HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT 000409

PART II (PORTION)

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

ADAMS MANSION

East Wing

Adams National Historic Site

National Park Service, Eastern Office, Design and Construction, Division of Architecture

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Prepared by
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Architect
September 1964

for

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
Division of Architecture

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ON

Adams Mansion

East Wing

Adams National Historic Site

A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

_____ Date_____
Superintendent

Robert G. Hall Date 9-22-64
Chief, EODC

_____ Date_____
Regional Director, Northeast Region

APPROVED

_____ Date_____
Director

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I. FOREWORD

This report is intended to cover only one portion of the Adams Mansion, the East Wing. This is done so that the necessary work of structural rehabilitation may be completed on one part of the house before that on other parts is undertaken, and the East Wing, at least, opened to the public while work proceeds on other parts of the building. Other parts of the house will be covered in subsequent reports, and all reports put together to form the complete Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section, for the Adams Mansion.

The issuance of separate reports on different parts of the house is feasible because of substantial separate additions made to the house at different times, after the erection of the original section in 1731. The subject of this section of the report, the East Wing, was built in 1799-1800, and its framing system is completely separate from that of the rest of the house. It has been possible, therefore, to conduct the necessary exploratory work without major disturbance to the rest of the house, and the structural rehabilitation can also be carried out without such disturbance.

The report (and subsequent reports) will cover the two major categories of the work on the house: the work of structural rehabilitation and the work necessary to preserve from further

deterioration and/or to put into reasonably good condition the exterior and interior surface fabric of the house and the attached utilities. Very little restoration work as such is involved, because under terms of its acquisition the house is to be presented to the public as nearly as possible as it was at the time of the death of Brooks Adams in 1927. Only a few minor changes have been made since that time.

The report will describe and illustrate the exploratory work which has been done to determine the condition of the framework and outline the steps that need to be taken to correct any deficiencies. In some cases, where it was deemed that an emergency situation existed, these steps have already been taken and the deficiencies remedied. It will also describe and illustrate the condition of the fabric where something must be done by way of preservation or reconditioning.

Because of the inherent cross-section variation of both sawn and hewn timbers, the dimensions shown in this report are approximate.

Before discussing the condition of the structural framework of the East Wing, a brief history and general description of that framework will be given.

George Wrenn
Architect
September 1964

II. DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE

A good deal is known about the construction of the East Wing through the body of correspondence which developed between Abigail Adams in Philadelphia and her relatives in Quincy when they sought her instructions on various matters and kept her informed of the building's progress.[1] There is also in existence a sketch plan of the East Wing drawn by John Bates, the builder, and sent to John Adams on March 31, 1800, with a set of questions on some of the details of the plan (see Illustration No. 1). General knowledge of building practices of the time and careful examination of the structure itself combined with this documentary evidence give us quite a clear picture of how the wing was built.

The cellar was dug and the stone foundation walls laid in the autumn of 1799.[2] At the same time all of the building materials were assembled on the site.[3] The late fall and winter

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[1]Because the description of the construction of the East Wing given in the Historic Structures Report, Part I, Historical Data Section, was thorough and well-annotated, this report has not attempted to cover the same ground or to pinpoint the exact sources of information. The reader is referred to the above-mentioned report for those sources.

[2]The problems caused by the dry wall construction of the foundations will be taken up later in the report. It is interesting to note that the mason refused to permit excavation for the new wall right next to the old wall of the house because of the danger of the collapse of the old wall.

[3]Letters reveal that if they had been able to forecast the long stretch of good fall weather in that year the frame could have been raised and covered before the winter.

months were used to prefabricate certain sections of the frame in preparation for the raising of the building and to make up the doors and windows. On April 10, 1800, or very shortly thereafter, the frame of the building was raised. Putting together our knowledge of contemporary building practice with what can be observed in the structure itself, it seems likely that the north and south wall frames were put together on the ground and raised as units and that the rest of the framing was then put in place between them.[4] By April 28 the building was covered and shingled and the chimney begun.

The frame that was raised was of post-and-beam construction with framing members joined by mortise, tenon and peg. 8-1/2" x 8-1/2" two-story posts (one at each corner, two more in each of the north and south walls and one more in the east wall) were erected on 8" x 8" hewn sills.[5] 9" x 9" hewn girts were framed into the posts at the second floor level and 7" x 6" plates put

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[4]The sills on both the north and south run full length under the corner posts and those on the east and west butt into them. The gambrel framing on the east wall is separate from the framing below it, but the gambrel framing on the north wall is not separate.

[5]All the major timbers were hewn, and each timber, therefore, varies in cross-section along its own length. Because of this only approximate sizes are given.

on top of the posts. 3" x 4" sawn wood studs provided support for the girts and plates and nailing for the exterior sheathing.[6] The interior framing which varied somewhat on each floor was made up of 9" x 9" beams, spaced, where parallel, approximately 6' o.c., which were framed into cross timbers and into the exterior framework (see Illustration Nos. 43,44,45). 3" x 4" sawn wood joists, spaced approximately 22" to 28" o.c. and notched into the beams, provided support for the flooring. 1" x 8" lath straps to which the lath and plaster ceiling was attached were fastened to 3" x 4" rough wood members which in turn were hung from the joists (see Illustration No. 44, Section A-A). The inner side of the exterior walls were made up of 2" x 8"-10" studs with the lath fastened to the broad side and the narrow ends quite close together. Similar studs made up the interior partitions.

Documentary evidence and examination of the building also reveal the fact that architecturally the new wing was intended to, and did, conform closely to the old (see Illustration Nos. 2, 3, 4). This conformity was accomplished in several ways: the gambrel roof form was retained; the rail on the old roof was extended to the new; wood shingles and clapboards were again

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[6] All the smaller framing members were sawn though sometimes left very rough on one side or another.

used; the new windows were made to match the old; a portico was built along the front to include both entries; a window rather than a door to the roof of the portico was put above the new entry because there was a window in a similar position above the other entry; and the new dormers were made to match the old east and west dormers on the south side, while the old center dormer was changed to match them all.[7]

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[7]The consciousness of the conformity is illustrated by this quotation from a letter which Abigail Adams wrote to her sister, Mary Cranch, on April 15, 1800, in answer to the various questions which the builder, John Bates, had asked her in his letter of March 31 (see Illustration No. 1). "But I do not wish to have the window to open to the floor, because the window in the other entry does not, and cannot easily be made to, and I wish to preserve as much uniformity in appearance as possible." New Letters of Abigail Adams, Boston, 1947, p. 245.

III. CONDITION OF THE STRUCTURE AND ITS REHABILITATION

In the course of exploratory work the structural framework of the East Wing was found to contain many weaknesses and to be in generally poor condition. These weaknesses have developed over the years from various causes. Some were constructed into the building by way of a framework none too strong to begin with; some developed as a result of the methods of construction. For instance, the dry wall foundations allowed seepage into the basement and the resulting dampness caused dry rot to attack the structural members. Changes in the structure without regard for some of the consequences and lack of proper maintenance on the building over the years are other reasons for the poor condition of the structure. In the course of the investigation every major timber was checked for signs of dry rot, insect activity, and structural weakness. Minor framing members were checked where it was thought trouble might be found. This section of the report will contain a description of the condition of the structure as it came to light during the exploratory work and proposals to remedy the weaknesses and defects.

When exploratory work began in December, 1963, the sills were the first important structural element of the East Wing to be investigated. Considerable deterioration caused by dry rot

was found in the original sills of the north and east walls[8] (see Illustration Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).

A lesser but still serious amount of deterioration was found in the south sill, both in the original and replacement sections, and in the original sill along the west side of the wing[9] (see Illustration Nos. 10, 11, 12). Dry rot had attacked both sides of the sills all around the wing, but the deterioration on the exterior was found to be considerably worse than that on the interior. The bases on some of the studs and diagonal braces also showed the effects of dry rot as can be seen in some of the aforementioned illustrations. The posts were all found to be in good condition. Deterioration of the sills has allowed them to settle slightly on the foundation walls, and, as they have settled, the entire framework of the East Wing has been lowered. To prevent further deterioration and settlement most of the sills should be

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[8]The north sill ran the full width of the wing, c.30'-4", and extended under both corner posts. The east sill was in two sections of approximately equal length. Neither section extended under a corner post.

[9]On at least two occasions work has been done on the south sill which involved replacement of all except a short section of the sill at the west end. The south half of the full length west sill runs next to the stone foundations of the east wall of the 1731 section of the house.

replaced.[10] Because the west sill is not in such poor condition and because its removal would involve considerable disturbance of historic fabric, it is recommended that the sill be treated against rot and preserved in place, and that any necessary reinforcement be added as part of the structural work on the first floor framing.

1. First Floor Framing

The framing of the first floor, East Wing, has been a source of trouble almost since the wing was constructed. By 1852 the flooring and the beams of the Hall and the Long Room were in such poor condition that they had to be renewed.[11]

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[10]With the rotted sills on north, east and part of the south sides of the wing exposed and winter coming on it seemed best to do the necessary work of replacing them immediately rather than temporarily to cover an area close to the ground which would have to be opened up again at a later date in order to do the work. The Part III Report will contain a detailed description of the work done.

[11]Charles Francis Adams mentioned the problem during the winter of 1852 in his Diary. On the first occasion he writes, "I went to Quincy in the morning to meet my carpenter at the house and examine the condition of the floors and timbers in the east end of the old mansion. They proved bad, but not so bad as I had expected. The floors must be renewed in the entry and the parlor..." Five weeks later he records the discovery of "the beams all rotted away so that they were all to be renewed" and continued "The dry rot was what I apprehended." Two days later the carpenter had "got so far as to lay the flooring, after renewing all the beams underneath." Charles Francis Adams' Diary, Quincy, February 3, March 8, 10, 1852.

Original flooring is still to be found under some baseboards and under the first riser of the stairs indicating that the carpenter cut out the original boards without removing the baseboards or the bottom step. Evidence also indicates that he relaid old flooring in the closet instead of putting down new boards. As will be noted later the condition of the closet floor is very poor.

When the National Park Service took over the Old House late in 1946, many of the beams and joists had been affected by dry rot. To cope with this condition and to strengthen the frame, temporary wood shoring was installed in 1948. This has for the most part adequately served its purpose but it now shows some signs of weakening (see Illustration No. 13). At the present time the hewn timbers which span the full length of the basement and many of the sawn joists which frame into them show considerable deterioration caused by dry rot[12] (see Illustration No. 13).

Because of the uses to which the first floor East Wing is put, it is necessary that its framing be strong enough to support a heavy load. There are three separate spaces on the first floor: the entry hall, the large room (generally referred to as the Long Room), and the closet to the north of the large room. The hall and a section of the Long Room are open to the public as part of the interpretation of the house.[13] The Long Room is also used at timesfor functions involving large numbers

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[12]The joists which were added in 1948 as part of the temporary shoring are still in good condition. At that time, all of the timbers, old and new, were treated with creosote.

[13]It is desired by the Superintendent that, if possible, they continue to be open to the public when the work on the East Wing is completed.

of people.[14] In either of these cases it must be capable of carrying the heavy load put on the framing.

In order to make the first floor framing of the East Wing strong enough to carry the potential load, the installation of a permanent system of steel supports for the existing flooring and framing in place of the temporary wood shoring installed in 1948 is recommended. A steel grid system which followed the general lines of the early wood frame, supporting the major beams in place and catching the ends of the joists would provide the necessary support. It would not be tied into the sills or foundation walls, but would be supported independently of them. The use of steel rather than wood for the permanent system is preferable for several reasons. Steel has the advantage of strength; it is not subject to dry rot or insect activity; and, perhaps most important, it could not in future years be mistaken for anything other than what it is, namely, a system of support installed many years after the East Wing was built to strengthen the framing of the first floor of the wing.[15] This

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[14]The Adams family retains the right to hold functions connected with weddings or funerals of members of the family (descendants of Charles Francis Adams, the Ambassador) at the Old House. The Long Room is used on these occasions as well as for functions held by the Superintendent to foster community relations.

[15]The exact design of a steel grid system for the support of the first floor of the East Wing awaits approval of the use of that method.

method of strengthening the first floor of the East Wing does not involve any disturbance of the historic fabric of the Long Room, which is one of the most interesting and historic rooms in the house. An alternate method is to remove the flooring and replace the entire framing. This is not recommended because of the risk of damage to various pieces of the surface fabric, especially the floor boards themselves, which are in fine condition and are very much a part of the presentation of the room.

Particular problems connected with the framing of the first floor lie at the base of the partition between the Hall and the Long Room and at the foot of the stairs next to the partition. One of the major first floor timbers runs next to the cellar stair opening and supports the partition above it. The weakness of the timber, probably caused by insufficient capacity and aggravated by the effects of dry rot, apparently was evident towards the end of the nineteenth century when a supplementary 8" x 10" beam, about 13' long in two sections, was installed under the timber and along the stairway opening (see Illustration No. 14). The exact date of the installation is not known. The work was probably done in 1896 when the two beams were put in below the ceiling of the Long Room to provide extra support for the second floor framing. The load on the timber at the base of the partition, then, consists of the weight of the partition, the load of the supplementary second floor beams, the load from

the stairs and, also, the load brought down through the partition caused by pressure from the similarly located second floor timber. All this weight was brought down eccentrically, and the eccentric loading has caused the supplementary 8" x 10" beam under the first floor timber to twist (see Illustration No. 43, Section A-A). A result of the twist and sag of the beams below the partition has been a slope at the foot of the stairs of 3" down towards the partition from the western end of the first riser (see Illustration No. 15).

This slope is an illustration not only of the weakness of the first floor framing but also of the inadequate structural support of the first to second floor stairs. The three stringers which make up the support and hold the treads and risers in place are, in their turn, inadequately supported. The stringer to the east is sparsely fastened to the studs of the partition. Its base receives no support. The one in the center also receives no support at the bottom, and in fact, probably was intended only as a nailer for the stair soffit lath (see Illustration No. 16). The west stringer is supported on the studs of the partition on the west side of the staircase. The bases of these studs barely touch their intended support, a timber which is greatly deteriorated from the former activity of powder post beetles (see Illustration No. 17). The bottom

riser of the stairs rests on remnants of original 1800 subflooring and, through them, is partially supported on a joist now deteriorated from the effects of dry rot (see Illustration Nos. 16, 17).

To ensure the safety of the large groups of tourists and others who use the staircase between the first and second floor, a new system of support should be installed in connection with the rest of the structural work on the first floor framing. Because of the strong desirability of preserving the historic fabric consistent with safety, it is not recommended that any attempt be made to eliminate the slope at the foot of the stairs by trying to jack up the framing at that point. There is more to be lost of historic value if the plaster cracks, the wallpaper tears, or the wainscoting breaks than is to be gained in a level appearance at the foot of the stairs. An effort should be made, however, to reduce the slope somewhat without resorting to a jack. This may be possible because the slope is apparently the result not only of the downward sag on the east side of the stairs, but also of an upward countertwist on the west side.

Replacement of the sills and permanent reinforcement of the floor framing and stair support will correct the major faults in the structural system of the East Wing which have allowed the entire frame to settle away from the chimney and slope towards the partition. In conjunction with that work the

conditions which have allowed the dry rot to attack the timbers should be corrected. The presence of dry rot is caused by excessive dampness in the basement compounded by lack of ventilation to relieve that dampness. The basement can easily become damp because the stone foundation walls of dry wall construction do not present a barrier to the seepage of moisture, the principal sources of which are rainwater and natural underground drainage. The latter may be considerable because the house is near the bottom of a long slope.

The various attempts which have been made over the years to prevent or impede the seepage have not been entirely successful (see Illustration No. 18). At one or more times the interior surface of the wall has been pointed, but the moisture has been able to work through against it. In 1950 a seepage pit was installed to the south of the East Wing which was connected to the downspouts on the southeast corners of the porch and of the East Wing.[16] This was found to aggravate rather than alleviate the situation, and, within a couple of years, a new seepage pit which is still in use was put in about twelve feet east-southeast of the southeast corner of the building, and the building downspout connected to it[17] (see Illustration No. 19).

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[16]Drawing No. NHS-AM 5307, revised, in the files of Adams National Historic Site, shows the work that was done.

[17]The work was done by Michael Cavallo, a local contractor.

In the middle 1950's a block drainage trench was put in along the east wall of the East Wing about four feet from the wall. The exact depth of this trench is not known, and it may be that the water still coming in on the east wall is coming through the wall below the level of the trench.[18] Finally, to help alleviate the situation even more in recent years, the cellar bulkhead doors have been opened during good weather and the basement aired.

To further reduce, and possibly eliminate the seepage, an effective barrier must be placed in its path. This barrier can be put either at a short distance from the house or at the foundation wall itself. To be effective at a short distance from the house, the barrier would have to be a solid masonry wall built up from the level of the bottom of the foundation to close to ground level. In this form it would block and divert the flow of underground water coming down the hill towards the house, but would not be effective against surface water. Use of this method would also present a difficult problem on the south side of the house because, in order to make the excavation necessary to build the wall, either the entire structure of the porch or the ex-

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[18] It was put in by a subcontractor working for the late Eric Ekbloom, a contractor, who did a great deal of work on the house.

tremely old lilac trees in front of the 1731 section of the house would have to be disturbed and probably removed.[19]

The alternate method of forming an efficient barrier to the penetration of moisture is the introduction of mortar to the exterior surface of the foundation walls. The inherent instability of dry wall construction makes this very difficult. To accomplish it by hand-pointing, the wall requires excavation. Excavation by machine to the bottom of the wall along each side of the building cannot be undertaken, however, because the foundation wall would be left without lateral support and the dislodgement of one stone could bring the entire wall down. Excavation by hand of a series of narrow trenches, each one to be dug after the earlier one was filled, would allow the pointing of the exterior surface to be accomplished with a degree of safety.[20] This method would be very slow and expensive and involves a degree of risk despite all precautions.

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[19]To do this work efficiently the south side of the whole house must be considered rather than just the south side of the East Wing. The lilac trees were planted by Abigail Adams and are of too great historic value to be disturbed.

[20]As each trench was dug a section of wall across it would be pointed and the excavation would proceed. The wood frame of the building could be supported separately while the work was done and the interior of the wall thoroughly braced.

Rather than excavating along the walls and then pointing them, it is recommended that mortar be introduced to the exterior surface of the foundation walls by means of stage grouting. Under this method grout would be forced at very low pressure through pipes inserted at narrow intervals to the full depth of the wall and slowly withdrawn.[21] This procedure could be supplemented by grouting under low pressure through the wall from the interior surface if there are any indications of coninuing seepage. With the amount of dampness in the basement thus greatly reduced, proper ventilation through the basement windows should be arranged or a system for dehumidification installed.[22]

One other problem should be mentioned in connection with the condition of the first floor framing. The cellar stairs are in poor condition and should be strengthened (see Illustration No. 20). It is likely that they will have to be removed in the course of structural work on the first and second floors and possible that they will have to be reduced in width slightly to accommodate the new work.

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[21]A pressure of about 10 p.s.i. at the machine is reduced to 2 or 3 p.s.i. at the nozzle according to representatives of the Eastern Gunite Corp.

[22]The Part III Report will emphasize the importance of this as part of maintenance.

2. Second Floor Framing

In the course of exploratory work during the late winter and early spring of 1964, all of the major timbers above the first floor level were examined, and some rehabilitation and strengthening were found to be necessary in order to put the framework in sound condition. Three areas were found to need attention: the framing of the hallway on the second floor; the framing around the stairs on the third floor; and the plate and adjoining timbers in the east wall at the third floor level, directly below the roof valley.

The framing of the second floor hallway was weakened before construction of the East Wing was completed in the spring of 1800. After the basic framework was erected it apparently was decided that the stair opening should be wider than had been allowed for, so the 9" x 9" north-south girder which ran along the west side of the stair opening was cut back 2" to 2-3/4" to make a wider opening[23] (see Illustration Nos. 21,22). The girder is not headed off at either end of the stair opening but runs the full span of 30'-9-3/8" and terminates over a door-

[23] Slightly more was taken out of the girder at the south end of the opening than at the north because it was originally set in at a slight angle to the girder on the west side of the opening.

way at each end (see Illustration No. 46). A heavy load is put on this girder when large numbers of visitors congregate in the hallway, sometimes all at one end or the other, and a sag of 2-5/8" has developed at the midpoint of its span[24] (see Illustration No. 46, Section A-A). Because of the occasionally very heavy loading to which it is subjected, the framing of the hall should be strengthened in order that its safety may be ensured. To accomplish this, it is proposed to insert a steel member running north-south along the length of the stair opening and steel members running east-west at each end of the opening to head off the north-south beam to supplement the existing timbers. Steel columns, inserted in the existing walls and connected with the new steel grid system at the first floor level would provide separate support for the new members. The installation of three of the four steel supports would involve disturbance of small sections of the historic fabric in the first floor hallway.[25] Reinforcement by the above-described method is preferable to reinforcement by the installation of a steel beam running the full length of the hall for three reasons. If the latter method were adopted it would be necessary to build a

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[24]Visitors are brought up the East Wing stairs and allowed to look through either the north or south doors of the study and through the guest bedroom door at the south end of the hallway.

[25]The fourth support can be brought down within the cellar stair enclosure.

sag into the beam to match that in the timber; it would be difficult structurally to provide the necessary extra support for the beam, each end of which would terminate over a door opening; and it would be impossible to provide that support without considerably more disturbance of the historic fabric than would occur if the new beam were headed off at each end of the stair opening. In any case, greatest possible care must be taken to keep the disturbance at a minimum and, if possible, any wallpaper which must be removed should be taken off in such a way that it can be reused.[26]

The framing of the Study, the large room on the second floor of the East Wing, was found to be in generally good condition with the original timbers still in place (see Illustration No. 23). In 1896 two 5-1/2" x 7-1/2" beams running east-west were installed and cased in below the ceiling of the Long Room to supplement the Study floor framing because Brooks Adams did not think that the framing was strong enough to support large numbers of people (see Illustration No. 24). Of the two beams,

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[26]The site is in possession of a complete roll and several partial rolls of this wallpaper which were left over from the installation of the original in 1905 and which are still in good condition. The Birge Co., Buffalo, N.Y., still has the rollers from which the original was produced. When inquiry was made in the late 1950's it was learned that the company would activate the rollers only for an order of at least $650.

that to the north was placed directly under and contiguous with the major east-west timber of the second floor framing (see Illustration No. 44, Section C-C). To support it, a 6" x 6" wood post was installed in the exterior wall and two iron pipe columns, each about 2" in diameter, were installed in the partition (see Illustration No. 25). The beam to the south, on the other hand, does not touch any of the major timbers of the second floor, and, therefore, has no immediate support function, although it may have been intended to serve as a back-up for the beams above it. There were no special supports installed for it. A short, 4" x 5-3/4", cased timber runs between the two beams near the chimney breast (see Illustration No. 24). It, too, has no apparent structural function and was probably installed for aesthetic rather than practical reasons.

Even after the installation of these timbers to strengthen the floor framing of the Study, only twelve people were allowed into the room at any one time.[27] A similar restrictive policy is followed today. Visitors to the house, with occasional special exceptions for small numbers of people, are not allowed into the Study but, as noted before, look into it

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[27]At family gatherings a maid was stationed at the door to keep count, according to the recollections of Superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris.

through the two doors from the hall. Because most of the surface fabric of the room is original and in good condition, and because of the great historic importance of the room and its interpretive value, and because the structure is more than adequate to its present use, it is not proposed to do any major structural work in the room or to disturb the fabric any more than has already been done to permit investigation of the framing. The joints of the major timbers should be strengthened, but this can be accomplished without any further disturbance of the fabric.

At some time after construction of the East Wing, stairs were put through along the west wall of the wing between the second and third floors[28] (see Illustration No. 26). When this was done, two joists running east-west were cut so that the opening between the floors could be made (Illustration No. 28). No header was put in to receive these joists, instead the 1" x 12" facing board which runs along the east side of the opening at the third floor level was fastened to them (see Illustration No. 29).

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[28]The date of installation of the stairs is not known but it was probably between 1826 and the mid-1850's. When John Adams died in 1826 there was more furniture (twelve chairs, a large mahogany bureau and a bookcase) in the hall than it could have held if the stairs had been there. Superintendent Harris recalls being told by Brooks Adams that as a child in the 1850's he played games involving the use of both sets of stairs to the third floor. The hall wainscoting runs on through the closet under the stairs. The wallpaper still to be seen on the wall of the closet is of a very early type with horizontal as well as vertical joints indicating manufacture before paper began to be made in rolls in the early-middle 19th century (Illustration No. 27).

The north end of this board was not fastened to anything so, in effect, the floor has been holding up the joists rather than the joists holding up the floor. A header should be inserted to receive the two cut off joists and give them proper support.

3. Third Floor Framing

The one other major structural defect in the East Wing that requires correction was found in the course of the exploratory work in the third floor plate along the east wall at the foot of the valley formed by the conjunction of the roofs on the east end of the house.[29] The plate has almost completely deteriorated from the effects of dry rot, and the girder which frames over it has also deteriorated and receives almost no support from the plate (see Illustration Nos. 30,31). This girder is the most important framing member of the third floor and carries about one-third of the third floor load (see Illustration No. 45, Framing Plan). Fortunately, an iron tension rod was installed about the turn of the century, approximately halfway along the length of the girder to help support it from

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[29] As previously noted the roof was leaking badly when the National Park Service took over the house.

above[30] (see Illustration Nos. 32,33). This rod has provided sufficient support for the girder up to the present time, but in order to ensure the strength and safety of the structure the rotted out sections of the plate and girder should be replaced. A shoulder of the chimney located between the second and third floor levels almost directly under the girder can be used for supplementary supporting pieces.[31] A short section of the lower member of the separate framing which supports the east wall above the third floor level, outside the southeast bedroom, has also deteriorated close to the roof valley and should be replaced when the work is done on the plate and girder.

In the course of the investigation the woodwork was checked for insect activity, but no signs of current activity were found. Remains of previous activity were noticed in various places, but treatments under the National Park Service

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[30] The exact date of installation is not known but it may have been 1896 when a good deal of structural work was done on the house. Wire nails were used to key in the new plaster on the ceiling below around the base of the rod proving that it could not have been part of the original construction. The rod was probably installed to counteract the strain imposed on the girder by the heavy bookcases in the north and southwest rooms of the third floor.

[31] Since the framework of the house was constructed before the chimney was built the chimney originally was not used in any way for support of the frame.

in 1950 and 1961 have halted the damage and removed its cause.[32] To be very safe, treatment against termites should be applied in the unexcavated area under the first floor of the hall which was not reached in the earlier work.

The rehabilitation of the basic structural framework of the East Wing has been described above. The state of, and the work necessary to put in good condition, the non-structural elements will be covered in the next section of the report.

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[32] In June, 1950, the entire house was sealed and fumigated with gas to destroy the two types of powder post beetles which were attacking the woodwork and the furnishings. In June, 1961, poison was injected into the ground all around the house to stop the work of termites which had been found in various places. Both jobs were done by the Safety Fumigant Co., Boston, Mass.

IV. CONDITION OF NON-STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS AND THEIR REHABILITATION

In addition to rehabilitating the basic structural framework of the house, considerable work is necessary to preserve from further deterioration and to put in reasonably good condition the non-structural elements which cover the framework, inside and out. These elements, which make up the surface fabric of the house, consist of such things as the plaster, wallpaper, floor boards, wood trim, clapboards, and so on. The present condition of the surface fabric, which varies from good to very poor in the different rooms of the East Wing, depends primarily on the quantity and quality of the maintenance it has received over the years.

The house was kept in generally good condition by Brooks Adams, the last member of the family to live therein. About 1905 he conceived the idea that the house should eventually be opened to the public and, for a number of years thereafter, he devoted his efforts to putting it in such condition that it could be so opened.[33] In pursuit of this aim he undertook at various times and in different parts of the house to replace or renew certain

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[33] To a certain extent Brooks Adams tried to restore the house to its appearance at the time of John and Abigail Adams. This involved primarily the removal or change of elements added or changed by Charles Francis Adams. The effort at restoration was neither thorough nor consistent so many of Charles Francis Adams' changes still can be seen.

worn parts of the fabric and, in general, was more careful of maintenance than would ordinarily have been the case. Through his efforts, which lasted until about 1912, the house was put into very good condition, and it was kept that way until he died in 1927.

The Adams Memorial Society, a family association, took over the house in 1927, installed a caretaker in the back wing and opened the house to the public in that year. During the nineteen years of the Society's ownership very few changes were made in the house and very little money was spent on maintenance.[34] As a result the condition of both the structure of the house and the surface fabric deteriorated with increasing rapidity. The greatest damage was caused by unrepaired leaks in the roof which allowed the water to run down through the house in several places.

In 1946 the Adams Memorial Society gave the house to the Federal Government. Under the terms of the gift, the historic period which the house is to represent covers the four generations of the family who lived therein from 1788 to 1927.[35] Because of this provision and because of its generally poor condition

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[34]The exterior of the house was painted only twice in the nineteen years. On both occasions it was done by a member of the family before a family wedding.

[35]John Adams purchased the house early in the fall of 1787 and moved into it at the beginning of summer in 1788.

the work to be done on the surface fabric of the house consists primarily of reconditioning rather than restoration. Restoration to the historic period is called for only to eliminate the few minor changes which have been inadvertently made since 1927.

Since the National Park Service took over the house in 1946 many repairs and improvements have been made as funds permitted. The most important of these was the installation of a new roof in 1950.[36] A great deal remains to be done, however, and this section of the report will describe what is required to put the fabric in reasonably good and stable condition.

A. Exterior

Much of the original surface fabric is still in place on the exterior of the East Wing. That which is not original can generally be traced to documented or known changes. The French doors on the east wall, for instance, were installed in 1852 by Charles Francis Adams in place of the two first floor windows to provide access from the Long Room to the porch which he had built outside the east wall in that year. When Brooks

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[36] The new roof was put on by Norman W. Pemberton, Inc., of Quincy. In doing the job they reused as many as possible of the original slates which had been put on in 1870 when Charles Francis Adams replaced the wood shingle roof to reduce the fire hazard. Any new slates which had to be used were matched as closely as possible to the old (an exact match was not obtainable) and were put on the relatively flat and less visible upper part of the gambrel.

Adams had the porch removed in 1921 to let more light into the Long Room, he did not restore the windows but rather left the French doors in place.[37] Changes of this sort, of course, are part of the historic development of the house and, therefore, are of interest and value in themselves. As previously stated, restoration, which would involve putting windows back in place of the doors, is not called for.

Though the exterior is in generally good condition, some work must be done both in the way of rehabilitation and restoration. Some clapboards which have split and bowed away from the wall have to be replaced. The replacement clapboards should be an exact match of those taken off as was the case when, in the course of exploratory work on the structural framework, many clapboards were taken off and replaced. Those removed were taken off with great care so that as many as possible could be reused. Where reuse was impossible the replacement matched the one taken off.

Other elements on the exterior of the East Wing need attention. The blocks to which the lightning rod is attached are in poor condition and all of them should be replaced to match the

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[37] Also, the clapboards which were replaced on the side of the building where the floor and roof of the porch had joined the building were not of the same type as was on the rest of the wall (being butt rather than bevel-ended) and were not put on in the same pattern.

existing blocks. Also, when the shutters were replaced throughout the house in 1952, there was a wide discrepancy in the number of louvers per shutter between the old and the new. The old shutters which were in poor, but reparable condition, were all stored in the Carriage House. These can be repaired and rehung. When work on the house is completed all the woodwork should be painted to match existing colors.[38]

B. Interior

The condition of the surface fabric of the interior of the East Wing varies considerably from one place to another. As previously stated, this condition depends not only on the age of the fabric but also on the maintenance it received over the years. Some of what can be seen dates from the construction and early days of the wing and some from the time of John Quincy Adams. A somewhat larger portion dates from the period when Charles Francis Adams occupied the house, but perhaps the largest amount of that which is visible, especially on the lower stories, was the work

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[38]The colors of the woodwork on the exterior of the house are those which the Adams family requested the National Park Service to use when the family turned the house over to the government. They match those to be seen in the Frankenstein painting of the house in 1849 which hangs in the house. The colors had been changed by Brooks Adams in 1921 from the grey with brown trim of Charles Francis Adams' time to white as part of his previously mentioned sporadic efforts to restore the house to its appearance at the time of John and Abigail Adams.

of Brooks Adams. Leaks in the roof and general neglect in the period following his death slowly undid much of the work he had done on the house.[39] The various things done by the National Park Service since 1946 to improve the condition of the interior surface fabric will be discussed for each room (see Illustration Nos. 47, 48,49,50).

1. Third Floor, North Room

The north room on the third floor of the East Wing is generally known as Henry Adams' bedroom.[40] Architectural investigation indicates that when the East Wing was built the north room extended the entire width of the wing.[41] In 1829 a partition was constructed on the west side of the room to form a closet and bookshelves were put in front of the partition[42] (see Illustration

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[39]The Adams Memorial Society tried to run the house and grounds on the money which was taken in at the door from tourists. It was not sufficient for proper upkeep.

[40]Henry Adams first occupied the room during his boyhood after his father, Charles Francis, moved into the house in 1849. When Henry returned to the house in 1887 to take care of his mother after his father had died he again used the room. His younger brother, Brooks, had been using it during some of the intervening period but moved down to the second floor when Henry returned.

[41]Partitions that were constructed at the same time as the wing have a common structural feature in the extension through the ceiling and into the framing above of the rough cut 2" x 10" studs. It can be seen in the attic that no studs extend through the lath at any point across the room.

[42]Documentary evidence proves the construction of bookcases in 1829 to supplement those in the Study. The details of construction of the upper section of shelves are different from those of the lower section, and it is possible that the upper section was built in 1887 when Henry Adams moved back to the house.

No. 34). It is likely that the small window on the north wall which serves the closet was cut through at that time. The various elements making up the surface fabric of the room which were found to be in need of attention are described in the following paragraphs.

Cracks in the plaster ceiling have reappeared after every repainting. Investigation revealed that the 1" x 10" lath strapping boards which run the full width of the room and are fastened to horizontal timbers at three intermediate points have each come loose from the center point and have sagged down about 1" permitting vibrations to cause cracks in the plaster (see Illustration No. 35). To prevent vibrations in the future the straps should be firmly refastened to the horizontal timbers.

The paper on the walls of the room was found to be in very poor condition.[43] Large sections of it hanging loose from the south and east walls were of sufficient weight that there was danger of their falling and tearing even more paper away[44] (see Illustration No. 32). To prevent further damage the

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[43]The date of installation of the paper is unknown. It is likely that the walls have always been papered as no trace of paint or whitewash was found on the plaster. Small remnants of an earlier paper were found under the paper now on the wall.

[44]That this had happened at some earlier time can be deduced from the small area on the south wall where there is no paper but the paper's design is painted on the plaster.

exposed plaster was sized, and the loose sections of paper were then reglued to the wall with utmost care.[45]

The original floor boards were still in place though a few had been sloppily cut and pieces taken up, probably when gas pipes were installed in 1860. The grass matting which covered the floor when the Adams family owned the house was taken up in 1948 because it was considered to be a fire hazard, and the floor was refinished.[46] Several floor boards, which were very carefully taken up in the course of exploratory work in order that major timbers could be examined and the necessary structural work done in the southeast corner, are to be replaced, reusing, insofar as possible, the original nails and nail holes.

A new side spring lock was put on the lower sash of the west window on the north wall. This was of the same type and in the same location but not of exactly the same profile as the missing original, whose duplicate is still on the east window

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[45] The work was done in February and March, 1964, by Harold Kilpatrick, the excellent carpenter and craftsman who was foreman for Contractor Arthur King.

[46] The use of grass or straw matting, tacked or stapled down generally in strips 3' wide to cover the whole floor, was common in 19th century summer houses. If the mats were not frequently renewed dirt particles which had worked through the matting would be ground into the floor boards under the mats. Rugs were laid over the matting.

and other third floor windows.[47]

The one other matter of concern in the appearance of the room is caused by the juxtaposition of the wires of the mechanical bell system and those of the fire alarm system. This unfortunate circumstance which has been covered in another section is particularly noticeable in this room (see Illustration No. 34).

2. Third Floor, Southeast Room

The first known mention of this room occurs when Abigail Adams wrote her sister during construction of the East Wing that, among other things, she "would have a chimny made in the upper chamber...." [48] As far as is known no architectural changes have been made in the room since that time.[49] When the National Park Service took over the house in 1946 it was found

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[47] This lock was put on in order that the window might be locked and because it is not certain that a lock with the correct profile can be obtained. If it can be it will be substituted for the temporary lock.

[48] Abigail Adams to Mary Cranch, Philadelphia, April 15, 1800, New Letters of Abigail Adams, Boston, 1947, p. 245.

[49] The first known use of the room was as a bedroom for John Quincy and Charles Francis Adams after their father, Charles Francis, moved into the house in 1849. Eventually they found the room too hot and moved out to the old farmhouse directly behind the house. Thereafter their sister, Mary Adams, used the room until her marriage to Dr. Henry Parker Quincy in 1877.

that the leaks in the roof were causing considerable damage to the surface fabric of the room.[50] The renewal of the roof in 1950 stopped the leaks but, because the room was not generally opened to the public, only minimal reconditioning was undertaken.

The wallpaper was found to be in very poor condition[51] (see Illustration No. 36). As in the north room it has been re-glued to the wall to prevent further damage (see Illustration No. 37). The plaster on the walls of the small closets has cracked and in the small south closet has come down. There was no straw matting on the floor in the 1920's though the rows of staple marks on the floor boards indicate that at one time it covered the floor. The floor has never been refinished. Those floor boards which were taken up in the course of exploratory work are to be, and in some cases have been, carefully replaced. Other minor matters to be taken care of include tightening the attachment of the gas fixture on the west wall which hangs loose and removal of a section of disused burglar alarm wire along the north wall.[52]

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[50]The Park Service found in this room and throughout the third floor a great many containers placed in position to catch the water as it dripped through.

[51]Again the date of installation is unknown.

[52]Burglar alarm wire from the earlier system of wood grills on the windows has been removed wherever it has been found when it had not been incorporated into the new system.

3. Third Floor, Southwest Room

The southwest room on the third floor of the East Wing served as a study for Henry Adams during his residence in the house in the late 1880's.[53] As previously mentioned architectural and historical evidence indicates that the stairs from the room down to the second floor, which are there now, and were there when Henry Adams was in residence, were not put in when the wing was first built. Until the stairs were built access to the room was had through a doorway cut through the east wall of the old section of the house at the third floor level. When the staircase was put in along the west wall of the wing a vertical board partition was erected to enclose it, and a door was put at the head of the stairs. The weakness left in the structure when the stairs were put through has already been described.

When the National Park Service took over the house it was found that the damage done to the wallpaper in the southwest room by the leaks in the roof was so great that the

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[53] Presumably he finished and corrected the proofs of his History of the United States during the Administration of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison there during the summer and autumn evenings he spent in the house.

paper could not be saved. New paper similar to that removed was hung in 1951.[54] An exact match of the old paper was not obtainable, and it was not thought important enough to go to the expense of getting it duplicated.[55] As in the southeast room there was once straw matting on the floor but it had been removed by 1920. The floor has not been refinished. The bookcase along the east wall was there in 1920, but the exact date of installation is unknown.

There is exposed BX cable along the south baseboard of the room which may have been installed in 1920 by Brooks Adams when he put electricity in the house. It feeds down to various outlets on the second floor. As part of the electrical work to be done in the house, which is taken up later in the report, this cable should be disconnected though a receptacle

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[54] Money was not provided to put all the rooms in the house in good repair immediately when the Government came into possession of the house. Superintendent Harris, with the help of various members of the Adams family, worked slowly through the house, doing first the rooms to be opened to the public. They did not reach the third floor of the East Wing until 1951.

[55] When the manufacturer thinks he can sell enough of the paper commercially to make a profit there is no extra expense involved in getting wallpaper duplicated. A special order, however, when the company is not going to undertake to market the paper commercially, is very expensive.

should be provided in the room as a convenience.[56]

4. Second Floor, Study and Closets

The large second floor room on the east side of the East Wing has been known as the Study since John Quincy Adams converted it to that use in 1829. The two major additions he made to the room which changed its appearance considerably have since been taken out and, except for the wallpaper, the room now looks very much as it did when the East Wing was built.[57] Because of its importance in the interpretation of the history of the house to the public the Study was put into, and has been maintained in excellent condition by the National Park Service. Little, therefore, needs to be done to the surface fabric at the present time. Mention should be made of some of the things which were done and of those things which remain to be done.

The grass matting was taken up from the floor of the study about 1956. At that time, also, the floor was re-

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[56] The present duplex receptacle was installed by the Superintendent in 1957 so that lights could be put in the third floor windows at Christmastime. Ross Electric Co., Quincy, did the work.

[57] John Quincy Adams "had book shelves fixed up all around the chamber" and "the fireplace reduced to suitable dimensions." The bookshelves were removed by Charles Francis Adams in 1870 when the books were put in the newly built Library. The new "close fire place" which was installed without disturbance to the marble facings or iron fireback and jambs was removed by Brooks Adams.

finished and it is still in very good condition.[58] Those floor boards which were taken up with great care in the course of exploratory work are to be put back in their original locations.

The red and gold wallpaper was put on about 1906 by Brooks Adams who had it specially ordered from Japan for the room. When the government took over the house the paper was in fair condition except for a section on the front of the chimney breast which had been badly damaged by water leakage. This was patched with a piece taken from behind the large desk which stands against the north wall.[59]

Other minor matters which should be taken care of include the replacement of a couple of sash cords in the windows, the removal of unused sections of wire remaining from the earlier burglar alarm system and the patching of a small section of the plaster ceiling which was taken down in order that the fastening of the lower end of the iron tension rod could be examined.

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[58] The public is not allowed into the Study so the floors have not been damaged by the sharp heels of women's shoes.

[59] The work was done by Contractor Arthur King. Because the desk is not to be moved the section of wall from which the piece was taken will not be seen by the public. A small piece of unused paper, taken from the remnants of the original rolls still stored at the Site, was recently sent to Japan with an inquiry as to its current availability. It was learned that the paper, a Japanese grass cloth, while still to be had in some color combinations, was not available in red and gold except by special order.

Little needs to be or should be done in the two original closets at the north end of the room. The Brussels carpet-type painted floor cloth on the floor of both closets is not in very good condition but it is very old and should be preserved in place[60] (see Illustration No. 38). There being almost no traffic in and out of the closets there is little danger of its wearing out completely.

When Brooks Adams occupied the house there were two chests of drawers in the east closet and bookshelves on each side of the west closet. The bookshelves are still in place, but one of the two chests had to be moved when the air ducts for the heating system were installed.[61] The Superintendent had shelves built to take the place of the chest, but the outline of where the chest had stood can still be seen in the wallpaper (see Illustration No. 38). Small sections of the paper need to be reglued in the east closet, and disused burglar alarm hardware and wire should be removed.

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[60] It is not known whether it was installed in the 1850's shortly after Charles Francis Adams moved into the house or even earlier during John Quincy Adams' time.

[61] The duct was brought up near the west end of the closet and the grill was raised about 2-1/2' above the floor. The chest now stands in the northwest room on the third floor of the Service Wing.

5. Second Floor, Hall

The hallway on the second floor of the East Wing was first altered in appearance by the previously discussed installation of the stairs to the third floor.[62] In 1906 Brooks Adams had the floor re-covered with thick, dark green linoleum, and the walls with grey, forest scene paper, and the hall assumed its present appearance. Because of the considerable tourist traffic in the hall and because of the action of loose floor boards underneath it the green linoleum had been badly worn. It was removed in order that floor boards could be taken up and the structure examined. Under it remnants of the earlier, Brussels carpet-type painted floor cloth, like that still on the closet floors, were found still cemented to the floor boards. Dark green linoleum, identical to that which was removed, is still obtainable and should be installed in place of the old when the structural work is completed. The grey, forest scene paper is still in good condition though some regluing should be done.

6. First Floor, Long Room and Closet

The many changes that have been made in the surface fabric of the large room on the first floor of the East

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[62] These stairs were covered with a very worn carpet in the 1920's. The Adams Memorial Society removed it.

Wing, generally called the Long Room, have left little to be seen that is original.[63] The fabric dates to the historic period, however, and is in reasonably good condition.

As previously mentioned, a new floor was laid in 1852 to replace the original floor at the same time that new first floor framing was installed. The grass matting which covered the floor was removed in 1956, and the floor was refinished.[64]

In 1896, when Brooks Adams undertook to strengthen the floor framing of the Study, that part of the plaster ceiling of the Long Room now between the two long cased beams was taken down. When it was reinstalled the ceiling was furred down 1" below its original location (see Illustration No. 43, Section C-C). A small piece of furred down ceiling was removed in the course of exploratory work and is to be replaced.

The wallpaper is carefully cut to fit around the beam casing, indicating that it was hung at some time after the structural work was completed, although the exact date of in-

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[63] The word "Long" has been attached to this room since John Adams' time. It is the "Long Eastern Room" in the inventory of his estate.

[64] The floor in the area of the room to which the public is given access is covered by a carpet so the floor boards have not been damaged by spike heels.

stallation is unknown. The paper has been reproduced commercially in recent years, but it is not recommended that new paper be hung in the Long Room.[65] The old paper is still in fair condition and it is a comfortable match for the excellent, but very old and worn, furniture in the room.

Two other major features of the room should be mentioned although no work on them is necessary. The fireplace and its surrounding elements have been remodeled at least once and probably twice. The present mantelpiece dates from the nineteenth century, although it is not known exactly when it was installed. The French doors which have been previously mentioned were put through where the windows had been to provide access to the porch which Charles Francis Adams built in 1852.[66]

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[65] Strahan & Co., Chelsea, Massachusetts, the wallpaper manufacturers who have reproduced this paper for commercial use, were of the opinion that it was an Italian paper which could have been made as early as the 1830's.

[66] The porch was a very pleasant place to sit according to Superintendent Harris, but Brooks Adams thought that it made the Long Room too dark and damp and had it removed in 1921. Its removal not only brought more light into the room but also advanced his slow and limited restoration of the house to its appearance in John and Abigail's time. After the porch was removed the French doors no longer served any purpose, and Brooks Adams intended to restore the windows in their place. Before this was done, however, he had lost his mobility through a leg injury and could no longer derive pleasure from walking about the house and property planning changes. As a result no more changes were made and the limited restoration work ceased.

The large closet at the north end of the Long Room has been used in recent years for loose storage and as a dressing room for the staff. The Superintendent plans to discontinue its use as a dressing room and wants to use the closet shelves for display purposes. In order to make this possible some adjustments would have to be made in the heating duct system which cuts the closet in half (see Illustration No. 39). The heating system will be discussed at the end of the report.

The closet floor is apparently made up of pieces of earlier flooring relaid, or possibly even left in place in 1852, when the first floor framing was replaced.[67] Present use of the closet is unsafe because dry rot has caused the deterioration of some of the floor and subfloor boards (see Illustration Nos. 40, 41). These boards should be replaced.

7. First Floor, Hall

The dark green linoleum on the floor of the hall, which, like that in the hall above, was put down by Brooks Adams in 1906, was found to be in poor condition (see Illustration No. 42). It had been damaged by the frequent movement of a heavy display case kept near the north end of the hall by the Adams

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[67] Rows of nail holes which bear no relation to the present joists can be seen in both the floor and subfloor.

Memorial Society and by the working of loose floor boards. The linoleum was taken up in order that the floor boards could also be taken up during the exploratory work on the structural framework of the East Wing. Because of its poor condition it is recommended that new matching linoleum be installed.

It is expected that necessary structural work on the second floor hall may result in some damage to the plaster and wallpaper of the first floor hall. Fortunately, as was mentioned earlier in this report, the Adams National Historic Site is in possession of some of this paper.

This discussion of the first floor hall completes the survey of the condition of the exterior and interior surface fabric of the East Wing. Two general matters should be mentioned which are of more concern to the entire wing than to any specific room. Where locks and/or sash cords are missing from the windows they should be installed. Also, in the course of the investigation and of the necessary structural work some of the paint on both the exterior and interior surfaces has been, and inevitably, will be damaged. The affected areas should be repainted in colors to match those established as belonging in each particular area. At the present time the proper color can be determined by on-the-spot examination, but it is recommended that, for future reference,

the colors be matched to the Munsell color system and a record of these left at the Site.[68]

It remains to discuss the utilities of the East Wing in the final section of the report which follows.

C. UTILITIES

For purposes of this report utilities are defined to include the fire and burglar alarm systems as well as the electricity, the heating and the plumbing.

The fire alarm system was installed in 1927 when the Adams Memorial Society opened the house to the public.[69] In the larger rooms it is made up of a tiny tube attached by tack-like fasteners to the ceiling about 4" from the walls all around the room. The tube hangs slightly away from the ceiling in various places. In the smaller spaces the tube is coiled into a rosette which is fastened in the center of the ceiling. This was done because each space on each of the five circuits in the house has to have at least 5 per cent of the total tube length on that circuit. Both types of installation are somewhat

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[68] This and other aspects of the maintenance of the historic fabric of the house should be recorded in the Part III Report.

[69] It was installed and is maintained by means of monthly inspections by the American District Telegraph Co.

obtrusive in places, and, in some of the larger rooms, the tube unfortunately competes for attention with the wires of the mechanical call bell system[70] (see Illustration No. 34). Better methods of installation have been developed in recent years by means of which the tube can be held tighter to the ceiling with a less obvious fastener and the rosette replaced by a more compact device. Therefore, where the fire alarm system is too obtrusive or competes too noticeably with the call bell wires, reinstallation of the tube in neater and less conspicuous fashion, consistent with maximum effectiveness, is recommended.

The burglar alarm system was also installed in 1927 by the Adams Memorial Society. At that time it consisted of tape on certain sash and on the French doors, and of wood grills on the remaining openings.[71] In 1962 the wood grills were replaced by a contact system on the exterior openings of the first

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[70] This interesting part of the historic fabric was installed in the house in 1870 by Charles Francis Adams so that members of the family might more easily summon the servants. It consists of wires which connect bell pulls in the various rooms with bells in the kitchen. A sort of spring pulley device takes the wire around the many corners it sometimes has to turn in order to reach the kitchen. Some of the system still functions, but where it does not it should be put in order.

[71] The remains of the tape can still be seen on the north windows of the first and second floors.

and second floors.[72] This was supplemented in certain places by wire fastened to the muntins. Some of the wire from the grill system was reused in the contact system. The older wire is of considerably larger size, and, therefore, is more conspicuous than that used in the newer installation. Where the older wire is too obtrusive it should be replaced, and, any disused wire and hardware remaining from the wood grill system should be removed.

The electric wiring in the house was put in for the most part in 1920.[73] Because of the age of the wiring and because of the excellent opportunity for access to it presented by the removal of some of the flooring in the course of exploratory and structural work, it is strongly recommended that the East Wing be completely rewired at this time to minimize the fire hazard as much as possible.[74] Any wall fixtures, glass

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[72]The contact system was installed by the American Electrical Corp., Salem, Mass. They inspect it once a month.

[73]An electric diagram of the East Wing, drawn in the summer of 1964 by Student Assistant Architect C. Gene Spurgeon, is on file at the Site.

[74]Installation of a new panel box will be recommended in another section of the Part II Report. Work on one part of the house will have to be planned in conjunction with the work on another part.

globes and metal cover plates which remain from the original installation should, of course, be retained.

There is no plumbing in the East Wing so it remains only to discuss the heating system. Heat was first introduced to the East Wing by Brooks Adams in the first decade of the twentieth century, probably about 1909. A furnace was installed in the basement under the Long Room, and two hot air outlets covered with metal grills were put in the hall. The present hot air system was installed in 1958-59. Its installation did considerable damage to the original fabric and rendered several spaces unfit for their desired use. These include the small closet in the southwest room on the third floor, the already-mentioned east closet off the Study on the second floor and the closet to the north of the Long Room on the first floor (see Illustration Nos. 38, 39). Minor adjustments to the ducts and grills in the two latter spaces could make them at least useable without further damage to the original fabric. The various problems raised by the present heating system -- the destruction of historic fabric in its installation, the appropriation of wanted space by its ducts, the unsuitable appearance of its outlets and the debilitating effect of its heat on the furnishings of the house -- these problems, as well as the possible solutions to them, will be taken up in another portion of the Part II Report.

The work necessary to put in good condition the surface fabric and basic structure of the East Wing has been described in this section of the report. In conclusion it should be pointed out again that this report is only a portion of the Historic Structures Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section. After submission of this section for approval, exploratory work will begin on another part of the house. It is hoped that in the early stages this can be done with a minimum of disturbance to the flow of tourists through the house and that work can be undertaken and completed on the East Wing before it is necessary to close any other part of the house.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

East Wing Plan drawn by John Bates, the builder. This first known plan of any part of the Adams Mansion was sent by Bates to John Adams with a letter requesting clarification of various details of the plan. The letter read as follows:

Quincy March 31th 1800

Sir as I have recieved a Line from you
Respecting the bigness of the New addition
which I wish you to Consult Mrs. Adams
In a few peticulars 1st Whether She will have
the Stair Case a Strait flight or turn
2th Whether She will have the Chamber the bigness
of the Lower Room or into too Chambers
3th Whether She will have the old Closets the
North side of the Chimney Stand or taken away and
have Recesses
4th Whether She will have a portico at the front
Door and Whether She will have the top of the
portico flat with A Glass Door in the Chamber
Entry in the place of a Window to pass out
5th Respecting the front yard Whether She Will
move the East fence to the End of the New part
and make New in the Front or continue the front
these peticulars are Necessary to be known in
Case of your absence I Wish you to Send Word by
the Doctors Letter

From your humble Servant

John Bates

Letter and Plan are in Adams Family Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society

Copy Neg. on file at Adams

Quincy March 8 1820

[illegible] have Received a line from you
respecting the Design of the House in addition
to which I wish you to request Mrs Adams
to give me particulars 1 Whether She will have
the back part a Story high or Lower
2 Whether She will have the Chamber Floor
over the Entry come into the Chamber
3 Whether She will have the old Posts the Water Side
of the Entry Stand or taken away and have Windows
in Either Case will have a Portico at the front
door and Shall she will have the Posts of
the same with a Door in the Chamber Entry in
the place of a Window to go out
Respecting the front yard Whether She Will
have the last fence to the End of the Yard part
and make Gate in the front or continue the line
these particulars are necessary to be known in case of
your absence I wish you to send Word by the
Doctors Letter

From your humble Servant
John Bates

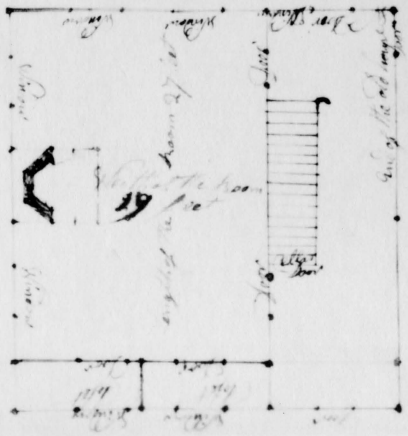


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

Sketch of house from southeast drawn by E. Malcom of New York in 1798. The sketch shows the south and east walls of the house before the East Wing was built. Windows had been cut in the west wall of the house at both the first and second floor levels by John and Abigail Adams before this drawing was made, but they had not touched the east wall.

Original drawing at Adams National Historic Site, photographed by Fasch Studio, Milton

Neg. on file at Adams

ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

View of house from southeast painted by Frankenstein of Boston in 1849. This painting was made from approximately the same location as the Malcom drawing shown in Illustration No. 2. Note some of the ways in which the new East Wing in the foreground was built to conform to the older structure - the retention of the gambrel roof, the extension of the rail, and the portico outside both the old and new entries.

Original oil painting at Adams National Historic Site
photographed by Fasch Studio, Milton

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

Adams Mansion, view from southeast. The East Wing takes up the three nearest bays on the long side of the house. It was deliberately constructed in the same style as the older section of the house and, as a result, is hard to distinguish from it. Note that the roof rail which can be seen in Illustration No. 3 has disappeared. It was taken down in 1870 when slate was put on the roof in place of wood shingles.

Photo: National Park Service
Fasch Studio, Milton, 1962

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

East Wing, north wall at northeast corner. The deteriorating effects of dry rot can be seen all along the bottom of the sill. The end of the sill under the corner post at left had almost completely rotted out. All the diagonal braces and some of the window and door jamb studs were fastened to the sill by means of mortise, tenon and peg.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

East Wing, north wall towards northwest corner. Considerable deterioration caused by dry rot can be seen along the lower part of the sill. The bottom of a 2-story post is visible over the right hand arrow. The north entry porch is at right.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

East Wing, north wall at northwest corner. The effects of dry rot can be seen in the sill. Note that the north sill runs under the corner post.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

East Wing, looking north along the east wall. Considerable deterioration caused by dry rot can be seen in the sill. The test trench was dug so that the dry wall construction of the stone foundation walls could be examined. The meeting of the two sections of the sill is visible just to the right of the base of the lightning rod. The 2-story post is just behind the rod.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

East Wing, east wall at northeast corner. Dry rot can be seen along the sill and at the base of the stud below the arrow.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

East Wing, south wall near southeast corner. The effects of dry rot are visible on the sill and at the bottom of the diagonal brace. None of the sections of the sill which can be seen are original. It is not known when the original sill was replaced.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

East Wing, first floor hall, looking east along south wall. The deterioration caused by dry rot can be seen in the remaining original section of the sill on the south side of the East Wing. The possibly original girder which frames into the sill under the partition has fallen somewhat, and the partition has also sagged. The girder in the foreground and the joist date from 1852. A post of the temporary shoring installed by the National Park Service in 1948 can be seen below the partition. Part of the shoring also supports the end of the joist.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 12

East Wing, first floor hall, showing west sill. The effects of dry rot and powder post beetles can be seen in the sill. The sill is original and there are remnants of original flooring directly above it. The joists and the rest of the flooring were installed in 1852 by Charles Francis Adams.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

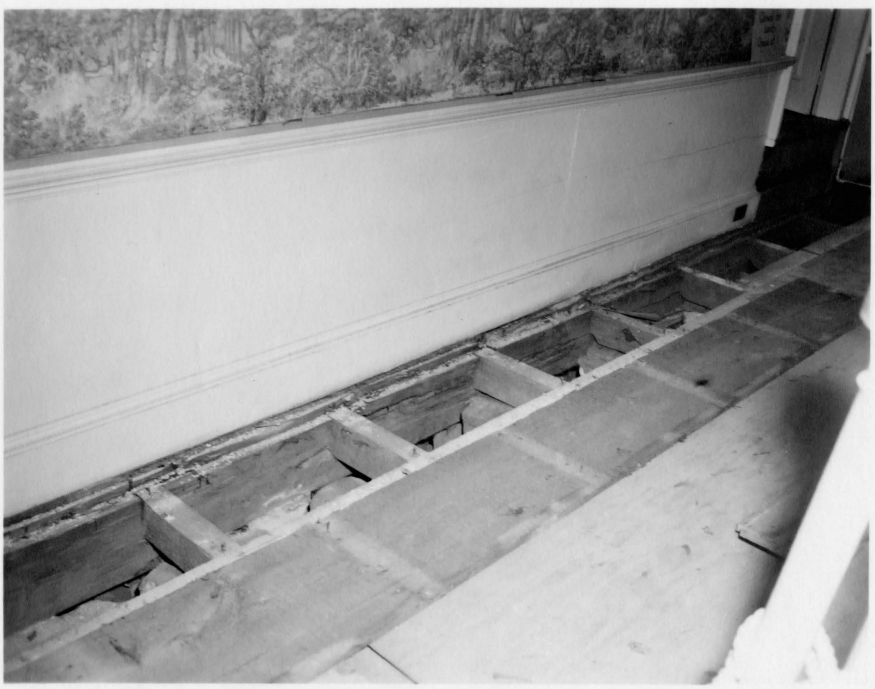


ILLUSTRATION NO. 13

East Wing, basement, looking south at south wall. The deterioration in the girder installed in 1852 can be seen. Some of the joists installed at the same time have also deteriorated. The temporary shoring installed by the National Park Service in 1948 shows weakness near the wall. Some of the 1852 and 1948 joists have been wedged up to counteract the partial failure of the shoring.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., February, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

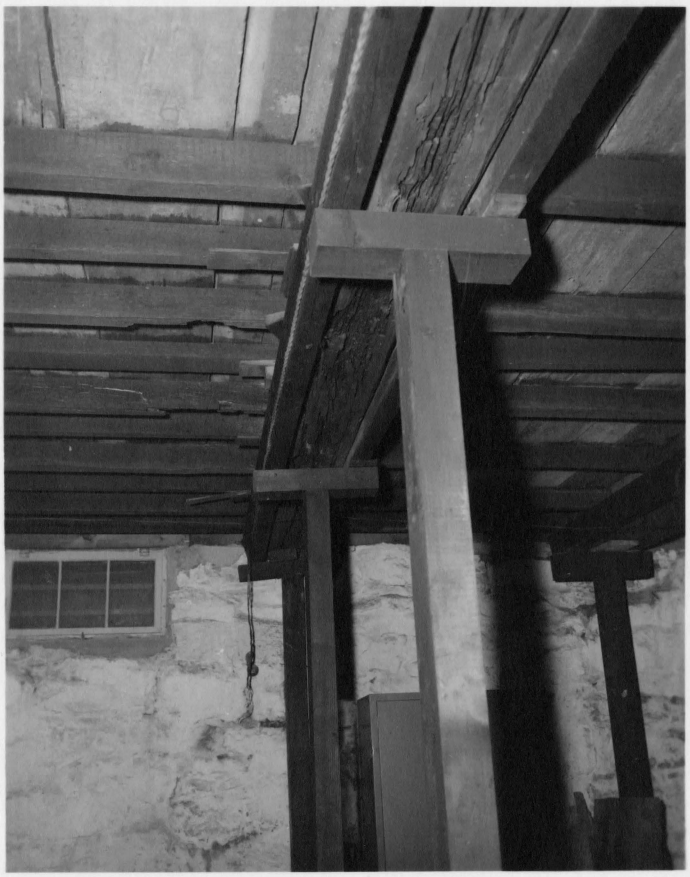


ILLUSTRATION NO. 14

East Wing, basement, looking north up basement stair opening. The dry rot in the early girder can be seen at the top of the lally column. The supplementary 8" x 10" beam installed about 1896 to help support the girder has twisted because of the eccentric load above it.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., March, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 15

East Wing, first floor hall near south end. The floor at the east end of the bottom riser is 3" below that at the west end. Note the poor condition of the linoleum.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 16

East Wing, basement, looking south from basement stairs at underside of first to second floor stairs. The lack of support of the east stringer at left and the middle stringer can be seen. The joist at the foot of the stairs is rotten. It replaces an earlier joist. Remnants of original 1800 subfloor can be seen under the bottom riser.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., August, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

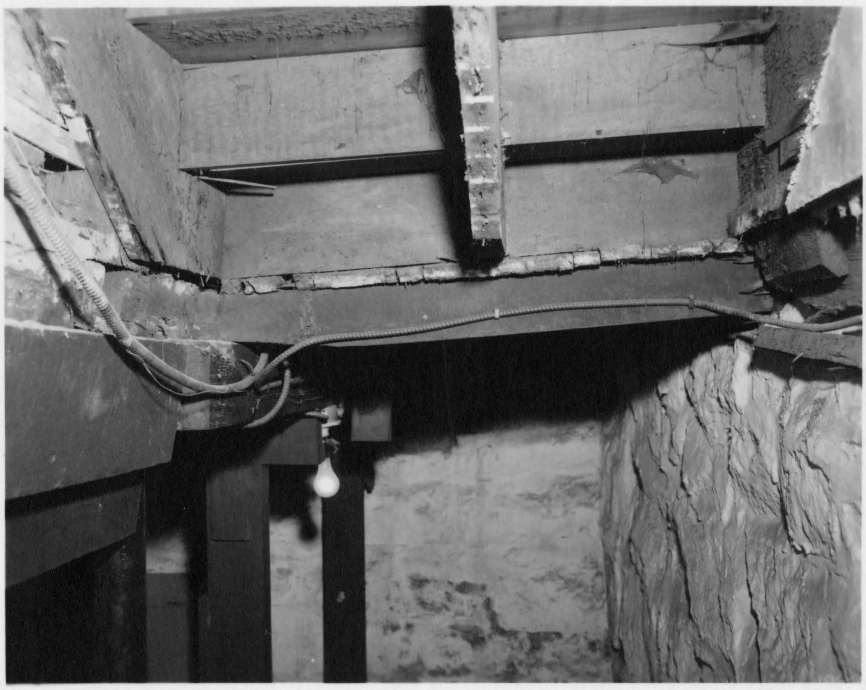


ILLUSTRATION NO. 17

East Wing, basement, looking north up basement stair opening. The studs which support the west stringer (at left) of the first to second floor stairs barely rest on the beam at the left which was intended to support them. The beam has deteriorated from the work of powder post beetles. This has been stopped and the beam temporarily supported from below. The poor condition of the joist at the foot of the stairs can be seen.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., March, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

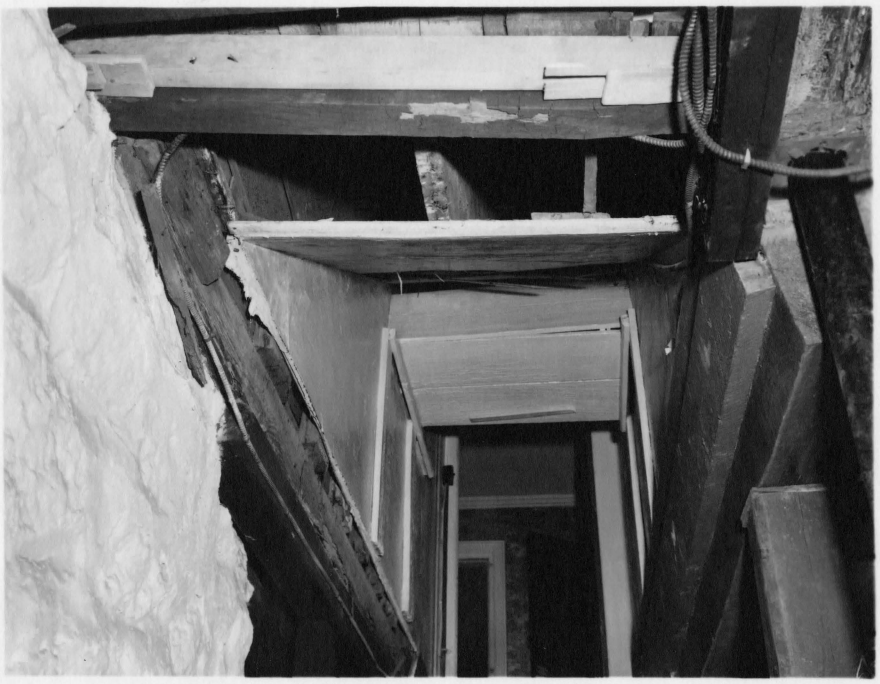


ILLUSTRATION NO. 18

East Wing, basement, looking east at east wall. Moisture which seeped through the foundation wall can be seen on the wall in the center of the photograph and on the floor. Moisture stains cover the lower part of the wall.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

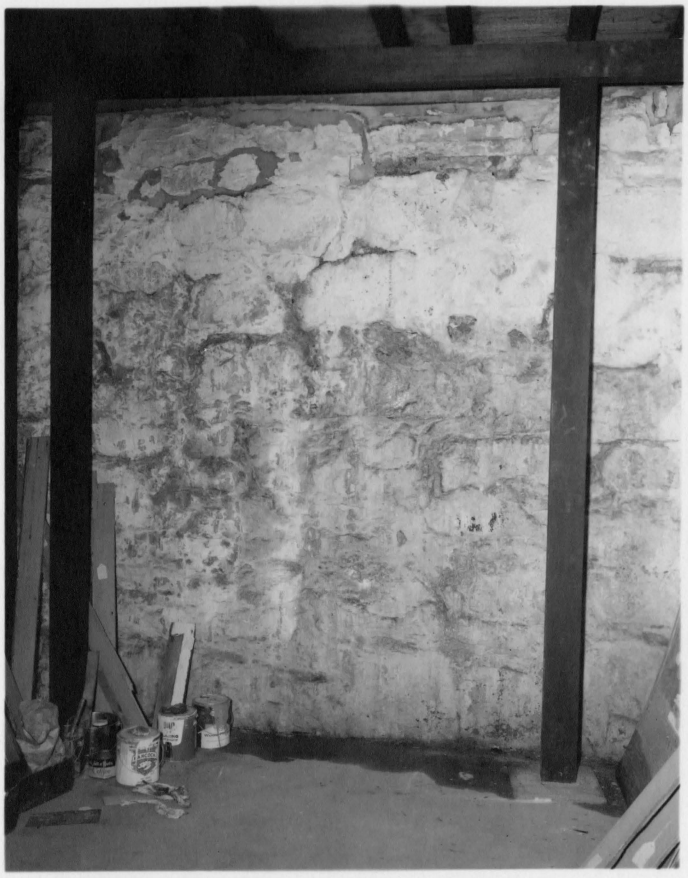


ILLUSTRATION NO. 19

East Wing, south side of southeast corner. Downspout connection at left to seepage pit was installed in 1950 and sealed off within a couple of years. Connection at right to a new seepage pit was then put in. Iron pipe in center was found in course of excavation.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., August, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

ILLUSTRATION NO. 20

East Wing, basement, looking southwest at stairs. The effects of dry rot can be seen at the bottom of the east stringer.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 21

East Wing, second floor hall, looking north. The girder running along the edge of the stair opening was cut back 2-3/4" at the south end of the opening when the stairs were constructed. The facing board fastened to the girder along the opening can be seen to be back of the line of the near face of the girder showing how great the cut back was. The framing is original.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 22

East Wing, second floor hall, looking south. The girder in the center was cut back 2" at the corner of the stair opening when the stairs were built.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

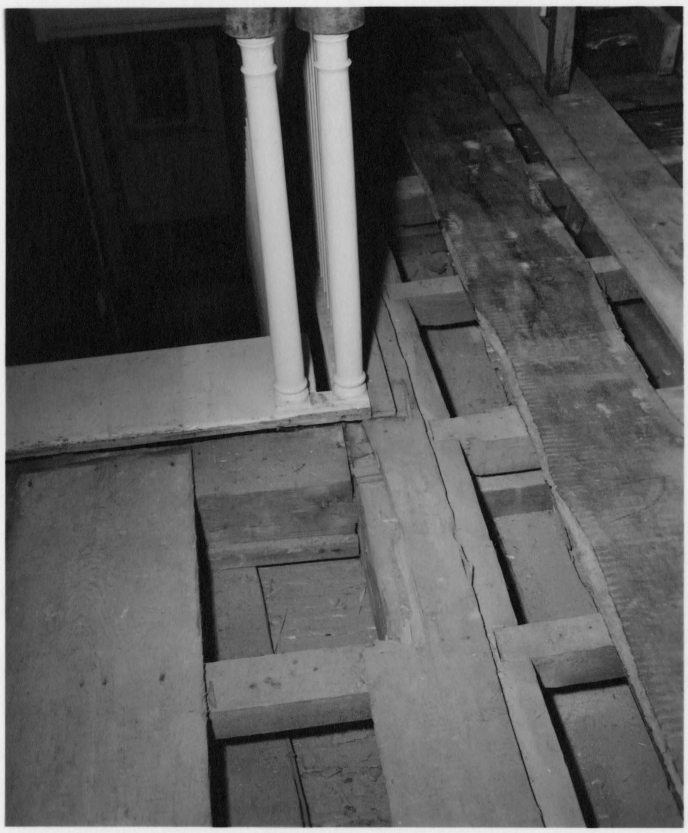


ILLUSTRATION NO. 23

East Wing, second floor, Study, looking south. The major timber running east-west across the room can be seen in the foreground. Two timbers running north-south frame into either side of it. Note the framing around the fireplace.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., February, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

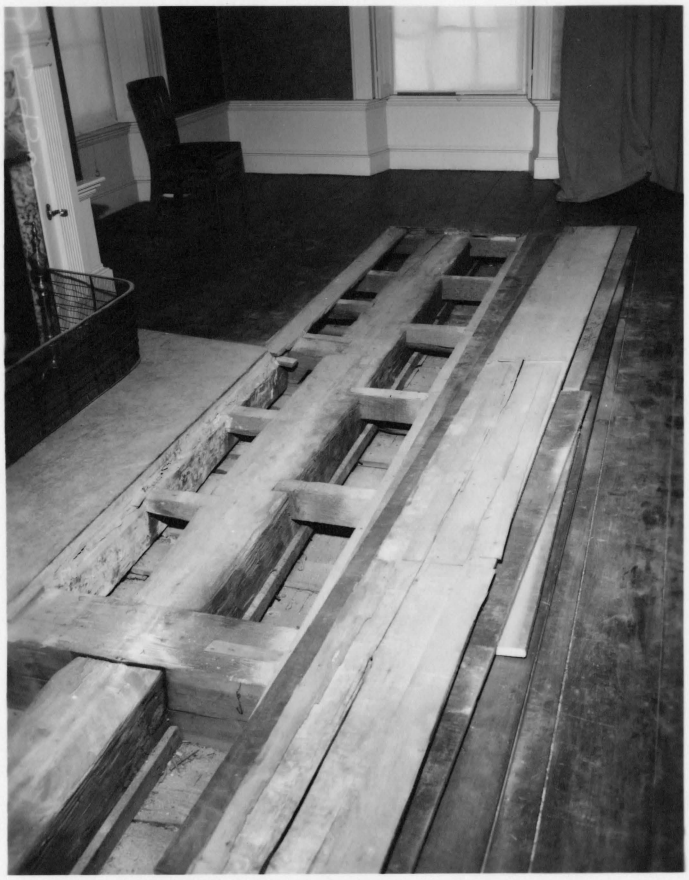


ILLUSTRATION NO. 24

East Wing, first floor, Long Room, looking northeast. The level strings which can be seen below the cased beams demonstrate that the beams are 4" lower at the west wall than at the east wall. The signs of the former activity of powder post beetles were found in the beam from which the casing had been removed. Note the loose condition and conspicuous fasteners of the fire alarm tube on the cornice of the chimney breast.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., August, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 25

East Wing, first floor, looking southeast at west side of partition and at soffit of first to second floor stairs. The two iron pipe columns in the partition wall support one of the cased beams below the ceiling of the Long Room. The pipe columns and the cased beams were installed in 1896.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., March, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 26

East Wing, second floor hall looking south. The stairs to the third floor which were installed in the second quarter of the nineteenth century were built on top of the finish floor and around the existing trim.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 27

East Wing, second floor hall, looking north into closet under stairs. The wallpaper and the woodwork were apparently not changed after the stairs were put in. Horizontal divisions in the wallpaper indicate that it is very early. Note that the support for the stairs along the wall is built around the wood trim.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., July, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 28

East Wing, third floor, southwest room, looking west. The left and center joists were cut but not headed off when the stairs were put through. The framing is original except where changed at the stairs.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., March, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 29

East Wing, third floor, southwest room, looking north at stair opening. The holes for the joists which were cut when the stairs were put through can be seen in the upper timber at left. The facing board to which the ends of the cut off joists were fastened is just visible at the right side of the opening.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., February, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams

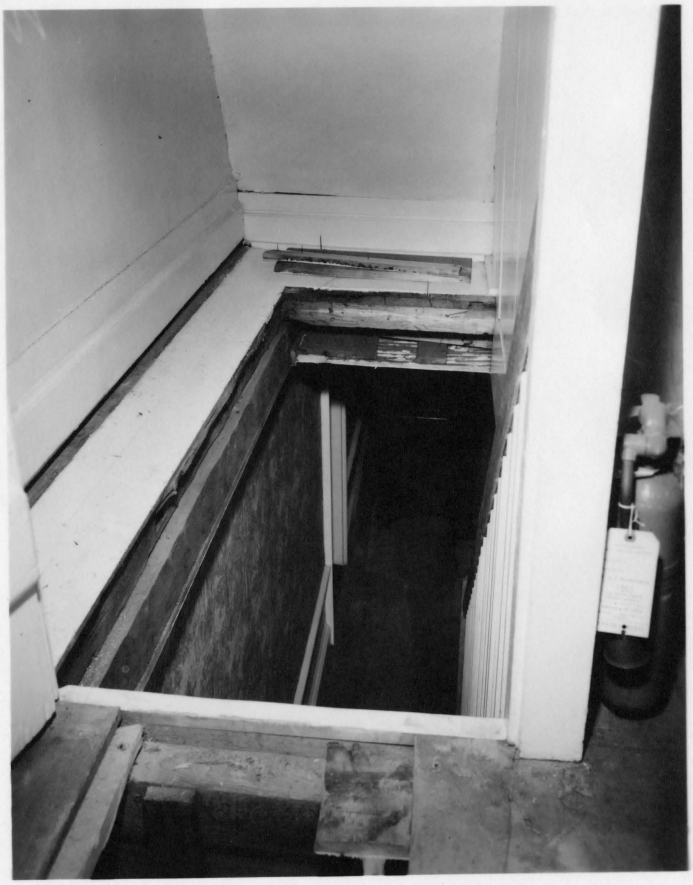


ILLUSTRATION NO. 30

East Wing, east wall. The complete deterioration from dry rot of the third floor plate can be seen where the gable meets the horizontal cornice. The bottom timber of the separate gable framing rests on the plate. Some rot was found in the second floor girt. It frames into the two story post at the left end of the opened section.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 31

East Wing, east wall at third floor level. This close-up photograph shows the complete deterioration of the third floor plate and the poor condition of the adjoining timbers. Note the bevelled clapboards, typical of the period, and the stud let into the plate.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 32

East Wing, third floor, north room, looking east. The lower part of the iron rod which is attached about midway on the east-west girder can be seen at right. The turnbuckle made it possible to tighten the rod. Note the poor condition of the wallpaper behind the rod and on the far wall.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., January, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 33

East Wing, second floor, Study ceiling. The fastening of the lower end of the iron rod to the main third floor east-west girder can be seen. With the load of the furniture removed from above the nut is not tight. The wire nails were used to key the plaster patch in the ceiling after the rod was installed.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., February, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams

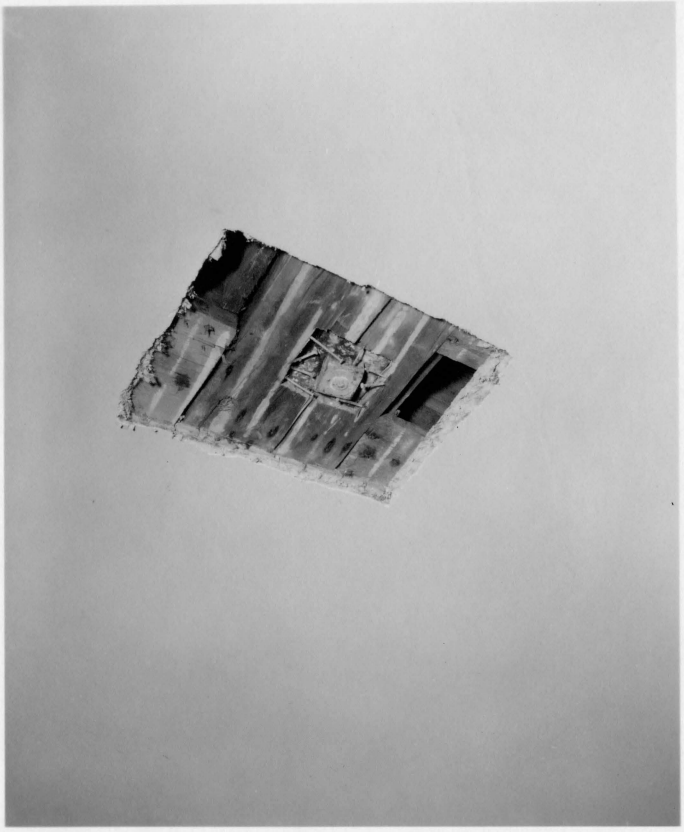


ILLUSTRATION NO. 34

East Wing, third floor, north room, looking west. The partition and the lower section of the book-cases were installed in 1829. The different construction details of the upper section indicate it may have been added in the 1880's and may have been partly responsible for the installation of the iron rod. Note on the ceiling the juxtaposition of the wire of the mechanical call bell system and the tube of the fire alarm system which goes through the wall into the closet.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams

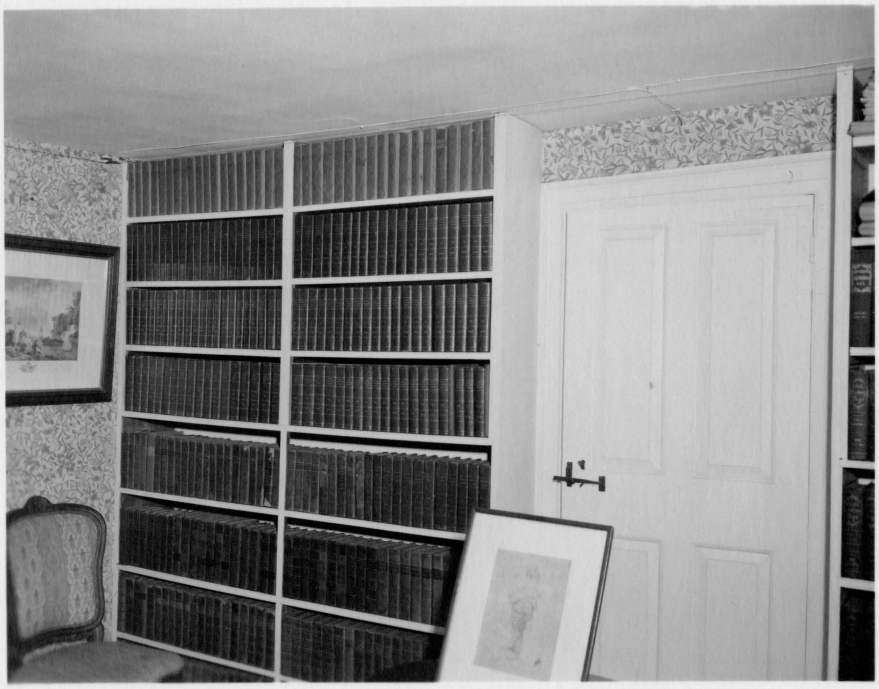


ILLUSTRATION NO. 35

East Wing, attic, looking north. The lath straps, which should be fastened tight to the horizontal timber which can be seen in the center of the photograph as they are to the one visible in the foreground, have come loose and have sagged about 1" below the timber. The roof sheathing boards and some of the purlins date from 1950, but the rest of the framing is original.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., January, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 36

East Wing, third floor, southeast room, looking northeast. The wallpaper in various parts of the room was found to be in poor condition. Floor boards were raised so that the major framing members could be examined. Note at the right the half dovetail by which the timbers were joined.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., February, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 37

East Wing, third floor, southeast room, looking northeast. This photograph was taken from approximately the same position as Illustration No. 36 to show the wallpaper reglued and the floor boards refastened. Insofar as possible the early nails and nail holes were reused.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., March, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 38

East Wing, second floor, looking north into northeast closet. The Brussels carpet-type painted floor cloth on the floor dates from the middle of the nineteenth century. The outline of the chest of drawers which stood in the closet during Brooks Adams' time can be seen on the wall. It had to be moved when the air duct was put in. The shelves were installed to replace the chest.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 39

East Wing, first floor closet, looking east. The air supply ducts for the first and second floors cut the closet in half. The linoleum was laid down by the Superintendent as a temporary measure because the floor was in such poor condition.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

Neg. on file at Adams

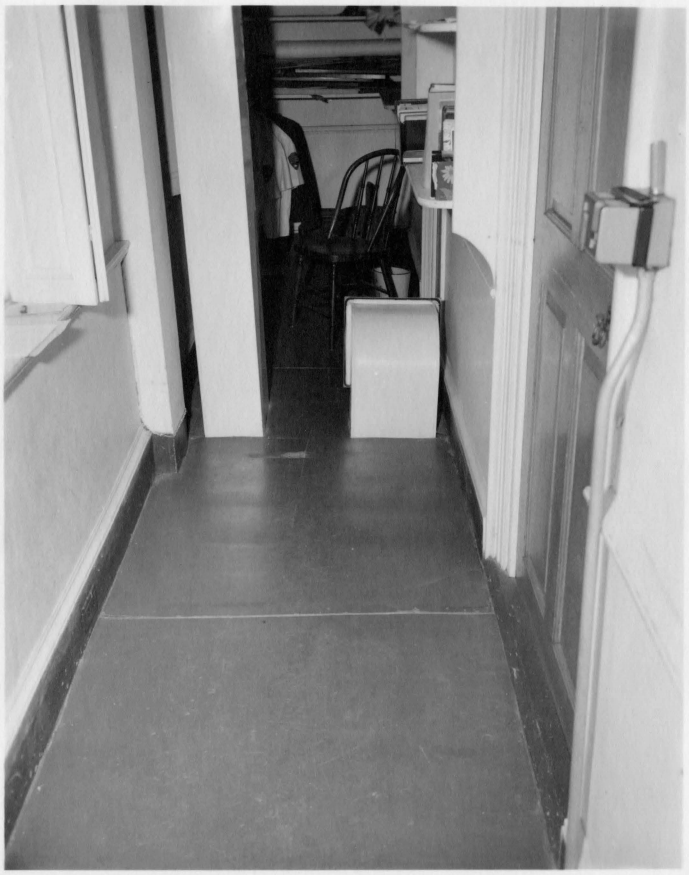


ILLUSTRATION NO. 40

East Wing, first floor closet, looking east. The poor condition of the finish floor boards in the closet can be seen. These probably date from the construction of the wing and were relaid in 1852 when new floors and framing were put in. The row of nail holes towards the right side of the closet bear no relation to the joists now in place below the floor.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., August, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 41

East Wing, basement, looking north up at closet subfloor. The subfloor boards of the closet are in poor condition. The row of nail holes which can be seen from above in Illustration No. 40 are visible here from below between the two single joists. The boards end under the closet partition.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., February, 1964

Neg. on file at Adams



ILLUSTRATION NO. 42

East Wing, first floor hall, looking northeast. The poor condition of the dark green linoleum which was installed in 1906 can be seen. The marks near the door were made by a heavy display case belonging to the Adams Memorial Society which had to be frequently moved for access to the doors. The register was one of two in the hall which served a furnace installed in the basement of the wing by Brooks Adams in the first decade of the twentieth century.

Photo: National Park Service
George M. Cushing, Jr., December, 1963

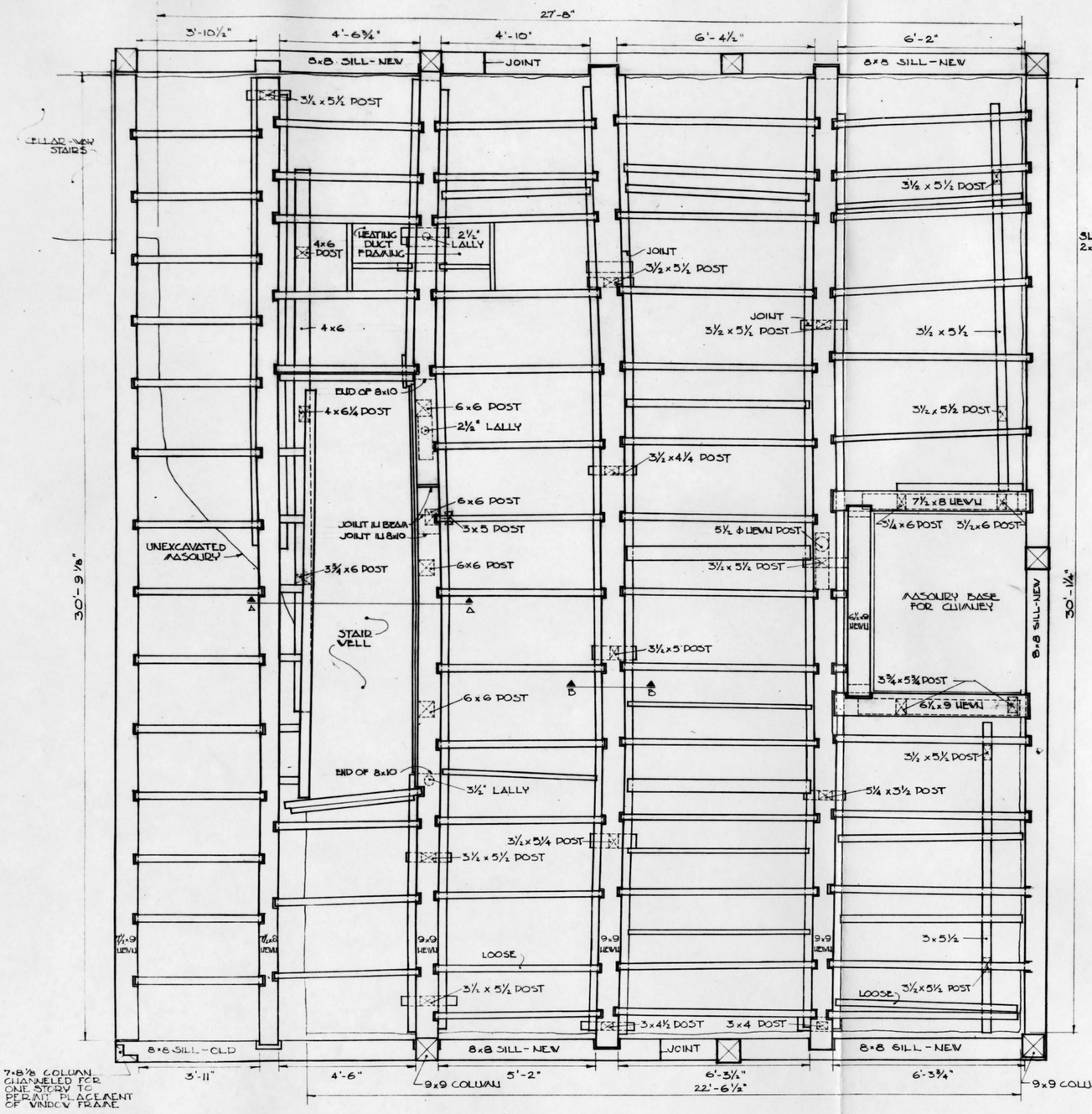
Neg. on file at Adams



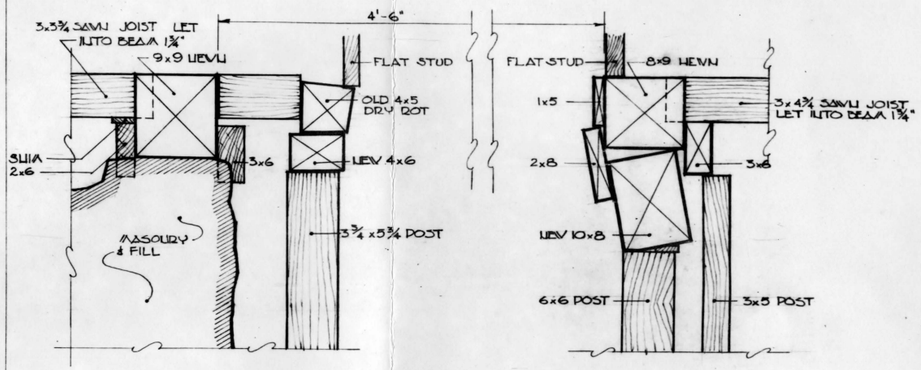
ILLUSTRATION NOS. 43, 44, 45, 46

East Wing, first, second and third floor framing plans and details and second floor hall framing plan and sections. These plans show existing conditions.

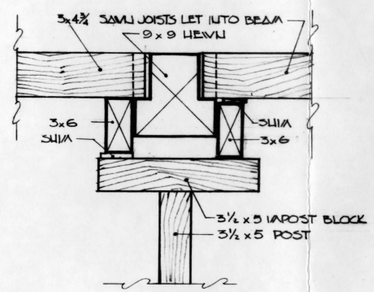
First floor plan drawn by Thomas Frost, May, 1964
Second and third floor and second floor hall plans drawn by Student Assistant Architect C. Gene Spurgeon, July and August, 1964.



FIRST FLOOR FRAMING PLAN
SCALE - ½" = 1'-0"



SECTION A-A
SCALE - 1½" = 1'-0"



SECTION B-B
SCALE - 1½" = 1'-0"

NOTE

NINETEENTH CENTURY FRAMING -
- INCLUDES HEWN BEAMS @ 9×9 AV.
- SAWN JOISTS 2¾×4 - 3×5¾ LET 1¾" INTO BEAMS, C. 1'-6" O.C. AND IN POOR CONDITION DUE DRY ROT.
- SILLS DETERIORATED DUE TO DRY ROT, REPLACED 1963-'64 BY 8×8 SILL

C. 1900 SHORING,
INCLUDES TILT 8×10 IN STAIR FRAMING

1948 SHORING
- INCLUDES 3×6 MEMBERS NAILED TO 19TH C. BEAMS, INTENDED TO SUPPORT 19TH C. JOISTS & ADDITIONAL 1948 JOISTS.
- SAWN POSTS & IMPOST BLOCKS.

ORIENTATION

PREPARED	
T. FROST	
DESIGNED	
T. FROST	
DRAWN	
G. VIDELIN	
CHECKED	

MARK	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	DATE	INITIAL
	REVISED		

SCALE AS NOTED

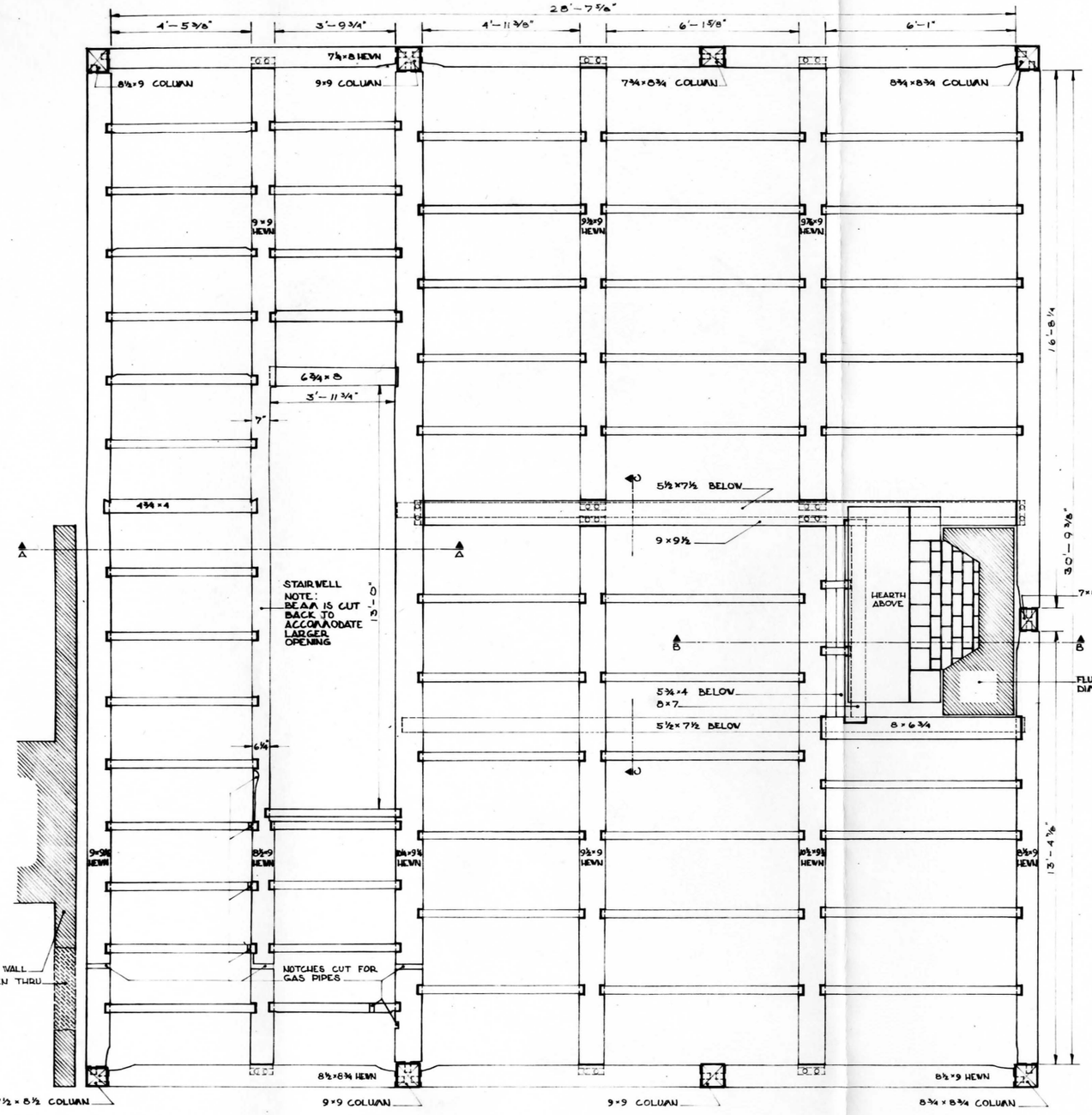
RECOMMENDED
DATE
APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY EASTERN OFFICE

FRAMING PLAN - FIRST FLOOR - EAST WING
TITLE OF DRAWING
ADAMS MANSION
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
NAME OF PARK

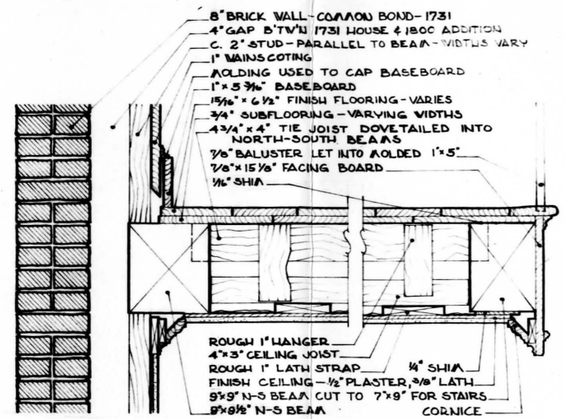
REGION NORTHEAST
PCP NO. B-6
SHEET 1 OF 3
DRAWING NO. 1115-ADA 3006
DATE 8/17/64

BASIC DATA LOCATION - NORFOLK COUNTY, QUINCY, MASS.



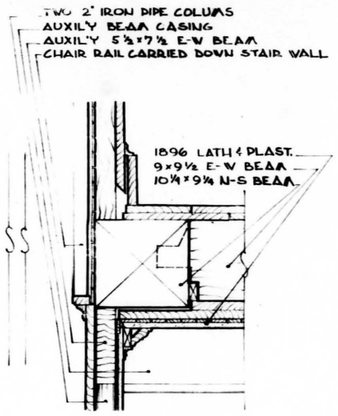
SECOND FLOOR FRAMING PLAN

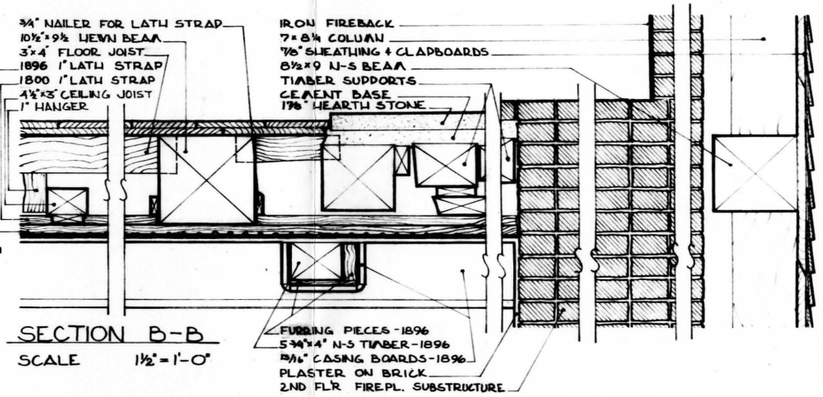
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SECTION A-A

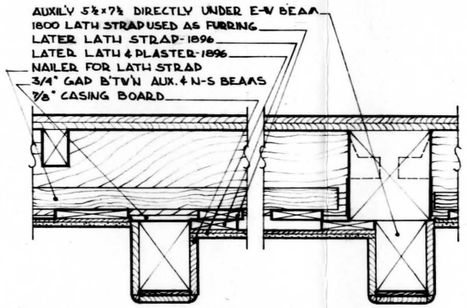
SCALE 1½"=1'-0"





SECTION B-B

SCALE 1½"=1'-0"



SECTION C-C

SCALE 1½"=1'-0"

ORIENTATION

PREPARED	G SPURGEON
DESIGNED	G SPURGEON
DRAWN	G L WRENN
CHECKED	

SCALE AS NOTED

MARK	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	DATE	INITIAL

REVISED

RECOMMENDED

DATE

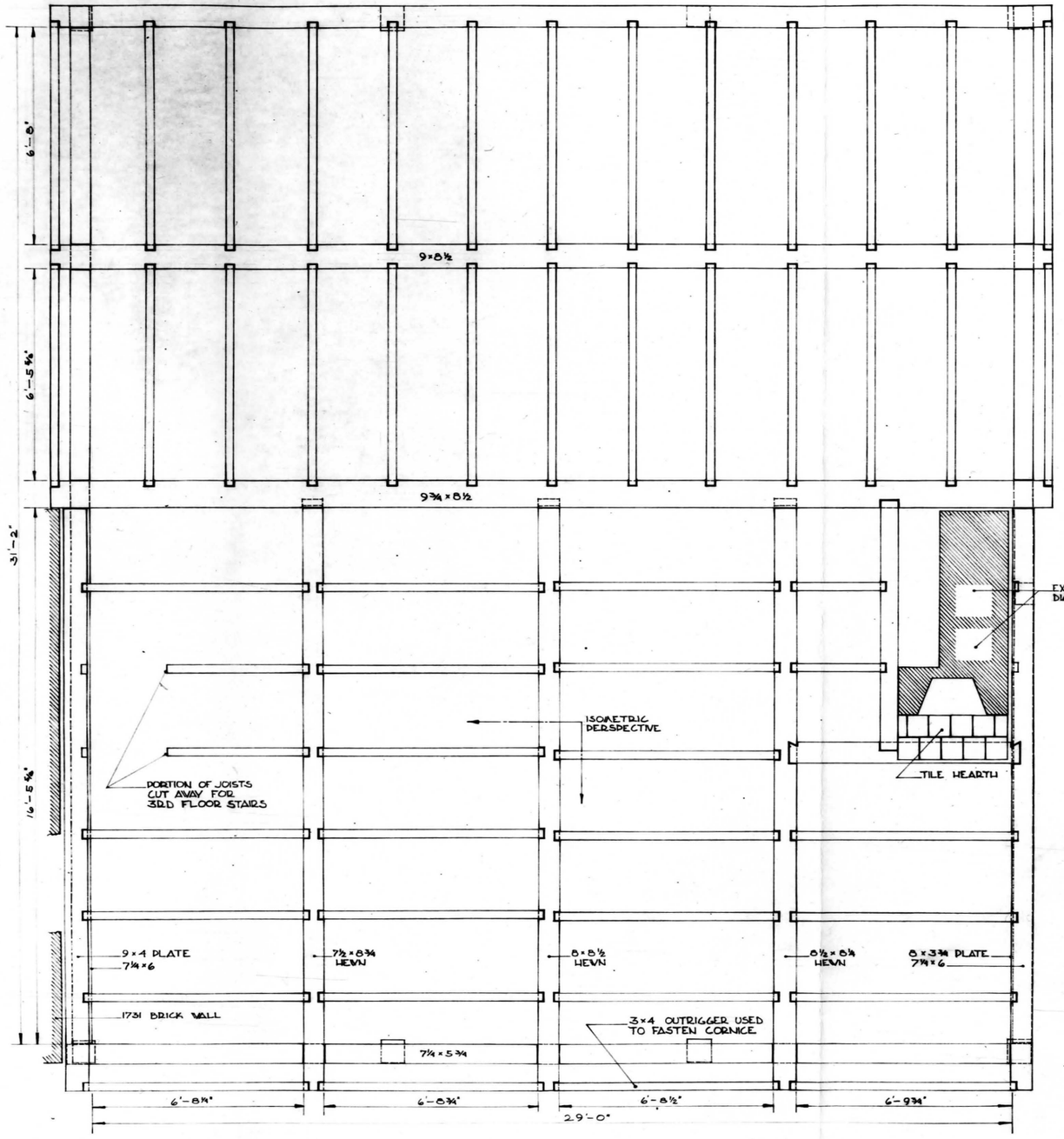
APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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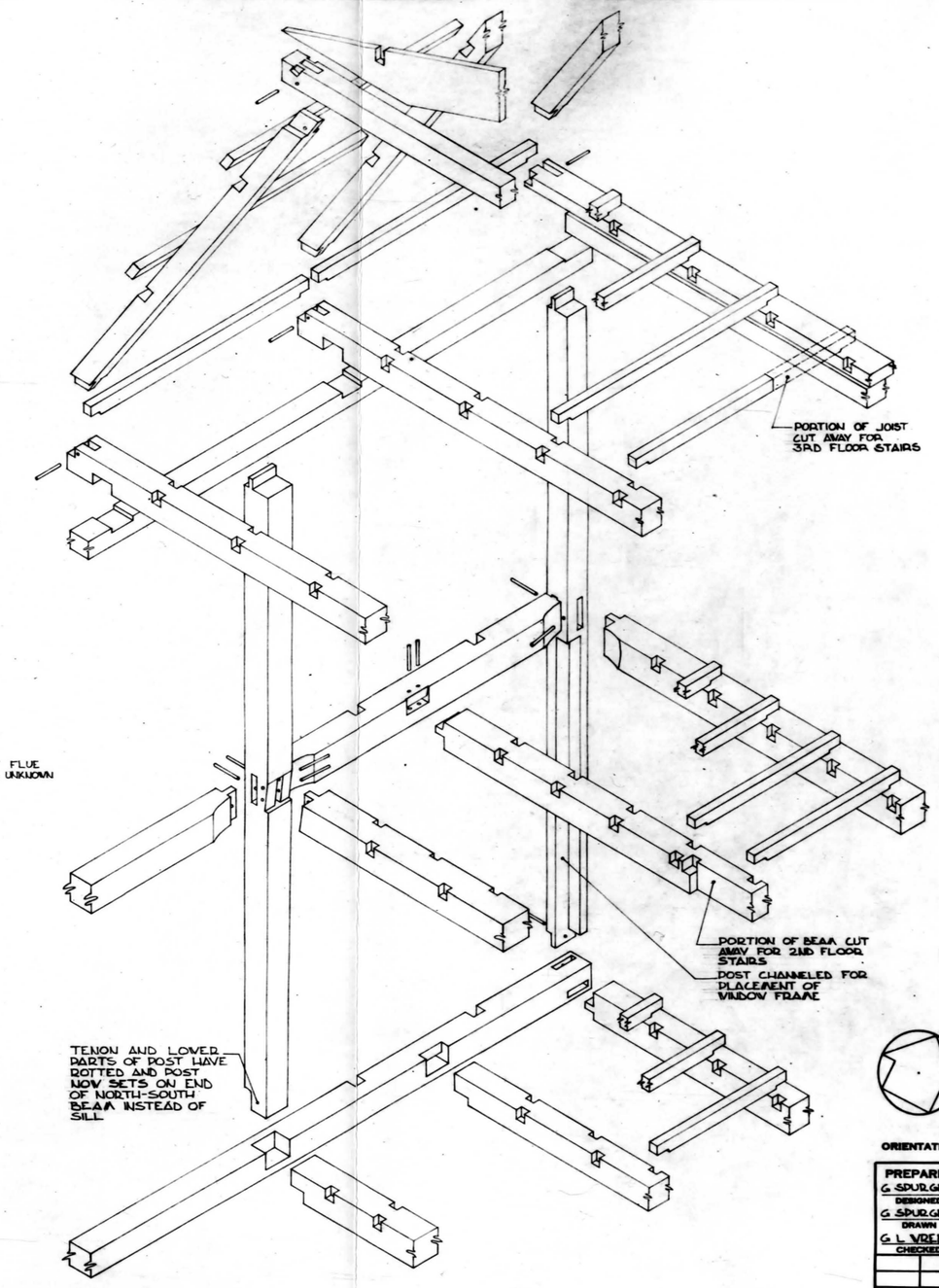
FRAMING PLAN - SECOND FLOOR - EAST WING
TITLE OF DRAWING
ADAMS MANSION
LOCATION WITHIN PARK
ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
NAME OF PARK

REGION	NORTHEAST
PCP NO.	B-6
SHEET 2 OF 3	
DRAWING NO.	NHS ADA 3006
DATE	8/19/64

BASIC DATA LOCATION- NORFOLK COUNTY, QUINCY, MASS.



THIRD FLOOR FRAMING PLAN



EXPLODED ISOMETRIC OF THE STRUCTURE @ S-V CORNER

SCALE ½" = 1'-0"

ORIENTATION

PREPARED	
G. SPURGEON	
DESIGNED	
G. SPURGEON	
DRAWN	
G. L. VRENN	
CHECKED	

MARK	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	DATE	INITIAL
	REVISED		

RECOMMENDED

DATE

APPROVED

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DIVISION OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PREPARED BY EASTERN OFFICE

FRAMING PLAN - THIRD FLOOR - EAST WING
TITLE OF DRAWING

ADAMS MANSION
LOCATION WITHIN PARK

ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
NAME OF PARK

REGION	
NORTHEAST	
PCP NO.	B-6
SHEET 3 OF 3	
DRAWING NO.	NHS-ADA 30.06
DATE	8/19/64

BASIC DATA LOCATION- NORFOLK COUNTY, QUINCY, MASS

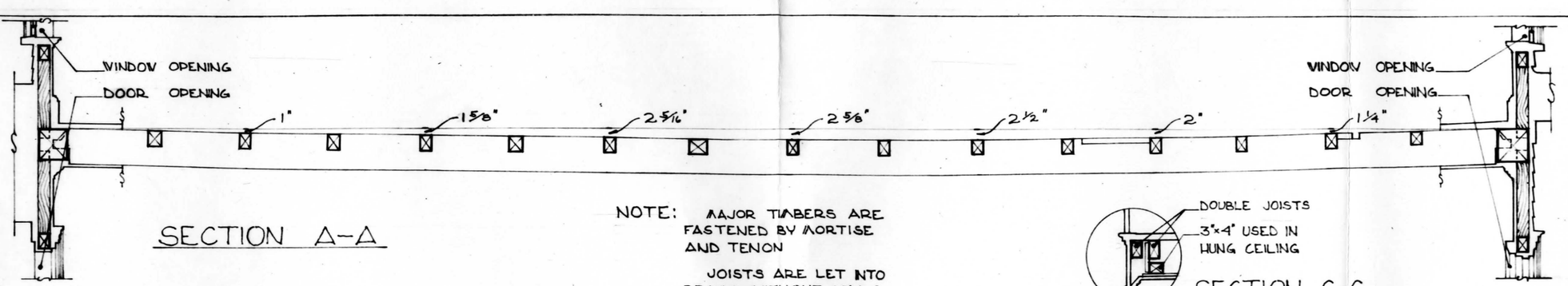
ADAMS

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS
THE "OLD HOUSE"
EAST WING-2ND FLOOR HALL

FRAMING PLAN

SCALE ½"=1'-0"

JULY 1964	C G SPURGEON - DEL GEORGE VRENN-ARCH

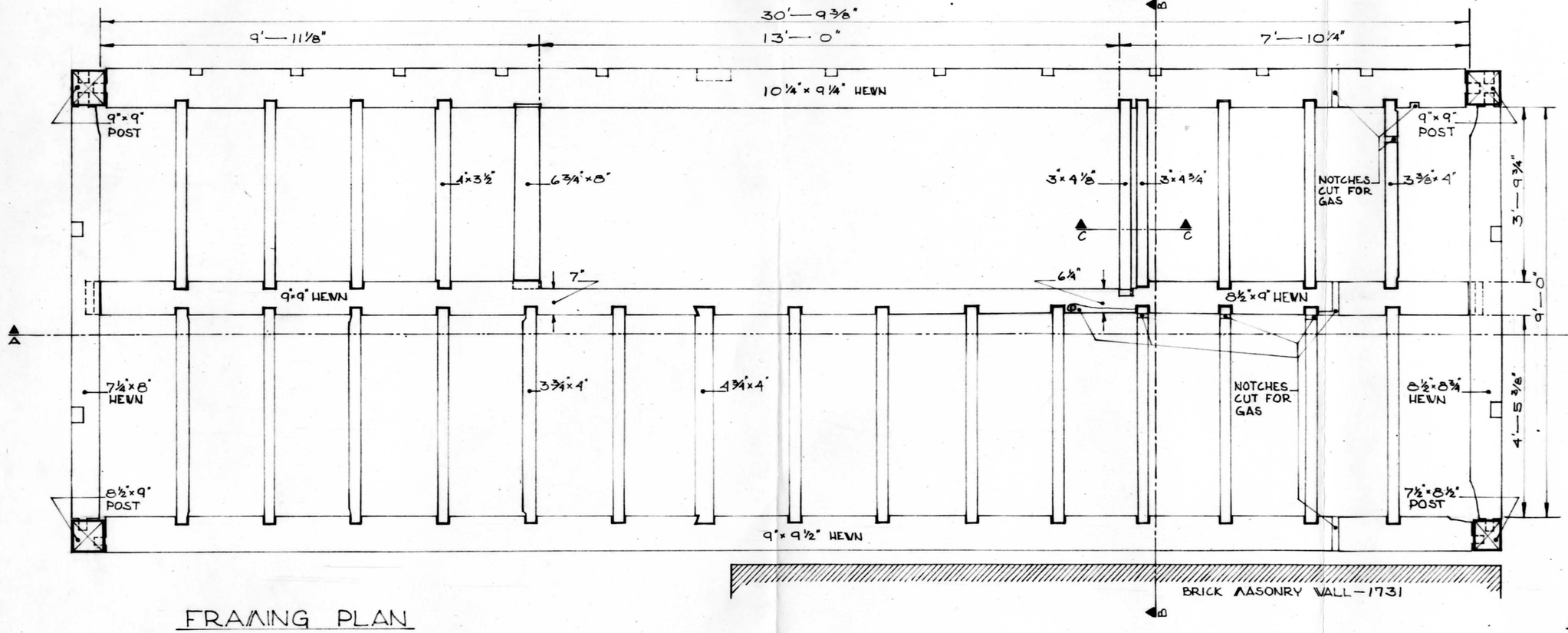


SECTION A-A

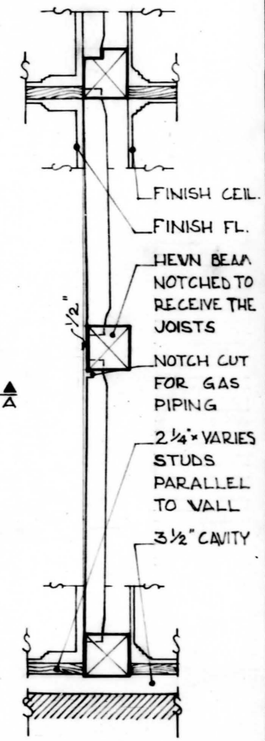
NOTE: MAJOR TIMBERS ARE FASTENED BY MORTISE AND TENON

JOISTS ARE LET INTO BEAMS WITHOUT NAILS

SECTION C-C



FRAMING PLAN



SECTION B-B

BASIC DATA

ILLUSTRATION NOS. 47, 48, 49, 50

Adams Mansion, basement, first, second and third floor plans.

Drawn by HABS student measuring team led by Professor Laurence Winterowd in the summer of 1956.

(A) ORIGINAL TIMBER FRAMING — 8½" x 11½" BEAM & C. 2⅜" x 5¼" JOISTS C. 16" O.C. BEAMS REMOVED FROM OLDER HOUSE & REUSED HERE. (B) TEMPORARY WOODEN COLUMNS & BEAMS ADDED AT VARIOUS TIMES TO SUPPORT FAILING OR INADEQUATE ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION. (C) ACCESS DOOR CUT IN 1954. (D) ORIGINAL FOUNDATION—STONE SET WITHOUT MORTAR. (E) ORIGINAL STOOP. (F) ORIGINAL TIMBER FRAMING (SOUTH OF 8¾" x 9½" BEAM) — C. 2¾" x 4½" JOISTS C. 20" O.C. & LATER C. 2" x 6" JOISTS C. 20" O.C. (NORTH). (G) HEAVY FOUNDATION HERE INDICATES LOCATION OF EARLY FIREPLACES. (H) BRICK VAULTS ON STONE FOOTINGS. LACK OF CONTINUITY IN SIDE VAULT CONSTRUCTION INDICATES A LATER CONSTRUCTION DATE THAN (G), SEE SHEET NO. 20. FOR ELEVATIONS. (J) ORIGINAL TIMBER FRAMING — C. 8" x 9" BEAMS, C. 6' 0" O.C. & C. 3" x 5" JOISTS, C. 24" O.C AS INDICATED. (K) PIAZZA SEE SHEET NO. 7. (L) ACCESS DOOR. (M) OPENING IN ORIGINAL OUTER WALL OF KITCHEN ADDITION. (N) FURNACES. (O) BASE OF ELEVATOR ADDED BY CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

SCALE IN FEET

SCALE IN METERS

1869 ADDITION

BEFORE 1787

1800 ADDITION

1836 ADDITION

ORIGINAL 1731 KITCHEN VASSALL HOUSE ADDITION

UNEXCAVATED

PARTIALLY EXCAVATED

ORIGINAL FOUNDATION

BRICK VAULT

ORIGINAL 1731 VASSALL HOUSE 1800 ADDITION

79'-10½"

BASEMENT PLAN AT 3/16" SCALE

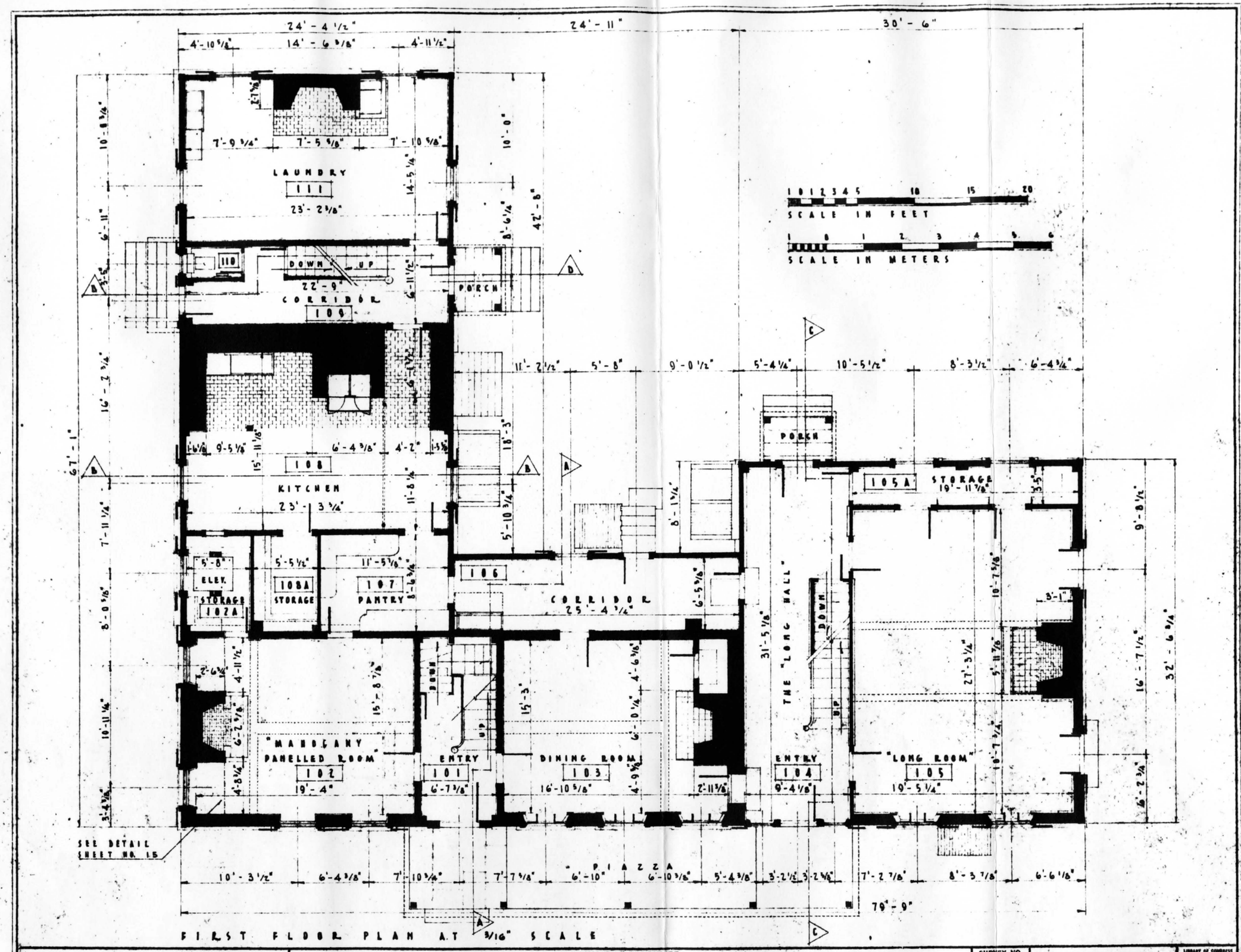
ROBERT SMITH, DEL. UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	NAME OF STRUCTURE: THE "OLD HOUSE"-ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 135 ADAMS STREET QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS	SURVEY NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 2 OF 26 SHEETS

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EODC PERMANENT PRINT



FIRST FLOOR PLAN AT 3/16" SCALE

ROBERT SMITH, DEL.
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE "OLD HOUSE," ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
135 ADAMS STREET QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

SURVEY NO.

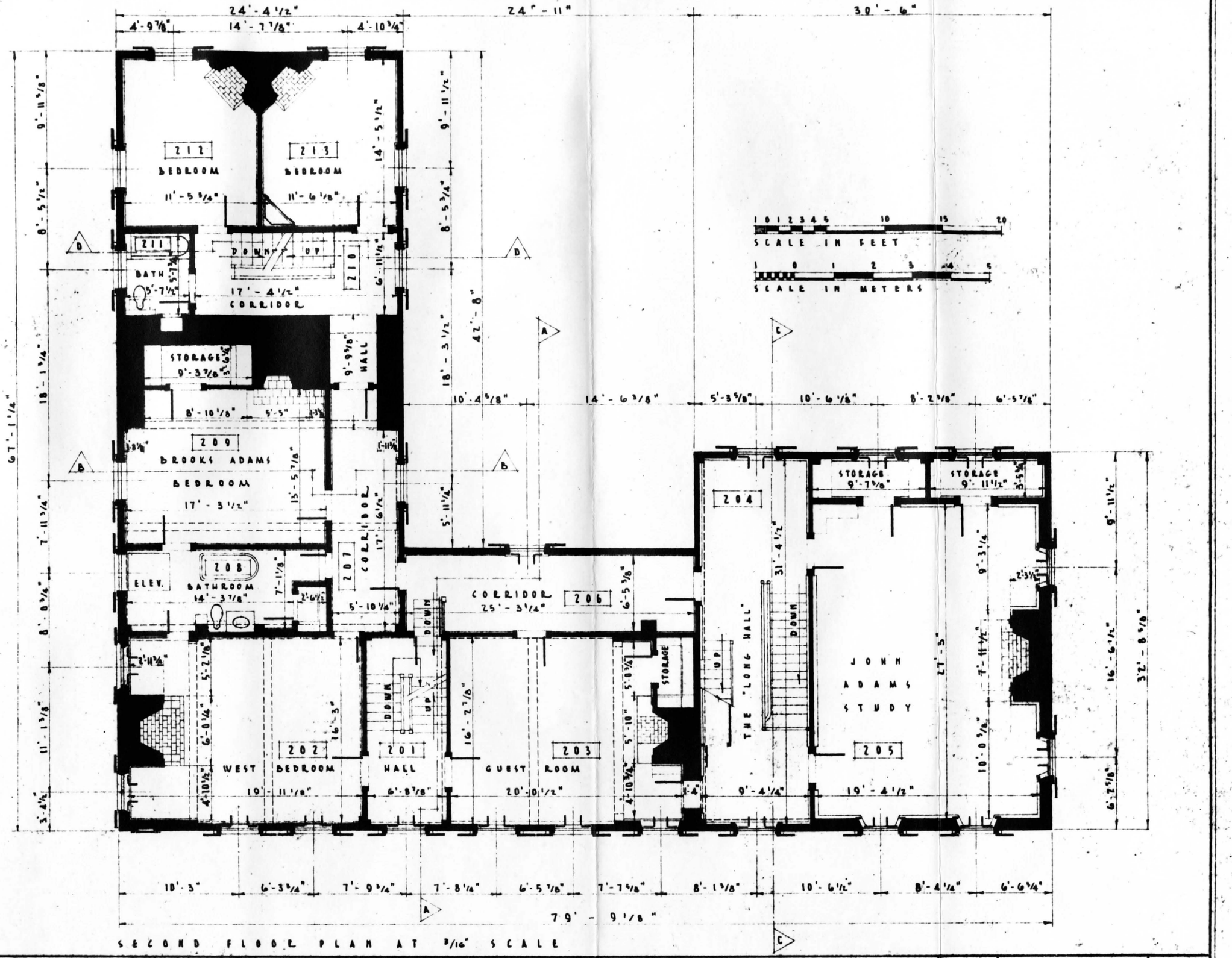
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 3 OF 26 SHEETS

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EODC RECORD PRINT



SECOND FLOOR PLAN AT 3/16" SCALE

HAROLD SAWYERS, DEL.
UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE "OLD HOUSE," ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
135 ADAMS STREET QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

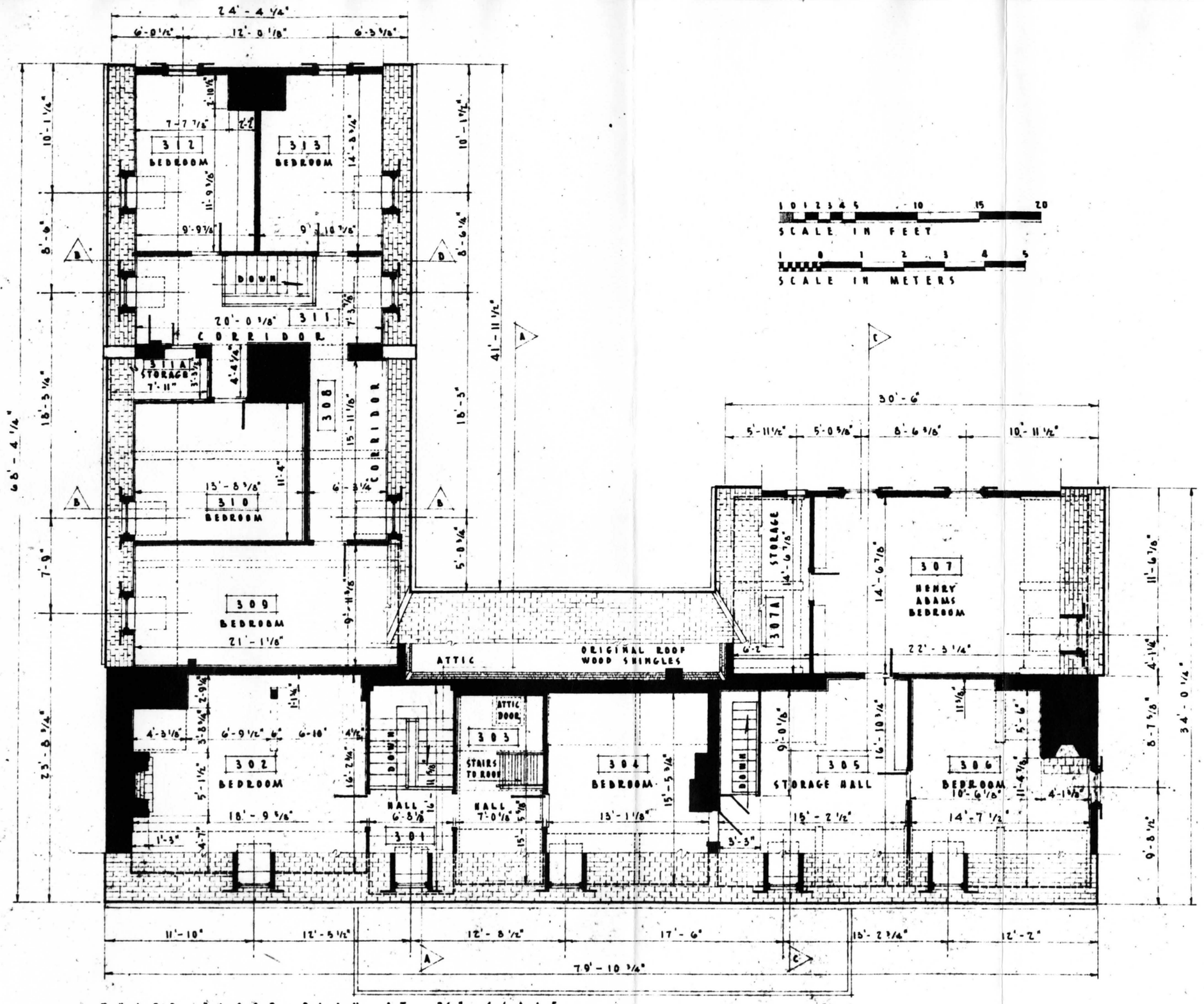
SURVEY NO.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 4 OF 26 SHEETS

NHS-ADA 3080

EODC RECORD PRINT

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THIRD FLOOR PLAN AT 3/16" SCALE

DONALD KIRK, DEL. UNDER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN	NAME OF STRUCTURE THE "OLD HOUSE," ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 135 ADAMS STREET QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS	SURVEY NO.	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 5 OF 26 SHEETS

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