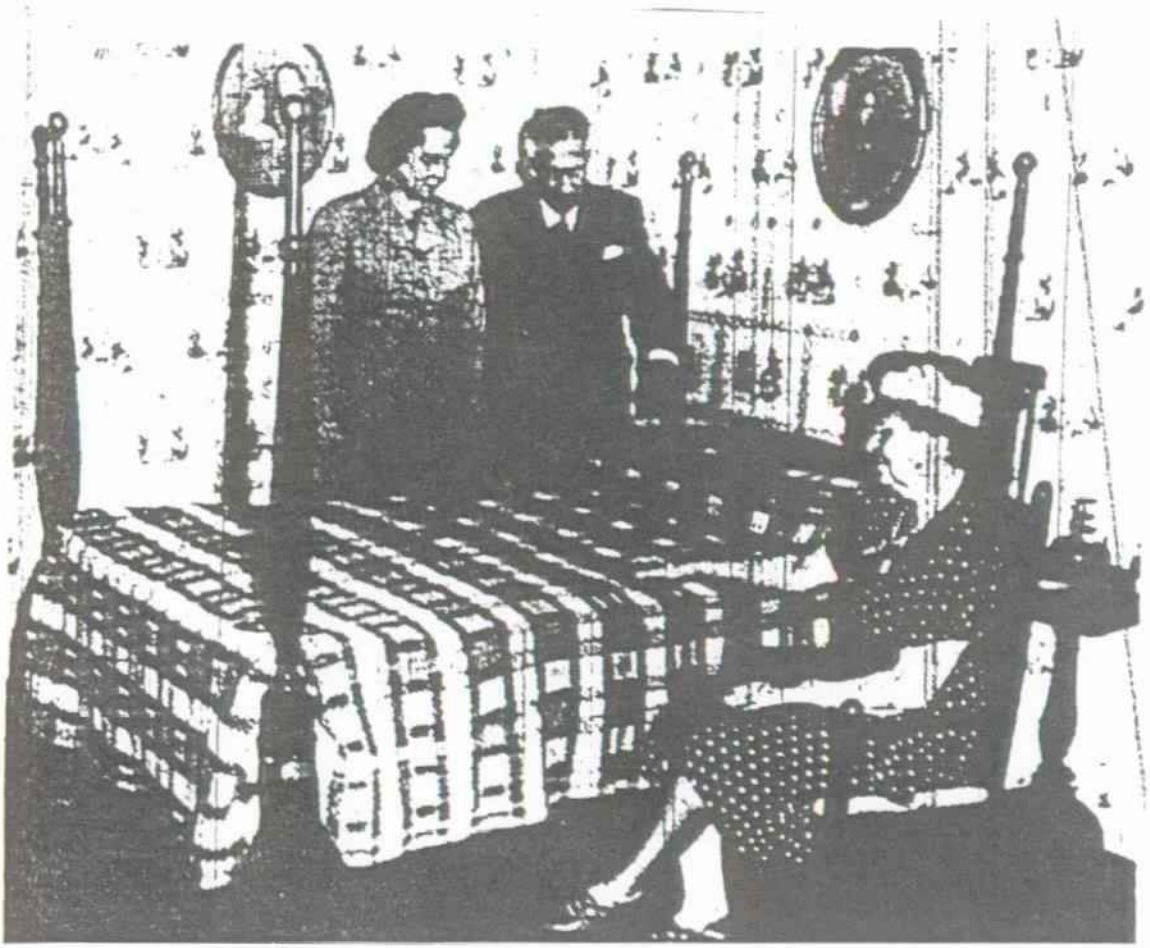
23. Quincy Historical Society. North Wall of Southeast Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970s, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.12. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

24. Quincy Historical Society. South Wall of Southeast Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970s, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.6. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

25. William Owens. West and North Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.6. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

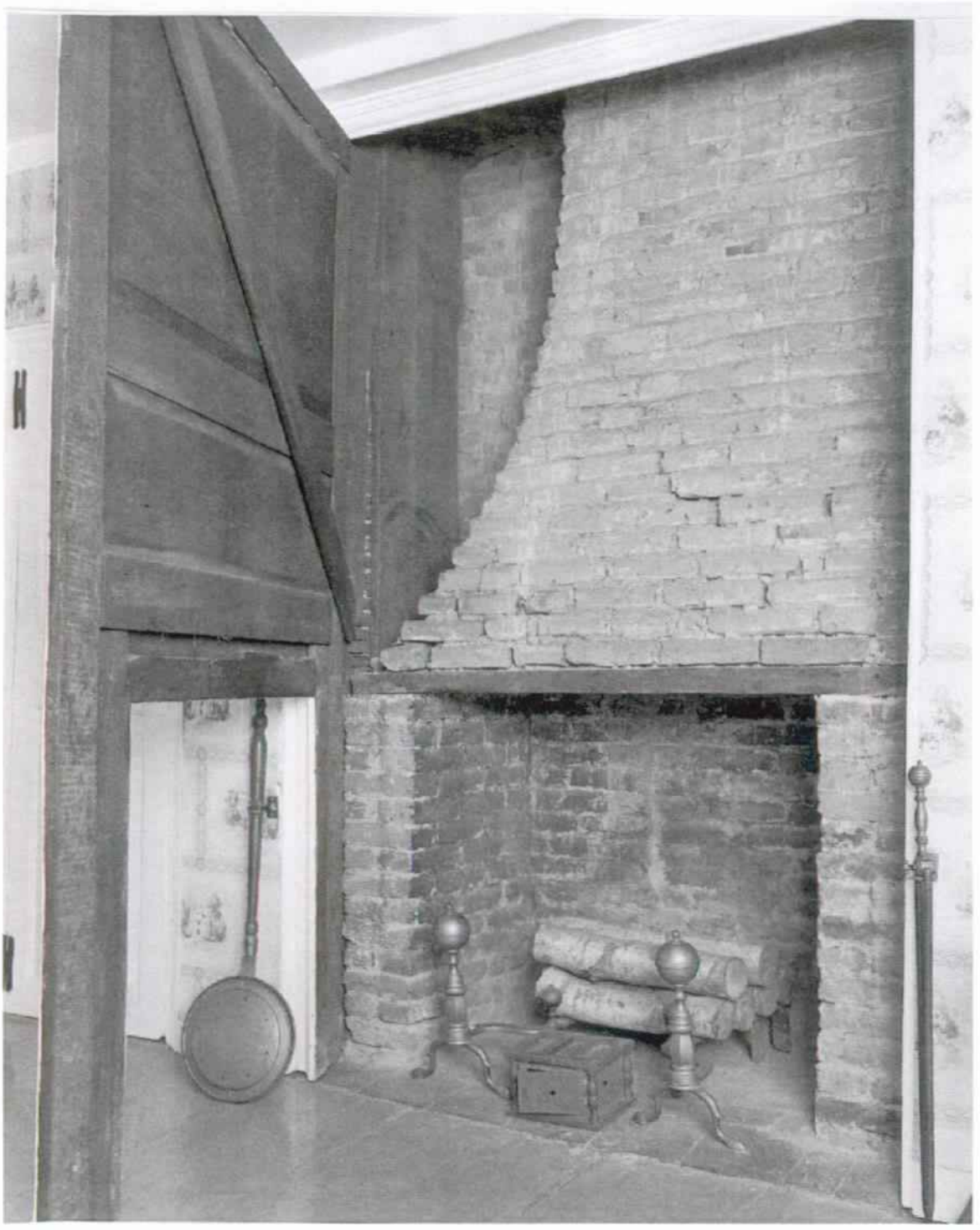
26. Richard Cheek. West and North Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1979, H. Hobart Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1346. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

27. North and East Walls of Southwest Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 14 October 1950, "Priceless Antiques Donated," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*.

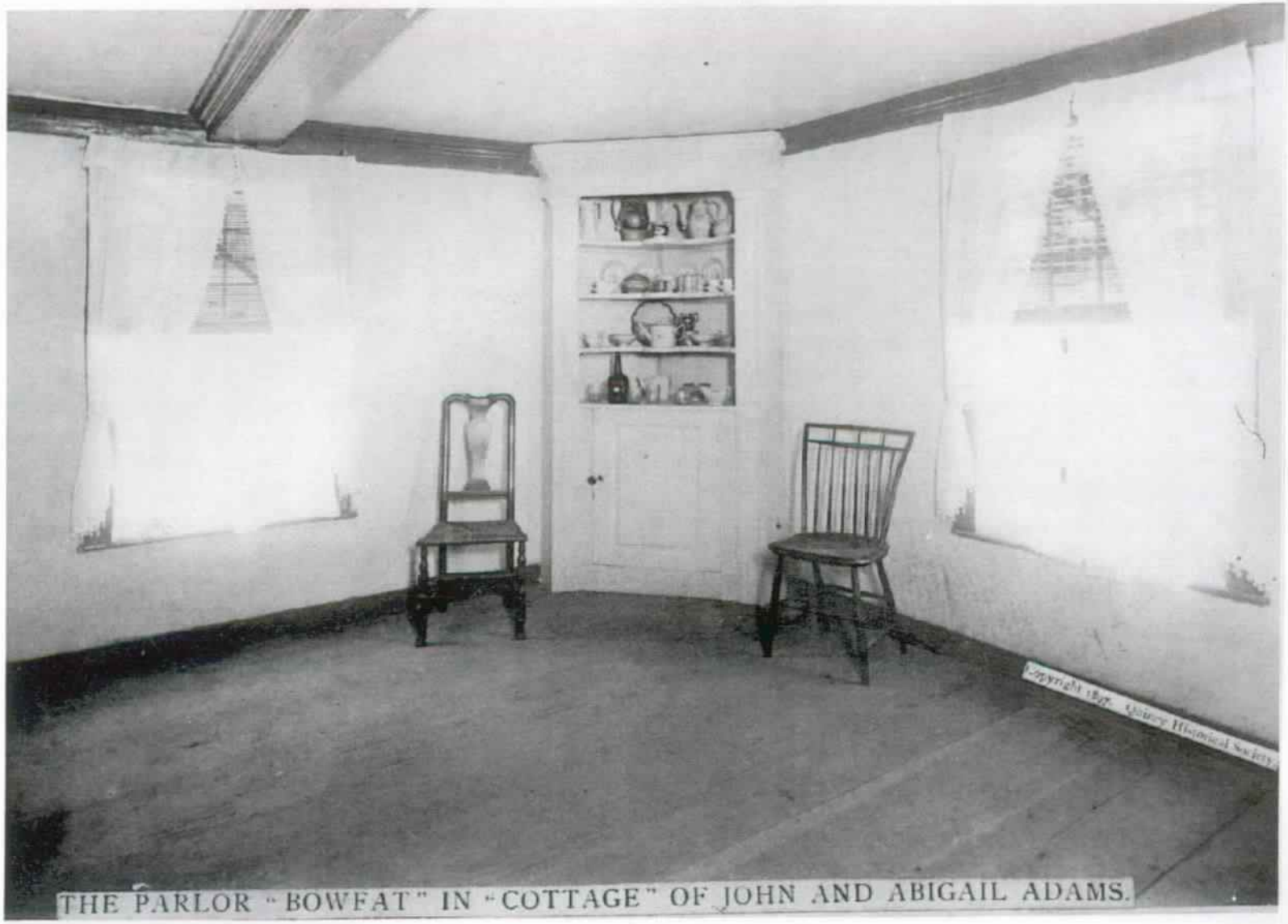


28. Southwest Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 19 May 1965, "Scenes at the Adams Birthplaces," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*.

29. William Owens. East Wall of Southwest Chamber, John Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.3. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



30. Quincy Historical Society. North and East Walls of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1897, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number .0391.3. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



THE PARLOR "BOWFAT" IN "COTTAGE" OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS.

31. William H. Rice. North and East Walls of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49788-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Living-room in John and Abigail Adams Cottage, Quincy, Mass.
Wm. H. Rice, Photographer

32. Quincy Historical Society. North Wall of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, 70.55.22. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

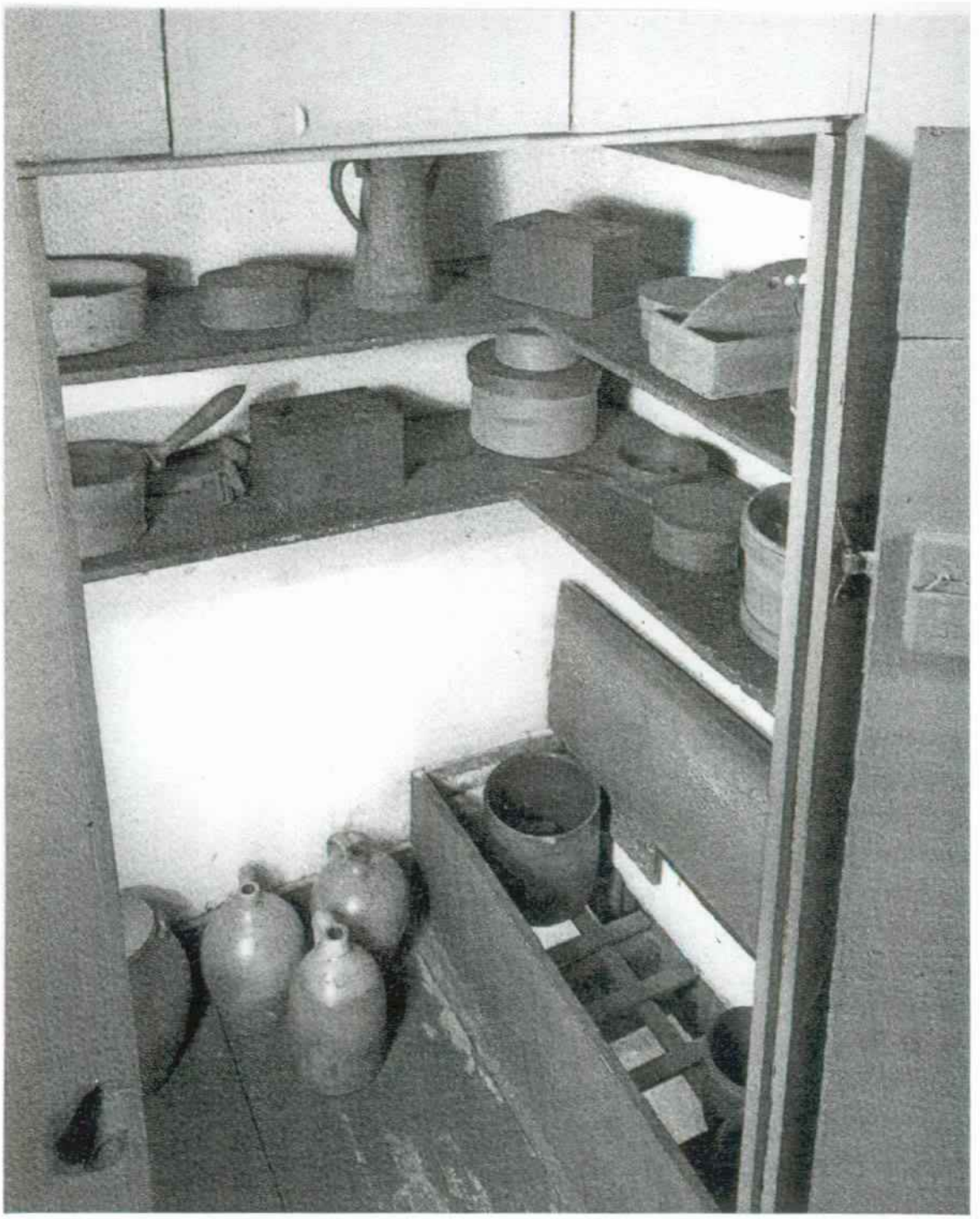
33. Quincy Historical Society. East Wall of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.23. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

34. William Owens. South Wall of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.10. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

35. Cultural Resources Center. North and East Walls of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

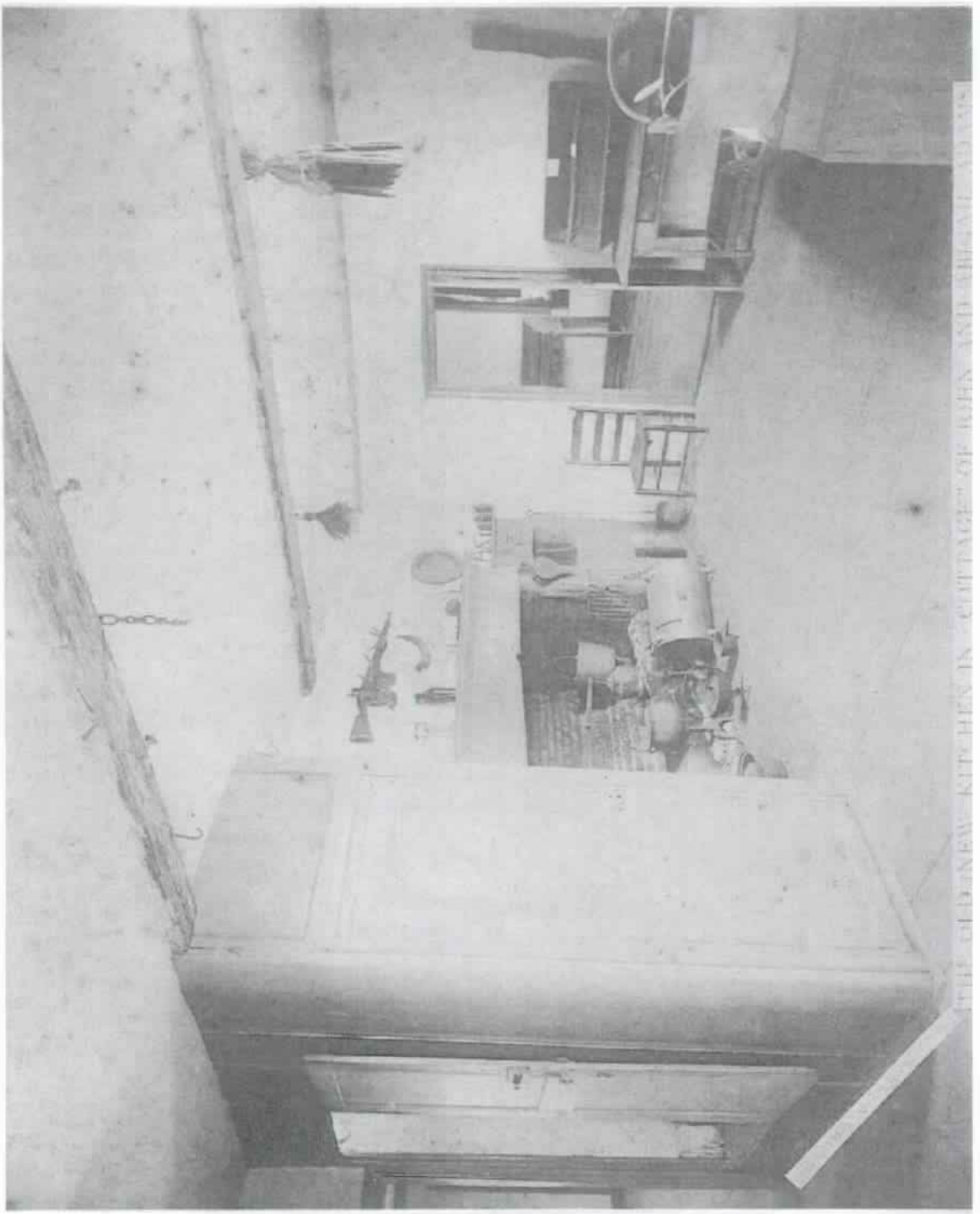
36. Cultural Resources Center. South and West Walls of Northeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

37. Richard Cheek. Northwest buttery, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1979, H. Hobart Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1347. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

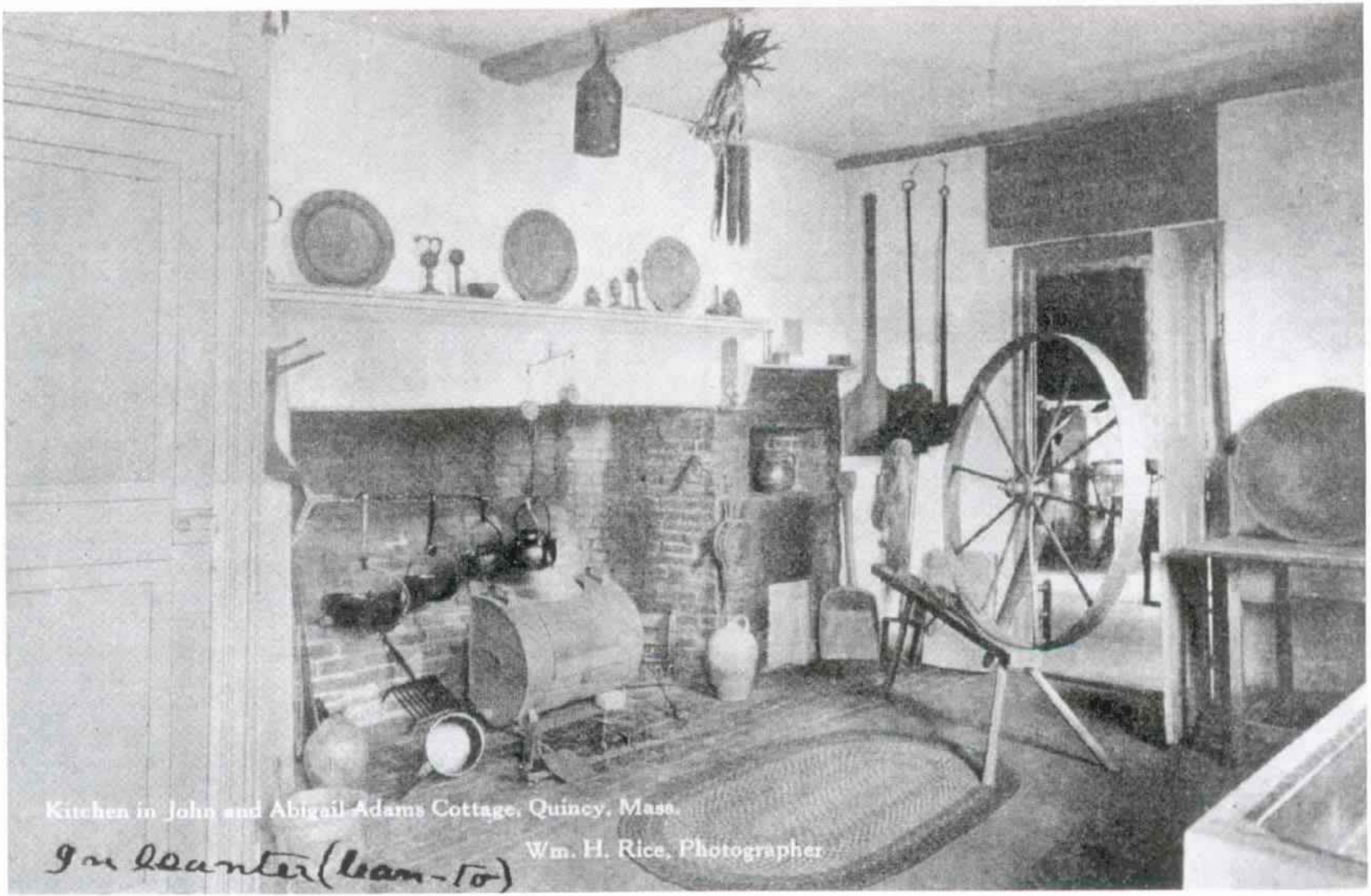


38. Cultural Resources Center. North, East, and South Walls of Northwest Buttery, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

39. Quincy Historical Society. East and South Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photomechanical Image, 1897, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number .0393.2. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



40. William H. Rice. East and South Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49793-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



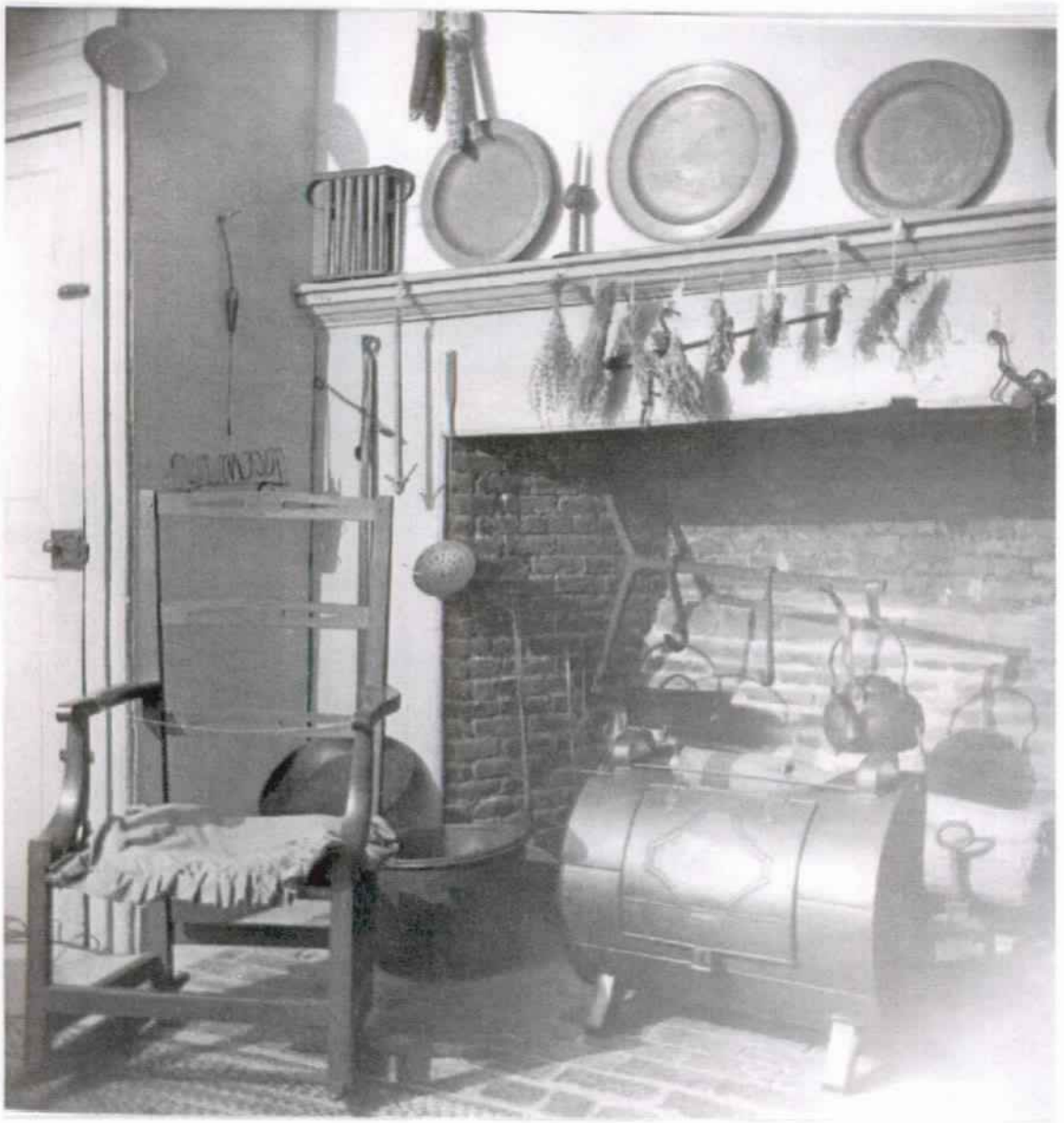
Kitchen in John and Abigail Adams Cottage, Quincy, Mass.

Wm. H. Rice, Photographer

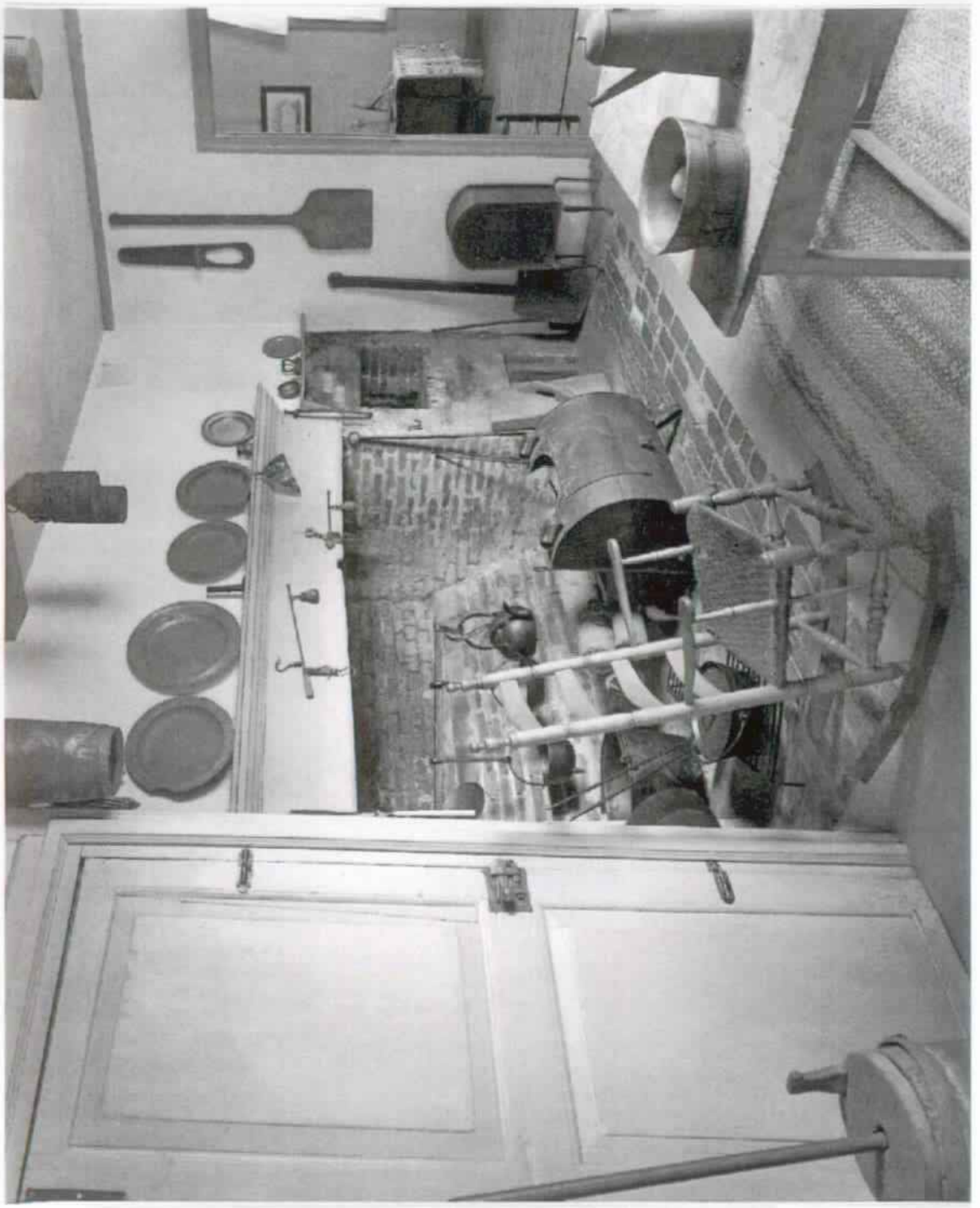
9 in Quarter (Ham-To)

41. Quincy Historical Society. South and West Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.14. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

42. Quincy Historical Society. East Wall of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.18. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



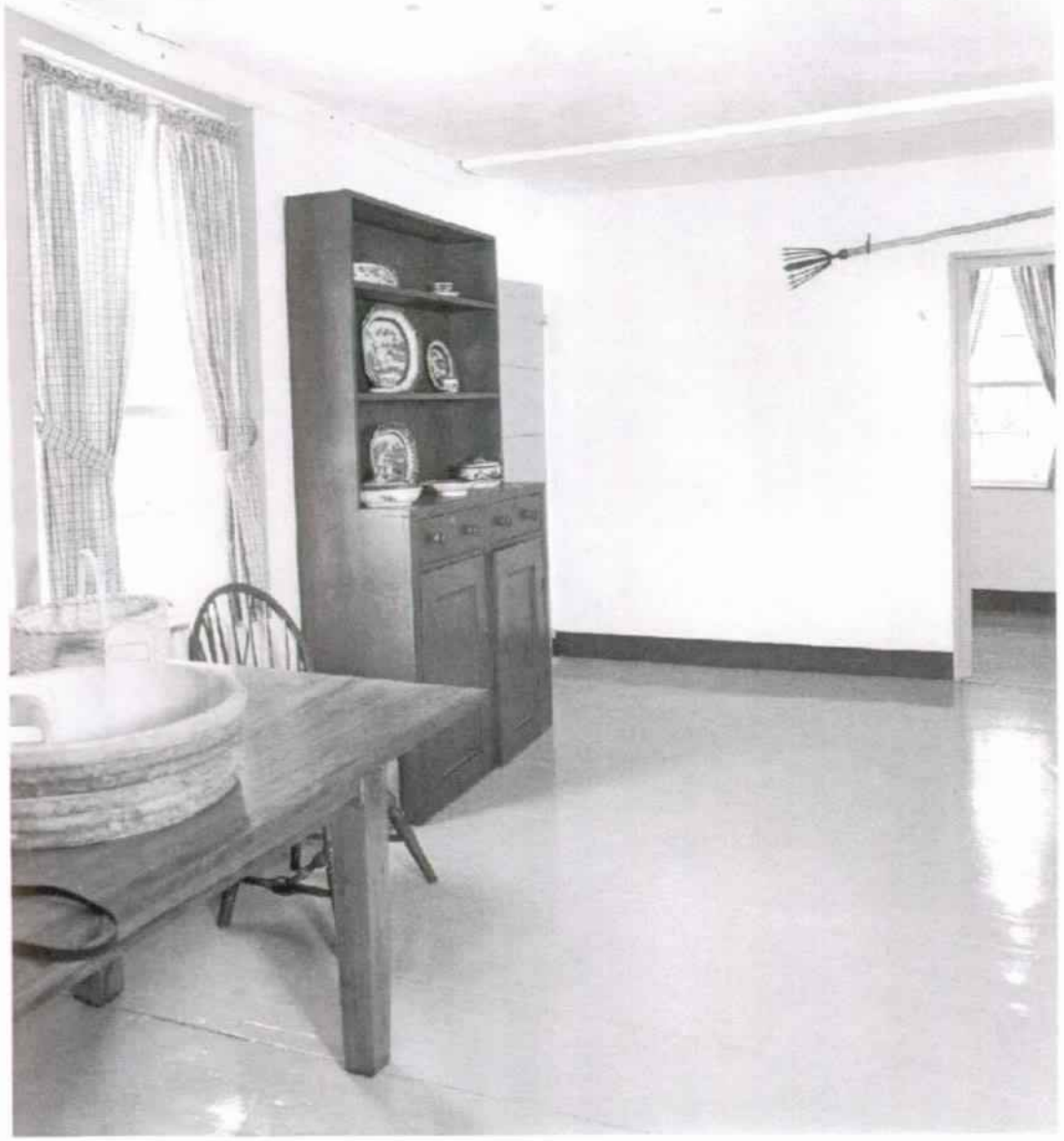
43. William Owens. East and South Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.9. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



44. Richard Cheek. East, South, and West Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1979, H. Hobart Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1347. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

45. Cultural Resources Center. East and South Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

46. Cultural Resources Center. West and North Walls of Northwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

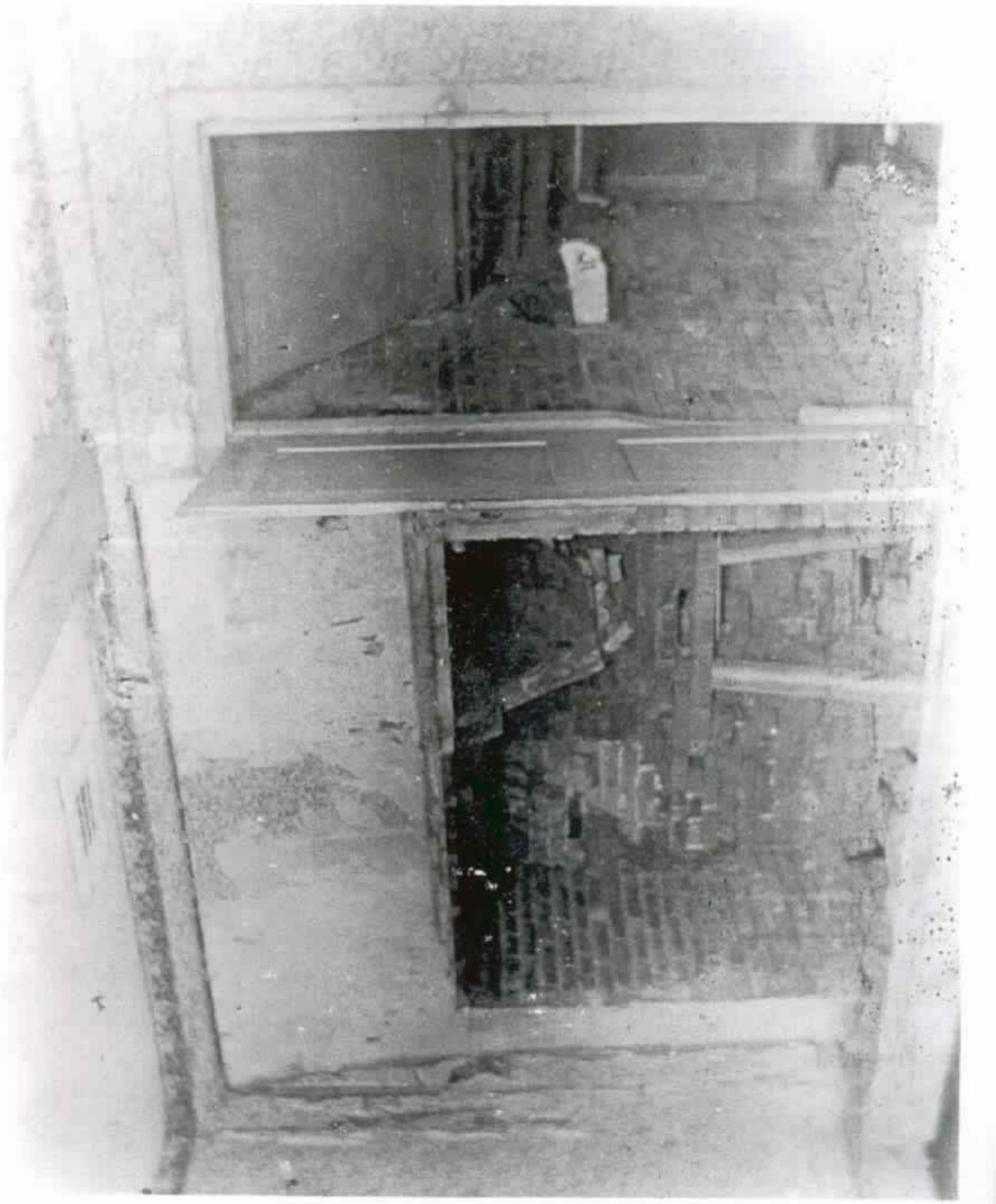


47. Quincy Historical Society. West and North Walls of Southwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.9. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

48. Cultural Resources Center. Northeast Corner of Southwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

49. Cultural Resources Center. South, West, and North Walls of Southwest Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

50. William Gardner Spear. North Wall of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1896, negative number 26759A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



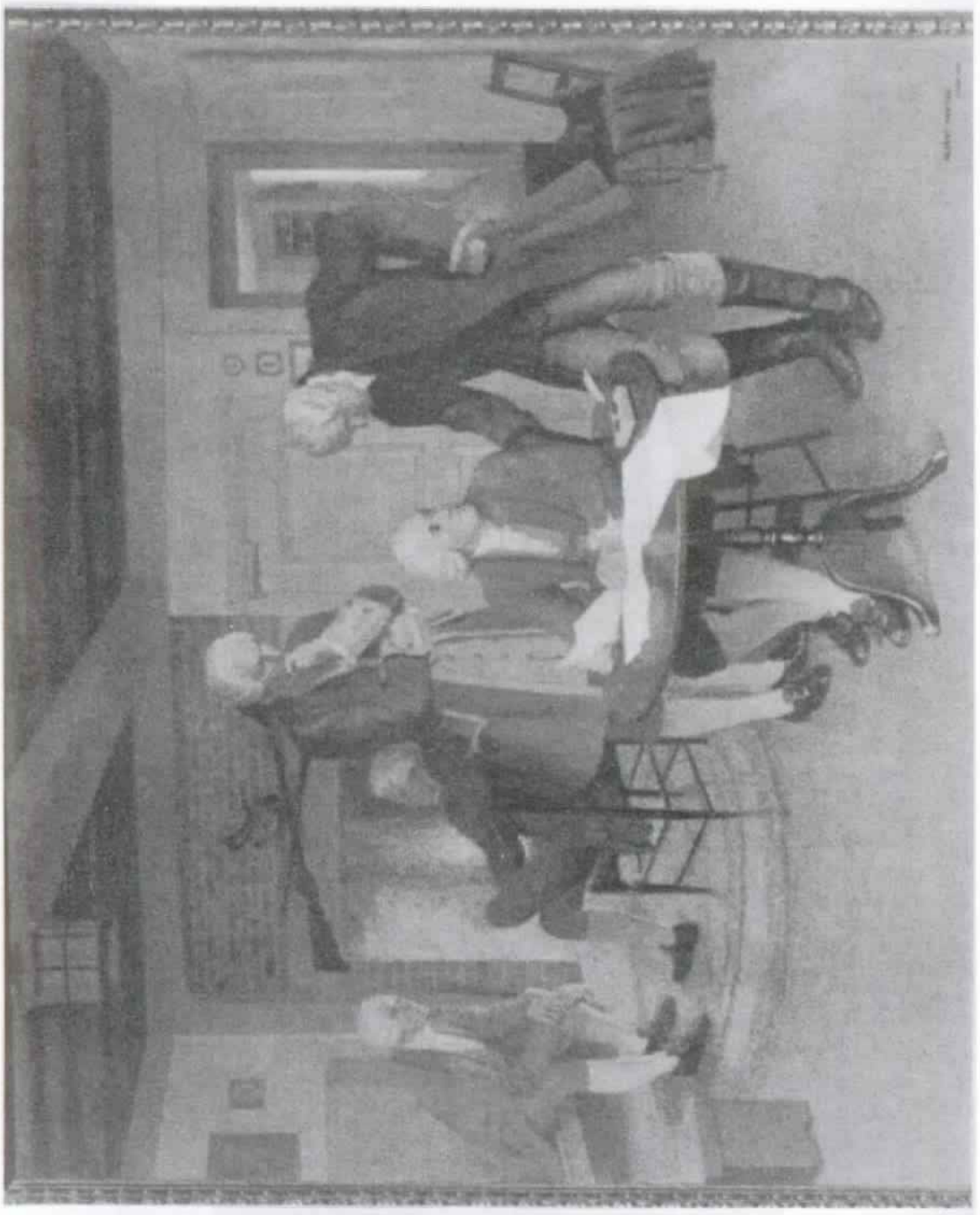
51. Quincy Historical Society. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photomechanical Image, 1897, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number .0390.1. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

THE OLD KITCHEN IN "COTTAGE" OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS.

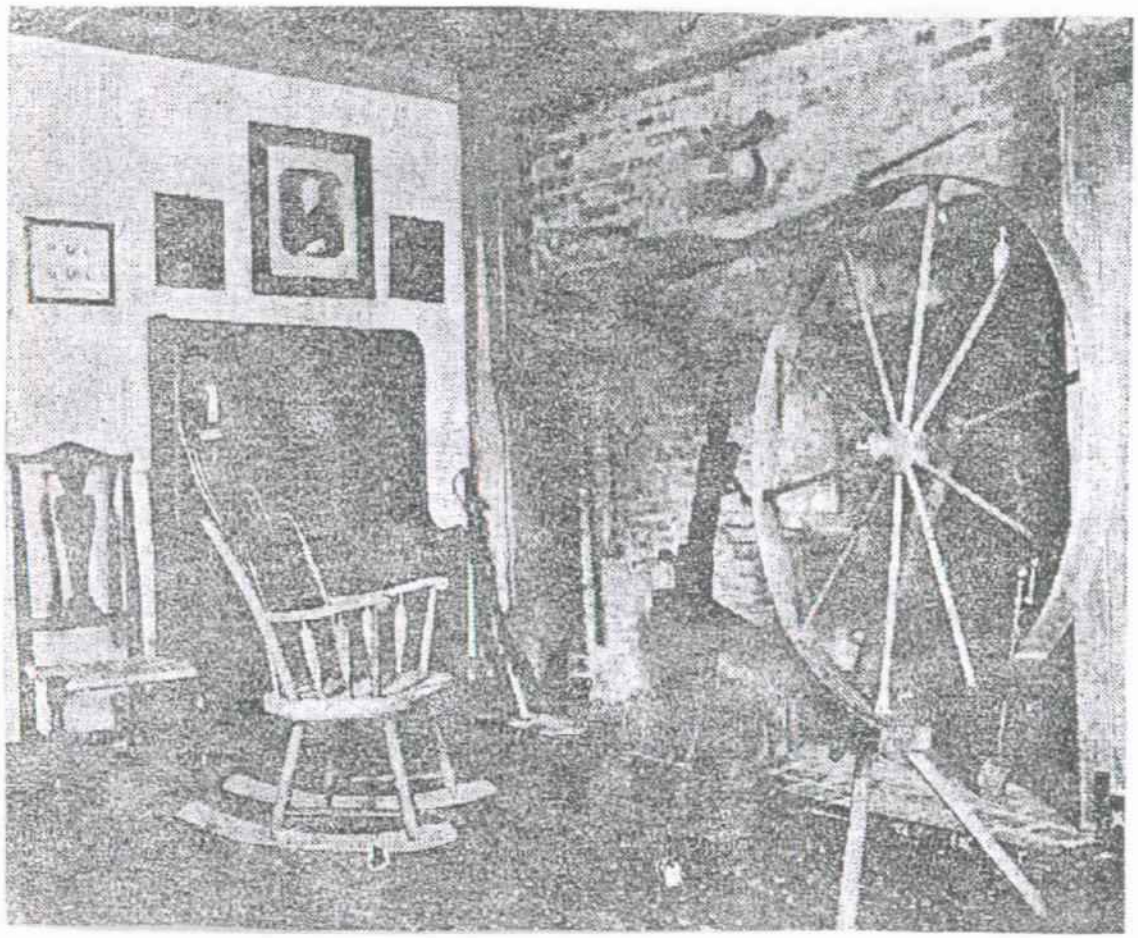
52. William H. Rice. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49792-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

South room in John and Abigail Adams Cottage, Quincy, Mass.
Wm. H. Rice, Photographer
First kitchen
Upon dining-room & John Q. Adams office.

53. Albert Herter Mural in House of Representatives at Massachusetts State House. Photograph, 1942, "Quincy Scenes," catalogue number 83.55.2. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

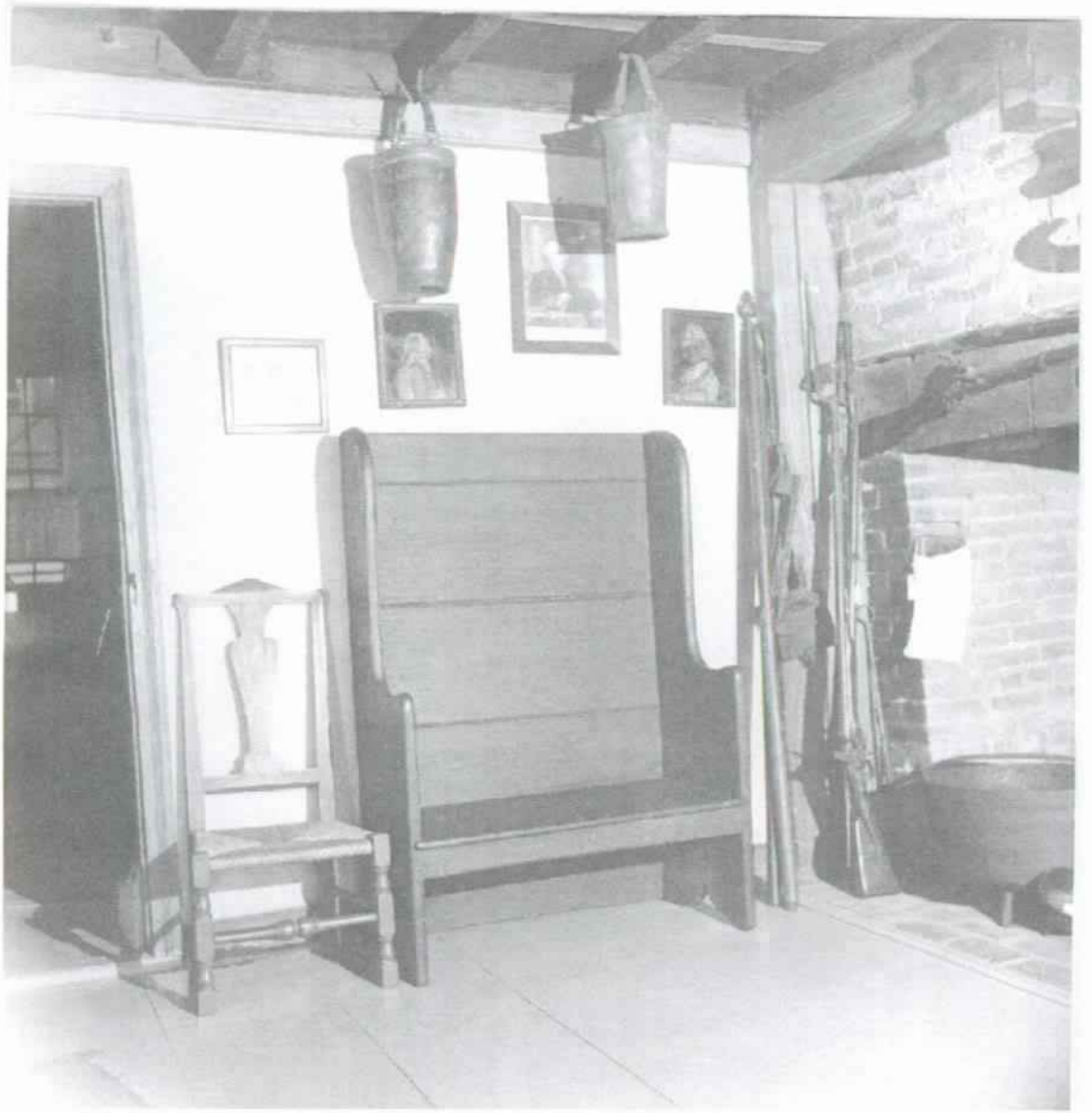


54. Laban H. Whittaker, Jr. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, July 1954, "Foot-Warmer, Old Spinning Wheel," *Quincy Patriot Ledger*.



55. Quincy Historical Society. North Wall of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.11. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

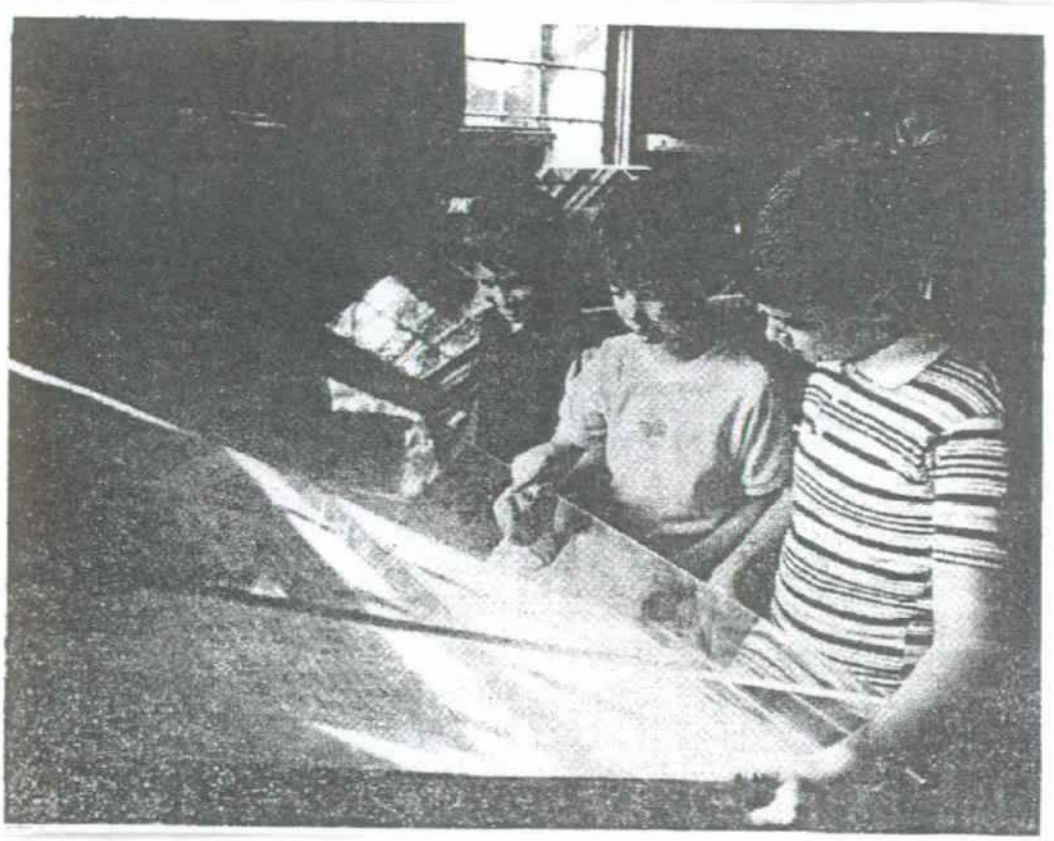
56. Quincy Historical Society. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.19. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



57. William Owens. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.1. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

58. Richard Cheek. West and North Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1979, H. Hobart Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1348. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

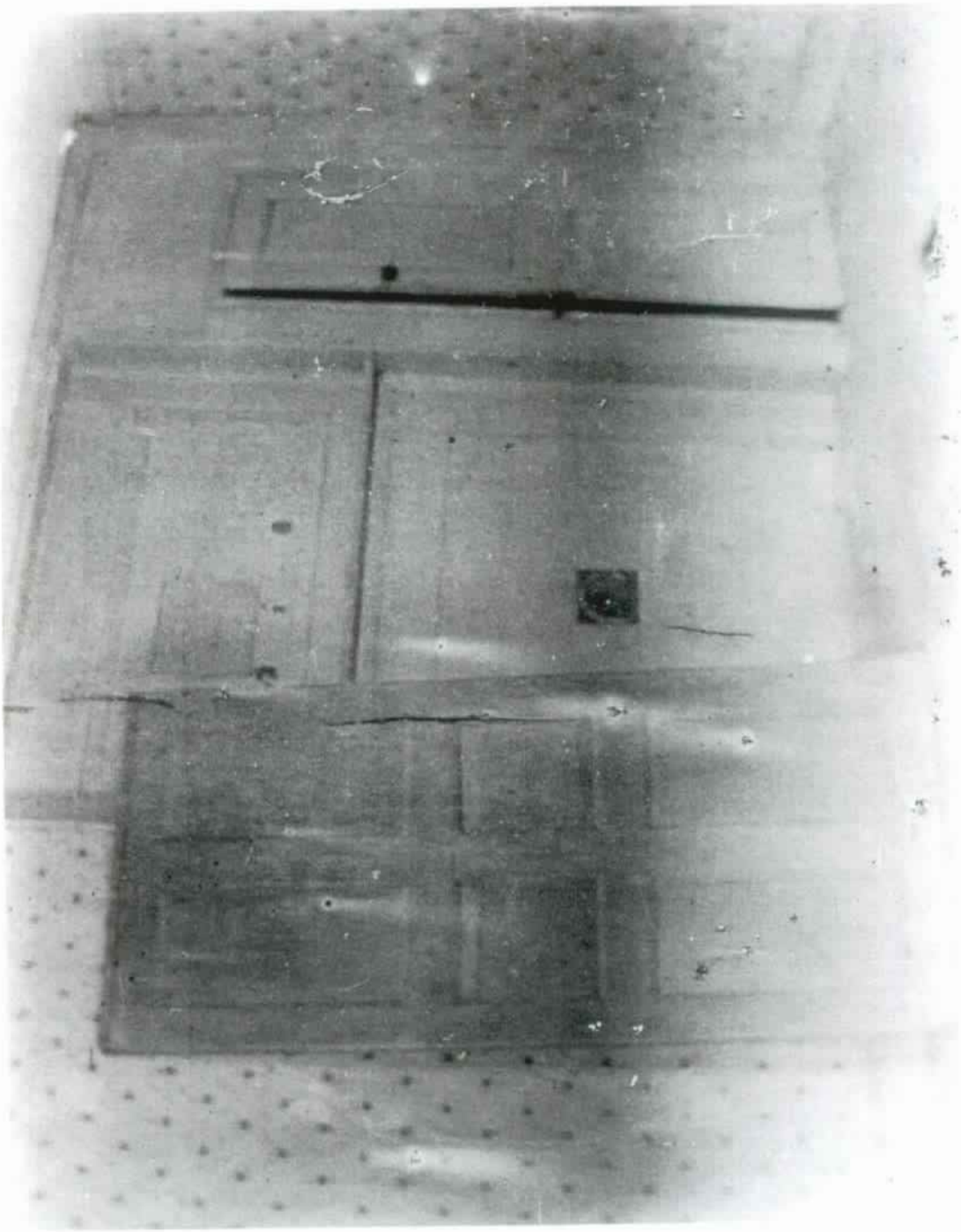
59. Massachusetts Constitution in Display Case in Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 13 September 1979, "The Massachusetts Constitution Comes Home to Its Birthplace," *Quincy Sun*.



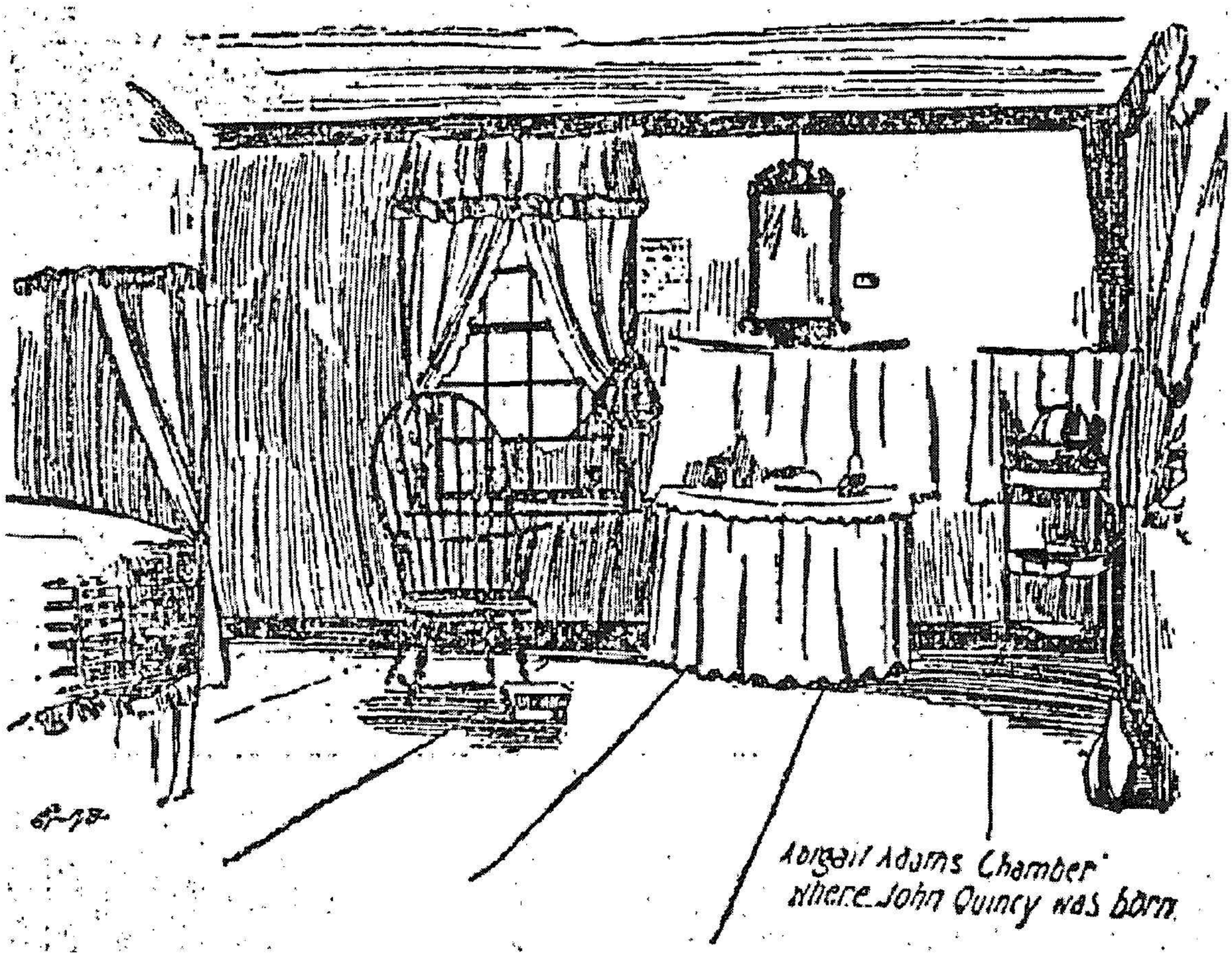
60. Cultural Resources Center. North and East Walls of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

61. Cultural Resources Center. South Wall of Southeast Room, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, ca. 1982, Photographic Collection, Adams National Historical Park.

62. William Gardner Spear. South Wall of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1896, negative number 26763A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.



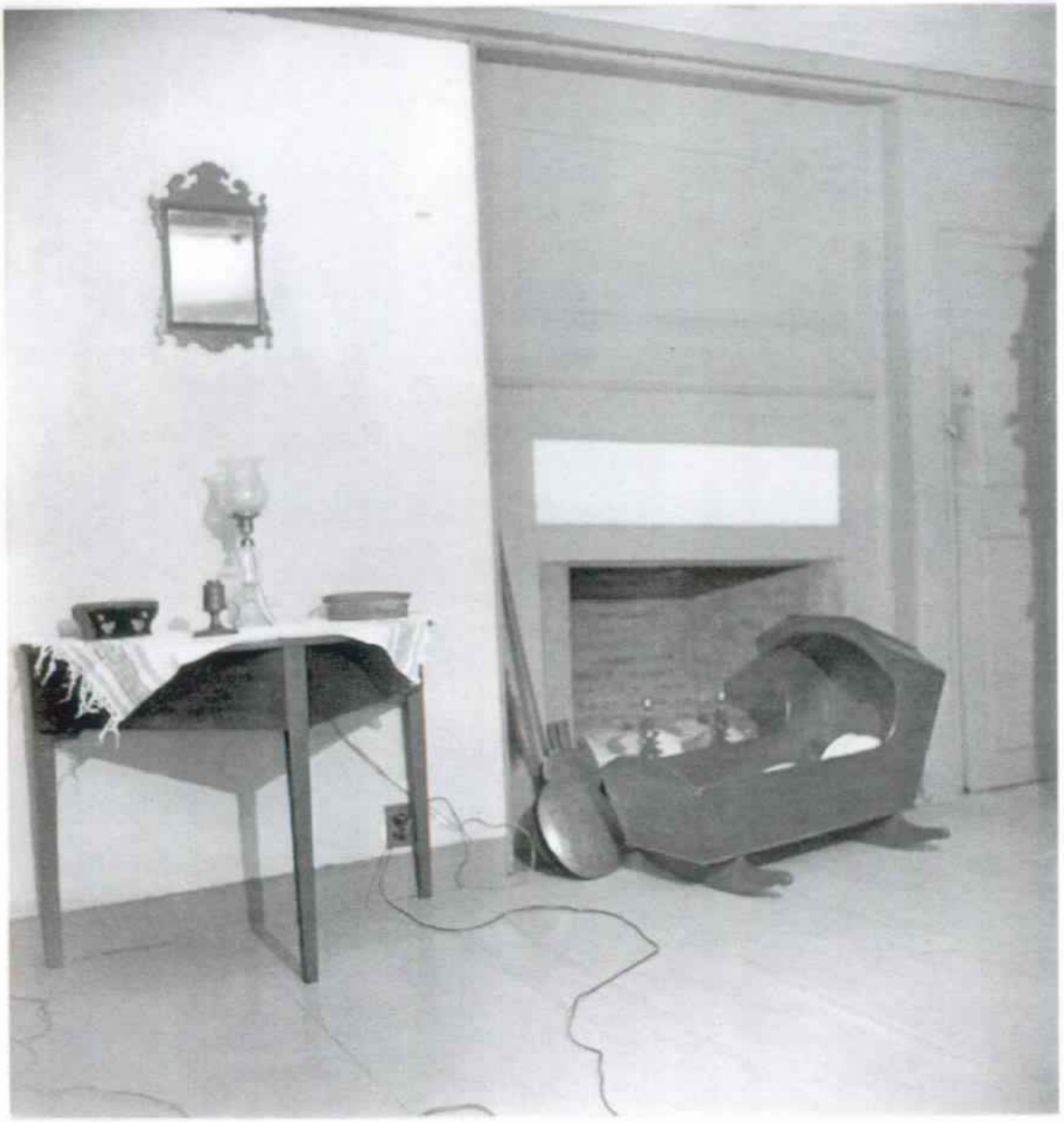
63. North Wall of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Line engraving, 26 December 1897, "In Colonial Style Again," *Quincy Advertiser*.


Abigail Adams Chamber
where John Quincy was born

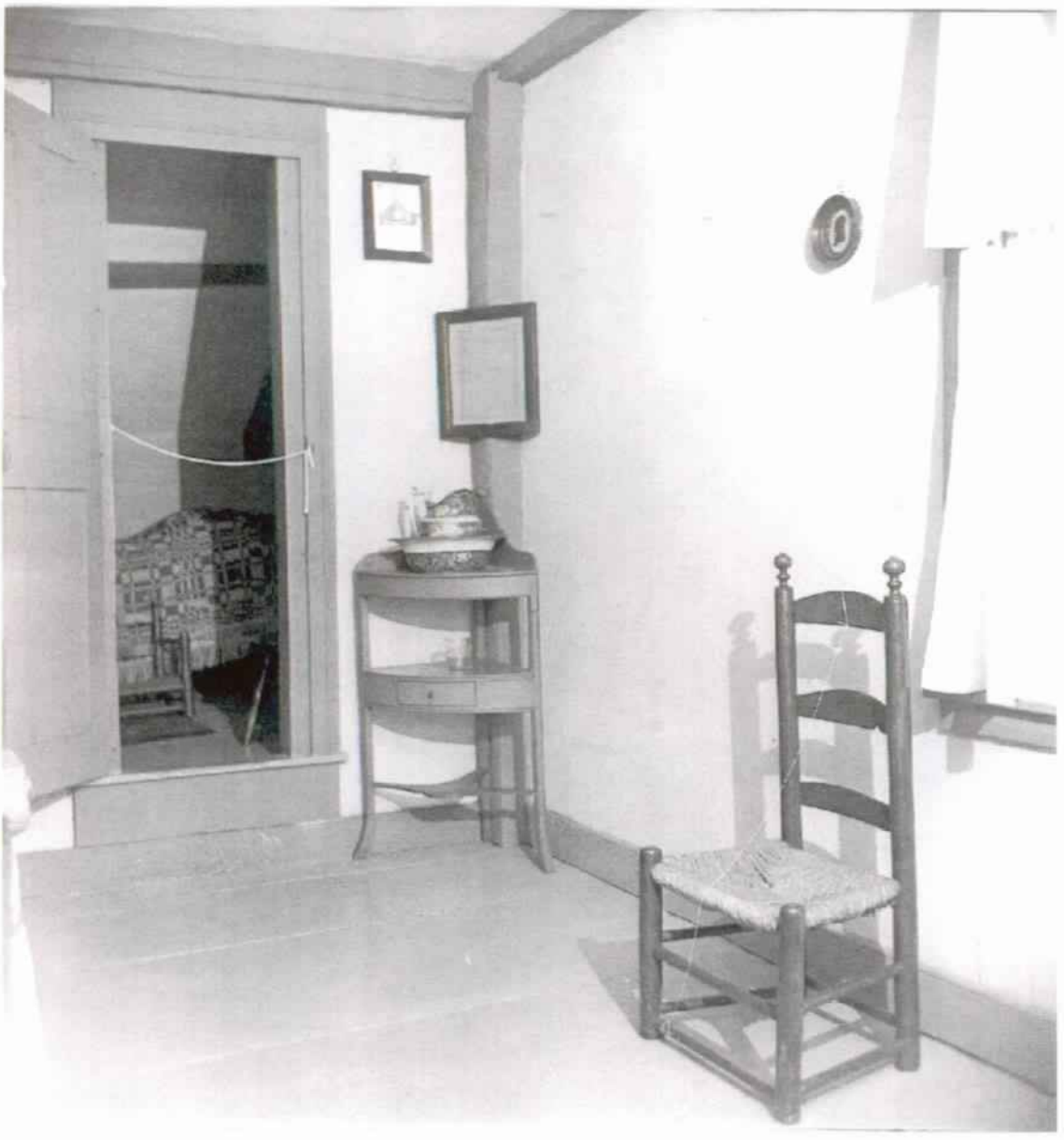
64. William H. Rice. West and North Walls of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49787-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Room in which John Quincy Adams, sixth president of U.S. was born 11 July, 1767, Quincy, Mass.
Wm. H. Rice, Photographer

65. Quincy Historical Society. South Wall of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



66. Quincy Historical Society. West and North Walls of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.4. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.



67. Quincy Historical Society. North and East Walls of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.16. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

68. William Owens. South and West Walls of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.2. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

69. Richard Cheek. South and West Walls of Northeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1979, H. Hobart Holly, "Birthplaces," *Magazine Antiques*, p. 1348. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

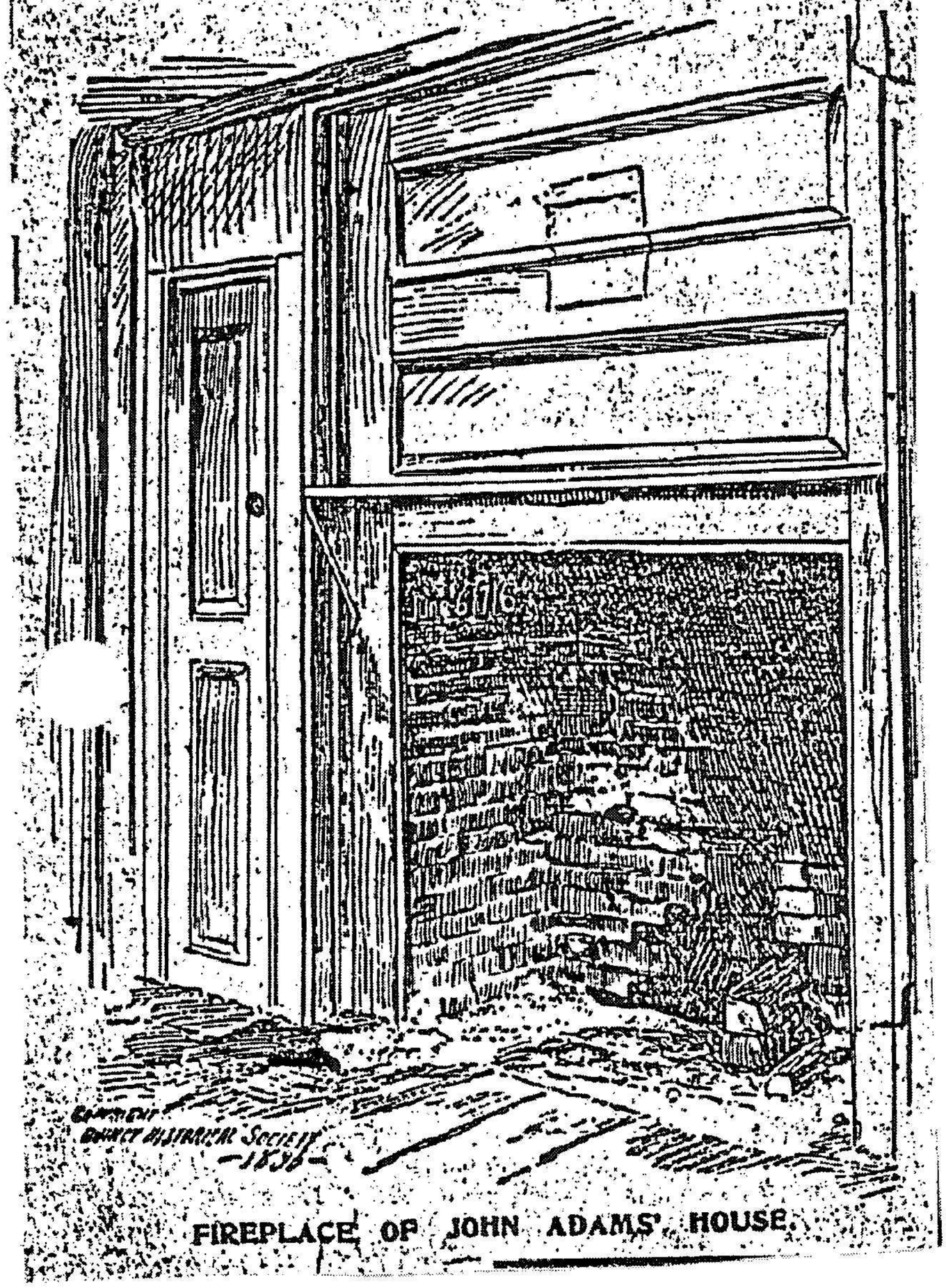
70. Quincy Historical Society. South and West Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1897, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number .0358.1. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' CHAMBER IN "COTTAGE" OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS

71. North Wall of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Line Engraving, 17 June 1897, "John and Abigail Adams' Home. Cottage Has Been Restored and Will be Opened to the Public Today—Bricks for Sale with Pictures of the Historic House," *Boston Daily Globe*.

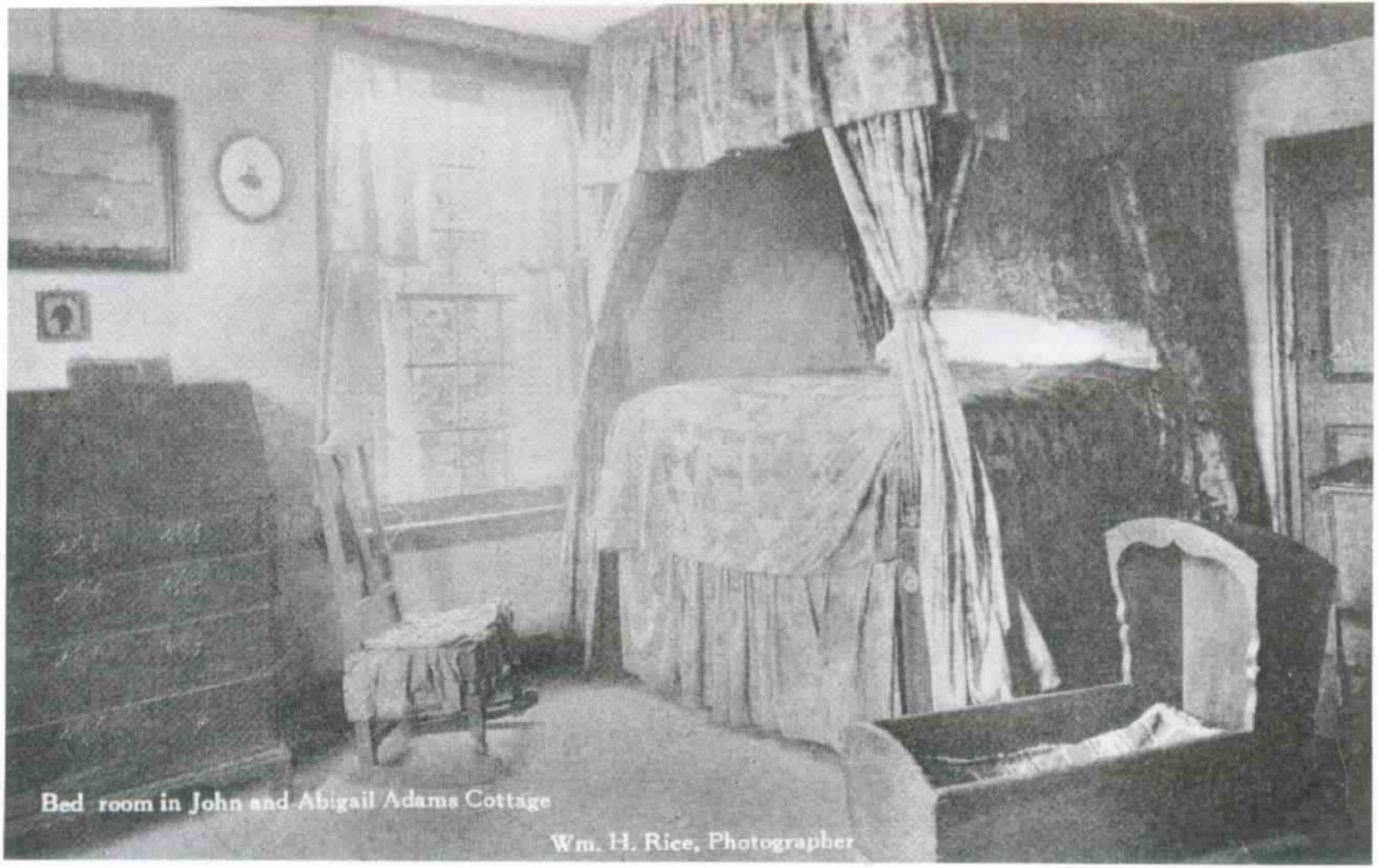
JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS' HOME.

Cottage Has Been Restored and Will be Opened to the Public Today— Bricks for Sale With Pictures of the Historic House.



FIREPLACE OF JOHN ADAMS' HOUSE.

72. William H. Rice. South and West Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photographic postcard for Quincy Historical Society, 1930s, Postcard File, negative number 49789-A. Courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.


Bed room in John and Abigail Adams Cottage
Wm. H. Rice, Photographer

73. Quincy Historical Society. West and North Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.8. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

74. Quincy Historical Society. East and South Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.3. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

75. Quincy Historical Society. North Wall of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1970, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 70.55.17. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

76. William Owens. West and North Walls of Southeast Chamber, John Quincy Adams Birthplace. Photograph, 1977, Adams Birthplaces Photographic File, catalogue number 80.42.5. Courtesy of Quincy Historical Society.

Adams Family Attributed Objects Related to the Adams Birthplaces

Key: AA – Abigail Adams CEP – Chinese Export Porcelain JQA – John Quincy Adams LCA – Louisa Catherine Adams
QA – Queen Anne

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Ceramics			
Bowl ADAM1014	Shallow CEP bowl w/ bouquet & gilding Old House, Dining Room	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 86
Bowl ADAM44	CEP bowl; red deco. on pink ground Old House, Paneled Room	Late 18th Century	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 67
Bowl, Fruit ADAM1216	Urn-shaped fruit bowl w/ pedestal Old House, Pan Closet	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 398
China, Set ADAM1219	CEP with willow pattern Old House, Middle Pantry	18th Century[1]	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 405
China, Set ADAM1369	CEP with red flowers Old House, Butler's Pantry	18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 460
Dish, Serving ADAM1215	Oval, footed, covered serving dish Old House, Pan Closet	1780	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 401

[1] This date is doubtful because the Willow pattern was introduced in England around 1780, but it was not used extensively until 1800. The willow pattern on Chinese export porcelain is derived from the English pattern and appeared later. [Savage, p. 315.]

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Pitcher, Covered ADAM1020	Covered CEP pitcher w/ bouquet & gilding Old House, Dining Room	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 86
Plate ADAM1012	Round CEP plate w/ bouquet & gilding Old House, Dining Room	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 86
Plate ADAM1024	Round CEP plate w/ floral design Old House, Middle Pantry	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 425
Plate, Dinner ADAM1011	Round plate with red floral deco. Old House, Butler's Pantry	18th Century	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 459
Plate, Soup ADAM1010	Round plate with red floral deco. Old House, Butler's Pantry	18th Century	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 459
Platter ADAM937	Large, blue transfer-printed platter Old House, Pan Closet "Wedgewood," "Grosvenor/ Etruria, England"	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 399
Platter ADAM1017	Oval platter with red floral deco. Old House, Butler's Pantry	18th Century	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 459
Sauceboat ADAM1021	CEP sauceboat w/ bouquet & gilding Old House, Dining Room	Late 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 86
Service, Tea ADAM1034	Porcelain tea service, ribbed, blue & white Old House, Pan Closet	Late 18th Century	Owned by Louisa Catherine Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 394

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Teapot ADAM1035	Apple-shaped teapot w/ face under spout Old House, Middle Pantry	1770-1775	Owned by Louisa Catherine Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 438
Furniture			
Candlestand ADAM172	Small round table with tripod base Old House, Study	1765-1790	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 4, ill. 192
Case, Traveling ADAM514	Rectangular case with domed top Old House, Memorial Room "IA"	18th Century	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 324
Chair, Easy Arm ADAM183	Upholst. easy chair, repro. show cover Old House, Study	18th Century	John Adams died or close to death in chair Traditional Attribution
Chair, Windsor ADAM520	Windsor side chair w/ red finish Old House, Memorial Room	18th Century	Owned by John Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ7
Chair, Windsor QHS.6488	Bowback Windsor chair Quincy Historical Society, On Exhibit	ca. 1780	Owned by John Adams ("favorite" chair) Catalogue Card .6488
Clock, Tallcase ADAM595	Tallcase clock w/ twisted columns Old House, Kitchen "Will [illeg.] Mason/ London"	1680	Owned by Abigail Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ1
Clock, Tallcase ADAM631	Tallcase clock w/ broken scrolled pediment Old House, Second Floor Landing "Benjn Willard/ Lexington"	1770-1785	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 244

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Cradle ADAM875	Hooded walnut, pine & maple cradle Old House, Southwest Bedroom	18th Century	John Adams & later descendents rocked in as children Harris, *HFR*, vol. 4, ill. 239
Desk ADAM8267	Tall, "stand-up" writing desk Stone Library	Late 18th Century	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 8, ill. 502
Dresser ADAM665	Square dresser w/ 5 shelves, 2 drawers Old House, Long Passageway	18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 294
Table ADAM30	Square table with claw and ball legs Old House, Paneled Room	1765-1780	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 58
Table ADAM343	Small square table with tripod base Old House, Paneled Room	ca. 1765	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 71
Table ADAM596	Rectangular, drop leaf table Old House, Kitchen	18th Century?	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ40
Table, Dressing Private Adams coll.	Queen Anne style w/ pad feet, simple front On loan, Old House, Memorial Room	18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Information from owner
Table, Writing	Walnut writing table Collection of Unknown Adams Descendent	18th Century?	Owned by Abigail Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ277
Table, Tavern QHS.6484	Pine tavern table Quincy Historical Society, Storage 3	1745	Owned by John Adams, Joseph & Hepzibah Faxon used at JQABP after 1806 Catalogue Card .6484

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Trunk ADAM1631	Leather-covered trunk, metal handles Old House, Brooks Adams' Childhood Room	18th Century?	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 4, ill. 234
Washstand ADAM256	Three-tiered washstand with tripod base Old House, Guest Room	1765-1790	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 256
<u>Glass</u>			
Bowl ADAM1095	Waterford glass bowl Old House, Butler's Pantry	ca. 1782	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 462
Bowl ADAM1085	Waterford glass bowl Old House, Butler's Pantry	ca. 1782	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 463
Cruets, Oil & Vin. ADAM1082, 1079	Glass cruets with twisted handles Old House, Middle Pantry	Late 18th Century	Owned by Louisa Catherine Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 432
Dish, Bon Bon ADAM1084	Waterford glass covered dish Old House, Middle Pantry	ca. 1782	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 418
Glasses, Wine ADAM1097	Stemmed, red wineglasses w/ grapevine Old House, Butler's Pantry	18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 461
<u>Metalwork</u>			
Candlesticks ADAM124	Brass? w/ round drip pan and large holder Old House, Study	18th Century?	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 4, ill. 191

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Mold, Bullet ADAM1445	Pincer-type mold for making round balls Old House, Museum Room	18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams[2] Harris, *HFR*, vol. 6, ill. 353
Oven, Reflector ADAM616	D-shaped tin reflector oven on tall legs Old House, Kitchen	ca. 1780 legs modified later	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 6, ill. 376
Pan, Warming ADAM1571	Round warming pan w/ recessed lid Old House, President's Bedroom "Abigail Adams, 23rd October, 1764"	1764	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 286
Plates, Warming ADAM627	Round pewter warming plates Old House, Kitchen	18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ37
Scissors, Grape ADAM198	Metal scissors w/ large D-shaped handles Old House, Study	18th Century?	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 4, ill. 191
Silverware ADAM8832	English and French silverware Old House, Butler's Pantry	1765-1817	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 7, ill. 470

[2] It is traditionally believed that Abigail Adams melted her own spoons and poured them into the bullet mold now in the collection of the Adams National Historical Park. Abigail Adams' correspondence does not specify her involvement in this activity and a recent communication to the Adams National Historical Park casts some doubt on the actual use of this particular mold:

> it appears to be a mould made for a much smaller caliber ball than that used in military smoothbore muskets -- perhaps for a fowler or a pistol. Militiamen were expected to provide their own ball, so it would seem that if Abigail cast any ball at all, it would be for the use of an immediate family member(?). However, militia troops often drew additional supplies of fixed cartridges or loose powder and balls from state stores (when on actual service). In this situation, however, the cartridges or cast ball were generally made by contractors or purchased by the state or made by state artificers (such as those in the Massachusetts Train of Artillery) and not by spouses of militiamen. [James L. Kochan to John Stanwich, 24 March 1993, Interpretation Files, Interpretation Office, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA.]

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Snuffer, Candle ADAM197	Brass? scissor-type snuffer Old House, Study	18th Century?	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 4, ill. 191
Spear, Eel ADAM604	Head of eel spear with seven tines Old House, Kitchen	18th Century?	Owned by Abigail Adams Information from staff members
Tankard ADAM506	Tankard with flat-topped lid by Noyes Old House, Memorial Room "S/WA" for William and Abigail Smith – AA's grandparents	1700-1710	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 329
<u>Small Items</u>			
Eyeglasses ADAM201	Eyeglasses w/ small lozenge frames Old House, Study	18th or Early 19th C.	Worn by John Adams Information from staff members
Hone, Razor QHS.2657	Rectangular black stone with 2 tan sides Quincy Historical Society, Storage 2	18th or 19th Century	Owned by John Quincy Adams Catalogue Card .2657
Iron, Curling? ADAM557	Scissor-type iron Old House, Memorial Room	18th Century?	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 319
Locket and Chain ADAM562	Hair painting of woman, ship, sea Old House, Memorial Room "Yield Whatever Is in the right"	1778	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 319
Watch ADAM559	Pocket watch and fob Old House, Memorial Room	18th Century?	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 319

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Textiles			
Cap, Infant ADAML1	Infant's linen cap Loan from Independence NHP	ca. 1767	Worn by John Quincy Adams Marianne Peak to Superintendent, Independence NHP, 1/31/97
Mat, Anatolian ADAM81	Mat with red field and pitcher designs Old House, Long Room	18th Century	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 3, ill. 165
Mat, Anatolian ADAM128	Mat with red field and yellow medallion Old House, Long Room	18th Century	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 3, ill. 167
Nightgown, Infant ADAML1	Infant's linen nightgown Loan from Independence NHP	ca. 1767	Worn by John Quincy Adams Marianne Peak to Superintendent, Independence NHP, 1/31/97
Petticoat QHS.6431	Pink, quilted, satin petticoat Quincy Historical Society, Storage 1	18th Century	Worn by Abigail Adams Catalogue Card .6431
Rug ADAM53	Red & green hearth rug, made Ghiordes Old House, Dining Room	18th Century	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 101
Rug ADAM335	Red field with eight-pointed stars Old House, Guest Room	ca. 1765	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 258
Rug ADAM336	Red ground, geom. design, made Ghiordes Old House, Guest Room	Late 18th Century	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 269

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Shawl QHS.7142	Heavy, red wool shawl with red braid trim Quincy Historical Society, Storage 1	18th Century?	Part of riding cloak worn by John Adams Catalogue Card .7142
Socks, Infant ADAML1	Infant's linen socks Loan from Independence NHP	ca. 1767	Worn by John Quincy Adams Marianne Peak to Superintendent, Independence NHP, 1/31/97
Vest QHS.6430	Ivory vest with brocade decoration Quincy Historical Society, Storage 1	ca. 1764	Worn by John Adams at wedding, made by mother Catalogue Card .6430
<u>Wall Items</u>			
Engraving ADAM8319	Port. of Abigail Fowl (Rev. Smith's mother) Old House, 2nd Floor, Long Hall	Early 18th Century	Owned by Abigail Adams Information from staff member
Mirror ADAM636	Walnut & gilt wall mirror with shell Old House, 1731 Third Floor Stairway	1725-1760	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 5, ill. 243
Mirror ADAM600	Rectangular reverse-painted mirror Old House, Kitchen	ca. 1780	Owned by Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 6, ill. 377

Object/Catalogue #	Description/Location/Inscription	Date	Attribution/Reference
Portrait	Pastel of John Adams by Benjamin Blyth Massachusetts Historical Society	1766	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ4
Portrait	Pastel of Abigail Adams by Benjamin Blyth Massachusetts Historical Society	1766	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Catalogue Card ADAMQ4
Portrait ADAM76	Port. of John Adams by Wm. Williams Old House, Dining Room	1798	Purchased by Henry Adams for Old House Information from staff member
Portrait ADAM440	Port. of JQA, by Isaak Schmidt Unknown (Copy in Old House, Dressing Room)	1783	JQA brought back from Europe Information from staff member
Portrait ADAM69	Port. of Edward Boylston by Robert Harris Old House, Dining Room	1723-1724	Owned by John Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 90
Portrait ADAM18308	Port. of LCA by Edward Savage Old House, Long Hall	ca. 1794	Owned by Louisa Catherine Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 2, ill. 120
Portrait	Port. of Gen. Joseph by J.S. Copley Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	1772-1774	Owned by John and Abigail Adams Harris, *HFR*, vol. 3, p. 334
Prints ADAM 401-402	Color Prints of Silesia Old House, President's Bedroom	ca. 1800	Owned by JQA & LCA Catalogue Card ADAMQ234

List of Repositories Consulted and Results

- Adams National Historical Park, 135 Adams Street, Quincy, MA, 02169

The Adams National Historical Park has a complete microfilm copy of the Adams papers plus the full set of Massachusetts Historical Society letterpress editions to date. These resources are augmented by a typed index card file of quotations transcribed from these sources. There are also many secondary sources on the four generations of the Adams interpreted by the Site.

Information on the birthplaces is located in files in the curatorial, interpretive, and maintenance divisions. The curatorial office maintains a newspaper clippings file. A limited amount of information is available in the object files for the birthplaces. Few object files exist for the Old House.

The Site has a limited collection of images of the birthplaces most significant of which are the original oil painting by Godfrey N. Frankenstein and a circa 1840s-1850s daguerreotype by John Adams Whipple. There is also a binder of restoration photographs for the John Adams birthplace and restoration slides of the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

The finds from the early 1980s archeological excavations are preserved at the Site. A majority of these finds date to the nineteenth century and best illuminate the tenants' use of ceramic and glass wares.

In addition, several of the original Adams-related objects from which current birthplace objects were reproduced are displayed or stored in the Old House.

- Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston, MA, 02117

The Boston Public Library photographs department has information related to the Adams birthplaces in three of its collections. The Massachusetts Views collection contains exterior, but no interior views. Its collection of postcards yielded one interior, 1930s view of the John Adams birthplace, probably of the southeast room. The Presidential Biographies collection contains portraits of John and John Quincy Adams, pictures of their memorial stones and crypt, and a small number of exterior views of the birthplaces.

- Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA, 02125

The Massachusetts Archives has on microfilm administrative papers, wills, and inventories of the owners and occupants of the birthplaces whose death dates precede 1792 (when the birthplaces were in Suffolk County).

- Norfolk County Courthouse, 649 High Street, Dedham, MA, 02026

The Norfolk County Probate Court has the original administrative papers, wills, and inventories of the owners and occupants of the birthplaces whose death dates post-date 1792 (when the birthplaces were transferred to the new Norfolk County). Information is available concerning most, but not all former owners and occupants.

In some cases, there was so little information available about an individual that a positive match was impossible. Therefore, the probate record was not used in this study.

The Norfolk County Land Court has deed books for Quincy deeds post-dating 1792.

- Phineas Upham House, 255 Upham Street, Melrose, MA, 02176

The Phineas Upham House, the former headquarters of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Daughters of Revolution, displays some of the objects once exhibited in the John Adams birthplace. Of particular interest are the 1895 certificate of membership of Lillian B. Titus, the founder of the Adams Chapter, and a Wedgewood souvenir plate depicting the Adams birthplaces.

The house is currently managed by the Upham Family Society. There are no records indicating the provenances of the contents of the Upham House, so most objects from the Adams Chapter were identified on sight through comparison with 1930s postcards of the John Adams birthplace.

- Quincy Historical Society, 8 Adams Street, Quincy, MA, 02169

The Quincy Historical Society Library boasts the largest collection of materials related to the Adams birthplaces. There are extensive photographic and slide files depicting the houses' interiors and exteriors, although largely undated. It has the earliest Suffolk County land deeds in a printed and bound format. Its archives include pamphlets, brochures, newspaper and magazine articles, and interpretive materials. The Library has a copy of the 1778 Braintree tax list. On permanent loan from the Randolph Ladies Library Association is a 1660 deed from William Ellis to Gregory Belcher.

In the director's office there are administrative files on the Adams birthplaces which contain house committee reports, correspondence, inventories, and appraisals. Each object has an object card and there are a few object files related to the highest profile items such as John Adams' wedding vest. There is also a portion of the early Society records including minutes of meetings, treasurers' reports, a scrapbook of clippings and correspondence, and a check register.

- Tax Assessor's Office, Quincy City Hall, Quincy, MA, 02169

The Quincy Tax Assessor's Office has the original town tax books from 1792 to 1826. Tax records from 1827 to the 1890s are not extant.

- Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Harrison Gray Otis House, 141 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA, 02114

The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities has a large collection of interior photographs of the Adams birthplaces located in mounted, unmounted, and postcard files. There are also microfilmed newspaper articles

pertaining to the houses filed under the City of Quincy. In addition, the S.P.N.E.A. institutional archives contains correspondence conducted by founder William Sumner Appleton regarding the birthplaces.

- Suffolk County Courthouse, 1 Timberton Square, Boston, MA, 02108

The Suffolk County Courthouse contains the land deed books for transactions taking place in Old Braintree prior to 1792. Prior to 1792 Quincy was the North Precinct of Old Braintree which was then located in Suffolk County. Two significant land deeds related to the John Quincy Adams birthplace were not found in this location including the original 1639 land grant to Gregory Belcher and the 1744 deed from John and Richard Billings to Deacon John Adams. Nor was the original 1639/40 land grant to William Needham located for the John Adams birthplace.

- Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA, 02169

The Thomas Crane Public library has a small number of secondary sources on the history of Quincy, the *Quincy Patriot Ledger* on microfilm with an accompanying file card subject index, and a vertical file of pamphlets and articles related to the birthplaces.

- United First Parish Church, 1306 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA, 02169

The United First Parish Church has a card file index of original marriage, birth, and church membership records. Also indexed are two volumes of *Records of the North Precinct in Braintree in New England from 1709 to 1791*. The original volumes are located in a bank vault. These volumes were consulted to verify the information on the index cards and to retrieve pertinent original quotations.

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Appendices

APPENDIX A: PRIMARY DOCUMENT RELATED TO EARLY FURNISHINGS OF JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

1. Adams, Deacon John. Inventory, 1761, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #306, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA.

APPENDIX B: DAUGHTERS OF REVOLUTION RESTORATION OF JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

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APPENDIX C: JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE INTERPRETATION AND FURNISHINGS LISTS

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APPENDIX D: ARCHITECTURE AND FLOOR PLANS OF JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

1. Hart, David M. John Adams birthplace cellar, first floor, and second floor plans, 1975, figs. 73-75 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

2. Hochuli, Laura and Keith S. Andrucci. John Adams birthplace first floor, second floor, and attic floor plans, 1979, figs.82, 84 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

APPENDIX E: JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES FORMS

1. Shedd, Charles E. Jr. National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings Form: Adams Birthplaces. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1960.

2. Snell, Charles W. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: John Adams Birthplace. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1971.

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APPENDIX F: PRIMARY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO EARLY FURNISHINGS OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

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APPENDIX G: JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS MISCELLANY

1. Lambard, Luke. Receipt to John Adams, 1767, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #343, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA.

2. Marsh, Rachel. Receipt to Abigail Adams, 1765, Adams Papers Microfilm, Reel #343, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA.

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APPENDIX H: JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE INTERPRETATION AND FURNISHING LISTS (also see C-8 above)

1. Sprague, Waldo Chamberlain. "Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace." Unpublished inventory, 1956, Birthplaces Information File, Director's Office, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, MA.

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5. "Notes for the Hostess of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace." Unpublished paper, ca. 1969[?], appendix D-15 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

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APPENDIX I: ARCHITECTURE AND FLOOR PLANS OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

1. Hart, David M. John Quincy Adams birthplace cellar, first floor, and second floor plans, 1975, figs. 77-79 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

2. Dietsch, Deborah K. and Peter G. Darlow. John Quincy Adams birthplace first floor, and second floor plans, 1979, fig. 85 in Perrault, *Historic Structure Report: Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, vol. 1, DRAFT.

APPENDIX J: JOHN QUINCY ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES FORMS (also see E-1 above)

1. Snell, Charles W. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: John Quincy Adams Birthplace. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1971.

2. Rettig, Polly M. National Historic Landmarks Inventory Nomination Form: John Quincy Adams Birthplace [on National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form]. National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, 1975. [National Historic Landmark status and boundary certified 3 April 1978].

APPENDIX K: PRELIMINARY IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING INFORMATION FOR THE BIRTHPLACES OF PRESIDENTS JOHN AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

1. Racine, Laurel A. "Options for Use and Potential Themes: The Birthplaces of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams." National Park Service report, 1999, Northeast Museum Services Center, National Park Service, Charlestown, MA.

2. Results of Preliminary Research into Probate Inventories of Harvard Graduates.

A true Inventory of the Estate whereof
John Adams late of Braintree Gent. died
died seized and Appraised according to the
best skill and Judgment of Elisha Savil Joseph
Field and Elijah Belcher viz.

An House Out Houses and 35 Acres Land belonging to it		366	13 4
An House & Barn 16 Acres Land		186	13 4
An House 92 Acres land		140	0 0
7 Acres Salt Marsh		56	0 0
8 Acres fresh Meadow		20	0 0
12 Acres Upland		80	0 0
22 Acres Woodland		73	6 0
2 Acres Cedar Swamp		5	7 0
A Pew in ye North Precinct Meeting House		6	13 4
An Horse 1: 6/ 6 Cows £17		18	6
1 Yoke of Oxen		12	
3 Steers		8	16
5 Sheep		1	7
3 Hogs		1	12
1 Cart Wheels & Wheel Timber		1	12
3 Chains 1 Plow & Horse Gears		1	6 0
1 Hoes 3 Rakes 5 Forks 2 Iron Bars		1	17 0
2 Axes a Beetle & Wedges		0	12 0
A Chest with Draws		0	10 0
An Oval Table			

...ying to ct	1 366.13 4
An House & Barn 10 Acres Land	186.13 4
An House 92 Acres land	120.0.0
7 Acres Salt Marsh	56.0.0
8 Acres fresh Meadow	20.0.0
12 Acres Upland	80.0.0
22 Acres Woodland	73.6.0
2 Acres Cedar Swamp	5.7.0
A Pew in ye North Precinct Meeting House	6.13.4
An Horse 1: & 6 Cows £17	18.6
1 Yoke of Oxen	12
3 Steers	8.16
5 Sheep	1.7
3 Hogs	4.12
1 Cart Wheels & Wheel Timber	1.12
3 Chains 1 Plow & Horse Gears	1.6.0
4 Hoes 3 Rakes 5 Forks 2 Iron Bars	1.17.0
2 Axes a Beetle & Wedges	0.12.0
A Chest with Draws	0.10.0
An Oval Table	0.16.0
A small round Table	1.4.0
A small Desk	0.10.0
eight Chairs	0.16.0
A looking Glass	1.8.0

Silver Spoon 2 small Ditto		0	16 0
A Chest of Draws		2	13 0
1 Oval Table		0	12 0
A Looking Glass		0	10 0
6 Chairs		0	12 0
A Bed Bedstead & Beding		5	0 0
3 Beds		9	0 0
8 Blankets 1 Quilt		2	5 0
2 Beadsteads 2 Cords		0	14 0
A Suit of Curtains		2	8 0
Wearing Apparel		7	9 0
30 Yard Homespun Cloth		6	0 0
9 Sheets 3 table Cloths 3 Towels 4 Pillow Cases		2	15 0
38 Lb Sheeps Wool		1	18 0
A Clock		2	0 0
3 Tables		0	12 0
9 Chairs		0	9 0
a small Glass			1
2 warming Pans			10
Sundry Books & Pamphlets		2	10
an Hone & Razor		0	5 0
A Gun sword & Amunition		0	4 0
An Iron Box and heaters		0	5 0
2 Pair Tongs 1 Shovel 1 Hair and			

8 Blankets 1 Quilt		2.	5. 0
2 Bedsteads 2 Cords		0.	14. 0
A Suit of Curtains		2.	8. 0
Wearing Apparel		7.	9. 0
30 Yard. Homespun Cloth		6.	0. 0
9 Sheets 3 table Cloths 3 Towels 4 Pillow Cases		2.	15. 0
38 Lb. Sheeps Wool		1.	18. 0
A Clock		2.	0. 0
3 Tables		0.	12. 0
9 Chairs		0.	9. 0
a small Glass			1
2 warming Pans			10
Sundry Books & Pamphlets		2.	10
an Hone & Razor		0.	5. 0
A Gun sword & Ammunition		0.	4. 0
An Iron Box and 6 heaters		0.	5. 0
2 Pair Tongs 1 Shovel 1 Pair andirons		0.	16. 0
2 Trammels		0.	12. 0
1 Iron Kettle, 1 Skillet 2 Pots			12
1 Hatchil 2 Wheels			13

Brass Kettle ... wanted

A Tea Kettle — — — — — — — — — — — — 13 —

A Frying Pan Iron pan & Spitt — — — — 10 —

10 pewter Dishes 19 plates 3 Basons 1 Can 2: 6: 0

a pr. Steelyards — — — — — — — — — 10 —

Carpenters & Shoemakers tools — — — — 11 —

7 Cyder Casks sundry dry Casks & tubs — 2: 5 —

an old Bed & Beding — — — — — — 1: 6 —

Elisha Savil. Joseph Field, Elijah Belcher

Suffolk ss — John Adams one of the Executors presented the aforewritten & made Oath that it contains a true & perfect Inventory of the Estate of John Adams dec.d so far as has come to his hands & knowledge & that if more appears hereafter he will cause it to be added —

The Subscribing Appraisers were sworn as the Law directs —

Boston Oct.r 9. 1761 — — T. Hutchinson

A True Copy Exam.d per Wm. Cooper Reg.r

Appendix B-1

THE RESTORATION OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF JOHN ADAMS

Ladies of the Adams Chapter and Friends.

We have just closed another year of our Chapter work and as we stand today upon the threshold of a new year of patriotic work in Quincy, it seems to me it will be both pleasant & profitable to glance back over the 3 years of our Chapter work upon what we have done, and to look forward to our plans & responsibilities for the future. At out last meeting, I found some of our new members are not familiar with the story of the restoration of this old house which we so greatly enjoy so that I may be well to recall briefly a few facts in reference to it.

You will all recall that the Adams Chapter of Quincy of the Society of the Daughters of the Revolution came into existence through a conversation between Miss Prescott and your Regent in the Fall of 1895 and finally the Chapter was organized at a meeting held at the residence of Miss Prescott [?] on Jan. 27, 1896.

At that meeting I stated to the members that I had applied to the Hon. C.F. Adams for permission to use this famous old house for our Chapter meetings. For years these two historic houses had fallen into comparative disuse, and were occupied by tenants who cared nothing for their great historic value.

Mr. Adams very courteously listened to my proposition and after many interviews it was decided finally that if I would sign the lease and be personally responsible for the house that the Chapter should have the use of it and permission was given to me to restore the house to the simple country farm house of John Adams boyhood days.

On Oct. 19, 1896 the Adams Chapter took formal possession of the house Mr. Adams having dismissed the tenant so that we should have complete occupancy of the property. This liberality on the part of the Adams family was much appreciated by the Adams Chapter. At this meeting on Oct. 19th, 1896 the Chapter held a Reception for which the house was beautifully decorated inside and out in honor of the birthday of the President and a large attendance of the Adams' family and friends of the Chapter made it a very memorable occasion.

There was present on that day, the venerable Isaac Hull Adams the grandson of the President who told the Chapter that he was born in the same room that the President was born on the day of Hull's victory, hence his name. Miss Elizabeth Adams the Grand-daughter of the President was also present upon the occasion. These aged people are still living in Quincy and from them much historical and accurate information about the house has been obtained.

The next meeting was held on Dec. 7 of that year, but the house being empty was very cold. We also found the floors very very unsafe, and were dangerous for any large gatherings. No room was even large enough to accommodate the members of the Chapter & their friends [this room being divided by a partition] and it became at once a serious question, of how we should place

it in such a condition that it could be used with comfort and pleasure by t[h]
Chapter. All through that winter the condition of the house caused yo
Regent many anxious hours as it was unoccupied, and the danger from fire an[d]
malicious boys was great, and knowing that if destroyed by fire no insurance
could ever replace it, it was a matter of grave anxiety that the restoration
should take place as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Quincy Historical Society had obtained possession of the
"white house", the Birthplace of John Quincy Adams, and through the
liberality of Hon. C.F. Adams it had been restored at the expense of 1650
dollars, and placed in the care of the Quincy Historical Society, so that it
became a matter of pride with the Adams Chapter to restore their house as
well. During the winter the meetings of the Chapter were held at the houses
of members. The latter part of May, your Regent had various carpenters,
masons plasterers and builders meet her at various times at the house and
estimates were prepared of the probable cost of placing the old house in
perfect repair but as no one could say definitely how much or how little work
was to be done, as the repairing of an old house is always a critical
undertaking. I finally ventured to state at the meeting of the Adams Chapter
in June 7, 1897 that if I was authorized to spend the sum of $500 dollars
that the work could be done for that sum, if I could personally superintend
it.

After considerable discussion the Chapter voted to restore the house when
your Regent started upon her selfimposed task she little realized the
magnitude of it, if she had, I venture to say it might not have been
undertaken.

On Aug. 12, 1897 she began the work, leaving her summer home at Squantum [6]
miles away at 6 A.M. reaching the house here at 7 A.M., when the workmen
arrived and the work began, and so on during some 60 long summer days, she
never failed to be at the house, going in to Boston on the 12 o'clock train
when the men left at dinner & coming out on the 1 o'clock train as there was
no place near where a lunch could be obtained, and only leaving again at 5
P.M., when the men finished & the house was locked up for the night. Even
then it often happened when the house was in an unusually dangerous condition
she would drive back again from Squantum in the evening to be sure all was
safe.

Having only comparatively small sum of money to spend on the house it became
a matter of pride to make 1.00 do the work of two, & it was only possible to
do this by superintending every detail personally. No one can appreciate
unless they have undertaken a similar work, the hard labor actually involved
in the undertaking. Every hand made lathe had a value, and was carefully put
aside. All the old hand wrought nails made so long ago, were carefully
picked out one by one. Every single brick taken out of the old fireplaces
was handled by the writer, in search of some date, that might determine the
date of the erection of this house. When I tell you that there were 20
cartloads of these bricks, you can imagine the task was neither pleasant or
easy, especially as it was done in a cloud of lime dust that was very
disagreeable. If you chance to visit the cellar you will see our store
closet piled full to the ceiling with choice pieces of oak and other thing-

from the house, which it is expected will be made later into souvenirs to be sold for the maintenance of the house to visitors, who come from distant points & always desire a souvenir of this venerable house.

We began our work in the fireplaces. No one knew just what to do. They were all bricked up - and a sheet of iron with a hole for the modern stove funnel, all we could see. Layer after layer of brick was taken out, and three oak sticks from overhead taken out one after another.

The chimney place, from being at first 3 ft. across, gradually widened to 4, 5, and 6 ft. and still we were not satisfied. The mason wished to stop, declaring if we went on we should have the whole chimney stack tumbling about our heads, but still I determined to go on.

We were then standing in an opening about 6 ft. wide and 6 ft. high, but I felt sure there was room behind, so gave the order to go ahead. With one blow the mason thrust his iron bar into the center of the mass of brick & stone over our heads, which gave way, and in a cloud of smoke & ashes, we jumped back and the mass fell! To show us the great throat of the big chimney open clear to the sky, large enough for two men to easily pass up & down. There, too, on either side are the ovens, and over head we found the oaken cross-stick from which was hung the kettle of long ago, and which has been replaced as you see it in the fire place of today. While we were gazing upward lost in contemplation of the fine old chimney - Bang! fell some object and struck my poor mason squarely on the head! Picking it up - we found it was the remains of a pig's head which had been hung up to smoke in the chimney years ago - and had been forgotten.

The chimneys in this house are its most interesting feature and a few words about them will be of interest. The house was originally but two rooms wide the front door dividing the house one room on each side - the stairway going up to the two rooms over head, which were not commonly used. The East Room or living room, where we now are, was the room commonly used by the family. In this fire place we find no trace of a crane.

The evolution of the chimney and fireplace is most interesting as shown in this house. As we all know our first ancestors cooked in the ashes on the hearth, they also had iron kettles with short legs that they stood over the coals.

The next step was the oak stick which was placed in the chimney from which was hung the great iron kettle by a long chain or iron pot hook.

he next evolution we see in the Adams House is the "lean-to" or "leanter" as was commonly called which was built about 1770. A new chimney was then d, which was built up against the sides of the first one with a ating flue, making it all one great chimney stack in the center of the us.

this fireplace we found on the left hand side the irons for a crane, at, in time was abandoned we find on the right hand side of the k a part of it has been cut away, and a brick oven with an iron

door inserted. The crane was probably then abandoned as too ancient for w found no trace of one in the house - the one you see in the fire place havin been obtained from another ancient residence.

The fourth and last evolution of the chimney is shown in the ell of the house built in 1830, which has a chimney of brick suspended in mid-air from the roof by the wooden platform on which it is built. Why this curious construction I have not been able to ascertain unless bricks were scarce and therefore expensive. Thus we see the four evolutions of the chimney as shown here in the Adams House which I have carefully preserved. The oak-stick, the crane, the brick-oven, and the suspended chimney - What a change from our cooking of today!

The construction of the house too, was most interesting. We found on taking down what we supposed was a partition for closet in this room, in order to make a large assembly room for the Chapter, that we were in reality taking down what was once the exterior wall of the house, and on taking off the wall-paper - we found underneath the old red clapboards which proved beyond a doubt that the house was formerly painted red, as stated by Miss Elizabeth Adams the Grand-daughter of President Adams - which some disputed.

The house is very strongly built with an inner & outer wall, filled in solid with brick laid in clay. A doorway which was found bricked up - in the front Hall, on being opened disclosed the fine flight of stone steps leading to a large cellar unused for many years. On exploring the small closets under the eaves, several treasures were disclosed. In one was found one of the original wooden shutters, which was found to fit the window in this room ; that it was possible to have others made like it for the other windows. In one of the closets under the eaves we found a boy's book bearing the date "1819" "Trumbull's Indian Wars" - and in imagination we see a little boy on on a rainy afternoon hiding away in the attic to peruse the exciting story. An interesting relic of the past was the finding the sun-dial mark on the sill of the south window in the long room. Here the inmates of the house used to watch, when at 11 o'clock the Plymouth stage passed down the road.

In the door leading to the west room, high up you will see a "peep-hole" which commands a view of anyone standing in the front door. In those days, it was customary for some of the women folks to open the door, and if an enemy, the persons inside could get out the back door unmolested. But the most interesting relic of the past, was the finding of the old brick. When the old sill of the house was removed, we found in the S.E. corner directly under the sill, a brick with the date "1681" widely scratched upon it. The workman who found it made an affidavit stating he found it and that the date was "1687" - that affidavit is framed and hangs over the fire place, but since then closer examination & photography give it more clearly as 1681, and that has been accepted as the date of the erection of the house. The brick is now placed over the fire place in the living room.

Upstairs the construction of the house with the great beams the very wide planks - some being 2 ft. wide. The curious old hinges & the fire place in the west room must be seen to be appreciated. On taking off layer after layer of the old wallpaper the final color of the walls were disclosed. Th

were found to be covered with a wash of the regular [?] Continental buff - so that the walls are now papered to preserve the same effect.

No effort has been made by the Adams Chapter to beautify or change the house. We have aimed mainly to keep it the simple country farm house of John Adams boyhood days. Here he was born. Here he lived the simple country boy's life. We know nothing of the mother of John Adams. There's the pity, but I like to feel that her spirit lingers in the old red house and the work we are doing will merit her approval.

We do not know, we cannot tell,
Who built this house and built it well.
Its ancient rafters, sturdy frame,
Do not the maker's name proclaim.

In fancy we can look around
To view the still remembered farm.
And fields, where in his childish plays
The young John Adams passed his days.

Within your quiet ingle nook
Busy with spindle wheel or book,
We may again in fancy see
The tiny infant on her knee,

And the young mother glance askance
Upon the town road just within
While hastily the shutters close
To keep our view of passing foes.

Little that patient mother dreams
That to her baby son should come
The highest office in the land,
That he should wear the nation's crown.

We know not of her daily life
Its patient toil, its sound of care
But this I know that all good men
We this testimony bear.

That to the gentle mother love
That guides and guards & trains the boy
One praise and homage shall be given.
His triumph is her highest joy.

To ever honor noble men
Wher'eve a nation's flag's unfurled,
And some do claim it is the hand
That rocks the cradle, rules the world.

letion of the house inside the old style 24 light windows were

put in, the house painted red as of old, the lawn graded, and the Rege contributed the old fashioned post & rail fence with the turn-stiles as yo see it today.

Then on Oct. 19, 1897 the house was formally opened and the crane hung in the long silent fireplace while a goodly company made merry with speech and song. Those of you who were present remember (insert?) the four young ladies dressed in white carried the crane, trimmed with laurel through the rooms, singing "Old Lang Syne" and then the crane was hung in the fireplace and the fire lighted once more upon the hearth. While Miss Gould read the poem of the "Hanging of the Crane."

Since then a caretaker for the house has been secured and although during the present winter the house will be closed for a few months it is cared for intelligently and well.

This in brief is the story of the Restoration of the Birthplace of John Adams. We who live right here in Quincy, I often fear do not properly appreciate this venerable old house and how much it means to the members, not alone of our patriotic societies, but to many persons all over the country who come many miles to look upon it. I consider that a sacred duty is imposed upon the Adams Chapter having undertaken the work to care for this house intelligently and well, and this brings me to the thought which I wish to give you today and for which I ask your most serious consideration, who will care for this old house after we have passed on? I wish we might have a junior auxiliary among the children in Quincy. There are many young patriot growing up here in Quincy, who should care for this old house when the ti shall come, and I ask you all to give this matter serious consideration.

Surely our patriotic societies have not lived in vain, when by their efforts so many men and women, have become interested to preserve and hand down to posterity these land-marks of the past, and the Adams Chapters of the Quincy of the Society of the Daughters of the Revolution will pass down in history, as having restored the Birthplace of the one, whose name with that of his honored wife is written in letters of gold upon the pages of the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, her honored son -

- John Adams -

Written for the Adams Chapter D.R.

Lillie B. Titus. (Mrs. Nelson V. Titus)
Regent.

Easter Monday
- April 3, 1899 -

Transcribed and typed by Carole L. Perrault. The accuracy of the transcription was hindered by the xerox copy which was not legible in some places.

The original is in the Collections of the Quincy Historical Society.

Appendix B-2

Letter from William Sumner Appleton to Mrs. Nelson V. Titus, 29 September [191]3. (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities Archives, Boston, MA)

"On the occasion of the reception given by the Quincy Historical Society [tenants of the John Quincy Adams birthplace] to its invited guests, it was my privilege to inspect the house which your Chapter has the honor of occupying [the John Adams birthplace], and made the most of the opportunity to examine the building quite closely. As it is my business to follow such work of restoration and preservation as your Chapter has accomplished, perhaps you will pardon me if I venture to give your Chapter some suggestions with regard to the treatment of the house.

In the first place, it seems to me that every Chapter and Society occupying such a house is in a position of a trustee. The trust which it has assumed is that of a memorial, interesting either as one of the town's oldest houses, as one of the finest pieces of architecture, or the scene of an historic event of great importance.

In the case of your house, all three motives for preservation are blended together, and it was doubtless owing to the desire of the public to make such a memorial that you received help from the people of Quincy and elsewhere towards acquiring, restoring and preserving the house. Right here let me congratulate you and your Chapter on the success you have achieved in the work undertaken."

There is much to be highly praised, and if I skip that and venture to make a few criticisms I feel certain you will understand that my motive is of the best and does not spring from any lack of appreciation of what you have done.

The principal things I want to write about are the wallpapers and paint. It was Mr. Joseph Everett Chandler, the well known architect and restorer of the Dames' Dorothy Q House, the House of Seven Gables, the Old Bakery, the Rebecca Nourse house, and other buildings, who told me that the wall papers are the making or marring of a house. And it seems to me that the greatest mistake that has been made in your house as it now stands is in the choice of the wall papers on the ground floor, especially in the room to the left of the entrance door [southwest room or parlor]. My own opinion is that that room would have looked better without any wall paper of any kind, and that the whole house should be without wall papers, but if paper is to be put on it should be of a kind appropriate to the house. Of course, the room to the right of the front door [southeast room, original kitchen, 'Deacon John's Room'] is wholly ruined by the

paper now on its walls, and that was the comment I heard freely expressed by many of those having the privilege of visiting the house.

As to paint. The beauty of such a house as your[s] consists in its appearance of age, and a coat of paint which is time-stained, which is a wholly different thing from looking dirty, is something to be very highly valued and carefully preserved.

The room to the left of the entrance has, if I am not mistaken, been freshly painted, and might to all intents and purposes be in a modern apartment house. If I may venture the advice I should say it would be much better not to repaint the interior of any part of the house, for a house of the date of its creation had hardly any paint at all, and even at the time of the birth of the president must have been a country farm house of the rudest simplicity. Accordingly, time-stained walls and much worn floors are thoroughly in keeping with the memorial you are maintaining, and should some of your Chapter members consider that these conflict with their convenience in using the house as a Chapter home, it seems to me they should sacrifice their own convenience or convictions for the sake of the important trust they have assumed in the care of the house as a memorial of the president's birth.

As to the color of the red on the outside of the house, so far as my experience goes, it is not as near the old Indian red as the red on the other Adams house, having a shade too much blue in its composition. Should you in the course of years have to repaint the outside of the house I would advise that the color be made to match that of the other house, or such samples of Indian red as are found in the oldest architecture – such as architectural fragments in museums and elsewhere.

The room immediately to the right of the front door has great possibilities and can easily be made of surpassing interest a good example of what it could be made to look like is the east room on the ground floor of the Cooper-Austin House in Cambridge. It would doubtless be accurate to remove every scrap of paint from the woodwork in that room, with the possible exception of the floor. It would also be an improvement to remove the paint from all of the frame work – especially the summer beam, which is a very good one.

The room would also be much improved by the removal of the ceiling, exposing the floor joists on which the boards of the floor above rest, the underside of which forms the ceiling of this lower room. It should be possible to do this in such a way as to leave the floor sufficiently solid to prevent dust and dirt from sifting down through the cracks between the boards into the room

below. On top of the ceiling there would very probably be found a great deal of sand, formerly used for sanding the floor of the upper room, which sifted down through to the top of the ceiling. It would be a good plan to collect a quantity of this sand in a glass jar as a curiosity.

These are the only suggestions that occur to me and should you deem them as sufficient interest to impart to the Chapter please make it apparent that I offer them in a friendly spirit, not only with the best interests of the Chapter and its work at heart, but also with the sincerest of thanks for the privilege of having been allowed to inspect a building of such extreme interest.

Letter from Lillian B. Titus to William Sumner Appleton, 1 October 1913.
(Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities Archives, Boston, MA)

I hasten to answer your interesting letter of September 29th and am always glad of friendly criticism, because one person cannot 'know it all' and it is only by exchanging information that one can acquire knowledge [illeg.] especially regarding the old specimens of Colonial architecture in which we are both interested.

Regarding the Birthplace of John Adams let me say that when we first acquired a lease of it from the Adams family the Chapter had but $500 to spend on repairs.

Later the Adams family spent a considerable amount more to make the house habitable and useful to the Chapter as a place of meeting. The work was all done under my supervision. Personally, I would have liked to tear down the plastered ceilings [illeg.] the floor above as was done in the adjoining house, but my experience with the other old houses has been that it makes a house that is used much – very[?] unclean as the dirt is continually falling – as one walks upon the floor above the dust will fall. In the J.Q Adams house they had to nail laths over the cracks in the flooring for this reason[?]as perhaps you noticed. Then, too, with an unplastered ceiling the heat rises and at best we[?] find it infeasible to heat the room on the right of the front door of the Adams House [southeast room, old kitchen, 'Deacon John's Room'], so the ladies had[?] to practically abandon the house during the winter months and hold their meetings elsewhere.

It is a hard question always to decide what is best to do. Then two years ago an excellent caretaker Mrs. Smith who has been with us twelve years, most[?] unfortunately was taken ill with Scarlet fever. The Board of Health not only obliged us to fumigate the house but required us to paper and paint the room next to her bed-room on the first floor [the room painted and papered was the southwest room or parlor; the caretaker's bedroom was presumably the northwest room].

That is why the new paper [and] paint are on the room to the left as you enter. That paper is a reproduction of an old wall paper on a house at Mt. Vernon and is of the period of the Revolution.

It might have been feasible that the Adams family had money enough at that period to have indulged in wall papers, which were then common. Who can say? And just[?] here let me say in reply to your friendly criticism, that are you not overlooking that fact that both the Adams Houses and the old Howland House are not of the period of 1667 to 1750 but rather of the

Revolutionary period? And must be [illeg.] as such? The Adams Houses like the Howland House were originally only two rooms on the first floor with a small shed in the rear for the kitchen.

It would seem the 'leanto' became the fashion about 1750 and was found to be a satisfactory way to enlarge these old farm houses. It seems, [illeg.], therefore, that to try to make all conform to the 1667 period would be as bad or worse than to keep the house to the period when the 'leanto' was built. I am, however, open to criticism on this point and if you think I am wrong, I shall be glad to be advised. [space] But to return to the old Adams House – I put on the yellow cartridge[?] paper in the East room [southeast room] because I found in taking off the old wall paper that the original wall had a yellow whitewash which however[?] was badly crumbling. Lacking money to replaster the walls – that seemed the best thing to do. The entire east side of that room was taken out during the work of restoration & it is all <u>new</u> – the sills and uprights were wholly gone. In taking out the old sill I found the old brick with the date 1681 on it under the S.E. corner of the house.

Now as to the color of the wood[?] on the outside of the house. It was, to my way of thinking all right when it was put on <u>fifteen</u> years ago, but is not so[?] now.

The fault lies in the <u>paint</u>.

[illeg.] perhaps I know what the <u>real</u> Indian Red is. [illeg. text added here above this line] for years I have made a study of our Indian history. Perhaps it has [illeg.] before been brought to your attention that for may years I owned what was commonly known as the 'only located[?] Indian Burying Ground in Massachusetts" where we have dug up hundreds of Indians who were buried here during the great plague which devastated the tribe here about 1615. We find these Indians buried usually about 4 feet beneath the surface of the ground in a sandy gravel bank, covered in bushels of red ochre, 'the Indian's paint.' They are always on the hillside facing the rising sun.

There, in excavating, the men see on the face of the bank, a streak[?] of red ochre they know at once they have found an Indian's grave. As this hill has now been almost[?] wholly dug away to [three words illeg.] I, [illeg.] years ago gathered a box of the red ochre.

It is not the brick red, that color that you saw at the J.Q. Adams house but is a [illeg.] color, which however I suppose would fade with time & the elements to about that same shade To get this shade of red is difficult. The painters who 'knew it all' put in either too much blue or

black. I feel sure this is the color that our ancestors[?] used to paint their houses but it is hard to get the color unless one took a good deal of trouble to get the paint manufacturer to make it just right. [space] You say you would advise removing all the paint in the lower floor of the Adams House. I did that when I restored the house – took every bit off & found nothing at all of value. The color in the back[?] room was just a dirty gray. In taking down a partition to [illeg.] two rooms into one [the southeast room and northeast room or kitchen] – in order to have a sufficiently large room for the Chapter meetings, I found I was really taking down a part of the exterior wall of the house and under many layers of wall paper I found the old red clapboard which proved the statement made by Miss Elizabeth Coombs Adams, the granddaughter of John Adams that our house was the older house of the two and was always called 'The Red House.'

There was much unfriendly rivalry on the part of Mr. G.[?] Spear – the former custodian of the J.Q. Adams Birthplace as he claimed that 'his' house, which he was also restoring was the older house of the two and the Birthplace of John Adams. [this last phrase exists in the letter but seems to make little sense] Much was written pro & con in the daily papers at the time, but where I found the old brick with 1681 on it, and he found in one of the fireplaces a brick with 1716 on it, that seemed to settle the matter.

He made a mistake in painting 'his' house red. He insisted on doing it because he wanted to make it appear that 'his' house was the older house. But John Quincy Adams writing from England speaks of it as 'The white house at the foot of Penn's Hill, where I was born.'
That ought to settle it and it should be painted <u>white</u> by the Quincy His. Soc'y when it is done over again. It was painted about fifteen years ago the same time that our house was restored. The Adams family paying for the expense and leaving it to the Quincy His. Society.

I think I could write a book about my personal experiences with these old houses and some day you may see on the book counters[?] "Some Old Houses that I Have Known." – if I ever get time to finish it and that reminds me to ask if you have seen yet the interesting book "Reclaiming the Old House" by Mr. Hoober[?]. He sent me a copy and I have enjoyed it very much. Take a look at it. I saw it at Clarke's[?] Book Store on Tremont[?] St. yesterday.

I have not finished with the Howland House yet – some repairs like the ceilings are only temporary as I am waiting for the people who wish to furnish the rooms to decide on several points. I <u>had</u> to paint the house inside – we worked it all over with strong solutions, but for sanitary reasons it had to be painted for all sorts of creeping things came out of every crevice!

After a year or two it may then be possible to take off the paint again if thought best to do so but when one has to live with these old houses, one has to sacrifice something for comfort and cleanliness.

I will present your letter to the Adams Chapter D.R. at the next meeting and if it seems best to act on your suggestions and the Chapter can raise the money I will do what I can.

At present they are trying to raise the money for a new flag-pole. We have only 30 members now in the Chapter which makes it difficult to raise any large sum of money.

May 7, 1950.

Mrs. Marion U. Mansur,
32 Spruce Street,
Malden 48, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Mansur:

Enclosed is a list of the furniture left in the John Adams Birthplace for the Quincy Historical Society.

We are very grateful for all these things. It is a great help to have something to start with, and we realize that it will be some little time before we can make the house looked furnished. But until the repairs are made, we cannot do much with it.

The grounds outside have been planted this week by two local garden clubs, with the help of the City gardeners, and stepping stones between the two houses have been laid as well.

We are expecting a large number of people to visit the houses next Saturday, for the Federation of Glee Clubs of Massachusetts are meeting in Quincy that day, and plan tours to the various old houses in the afternoon. From 200 - 400 are expected - wives of the Glee Club members who have to be entertained while the husbands are rehearsing for the evening concert.

Thank you for you co-operation,

Sincerely,

Inventory of furniture and articles

in John Adams Birthplace

(as of April 14, 1950.)

PARLOR

gilt mirror (given by Dr. W. J. Adams, Norfolk, Va.)
cannon ball
2 small chairs
large organ
fireplace equipment (andirons, tongs and shovel)

LONG ROOM

spinet and stool
table (of Josiah Quincy)
2 chairs
painted pedestal table
rocking chair
fireplace equipment
cedar trunk (tree)
several pictures
2 books - "Where Independence Began" and "Familiar letters of John Adams and wife"

BIRTH ROOM

(Everything left in this room, unchanged).
(Four poster bed, and fittings. Cradle. Picture of John Adams by Stuart - copy. Glass case with articles to do with the Adamses. 2 trunks with various articles of clothing. Two or three rugs.

SMALL BACK ROOM off Birth room.

Rope bed, and coverings.
Chair.

SOUTH BED ROOM

John Adams bust.
Glass case of Adams clothing.
Tall silk hat in leather box.
portrait of Dr. Walter J. Adams of Norfolk, Va.
table with drapery - one drawer. Wooden box.
Several pictures.

FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS OF THE JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

PARLOR

Oval French cabinet	$50.00
Pair of silver candle sticks	———
Framed print of John Adams	7.50
Astral lamp and shade	60.00
Gilt oblong over-mantle mirror	85.00
Square piano & stool (Currier & Co., Boston)	500.00
Marble base lamp and shade	17.50
Soft paste Bristol bowl (cracked)	10.00
Empire arm chair	25.00
Empire sofa	60.00
Engraving of Washington delivering inaugural address (Gold frame)	20.00
Framed pastel of John Adams	50.00
Framed print of Samuel Adams	7.50
View of City of Boston (lithograph in gold frame)	28.00
Pr. of Sandwich whale oil lamps with burners	50.00
Canton vegetable dish (no cover)	17.50
Small rope legged mahogany table	125.00
Lot of fifteen leather bound books (History of New England by Hannah Adams, printed for author by H. Mann and J. H. Adams at Dedham in 1799 included)	50.00
Maple 4 slat rocker with rush seat	85.00
Cannon ball	10.00
2 fire tools (shovel & tongs)	8.50
Pr. of brass candlesticks (J. Adams)	18.00
Framed velvet mourning picture (1840)	85.00
Pr. iron andirons	12.50

PARLOR (continued)

Flax wheel	$25.00
Black Hitchcock chair with rush seat (redecorated)	35.00
Engraving of J. Q. Adams from daguerreotype	5.00
Small gold framed mirror	7.50
Framed silhouette	15.00
Pr. of mahogany slat back side chairs	200.00
Large oval braided rug	75.00 ~~300.00~~
Pr. glass oval font whale oil lamps	85.00
Music box	150.00
Taven table with stretcher base & drawer	175.00

HALL

Fire bucket (Adams)	75.00
Lantern	15.00

KITCHEN

Musket with bayonet	75.00
Candle mold	7.50
2 Pewter chargers (English)	12.50 each
Lot of three tole oil lamps	18.00
Glass pet lamp in tole candlestick	12.00
Shoemakers bench and tools	85.00
Wood flail	10.00
Iron flail	8.50
Lot of iron cooking pots & kettles	75.00
Pair of andirons	12.00
Mocha mug (damaged)	3.50
Wood peel	15.00

KITCHEN (Continued)

Large slat back rocker	$45.00
Blanket chest (red paint)	60.00
Large spinning wheel	15.00
Two wood mortars & pestles	6.50 each
Veenered mantle clock (Boston)	20.00
Black Hitchcock chair	22.00
Maple school master desk (refinished)	75.00
Austin pewter plate (as is)	6.50
Leather upholstered chair	125.00
Pilgrim chair	200.00
Primitive wood child's cart	75.00
Primitive cupboard desk (gray paint)	150.00
Yarn winder	15.00
Adams coat of arms (framed)	30.00
Small leather trunk	10.00
Painted Empire arm chair	40.00
Slat back rocker with rush seat	45.00
Adams engraving framed	10.00
Glass font lamp	15.00
Adams painting (after Stuart)	125.00
Pewter in cabinet	150.00
China in cabinet	25.00

SMALL BEDROOMS

Bird cage Windsor side chair	35.00
Thumb back side chair	10.00
Green coverlet	25.00
Hired mans bed	35.00

THE BILLINGS ROOM

Comb back rocker	$75.00
Lacquer sewing table	30.00
Hancock sampler (1796)	35.00
Parker sampler	25.00
Mahogany wash stand	45.00
Blue & white Staff. wash bowl & pitcher	35.00
Late Sheraton swell front bureau	175.00
Pr. whale oil lamps and shades	65.00
Mahogany shaving mirror	35.00
Pair of oval colored prints	45.00
Brass bound Camphor chest	45.00
Niddy noddy	7.50
Spill holder & perfume bottle	10.00
Slat back side chair with rush seat	25.00
Snake foot tripod table	65.00
High post tester bed	150.00
Small bracket foot mahogany chest	175.00
Brass warming pan	30.00
Staffordshire figure (damaged)	15.00
Pair brass Jamb hooks	20.00
Shovel and tongs	25.00
Pair brass andirons	65.00
Dolls cradle	7.50
Childs arm chair with rush bottom	17.50
Foot warmer	5.00

THE ADAMS BEDROOM

Horse hide trunk and clothing	$35.00
Oil painting (copy) John Adams	75.00
Two glass whale oil lamps	10.00
High posted tester bed	175.00
Coverlet (linsey-woolsey)	150.00
Flax wheel	15.00
Arrow back side chair (worn)	20.00
Painted & dec. arrow back side chair	30.00
Small 2 drawer table (refinished)	28.00
Trunk with bonnets etc.	40.00
Blanket chest (grey paint)	100.00
Yellow bird cage Windsor side chair	45.00
Adams wedding vest	50.00
Brass chamber stick	15.00
Large family bible	10.00
Lot of 3 Adams tax bills	40.00
Pair iron andirons	7.50
White Delft gravy boat (Adams) (Historical value only)	
Doll with papier mache head	50.00
Adams cradle (gray paint)	100.00
Total	$6,370.50

Appendix C-3

8498.2
Box 15
Shelf 101
No 6

JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

This cottage, the birthplace of John Adams, was known as the "homestead." John Adams was born(1735) and grew up here, but when he was married(1764), he lived next door. At one time, during the Revolution, this entire Cottage was used to harbor refugees from Boston

(REGISTRY ROOM)

This was the old kitchen; as the house was added to, it became the sitting room. See the huge fireplace where the family gathered. The brick over the mantle shows the date 1681 when the house was probably built. This brick was found under the south-east corner of the house.

Deacon John Adams, father of Pres. John, bought the farm in 1720. He was a cordwainer, farmer, selectman, deacon; also tithingman, constable, surveyor of hemp and flax and frequently moderator at town meetings. He married in 1734 Susanna Boylston of Boston, and had three sons; john, who became president, Peter Boylston born three years later, and Elihu, 21/2 years after Peter.

The furniture in this room is very old. The old baby carriage is at least 200 years old. Notice the ingenious way the spring under the seat is made. The wheel in front of the fireplace is a great wool wheel, and the piece beside the blanket chest is a wool winder. The clock has a picture of the White House on it, and John Adams was the first president to live there. The old mortar and pestle for grinding were a household necessity. The cooler bench belonged to John Adams(Deacon). The wooden pegs were cut by hand. The shop hours were between farm hours.

These houses were deeded to the City of Quincy in 1940 by Charles Francis Adams(Sectl of Navy under Herbert Hoover) The City keeps the houses in repair-contents are owned by the Historical Society.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

(PARLOR)

The piano was made in Boston, 1824, by the Currie Company and is known as a horizontal piano. The wood is flame mahogany. The mahogany divan has had a varied career. It originally belonged to John adams. A certain young woman in his employ left to go to Maine to be married, and the sofa was given to her. After many years the upholstery gave out, and the frame was relegated to the wood pile. A passerby saw it, and as the lines were good, and she had an eye for beauty, she inquired about it of a little old lady who told her it was to be split for kindling.

She was glad to sell it, however, and instead of burning it up, received $5 for it. She then told her how the sofa had been acquired as a wedding gift. It has long since been repaired returned from Maine to Quincy, and finally placed in this first house of John Adams. (Mrs. Slade and Family)

This is a rope leg table of about 1800. The gilt mirror over the piano belonged to the Adamses, and the pair of brass candlesticks, which are very old, belonged to Josiah Quincy, a cousin of Abigail Adams, and a prominent man of the community. This pair of chairs, upholstered in red plush, are country Chippendale. The pair of old glass lamps are hand blown. The painting over the mantle was done by a 14-year-old girl on velvet. In the corner appears the first parish church. The H and L hinges on the door of the clonet are of handwrought forged iron. There is a saying that people felt safer if they had some H and L hinges because they stand for:

Heaven help us
Lord " "
Heavenly Lord-Holy Lord

The picture over the table shows Boston Harbor as it appeared in 1757, when John was a young man.

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Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

This embroidered vest was worn by John Adams when he married Abigail Smith in 1764. John demarded that the sprays of wheat reminded him that he was still a farmer (lawyer.) This collar, scarf, and piece of a sleeve, were worn by Abigail at some time, and are of embroedered mull. The china tankard on the table belonged to the younger brother of John, Elihu and came down in his family. It has finally come back here.

This fine old chest dates to about 1700. There were no closets in those days, and these chests were used for family bedding and clothing. It has a long drawer at the bottom. This is an old carpet bag; notice the interesting lock. This work box was made for Mrs. John Adams by her granddaughter, Rebecca Taylor. Here is a ladder back bird-cage Windsor chair.

In this room John Adams was born in Oct.19 1735. His portrait over the mantle is a copy of one done by Gilbert Stuart. This one was done by Miss Lyle Durgin for the Massachusetts Romm in the N.E. States Building of the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo New York in 1903. It was bought by the Daughters of the Revolution, Adams Chapter, (whose headquarters were this house)—in 1906, for $150, and has hung here ever since. Vandals came into the house in Feb. (1951), and slashed it in three places. It has since been repaired. A knitting job was done on it, and it is now hard to find where the damage occurred.

The gravy boat under the portrait was brought from Holland by John and Abigail when he was minister to that Country. It is china. The quill wheel is also called a bobbin winder. The fine old bed is of mahogany, and like all old beds of the period, the posts in the rear are plain. It has a rope spring and this tool was used to tighten the ropes. The material in the hand quilted coverlet is linzey woolsey. John Adams was rocked in this cradle, as well as his brothers Peter and Elihu. The scarlet shawl in the trunk was made from a circular riding cloak worn by John Adams. He used to wear it on horseback as late as 1810. After that it was cut up by Abigail Adams.

(FRANK SEAVER BILLINGS ROOM)

All the furnishings in this room were given by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman of Sharon. It is called the Frank Seaver Billings Room in honor of her father, a doctor, and in honor of her great great grandfather Squire Ebenezer Seaver whose homestead, from which all this furniture came, was in Roxbury. The Squire was born in 1761. A picture of him, and one of the homestead, hang by the fireplace. The Squire's daughter married a Billings, the grandfather of the doctor. A picture of Dr. Billings as a boy, with his sister, is on the opposite wall. Pictures of his mother and grandmother hang opposite in the oval frames.

The Billings family was one of the old Quincy Families, living in the north part of the town. Dr. Billings was in the 8th generation from Roger Billings, the emigrant ancestor, a first settler here in Old Braintree. (Came with a group of people from Braintree England-settled here and called the village Braintree. Family well settled by 1632)

The mahogany furniture has always been kept together in one unit. On your left is a washstand with a blue Staffordshire bowl and pitcher, and above it two very fine samplers of the 1790's A child's chair with rush seat, and a doll's cradle, dated June 1,1790.

The swell front bureau has a shaving stand and mirror. Do you know what this little brass piece is? (Wick pick for lifting up a lamp wick.)

Under the window is an old camphor wood chest in very fine condition. This niddy noddy is a hand reel for winding linen or wool thread into knots and skeing. Perhaps you have heard the old riddle; Niddy-noddy, niddy-noddy,

Two heads and one body

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

Appendix C-4

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace.
Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

7 Feb. 1969

The John Adams House

Built by Joseph Penniman, probably in 1681
Lean-to added later, probably 1710 or 1712
James Penniman (Joseph's son) sold the house to
Deacon John Adams
Deed is dated 11 May 1720
Property is described as 6 acres of orchard and
arable land with - house barn and well thereon.
Deacon Adams paid £134 for it.
He already owned other land in the area.
Deacon John Adams married Susanna Boylston in 1734
They had no daughters but 3 sons:
John, born 19 Oct. 1735
Peter Boylston, born 1738
Elihu, born 1741
Deacon Adams died in 1761. He left the house to Peter
Peter sold the house to John in 1774
John sold the whole farm to his son J. Q. Adams
in 1803
John Quincy's brother, Thomas Boylston Adams lived
in the house from 1810 - 1820.
The Adams family called the house "The Homestead"
and the whole property they referred to as
"The Penn's Hill Farm"
When the family did not live in it, it was rented to
many short-term tenants.
In 1896 the family allowed the Quincy Chapter of
the Daughters of the Revolution to hold its meetings
in the house. In making some necessary repairs to
the foundation they found a cornerstone brick on which
the date 1681 was cut. They set this brick above the
kitchen fireplace.

The house was first opened to visitors in 1897

In 1940, the Adams Family Trust deeded this house
and the J. Q. Adams birthplace to the City of Quincy.

The City of Quincy then offered the use of this house to
the Quincy Historical Society which had for a half century
been operating the other birthplace.

The Old Kitchen
(The Registry Room, now)

This room was the kitchen in the original house. After the lean-to was added, it became the family sitting room.

In 1950, the lean-to was remodelled to make living quarters for a resident caretaker, and when the house was reopened to visitors in 1951, this room became the one where visitors entered fresh, registered, and could buy articles offered for sale as mementoes of the house.

Although the Adams family occupied this house for over 100 years, very little is left here of their original furnishings.

This room has many interesting old things in it:

A 200 year old baby carriage
A wool spinning wheel in front of the fireplace
A wool winder beside the old chest
An old mortar and pestle
An early 19th century cobbler bench which might have been like the one Deacon Adams used. He was a cordwainer (leather worker) when he wasn't farming.
A coat of arms which was designed for John Adams.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

The Parlor

The divan has an interesting history. It belonged to John Adams. He gave it to a young woman who worked for him as a wedding present. She took it to Maine. Years later, its upholstery worn out, it was relegated to the woodpile. Before it was chopped up for firewood, a passerby noticed it and bought it for $15. Later, when its origin was learned, it was repaired and returned to the homestead.

The gilt mirror over the piano belonged to the Adams family. [illegible]

The brass candlesticks belonged to Josiah Quincy.

The doors have the old H L hinges - There are many versions of what H L stood for:

Holy Lord
Heavenly Lord
Heaven help us, Lord help us.

Other interesting old articles in this room are

The 1830 piano
The 1800 Rope leg table
The country Chippendale chairs with red plush
The hand blown old glass lamps
The old painting on velvet done by a 14 yr. old girl
The picture of Boston Harbor in 1757
The pair of whale oil lamps

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

The Birth Room

John Adams was born here, 19 October, 1735.
The cradle is one in which he was rocked as a baby.
The bed has a rope spring and a gadget to tighten the ropes when they sag.
The portrait over the fireplace is a copy of one made by Gilbert Stuart of John Adams. This copy was made by Miss Lyle Durgin.

The doll under glass was bought by John Adams when he was in France.
The gravy boat on the mantel was brought from Holland by John Adams
In the trunk by the fireplace is a red shawl, made from John Adams' old red riding cloak. Abigail cut it up and made it into shawls.
In the plastic case is an embroidered pick veat. John Adams' mother Susannah, embroidered it for him and he wore it at his wedding to Abigail Smith.

The Lean-to Rooms Upstairs

The first room (as you leave the birth room) was John's room. Then came a hallway with two stair wells, one leading to the old kitchen and one to the lean'to. Across the hallway the small bedroom was Peter's. A ladder leads up the center wall to the attic, and this attic room was Elihu's. You can see that the 3 boys really had private quarters and could come and go to them from the back of the house.
The cane is John Adams's. You can tell from its size what a short man he was.

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The Billings Room

This room was furnished by Mrs. Joseph Cushman of Sharon as a memorial to her father, Doctor Frank Leaver Billings. Most of the furniture belonged to her great grandfather, Ebenezer Leaver, and date from the late 18th or early 19th century. The picture by the fireplace is of Ebenezer Leaver.

Notice the framed samplers on the wall and the "noddy - noddy", a reel for winding yarn.

The wood paneling on the wall has been hinged and it can be opened to show the construction of the great fireplace.

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Appendix C-5

Notes for the Hostess of the JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE 12-31-69

This is not intended to be a presentation for the Hostess to use, but rather a recitation of pertinent facts to aid her in developing her presentations.

The theme of the presentation of the two Birthplaces is expressed in the folder which is quoted below:

THE PRESIDENTS AND THEIR BIRTHPLACES

In what is now the City of Quincy, Massachusetts, stand two small red houses to which thousands of visitors come annually from all parts of the world. They are simple farmhouses of the "salt box" type that was so common in colonial New England at the time they were built. Some come to study them as fine examples of this early type of American home, but this number is small. Their significance lies in the fact that they were part of the lives of some great Americans of the past whom the world of today wants to know better.

The important facts concerning these old houses are that in one of them John Adams (1735-1826) was born and grew to manhood; to the other he took his bride Abigail in 1764, here he made his home until 1783, and here his son John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) was born and grew up. Thus these houses not only bear the imprint of their owners and occupants, as any long-time residence must, but also they constituted part of the environment that molded the characters of two men who were to become leaders in our national life. Therefore they are a part of the great Adams story and, through it, of the great story of America.

The contribution of the Houses to this story is one that they alone can make. They furnish an insight into the lives of the Adams Presidents that only a visit here can give. It is hoped that every visitor leaves with a better understanding and a closer feeling for these great figures in our national history.

Introduction to the House:

Henry Adams came here from England in 1638, and settled in what is now the Elm Street area near Quincy Square. He died in 1646, and lies buried in the Old Burial Ground (Hancock Cemetery) in Quincy Square, along with his descendants down to the President. Of his eight sons, his 7th son Joseph remained here and took over his father's farm. They were ordinary local farmers, but Joseph's son Joseph raised the family fortune above the average level. He lived to the west of here in the Centre Street area, and was a prosperous farmer and large landholder. His son, Deacon John Adams, already owned land nearby when he bought this place in 1720. Here his son, President John. was born on October 19, 1735.

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This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

This area was known as The Captain's Plain, for what reason we do not know. This house was built in 1681 (the date is inscribed in a brick that was found in the foundation, and which is now located over the large fireplace) by Joseph Penniman who had purchased the property of William Needham in 1675. The Needham house dated from 1650, but there is no evidence that any part of it was incorporated in the Penniman House. Some of the foundation, however, might have been retained, which would account for the lack of symmetry in the present house. On Joseph Penniman's death in 1705, the property became the homestead of his son James who in 1720 sold it to Deacon John Adams.(Visitors who are Penniman descendants are so recorded, and their names are forwarded to the Penniman Family Association.)

The most important message that this house has to present is that John Adams, the future President, was born and raised in a simple farm home. This is the type of house that we try to present.

Simple as it is, it was one of the better farmhouses of its day. It is well constructed and, even compared with the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, itself one of the better farmhouses, has higher ceilings and is more roomy. Deacon John became a prosperous farmer, and added to his land holdings from time to time, the most important acquisition being the adjoining Belcher farm to the south which he purchased with its farmhouse just where it stands today, in 1744. The stone wall between the two houses still marks the original property line. He farmed the two places together, but rented the old Belcher house to tenants. He was also proud of his trade which was that of a cordwainer, or leather worker. He practiced

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

his trade here on his farm, as illustrated by the old leather-worker's bench by the hearth.

Deacon John Adams died in 1761 and left his homestead to his son Peter Boylston Adams, with rights to his widow. Since he had sent his son John to Harvard, he left him the smaller house and farm. In 1774, however, Peter Boylston Adams moved from the house and sold the homestead farm to his brother John, who rented the house to tenants but again worked the two farms as one. The last member of the family to live in the old homestead was President John's son, Thomas Boylston Adams (see silhouette) from 1810 to 1818 when, on the death of his mother, he moved in with his father at The Old House on Adams Street. (He later moved to a house still standing at 79 Elm Street.) His children who were born there were the last Adams to be born on the old farm. It was he who introduced the window shutters and other early 19th century features.

Although the farmland was gradually sold off, the house and its lot remained the property of the Adams family until 1940 when it was deeded to the City of Quincy. It was rented to tenants from 1818 to 1896 when it was turned over to the Adams Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, who used it as their headquarters and opened it to the public from 1897 through 1949. In 1950 it was turned over for operation to the Quincy Historical Society which had operated the other house since 1897.

Structurally this is a " framed " house in which the weights are supported by the corner posts, girts, chimney beams and summer beams. This is in contrast to the present-day " frame " house in which the walls, with closely-spaced studs, provide the strength. The walls of this house are filled with soft brick and clay (see

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area exposed to show this construction feature) for insulation and to keep the frame from racking- a feature of one of the better-built houses. It was originally a two-over-two house. The leanto is believed to have been added by the Pennimans, probably in the early 1700s. (On the second floor the original back clapboarding can be seen within the leanto.)

Most of the furniture and furnishings in both of these houses are local pieces. Some belonged to the Adams (many items were given by children of Thomas Boylston Adams); others came from similar local farmhouses and are identified with other old Quincy families, and were collected years ago when such things were still available. They are not fine antiques, but simple everyday articles, things that were actually used in a simple local farmhouse such as this was when the Adams lived here.

* * * * * * * *

Principal reference for above information- Booklet on the Birthplaces by Waldo Chamberlain Sprague.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

Items of note in the John Adams Birthplace.

Old Kitchen- was the kitchen before the leanto was added.

Large fireplace- early style with straight sides. Around 1700 and after, sides were sloped to throw more heat into the room. Oven in rear is another early characteristic.

Time line on front window sill- it is said that when the shadow of the window frame reached this line, it was time for the Plymouth coach to pass.

Framed coat of arms- was designed for John Adams [illegible]

Leather worker's bench- Deacon John Adams was a cordwainer and carried on his trade at his home.

Windsor chair- was from the house in Paris occupied by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin when they were negotiating the treaty of peace at the end of the Revolutionary War, and used by them there.

Brick over fireplace bearing date 1681.

Silhouette of Judge Thomas Boylston Adams- one of two known likenesses.

Entry

T. B. Adams fire bucket.

Light in door to parlor- In early houses with their large fireplaces, openings of this type were frequently made so that the fire would not exhaust the oxygen in the room. When glazed they were called courting windows through which parents could observe young couples.

Parlor

Opening in wall- plaster removed to show brick filling.

Tavern table- was in house in 1806.

Sofa- belonged to John Adams

Pastel in poor condition- of John Adams about 1785, or 1795.

Books on table- the Adams were educated people for their time, when many of the local farmers could not read.

Room where John Adams was born 1735.

Cradle of John Adams

Portrait of John Adams- copy by Miss Lyle Durgin of Gilbert Stuart painting.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

Birth room- cont.

Gravy boat- belonged to John Adams

Old trunk tagged " E. C. Adams, care of Mrs. J. Q. Adams, F St. Washington, D. C. (Elizabeth Coombs Adams, daughter of T. B. Adams, who donated most of the Adams family items in the house.)

Piece of dress worn by Abigail Adams in London in the 1780s.

Doll under glass- given by Abigail Adams to her granddaughter Elizabeth Coombs Adams.

Cream-colored side chairs- made in Milton and owned by Abigail Adams.

Scarlet shawl- one of four made by Abigail Adams from a circular riding cloak worn by John Adams. This one was given to Mrs. T. B. Adams, her daughter-in-law.

Vest made for John Adams by his mother, and worn by him at his wedding in 1764.

Leanto bedroom-

There is access to this and the other leanto bedroom from the kitchen in the leanto, so that it could have been used by a servant, or possibly by one of the family.

Through door into attic, original clapboards on rear of house before leanto was added can be seen.

Southwest chamber-

Room furnished by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman in memory of her father, Dr. Frank Seaver Billings. Most of items belonged to her great-great-grandfather, Hon. Ebenezer Seaver of Roxbury.

The fireplace panelling was hinged when the house was restored in 1897 to show the chimney construction. These old chimneys are of soft brick and clay up to the roofline, above which hard brick and mortar were used. These chimneys with their large separate flues are a work of art.

Attic

Looking up stairs into attic, the "barn roof" construction can be observed.

Appendix C-6

Some Contents of Especial Interest in the John Adams Birthplace

General- The pieces that boldged to the Adams family are noted below. Also noted are the pieces presented by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman. The remainder are largely pieces that belonged to Quincy families; in most cases we have a record of to whom they belonged.

Entry- Firebucket of Thomas Boylston Adams.

Old Kitchen- Pots mostly from Holbrook house.
Pine cupboard was purchased.
Cobbler's bench- early 19th Century. Appropriate for house since Deacon John Adams was a cordwainer (leather worker) by trade in this house.
Child's cart- belonged to a family in Quincy.
Mantle clock- belonged to the Curtis family who lived on Penns Hill.
Pair of arm chairs- belonged to the Quincy family.
Large china mug- belonged to John Adams of Holbrook, son of Elihu Adams and nephew of John Adams.
Coat of arms- was designed for John Adams? poor - never used

Parlor- Piano- about 1830.
Pair of Chippendale side chairs- from Mrs. Cushman
Drop leaf table- from Mrs. Cushman
Red tavern table- belonged to the Faxon family who lived here. It was in the house prior to 1806.
Small square mirror- Saville family.
Pair of brass candlesticks- belonged to the Quincy family.
Sofa- 1795-1820 style- belonged to John Adams.
Pastel of John Adams- date about 1785- poor condition.
Cannon ball- found in Squantum.
Mourning picture- in memory of a child of Samuel Curtis who lived in a house on Franklin Street just north of Birthplace. Hancock Cemetery.
Pair of whale oil lamps.
Silhouette- Ebenezer Francis Thayer of Braintree 1784-1824.
Mirror over mantel- gift of Dr. Walter J. Adams of Norfolk Va., a very distant connection.

East chamber- Birthroom- John Adams born here 1735.
Cradle of John Adams
Portrait of John Adams- copy of a Gilbert Stuart painted by Miss Lyle Durgin.
Gravy boat- brought from Holland by John Adams.
Trunk- Elizabeth Coombs Adams, grand daughter of John Adams.
Work box and spools- Adams family.
Piece of dress worn by Abigail Adams worn in Europe when John Adams was ambassador in London.
Doll- smaller doll was given by Abigail Adams to her grand daughter, Elizabeth Coombs Adams.
Side chairs, cream color- belonged to John and Abigail Adams.
Scarlet mantle in trunk- One of four shawls made by Abigail Adams from a circular riding cloak that John Adams wore on horseback as late as 1810. This one she gave to her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Thomas Boylston Adams.

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East chamber (cont.)- Vest worn by John Adams when he was married in 1764. It was made for him by his mother. The wheat is the sign of furtility. The rose is the symbol of England.
Windsor chair- This was in the house in Paris occupied by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin when they were Commissioners to France in 1778.

West chamber- All the furnishings were given by Mrs. Joseph A. Cushman (Frieda Billings) in memory of her father, Dr. Frank Seaver Billings of Roxbury. Most of the pieces belonged to Hon. Ebenezer Seaver of Roxbury 1763-1844.
Fireplace panel was hinged when the house was restored in 1897 to show the old chimney construction- soft brick and clay up to the roof line, which was typical of 17th century houses.

The location of the Houses on the old Country Way, the road between Boston and Plymouth, and in the corners of their respective farms and close to the road, is significant.

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A few facts of significance re: John Adams Birthplace presentation. See Waldo C. Sprague booklet, and the 8-page pamphlet.

People come here because of the Adams. We therefore want to present a message about them and their home; not about just a house and things. They were farmers and this was a simple farm home.

This being the older house in the Adams story, we want to give the story of the family background here: Henry Adams came here from England and lived in what is now the Elm Street area of Quincy. His son Joseph lived there too. Joseph in the third generation lived in the Captain's Plain area, west of the Birthplaces, and near present Centre Street. He was one of the more prosperous farmers, as was his son Deacon John. All these ancestors are buried in Hancock Cemetery.
House was built by Joseph Fenniman in 1681. This should be mentioned and any Fenniman descendants asked to identify themselves, and names noted in register. The Fenniman Family Assn is interested. Joseph Fenniman's son James sold property to Deacon John Adams 1720. Deacon John later bought the adjoining Belcher farm and worked the two as one farm.
The house was one of the better farm houses. It is more spacious and has higher ceilings that the JQA Birthplace. Thomas Boylston Adams, son of President John, was the last of the family to occupy the house. He and his family lived there about 1810-1820. His son Isaac Hull Adams was born there. He put in the window shutters and other features that reflect that period.

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John Adams was not closely related to the Quincy family. However, Abigail's grandfather was Colonel John Quincy, a very prominent citizen of the town. He was on his death bed when his grand daughter had her first son. She named him John Quincy Adams after his great grandfather. The Town of Quincy was named for Col. John Quincy when it became a separate town in 1792. The Josiah and Edmund Quincy lines were cousins.
What is now Quincy was the center of the Town of Braintree that was founded in 1640. In 1708 the southern portion of the Town was established as a separate precinct, what is now Quincy becoming the North Precinct. In 1726, what is now Braintree was constituted as the Middle Precinct, what is now Randolph and Holbrook became the South Precinct. Quincy remained the North Precinct. It was basically along these precinct lines that these separate towns were constituted in 1792 and 1793. The old North Precinct became the Town, later City, of Quincy.

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Appendix C-7

THE IMPORTANT FACTS CONCERNING THESE OLD HOUSES ARE THAT IN ONE OF THEM JOHN ADAMS (1735-1826) WAS BORN AND GREW TO MAN-HOOD; TO THE OTHER HE TOOK HIS BRIDE ABIGAIL IN 1764. HERE HE MADE HIS HOME UNTIL 1783, AND HERE HIS SON JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (1767-1848) WAS BORN AND GREW UP. .THUS THESE HOUSES NOT ONLY BEAR THE IMPRINT OF THEIR OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS AS ANY LONGTIME RESIDENCE MUST, BUT ALSO THEY CONSTITUTED PART OF THE ENVIROM-MENT THAT MOLDED THE CHARACTERS OF TWO MEN WHO WERE TO BECOME LEADERS IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE. THEREFORE THEY ARE A PART OF THE GREAT ADAMS STORY AND THROUGH IT, OF THE GREAT STORY OF AMERICA. THEY ARE THE OLDEST PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHPLACES IN THE U.S.

These are copies of the placards placed in the rooms of the John Adams Birthplace.

(Rooms roped off)

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FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY THE ADAMS FAMILY IN AMERICA, BEGINNING WITH HENRY ADAMS THE IMMIGRANT (cA. 1583-1646), WHO IN 1638 "TOOK HIS FLIGHT FROM THE DRAGON PERSECUTION" IN SOMERSET, ENGLAND, AND "ALIGHTED WITH EIGHT SONS, NEAR MOUNT WOLLASTON," LIVED OUT THEIR LIVES WITH RESPECTABILITY BUT BELOW THE LEVEL OF HISTORICAL SCRUTINY ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

OF HENRY'S EIGHT SONS, HIS SEVENTH SON, JOSEPH, (1626-1694) REMAINED HERE AND TOOK OVER HIS FATHER'S FARM. WHEN JOSEPH MARRIED HE LIVED TO THE WEST OF THE TOWN AND WAS A PROSPEROUS FARMER AND A LARGE LANDHOLDER. HIS SON JOSEPH (1654-1737) BECAME THE FATHER OF DEACON JOHN ADAMS (1691-1761). DEACON JOHN PURCHASED THIS FARM FROM THE PENNIMAN FAMILY IN 1720.

DURING THE NEXT FOURTEEN YEARS (1720-1734) DEACON JOHN ADAMS LIVED IN THIS HOUSE AS A BACHELOR. HE WAS A HARD WORKING AND INDUSTRIOUS FARMER AND CORDWAINER (COBBLER). DEACON JOHN SERVED HIS COMMUNITY IN A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL CAPACITIES. HE WAS AN ELECTED SELECTMAN OF BRAINTREE, A TOWN CONSTABLE, AN OFFICER IN THE LOCAL MILITIA, AND A DEACON IN THE COMMUNITY CHURCH. IN 1734 AT THE AGE OF FORTY-THREE, DEACON JOHN MARRIED THIRTY-FIVE YEAR OLD SUSANNAH BOYLSTON OF BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS, DAUGHTER OF A WELL-TO-DO, UPPER-CLASS FAMILY. ONE YEAR LATER (OCT. 30, 1735)IN THE UPSTAIRS CHAMBER, SUSANNAH BOYLSTON ADAMS GAVE BIRTH TO THE FIRST OF HER THREE SONS, JOHN ADAMS, THE FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. JOHN'S TWO BROTHERS, PETER BOYLSTON ADAMS AND ELIHU ADAMS, FOLLOWED AT THREE YEAR INTERVALS, 1738 AND 1741. ALL THREE OF THE ADAMS BROTHERS WERE RAISED TO BE FARMERS.

DEACON JOHN BECAME A PROSPEROUS FARMER, AND ADDED TO HIS LAND HOLDINGS FROM TIME TO TIME, THE MOST IMPORTANT ACQUISITION BEING THE ADJOINING BELCHER FARM TO THE SOUTH WHICH HE PURCHASED IN 1744, WITH ITS FARMHOUSE JUST WHERE IT STANDS TODAY.

BEFORE JOHN WAS BORN HE HAD BEEN DESTINED FOR HARVARD COLLEGE AND THE CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY. A COLLEGE EDUCATION WAS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF THE ELDEST SON IN NEW ENGLAND; TO THE YOUNGER BOYS WOULD GO THE FARM AND THE HOMESTEAD. JOHN'S ELEMENTARY EDUCATION HAD BEEN WITH DAME BELCHER WHO HAD TAUGHT HIM TO READ WHEN HE WAS SIX. AFTER THAT HE WENT TO THE FREE LATIN SCHOOL WITH MR. JOSEPH CLEVERLY AS MASTER. MR. CLEVERLY WAS A HARVARD GRADUATE AND A CHURCH OF ENGLAND MAN AND JOHN LOATHED HIM AND HIS LATIN.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

JOHN LIVED CLOSE TO THE EARTH - HE LOVED THE OUTDOORS, FISHING, RIDING AND HUNTING, AND ROAMED EVERY FOOT OF THIS FATHER'S ACRES, AND KNEW THEM INTIMATELY. WHEN HIS FATHER MENTIONED HARVARD COLLEGE, JOHN QUICKLY RETREATED TO HIS OWN WORLD WHERE A BOY NEED NOT THINK OF HARVARD SAVE AS A SORT OF HEAVENLY FUTURE - SPLENDID BUT BLESSEDLY REMOTE. EVERYTHING COMBINED TO TIE JOHN ADAMS TO THE LAND. JOHN HATED SCHOOL, HE HATED MR. CLEVERLY AND HIS BOOKS, HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL - HE WANTED TO BE A FARMER. DEACON JOHN PILED FARM WORK ON HIS SON, HE HAD HIM SHOVEL, SPADE, DIG DITCHES AND CLEAR TREES UNDER THE BLAZING SUN. JOHN KNEW HE WAS DEFEATED, HE WAS EXHAUSTED - HE COULD NOT LIVE LIKE THIS. HE DECIDED THAT IF HIS FATHER WOULD LET HIM FINISH HIS EDUCATION WITH HIS GOOD FRIEND AND TEACHER, MR. JOSEPH MARSH, HE WOULD STRIVE TO LEARN HIS LATIN AND GO ON TO THE UNIVERSITY.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM HARVARD JULY 16, 1755, JOHN CHOSE LAW AS HIS PROFESSION. HE HAD A QUENCHLESS CURIOSITY ABOUT THE WORLD, THE PEOPLE IN IT, AND ITS HISTORY AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. HE ALSO HAD A DESIRE TO BE HEARD ON THESE SUBJECTS AND A PECULIARLY PUNGENT AND FORCEFUL LITERARY STYLE. THESE TRAITS AND GIFTS BROUGHT HIM QUICKLY TO THE FORE AS THE CONTEST BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND HER COLONIES ON THE NORTH AMERICAN MAINLAND DEVELOPED IN THE MID 1760'S.

DEACON JOHN ADAMS DIED IN 1761 AND LEFT HIS HOMESTEAD (THIS HOUSE) TO HIS SON PETER BOYLSTON ADAMS, WITH RIGHTS TO HIS WIDOW. SINCE HE HAD SENT HIS SON JOHN TO HARVARD, HE LEFT HIM THE SMALLER HOUSE AND FARM NEXT DOOR. ELIHU WAS LEFT LAND IN THE SO. PRECINCT OF BRAINTREE, NOW THE TOWN OF ~~HOLBROOK~~. Randolph

MEANWHILE, JOHN HAD MET A PARSON'S DAUGHTER FROM NEIGHBORING WEYMOUTH, WHOSE QUALITIES OF CHARACTER AND ABILITIES COMPLEMENTED AND EQUALED HIS OWN. ABIGAIL SMITH DESCENDED FROM FAMILIES WHICH HAD LONG BEEN MEMBERS OF THE RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, LANDHOLDING, AND MERCANTILE "ESTABLISHMENT" OF THE BAY COLONY. BUT SHE HERESELF WAS ALTOGETHER AN INDIVIDUAL, LIKE THE YOUNG LAWYER SHE MARRIED OCTOBER 25, 1764. HE WAS 29, SHE ALMOST 20. THEY WENT TO LIVE IN THE ADJOINING FARMHOUSE WHERE THEY REMAINED FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

OLD KITCHEN

THE JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE IS ON A LOT OF LAND ORIGINALLY BELONGING TO WILLIAM NEEDHAM AND THE FIRST HOUSE HERE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN BUILT BY HIM ABOUT 1650. THE PRESENT HOUSE WAS PROBABLY BUILT IN 1681, WHICH IS THE DATE CUT IN A BRICK THAT WAS FOUND AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE FOUNDATION WHEN THE HOUSE WAS RENOVATED IN 1897. THIS BRICK IS EMBEDDED IN THE WALL OVER THE FIREPLACE. THE TRACT PASSED INTO THE HANDS OF THE PENNIMAN FAMILY, AND IN 1720 DEACON JOHN ADAMS, THE FATHER OF PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS. PURCHASED THIS HOUSE AND SEVEN ACRES OF LAND FROM JAMES PENNIMAN. STRUCTURALLY THIS HOUSE IS A "FRAMED" HOUSE IN WHICH THE WEIGHTS ARE SUPPORTED BY THE CORNER POSTS, GIRTS, CHIMNEY BEAMS AND SUMMER BEAMS. THE WALLS OF THE HOUSE ARE FILLED WITH SOFT BRICK AND CLAY FOR INSULATION AND TO KEEP THE HOUSE FROM RACKING - A FEATURE OF ONE OF THE BETTER HOUSES. IT WAS ORIGINALLY A TWO OVER TWO HOUSE. THE LEANTO HAD BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE MAIN STRUCTURE PRIOR TO DEACON JOHN ADAMS' ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY (PROBABLY ABOUT 1710), CREATING WHAT IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS A "SALTBOX" HOUSE. THIS DESIGN WAS VERY POPULAR IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY NEW ENGLAND.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. THIS ROOM WAS THE ORIGINAL KITCHEN UNTIL THE LEANTO WAS ADDED
2. EARLY STYLE FIREPLACE WITH STRAIGHT SIDES - OVEN IN REAR OF FIREPLACE
3. LARGE SLANT BACK ROCKER, CA. 1780
4. LARGE SPINNING WHEEL (WALKING WHEEL) 19TH CENTURY
5. PINE COBBLER'S BENCH AND TOOLS, CA. 1840
6. PINE TWO-DRAWER BRACKET BASE BLANKET CHEST, CA. 1750
7. BRACEBACK, BOWBACK WINDSOR SIDE CHAIR, BELONGING TO PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS, CA. 1780
8. MAPLE SCHOOL MASTER'S DESK, CA. 1800
9. MAPLE WILLIAM AND MARY SIDE CHAIR, CA. 1700
10. CHILD'S PINE CART - EARLY 19TH CENTURY
11. PINE STEPBACK CUBBARD, CA. 1800
12. TIME LINE ON FRONT WINDOW SILL - IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THE SHADOW OF THE WINDOW FRAME REACHED THIS LINE IT WAS TIME FOR THE BOSTON TO PLYMOUTH STAGECOACH TO PASS BY THE FARM

→ No references to JA or AA ever taking stage coach into Boston at the time they lived on the farm. 1st stage service from Boston south was to Providence, beginning 1767 — Plymouth in these years was reached by water, not land. As late as 1823 there were only 3 trips weekly by stage on the Boston - Plymouth run. (See CFA II, History of Quincy, p. 84 ff.)

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THE PARLOR

THE PARLOR WAS CONSIDERED THE "BEST" ROOM IN THE HOUSE. ON A DAILY BASIS THIS ROOM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN USED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR FORMAL ENTERTAINING OF INVITED GUESTS. THE INTERIOR OF THIS ROOM WAS RENOVATED EARLY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BY JOHN AND ABIGAIL'S YOUNGEST SON, THOMAS BOYLSTON ADAMS, WHEN HE LIVED IN THIS HOUSE WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY FROM 1810-1820. INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY THOMAS INCLUDED NEW WINDOW CASEMENTS, INTERIOR WINDOW SHUTTERS, WOOD FACING TO COVER THE EXPOSED BEAMWORK IN THE ROOM AND WALLPAPER, ALTHOUGH THE WALLPAPER YOU NOW SEE ON THESE WALLS IS NOT THE ORIGINAL WALL-PAPER BUT COPIES OF POPULAR 19TH CENTURY PATTERNS.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ROOM STARTING WITH THE PIANO AND MOVING CLOCK-WISE AROUND THE PARLOR ARE:

1. MAHOGANY AND ROSEWOOD PIANO AND EMPIRE PIANO STOOL, CA. 1830-MADE IN BOSTON
2. EMPIRE GUILDED OVERMANTLE MIRROR, CA. 1835
3. MAHOGANY CHIPPENDALE SIDE CHAIR, CA. 1730
4. MAHOGANY EMPIRE SOFA, CA. 1830-1840
5. MAHOGANY EMPIRE "ROPE" LEG, DROP LEAF PEMBROKE TABLE, CA. 1825
6. SWISS 8 AIR MUSIC BOX - LATE 19TH CENTURY
7. FLAX WHEEL, CA. 1800 AND MAPLE FOUR SLAT ROCKER (HOOP SKIRT ROCKER) CA. 1800
8. MOURNING PICTURE ON VELVET, CA. 1840
9. "BEEHIVE" CLOCK, CA. 1825, MANUFACTURED IN BOSTON
10. PAIR OF CHASED BRASS CANDLESTICKS, PROBABLY FRENCH, CA. 1830
11. BIRCH SLANT TOP DESK, CA. 1770 AND PAIR CLEAR FLINT GLASS CAMPHENE LAMPS, CA. 1850
12. ADAMS GENEALOGY CHART WITH THE EMPHASIS ON THE PRESIDENTIAL LINE OF FAMILY
13. "COURTING WINDOW" (SMALL GLASS ENCLOSURE, TOP LEFT CORNER OF DOOR). THE YOUNG COUPLE WERE ALLOWED TO BE ALONE IN THE ROOM WITH THE DOOR CLOSED, BUT WERE CHAPERONED FREQUENTLY BY AN ADULT WHO HAD VISIBLE ACCESS THROUGH THE COURTING WINDOW.
14. THE DOORS HAVE THE OLD "H AND L" HINGES- THERE WERE MANY VERSIONS AS TO WHAT "H L" STOOD FOR: HOLY LORD - HEAVENLY LORD - HEAVEN HELP US - LORD HELP US

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JOHN'S BIRTHROOM

THE ROOM YOU ARE NOW IN WAS THE "CHAMBER" OR BEDROOM OF DEACON JOHN AND HIS WIFE SUSANNAH BOYLSTON ADAMS WHEN THEY LIVED IN THIS HOUSE IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. IT WAS IN THIS ROOM ON OCTOBER 30, 1735 THAT SUSANNAH BOYLSTON ADAMS GAVE BIRTH TO THE FIRST OF HER THREE SONS, JOHN ADAMS, THE FUTURE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. JOHN'S TWO BROTHERS, PETER AND ELIHU, WERE ALSO BORN IN THIS ROOM, PETER IN 1738 AND ELIHU IN 1741. THE SMALL ROOM YOU SEE UNDER THE LEANTO WAS JOHN'S BEDROOM WHEN HE WAS A BOY. — ? no evidence whatsoever

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ROOM BEGINNING WITH THE PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS, PAINTED BY MISS LYLE DURGIN IN 1901, FROM THE GILBERT STUART ORIGINAL, INCLUDE:

1. PINE HOODED CRADLE, CA. 1820 - COMPOSITION HEAD DOLL CA. 1860
2. PINE AND MAPLE PILLOW BACK PLANK SEATED CHAIRS, CA. 1830
3. BIRCH SHERATON BED WITH ARCHED CANOPY, ROPE SPRINGS, CA. 1825
4. LINSEY-WOOLSEY COVERLET, CA. 1780
5. FABRIC TRUNK, CA. 1840
6. HAT BOX
7. GRAY ARROWBACK SIDE CHAIR, CA. 1830
8. PINE, ONE DRAWER BLANKET CHEST, CA. 1720-1730
9. "KEY" TO TIGHTEN ROPE SPRING ON BED
10. FRAMED RECEIPTS FOR TAXES PAID ON JOHN'S CARRIAGES
11. COWHIDE COVERED TRUNK, CA. 1790, BELONGING TO ABIGAIL'S GRANDDAUGHTER ELIZABETH

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BILLINGS ROOM

THE SECOND CHAMBER OR BEDROOM WOULD HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR INVITED GUESTS OF JOHN'S FATHER AND MOTHER. (ON A DAILY BASIS THIS ROOM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN USED.) MOST OF THE FURNISHINGS IN THIS ROOM WERE GIVEN BY MRS. JOSEPH CUSHMAN IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER, DR. FRANK SEAVER BILLINGS, AND BELONGED TO SQUIRE EBENEZER SEAVER, HER GREAT, GREAT GRAND-FATHER, A PROSPEROUS FARMER AND FRIEND OF THE ADAMS FAMILY. THE SQUIRE WAS BORN IN 1761.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ROOM INCLUDE:

Fireplace

1. EARLY BANNISTER BACK, COMBBACK ROCKER, MAPLE, CA. 1760
2. MAHOGANY FOUR DRAWER BUREAU, SWELL FRONT, LATE SHERATON, CA. 1825
3. FLINT GLASS FLUID LAMPS, CA. 1850
4. PAINTED VICTORIAN SEWING STAND, CA. 1860
5. MAHOGANY HEPPLEWHITE WASHSTAND, CA. 1790-1810, WITH DEEP BLUE IRONSTONE PITCHER AND BOWL SET, CA. 1840
6. MAPLE SNAKE FOOT CANDLESTAND, CA. 1790
7. BIRCH HEPPLEWHITE REEDED POST, ARCH CANOPY BED, CA. 1800
8. BRASS BOUND CHINESE CAMPHOR CHEST, CA. 1870
9. MAHOGANY AND BIRCH FOUR DRAWER BUREAU, CA. 1770
10. CHILD'S BIRCH SLAT BACK ARMCHAIR, CA. 1790
11. PINE HOODED DOLLS CRADLE, 1790
12. BRASS BEDWARMER, CA. 1800
13. TIN FOOTWARMER, EARLY 19TH CENTURY
14. MAPLE COUNTRY CHIPPENDALE LADDERBACK SIDE CHAIR, CA. 1790
15. FRAMED SAMPLERS - 1790's

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

The Birthplaces of Presidents
John Adams and John Quincy Adams:
An Interpretive Presentation of the Grounds

I would like to welcome you to the birthplaces of our second president, John Adams, and of his son, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president. You are visiting us at a time of great changes for these two little houses. For two centuries they remained in the care of the Adams family until 1940, when they were given in trust to the City of Quincy, "with the purpose of fostering civic virtue and patriotism," according to the deed of gift. From that date until recent months Quincy carried on the responsibility for preserving the structures, taking justifiable pride in being known as the "city of Presidents." But time has at last caught up with the two houses. Recognizing that the cost of major structural repairs would severely overtax already-strained local resources, the city reluctantly asked the federal government to continue the job of preserving this important part of our national heritage. The National Park Service has now been assigned the job of caring for the Adams birthplaces, just as it has cared for the "Old House", the Adams homestead on Adams Street about 1½ miles to the north.

The Adams family has played a unique and significant role in saving both of these properties for our enjoyment and inspiration. In 1927 the descendants formed the Adams Memorial Society, and it was that organization which presented the birthplaces to Quincy in 1940 and the "Old

House" to the American people in 1946. In both cases, the deeds of gift stipulated that any changes not in keeping with the declared purpose of the gift would result in the return of the property to the family. In this way the descendants of the original owners continue to be responsible for their ancestral homes. It is interesting that the City of Quincy did not hand over the Adams birthplaces directly to the federal government but returned them to the Adams family, who gave them to the American people with the same protective deed restrictions that apply to the "Old House."

While structural repairs are in progress the interiors of these houses will be closed. Settling has distorted walls and floors; rising damp has crumbled old clay bricks; and insects and rot have weakened beams, joists and floorboards, making parts of the houses unsafe for visitors. Historically correct restoration will take time as well as money. The historical architect must X-ray floors and walls and take paint and mortar samples before any repairs are made to insure accuracy in restoration. These are the reasons why we cannot take you through these structures at present. We apologize and ask for your patience and understanding during this transition period.

The two houses which stand here are typical farm houses of early 18th-century New England. They are often called salt-box houses from their

resemblance to containers once used for storing salt. Each house is built around a massive central chimney, which allows a fireplace in every room.-- the only source of heat in those days. On each side of the chimney stand two rooms, a parlor to the right and a family room to the left, as well as two bed chambers on the second floor, reached by a winding staircase at the front entrance. To the rear, under a long, sloping roof, is the so-called "leanto", added to the original houses at a later date. The leantos contain a large kitchen, where the family cooked, ate, and performed many household chores, and another smaller chamber frequently used as a bedroom.

The external appearance of these houses, together with their setting, helps to tell part of the Adams story. It is a story of a simple rural way of life with roots stretching back to the earliest years of European settlement in New England. Until 1792, Quincy was a part of old Braintree, which was incorporated in 1640, only eleven years after the first settlers reached the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Already in 1636 John Adams' great-great grandfather, Henry Adams, arrived at Braintree from England with his wife and eight children. He established himself as a farmer and maltster or brewer of beer on a piece of land not far from here. So the Adamses remained for the next three generations. There was nothing to distinguish them from their neighbors. Like

everyone else, they tilled the soil for a living and supplemented their incomes through a craft or trade -- John Adams' father, Deacon John, was a cordwainer or cobbler, for example. But the harsh New England climate and the thin, rocky or swampy soil of Braintree yielded a very grudging harvest. That people could survive at all, and gradually even prosper, testified to the grim determination and almost constant physical labor that characterized life in early New England.

The house to your left, the birthplace of John Quincy Adams, is thought to be the older of the two. Its foundation at least may date to 1663 when one Samuel Belcher married and settled here. An inventory of Belcher's estate taken in 1680 shows that there was a dwelling house here by that time. The other house, the birthplace of President John Adams, also traces its origins back to the seventeenth century. A brick found under a ground sill bears the date 1681, and parts of the foundation may be even older. The owner or builder at this time was Joseph Penniman whose son, James, sold the house to Deacon John Adams, the president's father, in 1720. The purchase included six acres of land, the house, a barn and a well. In 1744 Deacon John acquired the neighboring house with a barn and 9½ acres of land.

Deacon John was evidently a careful, prudent, hard-working farmer, for at the time of his death in 1761 he owned 188 acres of land, making him one of the more prosperous farmers in town. There are other marks of his relative prominence in the small world of Braintree. In 1734 he married Susanna Boylston, daughter of a family whose social and economic status far outranked his own. In fact, in those undemocratic days when their son John graduated from Harvard, his class rank was determined by his social standing as a Boylston, not by his academic performance. In addition, the future president's father was a deacon in the church, a much-respected position at a time when church-going was universal and the local clergyman was one of the leading figures in the community. Deacon John also held the rank of lieutenant in the militia. "He was the honestest man I ever knew," said John of his father, who left a legacy of community service running like a thread through later generations of Adamses.

What was it like, growing up as a village boy in mid-18th-century Braintree? Fortunately, John Adams has left us a vivid record of his boyhood experiences in the form of his diary and autobiography. Children were a source of cheap labor in those days, not an economic liability as today. They were expected to work from an early age, and young John did his share, at first, no doubt, helping his mother with the kitchen

garden, the dairy and the poultry, but soon graduating to men's work. Plowing and sowing took place in spring, the principal crop being Indian corn. But there was also rye, wheat, oats and barley, as well as hay and flax. Fields had to be fertilized with manure hauled from the barns and gathered from the road right in front of the house. This was mixed with marsh mud and seaweed to form a compost that John Adams never tired of discussing in his letters. The sheep had to be sheared in spring for the wool which the womenfolk carded and spun into thread. By midsummer hay was mowed, raked, and stored for the livestock, which consisted usually of a pair of horses, a team of oxen for plowing and stone-and-stump pulling, several cows and a few yearlings, perhaps twenty sheep and a number of pigs. At summer's end the corn was harvested, shucked, shelled and hauled to the mill down the brook which ran across the Adamses' farm to be ground into meal. The apple orchard was also harvested, most of the crop being pressed in the cider mill on the farm to produce the universal beverage of the New England farm family, hard cider. If there was nothing else to do, there were stone walls and rail fences to be mended or built and wood to be cut -- cords and cords of it -- to feed the kitchen fire year-round and to help keep off winter's chill.

Obviously the use of leisure time was not a major problem in those days.

Surprisingly, however, there was leisure, particularly during the long winter months, and children had their games and amusements as they do in any age. John Adams recalled fondly his time spent flying kites, driving hoops, playing marbles and quoits, and swimming and wrestling in summer, as well as skating on the ponds in winter. His great childhood passion was shooting, and he confessed an enthusiasm for it that exceeded any he ever felt for business or study. All young men learned to shoot in those days. Fresh meat was rarely eaten, and a roast wild goose, turkey, partridge or woodcock was a welcome variation to smoked or salt meat and fish. Game birds abounded then, before the draining and filling of ponds, swamps, and salt marshes that has occurred since.

Of course young John spent part of his time at school, first learning his ABC's at Dame Belchers's school, then ciphering and Latin with Master Cleverly. Apparently, he was an unwilling scholar who preferred bird-hunting to book-learning. John's father wanted his eldest son to attend Harvard and become a minister, but young John wanted to be a farmer. Deacon John wisely consented to a change of school masters for his son, and under Master Joseph Marsh, John Adams developed his life-long passion for books.

The one weekly break with routine for all the villagers was the Sunday sabbath. The old wooden meeting house stood in Quincy Center near the

present Stone Temple, the United First Parish Church, built in 1828 to replace it. Everyone gathered for two services each Sunday. We may well wonder how people tolerated sitting hour after hour on hard benches in a drafty building heated only by the preacher's promise of hell-fire for sinners. One reason is that in an age before newspapers, radio, television or telephones the meeting house gave people a chance to catch up on the latest news or gossip, as well as to socialize. Another reason is that people took religion very seriously -- so much so that religious controversies often disrupted the community. It was in the midst of one such controversy that young John Adams decided against becoming a minister and chose the law for his career.

By 1761 when his father died, John was a rising young lawyer six years out of Harvard. Though he was the eldest son, his two brothers received somewhat larger shares of their father's property because John had been given a Harvard education, then, even more than now, the key to advancement. Brother Peter Boylston inherited Deacon John's house (the John Adams birthplace) and the land with it. Brother Elihu received a house and farm in the South Parish of Braintree, now Randolph. John was given the remaining house with forty acres of land and a third of his father's personal property. Now forty acres is not very much land for a farm, even by New England standards. A forty-acre plot, if square,

would measure about a quarter-mile on a side. It was just a beginning, and John Adams always viewed it as such. All his life he retained the farmer's instinct to acquire land, and he added to his holdings, in small increments, year after year.

His inheritance gave him another benefit: as a land owner he became a full-fledged member of the community, able to vote at town meetings and hold public office. His first office was as surveyor of highways. There was only one highway in Braintree deserving of the name in those days, and that was the Boston to Plymouth road running along present-day Adams Street through Quincy Center and eventually along Franklin Street right past the Adams homestead. Up to that time, road maintenance was provided only by an annual requirement that every villager offer his labor for road work. John Adams succeeded in pushing through a road tax instead. Later he was chosen selectman.

Meanwhile John courted and in 1764 married Abigail Smith, daughter of Reverend William Smith of the neighboring town of Weymouth. It would be no exaggeration to say that their marriage was one of the great matches in history. Abigail was every bit her husband's equal intellectually, and she was able to provide an emotional anchor for a man subject to fits of depression and nervous irritability. It was a real partnership, unusual in any age, and particularly in the 18th century,

when most women were either social ornaments or domestic slaves. Being a parson's daughter as well as a Quincy on her mother's side, Abigail outranked John socially and she was well educated at a time when most women were all but illiterate. A sickly child, she gained her education at home, reading her father's books and having access to the library of her grandfather, Colonel John Quincy. Her letters are full of literary allusions and stylistic sophistication, and they are the single most valuable source of information on the flow of life in Braintree during the Revolutionary War era.

The first ten years of their married life centered around the farm. They were productive and prosperous years that witnessed the birth of their four children; daughter Abigail in 1765, and son John Quincy in 1767, followed by Charles in 1770 and Thomas in 1772. (John Quincy Adams' birth room is the northeast bedchamber.) John ran his farm while plying his trade as a lawyer in Braintree and Boston and throughout the eastern court circuit which took him as far as Maine, a part of Massachusetts in those days. John and Abigail always corresponded during his brief absences -- it was only a foretaste of much longer and more painful separations to come.

On the eve of the Revolution John Adams' legal career stood at its pinnacle. He had had among his clients John Hancock, the wealthiest merchant in Boston. He added to his land holdings in Braintree, and

in 1774 purchased from his brother Peter Boylston the house of his birth and the farm with it. While in Braintree, John's office was located in the southeast room of the John Quincy Adams birthplace, where he could work surrounded by what had become one of the most respectable law libraries in Massachusetts. Apparently to provide access to his clients, John had a doorway cut through the south wall of the house. This doorway appears in the earliest drawing of the house but was later covered up until the house was restored in 1896.

But the Adamses' domestic tranquillity was shattered by the revolutionary struggle. Without hesitation, John identified with the patriot cause. In 1774 he was elected a delegate to the first Continental Congress, beginning a quarter century of public service that removed him from Braintree for all but a few months at a time. The story of the farm at this point becomes Abigail's story, and it is a story of courage and determination in the face of adversity. The British had occupied Boston, and there were perpetual alarms. Militia units marched up and down the highway, mustering and drilling. On one occasion a group of patriots passed by carrying away the town's store of gunpowder to secrete it from the Tories. Recognizing Abigail as she watched from the window, they offered her some of the powder, but she refused, saying she was pleased it was in good hands. These were

exciting days and John Quincy Adams, just a boy of six, recalled vividly many years later being placed among a group of militiamen who stopped at the Adams farm about the time of the battles of Lexington and Concord. He was given a musket and upon command executed the manual of arms like a good soldier.

Abigail kept her door open and offered hospitality to those in need. She gave up her pewter, which was melted down in her fireplace and molded into bullets. And she took in refugees from occupied Boston to her own considerable discomfort. At one point she wrote that her "family", including her domestics and John's law clerks, consisted of thirteen or fourteen persons -- all living, presumably, in her cottage!

Perhaps the climactic event of that time that tried men's souls came with the battle of Bunker Hill. John Quincy Adams later recalled climbing to the top of Penn's Hill to listen to the rumble of cannon and watch the smoke rise from the burning of Charlestown. If you mount the hill today, you will find a cairn marking the spot.

But amidst all this excitement, Abigail had to carry on the day-to-day responsibilities of running a farm and raising a family. With the help of two domestics and some day laborers she ran a dairy, made butter and cheese, grew her vegetables for "sauce", as stewed vegetables

were called, spun and wove wool and flax, prepared meals, and made soap, among other chores. She nursed her family and servants through the many illnesses that prevailed in those years, including a dysentery epidemic that carried off her mother and John's youngest brother. She also became a shrewd financial manager, paying the many and increasingly heavy taxes and still managing to save a bit which she invested in frontier land in Vermont and, later, in public securities. John took pride in her abilities, saying that as a "farmeress" she had no equals. There was always something left for the poor and unfortunate, too, and Abigail gained a reputation for her many charities. She was like a daughter to her mother-in-law, Susanna Boylston Adams, who had gone to live with John's brother, Peter, but was a frequent visitor at Abigail's cottage. And she took in her niece, Louisa Smith, daughter of her wayward brother.

Amidst all this she still found time to concern herself about her children's education. She tried to inspire her children so that they would become useful to their country. "These are times in which a Genius would wish to live," she wrote to her son John Quincy Adams a few years later when he was accompanying his father in France. It was a lesson the younger Adams never forgot. John Quincy Adams seems to have been influenced more than the other children by his mother's powerful personality. He was a great help to her as a boy. When only

nine, he served as family post-rider, carrying mail between Boston and Braintree.

Abigail's restless intelligence shines forth most clearly in her letters to her husband. A recurring theme is her interest in the status of women, and here her thinking was far in advance of her time. In a famous letter to John she urged him to "remember the ladies" in framing the laws of the new nation. She was certainly no women's libber in today's sense of the word, but she wanted educational opportunities for women so that they, too, could be useful participants in civic affairs.

In 1779 an event of great significance for Massachusetts, and ultimately for the nation, took place in the law office of John and Abigail's cottage. It was here that John Adams, together with Sam Adams and James Bowdoin, drafted the Massachusetts Constitution. It is the oldest written constitution still in effect in this hemsiphere, and it in turn became a model for the federal constitution. John Adams deserves most of the credit as its principal theorist and author. The Massachusetts constitution reflects not only John Adams' wisdom but his deep erudition. Surrounded by his library of ancient Roman law and modern European legal theorists, he penned a document that was at once the culmination of centuries of human experience and a bold new departure. He managed to

strike a balance between protecting popular sovereignty and human rights on the one hand, and guarding against the excesses of pure democracy on the other. The state constitution's "Declaration of Rights" is reflected in the federal constitution's bill of rights. The separation of powers doctrine, embodied in the three-part division of government and the bicameral legislature, also found its way into our federal system.

John Adams spent all but a few months of the decade from 1778 to 1788 in Europe, winning Dutch recognition and loans for the United States, negotiating an end to the Revolutionary War, and becoming our first minister to Great Britain. Yet, he longed to be back on his farm with his family. He wrote to Abigail that he would cheerfully exchange the elegance and splendor of European courts for the rocks and shades of his farm at Penn's Hill.

As the war dragged on and labor became almost impossible to procure when every able-bodied man was a soldier, Abigail gave up direct farming and leased the farm to tenants "to the halves," as the phrase went -- meaning that she received half the produce. She with her family continued to occupy the John Quincy Adams birthplace, while the other house was lived in by her tenants. In 1784 she departed with daughter Nabby to join her husband in France. This marked the end of

John and Abigail's residence on the farm at Penn's Hill. When the family returned to Braintree in 1788, it was to a newly-purchased home which came to be known as the "Old House", now the Adams National Historic Site on Adams Street.

The John and Abigail Adams cottage was lived in for a number of years during this period by a black woman named Phoebe, a freed slave of Abigail's father Reverend Smith. She and her husband William Abdee became resident caretakers while the farm accounts and other business of the family were looked after by Abigail's uncle, Cotton Tufts, and her sister, Mary Cranch.

Until 1803 John Adams owned the farm, but the cottages were occupied by various tenants. During a particularly busy summer in 1796 John supervised the construction of a barn measuring fifty feet by thirty feet somewhere just to the rear of his birthplace, replacing an old barn belonging originally to Deacon John.

In 1803 John Quincy Adams purchased the Penn's Hill farm from his father for $12,812 and spent the summers of 1805 and 1806 there while a United States Senator. He was not the farmer his father was, but trees and orchards interested him greatly; and he set out hundreds of apple, peach, pear and plum trees. His wife Louisa Catherine accepted

her lot with good grace, but she was no "farmeress". She was bred more for the drawing room than the dairy, and she described with amusement her unsuccessful attempts to coax milk from a cow. On another somewhat less amusing occasion she was called from her kitchen, half covered with charcoal from the hearth, to play hostess to visiting society ladies from Baltimore in her parlor. A near-tragedy occurred once when John and Louisa's youngest boy John, then two years old, tumbled into a rain barrel and nearly drowned.

In the spring of 1807 John Quincy Adams moved his family to Boston, and though his brother Thomas Boylston Adams lived from 1810 to 1818 in the John Adams birthplace, John and Abigail's house -- "our own Republican cottage," in Abigail's words -- was never again lived in by a member of the family.

A List of Crops, Produce, and Livestock Grown On the Farm at Penn's Hill

1. Grains, grasses, and other staple crops:

Indian corn
Siberian wheat
Rye
Oats
Barley
"English grass", "English hay", including clover
Salt hay
Flax

2. Vegetables:

Potatoes
Onions
Cabbage
Peas
Beans
Pumpkins
Carrots
Parsnips
Beets
Asparagus
Pepper grass (garden cress)
Mustard
Lettuce

3. Fruits:

Apples
Peaches
Pears
Plums
Cherries
Strawberries
Raspberries
Grapes
Currants

3. Fruits (continued):

Watermelon
Muskmellon
Huckleberries

4. Livestock

Horses
Oxen
Cows
Sheep
Pigs

5. Poultry

Rooster
Hens
Ducks
Geese

6. Trees, other than fruit:

Lilac
Cedar
Hemlock
Walnut
Oak, white
Buttonwood
Elm
Maple
Savin
Pine, white
Willow
Alder
Birch
Ash
Dogwood
Arrowwood

Chronology

1636 -- Arrival of Henry Adams from England.

1640 -- Incorporation of the Town of Braintree.

1646 -- Death of Henry Adams.

1663 -- Marriage of Samuel Belcher, possible date of original part of John Quincy Adams birthplace.

1681 -- Definite date by which John Adams birthplace was built.

1691 -- Birth of Deacon John Adams, father of President John Adams, farmer, cordwainer, selectman and militia officer.

1716 -- Alteration or addition to the John Quincy Adams birthplace.

1720 -- Deacon John purchased John Adams birthplace, including a barn, well and six acres, from James Penniman.

1734 -- Marriage of Deacon John and Susanna Boylston.

1735 -- Birth of John Adams (October 30).

1738 -- Birth of Peter Boylston Adams.

1741 -- Birth of Elihu Adams.

1744 -- Deacon John purchased John Quincy Adams birthplace with $9\frac{1}{2}$ acres and barn from John and Richard Billings.

1744 -- Birth of Abigail Smith, daughter of Reverend William Smith of Weymouth and Elizabeth Quincy Smith (November 22).

1755 -- John Adams graduated from Harvard and began three years' residence in Worcester as school master and law clerk.

1758 -- John Adams returned to Braintree and was admitted to the bar at Boston.

1761 -- Death of Deacon John. John Adams inherited the John Quincy Adams birthplace and 40 acres of land.

1764 -- Marriage of John Adams and Abigail Smith (October 25).

1765 -- Birth of Abigail (Nabby) Adams.

1765 -- John Adams drafted the Braintree Instructions against the Stamp Act.

1765 -- John Adams elected surveyor of highways.

1766 -- John Adams chosen Braintree selectman.

1767 -- Birth of John Quincy Adams (July 11); death of Colonel John Quincy (July 13).

1768 -- John Adams defended John Hancock against smuggling charges.

1770 -- Birth of Charles Adams.

1770 -- John Adams successfully defended Captain Preston and British soldiers in Boston Massacre trial.

1772 -- Birth of Thomas Boylston Adams.

1774 -- John Adams purchased his birthplace from brother Peter.

1774 -- John Adams attended the first Continental Congress.

1775 -- John Adams attended the second Continental Congress; Abigail and the children watched Battle of Bunker's Hill; dysentery epidemic; death of Elihu Adams.

1776 -- John Adams on committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence.

1778 -- Abigail leased the farm "to the halves".

1778 -- John Adams and John Quincy Adams departed for France.

1779 -- They returned briefly; John Adams drafted the Massachusetts Constitution.

1779 -- John Adams returned to France.

1780 -- John Adams appointed United States agent to Holland.

1781 -- John Quincy Adams accompanied Francis Dana as secretary-interpreter on mission to Russia.

1782 -- First loans from the Dutch; John Adams became minister to Holland.

1782 -- John Adams negotiated preliminary treaty with Great Britain.

1783 -- John Adams signed the Treaty of Paris.

1783 -- Royall Tyler purchased the Borland estate (the "Old House").

1784 -- Abigail and Nabby joined John Adams and John Quincy Adams in Europe; her other sons were board with her sister Elizabeth Shaw in Haverhill; the John Quincy Adams birthplace was left in the care of a black couple, Phoebe and William Abdee; the John Adams birthplace was tenanted by Matthew Pratt.

1785 -- John Quincy Adams returned to America and entered Harvard, graduating in 1787.

1785 -- John Adams became minister to Great Britain.

1787 -- The Adamses purchased the Borland house for 600 pounds.

1788 -- Return of the Adamses to Braintree.

1789 -- John Adams elected Vice-President; the Adamses moved to New York.

1796 -- John Adams elected President.

1796 -- John Adams built a barn on the Penn's Hill farm.

1803 -- John Quincy Adams purchased the farm with both houses from John Adams.

1805 -- The John Quincy Adamses spent the summers of 1805 and 1806 at the farm and lived in the John Quincy Adams birthplace; John Quincy Adams planted a large orchard.

1807 -- John Quincy Adams purchased a house in Boston and never returned to the Penn's Hill farm to live.

1810 -- Thomas Boylston Adams and family resided in the John Adams birthplace until 1818; no Adams lived at either house after that date.

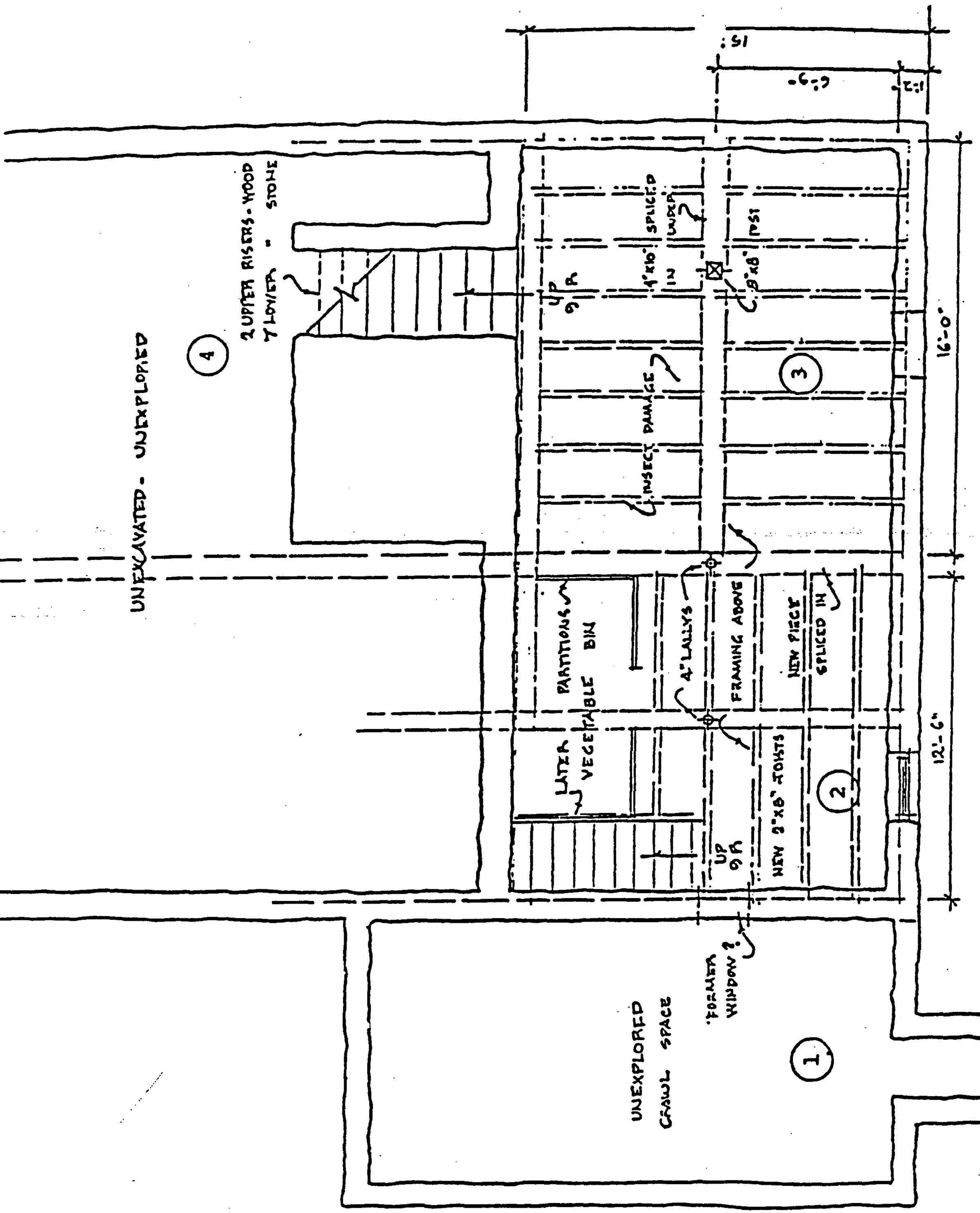
1896 -- The John Quincy Adams birthplace was restored for the use of the Quincy Historical Society.

1897 -- The John Adams birthplace was restored for the use of the Daughters of the Revolution.

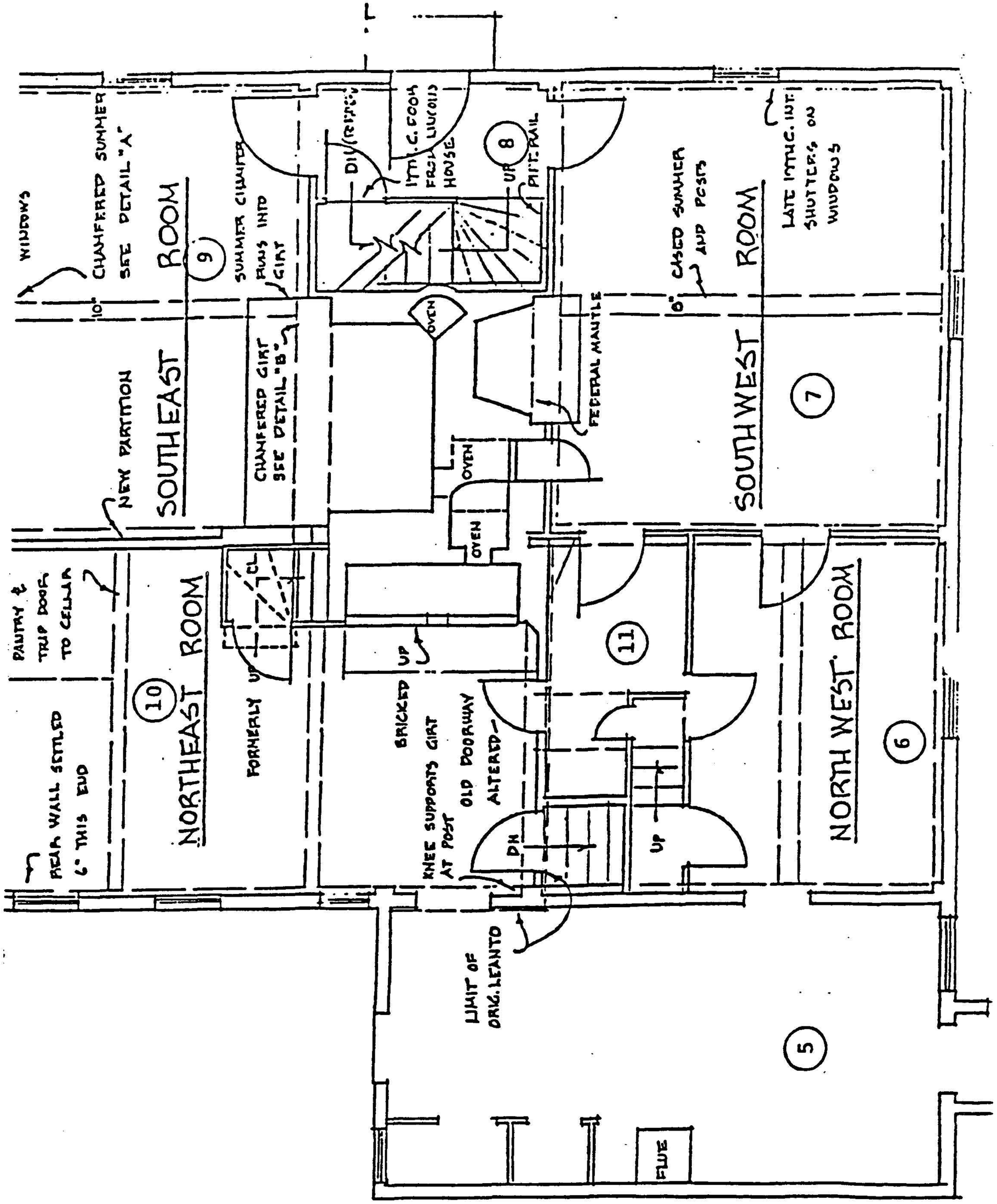
1940 -- The birthplaces were given to the City of Quincy by the Adams family.

1978-79 -- The birthplaces were returned to the Adams family to be given to the people of the United States.

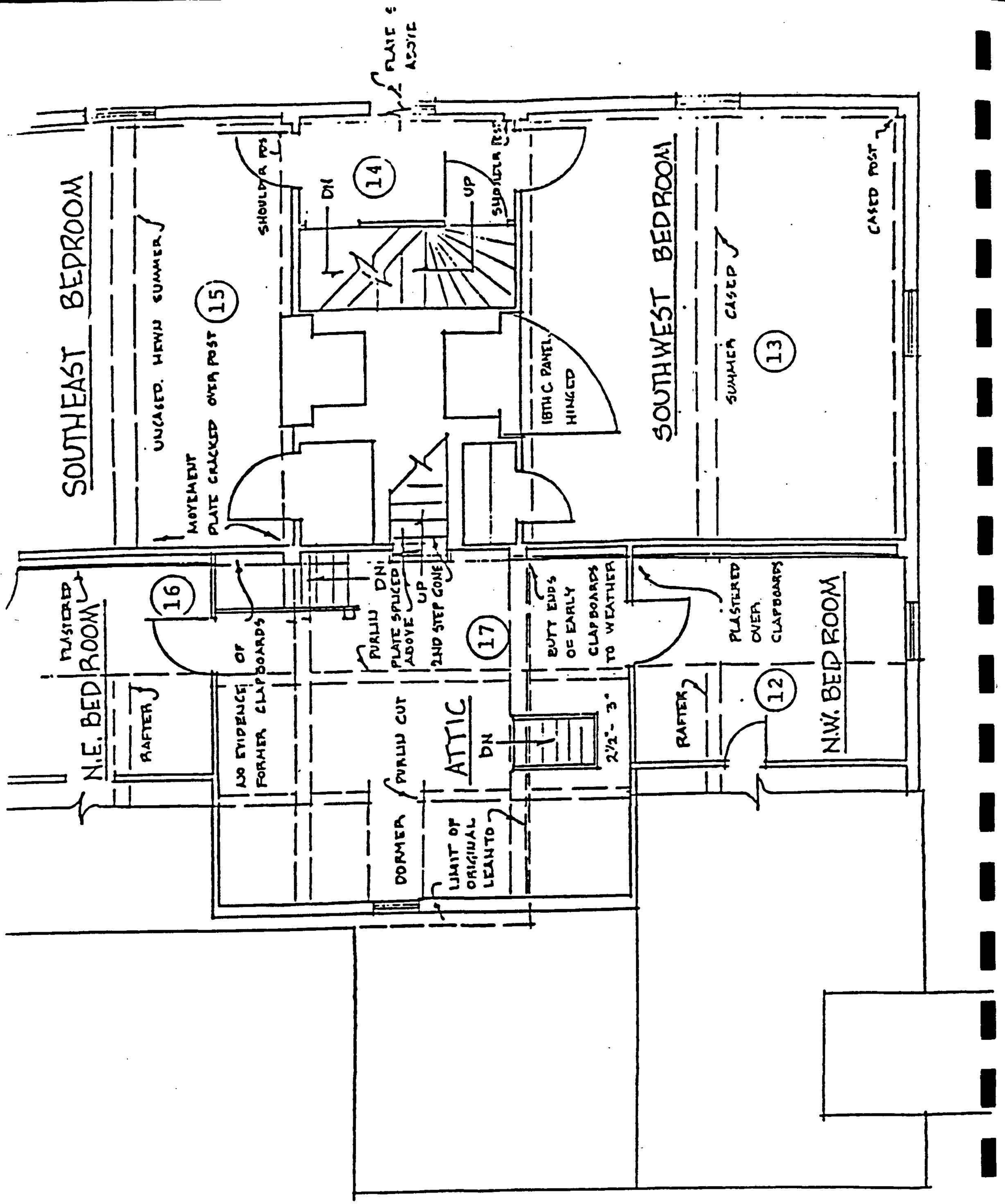
Appendix D-1



David M. Hart, John Adams Birthplace, Cellar Floor Plan, 1975.

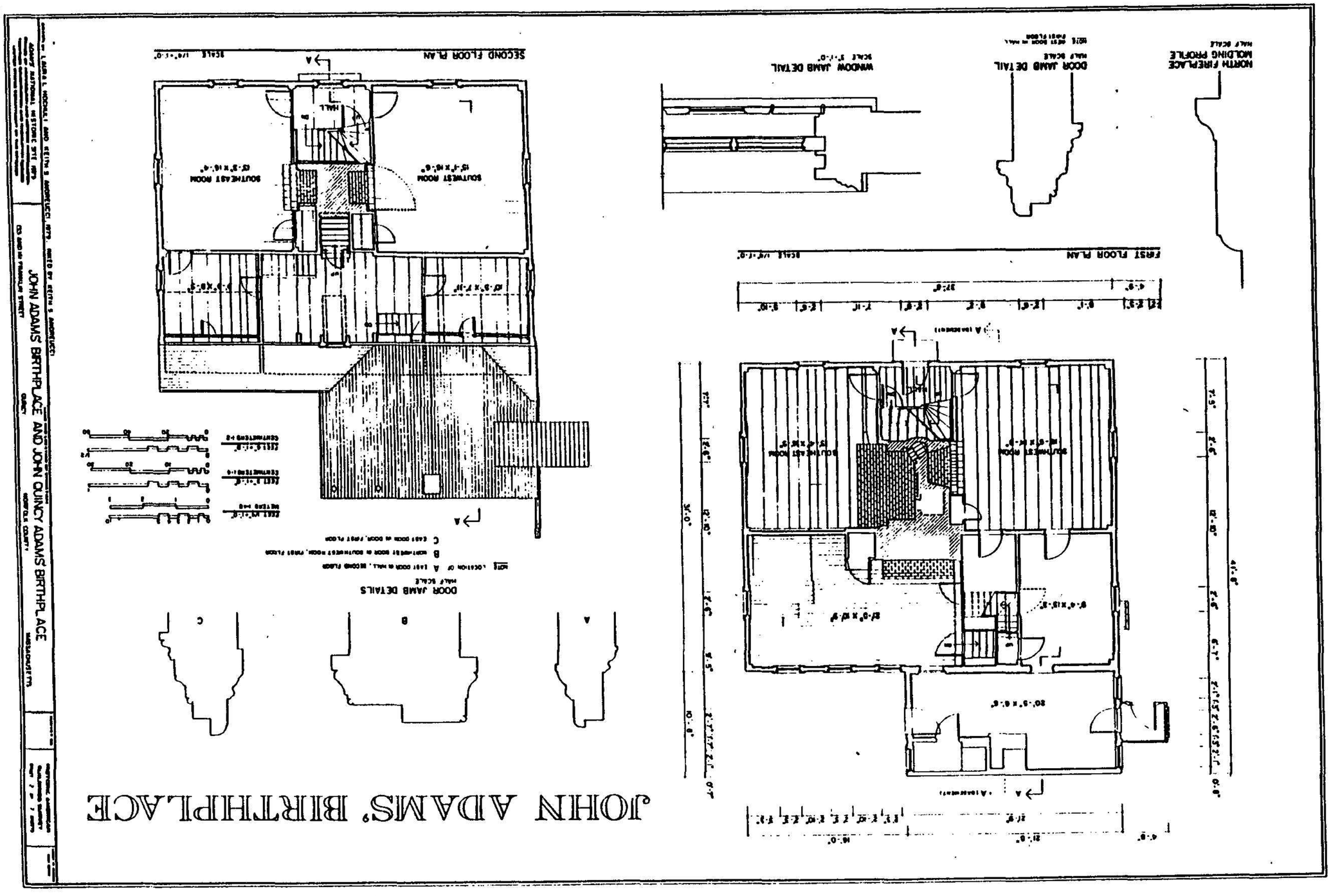


David M. Hart, John Adams Birthplace, First Floor Plan, 1975.

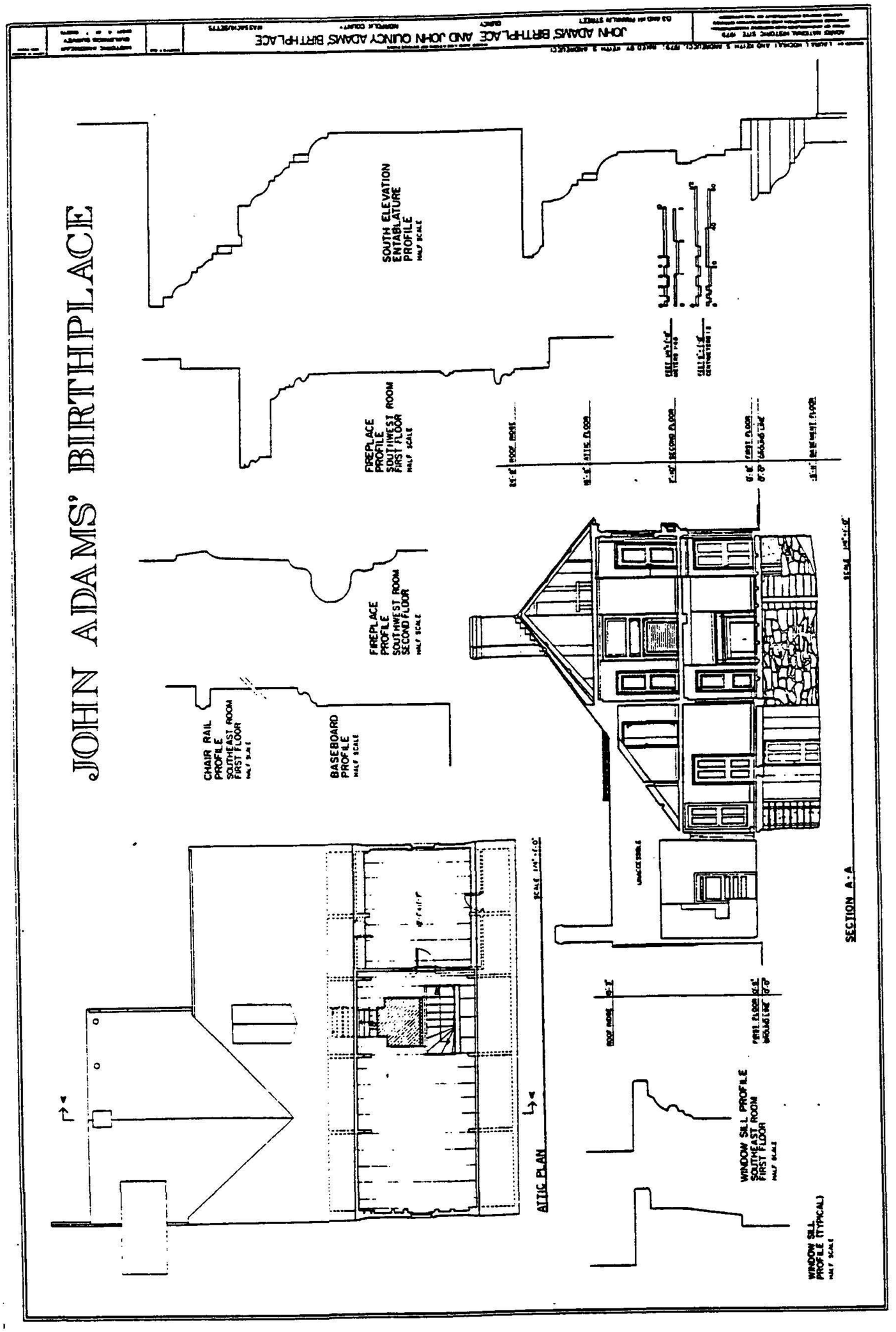


David M. Hart, John Adams Birthplace, Second Floor Plan, 1975.

Appendix D-2



Hochuli, Laura and Keith S. Andrucci, John Adams birthplace first and second floor plans, 1979.



Hochuli, Laura and Keith S. Andrucci, John Adams birthplace attic floor plan, section, and details, 1979.

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO.
Massachusetts	XII, Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830

3. NAME(S) OF SITE	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
Adams Birthplaces	2 acres

5. EXACT LOCATION (*County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet*) John Adams Birthplace - 133 Franklin Street; John Quincy Adams Birthplace, 141 Franklin Street, Quincy, Massachusetts

6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (*Also administrator if different from owner*)

City of Quincy, under administration of city historian, Quincy, Massachusetts

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (*Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant*)

The John Adams Birthplace is believed to have been built around 1681. The property was conveyed to Deacon John Adams, father of the President, by deed of May 11, 1720, and John Adams, the future President, was born there on October 19, 1735. The front part of the present house was standing at that time. The date of the later leanto is not definitely known. John Adams, the son, lived at the homestead until or shortly before his marriage in 1764, at which time he moved to the neighboring house which had been left to him by his father who died in 1761. The earliest portion of this second house may date from as early as 1663. It was in this second Adams house, adjacent to the family homestead, that John Quincy Adams was born on July 11, 1767. For several years this house served as the law office for John Adams, then embarking on his legal career. After 1772, John Adams' growing law practice and public activities made it convenient for him to live in Boston much of the time but during the period just before and during the Revolution, his wife and son remained in the house where John Quincy had been born. In 1774 John Adams purchased from his brother, who had inherited the property, the original homestead and thus came into possession of the house in which he had been born.

After 1783 both houses were left to tenants and when the Adams returned from Europe in 1788 they settled at the "Old House", now Adams National Historic Site. In 1803 John Quincy Adams purchased both the birthplace houses from his father and from 1805 to 1807 when he returned to Boston to live, he occupied the house in which he was born. Both birthplace houses and remaining land were deeded by the Adams heirs to the City of Quincy in 1940.

The houses, both of typical salt box design, have undergone considerable repair and alteration over the years, much of which was not consistent with an authentic restoration to the period of their greatest historical significance. However, much of their original fabric remains and enough is known of the construction of the houses (cont.)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (*Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works*)

Henry Adams, The Birthplaces of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams in Quincy, Massachusetts (Quincy, 1936); reprinted from Old-Time New England, The Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (January, 1936); Waldo C. Sprague, The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces, Quincy, Massachusetts (Quincy, 1959); Harriet T. Upton, Our Early Presidents and (cont.)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (*Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.*)

Historic American Buildings Survey - John Adams Birthplace (1 photo, 1941); John Quincy Adams Birthplace (1 photo, 1941).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS *	11. CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (*Museum, farm, etc.*)	13. DATE OF VISIT
ATTACHED: YES ☐ NO ☒	Good	Historic house museums	No visit

14. NAME OF RECORDER (*Signature*)	15. TITLE	16. DATE
Charles E. Shedd, Jr.	Historic Sites Historian	2/19/60

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10½ SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—74016-1

Appendix E-1

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Massachusetts	Adams Birthplaces

7. Importance and Description (cont.)

probably to permit authentic restoration.

The John Adams Birthplace originally consisted of two lower rooms and two upper chambers, with a massive center chimney. The later leanto, early but of uncertain date, added two lower rooms, two small upper chambers at each end with a large attic space between. The John Quincy Adams birthplace also consisted originally of two lower and two upper rooms. Later a kitchen leanto consisting of two rooms was added to the rear of the house and the original kitchen room served as John Adams' law office.

EVALUATION

Purely as architectural examples, either of the 17th or 18th centuries, the houses are not especially noteworthy. However, they have great significance in the lives of both John and John Quincy Adams beyond merely being their birthplaces. John Adams reached manhood in the house in which he was born and embarked on his great public career in the adjoining cottage. John Quincy Adams lived in the house in which he was born both as a boy and as a figure of national importance.

8. Bibliographical References (cont.)

Their Wives and Children (Boston c. 1890).

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—74029-1

Appendix E-2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

COUNTY: Norfolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: John Adams Birthplace and Boyhood Home

AND/OR HISTORIC: John Adams Birthplace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 133 Franklin Street, near its junction with President's Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Quincy

STATE: Massachusetts | CODE: | COUNTY: Norfolk | CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Quincy, administered by Quincy Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Quincy | STATE: Massachusetts | CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Quincy | STATE: Massachusetts | CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington | STATE: D. C. | CODE:

STATE: | COUNTY: | FOR NPS USE ONLY | ENTRY NUMBER | DATE

(5)

CONDITION	XX Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered			*(Check One)* ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Adams Birthplace is a two-story frame farmhouse of typical New England saltbox design. Probably built about 1681, it originally consisted of two lower rooms and two upper chambers and had a massive central chimney. The later rear leanto, built at some unknown date in the 18th century, added two lower rooms and two small upper chambers having a large attic space between. In 1896 the Adams Chapter Daughters of the Revolution obtained permission to restore the house and open it to the public in 1897. The Chapter dissolved in January 1950, and the operation of the house was taken over by the Quincy Historical Society. Title to the property was deeded by the Adams heirs to the City of Quincy in 1940. In excellent condition, the house is open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(7)

☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☒ 18th Century	☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1735-1764

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

[This site was declared eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks under Theme XII, Military and Political Affairs, 1783-1830, in 1962].

This was the birthplace and boyhood home (1735-1764) of John Adams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Massachusetts, second President of the United States, lawyer, politician, diplomat, and the first Vice-President of the United States.

History of the House

The original homestead of the Adams family, John Adams' father, "Deacon" John Adams, bought the farmhouse, parts of which may date back to 1681, in 1720. Born here on October 19, 1735, and growing to manhood in the house, young John lived there until or shortly before his marriage in 1764, when he and his bridge Abigail moved into a neighboring house that in 1761 he had inherited from his father. In 1774 John Adams purchased his birthplace house from his brother and the structure house to his son John Quincy. The John Adams Birthplace remained in the possession of the Adams heirs until 1940, when they deeded it to the city of Quincy.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6

The Dictionary of American Biography, Vol, I, 73-82. Article by Worthington Chauncey Ford.
Elizabeth Feilds and Dr. J. E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 4.
Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States (June 16, 1960), 453-457.
Massachusetts, A Guide to Its Places and People (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 339.
Robert G. Ferris, ed., Founders and Frontiersmen (Washington, 1967), 211-12.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY							OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		42 °	14 '	27 "	71 °	00'	16 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 2/26/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GP O 901.087

Appendix E-3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: John Adams Birthplace

AND/OR COMMON: John Adams Birthplace

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 133 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	XPUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	_AGRICULTURE	XMUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	_PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	_COMMERCIAL	_PARK
_STRUCTURE	_BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	_EDUCATIONAL	_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	_ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	XYES: 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 12169 — _ 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 — XFEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

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

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

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 Adams Birthplace stands on the west side of Franklin Street (number 133) approximately 150 feet from its intersection with Presidents Avenue. The house is remarkably similar in size and design to the John Quincy Adams Birthplace, located about 75 feet south of it on the same property (141 Franklin Street). The property north and west of the John Adams Birthplace consists of park-like open land acquired and maintained by the City of Quincy as a protective buffer for the two birthplace houses.

In its present form, the John 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. Though the leanto is a later addition, the long rear slope of the gabled roof extends from the ridge to the eaves in an unbroken line. Windows in the house are 12/12 double-hung sash. The main entrance, at the center of the 3-bay front facade, is flanked by pilasters carrying an entablature and a triangular pediment. This "frontispiece" is also a later addition.

A dated brick found under the ground sill at the southeast corner of the house indicates that the main portion of it was constructed in 1681. The fact that the doorway and windows are not centered on the front facade lends some support to the theory that the eastern end of the house rests on the foundation of the original building on the site, probably built c. 1650. The exact date of the leanto is not known but it is generally believed to predate the purchase of the house by Deacon John Adams in 1720. The present appearance of the parlor, particularly its paneling, seems to be the result of "improvements" made by Thomas Boylston Adams, son of President John Adams, when he moved to the house in 1810.

Substantial work was done on the house in 1896 when it became the headquarters of the Adams Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution (not the Daughters of the American Revolution). The early fireplaces, which had been bricked up or reduced in size, were reopened. The original doorway to the cellar, at the left of the kitchen fireplace, had been removed; a 17th century door, taken from a house in Hingham, Massachusetts, was set in its place. Two-paned window sash of the Victorian era were replaced by appropriate small-paned sash. The chief alteration was the removal of the partition between the original kitchen and the newer one in the leanto to create a meeting space. Custodian's quarters were made in the western part of the leanto and a small addition was constructed behind it for a kitchen.

Further work was done when the Quincy Historical Society took over administration of the house in 1950. A new partition was installed between the two kitchens; however, it lacks the thickness of the original and has no dado as do the other walls in the old kitchen. The entire leanto was renovated for use by the custodian and electricity was installed in that part of

the house.

With the exception of a few pieces donated by the Adams family, most of them in the east chamber where John Adams was born, the furnishings of the house are not original. However, the house 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 Adams Birthplace (defined in Item 10) include that house, the adjacent John Quincy Adams Birthplace, and the protective open space described above. The land is part of the original Adams farm.

PERIOD

__PREHISTORIC
__1400-1499
__1500-1599
__1600-1699
X 1700-1799
__1800-1899
__1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
__AGRICULTURE
__ARCHITECTURE
__ART
__COMMERCE
__COMMUNICATIONS
__COMMUNITY PLANNING
__CONSERVATION
__ECONOMICS
__EDUCATION
__ENGINEERING
__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
__INDUSTRY
__INVENTION
__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
__LAW
__LITERATURE
__MILITARY
__MUSIC
__PHILOSOPHY
X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
__RELIGION
__SCIENCE
__SCULPTURE
__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__THEATER
__TRANSPORTATION
__OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1681; 1735 BUILDER/ARCHITECT not known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 17th century frame and clapboard house in Quincy, Massachusetts, was the birthplace and boyhood home of John Adams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, principal author of the Constitution of Massachusetts, which became a model for the Federal Constitution, first Vice-President, and second President of the United States.

The John Adams Birthplace remained in the Adams family until 1940, when it was deeded to the City of Quincy. From 1896 until 1950, it was used as the headquarters of the Adams Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution (not the Daughters of the American Revolution); since 1950, it has been administered by the Quincy Historical Society. The John 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 John Adams Birthplace stands on land which originally belonged to William Needham; the first house on the site is thought to have been built by him about 1650. The present house was probably built in 1681 (the date cut in a brick found at the southeast corner of the foundation when the house was renovated in 1896) but, according to some sources, may incorporate elements of the 1650 building. In 1720, Deacon John Adams purchased the house and some seven acres of land. The leanto had already been added to the house by that date. John Adams, Deacon Adams' first son was born in the east chamber of the house in 1735.

Following the death of Deacon Adams in 1761, the house was left to his second son, Peter Boylston Adams, who occupied it until his marriage in 1768. Peter Adams sold the house to his older brother John in 1774. Deacon Adams' widow still lived in the house at that time and continued to do so until 1780. The house was then rented to various tenants until 1803, when John Adams sold both it and the second Adams family house, located immediately to the south, to his son John Quincy Adams. Thomas Boylston Adams, another son of John Adams, lived in the house with his family from 1810 until 1818. Thereafter, the house was again occupied by various tenants until about 1885, when most of the surrounding farm was sold for houselots.

The John Adams Birthplace then remained vacant until 1896, when Charles Francis

Adams, Henry. "The Birthplaces of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams in Quincy, Massachusetts", Old-Time New England, The Bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (January, 1936).
Bowen, Catherine Drinker. John Adams and the American Revolution (1950).
Sprague, Waldo C. The President John Adams and President John Quincy Adams Birthplaces, Quincy, Massachusetts (1959; reprinted 1964)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .70 acre

UTM REFERENCES

		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A		19	331460	4628010
B				
C				
D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(shown in red on attached excerpt from 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 (cont'd)

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

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 — DATE: 3/5/75

STREET & NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W. — TELEPHONE: 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN: Washington 20240 — STATE: District of Columbia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE — DATE

Landmark Designated: Dec. 19, 1960

Boundary Certified: Henry Ferris, Jr. 4-13-78 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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

ATTEST: — DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Adams, Jr., great-grandson of President John Adams, allowed the Adams Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, to restore the house and use it as a headquarters. The house was opened to the public under the Chapter's supervision the following year. Though the Adams family deeded the John Adams Birthplace to the City of Quincy in 1940, the Daughters of the Revolution continued to occupy it until 1950 when the Adams Chapter was dissolved. Since that time, the house has been administered for the City and opened to the public by the Quincy Historical Society.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY, JOHN ADAMS

John Adams was born in what is now Quincy (originally a part of Braintree), Massachusetts, on October 19 (old style; October 30, new style), 1735. He graduated from Harvard College in 1755 and for a time taught school in Worcester, Massachusetts. He then studied law in the office of James Putnam and in 1758 was admitted to the bar in Boston. In 1764, Adams married Abigail Smith, daughter of the Congregational minister of Weymouth, Massachusetts.

Adams first gained wide public attention--and a position as a leader of the Massachusetts Whigs--during the controversy surrounding Parliament's passage of the Stamp Act in 1765. In that year he drafted the instructions which were sent by the town of Braintree to its representatives in the Massachusetts Legislature and which were a model for other towns in drawing up their own instructions to their representatives. In August, 1765, he contributed four anonymous articles to the Boston Gazette (published in London in 1768 as A Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law) in which he argued that the opposition of the colonies to the Stamp Act was part of a continuous struggle between individualism and corporate authority. And finally, in December, 1765, he delivered a speech before the Governor and Council in which he declared the Stamp Act invalid on the ground that Massachusetts was without representation in Parliament and, therefore, had not assented to it.

Adams gained further attention in 1770 when he served as lawyer for the defense in the trial of the British soldiers charged with murder as a result of the so-called "Boston Massacre". Though public sentiment was strongly against the accused, Adams was recognized for his upright and patriotic conduct in the case and the following year was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature by a large majority.

From 1774 to 1778, Adams served in the Continental Congress, where he was a strong and impatient advocate of the separation of the American colonies from Great Britain. In June, 1776, he was appointed with Jefferson, Franklin,

Livingstone, and Sherman to draft a declaration of independence. At the request of the other members of the committee, the document was written by Jefferson, but it was Adams who took the lead in the debate on its adoption.

In 1778, Adams served briefly as a member of the American commission which secured a treaty of alliance with France. He returned home in time to be elected a member of the convention which framed the Massachusetts Constitution, adopted in 1780. With James Bowdoin and Samuel Adams, he formed the subcommittee which prepared the draft of the document, the greatest part of which was his own work. The Massachusetts Constitution furnished a model for other state governments and from it was adopted the form of general government outlined in the Federal Constitution of 1787.

Before the Massachusetts Constitution was ratified, Adams returned to Europe as minister plenipotentiary for negotiating a treaty of peace and a treaty of commerce with Great Britain. Subsequently Franklin, Jefferson, John Jay, and Henry Laurens were appointed to cooperate with Adams. Jefferson did not cross the Atlantic and Laurens took little part in the negotiations; this left the management of the mission to the other three. Eventually, political conditions in Great Britain made the conclusion of peace almost a necessity for the British ministry, and the American negotiators were able to secure a very favorable treaty, signed on November 30, 1782. During this period, Adams had also visited the Netherlands and at The Hague was eminently successful, gaining recognition of the United States as an independent government and negotiating both a loan and a treaty of amity and commerce. In 1785, he was appointed the first American minister to the Court of St. James.

Adams received the second largest number of votes in America's first presidential election, held in 1789, and thus became Vice-President. He served in that office for eight years, becoming a leader of the Federalist party. In 1796, on the refusal of Washington to accept a third term, Adams defeated Jefferson for the presidency. His term (1797-1801) was marked by a succession of intrigues which embittered his later life, by events such as the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts, which brought discredit to the Federalist party, and by factional splits within that party itself. In 1800, Adams was again the Federalist candidate for the presidency, but distrust of him in his own party, the popular disapproval of the Alien and Sedition Acts, and the popularity of his opponent, Jefferson, combined to cause his defeat. Adams then retired into private life and died at Quincy on July 4, 1826.

John Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description (continued)
line of property now or formerly owned by J-Ray Realty Corporation (Plot 19 on Plan #3006); thence, easterly along said southern line to its intersection with the western curbline of Franklin Street; thence, southwesterly along said western curbline to the point of beginning.

Item: one paire of green Curtains old — 1:..:..
Item: five paire of Sheets and three pillowbeers — 1:..:..
Item: three bands & a handkercher one cap and about one yard and half of Cotton Cloth. — ..:16:..
Item: one coate and breeches & one doublet much worne being gray Bearsey and a paire of Shoes — 1:..:..
Item: one great Coate almost new — 1:06:..
Item: one Bearse Coate being old — ..:04:..
Item: two paire of Stockins and one p.r of Turkie yarn gloves being all much worn — ..:02:..
Item: one Box with five Drawers — ..:08:..
Item: one Table and Forme being old — ..:06:..
Item: one old cupboard — ..:17:..
Item: Money — 5:..:..
Item: one Matt worn. — ..:03:..
Item: one great old Bible — ..:05:..
Item: one small Bible old — ..:04:..
Item: one p.r Spectacles cound with Silver and case — ..:02:..
Item: one p.r of Taylors Sheares — ..:01:06
Item: one pewter Dish and pinte pot old — ..:03:09
Item: one paire of tongs and one hammell — ..:06:..
Item: a small parcel of Silke and thimble — ..:02:..
Item: one on m.r Mackenbiny of which remaines to pay Ais Sume of ten pounds — 10:..:..
Item: one Bill of John Johnson for five pounds — 5:..:..

This Accompt taken Cor. — Sume £ 31:13:9

Obadiah Read admitted Adm.r made Oath. Before this Hono.ble Simon Bradstreet Esq.r Gov.r and Edward Tyng Esq.r Assist.r 2d Decem.r 1680 that this is a true and Juste Inventory of the Estate of his late father Edmund Read Deced. to his best knowledge, and that if or ere it of more shee will cause it to be therewith added.

— attests J.no Hathorne Cler.

An Inventery of the Estate of Samuel Belcher late of Brantery Deceased taken. May 21. 1680

		£	s.	d.
Belchar	Imp. Dwelling House Barn Orchard & Land adjoining	160	..	..
Ais	Item Twenty Eight Acres of Land on the other side of the way	168	..	..
Inventr.y	Item Twelve Acres in severall divisions at Fallers farme	036	..	..
450	Item in Cranes plain Eight Acres	025	..	..
	Item Swans Land in the woods	007	..	..
	Item Four Acres Land and A. of meddow at Post Island	046	..	..
	Item Four Acres of meddow at Fallers farme	040	..	..
	Item Four Acres of meddow at Ould Island	036	..	..
	Item two Oxen 7: Four Cowes 10	017	..	..
	Item two 3 yeare old Steers and two yeerling heifers	006	10	..
	Item two 2 yeare old Steers and twelve Lambs	006	10	..
	Item twenty Sheep and three Sowes 30	007	10	..
	Item Utensills and Husbandry	002	..	..

[illegible] Bedsteed 1 Chest 1 box 1 paire of sheets 3 ~~old~~ Ruggs 2 Cradles 2 [illegible] 3 03 02
[illegible] bedsteed joint stools, old chaires 1 19
[illegible] paire 2 Pillows 1 box Heater and Shovell 1 04
[illegible] pot, Kettle Skillett pot Hooks 1
[illegible] pan. Gridiron. old paire of Tongs & other Lumber 01 11
[illegible] paire of sheets 1 Cloth plough. & chains Horse chaines 1 18 6
[illegible] 2 Coates 2 axes 5 wedges. Beetle. Rings fetter shackling 1
[illegible] 16
[illegible] old paire of sheets 2 forks 1 staple ring and Harrow 1

Sum £5 7 5 : 4 5 : 6

Houses forgotten: 18
a grindstone 04

Apprized by us. Christopher Webb. Joseph Pennyman. Vide Admon fo 5.
— Theophilus Burbs. —

Roger Billing, Alexander Marsh. and Elnathan Belcher Admrs. de bonis non &c. Adm. made & Granted in Court. 3d December 1680. that this is a just and true Inventory of the Estate of Samuel Belcher ~~deceased to the~~ ~~best knowledge and Ratio~~ they know of more they will cause it to be added. Jos. Eddington Clk

Per Adm. con.

At a County Court held at Boston 27 Aprill A: D 80

Walter
his
Adm
will ann. d
1157

Full power and Authority to Administer the remaining Estate of Anthony Marter sometime of Boston deceased is granted unto his Widow Daughters Sarah Browne, Mercy Evens, and Elizabeth Shaw. (Mary Marter the sole Executrix of his last will being deceased) their giving Security to Administer the said Estate according to their Father will and exhibiting an Inventory thereof upon their Oathes
Jos. Eddington Clk

Tarlton
Imperfect Will
Adm
1151

Boston in New-England the 5th day of September Anno Dom. 1680.

We whose names are underwritten. (Viz) Edmond Mountfort aged Forty years or thereabouts And Elizabeth Greenough aged 40 years or thereabouts & Joseph Bedlam aged 36 years or thereabouts and Elizabeth Cushing aged 18 years or thereabouts & Elizabeth Condey aged 29 years or thereabouts testify and say that on this day and year first above written. we the said Deponents being at the house of Henry Tarlton of Boston Taylor. we the said Henry Tarlton being sick in his bed, and Deborah Tarlton his wife [illegible] the said Elizabeth Cushing asked the said Henry Tarlton if he did

And that all things therein Mentioned & Contained be faithfully & truly performed, and as fully & amply in Every Respect as if the same were herein Declared & set Down in my Last Will & Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this 31st day of May anno Domini 17[illegible] & anno [illegible] Georgij Secundi Magnæ Brittaniæ &c Secundo

Signed Sealed Published

Pronounced & Declared by the

Wm Harris his Mark & a Seal

Wm Harris to this Codicil to

his Last Will & Testam[t] in p[r]sence of

John Clough

Hannah Woodbury

Peter Blin

Suffolk ss. By the Hon[ble] Josiah Willard Esq Judge of Prov: &c.

Evidence

The within written will & Codicil being presented for Probate by the Exec[r] therein Named: John Clough Hannah Woodbury & Peter Blin made Oath that they saw William Harris the Subscriber to this Instrument Sign and Seal & Heard him Publish and Declare the same to be his Last Will & Testament & that he when he so did he was of Sound Disposing ~~Mind & Memory according to these deponents best Discerning~~ & that they set to their hands as witnesses to both the Will & Codicil in the presence of the said Testator

Boston June 23 1729

Sworn in Court

John Boydell Cler

J Willard

Brantree April 10th 1729

Beleher

Inventory

56 A

An Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattels Rights & Credits of Gregory & Abigail Beleher late of Brantree Deced Priced by us the Subscribers

	£	s	d
Two Cows & one Heifer	14	10	
a p[r] of Iron Dogs p[r] Trammel & other Iron ware	4	2	
2 Tubs Pails Churn & other wooden ware	2	8	6
1 Pillian & Pillian Cloths 1 Brass Kettle &c	3		
2 Chs 5 Cow Chairs Two tubbs & other wooden ware	2	3	
1 Chs Cyder 1 p[r] sundry tools &c a Tub Bark Glew Pot & Kettle	2	18	
1 Coverlid & 7 Sheets Yarn	2	3	6
1 p[r] of Looms Slays & Harnesses & Warping Bars all	5		
1 Feather Bed under Bed Curtains Bedsted Quilt & Blanketts all	20		

Sheets Napkins Table Cloths towells & Cotton yarn all	6	10	
Wearing Cloaths	22	10	
Dozn Pewter Plates 6 Pewter Platers 2 Peuter Basons 1 pewter Tankard 1 pot 3 porringers 7 Spoons & 1 Tin Funnel all	4	—	6
2 Silver Spoons £2: 10/ & Other Old Silver £1: 17	4	7	—
1 Case Draws 3 Chests 1 Square Table all	8	—	—
More wooden ware £1: 12/ 1 warming pan 15/ 1 Looking Glass 5s	4	7	—
1 Brass Skillet Knives & forks with Sundry Other Small Goods	6	4	6
6 Black Chairs a Great Chair & other ware	3	9	—
1 Great Bible £6 2 Small Bibles & Other Books £3	9	—	—
Scales with Sundry Small Goods	1	10	—
Corn & Barley £1 18/ Due to the Estate £10	5	7	18
Mericah a Molatto Girl £60 a pr of old Boots 15/	60	15	—
The Home Lead 9 Acres of Land with the House and Barn	300	—	—
11 Acres of Pasture Land £120, 10 Acres of wood Land £60	180	—	—
2½ Acres salt Meadow £60 Money £1	61	—	—
Peter Adams	786	6	—
Samll Baxter			
John Adams			

Suffolk ss. By the Hon[ble] Josiah Willard Esq Judge of Prob. &c.

Richd Saxon & Nathan Brackett Admrs Cum Testamento Annexo presented the foregoing and Made Oath that it Contains a true and perfect Inventory of the Estate of Gregory Belcher a foresaid deced so far as is come to their Knowledge & that if more hereafter appear they will cause it to be added. The Subscribing Appraizers having been Sworn as the Law Directs

Boston June 4th 1706

J Willard

Exam[d] Per John Boydell Reg[r]

Josiah Willard Esq Commissioned by his Excellency William Burnet Esq Captain General & Governour in Chief in and over his Majestys Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England by and with the advice and Consent of the Council & Cr. Judge of the Probate of Wills & for Granting Letters of Administration on the Estates of Persons deceased Inventory Goods Chattels Rights or Credits in the County of Suffolk within the Province aforesaid. To all and whom these presents Shall Come Greeting Know ye That upon the Sampson Dewer day of the date hereof before at Boston in the County aforesaid. The will of Sampson Dewer late of Boston aforesaid Merchant deceased

November 19/1763 Lawyer John Adams Debtr
for 3 days mason work found my self -- 0-15-0
to 2 days — — — — — 0-10-0

Feb 1764 — — — — —

Braintree Feb.ry 23. 1765 Received of Abigail Adams one pound
Six Shillings and Eight pence Lawful Money for a Quarters Wages.
I say received by me ——— Rachel Marsh

Appendix G-2

Appendix G-3

Febry 23. 1767
Received of Abigail Adams 2 pound twelve
shillings and Sixteen pence Lawfull money
for half a years wages, received in full
of all demands by me Rachel Marsh

[Feb 1775] V 20

For the Hon. John Adams Esqr

1 Bushel. Indian Meal
1 Case. Rum
1 Quire. Paper
2. Account Books
1/2. hundrd. Quills
30 lb. Brown Sugar
1 Box Wafers
1 Bottle Ink
1 doz. Strings
2 lb Tobacco
2 Bottles Mustard
2 lb Tea
2 lb Chocolate. Fruit 12. 0/ bo. for Cabin Store
a Mahogo & Bottle
a Leaden Case —

Feb 1778 V.

List of Stores sent on board the Boston

6 doz^{a} of Soulting — 5 bushels of Corn
1 barrel of Apples.
6 or 7 doz of Syder
2 fatt Sheep
2 hogs.
1 Ten gall^{a} keg of old Spirit
1 barrel ye 2 or 3 doz Bredeira Wine
1 Bed & Bedding
12 or 14 doz of Eggs
7 Loaves of Sugar
30 - Brown Do
1 Case Rum
2 doz & 4 bottles Port Wine
1 double Mattrass, bolster & Pillow
2 quire Paper, 2 Memd Books, 1 box Wafers.
some Gally & Spike
1 bag Indean Meal,
6 lb Chocolate
2 Tea
Pepper & Mustard
Pipes & Tobacco
Money in the Shoes.

28 Guineas	at 21/	£29-8
12 half Joes	36/	21-12
46 lb Guineas	21/	51
		401-16-6
Change		3-6
		402 Tons

A Valluation of Houses & Lands belonging to the Honble John Adams Esqr as given in by Said Lady and Peter B Adams Esqr viz

1 Dwelling House 47 by 29 feet — area 1333 Feet
2 Storys High built of wood
24 windows 285 Squares 6 by 10 inches 760 feet
1 wood House &c — — 15 by 54 feet
2 Storys of wood
23 windows 552 Squares 6 by 8 Road Southerly
½ acre Land bounding on Plymouth Road Southerly
Vallued at 2000 $

1 Barn 66 by 26
1 Lean Barn 30 by 16
4 acres Land S on Plymouth Road W on B Bird Esqr
& on M Black — — — — 320 $

1 Barn 30 by 25
1 Ditto 25 by 20
19 acres Land N & E on Plymouth Road S on M Vesey W on
Dea Bass & others — — — — 380 $

46 acres Land formerly Common N on Plymouth Road W on
Jos Nightingale & others E on Ezekiel Price Esqr S on Josiah Bass
368 $

10 acres upland & Salt marsh S on Jesse Fenno W on Saml Bass
N on Saml B ass Esqr — — — — 400 $
2½ acres Land at Penny Ferry in Milton S on Dorchester Church
Land — — — — — — — — 87 $
16 acres wood Land South on Capt Peter Brackett — — 320 $
16 Ditto W on Milton Line — — — — 125 $
9 Do W on Do N on Peter B Adams Esq — — 90 $
16 Do N on P B Adams Esqr S on Dea Webb — — 160 $
15 Do N on Nightingales S on James Brackett 150 $
30 Do on Pine Hill — — — — 360 $
15 Do on Do bought of Abiam Thayer — — 150 $
5 Do Cedar Swamp in Gardners Swamp bt of Jam Thayer 50 $
4 Do in Braintree bought of Capt Benj Beale — — —
4 Do in Do Purgatory — — — — — — —
½ a House & half of 50 acres of Land in Medford
in the occupation of Mr — Teal

In the Occupation of Moses French Junr

1 House 37 by 18 — — — area — — 666 Feet
2 Storys of wood
1 Linhall 37 by 12 —
in Windows

1 Barn 30 by 25
1 Ditto - 25 by 20
99 acres Land N & E on Plymouth Road S on M Vesey W on Dea Bass & others — — — — — — 3960 £

46 acres Land formerly Common N on Plymouth Road W on Jos N Arnold & others E on Ezekiel Price Esqr S on Josiah Bass 368 £

10 acres upland & Salt marsh S on Jesse Fenno W on Saml Bass N on Saml Bass Esqr — — — — — — 400 £

2½ acres Land at Penny Ferry in Milton S on Dorchester Church Land — — — — — — — — — — 87 £

46 acres wood Land South on Capt Peter Brackett — — — 920 £
16 Ditto W on Milton Line — — — — — — — 125 £
9 Do W on Do N on Peter B Adams Esq — — — 90 £
16 Do N on P B Adams Esqr S on Dea Webb — — 160 £
15 Do N on Nightingales S on James Brackett — 150 £
30 Do on Pine Hill — — — — — — — 360 £
15 Do on Do bought of Abiam Thayer — — 150 £
5 Do Cedar Swamp in Gardners Swamp bt of Wm Thayer 50 £
4 Do in Braintree bought of Capt Benj^a Beal — — —
4 Do at Purgatory — — — — — — — — —
½ a House & half of 60 acres of Land in Medford in the occupation of Mr — Teal

In the Occupation of Moses French Junr

1 House 37 by 18 — — — — — — area — — 666 Feet
2 Storys of wood
1 Linhall 37 by 12 — — — — — — — — 444 —
14 Windows 2,6 Squares 7 by 9 — — — — — 92 72
½ acre Land E on Plymouth Road — 400 £

1 Barn 45 by 30
1 Do - 50 by 30
1 Do - 36 by 24
Linhall 36 by 10
1 Farm of 7 acres E on Plymouth Road N on James Brackett W on Eben^r & Josiah Adams S on Jos^h Field 2522 £

forty five

45 Acres Pasture & fresh meadow N on John Bright & the two Mr Stetsons — — — — — — — — — 675 £

20 acres formerly Common E on Town way into the woods S on Joseph Cluerly — — — — — — — — — 160 £

6 acres mowing N on Jos[h] Cluerly W on Plymouth Road

20 acres formerly Dea Bekehers W on Plymouth Road N on Tho[s] Shepherd — — — — — — — — — 750 £

20 acres pasture formerly Dea Bekehers & Tho[s] Haydens — 300 £

9 Acres called Gore pasture W on Plymouth Road N on the Heirs of Sam[l] Dennison in Braintree — — — 135 £

16 Acres Salt marsh N & W on Moses Bleach — — 480

9 Acres adjoining on David Forbes upland & on David Thomas — — — — — — — — 300

5 20 W on Jon[a] Baxter N on Town River — — — 150

In the occupation of Peter Powell

1 Dwelling House

1 Barn

Land adjoining the House

a pasture called Saxons pasture

24 Acres Land between Sam[l] Curtis's & Wm Hobarts

4 Acres Salt marsh in the broad meadows bought of Ebenez Thayer

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in the occupation of the Rev[d] Wm Clark

1 House 34 by 14 — — — — — — — — — 612 feet
2 Storys & Wood
Lintill 34 by 14 — — — — — — — — — 476
14 windows 336 Squares 7 by 9 — — — 147 feet
¼ acre Land E on Plymouth Road — — — — — — — — — 400 £

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in the occupation of Eliz[a] Belcher & J Turner

1 House 40 by 16 — — — — — — — — — 640 Feet
2 Storys & wood
Lintill 40 by 11 — — — — — — — — — 440
10 windows 240 Squares 7 by 9 — — — — — — — — — 105 feet
¼ acre Land W on Plymouth Road — — — — — — — — — 100 £

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in the occupation of Phebe

1 House 29 by 14 — — — — — — — — — 522
2 Storys & Wood
Swelholes

20 acres pasture formerly Dea Belchers & Thos Haydens - 350 £

9 rods called gorge pasture W on Plymouth Road N on the Heirs of Sam[l] Dennison in Braintree - 135 £

16 acres Salt marsh N & W on Moses Blaiths - 480

9 Do bounding on David Bates upland & on Davids Hommock - 300

5 90 W on Jon[a] Baxter N on Town River - 150

In the occupation of Peter Powell

1 Dwelling House
1 Barn
Land adjoining the House
a pasture called Saxons pasture
24 acres Land between Sam[l] Curtis's & Wm Hobarts
4 acres Salt marsh in the broad meadows bought of Ebenez Thayer

---

in the occupation of the Rev[d] Wm Clark

1 House 34 by 25 — 612 feet
2 Storys & Lintill 34 by 14 — 476
14 windows 336 Squares 7 by 9 — 147 feet
½ acre Land E on Plymouth Road — 400 £

---

in the occupation of Lieu[t] Belcher & J Turner

1 House 40 by 16
2 Storys & Lintill 40 by 11 — 640 Feet
10 windows 240 Squares 7 by 9 — 140
½ acre Land W on Plymouth Road — 105 feet
— 700 £

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in the occupation of Phebe

1 House 29 by 14 — 522
2 Storys & Lintill
5 wholeons — 40 feet glass
½ acre Land E on Plymouth Road — 95 £

FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS OF THE JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

131 Franklin Street, Quincy, Mass.

Compiled 1956 by W. C. Sprague with

Origin, style, date, donor, when known, with references to the type as illustrated in furniture books, principally the three following:

Chief Authorities for Dates of Styles.

Furniture Treasury by Wallace Nutting 3 Vols. (original edition) 1928-1933 (and reprints).

American Antique Furniture by Edgar G. Miller, Jr. 2 Vols. 1937.

Colonial Furniture in America by Luke Vincent Lockwood 2 Vols. 3rd edition 1951.

Many of the smaller articles are numbered with a small square paper label pasted on them by Wm. G. Spegr, curator in charge of the restoration of the house in 1896-7.

It is thought a book of accessions was kept by him, but, if so, was lost years ago. No one in the Quincy Historical Society, including the librarian, Warren S. Parker, had ever seen it when I enquired in 1935.

So the origin of many articles is in doubt. (The library accession book is still in the society's hands, but not the one for furniture and antiquities.)

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS HOUSE - FRONT ENTRY

Two Fireman's poles (mace?)
Fire Warden's Emblem of Authority at Fires -
1792-1853
(Gift Oct. 1. 1895 of Albert Keating)

Firebucket, leather labeled
#90 Elisha Marsh #1 Quincy

Firebucket, leather labeled
Elisha Marsh #1 Quincy
(Collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Two large old guns.
"carried in the late war by Hendrick Smith of Maine"
(Civil War)
(one?) Gift Oct. 10, 1895 of Friend Crane of Quincy

FRONT ENTRY - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Lantern on stairway.
Said to be a nurse's lamp. Had a tin cup at the top to hold liquid warmed over the candle. The cup was lost 1952 when the lamp was electrified by Foster Bros.
(collected by Wm. G. Spear)

OLD KITCHEN or LAW OFFICE

Windsor comb-back arm chair, with rockers. Unpainted
Sheraton period 1800-1820.
See Lockwood Vol. 2 P. 80
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Slatback, double braced (hoop skirt) arm chair (with rockers, added) unpainted, but traces of paint found when cleaned and oiled in 1956 (ca. 1720)?
Notched decorations on posts & stretchers.
(Purchased about 1952 of Mrs. Jane Thayer Harrington of Braintree (Mrs. Francis H.) for $18.00)

Counting house or school or office desk. (ca. 1750-80)
(formerly in the rear room) Stained 1951, used for visitor's registrations now.
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Large tavern table (formerly in the parlor in photo)
(" " " new kitchen ")
(" " early photos)
Stained 1951. 48½" x 30½" x 29½" high.
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Settle. 1st half of 18th century?
Stained 1951

Small ancient foot rest - unpainted, marked Morton on bottom - probably from George W. Morton.
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

1. Tin & glass lantern, square, hanging from ceiling
2. Tin & glass lantern, square, electrified 1952-3 hanging from ceiling
(collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Andirons in fireplace, looped tops.
(69½" x 49½" x 33" deep fireplace) opened up to original width and depth at restoration in 1896.
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Skillets, trivets, pots, with legs, ironware.
Skillets 6" diameter and 8" diameter
Kettle 21" diameter, kettle 13" diameter
Iron kettle 8" diameter (1 leg gone)
Trivet, large
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

<u>OLD KITCHEN</u> - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Trammel, lugpole, long pothook
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

#320 Linen spinning wheel
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Also Huck spinning wheel - formerly in the attic
(probably collected by Wm. G. Spear)

#10 Wool carder - marked L.R.L. and W. Winship

Cartridge box etc. in leather - for saddle use?
Labeled in ink - ?John Minson (Munson?)
W. C. Whicher (?) Civil War?

Pair of old guns with bayonets
Pair of old powder horns (hanging over the fireplace)
Sword and scabbard
#348 Tongs and shovel, brass heads
Mulling iron
Branding iron, marked - N. Mann
(probably all collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Large earthen ware beanpot
(in ancient brick oven at back of fireplace)
Tag in it (loose), may not refer to this says: "Found in cellar of old Miller Mansion on Elm St. by J. A. Fenno at auction of the effects"
(auction of Dr. Everett's things) (about 1907?)

#380 Large foot warmer - marked Sarah W. Morton
(gift about 1897 probably of George W. Morton who gave a number of other objects)

Small Travelling (folding by hinges) bootjack
(gift 1954 of Mrs. Frank C. Ryder of Wollaston)

Bellows for fireplace - marked D. Sawyer

Three braided rugs - recent purchases or gifts

Large brass kettle 16½" diameter
(from the Harvey Field family 1897 and formerly used here about 1832 when H. F. resided here while his house nearby was building. (Quincy Advertiser 4/13/97))

#398 Bellows - at side of fireplace
(gift of Josiah Adams Fenno, Oct. 17, 1896 (as per label))

Barrister back (4 half rounds) rush bottom (new seat)
black painted side chair (ca. 1690-1720)
(Purchased 1956 of Mrs. Rufus Peckham, a dealer of Little Compton, R. I. $32.20 (inc. new seat))

OLD KITCHEN - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Wide 3-slat (pierced) armchair, rush bottom,
with rockers, dull red paint
(Probably collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Portraits on glass of John and Abigail Adams,
crude, but show interesting details of costume.
(Data of Wm. G. Spear on the back, and recopied by
W. C. Sprague: "John and Abigail Adams, done in oil,
life size by Asa Pope who labored for them at the time.
Mr. Pope was - God save the mark - a "natural artist."
The original are now (July 1900) in the possession of
Mr. P's daughters. Sarah A. or Susan C. Pope, 31 Elm St."

CHINA ROOM

Small Black Windsor straight top side chair
bamboo leg period (1800-1810)
(probably collected 1897 ? by Wm. G. Spear

Set of four Windsor "dove-cote" chairs, black,
bamboo leg period (1800-1810). Three now in this
room, one in parlor. Marked S. Gragg, Boston on
bottoms.
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear. Gift of Miss Elizabeth C.
Adams whose name appears on two or three of them. (dau. of
Thos. Boylston Adams.))

Flax spinning wheel - complete
(purchased Feb. 1954 of Mrs. Helen Stromwall of Poor Man's
Shop at Halifax, Mass., a dealer, for $21.00

Tavern Table 42" x 27" x 29" high
(2nd quarter of 18th century?) Moved 1950 from leanto
kitchen and refinished
(probably collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Queen Anne side chair or Early Country Chippendale,
turned legs (transition) (ca. 1750)
Fiddle back, repaired 1951, dull reddish brown, new
rush seat. Had rockers added as seen in photo on
1925 postcards when in so. bedroom, removed in 1951
(probably collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Collection of chinaware, with some glassware also.
Chiefly Staffordshire ware from the bequest in 1935-6
of Mrs. William B. Nichols (Millie E.). Includes some
lustreware, etc.
Many additions made since then. Numbered on botton by
separate inventory.
(See Sept. 18, 1935 in Secretary's records of Quincy
Historical Society)

CHINA ROOM - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Glass, round whale oil lamp, 4 wicks, inserted in
a wooden base. (Formerly in New Kitchen)
(collected by Wm. G. Spear 1897)

Collection of Indian stone implements, most of them
a gift about 1897 of Josiah Quincy, with several additions
in later years.
Numbered for separate inventory.

Glass and wood showcase, made at the High School about
1952 for the Society., contains many small household items, etc.

Copy of the painting of the ship "Bethel" which captured
Spanish treasure and brought huge profit to the Quincy
family. 1748.
Josiah Quincy, one of the three owners.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

Small slat-back armchair - for large child -
too narrow for an adult (formerly in old kitchen)

Bellows - stamped J. Sawyer (?)
Andirons
Crane
Tongs
Kettle (iron)
(collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Wooden yarn winder or swift, with four arms,
central shaft to the floor.
("gift of Mrs. Charles H. Spear" about 1897)

NEW KITCHEN

Flax spinning wheel (18th century)
Notched decorative motive at end of board.
(Gift 1942 of Miss Marion S. Arnold of Braintree, from the
estate of her cousin, Miss Lilla Hayden, of Mt. Vernon
Avenue, Braintree)

Large fireplace 80" x 49" high x 33" deep, not so deep
as older one, contains a crane (introduced abt. 1720)
shallower at bottom, with brick oven and ash holder at
right side, not in rear as in older one.

Large tin oven D-shaped. Spit for turning the roast is
missing. 24" long by 21" high, mid-eighteenth century
or later.
Crane from the old Briesler house W. cor. Hancock &
Granite Sts.
(collected 1896 by Wm. G. Spear). Shows in photo of
Quincy Hist. Soc. room at Adams Bldg. on Temple St.

Late style tin-oven, narrower and higher
13" wide by 28" high. 3 shelves in it.

NEW KITCHEN - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Iron peel for use with the brick oven.
Small iron peel " " " "
e29 Wooden long handled peel
Another " " "
(collected 1896 by Wm. G. Spear)?

Wooden pine dresser, 4 open shelves, standing from the floor by board ends, scalloped, for displaying pewter, crockery etc. (ca. 1725-50)
(Lockwood Vol. 1, p. 177)
Has two badly damaged 14½" pewter deep plates on top shelf.
(collected probably 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)
Top shelf 65" from floor, 66" long.

Coffee Mill (on dresser shelf) (complete)
(Gift of Miss Marion S. Arnold of Braintree 1940 from family of her grandfather, Nathaniel Hayward. Bellows and straw splitter)

Coffee Mill (incomplete - on dresser shelf)
(probably collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Wooden Knife box (on dresser shelf)
(Gift of Frank F. Crane (Franklin F)(Franklin Fessenden Crane)

Wooden Mallet (on dresser shelves)
Wooden Mortar & pestle
Iron Mortar & pestle
Scythe blade - ancient
Wooden keg, small
Tin whale oil lamps

Oak cheese press, about 67" high, early 17th century, very heavy and ponderous.
(Gift of Miss Rebecca Fairbanks from the old Fairbanks house, 1636, at Dedham, in 1897)

Wood butter churner 22" high (stands by the back door)
(curd cutter? - from same donor - where is it?)
(gift 1897 of Miss Rebecca Fairbanks from the old Fairbanks house, 1636, Dedham.)

Tavern table - drawer missing, feet worn or cut off some. 25" x 45" x 25" high
(probably collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Collection of wooden buckets, firkins, baskets
(Various sources, probably mainly collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Wooden Butter churner - standing near the brick oven

NEW KITCHEN - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Leather fire bucket - painted green & gilt
"Thos. Greenleaf No. 2"
Leather fire bucket - painted green & gilt
"#1 Brutus 1824 S. Walker"
Leather fire bucket - smaller, hangs from ceiling over the sink.

Two Niddy-Noddy's for winding skeins of wool, etc.

Three tin perforated lanterns, round, pierced slits.
One has scraped horn door, now broken,(this latter given 1897 by John Crane (cow horn)
One tin and glass lantern - electrified 1951
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear, and probably the two others also)

Pewter platter 16½" with touch illegible on back.
(over fireplace)
(gift 1955 of Stephen F. Willard of Wollaston)

On mantel over fireplace:
Pewter plate 13¾" diameter
Deep pewter plate 10½" diameter, marked Calder
(mended piece on bottom)
Pewter plate 8" - marked - Austin
(American and valuable)

#257 Pewter lamp, whale oil (ca. 1845)
(collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Small rectangular table - not old 1927

Bullet mold.
Small tongs, circular ends.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

Iron toaster - in fireplace
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

Wooden bootjack with oval hole in one end.
(collected 1895-6 by Wm. G. Spear)

Wooden bootjack - V-shaped end, smaller than preceding (now in buttery)
(gift 1945 of W. C. Sprague, was his grandfather's, A. W. Sprague)

#315 Stocking fitter, wooden, flat.
Probably from the Henry Hardwick family. He was a stocking weaver.
(collected 1896 by Wm. G. Spear)

NEW KITCHEN - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Tin milk warmer (incomplete) top cover and tin cup missing. Handles and vents at sides pentagonal front opening, tin burner inside not the original (now on the dresser)
(Gift 1950 of Ernest S. Rogers of Brookville, from old Curtis-Rogers house, Pine St., Holbrook, north of Weymouth and Pond Sts., east side)

Tape loom - large - stands on the floor.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear about 1897)

Mould for candles (12 candle)
(gift of George W. Morton abt. 1897)

Around the fireplace:
Steelyards
two skimmers
#236 small round tinder box
curling iron
#240 3 small flatirons
2 large flatirons
swivel toaster
#26- tin out-door lamp glass convex front
#238 tin in-door lamp with wick spout
#257 one pewter whale oil lamp
#261 one tin whale oil lamp
trivet
round waffle iron with long handle
rectangular waffle iron with long handle
very large long handled iron skillet, etc.
(collected chiefly by Wm. G. Spear about 1897)

Small wooden looped sausage filler (on mantel)
(Found in the walls of the house at restoration time 1896-7 by Wm. G. Spear)

#266 Match stick holder (paper) and brimstone matches used with a tinder box
#267 Brimstone matches used with a tinder box
(given about 1900 by Mrs. Francis P. Loud, made by her great grandfather, Elijah Veazie)
#2 68 Brimstone match "Given August 8, 189-found in the old - house - given by --"

Antlers of a stag shot at Great Hill, Houghs Neck by Ozias Pope (born 1804 died 1870)
(gift of Mrs. Mary E. Perkins 1897)

Floor type reel or yarn winder with twospool type vertical holders (called a squirrel reel)
(probably collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

#323 Butter mold
Set of three wooden flails. 300,313,314
Hetchel, water bucket for well
wood dough trough
(flails given by Ellen A. Stone, East Lexington, Mass. 19th Sept. 1901)

NEW KITCHEN - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Corn sheller?
Wool carder - stamped (Oliver?) Wilson-Leicester
Wood trough - one piece

Pewter lamp with two side convex prisms to diffuse the light - on mantel
(collected 1896 by Wm. G. Spear)

Swivel chair, stained 1951
(collected by Wm. G. Spear ?)

BUTTERY or CREAMERY

Bear trap and another one
Crockery jars etc.
(trap given 1897 by Horace O. Souther)

Tin cylinder type candle box (hangs on inside of door) for holding wax candles to keep the mice away.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

PARLOR

Maple slat back arm chair, not painted, rush bottom
(ca 1700-1720)
(Gift July 1952 of Mrs. Francis Hannigan (Jane Thayer) of Cedar Street, Braintree

Corner cupboard (mid 18th century) added to the house at the restoration 1896.
Contains collection of china and silver, lustreware, much damaged, some glass, etc. in top. In bottom cupboard are two dark green glass bottles from the Germantown glass works 1753 (given by Josiah A. Fenno 1897 from his Hardwick ancestors who worked there)
Also a china platter used at the Hancock House, Quincy Square
(collected mostly about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Small fireplace with bolection molding and good panelling over it. Painted gray the original color or lowest coat according to Mr. Spear at restoration in 1897.
Orchid color 1940-1956; restored to gray 1956
Brass topped andirons, shovel & tongs of brass, bellows
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Maple slat back armchair, unpainted, rush bottom
(ca. 1700-1720)
(Gift July 1952 of Mrs. Francis Hannigan (Jane Thayer) of Cedar Street, Braintree.

PARLOR - John Quincy Adams House cont.

/2 Silk embroidered picture, scene of ships etc.
(formerly in So. bedroom over the desk)
"Lydia Souther" at bottom of glass painted border.
(Gift Jan. 18, 1896 of Mrs. George W. Morton, came from the Souther family, "made by daughter of John & Deborah (Leavitt) Souther")

Tripod tip-top tea table (ca 1750-60) bottom of one leg repaired (new) 1951.
(formerly in law office or old kitchen where it shows in the painting by Albert Herter, of the drafting of the Mass. Constitution by J. Adams, Sam. Adams and James Bowdoin, now in House of Representatives, State House, Boston. (See Lockwood Vol 2. p 219)
(Origin unknown)

Green-painted, high-back Windsor Arm chair that belonged to Pres. John Adams. "John Adams Favorite Chair"
3rd quarter 18th century (see Lockwood Vol2 p. 76)
(Gift of Adams family (?(J. Hull & Elizabeth C. Adams) April 26, 1897)

Red painted Windsor armchair
3rd quarter 18th century (Lockwood Vol.2, p 75)
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear about 1897)

Black painted Windsor armchair (one arm end damaged)
3rd quarter 18th century (Lockwood Vol. 2, p 75)
(collected 1896 by Wm. G. Spear)

Pastel crayon portraits of John & Abigail Adams.
Copies of the portraits owned by the late Henry Adams of Concord and now hanging in the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge. Originals by Benjamin Blyth 1764.
(See Antiques Magazine April 1956)
(Gift before 1926 of Henry Adams of Concord. Originals were given in 1956 to Mass. Hist. Society where they now hang)

Oriental rug. 53" x 102"
(Gift 1955 of William Saville of Waban)

Three smaller oriental rugs - loan 1956 of W. C. Sprague
32" x 53"
44" x 66"
38" x 65"

Small low stand with 1 drawer
(formerly in So. Chamber)
(Origin unknown)

Foot warmer, tin and wood
Perforated heart in circle design on the tin.
(Gift 1940 of Miss Marion S. Arnold of Braintree. Belonged to her grandfather, Nathaniel Hayward of East Braintree)

PARLOR - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Footwarmer, tin and wood
(collected by Wm. G. Spear)

Large wooden ink well and three quill pens
(gilt decoration about gone.)
(collected by Wm. G. Spear)

#144 Wood pounce box, yellow
(gift 1897 of George W. Morton

Easy chair (wing chair) (ca-1790) Hepplewhite period.
(Purchased May 1956 of George Considine, a dealer, of No. Dartmouth for $160. Reupholstered in gold color 1956)

Pine slant top desk, plain bracket feet (one partly gone) with pierced brasses of handsome design.
Chippendale period (1760-80)(formerly kept in So. bedroom)
Brasses are original except three replicas made 1952 to replace missing ones on bottom drawer, etc.
(no information available as to its origin. Not in the house 1897 but probably soon after)

In the desk:
#368 Shaving soap box and brush used by John Greenleaf in the "Cranch house"
#369 Wooden inkwell used by John Briesler (given by John Nash (his grandson) April 1896)

#143 Large round wooden inkwell and stand "used by Nathan Fiske" - from - (illegible tag)
Tin pounce box (for sanding ink)
Candle snuffer and tray
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Ivory or whale bone swift for winding yarn early 19th century (in closet)
(collected 1896 by Wm. G. Spear)

S. E. CHAMBER

#371 Letter of Thomas B. Adams (framed under glass) to his daughter Miss Abby Smith Adams in Washington, D.C. 1828 with photograph of painting of Mrs. E.M.C. Bass, done from the death mask which her daughter had prepared then (in closet) (Removed to Adams Academy)
(Given June 1896 by the Misses Flint who received the Adams letter from Miss Elizabeth C. Adams, dau. of Thomas Boylston Adams)

#370 Death mask of Mrs. Elizabeth Marston (Channel) Bass 1767-1828 (in closet)
(Given by her granddaughter Mrs. Adam Whitney 1896)

S. E. CHAMBER - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Gourd bottle - now hanging in the closet
(collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

/76 Steel engraving of John Quincy Adams framed - hangs on wall
(collected by 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Andirons
#394 Tongs for fireplace
#396 Shovel for fireplace
(collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

#399 Tobacco and pipe box, hanging on wall by fireplace
18th century (Nutting Vol. 4 #198)
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Small hooked red and blue mat
(Given by Mrs. William Saville of Waban 1955, made by her mother)

Glass lamp, probably Sandwich, electrified 1952
(Gift 1945 of W. C. Sprague, was in his family about 50 years)

Small triped octogon table or stand.
Sheraton period (ca. 1800) (Lockwood Vol 2, p 239)
(collected near 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Small dark brown Windsor side chair flat top.
(probably collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Wash stand, (blue china pitcher and basin)
Sheraton style (ca. 1795-1805)
(probably collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

#386 & #391 Blue chinaware pitcher and basin for wash stand
(Gift April 1897 by E. W. Henry Bass)

Bellows for fireplace
(tag worn off - collected near 1897 by Wm. G. Spear.
Probably the bellows given by Abner B. Packard (loose tag)

#480 Small mirror, on wall near fireplace.
18th century $8\frac{1}{2}$" x $6\frac{3}{4}$"
(From Mrs. Charles E. C. Breck of East Milton about 1900)

#400 Wooden Hat Block (sets atop the highboy)
(collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Old chest, notched ends, board feet at side (ca. 1710)
(Nutting Vol. 1 #82) Stained 1951 (Formerly in N.E. chamber)
Light blue on back side - original color
(probably collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Cradle, hooded scrolled skirt end. 18th century
(probably collected about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

S. E. CHAMBER - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Barrister back armchair, double braced (hoop skirt) came from Lane family, Fall River. Unpainted oak, scroll of right arm restored (ca. 1690-1720) (Purchased 1955 from Mrs. Rufus Peckham, a dealer, of Little Compton, R. I. $40.)

Highboy, Queen Anne period (ca.1720) flat top, cabriole lets, original brasses. (Lockwood Vol. 1 p. 346) (Given 1897 by Franklin Curtis and his two sisters "Descended from the Baxter family by way of Adam Curtis family". Adam married Abigail, dau. of Wm. & Abigail (Newcomb) Baxter. (also the bedstead)

Bedstead and furnishings of "old patch" now mostly renewed or done away with. Chippendale period (1750-80) (Given 1897 by Franklin Curtiss and his two sisters who lived in their father's, Adam Curtis, house, Franklin St. S. of Pearl St. "Descended from the Baxter family by way of Adam Curtis family". Adam married Abigail, dau. of Wm. and Abigail (Newcomb) Baxter.)

Bed quilt patchwork with autographs in indelible ink of Quincy, Braintree, Milton and Randolph and Vermont people (ca. 1846-50)
(Gift Mar. 1947 of Mrs. Francis Hannigan of Braintree (Jane Thayer)

N. E. CHAMBER

Bedstead, field or tent bed
Sheraton period (ca. 1795-1810) (Lockwood Vol 2. p 264)
(Gift of Mrs. Joseph Lawton (Mary Faxon) mother of late Perry Lawton of Wollaston, 1897, "from the Faxon family by way of Mrs. Lawton". She was dau. of George & Abigail (Baxter) Faxon who lived in old Dr. Elisha Savil house, School St. east of where Presbyterian Church was built. Old house demolished 1899)

Small Queen Anne or early Chippendale mirror, mahogany, flat, upper left corner slightly damaged.
(Gift May 1956 of W. C. Sprague. Purchased May 1956 by W.C. Sprague of Geo. Considine of No. Dartmouth, a dealer, for $15. (Probably made in England of antique wood, but not ancient - made in 1920's??)

Trundle bed.
(collected probably about 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Unpainted maple 4-slat backed side chair with ornamented tops of back posts. Early 18th century
(Gift July 1956 of Mr. & Mrs. Carle R. Hayward, purchased about 30 years ago at Duxbury in an auction. Then painted white.)

N. E. CHAMBER - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Tanned leather riding breeches (in small trunk) of
Pres. John Quincy Adams
Dress (red brown) worn by Mrs. Abigail (Smith) Adams
(in closet)
Pink quilted heavy petticoat " " "
(in closet)
Dress Pocket of Abigail Adams (framed on wall)
Night cap of Pres. John Adams (" " ")
(Probably all given by Miss Elizabeth Coombs Adams)

Pair of stays or corsets of Mrs. Abigail Adams from
the Whitney family, delivered to them by an attendant
of Mrs. Abigail Adams.
Given to Miss Elizabeth M. Brewer of Salem and Quincy
to be exhibited in the glass case in the John Quincy
Adams house birthroom (N.E. Chamber)
(Gift of Miss Elizabeth M. Brewer from curator's meeting
records 18 Jan. 1932)

Quilted bedspread of her grandmother Mrs. Hazen Ricker
(Ellen Newcomb) from her great grandmother Worcester.
(Gift 1950 of Mrs. Everett Robbie now in bottom drawer
of blanket chest.)

Andirons in fireplace, brass tipped.
(Purchased 1952 from Jane Hannigan (Mrs.) for $15. to
replace Hession soldiers given by Mrs. Mary F. Lawton
but said to be on loan and returned to Mrs. N. G. Nickerson)

Cradle, hooded at end
(origin unknown)

Fan back Windsor chair, black or very dark green,
short lets.
Last quarter 18th century. (Lockwood Vol. 2 p.76)
(gift April 26, 1897 of Mrs. Charles E. C. Breck of
East Milton (Mary Blanchard)

Windsor rocking chair, unpainted, oak.
Last quarter 18th century
(gift 1952 of Mrs. George L. Anderson (Edith French)
of Quincy)

Large chest, two drawers below, plain bracket feet,
wooden handle knobs.
2nd quarter 18th century. Stained 1951.
(Origin unknown)

Pine dressing table - D-shaped (half round) three
square legs, scrolled skirt on straight side.
(3rd quarter of 18th century - country piece)
Used as a dressing table by Abigail (Smith) Adams.
(Gift 1897 of her grandchildren Isaac Hull and
Elizabeth Coombs Adams of 21 Elm St.

N. E. CHAMBER - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Chest of drawers or "dresser", curved bracket feet, four drawers, maple, oval Sheraton type brasses. (ca. 1790-1800)
(Perhaps collected about 1900 by Wm. G. Spear)

#479 Corner wash stand, curved front, olive green & black,
#478 with blue pitcher and deep basin.
(ca. 1795-1800) (Lockwood Vol. 1, p.147)
(Gift 1897 of Mrs. George W. Morton, and came from the Souther family of Quincy)

Tin candle sconce
(collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Wall mirror, figure of small girl in upper part (needs resilvering and gilding) (ca. 1820)
"This looking glass was once the property of Mrs. Sarah (Thayer)(Crane) Emmons born 1750, a great granddaughter of John & Priscilla (Mullins) Alden. Presented by her granddaughter A.E.W."
(collected about 1900 by Wm. G. Spear)

Small rectangular tea table, cabriole legs, button feet, Queen Anne period (ca. 1740) Mended 1951.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear about 1900. Small oriental rug on it given by Mrs. Wm. Saville 1955)

Tin tray with candle snuffer scissors.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

Small oval calfskin? hair trunk initialed G.P. by tacks. Made by Robert Burr, saddler, harness, and trunk maker, Hanover St., Boston, Mass. Signature of George Partridge.
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

Tin or pewter whale oil lamp with handle.
Spool holder (two tags loose)(from George W. Morton - from Mrs. Mary Thayer Slade ?)
Another spool holder, ivory tipped
Work box for sewing
#465 Pin tray
#389 Brass & iron bed warming-pan, Bellows (possibly the ones given by A. B. Packard)
#347 Tongs, brass tipped
#424 Turkey ? feather fan
#481 Small jewel (?) box, octagon, green paper, glass top.

Slat & spindle back small side chair (ca. 1820)
"Kitchen chair bought by Edward and Lydia (Porter) Vinton in 1820. Presented by their daughter, Lydia Loring (Vinton) Track, Quincy " - label on bottom of seat, Aug. 22, 1896

Framed sampler. "Performed by Ally Baxter aged 10, 1836"
(collected by Wm. G. Spear?)

N. E. CHAMBER - John Quincy Adams House cont.

#135 Framed certificate of membership in American Philosophical Society Philadelphia of John Adams L.L.D. Vice President of U.S.A. Jan. 18, 1793
(probably from Miss E. C. Adams 21 Elm St.)

SMALL CHAMBER IN LEAN-TO

"Hired man's bed", low, very short posts.
18th century?
(probably collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear)

Small oval calfskin trunk initialed L. M. by tacks
(Gift of Mrs. Charles E. C. Breck of Milton about 1900.
"Once the property of Mrs. Lucy (Spear) Marsh".

Dressing table, yellow, black stencil trim, paint worn.
Early 19th century (ca. 1830)
(collected probably by Wm. G. Spear)

Child's commode chair and chamber pot.
(Gift of M. Carrie Hatch about 1925-30?)

Wash stand, Sheraton period.
(China pitcher and basin from Nichols collection)
(Origin unknown)

Early slat back chair - dark red. 3 slats
Coarse rush seat.
(Origin unknown)

BACK UPPER HALL

Wood tin stove or foot-warmer. 18½" x 9½" x 9"
"This was the property of Richard S.S. Storrs, D.D.
of Braintree" - From Mark E. Harrison, Apr. 23, 1896.

Butter churn - gray, stamped on bottom R. Bates.
(Origin unknown)

Boot clamp.
"A clamp for siding boots used by Sarah Marsh (Nightingale)
Holt in Quincy about 1830"
("Presented by her granddaughter M. A. Souther")

Low child's chair.
(Not in good condition)

Boot clamp.
And another one.

Small Drying frame for linens.

Large wooden trough for kneading.
(probably collected 1897 by Wm. G. Spear. ? shows in old photo of kitchen?)

BACK UPPER HALL - John Quincy Adams House cont.

Hair trunk, small, hair mostly gone.
Marked F. E. Lord, Boston, Mass.

Tin oven
Tin oven
Tin oven

Large churn or grinder, green, cylinder type,
38" high ?? Is it a curd cutter??
Smaller churn or grinder.

S. W. BACKROOM

Post used in the 3rd Meetinghouse of First Church
Hancock Meetinghouse 1731, or column from the spire,
was used in a house on Cottage Ave. 1827 and torn
down 1909 when Alpha Hall was built, near so. corner
of Hancock St.
(Given by Russell C. Low on behalf of Warren S. Parker.
Feb. 9, 1934 & Sept. 18, 1935 society records.)

Linen drying or stretching frame.
(Gift of Mrs. Mary (Faxon) Lawton about 1899, of
School St.)

Butter churn
Metal weather vane in chape of a fish and
weather marker (No. So. E. & West)
(Origin unknown)

ATTIC

3 Tin ovens
Large linen spinning wheel & various parts of
wheel brackets
Wooden trough, basin etc.
Baskets
Trundle bed - parts
Six chests or trunks
(Maple ?) Chest of drawers - 4 drawers (ca. 1800 ?)

Parts of old loom of some sort
Iron pots, etc., broken
Weather vane, metal - large - probably the one from
tower of meetinghouse demolished 1828 and then
placed on the barn of the Henry Wood house, School
St. cor. of Granite St. and given to the Historical
Society about 1900)

Appendix H-2

INDIAN RELICS, ETC. AT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS HOUSE

#161 Crude tomahawk - from Josiah P. Quincy

#162 No label - Tomahawk head (?)

#163 Tomahawk head - from Josiah P. Quincy

#164 Large tomahawk head

#165 Not seen

#166 Not seen

#167 Hatchet head (?) - from Josiah P. Quincy

#168 Small tomahawk - from Nathaniel H. Hunt, Braintree 18-8-1899
"found many years ago (?) on his farm" (on Plain St.)

#169 Small tomahawk "dug up on Sea St. just before you get to Breakneck Hill—found and donated by Frederick E. Tupper who is now running lines for widening of Sea St., 28th April AD 1900"

#170 "Indian hammer dug up at Morrisons Factory, Braintree, Mass. where many Indian relics have been found, April 26, 1900. Presented to the Quincy Historical Society January 26, 1901 by Lewis Bass."

#171 (Hemispherical object)

#172 Pestle, "from Frederick E. Tupper, found at Norfolk Downs four feet below surface in cellar of new house on Glover Avenue opposite #17, The Old Billings House."

#173 Not seen

#174 Long perfect pestle - from Josiah P. Quincy

#175 Pestle - from Frederick E. Tupper

#176 Perfectly round cylindrical pestle

#177 Large heavy oval hammer - from Josiah P. Quincy

#178 Long perfect pestle - from Josiah P. Quincy

#179 Pestle "dug up in (?) Cross Place " - from Perry Lawton, 7 December 189(6?)

#180 Large oval pestle

#181 Large thick pestle - from Mrs. George L. Gill

Indian Relics, etc. at John Quincy Adams House.

#182 Perfect unbroken pestle - from Josiah P. Quincy

#183 Very small pestle--label illegible

#184 Indian Gouger - (?) Shell Place 2-6-96 - from Frederick E. Tupper

#185 Small object, finger like, with crystalline interior

#186 Orange colored fractured stone

#187 Mortar - "Dug up on Beale St. near Old Colony Avenue by workmen laying sewer pipes - from Mrs. Clara A. Penley - 1899"

#188 Small tip end of a pestle

#189 Crude hammer with flat flanged base

#190 "Indian pestle stone from J. F. Gleason, Quincy, Mass., fall of 1894 found five feet below surface, corner Penn and Liberty Streets by workmen laying water main in the fall of 1894."

#191 Not seen

#192 Not seen

#193 Stone Axe - "from William Davenport found when cellar to his house, 17 Greenleaf St. was dug."

#194 Half of a truncated pestle - "found on the farm of——18(97)5" - Illegible label - from Josiah P. Quincy.

#195 Rectangular piece of soapstone

#196 Not seen

#197 Small pestle - from Nathaniel H. Hunt, Braintree 18-5-1899 "found many years ago on his farm (on Plain Street)"

#198 Not seen

#199 #200 Large trilobyte, obverse and reverse - from Mrs. Dr. John A. Gilbert

#201 Piece of agate

#202 Not seen

#203 Piece of wood from Cedar tree at Merrymount, on city seal.

Indian Relics, etc. at John Quincy Adams House

#204 Tomahawk head with three grooves or gouges for thongs.

#205 Not seen

#206 Not seen

#207 Not seen

#208 Not seen

#209 Not seen

#210 Not seen

#211 Pestle - flat on one side - label illegible - "1898, Squantum."

#212 Pointed Indian Gouger from Plymouth, Mass. - from Frederick E. Tupper.

#213 Round "William Coffin 15 December 1895, Quincy Mass.
Found in (illegible)

#214 Not seen

#215 Not seen

#216 Not seen

#217 Not seen

#218 Oval Tomahawk - from Josiah P. Quincy

#219 Not seen

#220 Not seen

#221 Not seen

#222 "Scoria from old Iron Foundry, Suagus, Mass. - James L. Edwards - Aug. 12, 1902

Appendix H-3

Fall 1961

MEMO of Mr. Robert P. Coyne

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS HOUSE

The prices given are estimates of cost of replacement at this time and are based on our experience in the antique business, (Gray since 1936 and Coyne since 1942) current prices in shops, and auction prices.

Historical value has not been considered in this appraisal because once such an item has been lost it can never be replaced.

We have placed a question mark beside those items that we were unable to locate.

Only a few articles that are in the small lean-to chambers, the back hall, and the attic are of sufficient value to list separately. Two hundred dollars would be a fair value of the unlisted miscellaneous items in this part of the house.

JOHN ADAMS HOUSE

There are two corrections to be made on the John Adams house inventory. The slat back rocker with rush seat in the kitchen should be valued at $45.00 and the value of the large oval braided rug in parlor should be changed from $300.00 to $75.00.

FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS OF THE JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE

Two Fireman's poles (mace?) Fire Warden's Emblem of Authority at Fires - 1792-1853	(pr.)	150.00
Firebucket, leather		35.00
Firebucket, leather		35.00
Two large old guns	each $75.00	150.00
Lantern on stairway		8.50
Windsor comb-back arm chair, with rockers, unpainted		125.00
Slatback, double braced (hoop skirt) arm chair (with rockers, added)		100.00
Counting house or school or office desk		85.00
Large tavern table		225.00
Settle 1st half of 18th century		175.00
Small ancient foot rest (unpainted)		6.50
Tin & glass lantern, square		15.00
Tin & glass lantern, square, electrified		20.00
Andirons in fireplace, looped tops		90.00
Skillets, trivets, pots, with legs, ironware Skillets 6" diameter and 8" diameter Kettle 21" diameter, kettle 13" diameter Iron kettle 8" diameter (1 leg gone), Trivet, large		50.00
Trammel, lugpole, long pothook		20.00
Linen spinning wheel		10.00
Huck spinning wheel		35.00
Wool carder		8.50
Cartridge box etc. in leather		10.00
Pair of old guns with bayonets	pr.	125.00
Pair of old powder horns	pr.	7.50
Tongs and shovel, brass heads		10.00
Mulling iron		14.00
Branding iron		18.00

Furniture, etc. John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Large earthen ware beanpot		12.00
Large foot warmer		25.00
Small travelling bootjack		5.00
Bellows for fireplace		7.50
Three braided rugs	(for 3)	15.00
Two bellows	(pr)	15.00
Bannister back (4 half rounds) rush bottom black painted side chair		65.00
Wide 3-slat (pierced) armchair rush bottom		45.00
Portraits on glass of John and Abigail Adams	(pr)	60.00
Small black windsor straight top side chair		12.00
Set of four Windsor "dove-cote" chairs, black		185.00
Flax spinning wheel		25.00
Tavern Table		250.00
Queen Anne side chair or Early Country Chippendale		20.00
Collection of chinaware, with some glassware		300.00
Glass, round whale oil lamp, 4 wicks, inserted in a wooden base		17.50
Collection of Indian stone implements		50.00
Glass and wood showcase		45.00
Copy of the painting of the ship "Bethel"		150.00
Small slat-back armchair		50.00
Bellows		5.00
Andirons		25.00
Crane		5.00
Tongs	(pr)	10.00
Iron kettle		10.00
Wooden yarn winder or swift, four arms, central shaft to the floor		10.00
Flax spinning wheel (18th century)		35.00
Crane in large fireplace		15.00
Large tin oven D-shaped		10.00
Crane from the old Briesler house		15.00

Furniture, etc. John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Late style tin-oven		20.00
Iron peel for use with the brick oven		7.50
Small iron peel " " " "		7.50
Wooden long handled peel (two)	(each $15.00)	30.00
Wooden pine dresser		25.00
Coffee Mill		3.00
Ceffee Mill (incomplete)		2.00
Wooden knife box		3.50
Wooden Mallet		2.00
Wooden Mortar & pestle		7.50
Iron Mortar & pestle		7.50
Scythe blade		2.00
Wooden keg, small		5.00
Tin whale oil lamps	(pr)	5.00
Oak cheese press		2.50
Wood butter churner		35.00
Tavern table		20.00
Collection of wooden buckets, firkins, baskets		100.00
Wooden butter churner		10.00
Two Leather fire buckets, green & gilt	(each $30.00)	60.00
Leather fire bucket		15.00
Two Niddy-Noddys for winding skeins of wool	(pr)	9.00
Three tin perforated lanterns	(for 3)	25.00
One tin and glass lantern (electrified)		15.00
Pewter platter 16½"		10.00
Pewter plate 13" diameter		15.00
Deep pewter plate 10½ diameter		20.00
Pewter plate 8" diameter		15.00
Pewter whale oil lamp		25.00
Bullet mold		6.50
Small rectangular table - No value		
Iron toaster		7.50
Wooden bootjack with oval hole in one end		2.00

...den bootjack - V-shaped end		2.00
Stocking fitter, wooden		6.50
Tin milk warmer (incomplete)		2.00
Tape loom, large		35.00
Mould for candles (12 candle)		7.50
Two steelyards	(for 2)	5.00
Two skimmers	(pr)	5.00
Small round tinder box		5.00
Curling iron		2.00
Three small flatirons	(for 3)	3.00
Two large flatirons	(for 2)	1.50
Swivel toaster		8.50
Tin out-door lamp glass convex front		10.00
Tin in-door lamp with wick spout		6.50
Pewter whale oil lamp		10.00
Tin whale oil lamp		5.00
Trivet		4.50
Round waffle iron with long handle		15.00
Rectangular waffle iron with long handle		10.00
Large long handled iron skillet		25.00
Small wooden looped sausage filler		5.00
Match stick holder (paper) and brimstone matches		5.00
Brimstone matches used with a tinder box		2.00
Brimstone match		2.00
Antlers of stag		3.00
Floor type reel or yarn winder with two-spool type holders		15.00
Butter mold		5.00
Three wooden flails	(for 3)	18.00
Hetchel, water bucket for well		8.50
Wood dough trough		15.00
Corn sheller		9.00
Wool carder		4.00
Wood trough - one piece		8.50
Pewter lamp with two side convex prisms		75.00

...re, etc. John Quincy Adams Birthplace

...ivel chair	20.00
Bear traps, crockery jars, etc.	15.00
Tin cylinder type candle box	8.50
Maple slat back arm chair	75.00
Corner cupboard , collection of glass, china, etc.	275.00
Tripod tip-top table	65.00
Green-painted, high-back Windsor Arm chair, Pres. John Adams	250.00
Red painted Windsor armchair	85.00
Black painted Windsor armchair	60.00
Pastel crayon portraits of John & Abigail Adams	150.00
Oriental rug	25.00
Three smaller oriental rugs: 32" x 53"	20.00
44" x 65"	35.00
38" x 65"	35.00
Small low stand with 1 drawer	25.00
Foot warmer, tin and wood	5.00
Foot warmer, tin and wood	5.00
Large wooden ink well and three quill pens	7.50
Wood pounce box, yellow	5.00
Easy chair (wing chair)	265.00
Pine slant top desk	350.00
Shaving soap box and brush	5.00
Wooden inkwell	5.00
Large round wooden inkwell and stand	4.50
Tin pounce box	3.00
Candle snuffer and tray	6.50
Gourd bottle	5.00
Steel engraving of John Quincy Adams framed	5.00
Andirons	5.00
Tongs for fireplace	5.00
Shovel for fireplace	10.00

niture, etc, John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Tobacco and pipe box		35.00
Small hooked red and blue mat		10.00
Small tripod octogon table or stand		65.00
Small dark brown Windsor side chair flat top		25.00
Wash stand (blue china pitcher and basin)		20.00
Blue chinaware pitcher and basin for wash stand		20.00
Bellows for fireplace		7.50
Small mirror		75.00
Wooden hat block		3.50
Old chest, notched ends		25.00
Cradle, hooded scrolled skirt end		35.00
Bannister back armchair, double braced	(hoop skirt)	175.00
Highboy, Queen Anne period		1200.00
Bedstead and furnishings		450.00
Bedstead, field or tent bed		350.00
Small Queen Anne or early Chippendale mirror		15.00
Trundle bed		50.00
Unpainted maple 4-slat backed side chair		15.00
Two cocked hats	(for 2)	50.00
Tanned leather riding breeches of Pres. John Quincy Adams		50.00
Dress (red brown) worn by Mrs. Abigail (Smith) Adams		25.00
Pink quilted heavy petticoat (Abigail Adams)	(for 3 items)	50.00
Dress pocket of Abigail Adams		
Night cap of Pres. John Adams		
Quilted bedspread		150.00
Andirons in fireplace, brass tipped		20.00
Cradle, hooded at end		20.00
Fan back Windsor chair		20.00
Windsor rocking chair		25.00
Large chest, two drawers below		75.00
Pine dressing table - D-shaped (half round)		50.00

furniture, etc. John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Chest of drawers or Dresser	150.00
Corner wash stand	65.00
Blue pitcher and deep basin	15.00
Tin candle sconce	7.50
Wall mirrer	10.00
Small rectangular tea table	50.00
Tin tray with candle snuffer scissers	10.00
Small oval calfskin hair trunk	12.00
Tin or pewter whale oil lamp with handle	20.00
Spool holder	4.00
Spool holder, ivory tipped	8.50
Brass & iron bed warming-pan, bellows	40.00
Tongs, brass tipped	8.00
Small jewel box, octagon	7.50
Slat and spindle back small side chair	18.00
Framed sampler	15.00
Framed certificate of membership in American Philosophical Society Philadelphia of John Adams	35.00
"Hired man's bed"	25.00
Dressing table, yellow, black stencil trim	35.00
Child's commode chair and chamber pot	15.00
Wash stand, Sheraton period	25.00
Early slat back chair	12.00
Foot warmer (wood tin stove)	25.00
Low child's chair	5.00
Metal weather vane in shape of a fish and weather marker	150.00
Large metal weather vane	35.00
Late leather fire bucket	15.00
Framed print of J. Q. Adams	5.00
Photograph of Adams & Bowdoin picture	5.00

Furniture, etc. John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Framed print of John Adams	10.00
Print of J. Adams by Bisbee (as is)	5.00
Framed print of J. Adams and "Dutch Friends"	10.00
Pair of brass jamb hooks	20.00
Fire tools with brass knobs	35.00
Pair of wrought iron andirons	35.00
Adams prints after Stuart	10.00
Print of Rev. Wm. Smith	5.00
Framed woodcut of Adams house	25.00
Three pieces of silver luster	75.00
Two pieces of strawberry china	100.00
Bristol Coffee pot	35.00
Twelve pieces of copper luster	150.00
Two blown decanters	40.00
Three pieces of Spatterware	100.00
Soft paste teapot and bowl	90.00
Four pink luster cups & saucers	30.00
Flint glass compote	15.00
Two Lowestoft teapots	100.00
Refinished Tavern table	75.00
Big wood bowl	20.00
Chinese bowl	25.00
Deep Delft plate	20.00
Tin bath tub	8.00
Braided rug	300.00
Masonic silhouette	20.00
Small silhouette	15.00
Small courting mirror	50.00

Furniture, etc. John Quincy Adams Birthplace

Iron Betty lamp	20.00
Glass "sparking lamp"	15.00
Turnip blown bottle	15.00
R.R. Flask	12.00
Early pistol	25.00
Watch	15.00
Crocket bed spread	75.00
Pair of electrified whale oil lamps	45.00
Refinished four-slat side chair	35.00
Round silhouette	10.00
Print of Old Ship Church	5.00

Furniture and Furnishings of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace not evaluated by Mr. Coyne.

Sword and scabbard

Large brass kettle 16½" diameter

Small fireplace with bolection molding and good panelling over it.

Brass topped andirons, shovel & tongs of brass, bellows.

Silk embroidered picture, scene of ships, etc.

Ivory or whale bone swift for winding yarn

Letter of Thomas B. Adams (framed under glass)

Death mask of Mrs. Elizabeth Marston (Channel) Bass

Glass lamp, probably Sandwich, electrified 1952

Bed quilt patchwork with autographs in indelible ink of Quincy, Braintree, Milton and Randolph and Vermont people

Pair of stays or corsets of Mrs. Abigail Adams

Pin tray

Small oval calfskin trunk initialed L. M. by tacks

Butter churn - gray

Boot clamp

2 Boot clamps

Small drying frame for linens

Large wooden trough for kneading

Small hair trunk

3 tin ovens

Large churn or grinder, green, cylinder type
Smaller churn or grinder (Curd cutter?) 38" high

Post used in the 3rd Meetinghouse of First Church Hancock Meetinghouse 1731, or column from the spire

Linen drying or stretching frame

Butter churn

Furniture, etc. of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace not ~~valued~~ evaluated by Mr. Coyne

3 Tin ovens

Large linen spinning wheel & various parts of wheel brackets

Wooden trough, basin etc.

Baskets

Trundle bed - parts

Six chests or trunks

(Maple ?) chest of 4 drawers

Parts of old loom of some sort

Iron pots, etc., broken

Appendix H-5

Notes for the Hostess of the John Quincy Adams Birthplace

This is not intended to be a presentation for the Hostess to use, but rather a recitation of portinent facts to aid her in developing her presentation.

The theme of the presentation of the two Birthplaces is expressed in the folder which is quoted below:

THE PRESIDENTS AND THEIR BIRTHPLACES

In what is now the City of Quincy, Massachusetts, stand two small red houses to which thousands of visitors come annually from all parts of the world. They are simple farmhouses of the "salt box" type that was so common in colonial New England at the time they were built. Some come to study them as fine examples of this early type of American home, but this number is small. Their significance lies in the fact that they were part of the lives of some great Americans of the past whom the world of today wants to know better.

The important facts concerning these old houses are that in one of them John Adams (1735-1826) was born and grew to manhood; to the other he took his bride Abigail in 1764, here he made his home until 1783, and here his son John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) was born and grew up. Thus these houses not only bear the imprint of their owners and occupants, as any long-time residence must, but also they constituted part of the environment that molded the characters of two men who were to become leaders in our national life. Therefore they are a part of the great Adams story and, through it, of the great story of America.

The contribution of the Houses to this story is one that they alone can make. They furnish an insight into the lives of the Adams Presidents that only a visit here can give. It is hoped that every visitor leaves with a better understanding and a closer feeling for these great figures in our national history.

Introduction to the House:

This little farmhouse is an historical shrine of national and international importamce for two reasons:

Here in 1764, a young lawyer and farmer, who was to become a founder of this country and its second president, brought his bride. Interrupted by stays in Boston and abroad, it was the home of John and Abigail Adams for over 20 years. Here Abigail Adams wrote most of her famous letters to her husband, and of it she said: " This little cottage has more heartfelt satis-faction for you than the most brilliant court can afford. "; (June 20, 1783) and " I long to return to my native land. My little cottage, encompassed with my friends, has more charms for me than the drawing-room of St. Jamen. " (May 14, 1787)

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

Here on July 11, 1767 was born their son, John Quincy Adams, who was to become the sixth President of the United States and one of our great statesmen.

The House has another distinction which makes it historically significant. Here in John Adams law office was drafted one of the most important documents in the history of democratic government. In this room in 1779, John Adams, Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin drew up the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This document, the oldest democratic constitution still in use, served as the prototype for our national constitution, most of the other state constituions, and many of the constituions of foreign democracies. That this great document was drafted in a simple farmhouse is indeed symbolic of the importance under it of the common man. John Adams was the principal author of this constitution, and many historians consider it his greatest contribution to history.

All his life, John Adams loved farm living and his farm. When he was away from it, there was frequent reference to matters concerning the farm in his correspondence with Abigail. It is our purpose, therefore, to present the House as the simple farm home in which he lived.

This House was originally a Belcher homestead. In 1639, this site on the old Country Way from Boston to Plymouth was part of a grant of 52 acres in The Captain's Plain to Gregory Belcher, a prominent citizen of the town and a large land holder. To the north was the Needham-Penniman-Adams property. The stone wall between the houses marks this line today. In 1663, Gregory's son Samuel married and built a home here. This early structure was

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

the beginning of the present house. It is believed that it was a one-over-one house, consisting generally of the present law office and the chamber over. The front door was probably on the south side as was the custom of the time. Why did he build his house in the extreme corner of the property so close to a neighbor ? It is because it was here, then as now, that the Plymouth Road turned and went up Penn's Hill, and it was convenient to have a house close to the road.

Samuel Belcher died in 1679 and his son Gregory took over the homestead, and lived here with his wife and 8 children. This Gregory was a carpenter as was his son of the same name. In time it was apparently decided that two rooms were no longer enough for a family of ten; so the house was rebuilt as a two-over-two, essentially as it stands today, less the leanto. A brick cut with the date 1716 may be seen in the south chamber fireplace, and is believed to record the date of this rebuilding. There are a number of structural features of the house and the large chimney and fireplace, among them the lack of symmetry of the house, that indicates that part of the 1663 house is part of the present structure.

Gregory Belcher, Jr. married in 1719. It may be that the leanto was added at that time; or it may have been in the 1740s, or even the 1760s. This last date is the least likely because the old clapboards on the back of the 1716 house, which are visible up the back stairway, were never painted; and paint was in use by that time.

Gregory Belcher, Sr. was " killed by a plough " in 1727. A year later Gregory, Jr. died; and shortly after his widow. This

left their young daughter as owner. When she married and moved away in 1740, the property was sold to non-resident owners. In 1744 it was bought by Deacon John Adams, father of President John, who added the property to his adjoining farm, and leased the house to tenants, the most important being Dr. Elisha Savillo. In 1761, Deacon John Adams died and left the old Belcher farm to his son John; he left him the smaller farm because he had sent him, but not his two brothers to Harvard.

This was the home of Abigail and John Adams from their marriage in 1764 until 1787 when they purchased and moved into the old Vassall house, now the Adams National Historic Site on Adams Street. Here, their son, John Quincy Adams, was born and named for his mother's grandfather, Col. John Quincy, a very distinquished citizen of the town who then lay dying at his Mount Wollaston farm. The town, now city, of Quincy was named for him in 1792. After 1787, the house remained in the family but was rented to tenants, except for the years 1805-1807 when John Quincy Adams and his family lived here. In 1896-97, the Adams family had the house restored, and turned it over to the Quincy Historical Society which furnished it and has operated it ever since. In 1940, the Adams family deeded the property to the City of Quincy.

Structurally this is a " framed " house in which the weights are supported by the corner posts, girts, chimney beams and summer beams. This is in contrast to the present-day " frame " house in which the wall, with closely-spaced studs, provide the strength. The walls of this house are filled with soft brick and clay (see area exposed to show this construction feature) for insulation and to keep the frame from racking- a feature of one of the better-built houses.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

Two very fortunate factors affected the restoration and furnishing of the house. The first was the work of Mr. William G. Spear, a very knowledgable antiquarian, and Curator of the Quincy Historical Society at the time. He supervised the restoration and collected most of the furniture and furnishings from local families; things from local farm homes like the Adams'. These are not fine antiques, but everyday things such as the Adams had in their farm home. Many of them are identified with the local family from which they came- Curtis, Veazie, Faxon, Bass, Etc., etc. It was a joke in Quincy that when " Old Bill Spear " went to call on a person, he would come away with some of their belongings. It was most fortunate that this collecting was done at that time when such local pieces were available; it would be impossible to find enough such pieces today to furnish a farmhouse.

The second fortuitous circumstance was that when the House was restored and opened, two of John Adams' grandchildren, a son and a daughter of Thomas Boylston Adams, were living. It was they who gave most of the Adams pieces in the two houses.

****

Principal reference for above information- Booklet on the Birthplaces by Waldo Chamberlain Sprague.

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use* for current interpretation.

Appendix H-6

Some Contents of Special Interest in the John Quincy Adams Birthplace

General- The pieces that belonged to the Adams family are noted below, together with other items that contribute to the Adams story. The remainder are largely pieces of farm house type furniture and furnishings that belonged to Quincy area families; in most cases we have a record of to whom they belonged.

Law Office- This was the kitchen of the early house before the leanto was added. The fireplace is of the earliest type with the straight sides and the oven in the back. John Adams used this room as his law office, and had the door in the south wall so that clients could enter the office directly from the road. A law office in a farmhouse is very unusual if not unique. How and where John Adams kept his law library is a question to which we would like very much to have the answer.

* It was in this room that the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was drafted by John Adams, Samuel Adams and James Bowdoin in 1779. The photo shows the Herter painting of the event that is in the State House in Boston. The setting shown was made from the room, and shows generally the furnishings that are here now.

The portraits on glass of John and Abigail Adams are crude but show interesting costume details. They are believed to have been done by Asa Pope of Quincy who was a laborer for the Adams at the time.

* John Adams Favorite Chair- This high-back windsor was presented to the Society by Elizabeth Coombs Adams and Isaac Hull Adams, grandchildren of the 2nd President. ~~Note that it is for a short man.~~

Museum Room- This room was fitted out with shelves for the Society's library when the house was first opened in 1897. It is used for display and exhibitions rather than as a lived-in space li ke the rest of the house. It is hoped that before long it can be refitted and furnished in keeping with its original use.

*John Adams' certificate of membership in the Mechanics Association. (This organization was largely responsible for carrying the Bunker Hill Monument construction to completion.)

Kitchen- This was the center of life in an early farmhouse. The fireplace is of the style that came in around 1720, and is a contrast to the one in the old kitchen, now the law office. This was Abigail's kitchen.

Farm implements and utensils are shown here, these being of the many types that were required in the days when farms here had to be largely self-suffucient.

* The cooler in the buttery ~~originally had~~ a grille of wood in the floor to permit the cool air from the cellar to enter-

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use for current interpretation.*

Up the stairs to the leanto attic can be seen the unpainted clapboards on the back of the 1716 house.

Parlor- * The corner cupboard (not original) was installed in 1897 when the house was restored. In it are some pieces that belonged to Abigail Adams.

The gray paint is the color of the bottom layer found when the house was restored. The wall paper is a reproduction of an early paper found in the house. (Wall papers found in the house are on display.)

There are books here and in the law office. We know from their writings that the Adams had books in their home. They were educated people at a time when many of the local farmers, and even moreso their wives, could not read and write.

* The pastel portraits of John and Abigail Adams shortly after their marriage, are copies of the famous original pastels by Blythe, now hanging in the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Southeast Chamber- * In the fireplace is the brick cut with the date 1716.

* John Quincy Adams' riding breeches. ~~Note that he was a small man.~~

~~A photo copy of the record of the marriage of John Quincy Adams and Louida Catherine Johnson~~

Hall- Some of the old lime and hair plaster is removed to show the hand-split laths.

Up the stair to the attic, the barn roof construction can be seen.

Northeast Chamber- In this room on July 11, 1767, John Quincy Adams was born.

Note the trundle bed. As the house is now shown, there are seven sleeping surfaces; there may well have been even more when this was used as a farmhouse. In such houses, there was much less space per person than we are used to today.

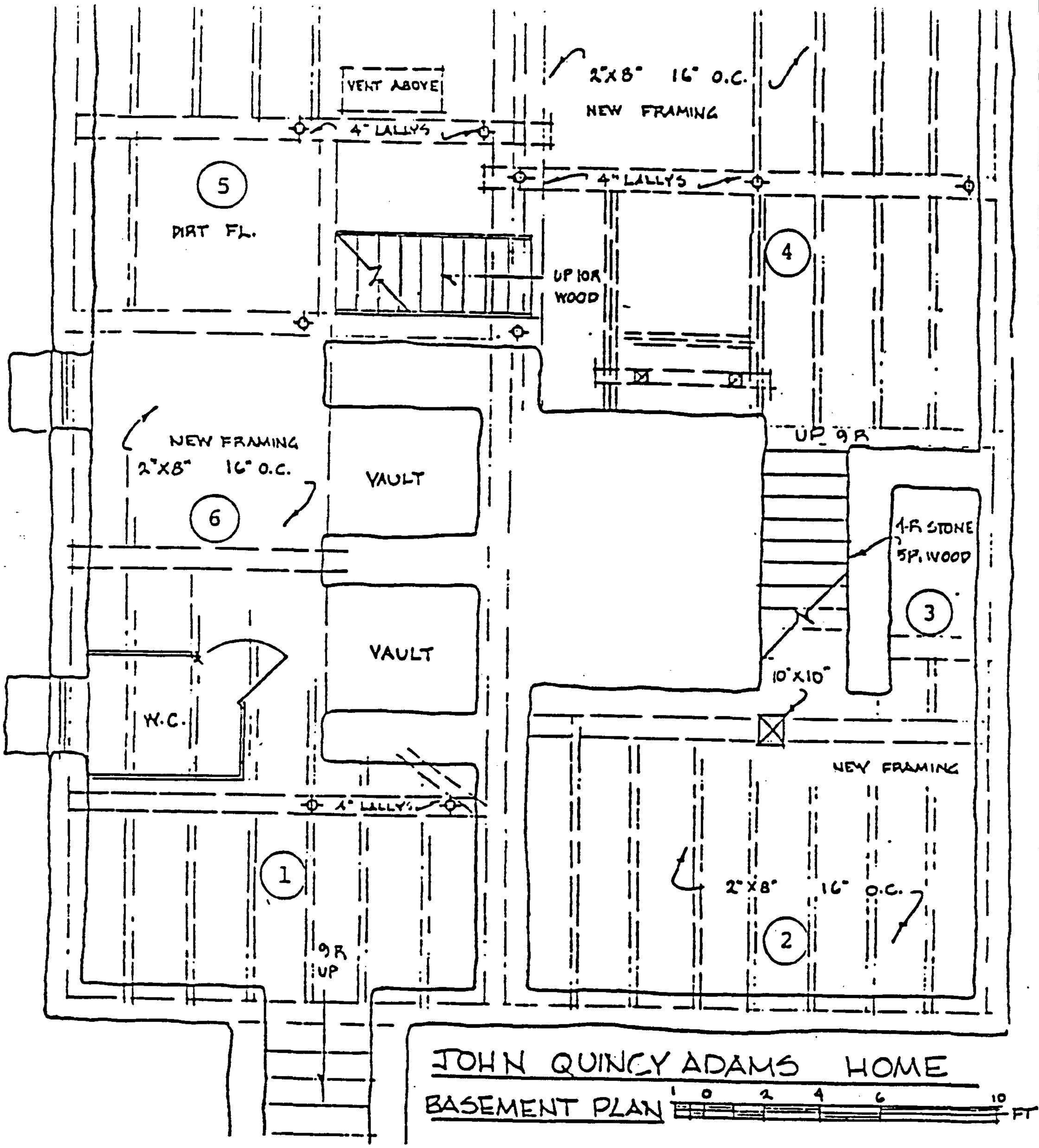
Framed on wall are some personal items of the Adams. ~~In the closet is a dress that belonged to Abigail Adams. (note the small size.)~~

~~* The pine dressing table belonged to Abigail Adams.~~

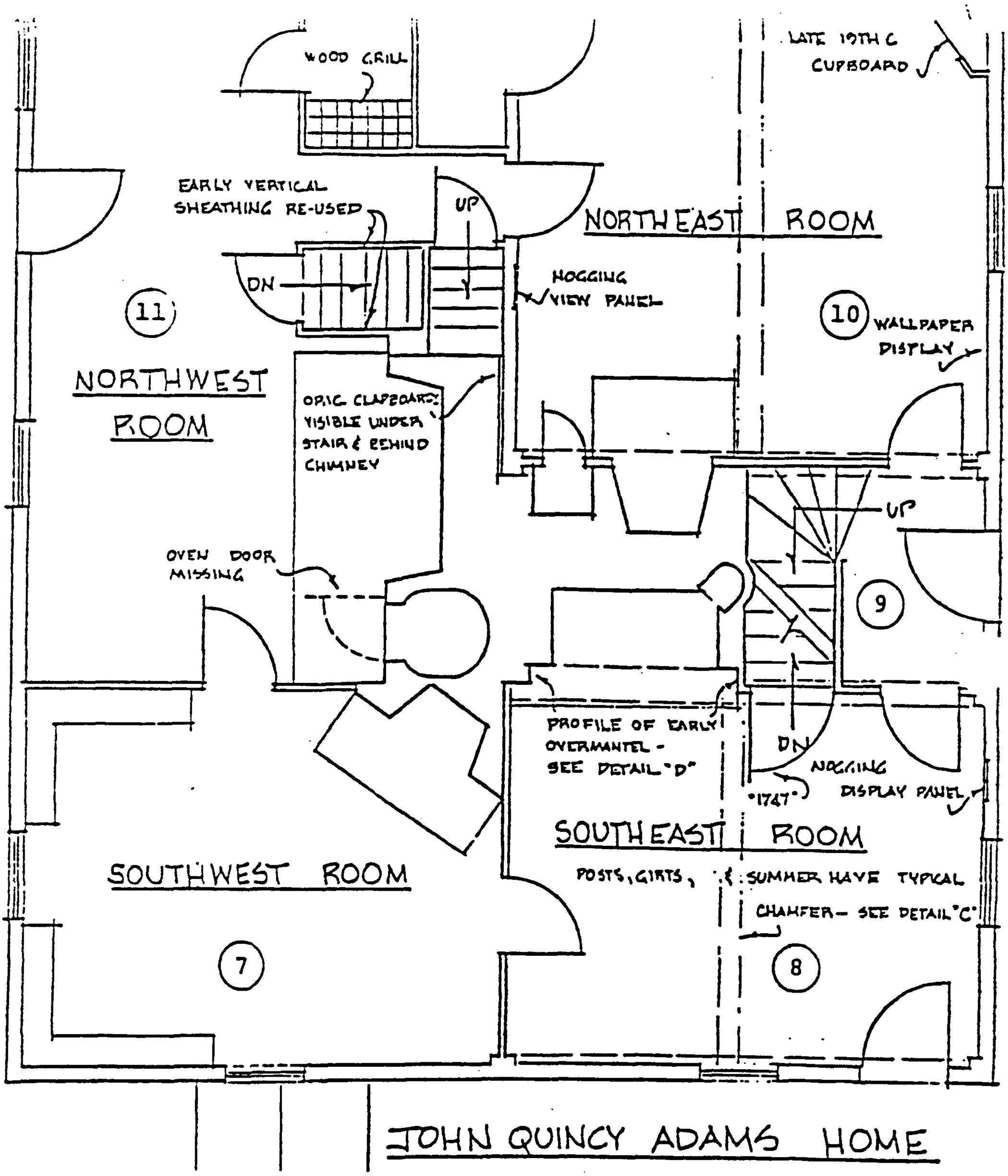
~~John Adams' certificate of membership in American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia in 1793 when he was Vice President.~~

This information documents the past interpretation of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Many facts cannot be substantiated. *Do not use for current interpretation.*

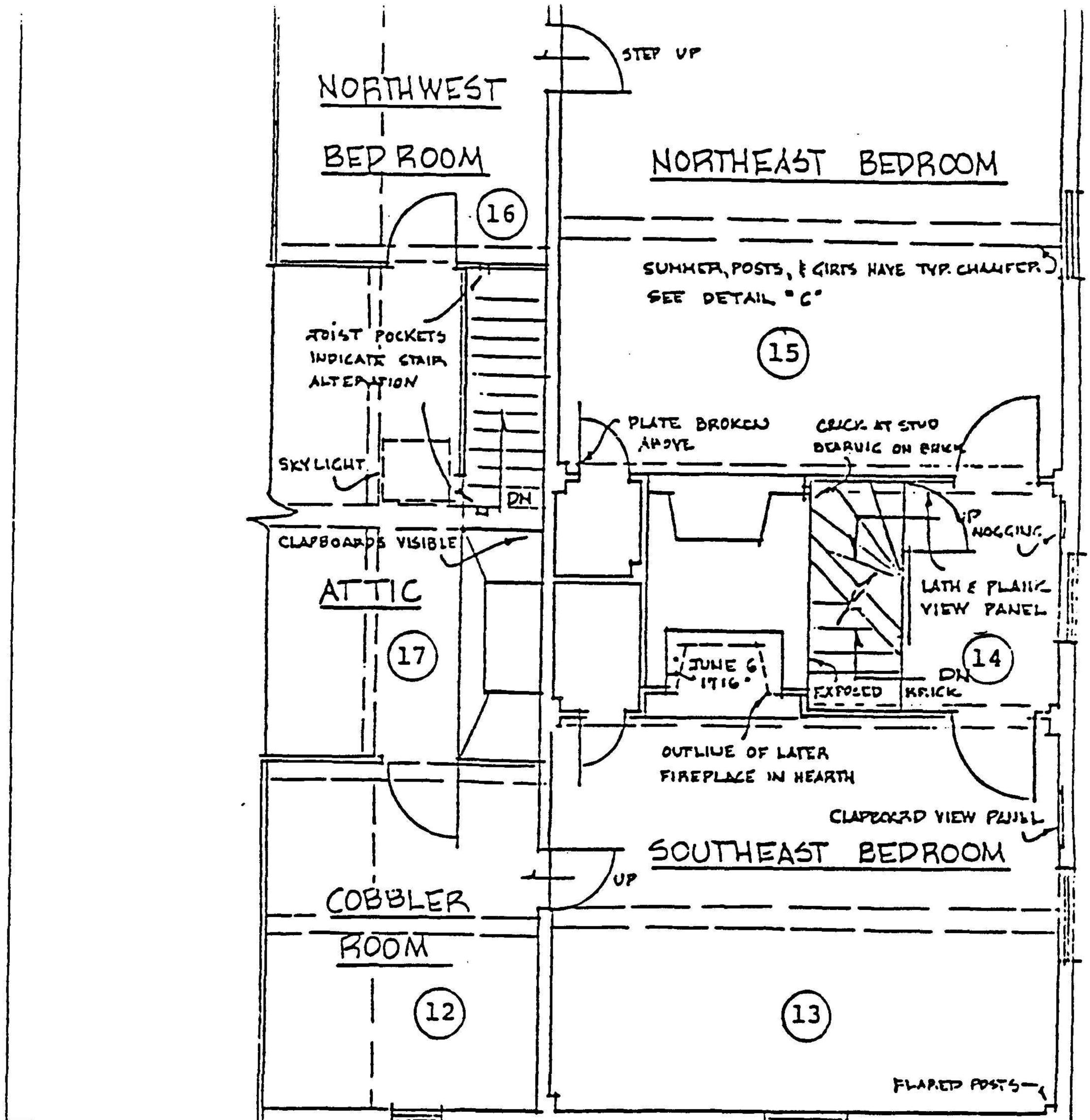
Appendix I-1



David M. Hart, John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Cellar Floor Plan, 1975.



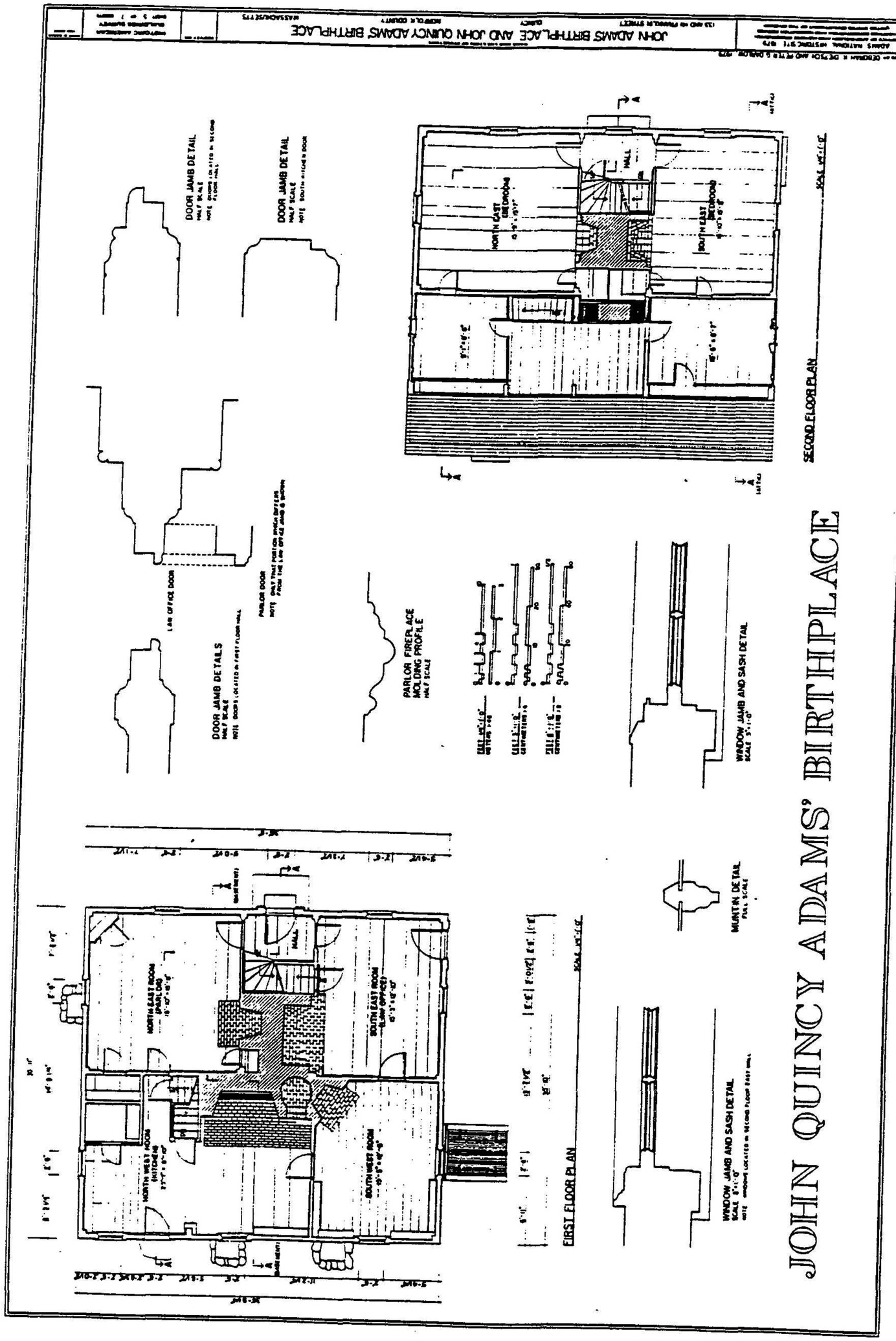
David M. Hart, John Quincy Adams Birthplace, First Floor Plan, 1975.



JOHN QUINCY ADAMS HOME

David M. Hart, John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Second Floor Plan, 1975.

Appendix I-2



Dietsch, Deborah K. and Peter G. Darlow, John Quincy Adams birthplace first and second floor plans, 1979.

Appendix J-1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

Norfolk

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

John Quincy Adams Birthplace (John Adams House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

John Quincy Adams Birthplace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

141 Franklin Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Quincy

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts		Norfolk	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY *(Check One)*	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

City of Quincy, administered by Quincy Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Quincy	Massachusetts	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Quincy	Massachusetts	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey (1 photo)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D. C.	

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(1)

CONDITION	☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	*(Check One)* ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John Quincy Adams Birthplace is a two-story frame house of typical New England saltbox design. Possibly dating from 1663, it originally consisted of two lower rooms and two upper chambers arranged around a massive central chimney. John Adams added the existing leanto with two rooms to the rear of the house to serve as a new kitchen, the original kitchen then serving as his law library. The house, considerably altered over the years, has been carefully restored. In excellent condition the structure is open to visitors.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Great Britain and he held this post until February 1788.

From 1788 to 1796 John Adams served as the first Vice-President of the newly organized Federal Government. He characterized this post as "the most insignificant office that was ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived." From 1797 to 1800 he was the second President of the United States. On the expiration of this term of office and after 26 years passed in public employment, he returned to Quincy to live out the remaining years of his life. His wife died in 1818, and John Adams died on July 4, 1826, a few hours after the death of his good friend Thomas Jefferson.

On April 1, 1828, the bodies of President John Adams and his wife Abigail were placed in their final resting place, a crypt located under the vestibule of the newly completed First Parish Church in Quincy.

History of the House

In 1761 John Adams inherited the house, the oldest part of which may date from 1663, from his father who had acquired it in 1744. At the time of his marriage, in 1764, John Adams move into this structure, in which he could house his growing library and set up a law office. For several years he used the kitchen as a law office. In the house, on July 11, 1767, John Quicny Adams was born. From 1768 to 1770 he also lived in Boston in the "White House" on Brattle Square and from 1772 to 1774 in a rented town house in Queen Street, which were more conveniently located for his growing law practice, but his wife and children remained in this farm house until after the War for Independence. By 1784, when the entire family was in Europe, tenants were occupying it. In 1803 John Quincy Adams purchased the house from his father and resided here from 1805 to 1807. In 1840 the Adams heirs deed the John Quincy Adams Birthplace to the City of Quincy.

☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1761-1783

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal	☐ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☐ Religion/Philosophy	☐ Other *(Specify)*
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☐ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☐ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site was declared eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks in 1962, under Theme XII, Military and Political Affairs, 1783-1830. The Revolutionary-period residence (1761-1783) of John Adams, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence for Massachusetts, second President of the United States, lawyer, politician, diplomat, and first Vice-President of the United States is at 141 Franklin Street in Quincy. John Quincy Adams was born in this house on July 11, 1767.

Brief Sketch of the Life of John Adams, 1735-1826.

John Adams was born October 19, 1735, at Braintree [Quincy], Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard in 1755 and, after a brief session of teaching school, was admitted to the bar in Boston in 1758. He married Abigail Smith of Wymouth, the daughter of a clergyman, in 1764. His law practice slowly grew and he also wrote for the newspapers on public affairs. The Stamp Act gave Adams his first real opportunity and the resolutions of protest he prepared for Braintree were followed throughout Massachusetts. By 1768 he was closely associated with the patriotic cause. In June 1774 Adams was chosen as a delegate to the First Continental Congress and he continued to serve in this body until November 1777. By July 1775 he had decided that independence was necessary and in June 1776 he was appointed to the committee to prepare a declaration of independence.

Adams was considered by Thomas Jefferson to be the ablest advocate and defender of the Declaration of Independence in Congress. Richard Stockton of New Jersey called Adams "the Atlas of American Independence." On Noyember 28, 1777, Adams was elected a commissioner to France and in February 1778, accompanied by his 10-year old son John Quincy, he sailed for that country. In Paris he worked with Benjamin Franklin. Adams returned briefly to Massachusetts in August 1779, where he helped draft a new constitution for the state, and then sailed for France again in November, accompanied by his sons John and Charles, as the agent to handle the peace negotiations with Great Britain. In Decmber 1780 Adams was also appointed minister to the Netherlands. In 1783, with Franklin and John Jay, Adams negotiated the treaty of peace with Great Britain. In the summer of 1784 Mrs. Adams and their daughter joined him in France, where Adams with Franklin and Jefferson, was serving as a commerical commissioner. In May 1785, Adams went to London as the first American minister to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(2)

The Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. I, 73-82. Article by Worthington Chauncey Ford.
Elizabeth Fields and Dr. J. E. Fields, "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May 1951, 4.
Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States (June 16, 1960), 453-457.
Massachusetts, A Guide to Its Places and People (American Guide Series) (Boston, 1937), 340.
Robert G. Ferris, ed. Founders and Frontiersmen (Washington,D.C. 1967), 212-13

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY									OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE						LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds				Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"				42°	14'	25"	71°	00'	16"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"									
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"									

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: 2/27/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GP O 9 0 1 .0 8 7

Appendix J-2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

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

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)

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)

..., 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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

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 1960 (date)

Boundary Certified: Rafferty Omary

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)

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John Quincy Adams Birthplace , Quincy,Massachusetts

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.

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.

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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)

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.

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

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

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.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER PAGE

John Quincy Adams Birthplace, Quincy, Massachusetts

Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description (continued):
s uthern line to its intersection with the western curbline of Franklin Street: thence, southwesterly along said western curbline to the point of beginning.

Appendix K-1

OPTIONS FOR USE AND POTENTIAL THEMES

THE BIRTHPLACES OF PRESIDENTS JOHN ADAMS AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Adams National Historical Park
133 and 141 Franklin Street
Quincy, Massachusetts

by

Laurel A. Racine
SPNEA Historic Furnishings Researcher

Northeast Museum Services Center
National Park Service
September, 1999

Options for Use

The following use options for the Adams birthplaces and a potential future building at the site were drawn from a larger pool of twelve which included every possible combination of uses for these buildings (see table 1). Other options were eliminated because the level of extant information regarding the furnishings of the John Adams birthplace does not support the installation of a fully furnished historic interior or a series of furnished vignettes. The recommended options are made under the following assumptions:

- Based on the amount of extant information available and its potential interpretive themes, the John Quincy Adams birthplace should contain furnished spaces depicting the Adams' domestic life and John Adams' law practice. The extant information best supports the installation of furnished vignettes, but a fully furnished historic interior based on comparative inventories is also possible. A furnished vignette would occupy a portion of each interpreted room and suggest the furnishings for the entire room. These can include reproductions of extant birthplace-related objects at the Old House.
- The interpretive exhibits in the John Adams birthplace can include installations of reproduction furnishings.
- If there is an additional building, the installations at the John Adams and John Quincy Adams birthplaces will interpret themes directly related to those houses. If there is no additional building, themes for the birthplaces site as a whole may be incorporated into the installation at the John Adams birthplace.
- If an additional building is constructed, it will contain a combination exhibition and reception area; a classroom space where activities for groups may be conducted away from the general public; storage facilities for costumes and props; and enough restrooms to reasonably accommodate a bus group of fifty to seventy-five children.

There are further issues to consider regarding the construction of a new building (see ill. 3). First, the expense of designing and constructing the building must be examined. The style of building is also a consideration. One possibility is a building evoking the size, style, and/or materials of an early barn. There was a barn at the John Quincy Adams birthplace at least as early as 1660 and at the John Adams birthplace at least as early as 1720. The earliest pictorial evidence for these barns dates to 1828 and the earliest photograph of a barn near the John Adams birthplace dates to the mid-nineteenth century. Or, the new building could be an intentionally modern structure. The addition of a building to the birthplaces site increases the number of school children that can be accommodated at once from fifty to seventy-five. Also, a new building with an additional exhibition gallery would increase the amount of time general visitors spend at the birthplaces site. This additional time must be considered in relationship to the half-hour time restriction presented by the current trolley schedule.

There are, of course, many, many possibilities for the contents and methods of interpretation in the Adams birthplaces. The following "Proposed Visitor Experiences for Recommended Use Options" are offered only as *examples* to stimulate further thought and discussion. Please consider them in this context and prepare your responses to them for our future meeting on the subject.

TABLE 1: Use Options for Extant and Potential Future Building at Adams Birthplaces Site, Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA

John Quincy Adams Birthplace (See ill. 1.)	**John Adams Birthplace** (See ill. 2.)	**Potential Future Building** (See ill. 3.)	**Recommendations/Considerations**
Furnished vignettes with supporting labels	Interp. exhibit. and waiting area (southeast and southwest rooms) Classroom (northeast room) Storage (northwest room) Restroom (rear shed)	No building	Highly recommended if Park wants to put all exhibits and visitor services in extant buildings. Furnished vignettes in JQABP most appropriate for level of extant information. Supporting labels offer the possibility of self-guided tours at the JQABP. JABP themes best told through interp. exhibits (see table 2).
Furnished vignettes with supporting labels	Interpretive exhibition	Interp. Exhibit. and waiting area Classroom Storage Restroom	Highly recommended if Park wants to put some visitor services in new building. Furnished vignettes in JQABP most appropriate for level of extant information. Supporting labels offer the possibility of self-guided tours at the JQABP. JABP themes best told through interp. exhibits. Added exhibition building may increase time visitors need at site.
Fully furnished historic interior	Interp. exhibit. and waiting area (southeast and southwest rooms) Classroom (northeast room) Storage (northwest room) Restroom (rear shed)	No building	Recommended if Park wants to put all exhibits and visitor services in extant buildings. Recommended if Park wants fully furnished historic interior at BPs site.
Fully furnished historic interior	Interpretive exhibition	Interp. Exhibit. and waiting area Classroom Storage Restroom	Recommended if Park wants to put some visitor services in new building. Recommended if Park wants fully furnished hist. int. at BPs site. Added exhibition building may increase time visitors need at site.
Interpretive exhibition	Interp. exhibit. and waiting area (southeast and southwest rooms) Classroom (northeast room) Storage (northwest room) Restroom (rear shed)	No building	Not recommended because JQABP themes better told with vignettes or fully furnished historic interior.
Interpretive exhibition	Interpretive exhibition	Interp. Exhibition and waiting area Classroom Storage Restroom	Not recommended because JQABP themes better told with vignettes or fully furn. hist. int.

Proposed Visitor Experiences for Recommended Use Options

1. Highly Recommended
John Quincy Adams Birthplace: Furnished vignettes with supporting labels
John Adams Birthplace: Interpretive exhibition and waiting area, Classroom, Storage, Restroom
Potential Future Building: No building

a. *School group of fifty students*: School groups will generally spend one-and-a-half to two hours in interpretive programs at the Adams birthplaces site. It is recommended that groups arrive about fifteen minutes early to allow time for organization and any necessary stops at the restroom. Two interpreters will greet the group by briefly introducing themselves and explaining the itinerary and goals of the visit. In general, the intent is to impart to students the key interpretive themes and sub-themes unique to the Adams birthplaces while relating these themes to the broader context of the Massachusetts history and social science curriculum framework (see tables 2-4). The interpretive program will include two forty-five-minute to one-hour segments, one at each birthplace.[1] A group of fifty will be split into two sub-groups led by a single interpreter and accompanied by at least one chaperone.

Two activities will take place in the John Adams birthplace. First, the interpreter will provide a brief tour of the interpretive exhibits focused on the larger context of the Adams birthplaces site including the geography of Quincy, the site's use as a colonial farm, and how the Adams family fit into the economic and civic life of its community. From broad themes to the more specific, the interpreter will then lead students in an interactive program focused on themes related to the John Adams birthplace (see table 2). These themes will be explored through role playing, handling objects, and discussion. This activity will take place in the classroom in the northeast room so that general visitors can tour the interpretive exhibits at the front of the house. Props and costumes will be stored in the northwest room.

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the furnished vignettes. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace (see table 2). The furnished vignettes will serve as backdrops for the Adams family stories. If desirable, costumes and props can be used in the rooms to involve students and emphasize important concepts. Props and costumes may be stored in a closet or on the second floor.

The group's experience will conclude when the two sub-groups reunite on the lawn for a brief question/answer session and conclusion. The conclusion will summarize the key themes covered in both houses and encourage the children to bring their families back to the Park.

b. *General visitors arriving on trolley, guided tour*: General visitors will usually spend thirty minutes at the birthplaces site. As they exit the trolley, the trolley driver will instruct them to enter the John Adams birthplace. A restroom is available at the rear of the house and exhibits are through the front door. The interpretive exhibits will provide information related to the John Adams birthplace and the birthplaces site as a whole. The interpreter can casually circulate answering questions in the John Adams birthplace and on the grounds and then announce a

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[1] The interpretation of the Adams birthplaces site is not limited to the interior spaces. There could be an additional outdoor segment or an outdoor activity included during one of the interior segments.

guided tour of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The guided tour should be the second part of the visitors' experience to ensure that they have time to see the grounds and the interpretive exhibits in the John Adams birthplace.

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the furnished vignettes. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The furnished vignettes will serve as backdrops for the stories told in the Adams papers. The visit will conclude with a summary of the site's key interpretive themes and an appropriate segue to the Old House tour.

c. *General visitors arriving on trolley, self-guided tour*: General visitors will usually spend thirty minutes at the birthplaces site. As visitors exit the trolley, the interpreter will briefly greet them by explaining what information, services, and experiences are available at the two houses. The interpreter will briefly summarize the key interpretive themes that visitors should keep in mind while at the birthplaces site. Visitors will disperse for self-guided tours of the interpretive exhibits in the John Adams birthplace and the furnished vignettes with supporting labels in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The interpreter will circulate between the houses answering questions and offering interpretation when necessary. The visit will conclude with a summary of the site's key interpretive themes and an appropriate segue to the Old House tour.

2. Highly Recommended
John Quincy Adams Birthplace: Furnished vignettes with supporting labels
John Adams Birthplace: Interpretive exhibition
Potential Future Building: Interpretive exhibition and waiting area, Classroom, Storage, Restroom

a. *School group of fifty students (with an additional building, the site could handle up to seventy-five students with three interpreters)*: School groups will generally spend one-and-a-half to two hours in interpretive programs at the Adams birthplaces site. It is recommended that groups arrive about fifteen minutes early to allow time for organization and any necessary stops at the restroom. All students will start their visit in the exhibition gallery of the new building. There, interpreters will greet the group by briefly introducing themselves and explaining the itinerary and goals of the visit. In general, the intent is to impart to students the key interpretive themes and sub-themes unique to the Adams birthplaces while relating these themes to the broader context of the Massachusetts history and social science curriculum framework. Then, the interpreters will present a brief overview of the larger physical and cultural context for the Adams family and Adams birthplaces site. After the overview, the interpretive program will include three thirty- to forty-minute segments at each of the three buildings. [2] A group of fifty will be split into two sub-groups led by a single interpreter and accompanied by at least one chaperone.

At the new building, the interpreter will expand on the physical and cultural context provided in the overview. This contextual information will include the geography of Quincy, the combined church and state government of the town, the site's use as a colonial farm, and the American Revolution. Maps, charts, objects, and other visual aids in and in addition to the interpretive exhibition will be used. The exhibition gallery and classroom may be utilized for

[2] The interpretation of the Adams birthplaces site is not limited to the interior spaces. There could be an additional outdoor segment or an outdoor activity included during one of the interior segments.

this segment. Additional interpretive objects will be stored in a room adjacent to the classroom. The goal of this session is to define the Adams family's place in their community and in American history.

At the John Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead students in an interactive program focused on themes related to the John Adams birthplace. These themes will be explored through role playing, handling objects, and discussion. Objects and other visual aids in and in addition to the interpretive exhibition will be used. Additional interpretive objects will be stored in the northwest room.

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the furnished vignettes. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The furnished vignettes will be used as backdrops for the stories told in the Adams papers. If desirable, costumes and props can be used in the rooms to involve students and emphasize important concepts. Props and costumes may be stored in a closet or on the second floor.

The group's experience will conclude when the two sub-groups reunite on the lawn for a brief question/answer session and conclusion. The conclusion will summarize the key themes covered in the three buildings and encourage the children to bring their families back to the Park.

b. *General visitors arriving on trolley, guided tour*: General visitors will usually spend *forty-five* minutes at the birthplaces site. As they exit the trolley, the trolley driver will instruct them to enter the new building where an exhibition gallery and restrooms are available. The exhibits in the new building will interpret themes related to the Adams birthplaces site as a whole and serve as an introduction to the houses. The interpreter can casually circulate answering questions in the new building, in the John Adams birthplace, and on the grounds. Visitors will be made aware through signs and conversation with the interpreter that the John Adams birthplace is open on a self-guided basis. The interpretive exhibits in the John Adams birthplace will provide information related specifically to that house.

During the last third of the group's stay, the interpreter will announce the guided tour of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The guided tour should be the last part of the visitors' experience to ensure that they have time to see the grounds and the interpretive exhibits in the new building and the John Adams birthplace. At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the furnished vignettes. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The furnished vignettes will be used as backdrops for the stories told in the Adams papers. The visit will conclude with a summary of the site's key interpretive themes and an appropriate segue to the Old House tour.

c. *General visitors arriving on trolley, self-guided tour*: General visitors will usually spend *forty-five* minutes at the birthplaces site. As visitors exit the trolley, the interpreter will briefly greet them by explaining what information, services, and experiences are available at the three buildings. The interpreter will briefly summarize the key interpretive themes that visitors should keep in mind while at the birthplaces site. Visitors should be encouraged to start with the introductory material in the new building. They will then disperse for self-guided tours of the John Adams birthplace and the furnished vignettes with supporting labels in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The interpreter will circulate among the buildings answering questions and

offering interpretation when necessary. The visit will conclude with a summary of the site's key interpretive themes and an appropriate segue to the Old House tour.

3. Recommended
John Quincy Adams Birthplace: Fully furnished historic interior
John Adams Birthplace: Interpretive exhibition and waiting area, Classroom, Storage, Restroom
Potential Future Building: No building

a. *School group of fifty students*: School groups will generally spend one-and-a-half to two hours in interpretive programs at the Adams birthplaces site. It is recommended that groups arrive about fifteen minutes early to allow time for organization and any necessary stops at the restroom. Two interpreters will greet the group by briefly introducing themselves and explaining the itinerary and goals of the visit. In general, the intent is to impart to students the key interpretive themes and sub-themes unique to the Adams birthplaces while relating these themes to the broader context of the Massachusetts history and social science curriculum framework. The interpretive program will include two forty-five-minute to one-hour segments, one at each birthplace. A group of fifty will be split into two sub-groups led by a single interpreter and accompanied by at least one chaperone.

Two activities will take place in the John Adams birthplace. First, the interpreter will provide a brief tour of the interpretive exhibits focused on the larger context of the Adams birthplaces site including the geography of Quincy, the site's use as a colonial farm, and how the Adams family fit into the economic and civic life of its community. From broad themes to the more specific, the interpreter will then lead students in an interactive program focused on themes related to the John Adams birthplace. These themes will be explored through role playing, handling objects, and discussion. This activity will take place in the classroom in the northeast room so that general visitors can tour the interpretive exhibits at the front of the house. Props and costumes will be stored in the northwest room.

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the fully furnished historic interior. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The historic furnished interior will be used as a backdrop for the stories told in the Adams papers. If desirable, costumes and props can be used in the rooms to involve students and emphasize important concepts. Props and costumes may be stored in a closet or on the second floor.

The group's experience will conclude when the two sub-groups reunite on the lawn for a brief question/answer session and conclusion. The conclusion will summarize the key themes covered in both houses and encourage the children to bring their families back to the Park.

b. *General visitors arriving on trolley, guided tour*: General visitors will usually spend thirty minutes at the birthplaces site. As they exit the trolley, the trolley driver will instruct them to enter the John Adams birthplace. A restroom is available at the rear of the house and exhibits are through the front door. The interpretive exhibits will provide information related to the John Adams birthplace and the birthplaces site as a whole. The interpreter can casually circulate answering questions in the John Adams birthplace and on the grounds and then announce a guided tour of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The guided tour should be the second part of

the visitors' experience to ensure that they have time to see the grounds and the interpretive exhibits in the John Adams birthplace.

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the historic furnished interior. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The historic furnished interior will be used as a backdrop for the stories told in the Adams papers. The visit will conclude with a summary of the site's key interpretive themes and an appropriate segue to the Old House tour.

4. Recommended

John Quincy Adams Birthplace: Fully furnished historic interior
John Adams Birthplace: Interpretive exhibition
Potential Future Building: Interpretive exhibition and waiting area, Classroom, Storage, Restroom

a. *School group of fifty students (with an additional building, the site could handle up to seventy-five students with three interpreters)*: School groups will generally spend one-and-a-half to two hours in interpretive programs at the Adams birthplaces site. It is recommended that groups arrive about fifteen minutes early to allow time for organization and any necessary stops at the restroom. All students will start their visit in the exhibition gallery of the new building. There, interpreters will greet the group by briefly introducing themselves and explaining the itinerary and goals of the visit. In general, the intent is to impart to students the key interpretive themes and sub-themes unique to the Adams birthplaces while relating these themes to the broader context of the Massachusetts history and social science curriculum framework. Then, the interpreters will present a brief overview of the larger physical and cultural context for the Adams family and Adams birthplaces site. After the overview, the interpretive program will include three thirty- to forty-minute segments at each of the three buildings. A group of fifty will be split into two sub-groups led by a single interpreter and accompanied by at least one chaperone.

At the new building, the interpreter will expand on the physical and cultural context provided in the overview. This contextual information will include the geography of Quincy, the combined church and state government of the town, the site's use as a colonial farm, and the American Revolution. Maps, charts, objects, and other visual aids in and in addition to the interpretive exhibition will be used. The exhibition gallery and classroom may be utilized for this segment. Additional interpretive objects will be stored in a room adjacent to the classroom. The goal of this session is to define the Adams family's place in its community and in American history.

At the John Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead students in an interactive program focused on themes related to the John Adams birthplace. These themes will be explored through role playing, handling objects, and discussion. Objects and other visual aids in and in addition to the interpretive exhibition will be used. Additional interpretive objects will be stored in the northwest room.

At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the historic furnished interior. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The historic furnished interior will be used as a backdrop for the stories told in the Adams papers. If desirable, costumes and props can be used in the rooms to

involve students and emphasize important concepts. Props and costumes may be stored in a closet or on the second floor.

The group's experience will conclude when the two sub-groups reunite on the lawn for a brief question/answer session and conclusion. The conclusion will summarize the key themes covered in both houses and encourage the children to bring their families back to the Park.

b. *General visitors arriving on trolley, guided tour*: General visitors will usually spend *forty-five* minutes at the birthplaces site. As they exit the trolley, the trolley driver will instruct them to enter the new building where an exhibition gallery and restrooms are available. The exhibits in the new building will interpret themes related to the Adams birthplaces site as a whole and serve as an introduction to the houses. The interpreter can casually circulate answering questions in the new building, in the John Adams birthplace, and on the grounds. Visitors will be made aware through signs and conversation with the interpreter that the John Adams birthplace is open on a self-guided basis. The interpretive exhibits in the John Adams birthplace will provide information related specifically to that house.

During the latter third of the group's stay, the interpreter will announce the guided tour of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The guided tour should be the last part of the visitors' experience to ensure that they have time to see the grounds and the interpretive exhibits in the new building and the John Adams birthplace. At the John Quincy Adams birthplace, the interpreter will lead the group on a guided tour of the historic furnished interior. This tour will be driven by the key interpretive themes of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The historic furnished interior will be used as a backdrop for the stories told in the Adams papers. The visit will conclude with a summary of the site's key interpretive themes and an appropriate segue to the Old House tour.

Potential Themes[3]

The continued existence of the Adams birthplaces and the large amount of extant information about the Adams family allows the interpretation of innumerable themes at the Adams birthplaces site. Even if the interpretation is limited to the eighteenth-century timeframe when the Adams family lived at the site (1720-1788), a vast number of themes still may be addressed. Broad themes related to the site include eighteenth-century childbirth, childhood, daily life, architecture, religion, politics, and the American Revolution, to name a few. However, whether a school child or general visitor, the visitor's time at the site is limited. Therefore, it is necessary to limit to a manageable level the number of themes and amount of information covered during a visit. There is a good amount of information specific to the Adams birthplaces site. Therefore, it is recommended that the discussion of broad themes be limited to use as contextual material.

It is tempting to share a lot of detailed information during a tour because it demonstrates the richness of the history of the houses and the Adams family, but it is important to keep in mind the level of information visitors bring to the site. Visitors may come with a high level of interest, but little command of the specifics of the early Adams family story. Overwhelming them with details may do little to increase their knowledge of and interest in the Adams birthplaces. We must instead make choices about what to include in tours of and exhibits at the site.

The first step in creating a manageable interpretive message is to identify the core information every visitor should receive *and take away from* the Adams birthplaces site. This information should answer the basic questions of who, what, when, where, why, and how. Visitors should leave knowing the names of the important historic figures, the key dates when the Adams family lived in each house, and the Adams' important accomplishments while living there. They should also leave with the tools for considering the questions of why and how the Adams family created and supported two successful early politicians.

Site-specific information should be presented within the context of the time, place, and social climate of the eighteenth century. Contextual information should include a short description of eighteenth-century Quincy, the former appearance and workings of the Penn's Hill Farm, and a short discussion of period religion and government. This information can be interpreted in exhibits in the John Adams birthplace or the potential new building. Visitors can experience the exhibits on their own or on a ranger-led tour.

The core information should be conveyed while exploring the themes most pertinent to the Adams birthplaces site. The themes presented in each birthplace (and the potential future building) should be kept to a minimum. Present, at most, three key themes in each building. Use stories, objects, and other interpretive methods to support and reinforce these key themes. While the number of themes is to be kept to a minimum, the layers of issues inherent to each theme may be discussed in as much detail as time allows.

The proposed key themes for the John Adams birthplace relate to why and how John Adams became the second president of the United States (see table 2). The first is a treatment of Deacon John Adams' ambitions and achievements. The second is John Adams' childhood and Deacon John Adams' influence on him. The third is John Adams' choosing a career as detailed

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[3] This discussion of themes purposely does not address specific methods of interpretation because the themes must first be determined. Once themes are agreed upon, the appropriate methods of interpretation can be proposed.

in his autobiography. Through exhibits and guided interpretation, visitors will be supplied with the facts about John Adams' early life, family, talents, shortcomings, and difficult decisions. Armed with this information visitors can better understand John Adams as a person and decision-maker.

There is more information available regarding the John Quincy Adams birthplace allowing for the treatment of more diverse themes at that house. The proposed key themes for the John Quincy Adams birthplace include the birth of John Quincy Adams, the experiences of Abigail Adams and her children during the Revolutionary War, and John Adams' activities in his law office including the drafting of the Massachusetts Constitution (see table 2). The interpretation of these themes will provide visitors with a better understanding of the ordinary and extraordinary experiences of the Adams family during a pivotal period in American history. These themes can be interpreted through labels, a recorded presentation, or a ranger-led tour. They can be interpreted in a fully- or partially-furnished historic interior because there is extant information about the furnishings and domestic activities that took place in the John Quincy Adams birthplace. Also, because the theme of Abigail Adams and her family during the Revolution is rooted in domestic issues, it is best represented in furnished spaces.

In addition to imparting the important facts about the Adams birthplaces site, the visitors' experiences also should give them skills to better understand history and other historic sites. To this end, the interpretation of the site for students and general visitors should seek connections with the Learning Standards set forth in the Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. As detailed in tables 3 and 4, the key themes at the Adams birthplaces relate to many of the core issues and sub-topics included in the Massachusetts DOE History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. Standards with which the interpretation at the Adams birthplaces can easily comply are listed below.

1. Chronology and Cause. Students will understand the chronological order of historical events and recognize the complexity of historical cause and effect, including the interaction of forces from different spheres of human activity, the importance of ideas, and of individual choices, actions, and character.

2. Historical Understanding. Students will understand the meaning, implications, and import of historical events, while recognizing the contingency and unpredictability of history, how events could have taken other directions by studying past ideas as they were thought, and past events as they were lived, by people of the time.

16. Authority, Responsibility, and Power. Students will explain forms of authority in government and other institutions; explain purposes of authority and distinguish authority from mere power, as in 'a government of laws, but not of men'; and describe responsible and irresponsible exercise of both authority and power.

18. Principles and Practices of American Government. Students will describe how the United States government functions at the local, state, national, and international levels, with attention to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, its Declaration of Rights of the Inhabitants, and the basic elements of its Frame of Government; analyze the background and evolution of constitutional and democratic government in the United

States to the present day; and explain the place of institutions of government in securing the rights of citizens.

19. Citizenship. Students will learn the rights and duties of citizens and the principle of equal rights for all; consider the nature of civic virtue in a school, a community, a nation; and identify major obstacles and threats to civil rights.[4]

Creating an interpretation based on these standards hopefully will yield a memorable experience that taps into the visitor's prior historical knowledge and will give him/her information and skills for future use.

Essential to making the Adams birthplaces learning experience memorable and transferable is making connections with the visitor. Fortunately, the early Adams family history is filled with stories that make family members come alive. Visitors should be able to see the human qualities of the Adamses. They should be able to connect across time and space to understand the trials and triumphs of this family. Also, the Adams family history should be made to have meaning for the late-twentieth century visitor. Issues with continued relevance include parent-child relationships; social and professional aspirations; and life in turbulent times.

The visitor also must be actively involved in the process of learning. Rather than passively absorbing information, the visitor should actively seek information. Perhaps information can be provided in a provocative or surprising way that drives the visitor's curiosity to learn more during the visit. Or, maybe the visitor can be presented with a problem to solve or challenge to face related to the Adams family. These should be manageable challenges which the visitor can surmount and take away as a memorable part of the Adams birthplaces experience.

In all, the multitude of possible themes that may be interpreted at the Adams birthplaces site must be distilled (not simplified) for visitors into a manageable message including core "take away" information, a context, and a finite number of key themes. These themes should draw upon the visitors' prior knowledge and give them skills for future use. The Adams birthplaces themes must be relevant to visitors' own human experience. Lastly, the visitor should be involved in the active discovery of information and themes while at the site. By interpreting themes with current relevance in an engaging manner that both challenges and rewards visitors, the staff members and exhibits at the Adams birthplaces site will provide visitors with a memorable learning experience.

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[4] Massachusetts Department of Education. *History and Social Science Curriculum Framework*. Finalized August 1997. Downloaded from website www.doe.mass.edu/doedocs/frameworks/hissoc1.html. Information excerpted from chapter VIII. Study Strands and Learning Standards: History, Geography, Economics, and Civics and Government Overview.

TABLE 2: Interpretive Themes at Adams Birthplaces

Key Themes

John Quincy Adams Birthplace	John Adams Birthplace
1. Experience of Abigail Adams and her children during Revolutionary War	1. Ambitions and achievements of Deacon John Adams
2. John Adams' law office	2. Affect of Deacon John Adams on son John Adams (childhood of John Adams)
3. Birth of John Quincy Adams	3. John Adams' career choice

Sub-themes

John Quincy Adams Birthplace	John Adams Birthplace
1a. Abigail Adams as lonely wife (letter-writing, other coping techniques)	1a. Deacon John did not receive college education
1b. AA as single mother (educating children, immunizing children, community illness during war)	1b. As deacon, Deacon John rose as high as he was able in church/state
1c. AA as domestic manager (servants, dairy, textiles, cooking, housekeeping)	1c. Deacon John married woman above his rank – Susannah Boylston
1d. AA as deputy-husband (tenants, farm hands, land and vehicle purchase, war refugees)	1d. Farmer/cordwainer able to send first son to Harvard
1e. AA as purveyor of goods (selling imports to fund household, shortages of supplies and money during war, taxes)	2a. Deacon John made JA go to school; JA was not natural scholar
1f. AA using community and family relationships for support (Cotton Tufts, Mary Cranch, Mercy Otis Warren)	2b. Deacon John imparted insecurity that drove JA to attain higher and higher goals
1g. JQA as post rider	3a. JA was uncertain of which career to choose as graduated from college – minister? lawyer? physician?
1h. JQA training with militia in yard	3b. Bryant affair affected decision against being minister
2a. Law clerks	3c. Extended family expected the usual choice of minister after Harvard
2b. Drafting of Massachusetts Constitution	3d. JA chose to be lawyer because felt fit personality, skills, and might lead to greatness
3a. AA's other children	

TABLE 3: Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Core Knowledge and Common Subtopics Related to the Adams Birthplaces Site[5]
Extant Buildings Only

John Adams Birthplace

- Local history, geography, economic and civic life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
- Intellectual and religious heritage of Anglo-American colonials (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 2f)
- Massachusetts town government, religion, and schooling in colonial times (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 2c)
  - Church and town elders, propertied voters (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Settlements, 2c)
- Family and community life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Settlements)
- Daily life and occupations (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
- Centrality of work, the family, and religious observance (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Early Amer., 1f)

John Quincy Adams Birthplace

- Daily life and occupations (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Settlements)
- Family and community life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
  - Labor of women and children essential to family farms (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Settlements, 2e)
- The clustered village or town; security and social life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Early Amer., 1f)
- Boston Massacre (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Amer. Rev., 3a)
- Events and interests behind the American Revolution (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3a)
- First battles in Massachusetts (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3b)
- Adams as leading founder and MA state constitution as founding document (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3e)
  - Basic provisions of state constitutions for free self-government; separation of powers; bill of rights (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Amer. Rev., 3e)
- The early republic (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3g)
  - John Adams, Federalist, first president from Massachusetts (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Amer. Rev., 3g)

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[5] *History and Social Science Curriculum Framework.* Information taken from chapter IV. Core Knowledge in United States and World History, Geography, Economics, and Civics and Government and chapter V. Commonly Taught Subtopics Related to Core Knowledge.

TABLE 4: Massachusetts Curriculum Framework Core Knowledge and Common Subtopics Related to the Adams Birthplaces Site
Extant Buildings and New Building

John Adams Birthplace

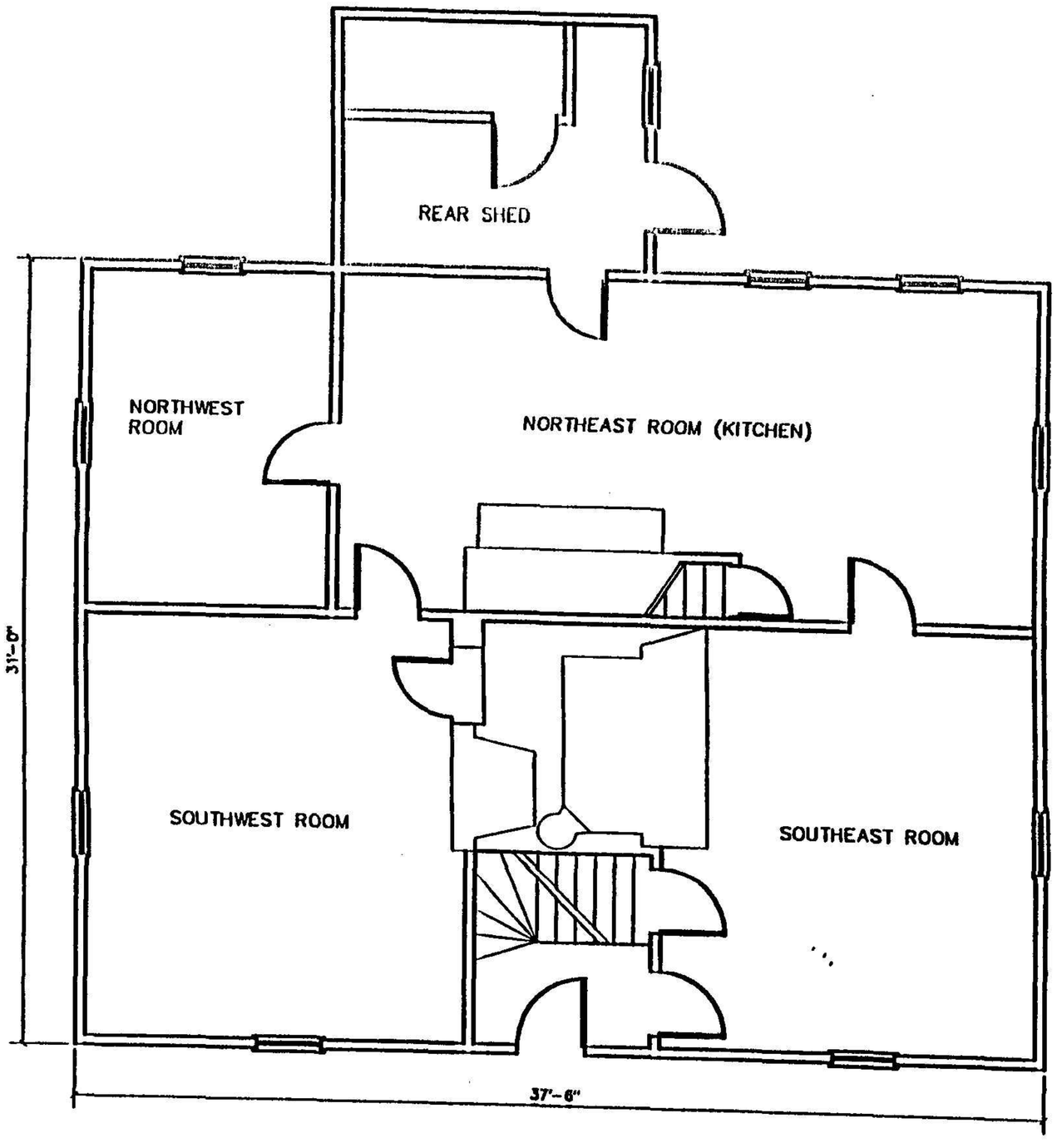
- Intellectual and religious heritage of Anglo-American colonials (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 2f)
- Massachusetts town government, religion, and schooling in colonial times (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 2c)
  - Church and town elders, propertied voters (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Settlements, 2c)
- Family and community life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Settlements)
- Daily life and occupations (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
- Centrality of work, the family, and religious observance (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Early Amer., 1f)

John Quincy Adams Birthplace

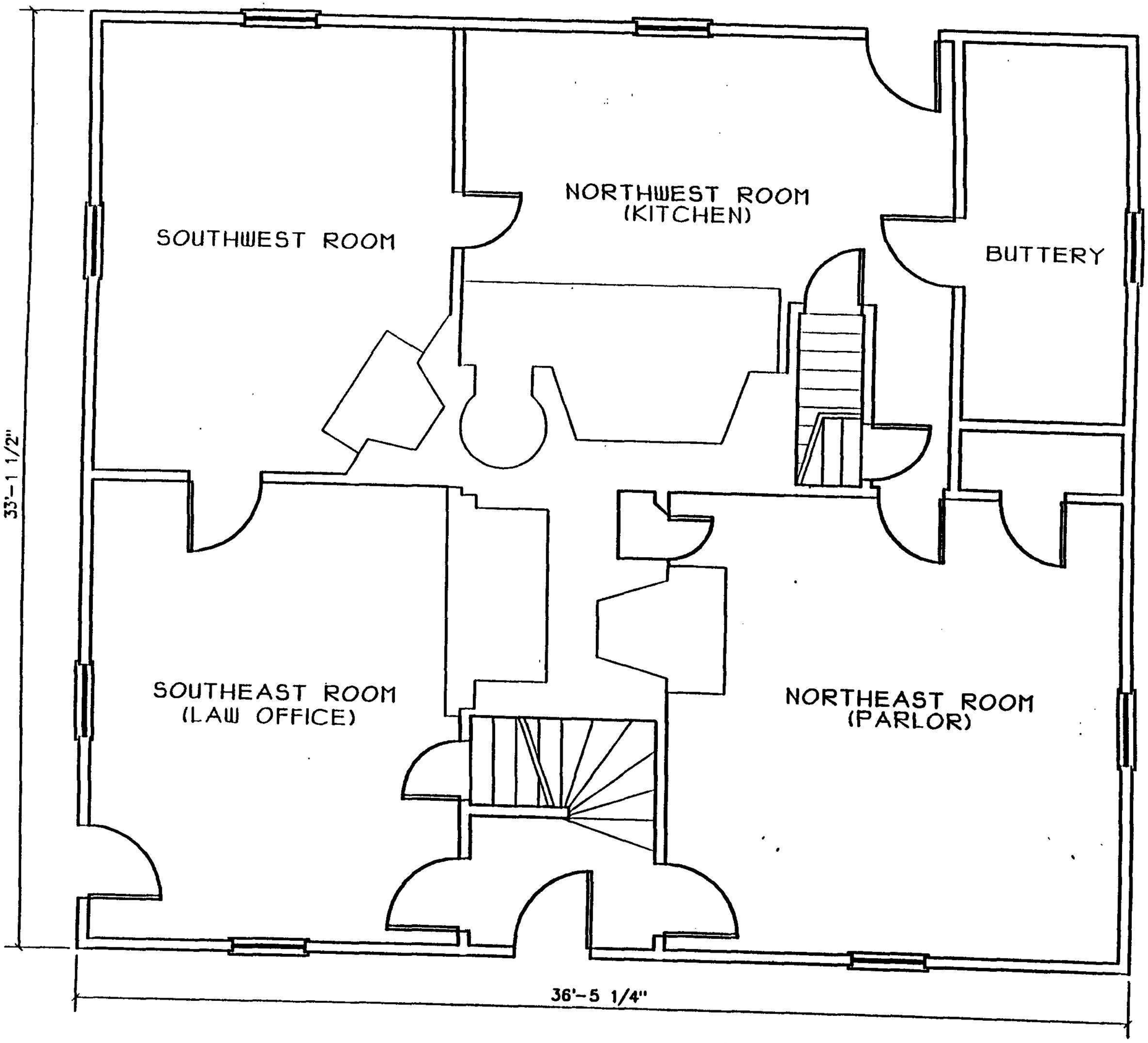
- Daily life and occupations (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Settlements)
- Family and community life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
  - Labor of women and children essential to family farms (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Settlements, 2e)
- The clustered village or town; security and social life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Early Amer., 1f)
- Boston Massacre (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Amer. Rev., 3a)
- First battles in Massachusetts (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3b)
- Adams as leading founder and MA state constitution as founding document (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3e)
  - Basic provisions of state constitutions for free self-government; separation of powers; bill of rights (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Amer. Rev., 3e)
- The early republic (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3g)
  - John Adams, Federalist, first president from Massachusetts (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Amer. Rev., 3g)

New Building

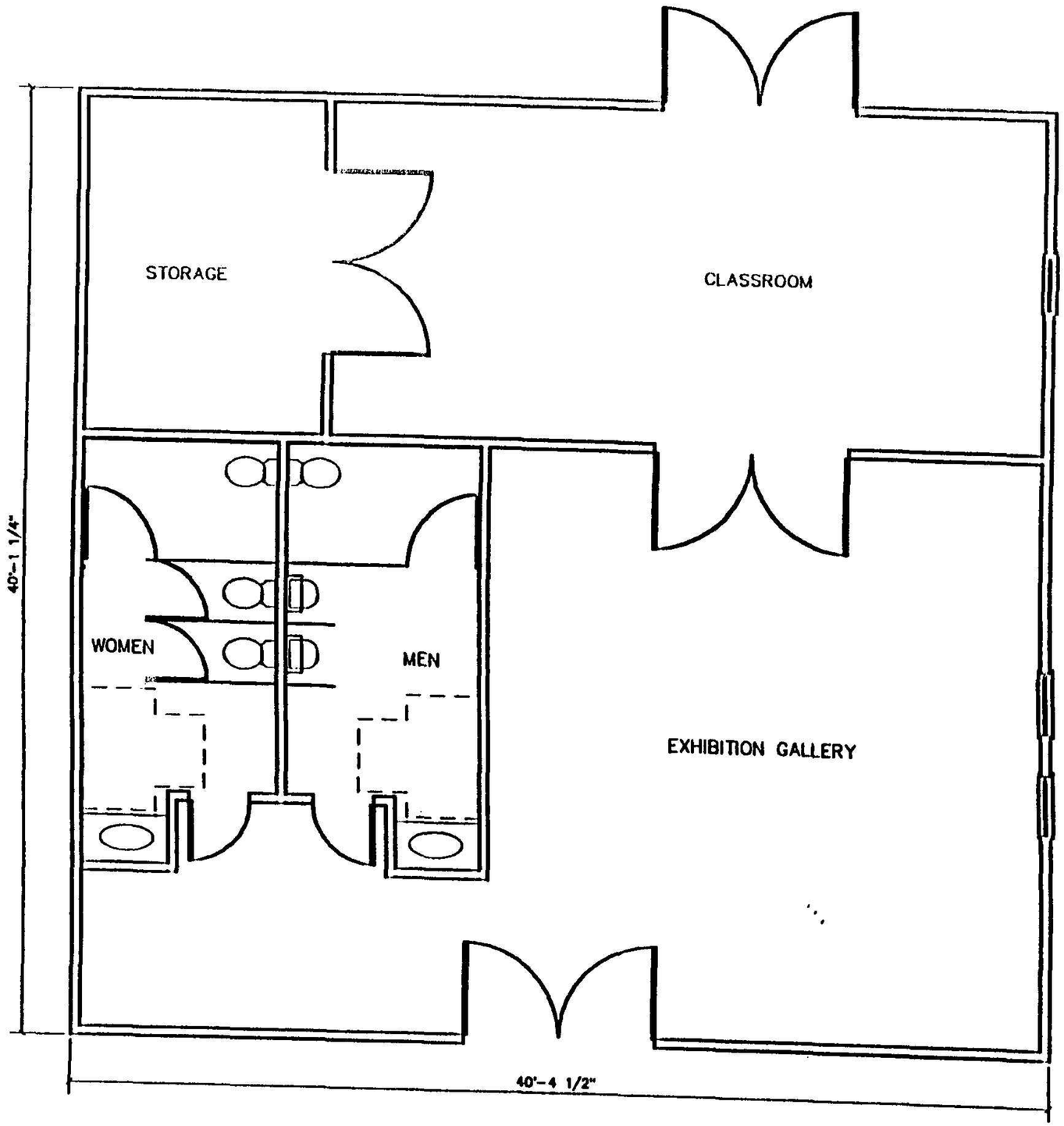
- Local history, geography, economic and civic life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
- Resources of North America: animal and vegetable (farming) (Ch. 5, Common Subtopic, Grs. 1-4, Early Amer.)
- The clustered village or town; security and social life (Ch. 5, Common subtopic, Grs. 5-12, Early Amer., 1f)
- Events and interests behind the American Revolution (Ch. 4, Core Knowledge, 3a)



III. 1: JOHN ADAMS BIRTHPLACE
SCALE 1/8" = 1'



III. 2: JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACE
SCALE 3/16" = 1'



III. 3: POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL BUILDING, ADAMS BIRTHPLACES SITE
SCALE 1/8" = 1'

APPENDIX K-2

Results of Preliminary Research into Probate Inventories of Harvard Graduates

Research Design: To identify potential peers of John Adams for the purposes of conducting a comparative inventory study, the researcher consulted volumes XIII and XIV of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates* which cover the years 1751 to 1760.[1] John Adams graduated from Harvard College in 1755. By reading the brief biographies, the researcher was able to identify graduates close to John Adams in age, geographic location, and economic level who died during Adams' occupancy of the John Quincy Adams birthplace. The results of the investigation are below.

Name	Yr. of Grad.	Occupation	Place of Death	Date of Death

Abbot, Abiel 1758 Physician Andover, MA 24 June 1764
Records: No inventory.

Adams, Amos 1752 Minister Dorchester, MA 5 Oct. 1775
Records: Probate and Will, 1776, vol. 75, pp. 57-60, Suffolk Probate, Massachusetts Archives.
Inventory, 1776, vol. 75, pp. 336-337, Suffolk Probate, Massachusetts Archives. *Very poor copy and likely unusable.*

Baldwin, Samuel 1752 Minister Hanover, MA 1 Dec. 1784
Records: No inventory, appears to have been in debt.

Brooks, Edward 1757 Minister Medford, MA 6 May 1781
Records: Will, 1776, docket 2819, Middlesex Probate, Massachusetts Archives.
Inventory, 1782, docket 2819, Middlesex Probate, Massachusetts Archives. *Very promising.*

Foster, Isaac 1758 Physician Boston, MA 27 Feb. 1781
Records: Will, 1782, vol. 81, pp. 59-61, Suffolk Probate, Massachusetts Archives.
Inventory, 1783, vol. 83, pp. 1093-1095, Suffolk Probate, Massachusetts Archives. *Very promising.*

Hall, Aaron 1758 Merchant Medford, MA 23 April 1787
Records: No inventory.

Locke, Samuel 1755 Minister, Harvard President Sherborn, MA 15 Jan. 1778
Records: Inventory, 1779, docket 14261, Middlesex Probate, Middlesex Probate, Massachusetts Archives.
Very brief, not very promising.

Lowell, John 1753 Physician Marblehead, MA 23 Nov. 1776
Records: No inventory.

Marshall, Samuel 1754 Physician Boston, MA 29 Sept. 1771
Records: Inventory, 1771, vol. 71, pp. 200-201, Suffolk Probate, Massachusetts Archives. *Promising.*

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[1] Clifford K. Shipton, *Sibley's Harvard Graduates, Volume XIII: 1751 – 1755* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1965), pp. 178-188, 332-335, 458-463, 478-488, 493-494, 620-627. Clifford K. Shipton, *Sibley's Harvard Graduates, Volume XIV: 1756 – 1760* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1968), pp. 146-149, 244, 262-268, 278.

Name	Yr. of Grad.	Occupation	Place of Death	Date of Death
Patten, William *Records:* No inventory.	1754	Minister	Halifax/Roxbury, MA	16 Jan. 1775
Thayer, Ezra *Records:* No inventory.	1754	Minister	Ware, MA	11 Feb. 1775

The above research is just a start in the comparative inventory process. Professional opinions vary as to the best method of approaching a comparative inventory study. Some practitioners suggest examining a period of twenty years and pulling a sample of ten to forty inventories from which to extrapolate information. Another approach is to choose the most significant five-year period of the house's history and examine every pertinent inventory for that period. Once the inventories are located, one can read through the inventories to know what furnishings were typical of the period. A more scientific approach is to quantify the numbers of different furnishings in the inventory to understand what was typical. In either case, the result of the analysis is a composite, "idealized" inventory with which to furnish the house.

In order to continue this research, the analytical approach needs to be refined and *additional* peers for John Adams must be identified, and their inventories located and analyzed.