

## THE EMILY DICKINSON MUSEUM

*Comprehensive Master Plan with a Historic Landscape Restoration Plan*

Amherst, Massachusetts  
The Emily Dickinson Museum

### Project Data

Date: 2004-2006

Size: 3.5± acres

Context: One block from downtown Amherst in a college town

### Project Description:

The Emily Dickinson Museum: The Homestead (ca. 1813) and The Evergreens (1855) is a cultural facility owned by the Trustees of Amherst College and operated as a museum devoted to advancing the legacy of Poet Emily Dickinson (1830-1886). This was Emily's home for all but 15 years of her life and where she wrote more than 1,800 poems. Amherst College acquired her home in 1965 and The Evergreens in 2003, bringing them back into single ownership. The Homestead is a National Historic Landmark and The Evergreens is on the State Register of Historic Places.

The landscapes varied as much as their architectural styles. The Homestead's landscape was a working or vernacular landscape with a kitchen garden, vegetable garden, herb garden, and orchard with top fruits and berries. The Evergreens' landscape was well-designed and influenced by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing and was reportedly visited by Cavert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted.

Our team of consultants prepared a Comprehensive Master Plan to direct the development and preservation of the museum buildings, grounds, and its historic resources. EDC's work included review of existing reports and archival materials, prepared an assessment of the existing conditions, established a period of significance, and developed a comprehensive Historic Landscape Restoration Plan. 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.



*Historic image of The Evergreens*



*Existing conditions image of The Evergreens*



*Existing conditions image of The Homestead*



*Historic image and our restoration goal of The Homestead,*