

Courthouse is renamed for John Adams

More than 200 years have passed since John Adams wrote the Massachusetts Constitution, which established an independent judiciary.

Yesterday, to honor Adams's contributions to the justice system, the old Suffolk County Courthouse in Pemberton Square was renamed the John Adams Courthouse.

Nearly 200 people attended the

ceremony, including Acting Governor Jane Swift, House Speaker Thomas M. Finneran, Appeals Court Chief Justice Christopher J. Armstrong, and Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Margaret Marshall. "Let this be a place where we honor the future of freedom, not only its history," Swift said.

The courthouse is being renovated and is expected to reopen

in 2004. It will house the Supreme Judicial Court, the Appeals Court, and the Social Law Library.

Marshall said she is happy she will be able to enter a building named for Adams, the nation's second president, who, like her, served as chief justice of the SJC.

"When you follow in the footsteps of John Adams and Oliver Holmes, you have the benefit of a great history that preceded be-

fore," Marshall said.

Both the SJC and the Social Law Library will be moving back to their old home. The courthouse will be updated to accommodate new technology.

Robert J. Brink, executive director of the Social Law Library, said he is excited because the library will have more room.

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