

HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE

Comprehensive Master Plan
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
Hancock Shaker Village

Project Data

Date: 2008
Size: 1,100 acres
Context: Rural western
Massachusetts



View across pastures to HSV and Shaker Mountain beyond.



View within HSV



View of Round Barn from Visitor's Center

Project Description:

Hancock Shaker Village (HSV) may be the most intact Shaker Village in the United States. A unique collection of buildings, landscapes, and artifacts survives. The Shakers lived at Hancock for 180 years, from 1780 to 1960. In 1840, its population peaked at 350 and then began declining by the turn of the 20th-century. In 1960, the community was closed and soon after purchased by a group of local citizens who saved it and created a museum village that evolved into Hancock Shaker Village. While changes have occurred, much historic integrity and Shaker heritage survives.

EDC was part of a team of consultants that prepared this Comprehensive Master Plan, which is focused in its direction and flexible enough to accommodate emergencies or unforeseen opportunities. This plan will guide efforts to improve the physical and visual appearance of HSV while increasing opportunities for educational and cultural interpretation of their resources. EDC's work focused on the entire 1,100 acres with detailed attention paid to the historic Village-core and the Museum-era landscapes. Several development opportunities were identified across the broader landscape that will help generate a revenue stream for HSV and be compatible with adjacent land uses. EDC documented the historic landscape and its changes over time, oversaw deed research for property boundary verification and identification of deed restrictions, conducted a detailed landscape assessment (inventory, analysis, and evaluation), prepared treatment recommendations to enhance the visitor's experience, and developed short- and long-range planning recommendations with budget projections. Our team worked directly with HSV's professional staff, the Master Planning Advisory Committee, and the Board of Trustees. All of our work and recommendations follow the guidelines established by *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Treatments of Historic Properties* prepared by the National Park Service, 1996.



2006 aerial photograph of Hancock Shaker Village (Google Earth/MassGIS)