

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received FEB 12 1980

date entered

ref. no. 80000641

1. Name

historic Captain Peter Rice House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 377 Elm St.

not for publication

city, town Marlborough

vicinity of

congressional district

3rd

state Massachusetts code 025

county

Middlesex

code 017

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☐ private
☒ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military
☒ museum
☐ park
☐ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

(Owner of building)
name Marlborough Historical Society Inc.

(Owner of Land)
Microswitch Div. of Honeywell

street & number 377 Elm St.

377 Elm St.

city, town Marlborough

vicinity of

state Mass. 01752

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. South Middlesex Registry of Deeds

street & number P.O. Box 68

city, town Cambridge,

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth #42

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Captain Peter Rice House is located on the west slope of Sligo Hill, on the north side of Elm Street, slightly east of Interstate Route #495. In its present form, the Rice House is the product of several periods of construction ranging from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries.

The Rice House is a two-story, timber-frame structure, made up of a rectangular-plan main house with a central chimney and a rear ell. The main house rests on a granite foundation, is covered with clapboards (south, east and north) and is enclosed by a pitched roof covered by asphalt shingles. The facade (south elevation) of the house is symmetrical containing a center entrance flanked on each side by two windows at the first story and five windows at the second story. The entry consist of panelled architrave with corner blocks framing two four-pane sidelights set above panels and a door of four sunken panels. All facade windows are of 8/12 sash set in projecting frames with moulded caps.

The west elevation of the main house is asymmetrical; at its first story is an open porch on square posts, south of center, and a rectangular bay window set under the same half-hip roof as the porch, north of center; fenestration of the bay consists of a 6/6 window on its south face and a tripartite window of 6/9 sash on its west face. At the center of the first story is an entry, like that on the facade, except for its six-panel door. South of this entry is 6/6 window set in a projecting surround. There are three windows at the second story, containing from south to north 8/12, 6/9 and 8/12 sash. Above the second story is a slight projection which forms the base of the gable. The gable is trimmed by a boxed cornice with a return and contains a single 8/12 window.

The east elevation is covered with shingles and is set in the same plane as the east elevation of the rear ell, although the roofs of the two sections make a clear separation between the two. At the first story, the east end contains a rectangular-plan oriel and part of an enclosed porch. The oriel is set on brackets and is enclosed by a half-hip roof; in its north and south faces are simple five-pane lights, while its east face contains three 6/6 windows. The enclosed porch contains a narrow window on its east face. At the second story are three identical windows, each containing 8/12 sash. The east gable is identical to the west gable, except for its covering of shingles.

The house's north elevation is asymmetrically arranged and altered by additions. The eastern 1/3 of the north elevation is blocked by the rear ell. Elsewhere, the first story is covered by an enclosed porch with a shed roof. At the second story are four windows of varying sizes. The rear ell is of undetermined age and has undergone extensive alteration in the twentieth century. The ell's east elevation contains an enclosed porch for the full length of its first story. This porch is of apparent twentieth-century origin, and contains one five-panel door and six windows with varying types of sash. At the second story are three windows set out of horizontal alignment with each other; each window contains 6/6 sash. Above the second story is a low-pitched shed roof which connects to the main house.

The west elevation of the rear ell is also asymmetrical, containing an enclosed porch and two 6/6 windows at the first story and two 8/8 windows at the second story. The north elevation is mostly covered by a one-story shed, although there are two 6-pane lights on exposed portions of the second story.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

APR 9 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

1

The shed is one-story high with a pitched roof and north-facing gable. The shed's east elevation is covered by an enclosed porch; its north elevation is blank except for a 6-pane light in the gable; and its west elevation contains a simple window.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion				
☐ 1400-1499	☒ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science				
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture				
☒ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☒ military	☐ social/				
☒ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian				
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater				
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation				
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)				

Specific dates 1688, early 18th C., later additions **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Captain Peter Rice House retains integrity of location, design, materials and workmanship and possesses historical associations with the seventeenth and early eighteenth century settlement of Marlborough. The product of at least four periods of construction, the Rice House both retains elements of each and displays a sequence of development which is characteristic of local vernacular architecture.

In its earliest form, 1688, the Rice House is believed to have been a two-story structure with a one-room deep floor plan, containing two rooms at each storey, separated by a central chimney. This original structure now makes up the front or south half of the main house; preserved in this section of the house are a former kitchen fireplace, moulded sheathing and raised panelling. Shouldered corner posts and a chamfered summer beam are presently cased. In the early eighteenth century, the original house was enlarged by the addition of a lean-to roof and three rooms, including a new kitchen, at the first storey. In a subsequent enlargement, perhaps during the mid-or late eighteenth century, the lean-to roof was removed, the northern half of the second storey was constructed and the present roof was built. Subsequent additions have included a rear ell (late 18th or early 19th century?), the western porch, its entry and the facade entry (second quarter of the 19th century) and the eastern porch, oriel and rear porches (twentieth century).

The house is believed to have been built for Peter Rice (1658-1753) in 1688, at the time of his marriage to Rebecca Howe. Born in Sudbury, Massachusetts, Peter Rice was the son of Thomas Rice, one of the petitioners for the establishment of Marlborough as a plantation, and was a member of the large Rice family which supplied a large number of the town's early settlers. The younger Rice was brought to Marlborough as a child in 1664 and, presumably, lived in the town all of his life, with the possible exception of the period surrounding King Phillip's War when Marlborough was subject to Indian attack. Rice both farmed his land and served in various capacities for the town's defense. In the early eighteenth century, Rice was appointed a captain over part of the town's militia; in 1711, he was a member of a committee to designate garrison-houses and to assign town residents to specific garrison houses for their protection in emergencies. Rice himself served as a member of Ensign Howe's garrison, together with Ensign Bowker, Joseph Waite, David Church, Benjamin Rice and Joseph Rice.

The Rice House property may also possess a high degree of archaeological potential stemming from its seventeenth century occupation. Sites yielding information on the material culture and domestic life of the seventeenth century are drastically under reported in New England and the Rice property might provide such necessary data.

At present, the Captain Peter Rice House is owned by the Marlborough Historical Society and is undergoing restoration.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ward, Andrew H. The Rice Family. C. Benjamin Richardson, Boston, 1858.
Hudson, Charles The History of Marlborough Massachusetts T.R. Marvin & Son, Boston, 1862.
Bigelow, Ella Historical Reminiscences of Marlborough Massachusetts 1660-1910. Times Publishing Co. Marlborough, 1910.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Marlborough

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 9 2 8 7 9 0 0 4 6 9 1 3 7 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached assessor's map. The boundary is delineated in red.
The property occupies a part of sheet 67, lot 50.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Pfeiffer, Consultant with Ernest Ginnetti
Marlborough Historical Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 1979

street & number 294 Washington ST. telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia H. Weslowski 1/22/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Brian Pfeiffer
Keeper of the National Register

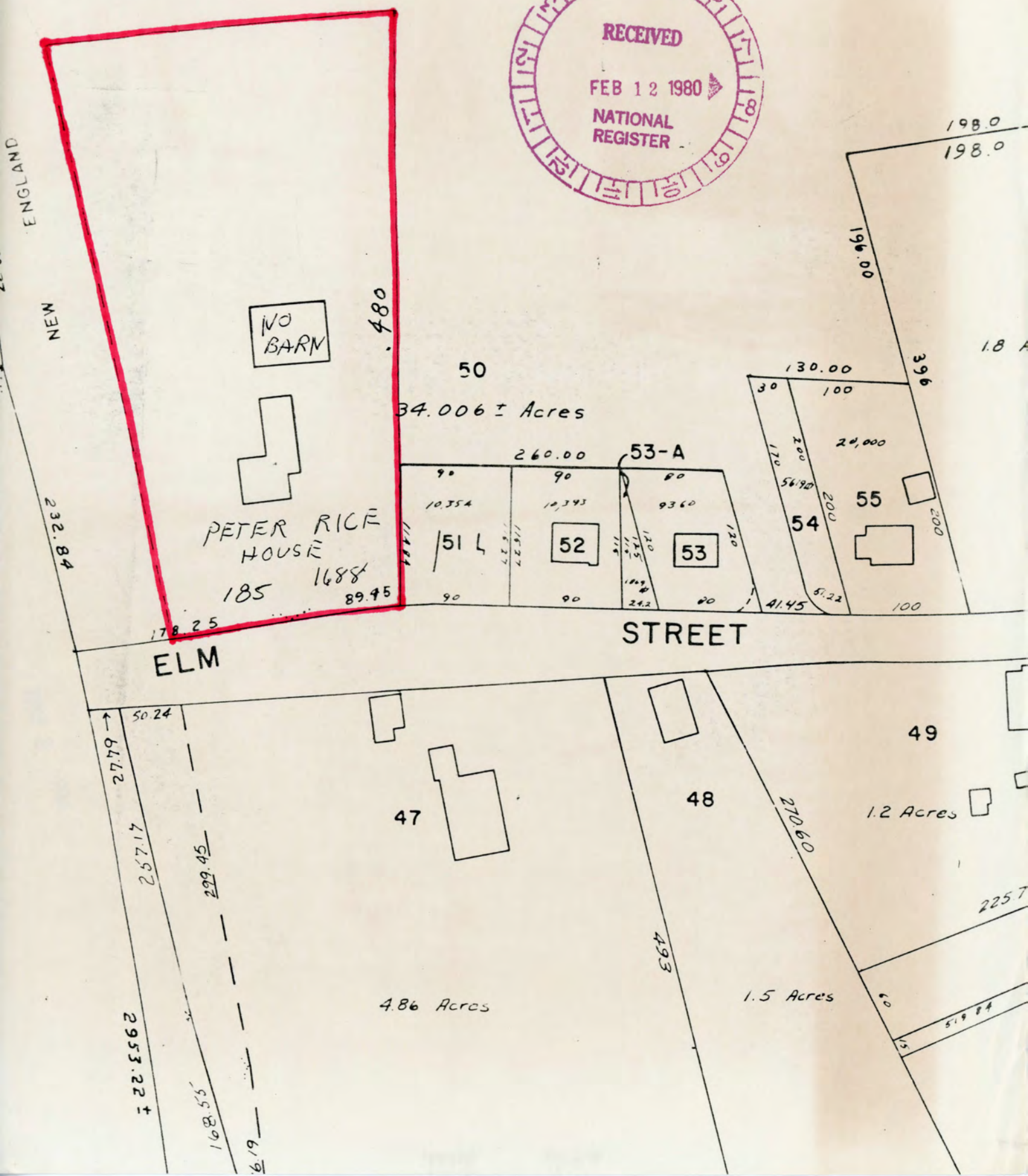
date 4/9/80

Attest: Patrick Andrews

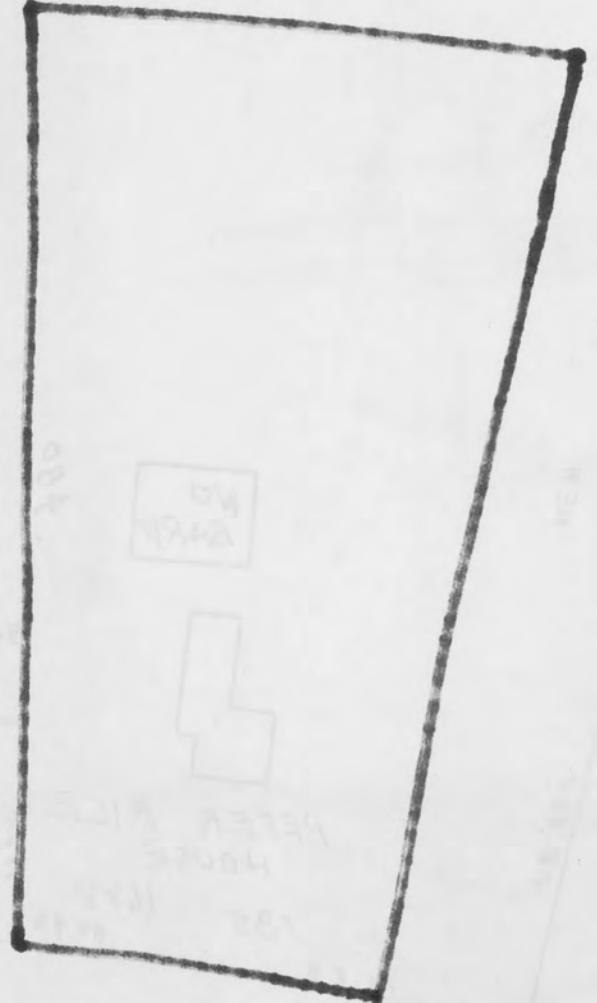
date 4/2/80

Chief of Registration

A circular purple ink stamp. The outer ring contains numbers 1 through 12. The center contains the text "RECEIVED" at the top, "FEB 12 1980" in the middle with a small triangle pointing right, and "NATIONAL REGISTER" at the bottom.



Captain Peter Rice House
377 Elm Street
Northampton, Mass.
Apparatus's Street 67, 1st St
Scale 1:1500



APR 9 1980

Property Rice, Capt. Peter House

State ma - middletown

Working Number 2-12-80 462

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 2

CONTROL

This house is eligible for its association with the early settlement of the town of Marlborough and for architecture. This 2 story timber frame structure represents vernacular architecture over four periods of construction - the core of the house was built c. 1688. Since that time it has been doubled in size and a rear ell added - these additions occurred in the 18th, 19th & early 20th centuries. archaeology has been checked but there is no evidence of arch. potential shown. *accept Patrick Andrews 4/2/80*

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered APR 9 1980



PHOTO #1
SOUTH FACADE &
WEST ELEVATION

Captain Peter Rice House
377 Elm St.
Marlborough, Mass. *Middlesex co*

Jack Ginnetti Jan 3, 1979
Marlborough Historical Commission
City Hall
Marlborough, Mass.

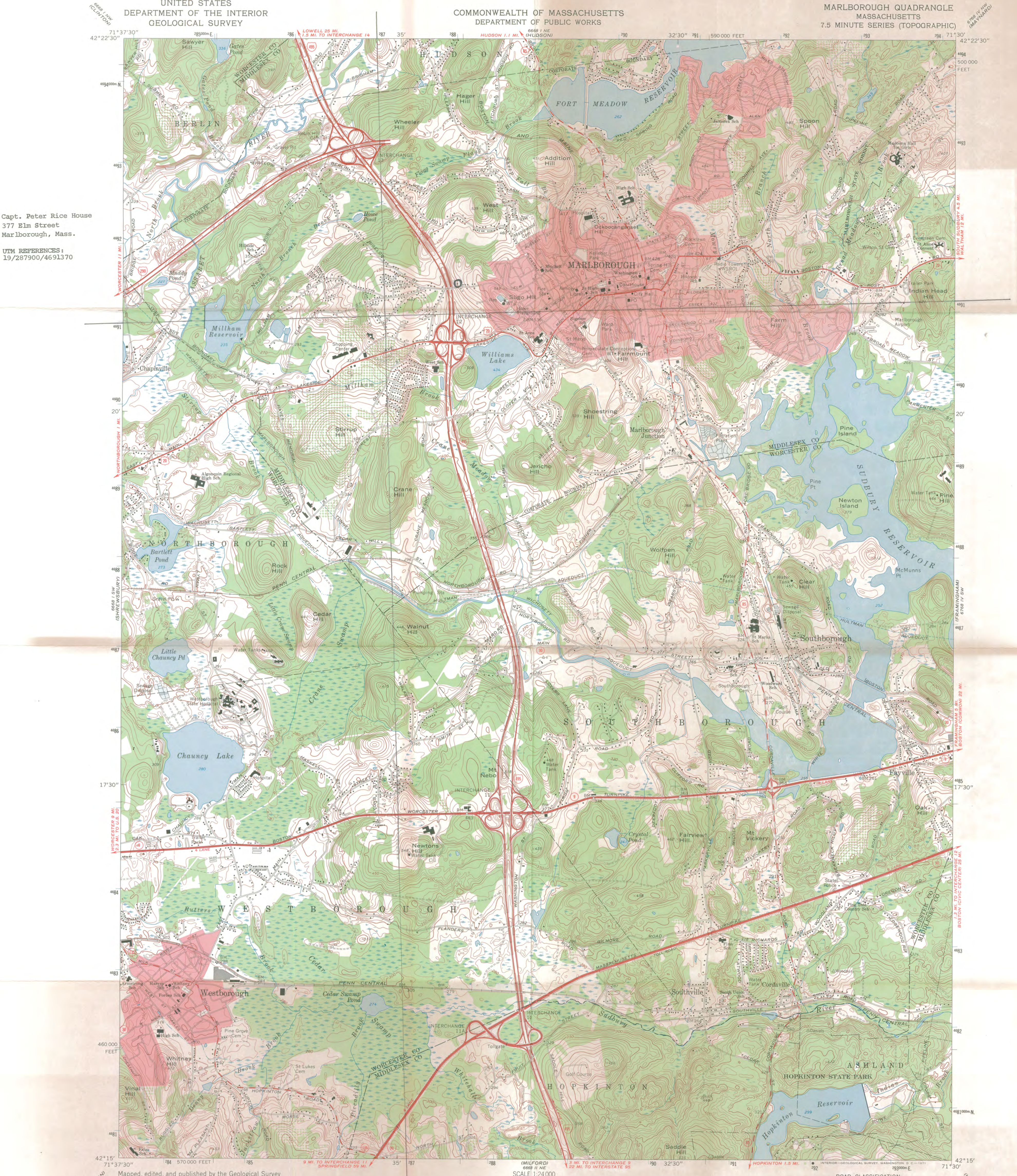
Photo #1 of 1
south facade and west elevation

FEB 12 1980

APR 9 1980

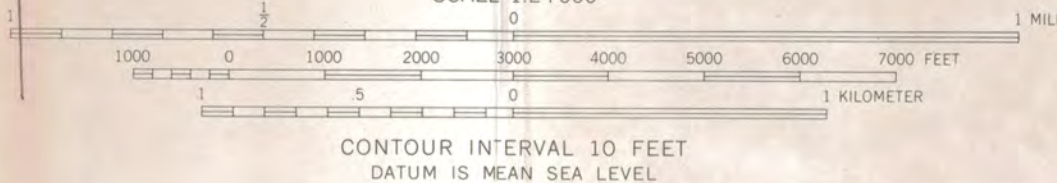
Capt. Peter Rice House
377 Elm Street
Marlborough, Mass.

UTM REFERENCES:
19/287900/4691370

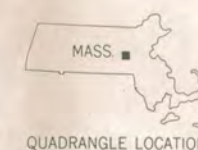


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1941. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



MARLBOROUGH, MASS.
(FORMERLY MARLBORO)
N4215-W7130/7.5

1969
AMS 6668 I SE-SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered

APR 9 1980

Name

Location

Echo Bridge	Town of Needham, City of Newton Norfolk and Middlesex County
Swetland-Pease House	East Longmeadow vicinity Hampden County
Rice, Capt. Peter, House	Marlborough Middlesex County
First Baptist Church	Framingham Middlesex County
Oakes, Edward, House	Medford Middlesex County
McGill, John H., House	Medford Middlesex County
Dillaway School	Boston Suffolk County
Berger Factory	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Robert F. Drinan
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Joseph D. Early
Honorable Edward J. Markey

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Byers/bjr 4/17/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.