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The Old House at Peacefield | Adams National Historical Park, MA

Portrait of the Old House in 1849 **| Godfrey N. Frankenstein |** From the Adams National Historical Park museum collection [ADAM 8451]

Godfrey Frankenstein's oil painting of the Old House in Quincy, Massachusetts captures the appearance of the presidential home, outbuildings, and landscape at mid-century, a year after the death of the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams. The property was home to four generations of the Adams family from 1787 to 1927. During 140 years of Adams family ownership, the site evolved from a working farm of cultivated fields, fruit orchards, meadows, marshlands, and woodlands to a country estate with ornamental plantings, manicured lawns, and clusters of shade trees. Today, nearly fourteen acres of the Adams' property in Quincy are preserved by the National Park Service.

Painter Godfrey Frankenstein (1820–73) came from a gifted family of German immigrants. He became the first president of the Cincinnati Academy of Arts in 1841 and gained notoriety for his depictions of Niagara Falls. Frankenstein's *Portrait of the Old House in 1849* is on display in the Old House at Adams National Historical Park opposite his 1849 *Birthplaces of the Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams*.

Peacefield, Adams National Historical Park, showing the painter's position with the red star (NPS).