

The Quincy Heritage

The Adams Family and Patriotism

The Adams family, one of the most distinguished in American history, has produced two presidents and several outstanding statesmen, writers, historians, educators, and business leaders. Over many generations they were nurtured by the family's deep roots in Quincy.

★ ADAMS OLD HOUSE
Four generations of the Adams family, including the two presidents, lived in this house between 1788 and 1927. The imprint of their tastes and values is visible everywhere in the house, its outbuildings, and the grounds. The house is administered by the National Park Service as part of the Adams National Historic Site.

★ UNITED FIRST PARISH CHURCH
The Adams presidents and their wives are interred in this still-active church, built of Quincy granite with some funding provided by a gift from John Adams. A National Historic Landmark.

★ JOHN ADAMS AND JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BIRTHPLACES
The two presidents were born in these rather modest 17th century houses, set in surroundings that were then largely rural. John Adams maintained a law office in his residence, the house where his son John Quincy was born in 1767. Here he drafted the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, a model for the U.S. Constitution. Abigail Adams wrote her famous letters here during the Revolutionary War.

★ JOSIAH QUINCY HOUSE
An impressive and largely unaltered example of Georgian architecture of the colonial period. It was built in 1770 by Josiah Quincy, the town's wealthiest and most prominent citizen and a close friend of John Adams. Today, the site is a house museum maintained by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

★ QUINCY HOMESTEAD
Built in three stages beginning in 1685, the Dorothy Quincy House was the homestead for an estate of 400 acres. It was inhabited by four generations of the Quincy family, prominent in the affairs of this city and the Commonwealth. Dorothy Quincy married the patriot John Hancock. The house is managed by the Metropolitan District Commission and the Colonial Dames.

★ WOODWARD SCHOOL
Probably inspired by the Adams Academy, a boys' school, Ebenezer Woodward set up an endowment to extend educational benefits to Quincy girls. The school was opened in 1894 and is still operating.

★ ADAMS ACADEMY
Built in 1871 with funds provided by a gift of John Adams, this National Historic Landmark reflects the great importance the former schoolmaster attached to education. As he instructed, it was built over the homestead of his childhood minister Rev. John Hancock, father of the famous patriot. Many of John Adams's descendants participated in establishing and operating the academy. Adams Academy now houses the Quincy Historical Society.

★ HANCOCK CEMETERY
Located in the core of the city, the Old Town Burial Ground contains the roots of the community and of the Adams family in Quincy. In 1808, John Adams was concerned with the condition of his ancestral burial ground. In an effort to dignify the grounds he erected monuments over the graves of his family and improved the overall condition of the site.

★ THOMAS CRANE LIBRARY
Dedicated in 1882, this National Historic Landmark is a masterpiece by Henry Hobson Richardson, the most famous American architect of his time. Its notable stained glass windows are by Richardson's friend John LaFarge.

★ PENN'S HILL
Penn's Hill was a landmark from an early date and the

name John Adams bestowed on his beloved farm. From this vantage point Abigail Adams and her son, the future president John Quincy Adams, watched Charlestown burning during the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775.

Granite Industry

Quincy is called "The Granite City" for the abundant stone that was quarried here. The first notable use of Quincy granite was in the Bunker Hill Monument, designed in 1823. For a century thereafter, this noble stone was specified for great buildings all over the nation.

1 QUINCY QUARRIES
Of the more than 50 distinct quarries that were operating until 1965 only a few have survived. They are located in the west Quincy district and today they are used for recreation.

2 GRANITE RAILWAY INCLINE
Architect Solomon Willard and engineer Gridley Bryant designed a unified transportation system consisting of the Granite Railway, the Granite Railway Incline, and barges to haul blocks of granite to build the

Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown (Boston). Many of the innovations developed here influenced the growth of American railroads.

3 LYONS TURNING MILL
Built of granite blocks between 1894 and 1896, this mill turned and polished large pieces of granite into columns, capitals and column bases for important buildings. Though now in ruins, it recalls the time when the granite industry was Quincy's largest employer.

4 TOWN HALL
The center of municipal government since 1844, Town Hall is an outstanding example of Greek Revival style. Built of local stone, the building makes a symbolic connection between the granite industry and the importance the Adams family attached to civic involvement.

Maritime Industry

Quincy's 27 miles of irregular coastline made for the city's strong links to the sea. Pursued continuously but on a modest scale through the mid-19th century, shipbuilding became the city's trademark after 1900.

1 FORE RIVER SHIPYARD
From 1884 on, the Fore River Shipyard became the center for Quincy's shipbuilding industry. This yard compiled an outstanding production record during the two world wars and the Cold War. Until its closing in 1986 it was Quincy's dominant industry and contributed to its remarkable ethnic diversity. Famous warships included

battleships Massachusetts and Nevada and aircraft carriers Lexington II, The Hancock, The Bunker Hill and Quincy II.

2 SOUTHER TIDE MILL
Tide mills once provided water power for coastal communities that lacked falls. The Souther mill is one of only two such mills remaining in Massachusetts. A lock in the mill dam gave access to the Quincy canal, built in the 1820's mainly to transport granite.

Other Historic Sites

1 CHRIST CHURCH AND BURIAL GROUND
Anglicans were a somewhat suspect minority in early Quincy, but they succeeded in establishing a parish in 1704, the first in Massachusetts. The present building, erected in 1874, is the fifth to house this congregation, the third on this site.

2 JOHN WINTHROP IRON FURNACE
John Winthrop, Jr., son of the first governor of Massachusetts Bay, used local resources to build the first commercial iron manufactory in the U.S. at this site. Though short-lived, it provided experience and training that was applied at Saugus, Massachusetts, now a National Historic Site.

QUINCY THROUGH THREE CENTURIES

Presidents, Ships, & Granite

The Adams family, whose members helped shape the character and path of the nation... An innovative granite industry... Unrivaled ship building during World Wars I and II. Quincy makes its mark.

