

**THOMAS SMITH HOUSE –
A Historic Vernacular Landscape**
*Historic Landscape Report and
Preservation Master Plan*
Agawam, Massachusetts
Agawam Historical Association

Project Data

Date: 2004-2005
Size: 1± acres
Context: A quickly disappearing
western Massachusetts
landscape



Thomas Smith House, ca. 1900



Thomas Smith House, August 2004

Project Description:

The Thomas Smith House, circa 1790, was part of a 200-acre farmstead. The house remains relatively in tact and survives as an excellent example of early domestic architecture, reflective of the styles and construction methods of the Connecticut River Valley at that time. Today, this house with two outbuildings sits on a one-acre parcel. Farming and agricultural activities have continued on this parcel since it was built. The site and its uses have metamorphosed several times as a result of social, economic, and personal factors.

In 2001, the Agawam Historical Association purchased the property and intends to restore the house and landscape as a house museum that interprets its history as a continuum. We were hired to prepare a Historic Landscape Report and Preservation Master Plan as part of a larger project that involved similar research and planning on the three buildings. We conducted archival research and documentation, did an existing conditions assessment, prepared a Preservation Master Plan with budget projections, while working with an architect and the Client. Our final plan included a fenced in parking corral, vegetable and flower gardens, grape arbor, a historic school house with outhouse, open lawn areas for school groups, ADA and universal access into the house, restored paths and walks, restored drives, and a multi-purpose door yard behind the house for organized group activities. All of our work followed the guidelines established by *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Treatments of Historic Properties* prepared by the National Park Service, 1996. Funding is presently underway to prepare construction drawings and implement the approved Master Plan.

Preservation Master Plan

