

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Bovlston Street

70

Marlborough

H; Q

477, 479



Town Marlborough

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Rice Farm subdivision

Addresses (inclusive) \_\_\_\_\_

72 and 76 Rice Street

Range of Dates or Period ca. 1890

Predominant Architectural Styles/Forms \_\_\_\_\_

vernacular Queen Anne side-gabled double-  
houses

Alterations synthetic siding on both; fire

escape at 76

General Condition fair to good

Acreage less than one acre

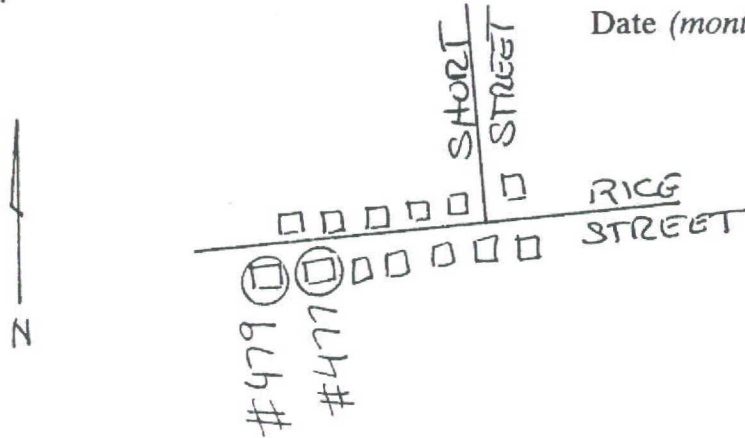
Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant

Organization Marlborough Historical Comm.

Date (month/day/year) 9/10/94

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the streetscape indicating properties within it. Number each property. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient. Indicate North with an arrow.



## STREETSCAPE FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

*Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other streetscapes and similar buildings in the community.*

In spite of their synthetic siding, and the addition of a fire escape at 76 Rice, these two houses are among the most intact of the late-nineteenth-century houses in the Middle Village area. They also illustrate one common type of double-house design that was popular in the 1880's-1890's. Almost identical, they are 2 1/2-story, side-gabled buildings, two rooms deep, with paired ridge chimneys and brick foundations. The facade of each is three bays wide, with a wide center wall dormer rising to a prominent gable. The facade of 72 Rice has two-story polygonal bay windows flanking a central glass-and-panel door. Above the entry are a paired 1-over-1-sash window at both the second story and in the gable. A facade-width veranda on turned, bracketed posts, with a turned balustrade, shelters the entry and first-floor windows. #76, which has three bays of 2-over-2-sash, has a pair of one-story polygonal bay windows on the facade, linked by a continuous roof to form an entry porch.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

*Explain the history of this streetscape, and how it relates to the overall development of the community.*

These two double-houses, among the last to be built on Rice Street, are representative of the later development of the Rice Farm subdivision, which was first laid out by Major Henry Rice in 1855. (See Area Form H: "Middle Village.") Most or all of Major Rice's real estate holdings in the vicinity were purchased shortly after his death in 1867 by shoe-manufacturer Samuel Boyd, who put up many houses for sale. The majority were single-family homes; in contrast to some other areas near Marlborough center, where many more multi-unit dwellings were built, the presence here in the "Middle Village" area of double-houses was relatively unusual.

For several decades nearly all the owners and occupants of the houses on Rice Street were Irish-American, many of them employees in the nearby shoe factories. These two properties were originally a double parcel, (lots #31 and 32 of the Rice Farm subdivision), which is shown on maps through 1889 with a former house on the site of 72 Rice belonging to M. Flannigan. In about 1890 these two buildings were constructed, replacing the former house and filling the lot.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Marlborough directories and tax valuations.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Community                      Property  
Marlborough                  72 and 76 Rice Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)                          Form Nos.  
H; Q                              477, 479

**STREETSCAPE DATA SHEET**

<u>MHC#</u>	<u>Parcel #</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style/type</u>
477	70-2	72 Rice Street		ca. 1890	side-gabled
479	70-1	76 Rice Street		ca. 1890	side-gabled