

THE RICE HOMESTEAD

For countless generations, Mayfield residents have pointed with pride to the Rice Homestead as one of our local treasures.

The RICE HOMESTEAD has been lived in and cared for, until recently, by the descendants of its original owner, Oliver Rice, a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Built in 1790, the RICE HOMESTEAD has merited a New York State Department of Education official Historical Marker and is on both the National and State Historical Registries. The home is now a museum maintained by the Mayfield Historical Society. It contains a potpourri of historical treasures from the Rice family and the Mayfield area.

Once the center of a large farm, the Rice Homestead now has a setting of a couple of acres. The large two-story main house can be seen from Route 30. The rear of the house was built in 1790 and was originally erected on a site across the street. It was subsequently moved across the road and added as a rear wing attachment. The old section is a small primitive farm house of the sort built by the settlers—plain and sturdy, with few rooms and no architectural pretensions whatsoever. The 1810 portion, however, displays many features of the Federal period when it was built with special attention to details of woodwork and trim.

In 1810, northern New York State was thinly settled and mostly wilderness. The Rice residence, with its architecture reflecting the latest style, must have been one of the most important buildings in the area. Oliver served as the area's first postmaster; today's visitor can see the original mail slots.

On the second floor, a room has been devoted to the glove industry which played a major role in Riceville and Mayfield's more recent history.

The Homestead is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon to 4 pm, starting June 15 until August 31. Tours are also given by calling 518-332-0538.

There are many special events held throughout the year which include an Antique Show & Sale, a Strawberry Festival, a Concert & Ice Cream Social, and the Annual Christmas Open House.