

Courthouse renamed to honor Adams

By MICHAEL O'CONNOR

Massachusetts legislative and judicial dignitaries lauded John Adams yesterday in renaming the Suffolk County Courthouse for the second president of the United States and the former chief justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

"We hope that the wisdom and intelligence of John Adams is forever associated with decisions made within the building that bears his name," said acting Gov. Jane Swift.

The historic structure in Pemberton Square, built in 1894, is undergoing a massive renovation that is expected to be completed in 2004. The courthouse will be the future home of the SJC, the state Appeals Court and the Social Law Library.

Born in Braintree in 1735, Adams developed the concept of an independent judiciary and wrote the state constitution. Lawyer and patriot, he spoke passionately on behalf of the Declaration of Independence.

SJC Chief Justice Margaret Marshall, an admirer of Adams, said his views "on the consent and respect of the people" remain foundations of a democracy.

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