In reply refer to:
H3019

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

November 1, 1954

Mr. George M. Cushing, Jr.
17 Stanhope Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Cushing:

I'm sorry to have left you up in the air about the Adams Mansion photographs. It was subsequently found that the Park Service itself has a large number of good negatives and on the trip I had less time to maneuver than I had hoped for.

Thank you for all the trouble you have gone to in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures

cc: Dr. Butterfield
Supt., Adams NHS

CEPeterson/mek

General
Daybook
Project
Arch. (Hist.) ✓

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In reply refer to:
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia6, Pa.

October 15, 1954

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Adams National Historic Site
Acting
From: Chief, EODC

Subject: Measuring of Adams House

As you know, we have been hoping a long time to get a set of measured drawings of the Adams House. If proper arrangements can be made, we would like to have it done by a student measuring team next summer.

It is believed that a squad with three students similar to those organized for the Independence project during the last four years could handle the work satisfactorily if an experienced leader can be found. We would pay the salaries and furnish the materials from this office. There would be little or no travel involved on the part of the squad.

If you are agreeable to such a project - and we understand that you have been considering it - it will be necessary to start the work of organizing it at once. We have gone as far as inquiring of Architect George C. Winterowd, employed at Independence last summer, if he would be interested. Professor Winterowd is a member of the faculty of the architectural school of Iowa State Collge. He is historically-minded and did a good job here, but he lost considerable money on the season because of the high rent he paid for a house for his family (wife and three small sons).

It is our thought that if you could make the unused apartment in the old Carriage House available for a small rent and furnish it with minimum utilitarian pieces that we might persuade Professor Winterowd to return.

Would you please give us your views in this matter?

(SIGNED)

Harvey H. Cornell
Acting Chief

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One
WASODC

CEPeterson:sp General - Hist. Arch - Daybook

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

In reply refer to:
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

October 15, 1954

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Adams National Historic Site

From: Acting Chief, EODC

Subject: Measuring of Adams House

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It is our thought that if you could make the unused apartment in the old carriage house available for a small rent and furnish it with minimum utilitarian pieces that we might persuade Professor Winterowd to return.

Would you please give us your views on this matter?

Harvey H. Cornell
Acting Chief

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One
NASODC

In reply refer to:
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 16, 1954

Memorandum

To: Chief of Design and Construction

From: Acting Chief, Eastern Office, Division of Design & Construction

Subject: Peterson report on Adams Mansion

Attached is a copy of an illustrated report prepared by Architect Peterson dated September 14 and relating principally to the old floor framing under the Paneled Room of the Adams Mansion.

Particular attention is called to the recommendation made that the house be measured next summer by a student squad directed by GS-9 Architect Winterowd. The latter has gone back to Iowa but is still on the Independence payroll, and it is hoped that he can complete the proposed set of drawings of the Philadelphia Exchange at Ames this fall. Other sheets are being completed here.

(SIGNED)

Harvey H. Cornell
Acting Chief

Attachment

Copy to: Regional Director, Region One w/report
Supt., Adams NHS, w/report

CEPeterson:sp

General
Hist. Arch.
Daybook

September 14, 1954

NOTES ON PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AT "THE OLD HOUSE"

Adams National Historic Site, Massachusetts

by Charles E. Peterson

June - July, 1954

During my first visit to the Adams House on June 17, 1954 I noticed a peculiar "give" in the first floor of what is called the "Pannelled Room" in the oldest section (Vassall House, built c. 1730). This was brought to the attention of the Superintendent and the Chief, Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction. Subsequently a handful of beetle-ridden wood was brought out of the under-floor area. This space had never been excavated and consequently could not be readily inspected.

It was then recommended that the old north foundation wall be broken through with an opening at least 2' x 3' and a crawlway be dug for permanent access. The Regional Office made funds available and the Superintendent then issued a purchase order for $290.00 to Michael Cavallo (67 Lake Street, Weymouth) to "Cut an opening into basement under panel room 3' x 4' and excavate underneath to a depth of 4 ft."

By the time the writer returned (August 18) Mr. Cavallo had broken through the wall and completed part of the excavation.

August 18-19

The hole in the basement wall turned out to be quite a large one. Because of the fact that the old foundation walls are laid dry on the inside face (in mortar on the outer face), the limits of the removal were hard to control.

Mr. Charles W. Houghton (Safety Fumigant Company, 158 State Street, Boston) was called in by the Superintendent and he diagnosed the disintegration of the joist and beam surfaces definitely as the work of the powder post beetle. The house had been fumigated some years ago by the same agency but it was impossible to tell whether any of these insects were still active. A general spraying with pentachlorophenol of all exposed woodwork in the under-floor area was recommended by Mr. Houghton. In preparation for this Johnny Iaconelli (NPS landscape gardener and handyman) scraped all surfaces of infested members down to sound wood. It was found in the northeast corner that an area of flooring more than 6' x 7' in size is not now supported by any framing at all. The ends of the joists and their seating had been eaten away. It's a good thing the flooring is two boards thick and that visitors were not allowed in the Pannelled Room.

At my request the Superintendent brought in a photographer with a hand-held camera and flashlight equipment (Charles F. McGrath, 43 Botolph Street, N. Quincy). His six shots were successful and are used to illustrate this report (negatives retained at Philadelphia).

The Superintendent brought in Carpenter F. A. Bent (14 Huntley Road, Quincy) and we decided that the best bracing would be to nail 2" x 6"

pieces alongside the old joists, toenailing them to the old beams, each piece to be first treated by brushing with "penta." Mr. Bent installed two shoring posts for temporary safety - one under the main center beam at the north end and one under the area of unsupported flooring. There seems to be no great urgency about the remaining steps.

The Superintendent had to leave (as previously planned) the evening of August 18 and I was limited to two days at the site. Between other activities I took a small series of exterior triped shots for the Philadelphia files. Also photographed three early views framed under glass, the oldest of which is the E. Malcom watercolor of 1798.

Recommendations

1. That the "penta" spraying be done as planned. This should be extended to the old woodshed where Mr. Iaconelli discovered beetle work while I was there.
2. That a neat doorway be installed where the north wall was broken through. The doorway frame should be of poured concrete carefully worked into the torn masonry so as not to disturb it further and to stabilize it permanently. The Superintendent suggested a door with a screened opening and I think that's all right. I understand that the contractor does not read blueprints so no drawing is furnished and probably none is needed anyway.
3. That the next time an architect is handy at the site steel lally columns on concrete bases be installed as designated at the time.
4. It has often been pointed out that measured drawings should be made of the house. I agree that this should be done as soon as a competent leader can be got to direct a student squad. GS-9 Architect Winterowd of Ames, Iowa (at Independence this summer) proved himself competent to

handle such work and I believe we would have a chance to get him next summer at Adams. He is not likely to return to Philadelphia because he lost money here due to high house-rent (five in his family). I believe, however, that we might get him for Quincy if we could utilize at a low rent the new three-bedroom apartment that has never been occupied in the Carriage House.

5. There were all kinds of loose antique fragments at the house - old window panes, wrought iron hardware, etc. I urged Mr. Iaconelli to put all of these together in one place for future reference. Such things are normally lost over a period of years. A good summer architect could help the Superintendent organize an interesting display relating to the fabric of the house. Many visitors at Early American places are as interested in that angle as any other.

6. That a history of the fabric of the house be prepared utilizing all documentary sources. I was surprised to learn that the date of the first Vassall construction is not a matter of agreement. I suggested Miss Margaret Golding of Brookline to compile the information.

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures



#1 - EXTERIOR VIEW
NEW OPENING IN NORTH WALL
(McGrath photo, Aug. 18)

This original foundation construction - over 200 years old - is of granite field stone and glacial boulders. It is approximately 18" wide at the top where it supports the sill. The exterior face was laid in lime mortar, the inside more or less rough and dry and loose.

Inside may be seen undisturbed clay and topsoil, on which lay soil and debris tossed up from the original excavation.



#2 - INTERIOR VIEW
NEW OPENING IN NORTH WALL
(McGrath photo, Aug. 18)

The masonry removal came perilously close to undermining support of the central crossbeam supporting the floor (upper right). Temporary shoring was subsequently installed here. Beyond may be seen the basement of a very old kitchen, possibly old as the rest of the house.



#3 - WEST CROSS WALL, looking West
(McGrath photo, Aug. 18)

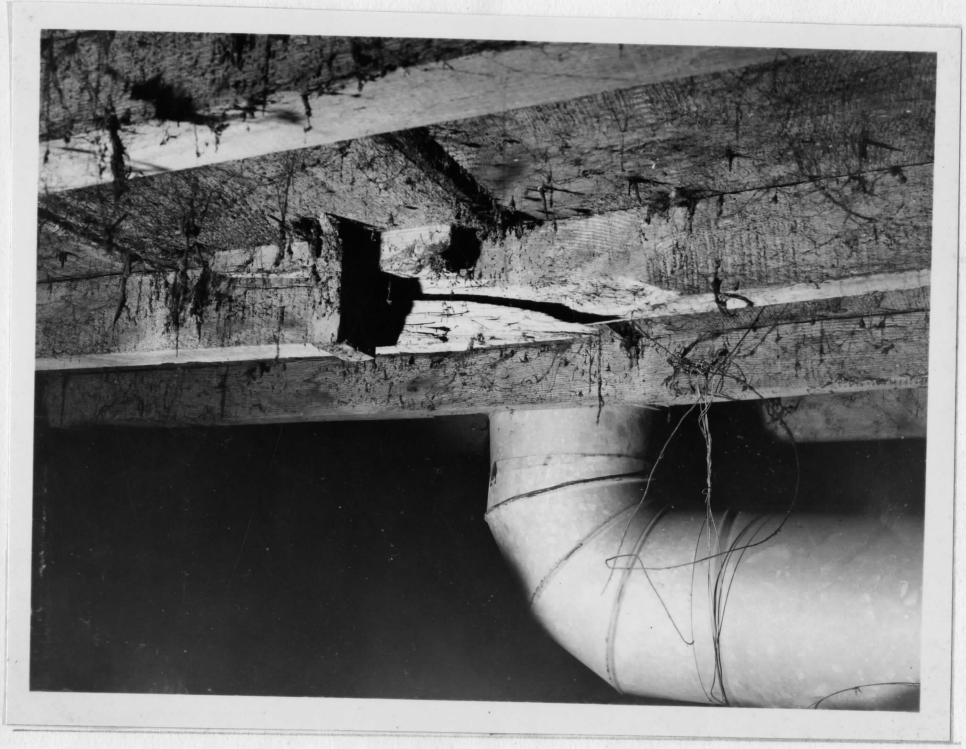
Three crossbeams support the joists under the "Paneled Room". They, in turn, are partly supported on dry laid masonry walls on the original surface of the ground. The west chimney and hearth lie immediately beyond the rule in the photograph. Much of these cross walls was removed during excavation without any injurious results apparent.



#4 - FLOOR CONSTRUCTION
(McGrath photo, Aug. 18)

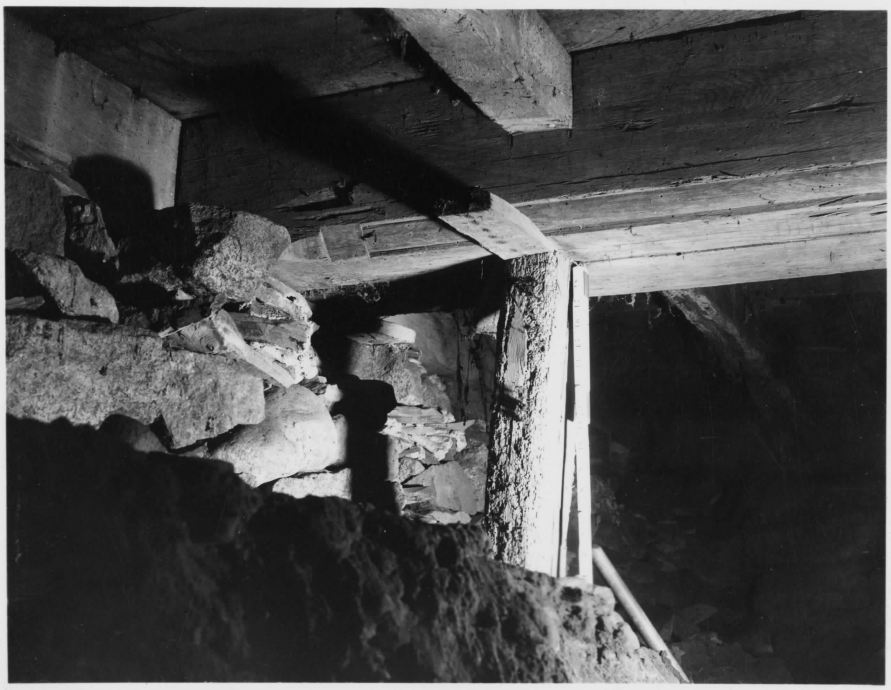
The crossbeams in section are, east to west, 8½" x 7", 10" x 11" and 7" x 7". The studs are 4"-5" deep by 2-3/4" - 3" thick, spaced 23" - 25" apart. The flooring is double, totaling 1-3/4" in thickness. It is composed of random width pine boards, some as much as 22" wide.

The dangling fragments are the result of beetle work.



#5 - FAILURE OF JOIST UNDER STAIRWAY
(McGrath photo, Aug. 18)

The weight of the old stairway caused this floor joist to fail. That this happened long ago is shown by the cobwebs and other dirt in the crack. The NPS three-fold give-away leaflet states, "The firm old staircase testifies to the soundness of the construction;" it is suggested that it be revised. Because the floor obviously does not offer much support, it is problematical just what does hold up the stairway.



#6 - DECORATION OF OLD BEAM
(McGrath photo, Aug. 18)

Concealed in darkness for over two centuries is the heavy hewn center crossbeam 9" deep and 12" thick. Morticing at one point shows that it was reused from an earlier structure. The quarter-round decoration terminating in what is called a "lamb's-tongue" is typical of finer 17th century New England houses. On the same trip a similar decoration on a beam similarly reused was noticed in the underpinning of the Jonathan Cogswell House in Essex. The upright brace with the shim is an old one.

A short section of another old beam 10"x11" - with two corner beads - used for a chopping block and then left under the house during construction-was found. It was recommended as a museum exhibit.

In reply refer to:
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 16, 1954

Mr. C. F. McGrath
43 Botolph Street
Quincy 71, Mass.

Dear Mr. McGrath:

Your six shots underneath the Adams house you sent were fine. The negatives were received here and have been used to illustrate a little report out today.

Best wishes.

(SIGNED)
Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect,
Historic Structures

Copy to: Supt., Adams NHS

CEPeterson:sp

General
Hist. Arch.
Daybook

In reply refer to:
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 8, 1954

Dr. Carleton Coon
University of Pa. Museum
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Coon:

For Superintendent Harris of the Adams National Historic Site, Quincy, Mass., I am sending you a small box of bones found in excavating under the oldest part of the structure. This is believed to have been erected by Major Leonard Vassall in 1731, and has never had a basement under it. The bones were in old excavated material lying on top of the original topsoil in such a way that they must have been deposited there during the original construction. Perhaps they were the uneaten part of a workman's lunch. They could hardly have been dragged in by rodents at a later time.

We thought they might be of some interest, and in any case would appreciate finding out what they are.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures

Copy to: Supt., Adams NHS

CEPeterson:sp

General
Hist. Arch.
Daybook

In reply refer to:
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

September 7, 1954

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Adams National Historic Site

From: Chief

Subject: Floor Framing, Adams Mansion

It is recommended that you proceed with the spraying of the beams, joists and flooring under the Panelled Room recently exposed, as discussed with Mr. Houghton of the Safety Fumigant Company. This is to head off any of the powder post beetle activity that may have survived the fumigation.

The temporary shoring put in last month will probably brace the weakened members satisfactorily until you are ready to put in something more permanent. Architect Peterson's report will be forwarded as soon as possible.

(SIGNED)

Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

cc: Regional Director, Region One
Chief of Design and Construction

CEPeterson/mek

General
Project
Daybook
Archo. (Hist.)

In reply refer to:
NSO19

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

AUG 16 1954

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One

From: Acting Chief

Subject: Photos of Adams National Historic Site

We are in need of a good reference file of photographs of the Adams Mansion as you will note from various carbon copies sent you recently. Today we were advised by Supt. Kelly that the Rowe photographic negatives were sent to Richmond at your request. The Superintendent has only three 7" x 9" Rowe prints and did not know where the negatives were.

Please advise us how many negatives you have and what size. We would like to avoid duplication as far as possible.

(SIGNED)

Harvey H. Cornell
Acting Chief

Copy to: Chief Architect
Supt., National Capital Parks
Supt., Adams National HS

CEPeterson:ejt

General
Hist. Arch.
Daybook

In reply refer to:
K3019

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

AUG 16 1954

Mr. George Cushing, Photographer
17 Stanhope Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Cushing:

Dr. Butterfield's office with the Institute of Early American History and Culture at Williamsburg has advised us that you took a large group of photographs of the Adams Mansion at Quincy and have the negatives.

We are in need of a reference file of photographs and might be able to buy some prints from you if we can get them for a modest price.

I expect to be in Boston this week and hope to get a chance to examine your collection and discuss this matter with you.

Thanking you for your attention, I am

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historic Structures

Copy to: Dr. Butterfield
Regional Director, Region One
Chief Architect
Supt., Adams NHS

CEPeterson/mek

General
Daybook
Arch. (Hist.)

INSTITUTE OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

BOX 1298 - WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

11 August 1954

Mr. Charles E. Peterson
National Park Service Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Our photographs of the Adams Mansion in Quincy consist of exterior views of all the buildings, several views of the grounds, interior photographs of all the rooms on the first two floors and the bedrooms on the third, and many individual pieces of furniture and furnishings. All these photographs were made for us by Mr. George Cushing, who has the negatives. Since there are so many of them, I believe it would be more practical for someone from your office to examine Mr. Cushing's file and select those which you want for your own reference, rather than to have them all copied. Our book is about the members of the family who lived in the Old House, as well as the house itself, and I feel sure that many of the photographs would be of no interest to you. Mr. Cushing's studio is at 17 Stanhope Street, Boston 16.

We have no objection to your securing reference prints before our book comes out, and if you wish, I shall be glad to write Mr. Cushing to that effect.

Sincerely yours,

Jane Carson

Jane Carson
Assistant to the Director

In reply refer to
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
421 Walnut St.
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

AUG 3 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent, Adams Mansion

From: Supervising Architect, Historic Structures

Subject: Opening of Foundation Wall under Panelled Room

I am planning to arrive at Quincy after dinner the evening of August 17. I should be glad to accept your kind invitation (passed on to me by Mr. Zimmer) to spend one night at your house. From there I plan to drive on to Salem and other points. The length of time I stay at Quincy will depend on how things go underneath the old Mansion. I can't foresee any reasons why you should not depart on annual leave as you had planned.

With best wishes, I am

(SIGNED)

Charles E. Peterson

cc: Chief, Design & Construction Division

CEP Q

General
Hist. Arhh.
Daybook
Project

In reply refer to
K3019

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

JUL 28 1954

Dr. Lyman H. Butterfield
Director
Institute of Early American History & Culture
Box 1298
Williamsburg, Va.

Dear Dr. Butterfield:

Recently I was at the Adams Mansion in Quincy. Among the things I inquired about were photographic prints of architectural shots for reference use here; the Park Service does not seem to have much.

Superintendent Harris told me that you have had a large number of shots made recently for a book you are writing. I have been wondering under what circumstances, if any, we could get a set (or part of a set) of prints, with or without restrictions as to use.

We have no urge toward publication; we merely need some clear glossy prints, say 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" to have mounted in our files for consultation.

Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

Charles E. Peterson
Supervising Architect
Historical Structures

cc: Director, Region I
Chief, Design & Construction
Supt., Adams Mansion NHS

SAK

General
Daybook
Hist. Arch.

CEP Q

In reply refer to
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

JUL 27 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent, National Capital Parks

From: Chief, Eastern Office, Divn. of Design and Construction

Subject: Photos of Adams National Historic Site

We are on the trail of some photographic negatives made of the Adams Mansion and related buildings in 1946 or 1947. We have the impression that they were made by Photographer Abbie Rowe. If that is true, would you advise us how many negatives were made, where they are now kept and whether or not we could order glossy contact prints or enlargements of them.

Thank you for your attention.

(SIGNED)

Edward S. Zimmer
Chief

cc: Supt., Adams Natl. Historic Site
Chief, Design and Construction Divn.

General
Daybook
Hist. Arch.
Project

CEPeterson q

SAHR

In reply refer to
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

7/23/54

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent, Adams Mansion

From: Chief, Eastern Office, Design & Construction Div.

Subject: Peterson Visit to Adams Mansion

Reference is made to Mr. Lisle's memo of July 22 to you.

Architect Peterson has been planning to attend the annual field trip of the Society of Architectural Historians at Salem, Mass. on Saturday and Sunday, August 21-22, and we thought that he might be able to help with the drawlway problem at Adams Mansion on the same trip.

In order to allow you to continue with your leave plans, it is suggested that you have your mechanic begin work on opening up the foundations about August 17 and we shall schedule Mr. Peterson to arrive early the 18th. He could stay around through Monday, August 23, if needed (taking some annual leave if he's not needed).

We should appreciate knowing if this is satisfactory to you. Our telephone is MArket-7-1622 if you wish to phone.

Edward B. Rimmer
Chief, Eastern Office
Division of Design & Construction

cc: Regional Director, Reg. One
Chief Architect
Supt., Salem Maritime Natl. Historic Site

SAVE

General
Daybook
Hist. Arch.

CEPeterson:Q

In reply refer to
A3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

JUL 23 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent, Adams Mansion

From: Chief, Eastern Office, Design & Construction Divn.

Subject: Peterson Visit to Adams Mansion

Reference is made to Mr. Lisle's memo of July 22 to you.

Architect Peterson has been planning to attend the annual field trip of the Society of Architectural Historians at Salem, Mass. on Saturday and Sunday, August 21-22, and we thought that he might be able to help with the crawlway problem at Adams Mansion on the same trip.

In order to allow you to continue with your leave plans, it is suggested that you have your mechanic begin work on opening up the foundations about August 17 and we shall schedule Mr. Peterson to arrive early the 18th. He could stay around through Monday, August 23, if needed (taking some annual leave if he's not needed).

We should appreciate knowing if this is satisfactory to you. Our telephone is MArket-7-1622 if you wish to phone.

SIGNED

Edward B. Hammer
Chief, Eastern Office
Division of Design & Construction

cc: Regional Director, Reg. One
Chief Architect
Supt., Salem Maritime Natl. Historic Site

General
Daybook
Hist. Arch.

CEPeterson:Q

reply refer to
H3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Penna.

JUL 16 1954

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendent, Adams National Historic Site

From: Acting Chief, Eastern Office, Design & Construction

Subject: Photos of Adams Mansion

In our new office we are without any photographs of the Adams Mansion and related buildings, even though we realize that there must be some good negatives around.

Would you please advise if you have any negatives which we could borrow to have prints made for our architectural file?

(SIGNED)

Robert P. White

Copy to: Director, Reg. 1
Chief, D&C

General
Hist. Arch.
Daybook

Charles E. Peterson/dj

In reply refer to:
H 3015

Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

JUL 8 1954

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One

From: Chief, Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction

Subject: Adams Mansion, Floor Support in "Paneled Room"

Reference is made to the Acting Chief of Operation's memorandum to the Superintendent, Adams National Historic Site, dated June 29, and to previous correspondence concerning the subject.

We believe that our proposed opening up for the first time of the substructure of the oldest part of the Mansion is of great importance and that a contract should not be let for work the very nature and extent of which cannot be decided until the problem itself is fully exposed to view.

We believe that workmen should be employed on a per diem basis and that, when the masonry has been torn open and the crawlway dug, the treatment of what is then found should be determined upon by the best professional talent we can find which appears, at this time, to be Architect Peterson of this office. While we agree that this is a maintenance problem and under the cognisance of the Regional Office, we must also agree that it is a problem concerning one of our most important historic structures and that sets it apart from routine procedures for ordinary buildings.

Because it is felt that this is a matter of policy to be carefully worked out with respect to the recent reorganization, a copy of this memorandum and yours of June 29 are being forwarded herewith to the Director and the Chief of Design and Construction.

(SIGNED)

Edward S. Zimmer
Chief, Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction

Copy to: Director - w/attachment
Chief, Design and Construction - w/attachment
Superintendent, Adams NHS

General Hist. ✓ Daybook Project

CEPeterson:ejt

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Eastern Office
Division of Design and Construction
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 25, 1954

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region One

From: Chief, Eastern Office, Design & Construction

Subject: Adams Mansion, Floor Support in Paneled Room

Reference is made to Superintendent Harris' memorandum to you dated June 21 regarding the failure of certain floor support in the Paneled Room of the old house. The sample of disintegrated framing received here seems to indicate rot, and probably is due in part to the lack of ventilation in that space. It is a kind of trouble in wooden structures that seems to be increasing everywhere as the climate warms up.

We concur in the recommendation that a crawlway be installed to make inspection easy at all times and to increase ventilation. It would not be seen by the public. A cut at least 2' x 3' would be made in the original foundation masonry and a wooden door installed. Enough earth would be removed to permit ready access clear across the house.

It is difficult to estimate the cost of the door, crawlway and framing repairs (since the existing conditions are still unknown) but it is suggested that the amount of $1,000 be reserved for that purpose. We hope that actual expense for a mason, laborer and carpenter would total much less.

If this is agreeable to you, I suggest that Mr. Peterson make arrangements with the Superintendent to inspect the work during the latter part of August when he expects to be in New England again.

(SIGNED)

Chief, Eastern Office
Division of Design & Construction

cc: Chief Architect
Superintendent Harris

CEP:jah

Independence National Historical Park Project
Old Custom House
420 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

June 23, 1954

Superceded

Memorandum

To: Chief, Eastern Office, Design & Construction

From: Resident Architect, Independence NHPP

Subject: Floor Framing, Adams Mansion

During my visit to Adams Mansion last week, I noticed that there is something wrong with the floor in the room with the old mahogany panelling - part of the original Vassal house. Near the fireplace hearth the boards are quite springy and give forth a peculiar sound. I suspect serious rot or termites in the joists.

There is no basement under this section and only the smallest aperture under the stairway. I don't think there is anyone in the Park Service small enough to get under the old floor. There is very little natural ventilation, if any.

Much as I hate to recommend a change, I believe that a crawlway should be opened. It won't be any fun to do, but the best place would seem to be through the masonry wall into the full basement under the kitchen. This is a job for a mason and a carpenter, who could probably be procured locally by the hour.

Besides providing access for inspection, it will help give some ventilation. General opinion seems to be that our climate is warming up and problems of this type in wooden structures may be expected to increase.

Charles E. Peterson
Resident Architect

cc: Chief Architect
Regional Director, I
Mrs. Harris

Save

CEP:jah

Design and Construction Division
Eastern Office
421 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

June 9, 1954

Memorandum

To: Mrs. Wilhelmina S. Harris, Superintendent
Adams Mansion

From: Chief, Eastern Office, Design & Construction

Subject: Peterson Visit to Adams House, etc.

Architect Charles E. Peterson of this office will be in Boston for the American Institute of Architects convention there next week. He has never seen the Adams House and we are asking him to get in touch with you by telephone. We would like to have him spend a day going over the architectural problems there.

Chief, Eastern Office
Design & Construction

cc: Chief of Design & Construction
Regional Director, I
Superintendent, Independence

CEP:jah

OWR (HF?)

[Black & white drawing, 7 4/8" x c 12", rustic wood frame]

"A view of the residence of the late President Adams at Quincy Mass"

[name in pencil]
"Drawn in 1822/By/Sara Rothorp/Quincy"

[Black and white wash drawing, 5 3/4" x 8 3/4", framed and matted]

"THE ADAMS SEAT IN QUINCY MASSACHUSETTS"

[Label on reverse]

"Presented to J. Franklin Faxon by his teacher in the old stone school-house, on School Street, some time previous to 1844"

HF

Excavation cut through clay subsoil, black loam soil thus been filled with clay and some brick rubble - slope to west and north.

6 x 7
area 92" x 74" entirely unsupported
Support for 3 studs scaffold away

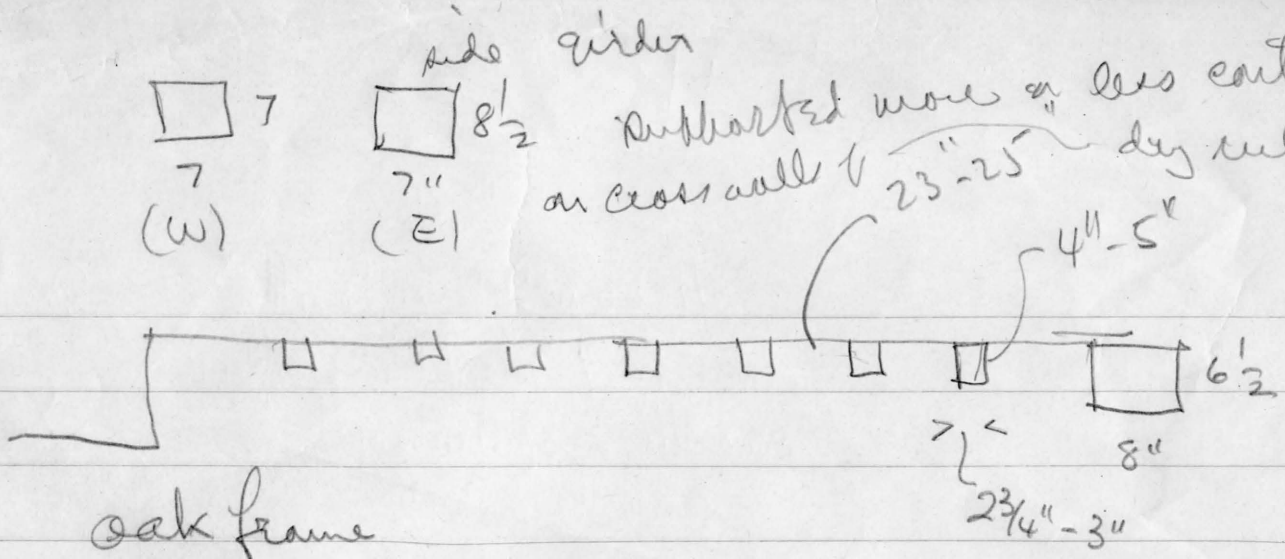
10" x 11" (section) 2 beaded edges
used for chalking

floor boards to 22" wide

→ Arrange exhibit of display material

roof sheeting - etc hand made nails, cut nails, etc
orig glass plain 8" x 10"
shutter hardware, etc

Done last



oak frame

Center 9"x12" girder has quarter-round moulding with lamb-tongue end and ~~remains stump~~ remains of another piece ~~but~~ mortised into it and fastened with two pegs

pine board floor

Double floor 1 3/4" thick in total - nailed through top surface

foundation of rough fieldstone (mostly granite?)

c 18" thick at plate line - laid in mortar on outside and unpointed and partly dry inside

interior - including small lines laid dry and more or less loose

Charles F McGrath Photographer
43 Botolph St
M. Quincy, Mass

(Qu 2-2661)

F.A. Bent
14 Huntley Rd
Quincy
(Qu 2-4154) [6-7]

Charles W Houghton
Safety Fumigant Co
158 State St, Boston (Richmond 2-2820)

Johnny Deconelli
Landscape Gardener

YORKIST ROSE

GRASS PANEL

¾ HOSE BIB

BOXWOOD HEDGE

CRUSHED STONE WALK

YELLOWOOD TREE

GRASS PANEL

THE FLOWER GARDEN

FLOWERS

WEATHER VANE POSITION

SWEET MOCKORANGE

FLOWERS

GRASS PANEL

SWEET SHRUB

FLOWERS

CRUSHED STONE WALK

¾ HOSE BIB

FLOWERS

CATAUBA RHODENDRON

SWEET MOCKORANGE

SWEET MOCKORANGE

MAGNOLIA

WIRE STRANDS ON GRANITE WALL

VALVE METER

SWEET MOCKORANGE

SWEET MOCKORANGE

ADAMS ST.

BASIC DATA

THE LIBRARY (2)

MANHOLE (DEAD)

NORWAY MAPLE

PUMP

WELL FILLED WITH CINDERS OLD PUMP IS IN BARN

ELM TREE

CISTERN (DEAD)

LAUNDRY 14-6X23-4

DN

UP

WOOD STEPS

REAR HALL

PORCH WOOD

SERVICE COURT (CRUSHED STONE)

CRUSHED STONE WALK

POST

KITCHEN 16-0X23-4

PORCH WOOD

SPIREA

LILAC

AREA

AREA STEPS

AREA

CLOSET

BUTLERS PANTRY 9-0X11-0

PASSAGE

UP

DN

LONG ROOM

LONG HALL 9-6X31-6

PANELED ROOM 15-9 X 19-4

DN

DINING ROOM 15-9 X 20-0

UP

OLDER HALL

UP

19-6 X 27-3

UP

AREA

WISTERIA

FRONT PORCH

UP

FERNS

MYRTLE

LILAC

LILAC

THE MANSION (1)

LILAC

LILAC

GRANITE BLOCK WALKS

ELM TREE

LILAC

LILAC

ELM TREE

BRICK WALL

BRICK WALL

BRICK WALL

VALVE METER

GRANITE HITCHING POST

MACADAM WALK

SCALE 1 INCH = 8 FEET

0 8 16 24

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____
CHIEF OF DEVELOPMENT

APPROVED _____ DATE _____
DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PLANS & DESIGN DIVISION
PREPARED BY REGIONAL OFFICE

REGION 1

DATE 5-10-48

EXISTING CONDITIONS - GARDEN & 1ST FLOOR OF MANSION
(NAME OF JOB)
PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
(LOCATION)
ADAMS MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
(NAME OF PLANT OR ACTIVITY)

DRAWING NO. NHS-AM 2001

SHEET

CLEARED
RECREATIONAL PLANNING AND STATE COOPERATION

REVIEWED
FORESTRY
FISHERIES AND EDUCATION
HISTORY
SANITATION

DESIGNED BY
PLANS AND DESIGN
ENGINEERING
DATE

CLEARED

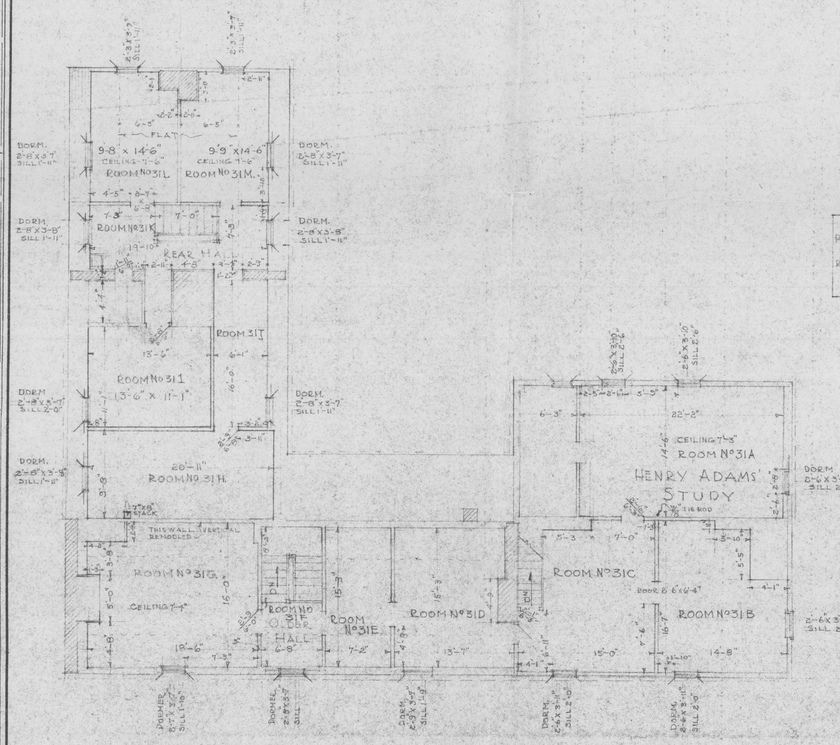
RECREATIONAL
PLANNING AND STATE COOPERATION

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

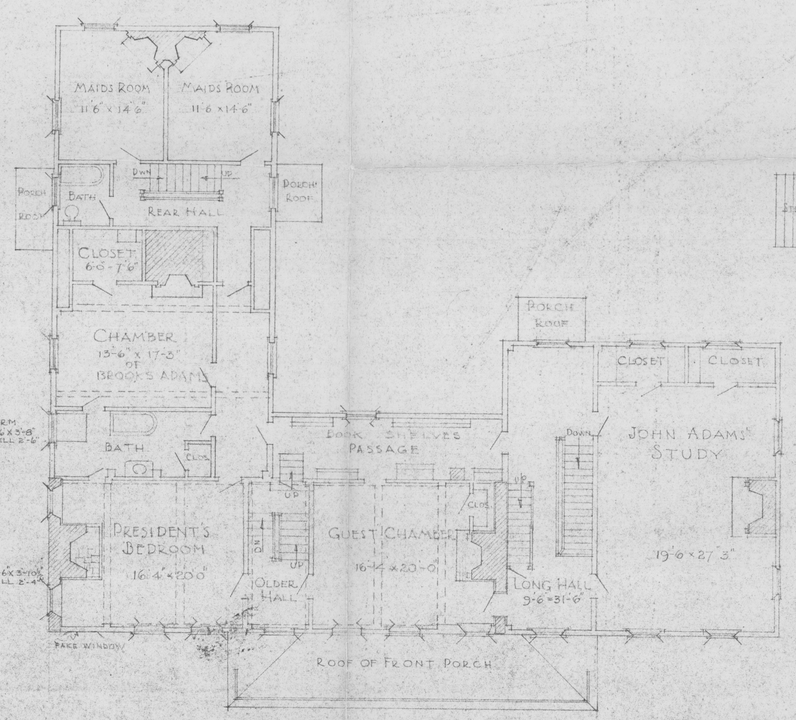
REVIEWED

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
SANITATION
FORESTRY
HISTORY

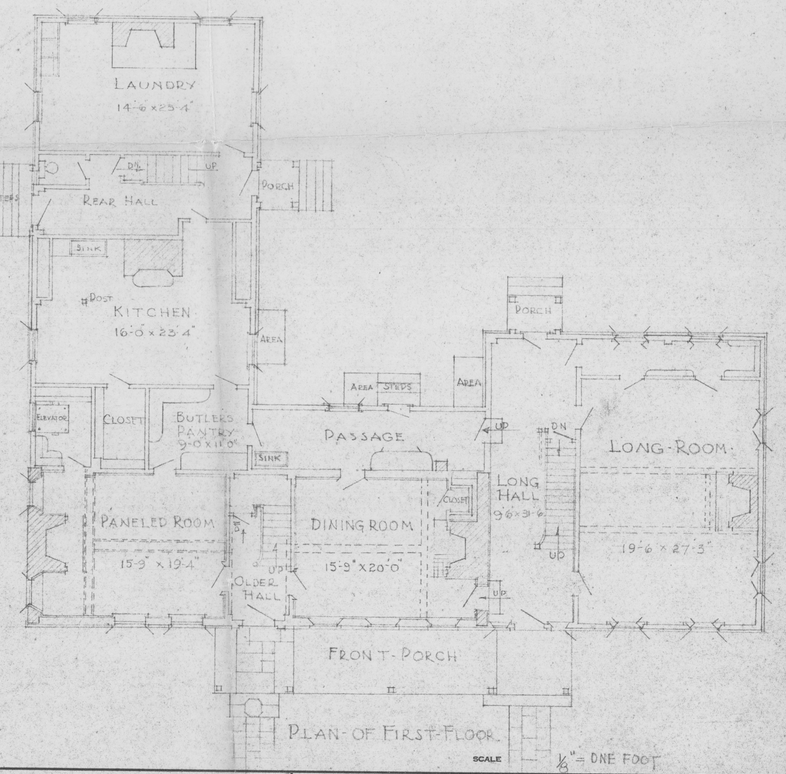
DESIGNED BY
PLANS AND DESIGN
DRAWINGS
DEL HANSON
DATE
FEB 1949



PLAN OF THIRD FLOOR



PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR

SCALE 1/8" = ONE FOOT

PLANS COMPILED & DRAWN FROM INCOMPLETE INFORMATION - BY HJ HANSON - 1948
2ND FL. MEASUREMENTS BY J.H. DENNISTON & A.H. SHURUPOFF - JAN. - 1948
1ST FL. & 2ND FL. FROM DRAWING BY ALFRED F. SHURCOCKS - 1938

BASIC DATA

RECOMMENDED _____ DATE _____

CONCURRED _____ DATE _____

APPROVED _____ DATE _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
L.A. DIVISION
PREPARED BY
REGIONAL
OFFICE

REGION 1

1ST-2ND-3RD FLOOR-EXISTING CONDITION 1948
ADAMS MANSION
NAME OF JOB
PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
LOCATION
ADAMS MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
NAME OF PARK OR MONUMENT

SHEET 1 OF 1

DRAWING NO. NHS-AM 2005

SHEET

NOTES—
THE YORKSHIRE ROSE GROWING ON THE TRELLIS WAS BROUGHT TO THIS COUNTRY BY ABIGAIL ADAMS IN 1788 AND SHE PLANTED IT UNDER THE WINDOWS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE MANSION. BROOKS ADAMS MOVED IT TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION

THE GARDEN WAS ORIGINALLY LAID OUT IN 1731 BY THE VASSALLS. ITS ARRANGEMENT— THREE LONG, WIDE PATHS, PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER IS TYPICAL AND SIMILAR TO MANY OTHER GARDENS LAID OUT AT THAT TIME.

THE GARDEN WAS GIVEN ITS PRESENT FORM BY MRS. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, ABOUT 1870. THE ONLY CHANGE IN THE LAYOUT WAS CAUSED BY THE ERECTION OF THE LIBRARY (BUILT 1870) IN THE GARDEN, THUS OBLITERATING HALF OF THE NORTH PATH.

1787- JOHN ADAMS, SERVING IN LONDON AS MINISTER TO THE COURT OF ST. JAMES, BOUGHT THE HOUSE AND SEVEN PARCELS OF LAND AMOUNTING TO 75 ACRES FROM LEONARD VASSALL BORLAND FOR £ 600.

1927- BROOKS ADAMS DIED. THE ADAMS MEMORIAL SOCIETY WAS FORMED, AND THE MANSION WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

1946- THE ADAMS MEMORIAL SOCIETY PRESENTED THE SITE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

LEGEND

EXISTING

- NPS BOUNDARY LINE
- BUILDING EASEMENT LINE
- TREES
- BUILDING
- WALKS
- FIRE PLUG
- CONTOURS — — 25 — —
- ORIGINAL VASSALL HOUSE
- FLOWER BORDER
- FOOT PATH

KEY TO EARLY STRUCTURES

A— FARM HOUSE — RAZED 1869
B— WOOD SHED — MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION NEAR STABLE ON NEWPORT AVE IN 1873
C— SHED — RAZED 1873
D— FARM BARN — RAZED 1873 THIS REPLACED FORMER BARN (BUILDING "E")
E— FARM BARN — (ORIGINAL) RAZED 1848. REPLACED BY BUILDING D
F— STABLE — RAZED 1873

THE LOCATION OF OTHER EARLY STRUCTURES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN AS THEY APPEAR ON A PLAN OF THE PLACE MADE BY S. D. EATON IN 1849

BUILDING LIST

NO.	NAME
1	ADAMS MANSION 1731-1925 (VARIES)
2	LIBRARY - 1870
3	STABLE AND COTTAGE - BUILT 1873
(VERY OLD) 4	WOOD SHED - DATE UNKNOWN
(MODERN) 5	GREENHOUSE " "
6	GARAGE (OBLITERATED)

ADAMS MANSION — BUILDING NO. 1

FIRST FLOOR
ROOM NO. 1-A PANELED ROOM
" " 1-B DINING ROOM
" " 1-C LONG ROOM
" " 1-D PASSAGE
" " 1-E BUTLER'S PANTRY
" " 1-F KITCHEN
" " 1-G LAUNDRY

SECOND FLOOR
ROOM NO. 2-A PRESIDENT'S BEDROOM
" " 2-B GUEST CHAMBER
" " 2-C JOHN ADAM'S STUDY
" " 2-D PASSAGE
" " 2-E BATH
" " 2-F CHAMBER
" " 2-G MAID'S ROOM
" " 2-H MAID'S ROOM

THIRD FLOOR
ROOM NO. 3-A
" " 3-B
" " 3-C
" " 3-D
" " 3-E
" " 3-F HENRY ADAM'S STUDY
" " 3-G
" " 3-H
" " 3-I
" " 3-J
" " 3-K
" " 3-L

LIST OF TREES

KEY	NAME
A	APPLE
AW	WHITE ASH
Be A	AMERICAN BEECH
Bn	BUTTERNUT
C	CHERRY
CeW	WESTERN CATALPA
Cb	CRAB
EA	AMERICAN ELM
Hb	HACKBERRY
Hc	HORSECHESTNUT
HP	PIGNUT
HS	SHAGBARK HICKORY
L	LINDEN
MJ	JAPANESE MAPLE
MN	NORWAY MAPLE
MS	SYCAMORE MAPLE
OB	BLACK OAK
OP	PIN OAK
P	PEAR
WW	WHITE WILLOW
Yw	YELLOWWOOD
MaSa	SAUCER MAGNOLIA

LIST OF SHRUBS

ARROWWOOD
TRUEDWARF BOX
EUROPEAN CRANBERRY
WEEPING FORSYTHIA
MARROW HONEYSUCKLE
COMMON LILAC
SWEET MOCKORANGE
COMMON NINEBARK
FLOWERING QUINCE
CATAWBA RHODODENDRON
ROSE "YORK" ROSE
VANHOUTTE SPIREA
COMMON SWEETSHRUB

LIST OF VINES

BOWER ACTINIDIA
CHINESE WISTERIA
DUTCHMAN'S PIPE
GRAPE
ROSE
VIRIGINIA CREEPER

RECORDED 1936 THROUGH COURTESY OF MR. HENRY ADAMS II WHO ALSO GAVE MUCH VALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING HISTORICAL DATA

ARCHITECTURAL MEASUREMENTS BY ALFRED F. SHURROCKS (DEL) 1928 FOR HENRY ADAMS, II

BASIC DATA DWG. NO. NHS-AM-5300 - SURVEY BY G.G. MARTIN JULY 1947
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY OF 1936 W.P.A. OFFICAL PROJECT NO. 265-6907 R. NEWTON MAYALL DELINEATOR.

BASIC DATA

1. H. A. B. S. - SURVEY NO. MASS. 215-
   SEE SHEET 4 OF 12 SHEETS.
   SEE SHEET 12 OF 12 SHEETS.
2. THE ADAMS MANSION
   BY HENRY ADAMS 2D.
   QUINCY, MASS. 1935
   SEE PAGES 4-9.
3. ARCHITECTURAL MEASURED DRAWINGS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE.
4. HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE.
5. INTERPRETIVE SECTION OF DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE, MASTER PLAN, ADAMS MANSION DEC. 20, 1951

EARLY STRUCTURES NO LONGER EXISTING SHOWN THUS ——

CONTOUR INTERVAL = ONE FOOT

0 30 60 90
ONE INCH = THIRTY FEET

RECOMMENDED Wilhelmina S. Harris SUPERINTENDENT DATE Dec. 15-1951
RECOMMENDED ASST REGIONAL DIRECTOR DATE
RECOMMENDED REGIONAL DIRECTOR DATE
RECOMMENDED CHIEF OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DATE
APPROVED DIRECTOR DATE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
REGION ONE

REGION I

HISTORICAL BASE MAP

PART OF THE MASTER PLAN
ADAM'S MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DATE JUNE - 51
DRAWING NO. NHS-AM 2010
SHEET

DRAWN BY T. BURNS
CHECKED BY
HISTORIAN
DATE 11/29/51