

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	PIT.392
Historic Name:	Rice, Amasa House
Common Name:	
Address:	1643 East St
City/Town:	Pittsfield
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	11-1001
Year Constructed:	c 1840
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Wall: Cobblestone; Marble Foundation: Marble



DEMOLISHED

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

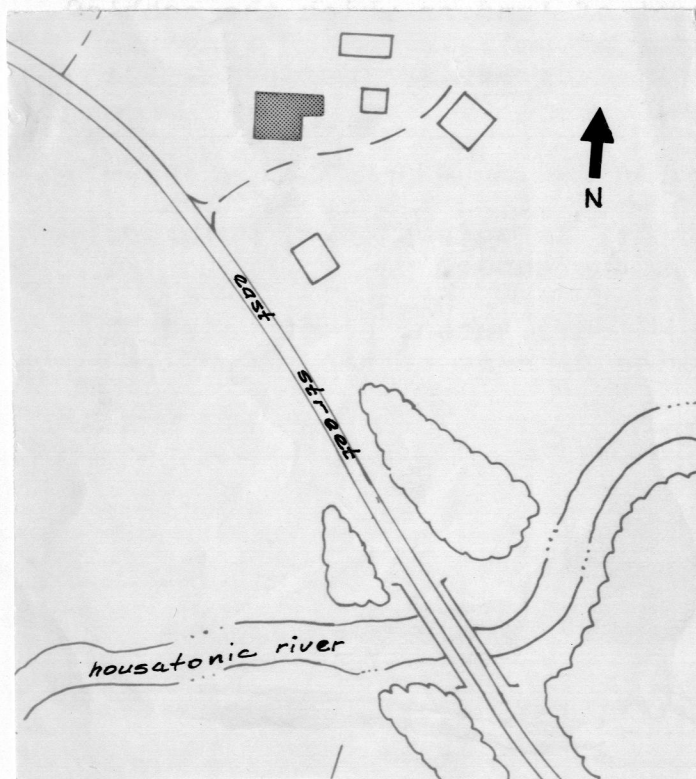
This file was accessed on: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:36 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



In Area no.	Form no. <u>11-1001</u>
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1. Town Pittsfield

Address 1643 East Street

Name Rice House

Present use Residence

Present owner Norman R. & Lillian March

3. Description:

Date c. 1840

Source Style, deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Cobblestone

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features Marble quoins, mouldings and doorway; early clapboard ells

Altered Ells Date Early 19th

Moved NA Date c.

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre 2.28 A

Approximate frontage 115 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
75 feet

6. Recorded by Elizabeth Fitzsimmons

Organization Pittsfield Historical Survey and Planning Project

Date April 18, 1981

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Amasa Rice

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This house is unique in Pittsfield, and most likely in Berkshire County as well by virtue of its cobblestone exterior. Its marble frieze and classical door mirror the Greek Revival elements usually rendered in wood. Its clapboard eels are early, possibly predating the house. The house sits near the East Branch of the Housatonic River in an area known as the Junction during the nineteenth century, where several large farms were located. Amasa Rice, who purchased the tract of land on which the cobblestone house sits in 1839, was a farmer well known and respected in mid-century Pittsfield. He was among **the founders** of the Housatonic Engine Company in 1844.

This architecturally important house has an eye-catching location, set back from the road on a bend of East Street. Most of the land in the immediate vicinity is undeveloped, reinforcing the original farmhouse function of the house.

The house is located on the site of Fort Anson, constructed by Col William Williams in 1754 for the defense of his extensive tract of land.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Smith, J.E.A., History of Pittsfield, Vol. 1, pp. 108-109
 Smith, J.E.A., History of Pittsfield, Vol. 2, p. 551
 1855 Map of Berkshire County
 1876 Atlas of Berkshire County, H.F. Beers, New York
 Berkshire Eagle, October 28, 1927
 Berkshire County Registry of Deeds Records
 Pittsfield Assessor's Records



PIT.392

Pittsfield

Address 1643 East Street

Original & present Residence

Owner Norman R. March

Public No.

Style Greek Revival

Literature Indians
Music Other

Source of date

Development of town/city
Architectural reason for inventorying:
Unique for Berkshires

Architect

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Granite

WALL COVER: Wood Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 5 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 75
Property has 75 feet frontage on street

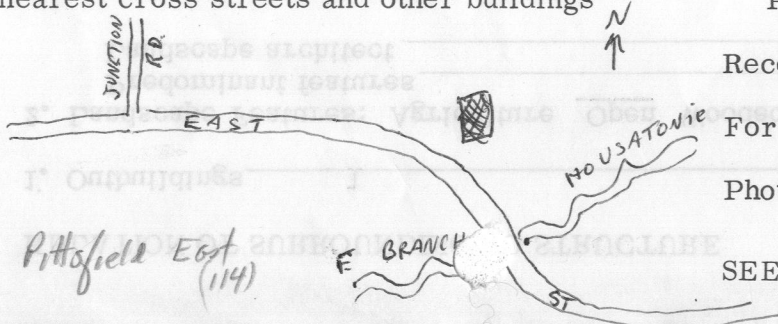
Recorder Dorothea Solomon

For Berkshire Co. Historical Society

Photo # P5-43 Date March 29, 1973

SEE REVERSE SIDE

JUN 23 1973



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

PIT. 392

1. Outbuildings 1
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
 Predominant features _____
 Landscape architect _____
3. Neighboring Structures
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern factory
 Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

BOARDS: 1 3 3 4 BOARDS: 1 3 3 4 BOARDS: 1 3 3 4
 STORIES: 1 3 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: 1 3 3 4
 CHIMNEYS: 1 3 3 4 Center End Interior Exterior Chimney Elongate
 Lower Sides Roofing Windows Battlement Grillwork
 ROOF: High (Gable) Flat Hip Mansard
 WALL COVER: Wood Brick Stone Other
 FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material Concrete

4. DESCRIPTION

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Number for references
 Description of building for identification:
 Development of community
 Historic Other
 Literature Indiana
 Government Religion/Bibliography
 Education Military Affairs
 Art/Sciences Travel/Communication
 Agriculture Science/Invention
 Sports Commerce/Industry
 following themes: (see also reverse side)
 Building has historical connection with the
 Town Commonwealth Nation
 Is this building historically significant to:
 Office of the Secretary State House Boston
 HISTORICAL COMMISSION 5. Town Bibliography
 Name
 Street address 1042 West Street

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____
 Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, Berk. Middle Dist. Registry of Deeds

(Attach photo here)