

THE

ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Quincy, Massachusetts

ADAM 4

AUTHOR

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TITLE Furnishings Report of the
Old House

DATE

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THIS IS THE FURNISHINGS

REPORT

OF THE OLD HOUSE

THE ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

VOLUME IV

PREPARED BY

WILHELMINA S. HARRIS

SUPERINTENDENT

THE ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DATE: 1966 - 1968

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HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE STUDY

From the second floor east side of the Long Hallway are two doors leading into the Study. Like the Long Room below, the Study has four doors and four windows. The doors have beautiful brass locks with drop handles. The hinges are the "H and L" type. The two doors on the north side are opposite windows, thus affording the room a complete circulation of air. From the references of visitors to John Adams, it seems safe to say that the Study was used as a combination Study Bedroom in the summer¹ and the West Bedroom,² being warmer, was used as his bedroom in the winter. At his advanced age of ninety, it is natural that the Old President needed a bed close by to rest from time to time during the day.

In his will John Adams mentioned "Manuscript Letter Books, Account Books, Letters, Journals, and Manuscripts" stored in trunks in this room - also, he had papers in a "Bureau." This bureau, standing near the foot of his bed, had three large drawers, two small drawers, and two glass folding doors. Also, standing near the easterly window, was an Excritoire of checkered wood, having a writing desk, two folding doors beneath and a drawer above.³ There are two chairs in the Study associated with John Adams. One is the Wing Chair and the other is a desk chair. Both were probably in the room at the time of John Adams. The low candle holders

(1) Contained in an extract from The Will of John Adams.

(2) Anne Royall's visit in April of 1825, Vol. II, Report of The Old House, p. 120.

(3) Ibid.

which John Adams read by are also in the Study (1967).

It was in the Study that John Adams had long conversations with Edward Coles and John Coles during their two-day visit to the Old President in the summer of 1811.⁴ Their visit influenced the renewal of friendship with President Thomas Jefferson. In this room John Adams carried on a voluminous correspondence with Jefferson. This cycle of letters has been published and provides a great insight into the character of both Presidents.

On February 13, 1818 John Adams wrote to H. Niles a letter relating to the American Revolution. He stated: "This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments and affections of the people was the real American Revolution... Thirteen clocks were made to strike together - a perfection of mechanism, which no artist had ever before effected."

The historical events of July 4, 1826 are associated with this room. There was a gathering in Quincy celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the signing of The Declaration of Independence. A committee came to ask John Adams for a message which could be read at the celebration; seated in the Wing Chair, and in his own hand he wrote, "I will give you, Independence Forever." When he was asked if he had something more to add, John Adams replied, "Not a word." This then was his last message to his beloved United States; and at the time the celebrations of the nation

(4) Randall, Life of Thomas Jefferson, Vol. III, pp. 639-640.

were taking place, John Adams' spirit was slipping away.

Upon the death of John Adams in 1826, John Quincy Adams inherited the Old House. It had been the residence of his brother, Thomas Boylston Adams, during the declining years of John Adams, and he was asked to remain in the house. John Quincy Adams did not use the Old House except for brief visits. After his retirement in 1829, he returned to Quincy and took up residence in the Old House. Just as his father had done, he used the Study as a study-bedchamber. On September 12, 1829 he entered in his diary:

"...Josiah Adams jun^r was here this afternoon, and I spoke to him to put up Book cases in the house where I now reside, in my bedchamber. I have a Library packed up in Trunks and Boxes in Boston, of which I have scarcely ever had the use and which I have now no place for putting up. I intended to have built a house for that purpose, but find myself destitute of the means. My next design was to build in my yard a small office of Stone, which I might use for a Library and Study; but even this must be postponed for the present. I have determined to turn my Bed chamber to those uses and before incurring any expenses which must prove burdensome, to cling to the fragment of the wreck left me, and await the final dispensations of Providence concerning me and my family, I engaged Mr. Adams to procure 1000 feet of Pine boards, and to fit up Book cases all round my bed chamber. I also desired him to examine the house, and report to me such repairs as may be necessary to put it in good tenantable condition. He is to commence upon the work in the course of the next week..."

This installation required about four weeks. On October 1, 1829 he wrote in his diary that:

"...Mr. Litchfield the Mason, at work in my chamber, reducing the fireplace; and Mr. Mills, the Painter, painting my book shelves..."

On October 3, 1829 he wrote to Charles Francis Adams:

"Forty-three boxes and trunks of books have arrived and are

now in my yard or under the Wood-Shed. My bed-chamber is walled with bookshelves, upon which Mr. Mills is this day applying a second Coat of Paint."

On October 6, 1829 John Quincy Adams wrote to Louisa Catherine Adams:

"...I have had my bed-chamber fitted up for a library room and Study, reserving the middle and western chambers at your option for our common bed-chamber next Summer."

John Quincy Adams began to work with regularity upon his father's papers and his own books. On October 17, 1829 he wrote in his Diary:

"I was occupied all day, in examining my own papers, and the Title Deeds of my father's Estate; and in unpacking and putting up my books; a work which seems to be lengthening as I go - My Library is l'embarras des Richesses. I have been half a century, as greedy of books as Hallus was of the Salmon's belly. No such Library exists in the hands of any other individual in the United States; but I have never had the enjoyment of it; nor can I expect to have it now or here after for the remnant of my days."

Later in December of the same year, books had over-crowded the shelves and tables necessitating a small hanging bookcase on the south side of the fireplace as well as shelves over the doors.

We do not have a clear record of the type of furniture in this room except John Adams' Excritoire, the Highboy, the Wing Chair, and his Desk Chair. John Quincy Adams added his own Desk Chair, the Rocking Chair and the Celestial Globe and the Terrestrial Globe. Unlike the candle-light used by John Adams, his son used a lamp. On November 25, 1830 he wrote in his Diary:

"In the afternoon I was obliged to darken my chamber by shutting the blinds of my eastern windows and to light a lamp before 4 o'clock."⁵

(5) Diary of John Quincy Adams, MHS, Microfilm-Reel No. 41.

That the sixth President was a kindly scholar can be gleaned from his two grandsons, Charles and Henry Adams. In the Autobiography of Charles Francis Adams, Jr. he writes:

"As to my grandfather, he was during the whole period I remember him an old man, absorbed in work and public life. He seemed to be always writing - as, indeed, he was. I can see him now, seated at his table in the middle of the large east room, which he used as a library, a very old-looking gentleman, with a bald head and white fringe of hair - writing, writing - with a perpetual ink-stain on the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand. He was kind and considerate to his grandchildren, and seemed to like to have us in that library of his, walled in with over-loaded bookshelves; but his was not a holiday temperament..."⁶

In the Education of Henry Adams he gave his impression of his grandfather:

"We hung about the library; handled the books; deranged the papers, ransacked the drawers, searched the old purses and pocket-books for foreign coins; drew the sword-cane; snapped the travelling pistols; upset everything in the corners, and penetrated the President's dressing closet where a row of tumblers, inverted on the shelf covered caterpillars which were supposed to become moths or butterflies, but never did."⁷

Also Henry Adams remembered that John Quincy Adams rose early in the morning to light a fire in the fireplace. The sixth President used flint and steel with which to light the fire. After lighting the fire, the flint and steel were placed upon the mantelpiece to await the next occasion.

After the death of John Quincy Adams in 1848, his son Charles Francis Adams inherited the house and kept this room as a Study just as his father had done. Books were a great concern to Charles Francis. In

(6) Autobiography of Charles Francis Adams, Jr. p. 9.

(7) Henry Adams, Education of Henry Adams, p. 14.

the 1830's in a number of places in his Diary he mentioned, "Return + Quincy pursued my catalog and made a finish of the mass of books in the Study." Again in July of 1830 he entered in his Diary that he had begun an alphabetical arrangement of the books. Later on in the month he was working in the Study on the catalog. He and his father worked together in the Study many summer evenings and had a great exchange of literary comment upon the books. On Wednesday, March 8, 1848 he wrote:

"...I then went into the study in order to look over the papers, left there, and to pick out such as were portable in order to put them in a place of safety. A profound feeling of melancholy came over me as I looked over the various little things which were in familiar use with him, and for which he was peculiar among men. The day is gone from that Mansion and it now remains only a history..."⁸

On many occasions Charles Francis Adams passed the afternoons in the Study looking over his grandfather's papers and sorting out such books that were to go to the City of Quincy. Later in June, 1861 Charles Francis decided that the books should be recataloged to make them more useful.

In his father's will were instructions that a separate building be erected for his large library and in 1870 this was accomplished. Upon completion of the Stone Library, Charles Francis Adams moved the books from the Study into the new building, after which he removed all the shelves from around the Study walls. He continued to use the Study, however, as a place for reading and writing in the evening part of the day. It was

(8) Diary of Charles Francis Adams, MHS, Microfilm-Reel No. 69.

also the custom when entertaining visitors for the men to gather in the Study upstairs after dinner and leave the ladies in the Drawing Room below.

We have no indication that Charles Francis Adams added any furniture to this room. Probably he was contented to have a less cluttered Study using only his father's and grandfather's furnishings.

After Charles Francis Adams' death in 1886, the responsibility of the house by 1891 had passed to Brooks Adams. There were some changes made in the appearance of this room. The old wallpaper was removed between 1905 and 1909, and the gold cloth Japanese paper which is on the wall (1968) was installed. Brooks Adams had a great desire to keep this room as it was when used by the two Presidents and his father, the Ambassador.

Brooks Adams set about to establish the house as a museum and solicited items from various members of the family. I think it is safe to say that he was expecting that his brother Henry would give only family items such as the mantel clock which John Quincy Adams had brought to America in 1817. Brooks Adams was really looking for historic objects belonging to the family. However, in 1912 Henry Adams ordered the contents of his Paris apartment shipped to Quincy and Brooks Adams found himself with a lot of French furniture. He wanted to preserve his brother's things and reluctantly set aside the Study as the room most adequate to hold them. It was well that Mr. Adams made this decision, for

on March 28, 1912 a large number of Henry's books arrived from Paris. Brooks Adams installed these books in the closet off the Study where they are still preserved (1967).

From 1920-27 the writer was very familiar with this room. It was used as a study for Brooks Adams in the evening and also during days when it seemed more pleasant than the Library.

Except for the Excritoire, the Highboy and the Wing Chair used by John Adams and the two Desk Chairs used by the second and sixth Presidents, the room was entirely furnished in items belonging to Henry Adams. On the West were two Commodes with marble tops. In the middle, between these two Commodes, was another cabinet with two drawers which Brooks Adams called the Sideboard. They are very handsome pieces with bronze mounts. In the center of the room was a French desk. In travel this desk had been considerably damaged and a cabinetmaker by the name of Fagen practically rebuilt it. On October 14, 1912 Brooks Adams wrote to Henry:

"I have just come home from inspecting your desk, which is finished, except for the leather, which is now going on. I think it very handsome. It is in two rosewoods, dark and light. Fagen says the dark is French, the light American. I set the date of the desk as not later than 1725, or the intermediate period between the regency and the reign. This is the date of this house, and before American woods were freely used in Europe. Fagen may be right, but it is curious. The edge of the desk is of a wood which Fagen did not know, and whose name I cannot learn. It is of a singularly striking grain, but was either stained black or blackened by age and dirt so that it's beauty was concealed. The man who made the desk intended a strong effect - and I think he got it. Taken altogether it is rich and mellow and, finished as Fagen finishes, lustrous...."⁹

(9) Correspondence of B. A. to H. A., Houghton Library, Harvard.

There were also two very richly upholstered French chairs with footstools to match. Brooks Adams kept these chairs at each end of Henry's table.¹⁰ As Brooks Adams had written on October 22, 1912:

"...These pieces were meant for some palace. I think these must have been made in 1700."¹¹

In Paris Henry Adams had noticed that many of the French homes had portraits of their forebears; therefore, he went to an art gallery in Paris and bought five portraits selected to his taste. There was one portrait hanging on the south wall which looked very much like a laborer, and in the "Henry Adams wit" he used to tell his friends that this gentleman was the first generation. Two other portraits showing more aristocratic features were the second generation and finally, there were two portraits in real Gainsboro style completing the cycle of refinement and culture. Henry Adams used to amuse his French friends by saying that these portraits showed the evolution of aristocracy.

On the bookcases in the northwest corner of the study were two vases which Henry Adams thought to be Sevres but which now are said by ceramic authorities to be Worcester.

Mark Anthony DeWolfe Howe remarked upon his visit to the Old House in 1952:¹²

"...that from 1787 to 1928, a span of one hundred and forty

(10) After the death of Brooks Adams, the writer happened to see these two chairs at the home of Charles Francis Adams, 177 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

(11) Correspondence of B. A. to H. A., Houghton Library, Harvard.

(12) Howe & Chamberlain, Who Lived Here? p. 12.

years, it provided the setting for personalities and intellectual activities of a scope and value that has been seen to set it quite apart from any other house in America."

After the death of Brooks Adams, the Adams Memorial Society removed the portraits, the elaborate marble-topped Bombé Chests, and the two large red Chairs. Perhaps the room now appears more as it did in 1905 when Brooks Adams began the preparation of the house to be open to the public. Unfortunately, the large Oriental Rug which covered the center of the room was removed in 1927. It is the opinion of the writer that the Adams Memorial Society acted wisely when they restored the appearance of the room to the time of the two Presidents.

The Study has the original wallpaper which was put on by Brooks Adams. Reproduction of this wallpaper by the silk screen process is on order (1969). When the paper has to be changed, the character of the room will be better preserved if the wallpaper reproduced by the silk screen method is used.

Great care has been exercised by the National Park Service to keep this room as it was when it was accepted from the Adams Memorial Society. Any change in the appearance of this room should only be done if approved by the members of the Adams family.

The visitors are not allowed in this room. When the room was rehabilitated in 1964-1965, the floor was not reinforced sufficiently to allow visitors within the room. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT THING FOR THE PERSONNEL TO REMEMBER.

ILLUSTRATION 183

Title: General View of the North Side of the Study

Date: 1967

Description: In front of each door on the north side are Hepplewhite style chairs; between the two doors is a chest on chest; in the northeast corner is the Excritoire; in the center of the room is the desk from Henry Adams' Paris apartment; near the door is the Rocking Chair brought from Washington by President John Quincy Adams; near the fireplace is one of the Globes belonging to John Quincy Adams; and in front of the desk is the chair used by John Quincy Adams.





ILLUSTRATION 184

Title: Hamadan Rug
Date: c. 1840-1850
Description: Same as Illustration 209.
Size: Length - 6' 8", Width - 3' 4".
Reference: Same as Illustration 209.



ILLUSTRATION 185

Title: Chest on Chest

Date: 1765-1785

Description: This Chippendale style mahogany Chest on Chest has pine as the secondary wood. The upper case has fine graduated drawers with a bead surround on the frame. There is a small molding below the scroll top which is opened centered with three finials and plinths. The lower section has four graduated drawers with a finished top with rounded edges. It has bracket feet. The brasses are of triple pine-tree shape.
Size: Height - 85 1/2", Width - 40 1/2", Depth - 21".

Reference: This piece of furniture belonged to John and Abigail Adams. Upon the death of John Adams, it passed to his son, Thomas Boylston Adams, then to his daughter, Elizabeth Adams. The entire family had a great love for Miss Elizabeth Adams known to all of them as Cousin Lizzie.

On February 16, 1857 Charles Francis Adams wrote in his Diary:

"...Miss Elizabeth C. Adams left us to go to New York, where she is to spend the remainder of the winter. She is without exception the most agreeable inmate of a house I ever met with. I always regret her departure. ..."

Upon Elizabeth's death, the chest passed to Charles Francis Adams, III and finally returned to the Old House as a gift by Mr. Charles Francis Adams, IV and his sister, Mrs. Henry Sturgis Morgan. From time to time it has had some repair though for the most part it is original.

Mrs. Charles Francis Adams, III kept the brasses polished. Since it was the custom at the Old House not to polish the brasses because it might give an air of affluence, the National Park Service has allowed these brasses to be less sparkling to harmonize with the brasses on the Highboy in the opposite end of the room.



ILLUSTRATION 186

- Title: Armchair
- Date: 1785-1795
- Description: This armchair is mahogany in Hepplewhite style. The stiles are molded, as is the bowed top rail which has a small floret at each side. The splat is pierced with a small transverse fluted panel in the center. The seat is upholstered over the rails in leather and tacked with one row of brass tacks. The serpentine arms of this chair have an undulating support which carries them into the seat. The front legs are tapered, the rear legs are out-curving. The underframing is beech. Size: Height - 28", Width - 24", Depth - 19 1/4".
- Reference: This armchair is part of a set and is attributed to John and Abigail Adams. There is no evidence to doubt this tradition.



ILLUSTRATION 187

Title: Secretary (Excritoire)

Date: 1775

Description: This Secretary or Excritoire is made of oak, veneered in various types of wood such as: satinwood; rosewood; tulipwood and ebony. The woods are inlaid in the form of a quatrefoil and other geometric designs. The corners are cut front and inlaid with lines of dark and light wood. At the top of the Excritoire is a long drawer with the original brass pulls. When opened the fall front forms a spacious writing desk. On each side of the interior are three small drawers and three open spaces for letters, stationery and ink. Below are two folding doors and when opened disclose one long drawer across the upper half, and the lower half is divided into an open space and two smaller drawers. The sides have diamond inlays. Size: Height - 58 3/4", Width - 21 1/2", Depth - 41 1/16".

Reference: This beautiful and interesting piece of furniture belonged to John Adams and was bought by him in France about 1784. According to our records, it has always been where it is now (1967), that is, in the northeast corner of the Study. The inventory shows that it was brought to America when the Adams family returned here in 1788.

Mr. Richard Randall, Director of the Walters Gallery, examined the chest and found:

"In the case under the top drawer are several pencil sketches of honeysuckle design, and an inscribed name, SCHLo-z or SCHE-ze. The name might be Schey for Fidelis Schey (master 1777), and one example of his work has a drawer inlaid like the top drawer here. The style, however, was widely used and the trellis marquetry was particularly popular with Oeben and his followers."

ILLUSTRATION 188

Title: Chest

Date: c. 1870

Description: This Chest is richly carved and is made of oak. It was probably made in England and is a reproduction of the 17th century chests.

Reference: It is known that Charles Francis Adams admired the Jacobian Period and, like the hand carved oak chest on the first floor in the Long Hall, was probably brought from England to the Old House when Charles Francis Adams returned in 1868.



ILLUSTRATION 189

Title: General View of the East Side of the Study

Date: 1967

Description: This view shows the Table Desk, John Quincy Adams' Chair, the Fireplace, the Clock which John Quincy Adams brought to America in 1817, two Hepplewhite Chairs, the Table in the corner which will be described later, the Arm Chair in which John Adams was sitting when he was stricken and two important rugs. One also gets a glimpse of the Globes used by John Quincy Adams which will be described in later illustrations. The two small pictures on either side of the southeast window are of the house. The one over the chair was done by Malcom as the house appeared when John Adams bought it, and the one on the opposite side of the window is a drawing in 1828.

Although the general view of the room does not give a detailed picture of the Clock, it is an important item on the mantelpiece. The French Clock was given to Henry Adams by his grandfather and was returned to the house when Brooks Adams was collecting family items to furnish the house as a Museum. This French Ormolu Clock is of Empire design with porcelain dial supported by caryatids. The glass bell is the original and the Clock is set on a wooden base with wooden legs. Size: Height - 14 1/2", Base - 9" long.





ILLUSTRATION 190

Title: View of the Fire Jams and the Mantel

Date: 1800

Description: This view of the Fireplace shows the marble which Abigail Adams had cut at Philadelphia and shipped to Quincy in a trunk.

"by this vessel we propose to send the marble for the hearths and the sides and front of the chimney which I request may be made to conform to them. Mr. Bates is to make a mantel piece in both the rooms & the chimneys to be both alike for bigness - the sides of the Jams will also send which will be of Cast Iron. the backs you will provide..."¹³

Abigail Adams also wrote to Mrs. Cranch on May 3, 1800:

"Yesterday I sent some Trunks on Board a vessel with my Hearths and Jams. When they arrive and are to be put up, I will thank Mr. Cranch to be present with his advice. I would have the chimneys made to conform to them. I am much afraid of having the Chimneys contracted too small, which in a Room so large would look bad. I have mentioned to the Doctor the method in which I am told the Hearths & fronts must be put up. I will thank you when the Rooms new painted are quite dry to have the furniture replaced."¹⁴

Reference: The brass Andirons, Fenders and Tongs belonged to Abigail Adams.

(13) Adams Papers, Cotton Tufts to Abigail Adams, MHS, Microfilm-Reel No. 397.

(14) New Letters of Abigail Adams, p. 250.

ILLUSTRATION 191

Title: Looking down on the Desk. Personal Effects of each of the Adamases and as the Desk looked when it was used by Brooks Adams.

Date: 1927

Description: Beginning at the left hand side of the Desk, the book which is open is a facsimile of the Alabama Claims which Charles Francis Adams helped to negotiate. On the book are the glasses which were used by John Adams. At the top of this book are two nests of weights. These weights were made for John Quincy Adams when he was writing his Treatise on Weights and Measures. At the bottom of this book is the scales which were used by Mr. Brooks Adams and perhaps, earlier generations of the Adams family. The candlesticks and snuffers were John Adams' and was his only source of light for reading. The closed book on the blotter is a History of Quincy written by Charles Francis Adams 2d. This is a very rare book, only 80 copies were made, and this copy bears the mark #1. The larger pair of scissors are grape scissors and date back to the time of John Adams. The folding magnifying glass used by Brooks Adams is of mother-of-pearl. It was prized very highly by him. To the left of the mother-of-pearl magnifying glass is another pair of scissors, the history of which has been lost. The ink stand was Mr. Brooks Adams' and was one he brought back from his travels in the Middle East. The two paper cutters, one is metal and etched, the other is wood and beautifully carved, also came from the Middle East. The very simple white ivory letter opener was used by Brooks Adams each morning when he opened his mail. The small closed book on the far side of the blotter is a little Latin grammar which bears the inscription:

"This book of more value than a gold watch set with diamonds is presented to John Adams by his grandfather John Adams, March 30, 1819."

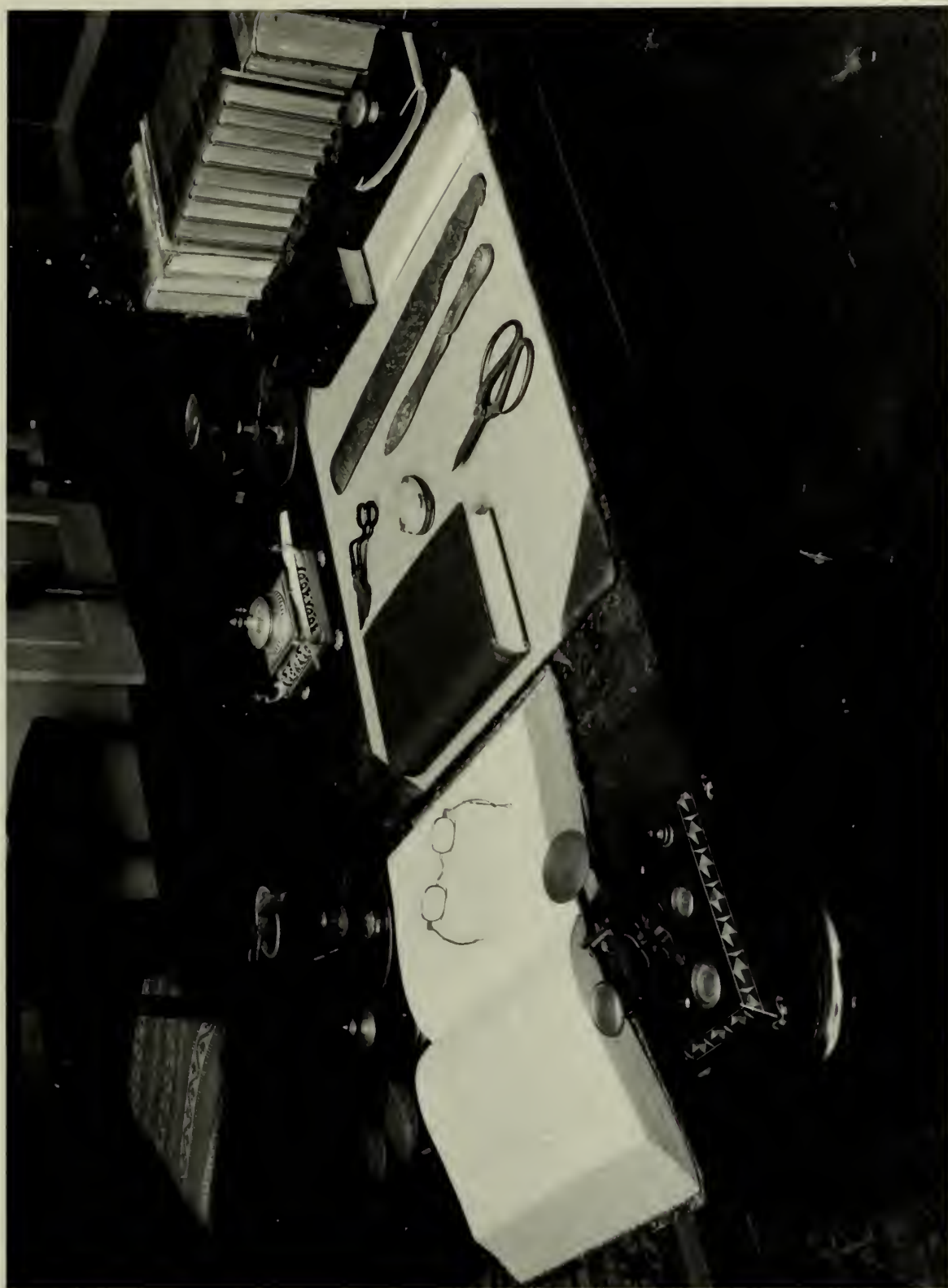


ILLUSTRATION 191 (Continued)

This book was returned to the Old House by Thomas Boylston Adams. The roller blotter was used by Brooks Adams. The books at the far side of the table were the books being read by Brooks Adams at the time of his death. The eight center volumes are Charles Dickens' works. Brooks Adams bought this new set just prior to his death because of the large print which he said was better for his eyes.



ILLUSTRATION 192

- Title:** Candlestand Mahogany Round Table
- Date:** 1765-1790
- Description:** This candlestand mahogany round Tray Top Table has a molded edge with club turned pedestal, three cabriole legs with plain (snake) feet, each of which has a central toe (or ridge) and a small pad. The lower edge of the leg and the pedestal is scalloped. The top originally tipped but has been made solid by the addition of a cleat and screwing the top to it. Size: Height - 25 1/2", Width and Diameter - 19 1/9".
- Reference:** This table is attributed to Abigail Adams. It had always been in the front of the south window near the chair John Adams collapsed in. The large dictionary has always been on it. When the tourists first began to pass the house going to Plymouth in the early twenties, Mr. Brooks Adams heard the bus driver (with one of those megaphones) telling the group that the large book in the window was the Adams' family Bible. Mr. Brooks Adams said he did not object to the public knowing that the Adamses did read their Bibles; but he thought it was too bad to spread false rumors, so he had the dictionary moved.
- Underneath this table is a very beautiful rug. A small portion of this rug is shown in this illustration which depicts the design a little more clearly than the illustration (199) which will show the rug in its entirety.



ILLUSTRATION 193

Title: Candlestand Mahogany Octagonal Top Table

Date: 1795-1815

Description: This small Candlestand Mahogany Octagonal Top Table has a club turned pedestal with three curved legs which terminate without feet. The top tips and there is a brass catch. One leg has been broken and repaired. Size: Height 28", Width - 21 7/8", Diameter - 16 3/4".

Reference: This table is attributed to Abigail Adams. Brooks Adams always kept his favorite books on the tables where he could reach them with the least effort. The same books have remained on the tables throughout the house largely due to the influence of Henry Adams, II who insisted that the type of books read by his uncle gave a better interpretation of his taste than a whole volume of description.

ILLUSTRATION 194

Title: Terrestrial and Celestial Globes

Date: 1799-1807

Description: On the left side and right side of the fireplace are two of the most distinguished Globes in the United States which belonged to John Quincy Adams. In 1956 the American Geographical Society wrote to the area saying that a full description of these Globes was in the British Museum and the American Geographical Society sent a copy of the Globes which we quote in its entirety:

"Helen Wallis, Map Room, Dept. of Printed Books, British Museum, London, W.C.1, May 15, 1956.

The globe maker, W. Bardin, flourished from 1782-1800, as shown by the following list of globes:--

G. Wright & W. Bardin	1782 Terr. & Cel.
J. Ferguson & W. Bardin	1783 Terr.
" " "	1785 Cel.
W. & J. M. Bardin	1800 Cel.
	1799 Terr. - 457 mm
W. Bardin	1800 Cel.
W. Bardin	(after 1800)--Cel. manufactured by S. S. Edkins, son-in-law to the late W. Bardin.

The two globes in the Adams National Historic Site in Quincy, Massachusetts are examples of the most celebrated pair of Bardin globes, first published 1799-1800, 18" in diameter. The terrestrial has additions to 1807. The name which could not be read is W. & J. M. Bardin. I append a transcript of the complete titles in case you would like to send these to the Institution."

A continuation of the description from the British Museum will follow under Illustration 195 and Illustration 196.





To the Hon. and
NEVIL MASKELYNE, M.D., F.R.S.
 Astronomer Royal.
This New British Celestial Globe,
 containing the Positions of nearly 6000 Stars, Clusters, Nebulae, Planetary
 Nebulae, &c. &c. with a Catalogue of 6000 Stars, from the latest observations
 and a new discovery by D. Maskelyne, D. H. & C. in the Rev. M. Wollaston's
 Spectra, respectfully dedicated
 by his most Obedient Servant
 W. S. L. W. Bardin.

CRATER
 The Cup

SEXTANS

MA CHINA PNEUMANICA
 The Air Pump

Scorpio

ILLUSTRATION 195

Title: Celestial Globe
 Date: 1799-1800
 Description: The description of this globe was given by the
 British Museum which we quote:

"Celestial Globe

Dedicatory Title: To the Rev. NEVIL MASKELYNE D.D.
 F.R.S. Astronomer Royal This New British Celestial
 Globe Containing the Positions of nearly 6000 stars,
 Cluster, Nebulae Planetary Nebulae & correctly com-
 piled & laid down for the year 1800 from the latest
 observations and discoveries, by Dr. Maskelyne,
 Dr. Herschel, The Rev^d Mr. Wollaston & c & c

Respectfully Dedicated
 by his most obedient n^ble Servants
 W. & J. M. Bardin

Sold by W. & S. JONES
 Holborn, London"

ILLUSTRATION 196

Title: Terrestrial Globe
Date: 1799-1800
Description: The description of this globe was given by the
British Museum which we quote:

"Terrestrial

Dedicatory Title: To the R^t. Honorable SIR JOSEPH BANKS, BART. K. B. President of the Royal Society this New British Terrestrial Globe Containing the latest Discoveries and Communications from the most Correct and Authentic Observations and Surveys, to the year 1799, by Capt. Cook and most recent Navigators, Engraved from an accurate drawing by Mr. Arrowsmith, Geographer Additions to 1807. Is respectfully Dedicated by his obedient H^ble Servants

W. & J. M. Bardin
Sold by W. & S. JONES
Holborn, London"



ILLUSTRATION 197

Title: Wing Chair

Date: 1780-1790

Description: This Wing Chair has mahogany legs and a maple frame. The back has a serpentine top and the shaped wings rise straight from the outward rolled arms. It has a seat cushion. The front legs are straight with a molded outside front corner and a chamfered inside rear corner. The rear legs cant outward and are chamfered on the lower inside corners. The style of the legs is related to the work of the late Chippendale makers like Joseph Short. The inside lower chamfer on the back legs is a peculiarity of Massachusetts work. It has H-stretchers and rear stretcher with rounded tops. The feet are cut about 2-3" and have added square brass cup casters.
Size: Height - 49", Width - 34", Depth - 23".

Reference: John Adams was sitting in this chair at the time he was stricken. It is not known whether John Adams actually breathed his last sitting in this chair or whether he was removed to a bed which the family had put in this room for the summers. Mr. Brooks Adams used to say that the Adamses were different from most people; even the Old President John Adams died in two places. It is, however, recorded that he was sitting in this chair when he gave his last message to the people of Quincy. It was:

"I give you Independence Forever."



ILLUSTRATION 198

Title: Upholstery on the Wing Chair

Date: Unknown

Description: The Chair in which John Adams was stricken has been upholstered several times. When the upholstery that is on it at this date (1968) was put on is not known. We only know that at the Site there is extra material sufficient to cover it. It is a glazed chintz, as the illustration shows, decorated with pheasants. It is a very rich brown on a cream background.



ILLUSTRATION 199

Title: Kuba Rug

Date: c. 1800

Description: This rug is a Kuba. It is closely woven and the color is predominantly blue and red. The geometrical pattern is rendered in a floral manner - small flowers are thrown broadcast. Use of the eight pointed star is found in the two small borders as well as the field. The border is the well recognizable Holbein design. It is very old and rated by rug authorities as very fine. Size: Length - 11' 2", Width - 5'.

Reference: This Rug was a favorite of Brooks Adams. On occasion he took it into his Boston house at 33 Chestnut Street, Boston, Massachusetts during the winter months. Upon his death, this Rug along with many others were given to the writer by Mrs. Robert Homans who had inherited the Boston house and furnishings from her uncle. Knowing the fine taste of Brooks Adams, the writer gave to the Old House this important and valuable Rug in his memory. There are few Kuba Rugs of this quality in the U. S. A. The textile authority, Moustapha Avigdor, appraised it as a rare work of art. It is in perfect condition.

ILLUSTRATION 200

Title: General View of the Southwest Corner of the Study

Date: 1967

Description: At the desk is the chair used by John Quincy Adams. On the south wall is the Highboy; in front of the window is another of the Hepplewhite Chairs which belonged to John Adams; in the corner of the room is a Desk Chair used by John Adams and on the south wall is a tulipwood Writing Desk with two Vases which are decorated with hunting scenes. On the wall there are engravings of the Battle of Bunker Hill and the Death of Lord Montgomery which were presented to John Quincy Adams by the artist, James Trumbull. On November 5, 1838 John Quincy Adams wrote to his daughter: ^{John}

"My dear daughter

In the year 1826. Coll. John Trumbull presented to me a Port Folio containing proof impressions of four engravings of Pictures painted by him.

1. The Declaration of Independence
2. The Battle of Bunker's Hill and Death of Warren
3. The Death of Montgomery before Quebec
4. The Sortie of the Garrison of Gibraltar

As a Memorial of the personal kindness and friendship of the great Artist and Patriot Painter of the most important scenes of the Revolution of Independence I earnestly desire that this generous gift may remain in my family, when I shall have passed to another state of being.

I ask therefore your acceptance of the Port Folio, and its contents; and as your Sons advance to mature age, as I fervently pray to God that they all may, I invite you occasionally to exhibit to them the three historical prints connected with the foundation of the North American Union, and with the War by which it was creenated, and teach them as practical lessons that their lives, belong in Council and in the field to the cause of their Country, and of human Freedom.

Your affectionate father John Quincy Adams"





ILLUSTRATION 201

- Title:** Barrel Back Leather Mahogany Chair
- Date:** 1815-30
- Description:** In illustration 200 is a photograph of a barrel back chair used by John Quincy Adams. Since this chair was the one in which John Quincy Adams did so much of his writing, we are including a special photograph of it. The chair was completely upholstered by Charles Francis Adams' son after his father's death. It has a seat cushion. The exposed frame at the base is plain mahogany veneer on oak. The front legs are heavily turned, the rear legs are square and cant outward with brass casters.
- Reference:** The chair was used by Charles Francis Adams also and his two sons, Henry and Brooks Adams, used it. In 1968 the green pigskin leather was duplicated and the chair was restored to its present appearance.
- Size:** Height - 36 1/2", Width - 26", Depth - 22 1/4".



ILLUSTRATION 202

Title: Highboy

Date: 1735-1765

Description: This high chest of drawers (Highboy) is made of walnut with pine as secondary wood. The top has four large graduated drawers with lip edges and three small drawers above, the center with a blank fan in intaglio. The scroll top has an open center and one center finial (modern) on a shaped plinth. The base has one long drawer and three small ones below the center with a blank fan. The skirt is scalloped at the sides and shaped with four flat head arches on the front with a semicircular drop in the center and two plinths for missing drops. The cabriolet legs have heavy knees and scrolled brackets and pad feet with a high pad. Original brasses include the oddly placed pulls on the small center drawers. A number of minor breaks can be seen in the molded lip edges of the drawers. It is Queen Anne style. Size: Height - 8 1/2", Width - 27 15/16", Depth - 20 3/4".

Reference: This Highboy belonged to John and Abigail Adams. Inscribed on the top of the lower case in bold letters in ink are the initials "J A."

So far as it is known it has never left the Study. When John Adams died, his son Thomas Boylston Adams took much of the furnishings including the Hepplewhite Chairs. We have no record that the Highboy ever left the House. It was one of the few pieces which Thomas Boylston Adams did not remove when he left the house in 1829.

It is significant to know that it was the family custom never to polish brass. They felt that polishing brass would detract from the wood and might indicate affluence which the Adams family carefully avoided.



ILLUSTRATION 203

Title: Barrel Back Mahogany Arm Chair

Date: 1820-40

Description: In the southwest corner of the Study stands a Barrel Back Mahogany Arm Chair with rounded side strips and a solid crest with a raised panel. The arms are round with upholstered sections and the seat is upholstered both inside and out. On the front of the arms are flat, slightly tapered panels and the lower frame of the Chair is faced with mahogany. The front legs are turned and the back legs are canted and square with cup brass casters on all of them. The frame is oak and maple. Size: Height - 40", Width - 24", Depth - 20 3/4".

Reference: Family tradition attributes this Arm Chair to John Adams. This could have been the Arm Chair mentioned by Anne Royall as being used in the President's Bedroom at the time of her visit in 1826. It was easier for the Old President to sit in a slightly higher chair.

Hanging above this chair is an engraving of Henry Laurens. In the summer of 1965 a young man by the name of Dunlap visited the Old House and said he was a descendant of Laurens. He also told the writer that the ring which Laurens has on his left hand is now held by the Laurens family trust and made available to the men descendants on such occasions as their wedding. At the time Mr. Dunlap was telling the writer about this, we were not near enough for him to see the ring; but upon examination I found it was there, so I concluded that this might be correct history. At any rate, it increased the writer's appreciation of the Laurens engraving.



ILLUSTRATION 204

Title: Gheordes Rug

Date: c. 1800

Description: This Rug gives the impression of being predominantly red, but, upon examination, there are several other colors -- yellow, white, blue and black. The center field is brilliant red with the latch hook guard stripe. The pole medallion is ornamented by white eight-petaled flowers. There are two white and two yellow "Ubrechs" or pitchers in the red field. The "Ubrechs" were used by the Mohammedans to make their ablutions. According to their religion, the Mohammedans used no basins but washed in flowing water. Within the medallion is a solid yellow diamond and within it is a geometric figure divided in four parts and bordered with white.

Surrounding the pointed red panel are pear shape figures all pointing in the same direction. The frieze is separated by a ribbon border. The motif in the frieze is Turkish, but according to G. G. Lewis, cannot be given any name classification.

The borders are separated by the saw-tooth stripe. The two smaller borders contain the Meander design filled in by floral decorations. The wide border is interesting for it has many motifs. The Turkish design of a stem with three eight-petaled blossoms occurs four times on the side and three times across the ends. Then there is the circle, encircled by a diamond design, the fishbone and the comb. All of which are meaningful to the followers of Mohammed.

The Rug has largely lost the black colors. Since black was the only color not made from vegetable oils, but was made from iron fillings with vinegar and pomegranate rind, the fibres of wool disintegrated more rapidly than the other colors. The exception being when the wool of a black sheep was used. This Rug was repaired in 1966 and all of the black weaving restored. It is in perfect condition (1967).

Reference: This Rug belonged to John Adams.

ILLUSTRATION 205

Title: View of the Tulipwood Desk

Date: 1765-1780

Description:

One of the most important pieces in the Old House is the roll top Bombe Desk. It is made of oak veneered with tulipwood. The case is Bombe with a scalloped skirt and French bracket feet. The three drawers have beaded edges and straight sides, not following the line of the case. The large oval brasses are replacements, the original brasses were single-pole pulls. The top rolls back as the writing slide is pulled forward revealing a central compartment with a door veneered in diamonds (4 matching cuts of wood) framed with dark panels with bookcase inlay. On each side is a document drawer faced with a leather binding marked "Swift's Works," "Vol. 2." The document drawers have locks in the top of the flanking compartments. There are three tiered compartments at each side with two drawers and a pigeon hole and another set, slightly larger, come forward at the side. The writing slide has a beige center inset. The interior drawers and slide have brass ring pulls. The sides are veneered with four cuts of matching wood creating a diamond effect as is the top and the roll-top. The drawers are veneered with two cuts to create a large diamond pattern on the front. The workmanship is superb. Size: Height - 45", Width - 44 1/2", Depth - 24 1/2".

Reference:

Mrs. Charles Francis Adams prized this tulipwood Chest very highly. On January 23, 1911 Brooks Adams wrote to his brother Henry:

"...Indeed the values put on these things make one dizzy. Last year I put in order the old Secretary, I wrote you about...The man who did the work (Fagan) asked permission to exhibit it at his shop for a couple of days, and I consented. He had a lot of people and yesterday he told me that he had been asked by a dealer to tell me that the dealer would give me \$3,800 for it."



ILLUSTRATION 205 (Continued)

It is not known whether this chest has always been in the Study. The writer does not remember it in the Study from 1920-1927. This is not surprising since the wall between the two doors on the south side was occupied by Henry Adams' French furniture.

ILLUSTRATION 206

Title: View of Tulipwood Desk When Opened
Date: 1765-1780
Description: Underneath the top to the left and to the right of the two volumes of "Swift's Works" are secret locks which should be used rather than forcing the volumes to come out.



ILLUSTRATION 207

Title: View of the Tulipwood Desk When Closed

Date: 1765-1780

Description: This illustration is a view of the roll-top desk when closed. Attention is called to the fact that the drawer pulls are not the original but are reproductions of the original which became broken.



ILLUSTRATION 208

Title: Vases

Date: Early 19th century

Description: Pair of Sévres Vases. They are urn-shaped. The handles end in female masques. There are two separate hunting scenes in multiple colors. The background is crimson and gold. Height - 10 1/2".

Reference: They are attributed to Abigail Adams.



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ILLUSTRATION 209

- Title: Hamadan Rug (Persian)
- Date: c. 1840-50
- Description: This Hamadan Runner originally was about 15 feet long. The background of the runner is natural camel's hair. The pole medallion with floral decoration forms the field of the runner. Partial medallions are placed in groups of two, thus completing the larger panel of the rug. The outer border is the dark blue reciprocal trefoil. The typical Hamadan border is a heavy vine similar to the mir border of the Saraband rugs.
Size: Length - 8', Width - 3' 4".
- Reference: Until 1927 this runner was used over the door in the Long Room in the autumn of each year so as to make the room a little warmer. This accounts for the runner having been cut into two pieces. The small rings at the top of the runner remain there at this time (1967). The poles which supported these are still over the doors of the Long Room. During the summer, the Adams family used these runners as rugs on the floor.



ILLUSTRATION 210

Title: Bronze Ostrich

Date: Unknown

Description: The Bronze Ostrich has always been considered to be the property of Charles Francis Adams, but in his inventory he refers to the Ostrich as belonging to his son Henry.



ILLUSTRATION 211

Title: Rocking Arm Chair and Footstool

Date: 1820-1830

Description: This late Empire style Rocking Arm Chair is made of mahogany. The back is serpentine to fit the sitter, and the stiles are exposed and cut with square edges. The arms, with their cushioned tops, are supported by S-scrolls carved with swan heads. The seat has a rounded front rail and the legs curve inward from the front and the back to meet the rockers. The chair is covered with buttoned black horsehair and has a cushion. The front rail of the chair is made of maple, the rear rail is birch, and all other secondary wood is pine. Size: Height of Chair - 39", Width - 22 1/4", Depth - 24".

There is a Footstool to match the Rocking Arm Chair built as a sawhorse with shaped ends, two square stretchers, and a horsehair cushion on top. This is also made of maple and birch and the top of pine. Size of Footstool: Height - 15 1/2", Width - 18 1/2", Depth - 8".

Reference: Both the Rocking Arm Chair and Footstool belonged to John Quincy Adams. It is interesting that a visitor from "The Hermitage" said that Andrew Jackson also had a Rocking Arm Chair similar to this one.

ILLUSTRATION 212


- Title: Covered Urns
- Date: Early 19th century
- Description: On one side is an emblematic motif and on the opposite side is a rural scene of the country gentry. They are deep blue ground with gilt trim. They have an under glaze marking, , probably indicating that they are Worcester instead of Sevres. Height - 16 1/4".
- Reference: These Vases belonged to Henry Adams and came from his apartment in Paris. He thought that they were Sevres porcelain, but they have been identified by a ceramic authority as Worcester after Sevres style.





ILLUSTRATION 213

Title: The Northwest Closet

Description: The books in this closet are three rows deep. For the most part the books belonged to Henry Adams. On the shelves on the west side of the closet are books on astronomy and modern biography which Brooks Adams was so fond of reading the last years of his life. The books in this closet have been cataloged according to the shelves.

The covering on the floor of both closets is linoleum of a Brussel carpet pattern. Some linoleum specialists have offered this suggestion that this was probably the earliest linoleum made in the United States. It could be earlier than 1870. The records available at this time do not establish a definite date.



ILLUSTRATION 214

Title: The Northeast Closet

Description: The Northeast Closet has a display of English Coal-
port China. It is a very extensive set and was never
kept in this Closet. Several years ago, the National
Director came and suggested that the China be stored
in various places in the event of a fire. The hope
was that perhaps some of it might be saved if it
were not all in the same section of the house.

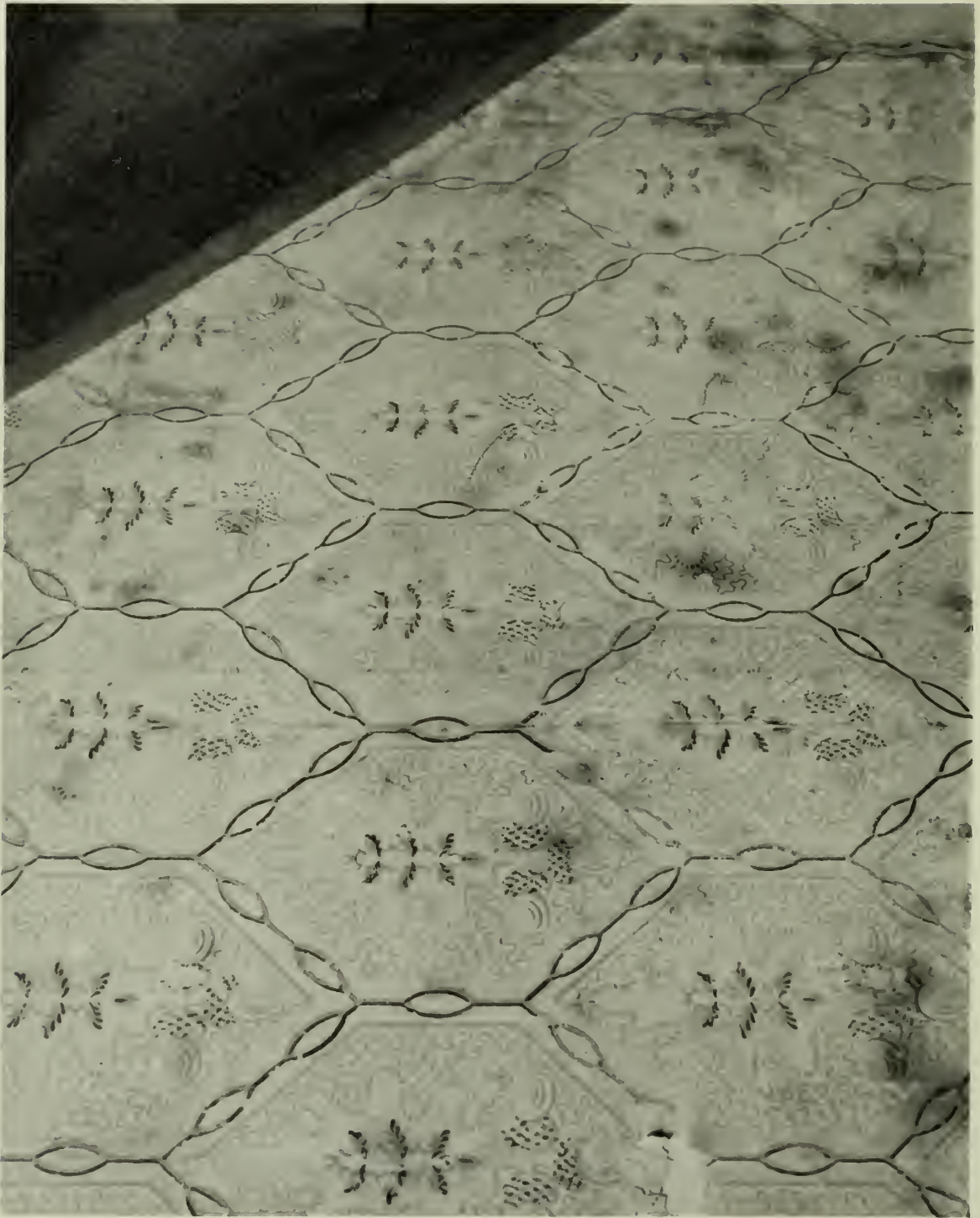


ILLUSTRATION 215CLOSET UNDER THIRD FLOOR STAIRWAY

From the Second Floor East Long Hall is the Stairway leading to the Third Floor. This Stairway was not considered by Brooks Adams to have been installed in 1800 when Abigail Adams built this section of the house, but, perhaps, after the fire of 1821. Indeed this section of the Third Floor would have been difficult to rescue the occupants from in case of a crisis. His conclusion is also born out by the green wall paper in the Closet extending underneath the frame of the Stairway and by the dado which runs uninterruptedly all the way across the west wall of the East Hallway.



ILLUSTRATION 216STAIRWAY

Various generations of the Adams family have treated the treads of the Stairway in different ways. In 1920 there was a stair carpet similar to the one which covers the stairs now (1967). Sometime during the time of the Adams Memorial Society, this stair carpet, being very worn, was removed and the Stairway painted.

Attention is called to the handrail, admired by many, yet the finish of this handrail has never been identified by architects, decorators or preservation experts.

We have actually no family history connected with the Stairway, except from the recollections of Brooks Adams who always said it was used when the children played hide-and-seek, going up the west stairway and down the east. It leads to the Third Floor containing family bedrooms. The Third Floor was never called an Attic, but was known as the "Third Floor Family Bedrooms."

ILLUSTRATION 217THIRD FLOOR ENTRY

At the top of the stairs is an entry. The use of this entry by the family is very much in doubt. Brooks Adams installed the book case along the east wall for his books. One interesting feature of the books is an extensive and rare collection of Baedeker's Guide Books which can be found on the sixth shelf.





ILLUSTRATION 218

- Title: Secretary (English)
- Date: 1800-1810
- Description: This English Secretary is Empire in style and has a fall front. This Secretary, made of mahogany veneer, has a white marble top; and in form it is a cabinet with plain pilasters at the sides, with wide top drawer, drop front, and an arch below with a pier glass and ball feet below projecting blocks. The upper drawer has a beech front and back, mahogany sides, and whitewood bottom. The interior has a cabinet of satinwood, with two large drawers above, a scroll-edged shelf, and four small drawers below. The scrolls are carried out with black moldings and a central cockle shell against the satinwood. The left top drawer is lacking and all drawers have cedar linings and black button pulls. This Secretary shows very fine workmanship. The mirror at the bottom gives the Secretary an appearance of being a pier glass. Size: Height - 56 1/2", Width - 37 1/2", Depth - 23".
- Reference: This Secretary has always been where it is today which would indicate that perhaps the entry was used as a writing room by some of the occupants of the Old House.



ILLUSTRATION 219

Title: Memorial Wreath

Date: Unknown

Description: The Memorial Wreath was made to commemorate President John Adams and President Thomas Jefferson. It is hand stitched throughout including the likenesses of both Presidents and also the Flag and Eagle decoration at the top. The top and sides are surrounded by festoons of leather for decoration. The document stitched in the center between the two pictures is President Thomas Jefferson's "work" copy of the Constitution of The United States. It includes the original version and the corrections, all executed by "The Needle."

Size: Length - 32".

Reference: The Memorial Wreath has always been in the Old House.

?
L. Adams
L. Jefferson



ILLUSTRATION 220SOUTH WALL VIEW OF ENTRY

On the south wall looking toward Adams Street one sees a part of the set of chairs John Adams selected for the Embassy at The Hague. This embassy was the first foreign embassy abroad and was furnished by private funds of John Adams. These chairs have the little rosettes at the top similar to those on the large Dutch Chest in the Second Floor Hallway. They were probably made in Holland but after the style of the French and are Louis XV in character.

The Chest is made of mahogany veneer and is probably American. It is mid nineteenth century. Size: Height - 40 1/2", Width - 19".

On the floor between these chairs are shown two travelling cases used by the family on their various diplomatic missions.



ILLUSTRATION 221NORTHEAST BEDROOM

(Henry's Room)

Coming out through the north door of the entry is a very attractive room which was used by Henry Adams, Brooks Adams and, after 1900, was used as an extra Guest Room by Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Adams. Charles Francis Adams wrote a letter to Henry Adams on June 1, 1896:

"We have completely dislodged the mechanics from the body of the house, and they are now making such progress in the new part that I think one fortnight more will see the end. Your mother has concluded upon giving you the north eastern room which Mary had last year, as being that where you can be most by yourself, and free from household interruption of every sort. Mary will take the room you had last year, in its transformed state taking in the old entry and a large part of the old nursery..."

Although this room is a pleasant looking room, it lacks much in comfort when the weather is either hot or cold. The writer well remembers occupying this room in order that some distinguished guest of Mr. Brooks Adams might have the benefit of the Guest Room on the second floor.

ILLUSTRATION 222GENERAL VIEW OF WEST WALL NORTHEAST BEDROOM

As this room was used by Henry Adams, it is not surprising to find an unbroken set of The North American Review from 1816-1877 on the left side as you enter. There are other magazines which Henry Adams was fond of reading, for example, The Atlantic Monthly and The Edinburgh Review. The engraving on the wall above the Louis XV chair is entitled, "Les Pecheurs Fortunes," and is a waterfront scene.

On the oblong mahogany veneer table between the two book cases is a crayon drawing by Raphael. A special study of this drawing was made by the Fogg Museum. After sending it to Italy for verification, it was determined that the side with the writing - which Henry Adams quotes in his Educa-tion - was done by Raphael; the other side of the red crayon was done by one of Raphael's pupils. It was originally purchased by Henry Adams and was given to the Old House by Miss Mary O. Abbott and her brothers. Size of Table: Height - 28", Across top - 12 1/4", Length - 51".

The green metal vase with applied Chamelson on the table was purchased by Henry Adams when he was on the trip to the Pacific Isles. Size: Diameter - 5 1/2", Height - 12 1/4".



ILLUSTRATION 222 (Continued)

The Arm Chair shown in this view has a low walnut frame with tufted back and sides and is covered with ecru damask. This chair was first used by Charles Francis Adams.

Size: Height of Chair at back - 30", Width - 20", Depth - 24".

ILLUSTRATION 223GENERAL VIEW OF THE NORTH WALL OF BEDROOM

On the folding card table (Illustration 224) is a pair of footed French Porcelain Vases with pedestal and round body that taper toward the neck. The decoration is a gray field with these groups of flowers: yellow; lavender and white with a turquoise border. Size: Height - 8", Diameter - 4".

In front of the window is one of the Louis XV chairs with the similar rosette as the large Dutch Chest in the Second Floor Hallway.

The four-drawer chest with three half-drawers on the top is made of mahogany veneer. It is American. On this chest is a pair of Sheffield Candlesticks which were a gift from Henry Adams to Brooks Adams in 1912. A small label under the base reads, "To B. A. from H. A." Size of Chest: Length - 42", Width - 18", Height - 24 1/2".

Above this chest is an engraving entitled, "La Belle Apresdines." Size: Length - 30 1/2", Width - 24".



ILLUSTRATION 223 (Continued)

Also in this view is a second mahogany veneer three-drawer chest with two half-drawers at the top.

Size: Length - 41", Width - 20 1/2", Height - 35 1/2".

On the top of this chest is a marble statuette inscribed: "Naomi and Her Daughters-in-law."

Size: Length - 10" base, Height - 13".



ILLUSTRATION 224

- Title: Round Card Table
- Date: 1795-1810
- Description: This demi-lune Hepplewhite mahogany Card Table is circular when open. The mahogany has a fan of satinwood and stained dark wood inlay. The border is of plain satinwood, and the inside of the top is covered with green felt. The rails are veneered mahogany on pine and the gate of the swinging leg and back are birch. Size: Height - 28 3/4", Width - 36", Depth - 17 3/4".
- Reference: This table is one of a pair, the mate of which is in the Paneled Room. These tables probably came from New York and are superbly made. Highly prized by all four generations of occupants, they belonged to John Adams.
- Title: Mirror
- Description: This 18th century Mirror is Queen Anne style with a walnut veneer frame. The molded frame has an inner gilt band carved with what was described as "grasses" in the 18th century in Philadelphia. The upper part of the mirror is irregularly shaped and has a superimposed crest of walnut with scrolled and pierced borders. In the center of this crest is a circular piercing with a plume of three leaf-like feathers. The gilding has been redone.
- Reference: Such mirrors were made in American cities but are indistinguishable from those that were imported in large quantities.

ILLUSTRATION 225

Title: Empire Four-Post Bed -- Probably New York State

Date: 1825-40

Description: This Four-Post Bed with tester and mahogany, rosewood and maple rails is Empire style. The posts are turned with very simple lines tapering toward the top and carved above the rails with a series of large leaves in a bold manner. At the rail height there is a rectangular block with an inset panel of rosewood, and below this panel is a flattened ball turning and a tapering round foot. There is a simple molded gilt tester at the top of the bed. Very fine workmanship is shown in the making of this bed. Size: Height - 83 1/2", Width - 65", Diameter - 80 1/2".

Reference: The beautiful silk damask belonged to Mrs. Charles Francis Adams. She used both the damask and the bed at her house at 57 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.





ILLUSTRATION 226

Title: Close-up view of the leg of the bed showing the
inset panel of rosewood.



ILLUSTRATION 227

- Title: Night Stand
- Date: 1825-40
- Description: The Night Stand is made of walnut and has a marble top. It has one drawer and a door at the bottom. It is beautifully made, and the grain of the wood shows up handsomely. Size: Height - 19", Diameter - 10".
- Title: Gas Lamp
- Date: Unknown
- Description: This lamp has a metal base with burner and chimney. The shade is made of green glass.
- Reference: The lamp was used by Henry Adams and is still on the Night Stand. It was used as late as 1927. After that time, the gas was disconnected from the house. The lamp was kept as a reminder of the past.



ILLUSTRATION 228

- Title: French China Toilet Set
- Date: Early 19th Century
- Description: This fourteen-piece Toilet Set is white with scalloped edges and an artistic decoration of scattered, polychrome, rose bouquets of blue and gold.
- Pitcher (overglaze): Le Rosey
XI Rue de la Paix
Paris
(in silver cartouche)
- Bowl (overglaze): Dorure
2 Feux
Paris
(in silver cartouche)
H & Co.
Le Rosey
XI Rue de la Paix
Paris
(coppertone print)
- Comment: An interesting feature of this Toilet Set is the Sponge Bowl with insert. Every room in the house had a sponge instead of a face cloth. When not in use, the sponge drained on the pierced insert. Another interesting feature not shown in the photograph is a tin can which resembles a garden watering can. It was the custom in the evening to remove each of these cans from the bedrooms and to fill them with hot water for the purpose of dressing for dinner. When the maid came to turn the bed down, she again removed the can and in the morning she brought it back filled with hot water, raised the shades and gave the occupant of the room a cup of hot tea.
- Reference: This French China Toilet Set was brought back from Henry Adams' apartment in Paris.
- Title: Marble Top Washstand
- Date: Unknown
- Description: This Marble Top Washstand is made of oak.
Size: Length - 35", Width - 17", Height - 29 1/2".

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOUTHEAST BEDROOM

The Southeast Bedroom is furnished with a set of ash furniture in Victorian style. This room was designated always in the 20's as the room of Mary Adams. It is my impression that all of the men in the family occupied this room for a short length of time. Charles Francis Adams' sons, John Quincy Adams 2d and Charles Francis Adams, Jr. found the room too hot and moved into the farm house at the rear. Henry Adams occupied this room for one summer before he moved into the Northeast Bedroom.

ILLUSTRATION 229SOUTHEAST VIEW OF SOUTHEAST BEDROOM

As you enter the room, to the left is a washstand with a pitcher and two candlesticks on it. On the washstand directly in front there is a wash bowl and pitcher and on the floor there are several other pieces of the same china toilet set. On the floor also is a bath tub, large pitcher and a waste bucket. On the table to the right are two additional candlesticks and a tray with candle snuffer and holder. These pieces are all a part of a set of Stone China used by Mrs. Charles Francis Adams. Again, it is interesting to notice the little tin can resembling a watering can for flowers, which was explained in Henry Adams' room, in which hot water was brought up for the occupant of the room to use in preparation for dinner and again in the morning for breakfast. The Boston Rocker is in full view. To the side of the table is a Towel Rack which, unfortunately, did not have towels on it at the time this photograph was taken.



ILLUSTRATION 230

Title: Toilet Set

Date: Mid 19th Century

Description: This Stone China Toilet Set has a gold and white laurel and ribbon border.

In the center is a gold bouquet. It is marked: WARRANTED ANTHONY SHAW ENGLAND.

This Toilet Set consists of:

- 1 Foot Tub, Length - 19", Width - 14".
- 1 Pitcher, Height - 16 1/2", Diameter - 10".
- 1 Waste Bucket and Cover, Height - 14 1/2", Diameter - 12".
- 2 Wash Bowls, Height - 5 1/2", Diameter - 16".
- 2 Pitchers, Height - 13 1/2", Diameter - 7".
- 2 Soap Dishes with Inserts and 1 Cover, Length - 5", Width - 3 3/4", Height - 4".
- 1 Tooth Brush Holder and Cover, Length - 8", Width - 3 1/2", Height - 3".
- 2 Bowls, Height - 3 1/2", Diameter - 9 3/4".
- 2 Pitchers, Height - 9", Diameter - 5". (one chipped)
- 4 Candlesticks, Height - 8".
- 1 Snuffer and Stand, Length - 6 1/2", Width - 4 1/2", Height - 2",
Height of Snuffer - 3".
- 1 Tray, Length - 10", Width - 7 1/4".
- 2 Chamber Vessels, Height - 6", Diameter - 9". (one bottom broken)



ILLUSTRATION 231NORTHEAST VIEW OF SOUTHEAST BEDROOM

The Map above the mantelpiece is a very old one. It is dated 1819. There is a marking which says, "Seat of The Late President John Adams."

The two small doors lead into storage cabinets.





ILLUSTRATION 232

- Title:** Bureau
- Date:** Mid 19th Century
- Description:** This four-drawer bureau is made of ash and has an attached mirror. The drawer pulls are carved oak leaf and acorn design. There are two small shelves upon which stand two small figurines made of English China. One of the figurines is a lady with a fan and the other a girl with a basket and a doll.
- Size of Bureau: Height - 37", Width - 19", Length - 38".
- Size of Mirror: Height - 39", Width - 26".
- Size of Figurines: Height - 15".
- In the center of the top of the bureau is a pottery and metal Tankard with a hinged cover in two sections. One handle is missing. Size: Height - 7 1/4", Diameter - 7 1/4".
- Reference:** This was really used as a Steam Kettle and Brooks Adams always referred to it as the "Croup Kettle." There is a little pierced compartment for the herbs and a space for the hot water.

ILLUSTRATION 233

- Title:** Bed
- Date:** Mid 19th Century
- Description:** In the northwest corner of the Southeast Bedroom is a double wooden bed made in Victorian style. The main part of the bed is ash. It has oak leaf and acorn decoration; the corners are interesting because they are circular. The quilt on this bed, which the Adamses used, is of a more modern period. It does not have the fine hand stitching one might expect and the quilting is made by machine and has very little padding. It was obviously made to be used as a bed spread and not as bed covering. The springs and mattress on this bed are very comfortable and members of the family really suffered no hardship by being assigned to this room. The whole appearance of the room is feminine in character.
- Reference:** According to family tradition, at one time the room was used by John Quincy Adams 2d and Charles Francis Adams, Jr. Later they moved out into the farm house on the north side. It was last used by the family as the bedroom of Mary Adams, sister of Brooks Adams. Mary Adams later married Dr. Henry P. Quincy of Dedham.





ILLUSTRATION 234BROOKS ADAMS' CHILDHOOD ROOM

The center room has an iron Sleigh Bed which was used by Brooks Adams when he was ten years old. The fine stitching on the quilt indicates that there was patience in the Adams family. Upon examination, it appears that each stitch must have been measured, so even is the stitching. Mr. Brooks Adams always said this room held no memories for him except that it was unbearably hot during the summer months.

The four-drawer chest shown in this photograph is made of mahogany on the top and the drawers are made of pine finished with mahogany veneer. The chest has metal ornaments and is American. Size: Height - 37", Width - 36 1/2".

The mahogany mirror above the chest is American. The history is unknown. Size: Height - 24 1/2", Width - 19".

The armed wicker chair is a child's chair. Size: Height - 26", Width of Seat - 13", Depth - 13".

The leather covered trunk, not shown in the photograph, belonged to John Quincy Adams. It has metal handles. Size: Length - 42", Width - 21", Height - 19".

The straight chair with cane seat has always stood near the window. The history of which is unknown. Size: Height at midback - 35 1/4", Seat Height - 17 1/2", Width across Seat Front - 17 1/2".

ILLUSTRATION 235TOP OF MAHOGANY CHEST

On the top of the mahogany chest in Brooks Adams' Childhood Room are two Perfume Bottles and a small Chinese export porcelain bowl. The Perfume Bottle on the left side is frosted and has an etched band of leaves and buds. The Stopper has the same decoration as the bottle.

Size: Height - 8", Diameter - 3 1/2".

The Perfume Bottle on the right is hexagonally panel cut, long neck, and of clear glass. The Stopper carries the same panel design as the bottle. Size: Height - 6 1/2", Diameter - 3 1/2".

The small Chinese export porcelain bowl in the center of the top of the chest has underglaze blue decoration and a border of large diaper pattern with trees and branches, leaves and flowers. There appears to have been a gilt border around the edge of the bowl. In the center is a picture of a farmer leading a cow with a chain. On the outside of the bowl is a decoration of clusters of flowers. It is mid 19th century. Size: Height - 1 1/2", Diameter - 4 1/2". The history of these objects is unknown.



ILLUSTRATION 236

Title: Marble Top Washstand

Date: Unknown

Description: The Washstand has a white marble top and two drawers on each side and indentations for two pitchers underneath.

Comment: It is interesting that although there was no running water at the time, every room was equipped with pitchers for an ample supply of water. This small bedroom had four pitchers. The china in this room was never used by Brooks Adams when he was a child, it was added later when the room was set up for visitors to the house.

Title: Toilet Set

Date: Mid 19th Century

Description: The white English Pottery Pitchers underneath the washstand and the one in the tub have vague raised grape and leaf design, scalloped edge, crackled glaze. One is marked: Wreath with bow THE WHERJUG POTTERY CO.

Pitcher and Washbowl (set) white pottery, raised decoration of stylized leaves, irregularly scalloped lip. Mark: stamped underglaze green - ETRURIA, MELLOR & CO.

Insert for Bowl, white crackled glaze and has a white diaper design. Used with the National China stamped bowl but is not the same type.



ILLUSTRATION 236 (Continued)

English White Cambrian Foot Tub, plain with a raised band below top and is scalloped all around, handles are decorated with leaf design.

Tooth Brush Holder, long oval shape and marked "T & R. Boote." English.

White Jug, Iron Stone China. On the bottom is the English Coat of Arms and Burgess Burslem, white overglaze, badly chipped.

Soap Dish and Cover, white pottery with raised leaf decoration on bowl hips and semi-scalloped edges. Cracked glaze. Mark printed overglaze k-plumed crown, W on left, P on right. La Belle China.

White overglazed Bowl. Marked on the bottom: "National China."

ILLUSTRATION 237ENTRANCE TO THE ROOF

This photograph reflects the wealth of Mrs. Charles Francis Adams. Instead of the cheaper and less impressive trunks used by John Adams and John Quincy Adams, this trunk was covered on all sides with beautiful leopard skin. Size: Length - 48", Width - 23 1/2", Height - 20 1/2".





ILLUSTRATION 238

Title: Washstand
Date: Unknown
Description: The Washstand has always been in this entry, and the history of it is unknown.

Close by the Washstand is another Leather Brief Case used by the family on their official missions abroad.

Size: Height - 13", Length - 20", Width - 8 1/2".

The small, red, pine chair has always been against the west wall.

This entry is only important for its never changing appearance.

ILLUSTRATION 239SOUTHWEST BEDROOM

This room was Rebecca's room where Mr. Brooks Adams and his sister Mary slept when they were tiny babies, Rebecca being their nurse. During the Brooks Adams regime this was just a spare room.

As you look to the left side of the room there is a washstand of ash, Victorian style, and upon this is China. The white pottery Pitcher with matching Washbowl has raised cut bamboo decoration on lip and foot, bamboo shaped handles and has red-orange underglaze decoration of chrysanthemums.

Mark: raised -
 THE M
 ASHBURN 79
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There is a Soap Dish of Chinese export porcelain, white and has a decoration of black and red scalloped edge with peony and leaf decoration in brown, black, red and green; an oblong Tooth Brush Holder, 6" in length and an insert, gray with red pin stripe and flower spray around it of the mid 19th century. History is unknown.

Over the mantelpiece is the Map of Norfolk County dated 1853. This was obviously one that was used by Charles Francis Adams. The Wood Box beside the fireplace is made of mahogany with wicker between to hold the logs of wood and has scalloped leather hanging on the sides for decoration. This Wood Box and the one in the Library are similar and were put in the house by Mrs. Charles Francis Adams. The little Andirons were also Mrs. Charles Francis Adams'. Mr. Brooks Adams never allowed a fire in this room because the wood floor was so near to the Andirons, there only being about 1" of brick between. He said that as a child he remembered Rebecca had a fire in here, but he was too small at the time to see the danger. Over to the left side is a screen. The material is blue flowered linen. Until Mr. Brooks Adams' death it was used in his room in front of the west window, but the Adams Memorial Society removed it from there since they had a



ILLUSTRATION 239 (Continued)

more interesting screen to display. In front of the screen is the cradle which is said to have rocked each generation of the illustrious Adamses. The family tradition that John Adams' father was rocked in this cradle has been questioned by Richard Randall, Director of the Walters Gallery, who says the workmanship indicates it was done at a considerably later date. It was made by the village coffin maker. It is made of walnut with pine bottom and the rockers and scrolled ends and trestle brace are of maple.

ILLUSTRATION 240NORTH VIEW OF SOUTHWEST ROOM

On the right hand side is an ash bureau with beautiful oak leaf and acorn decorations for the drawer pulls. It is similar to the bureau in the Southeast Bedroom. The double bed in this room to the immediate right is of pine. The chairs are of the same period as the ash furniture and were all brought to the house by Mr. Charles Francis Adams in the mid 19th century.

The beam standing out from the wall shows the contour of the room at the time Abigail and John Adams bought the house. When the kitchen wing was added, the roof assumed a different shape. The roof of this room was also changed to its present appearance. This beam, however, cannot be removed since it supports the center part of the roof. The hardware on the door is, of course, hand cut and although very simple, is dignified and appropriate for the Third Floor. The floor boards in this room are exceptionally wide. They measure from 14" to 19" in width. They are worn, but the knots in the wood have not worn down.

Mr. Brooks Adams must have had pleasant associations with this room, for during his last illness he constantly reminisced about Rebecca and the room above.



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