

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

DUCK POND - PART I

GREENHOUSE - PART I

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ADAM 3

ADAMS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

by

Superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris

Architect George L. Wrenn

May 1964



012587

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**HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT**

**PART I**

**THE GREENHOUSE**

**Adams National Historic Site**

**Quincy, Massachusetts**

**Prepared by**

**Superintendent Wilhelmina S. Harris**

**Architect George L. Wrenn**

**May, 1964**

**United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service**

APPROVAL SHEET

RECOMMENDED

Eugene P. Sillits   
Chief, EODC, Acting

June 5, 1964   
Date

Ronald F. Lee   
Regional Director, Northeast Region

6/11/64   
Date

Wilhelmina S. Harris   
Superintendent

6/3/64   
Date

APPROVED

John A. Reshoff   
Director Acting Assistant

6-25-64   
Date

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4. Illustration

1. Administrative Data

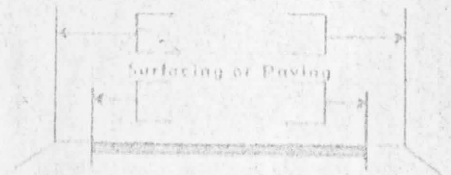
- a. The name of the structure is the Greenhouse.
- b. The structure is to continue in use as a Greenhouse. It will also be used as part of the interpretation of the historic scene.
- c. The Master Plan provides as part of the Interpretive Program for visitors that all of the buildings on the Site including the Greenhouse be maintained as it was when the Old House was occupied by members of the Adams Family.
- d. The Greenhouse will continue to be used by the maintenance force in its work on the gardens. The necessary upkeep will be provided out of the annual Maintenance and Rehabilitation funds.
- e. No cooperative agreements executed or proposed.
- f. Construction activity is proposed to consist of patching the concrete foundations, rebuilding the interior shelving and shelf supports, replacement of the floor boarding, replacement of the sash, installation of a new stove and painting the wood frame.
- g. The proposed construction activity is estimated to cost \$4000.

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSAL *rehab. of Historic Structures*

1. Statement of requirements, proposed work and construction data, justification, etc. (Use additional sheets as necessary.)

The rehabilitation of the Greenhouse will include stabilization of the foundations, reconstruction of sections of the interior shelving and shelf supports, relaying of the floor, and repair and repainting of the eash and reglazing as necessary. A new stove is required. No research or documentation is necessary because old material in place can be copied. The Greenhouse is both part of the historic scene and a useful, functioning element in the upkeep of the Adams House grounds, and, therefore, its rehabilitation would be of value in two ways.

Length \_\_\_\_\_ Miles \_\_\_\_\_  
Finished width shoulder to shoulder



2. Land Status (if Govt.-owned, what agency), Water Rights, Research, Etc.

Federally Owned, National Park Service

PCP Data Prepared by (Name, title & Date)  George L. Wrenn 4/7/64 Architect	4. Cross-reference PCP's to this Project:  PCP numbers of previously completed portions:  5. Construction by: Day Labor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract <input type="checkbox"/>  Work supervised by: Park <input type="checkbox"/> Reg. <input type="checkbox"/> Design Office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. CLASS <u>C</u> ESTIMATE										
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Construction.....</td> <td>\$ 5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plans, Surveys, &amp; Supervision.....</td> <td>650</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contingencies.....</td> <td>350</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>SUB TOTAL</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Exhibits, Audio-Visual Installations, etc.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>GRAND TOTAL</b></td> <td>\$ 6,000</td> </tr> </table>	Construction.....	\$ 5,000	Plans, Surveys, & Supervision.....	650	Contingencies.....	350	<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		Exhibits, Audio-Visual Installations, etc.....	
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	\$ 6,000											

7. DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES

No	To
1	Director
1	Regional Director, NE
2	Superintendent
2	Chief, EODC

8. Recommended by Park Office (Signature, title, date)

*Wilhelmina S. Harris*

Wilhelmina S. Harris, Superintendent 4/8/64

9. Approved by Regional Office (Signature, title, date)

*Martin B. Christenson*

10. Reviewed by D&C Field Office (Signature, Title, Date)

Signed *Vincent N. Mauro*, Project Control Officer, EODC, 5/23/64

11. Location within Area or Termini

Near northeast corner of Adams NHS property

14. Region NE 15. Park Adams National Historic Site

Project Rehabilitation of Greenhouse

12. Master Plan No.

13. Bldg. or Rt. # and Sec.

Norfolk (County)

Mass. (State)

17. PCP Index No. B-7

18. P. S. & S. by DPR

NPS

*Mulligan notified 5/10/64*

## 2. Historical Data

- a. John Quincy Adams had a "nursery" for starting plants to the northwest of the house. Family tradition says that Charles Francis Adams selected the present site for the Greenhouse because the earlier site had become too shady.
- b. A photograph of the flood of 1886 shows the Greenhouse partly under water. The appearance of the Greenhouse in the photograph is somewhat different from its present appearance. It is known from recollections of Superintendent Harris that there was a Greenhouse on the site between 1920 and 1927 and that it is the present structure. When the sash of the Greenhouse was replaced at some time after 1927, 10" x 14" panes of glass were used instead of 6" x 8" panes and the stove was moved from one end to the other.
- c. Name of architect or designer unknown.
- d. A greenhouse in the present location was apparently built by Charles Francis Adams before 1886. The present structure was probably built by Brooks Adams.
- e. Brooks Adams was the owner during the historic period.



### 3. Architectural Data

- a. The structure is a freestanding greenhouse of simple, functional design. The entire structure consists of glazed opening sections fitted into either side of a peaked wood frame which rests on concrete foundations.
- b. The structure has one story.
- c. The principle construction materials are concrete, wood and glass.
- d. Glazed opening sections cover almost the entire surface of the structure above the foundations.
- e. Concrete foundations and wood frame are in reasonably good condition. Some of the shelving and the posts supporting it are in poor condition with rot at the base of the posts. The floor boarding is in poor condition. The wood frame is in need of paint. The stove is broken.
- f. No additional work is required to complete architectural research and investigation. In the course of rehabilitation work it is proposed to patch the concrete foundations, reconstruct sections of the interior shelving and shelf supports, relay the floor, acquire and install a new stove, replace the sash with panes of the correct size for the historic period and paint the wood frame and sash.

Illustration No. 1

View of Greenhouse from south.

Photo: George Cushing 3/24/64

