

ATWOOD FARM MUSEUM WALKING TOUR

This outdoor museum was made possible by the bequest of Isabelle Atwood to Joshua's Trust in 2012. She wanted to preserve and display the buildings, grounds and implements of this 19th century farm. She and her twin sister Harriett were born and always lived here. This self-guided walking tour of the grounds and buildings is available during daylight hours. The Blacksmith Shop, Barn and Weaver's Cottage have displays inside and are open at special events.

1. WEAVER'S COTTAGE

This building was originally a shop for making bits and augers and it stood across Wormwood Hill Road. While still there it was transformed into a weaver's shop in the early 20th century. The cottage now houses a large loom, spinning wheels and other weaving implements.

2. WAGON SHED

This open structure held wagons and machinery used on the farm. An ox cart and a hay wagon are displayed here. It also provided storage of lumber as it does now and a place to work on equipment under shelter.

3. ICE HOUSE

The double walls were insulated with sawdust as was the ice, cut from ponds in the area during cold weather. The ice was used, as long as it lasted, to preserve food during the hot summer months. It now houses ice cutting tools. You can find a description inside the upper door.

4. HEN COOP

Hens and other poultry were housed here to produce eggs and also meat for the table. It has been refitted with nest boxes and a roost. You can find a description inside the door.

5. THE LANE

The barn yard behind the barn leads to the lane with stone walls on each side. The cows would be brought to the lower barn level to be milked and then released to return to the night pasture. They were safer at night in a pasture close to the farm yard. They could be walked to other pastures during the day. The rail fences close off the barn yard from the other areas.

6. PIG STY

The Atwoods always had at least one pig that was fattened from spring to fall when it was then butchered to supply the family with pork products.

7. WELL SWEEP

The sweep was used to raise buckets of water from the well which is now buried. The heavy end was weighted and the stick hanging down would hold a bucket which was lowered into the well. The Y shaped fulcrum holds the lever. The basic principles of physics were familiar to 19th century farmers. A description can be found inside the smoke house door.

8. SMOKE HOUSE

This low structure built into the hillside was used for smoking hams, bacon, and other products as a means of preservation. A description can be found inside the door.

9. BARN

This two level barn was built in 1883. The horse stable and a tack room and grain room were on the main floor and hay in the loft. A hay fork near the roof hangs from a pulley system which extends out above the hay door. The loaded hay wagon would be parked here and the horses would operate the pulley system to carry forks of hay to the loft.

The main floor was later used as an antique shop by the Atwood sisters. As part of the farm museum the side areas of the main floor display farm and household implements. This is a New England bank barn. New England barns have the door in

the gable end and bank barns are built into a bank giving entrance at a lower level. Most of its structure is original.

The foundation and the retaining wall on the south side are mortared fieldstone. The lower level of the barn housed the cattle and there are stanchions and a gutter. The ceiling and walls were white washed, indicating use as a milk parlor. The tall front sliding door is mounted on a metal track. The barn is open for special events.



Stanchions



Door track

10. BLACKSMITH SHOP

This shop contains a forge, bellows, anvil, an ox sling for shoeing oxen and all the tools necessary to perform the farm blacksmith's and carpenter's trades. Farms in the 19th century often had blacksmith shops not only for shoeing horses but also to repair farm equipment. This shop stood down by Wormwood Hill Road and served the public. It was moved near the barn in the late 19th century.

Notice the ingenious lock on the door of the blacksmith shop. There is a sliding door to the right of that door that allows larger

items and animals to be brought into the shop. The blacksmith shop is open at special events.



11. CARRIAGE SHED

This open shed attached to the blacksmith shop housed the family carriage or buggy. It now displays an express wagon and a sleigh.

12. FARM HOUSE

The house was built c. 1840 and Thurlow and Harriet Cross Atwood bought it in 1886. It preserves many 19th century architectural features. It is now the headquarters of Joshua's Trust. Its many rooms provide office and meeting spaces and it is a fitting symbol of the Trust's two goals of land conservation and historic preservation. The two ells are modern additions. You can walk around the house to see the front recessed doorway in classical revival style, with elaborate details, intricate moldings and cornices. This is repeated around the fireplace in the front parlor. There is a traditional central chimney serving three

fireplaces. The front steps are cut stone not field stone. It is the only 19th century house on the green.

13. CORN CRIB

Dried ears of corn were stored here to feed the livestock. When ground into corn meal at the Gurleyville Grist Mill it was used by the family.

14. ORCHARD

The apple orchard north of the parking area contains about 25 trees, traditional varieties such as Sheep's Nose and Russet. Fruit trees were an important food on the farm.

FARM LIFE

We hope this museum will give a picture of a very different way of life. This photo of Isabelle and Harriett as children leads us to imagine the rich and varied experiences of farm children at that time. Compared to many children these two led charmed lives, but they participated fully in the chores of the farm, tending livestock, bringing in firewood, preparing fruits and vegetables for canning. Isabelle sewed matching clothes for herself and Harriett from the time she was ten.

