

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

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



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

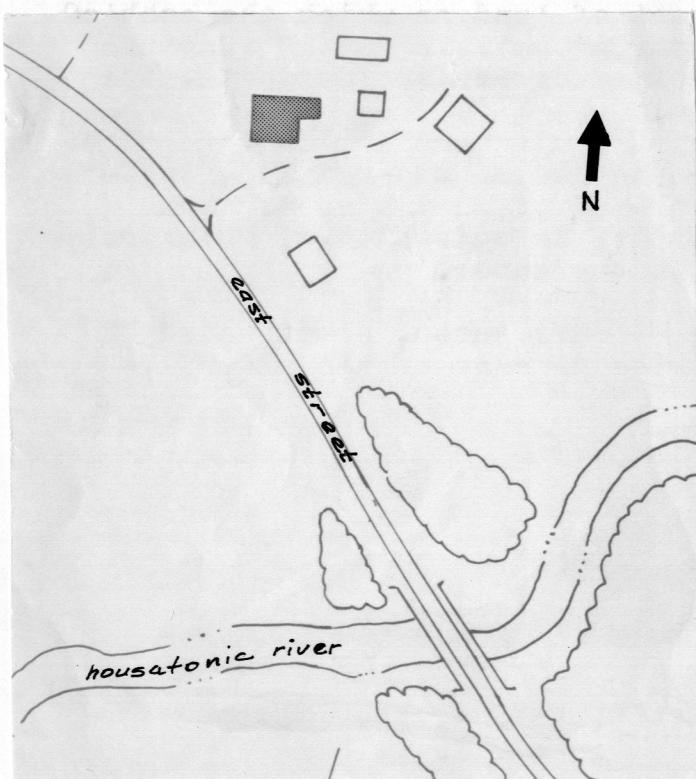
This file was accessed on: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 10:36 AM

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.



(over)

PIT.392

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| In Area no. | Form no. |
|             | 11-1001  |

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 eills

Altered Eills Date Early 19th c.

Moved NA Date

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

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         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____                               | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>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 eells 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

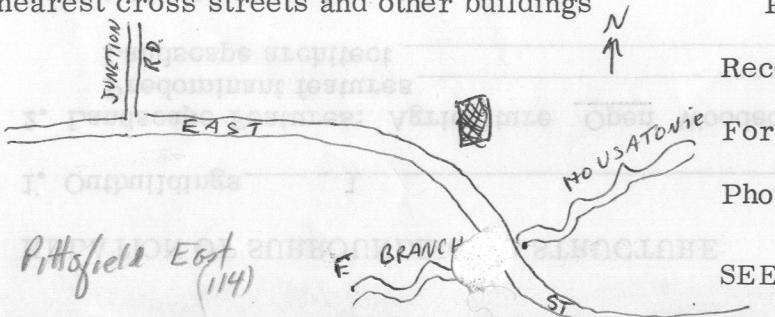
Recorder Dorothea Solomon

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)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, Berk. Middle Dist. Registry of Deeds