

WATERVLIET SHAKER SITE

Master Plan - Phase I

Phase I – Church Family Site

Albany, New York

Shaker Heritage Society

Project Data

Date: 2006-2007

Size: 42-acres within a 770-acre
National Historic District

Context: Rural oasis surrounded by
urban sprawl

Project Description:

The Watervliet Shaker Site is America's first Shaker settlement and the resting-place of its founder, Ann Lee. Phase I of the Master Plan focuses on the 42-acre Church Family site, which is a small portion of the 770-acre Watervliet Shaker Historic District. The site is a rural oasis, nestled within an urban setting of Colonie, New York and the Albany International Airport. It includes nine Shaker buildings, one mill ruin, a cemetery, an orchard, two demonstration gardens, and pasture-land. The Shaker Heritage Society is working to preserve the site for its educational and historic preservation value while celebrating and interpreting it for the benefit of future generations.



Existing water course across site



Shaker Cemetery

EDC was hired to lead a team of consultants to prepare the Master Plan that will serve as a comprehensive blueprint for rehabilitation, preservation and optimal use of the structures and grounds of the Church Family site. We conducted archival research; undertook a detailed landscape and building assessment (inventory, analysis, and evaluation); prepared programmatic planning and recommendations that included program planning matrices for the Shaker buildings and the Church Family site, a list of pipeline projects for the National Historic District, and future research, assessment, and planning recommendations for the both the site and the District. 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.

While changes have occurred over time, much historic integrity and Shaker heritage survives along with an overlay of the County's use and improvements to the buildings and landscape. Today, the significance of this site is better understood as a result of the work completed in Phase I.

Recipient: 2007 Honor Award from Connecticut ASLA.



Historic gate and Church Family site



Existing gate and extant buildings