

Enterprise May 14, 93

# A new look at old houses

A rare treat is in store for people whose thinking is historic.

On Saturday, June 12, nine old homes in Marlboro and Hudson and one old church will be open to visitors who cherish such tours.

Somebody thught up the idea in Marlboro back in 1960 during the Tercentenary and it worked so well that the same thing was done three years ago during the Centennial of Marlboro as a city.

Now it's going to happen again as an observance of the Marlboro Historical Society's 25th year of ownership of the Peter Rice Homestead at 377 Elm Street.

The Peter Rice Homestead itself is 305 years old, having been built in 1688. It is the repository for all documents, pictures, and other historical materials accumulated by the Marlboro Historical Society over the years. It was obtained by the Society in 1968.

Dr. Kenneth Greenleaf is the president of the Historical Society, and he has pointed out that only two of the nine houses have ever been opened to the public before. Thus those who have participated in such tours in the past will be getting something new in the ways of visits.

The church and houses will be open for visits from 1 to 5 p.m., and a combined souvenir brochure and ticket can be obtained from Concannon's in downtown Marlboro or by mail from the Historical Society, P.O. Box 513 in Marlboro. The price is \$9 per person, with senior citizens' tickets going for \$7.

The church to be open for inspection is the

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First Baptist Church in Monument Square, which was built in 1887. Throughout the visiting period there will be organ music played within the church and outside there will be a water pumper that was the first piece of fire apparatus ever owned by the town of Marlboro. Within the church there will be refreshments available, and a craft boutique. Also on sale will be 19th Century maps of the town of Marlboro.

The nine houses open for visiting will include the Harrington farmhouse at 29 Farm Road, built in 1803. It is a charming cape with wide pine floors, tin ceilings, and a large collection of 'crazy quilts' and colonial and country furnishings.

The Jones Tavern at 982 Boston Post Road East, which was built in 1726 and was restored by Henry Ford will also be open. It is a salt box style house and has the original wood paneling plus a beamed ceiling complete with a bullet hole from an Indian attack.

The John Weeks Homestead, constructed in 1703, is another on the list. It is a Colonial with six fireplaces and a clapboard facade, situated near the Weeks Family Cemetery. There is a herb garden on the property.

The Whit House, built in 1708 is situated at 31 Parmenter Road in Hudson. It is a restored Colonial with exposed beams, original chimneys and a chimney inspection chamber. There is a garden and a dried flower boutique.

The Jewel Farm at 25 Lewis St., Hudson built in 1803, is a center hall Colonial with butterfly staircase. Pots and beams are

exposed, there are eight fireplaces, large rooms 16 by 16 feet, and wide pine floors. The setting is particularly beautiful.

The Dumont House at 46 Pleasant St., Marlboro, was built in 1890, the year Marlboro became a city. It's a Queen Anne Victorian with stained glass windows, pocket doors, and the original varnished woodwork. It is filled with Victorian furnishings and there is a garden.

The Crawford House at 40 Pleasant St., Marlboro built in 1860, is another home being shown to the public for the first time. It is a high style early Victorian with fine woodwork and high ceilings, fancy parlor doors, and a marble fireplace.

The Aldrich House, built in the year Abraham Lincoln was shot, 1865, is at 49 Fairmount St. It is a colorful French Victorian with restored exterior, ten foot ceilings, Victorian furnishings, marble fireplaces, and a garden. The house is currently undergoing interior restorations.

Finally, the home of the Historical Society, The Peter Rice Homestead, is on the list for visiting. It's an eight room Colonial with central chimney, four fireplaces, and two brick ovens. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

As previously noted, this is a rare opportunity to see a bit of "old" Marlboro (and Hudson) not often made available. It's well worth the time, effort, and money to make this tour.

*Ed Bridges is a local columnist published Monday through Friday. The Enterprise-Sun welcomes readers' comments on the issues addressed in this column in letters to the editor.*