



Windsor Architecture Quest

Windsor, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Architectural, Historical

Duration: 0:30

Bring: Pencil

To get there: From either Exit 8 or 9 off I-91, take Route 5 south or north to downtown Windsor. This Quest begins at Windsor House, across the street from the Post Office in downtown Windsor. Note: This Quest can be completed at any time, but is best done Monday – Friday before 5:45pm or on Saturdays before 3pm.



Super Quest 2019: Gateway to Summer Fun

This quest is one of 25 featured in this year's Super Quest challenge to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Vital Communities. For the rest of your adventure: vitalcommunities.org/superquest

Now that you're here...

Check out the Quest for the Kestrel, another Valley Quest on the Super Quest! Or, stop by the Windsor Precision Museum that showcases Windsor's role in advancing mechanical technology.

Clues: Architectural terms are noted in **bold**.

1. Look for three steps in between **columns** six , Then turn 'round to face a **façade** made of bricks.
2. In an age of cell phones and instant message e-mail, Let's reflect on our Post Offices and the U.S. mail. The Windsor Post Office we think is rather grand— Perhaps the prettiest in the Upper Valley land.

3. This **Italianate** structure was inspired by a Venetian palace c.1850-1900,
With **brackets** evenly spaced along its upper **valance**.
Look at the place where the roof meets the wall ...
Then count the front brackets—there are _____ in all.
4. Above the low **hip roof** are chimneys galore.
We've a brick and cast iron monument to explore.
Cast iron? What do you mean?
Carefully cross the street to learn more about this scene.
5. Stand in front of the Post Office:
Ami B. Young, born in West Lebanon, New Hampshire,
Served as Architect for the Treasury as America expanded her empire.
Post offices and customs houses supported commerce and trade,
Ami made it beautiful, fire-proof and difficult to invade.
6. The patriotic **décor** features eagles to spare;
You will find them inside and out by giving a good stare.
What you think might be stone may be a trick of the eye.
Cast iron abounds—from granite **foundation** to the sky.
7. Near the front door, rummage in your pocket for change.
Tap on what seems like **stucco**—sounds kind of strange!
This metallic ping lets you know
That what appears as stone is **faux**.
8. Fancy grill-work arches atop the front door.
For alternative access use side **ramp** with sloping floor.
Postal workers load & unload letters on docks in the rear.
Customers have been served here for nearly 150 years!
9. How can we complain about the high cost of mail?
How far can a person drive for not many cents...as far as a snail!
Just think of the pleasure that can be bought and sent:
Holidays, birthdays, Valentines, for just a few cents spent.
10. Inside the post office lobby small eaglets abound.
Look to their hearts to find locks that are round.
Count the eagles...How many do you see?
They count up to the number _____.
11. Now out through the door that opens onto MAIN,
And turn left on your Quest trail once again.
Pass a fire hydrant and a low-down grate.
Look up to see "Tuxbury Block" from 1898.
12. Cross over Depot to a soldier of late.
Then turn right or "up" the street called STATE.
13. March uphill to a Church called St. Paul's,
Passing renovated brick buildings—one used to have crumbling walls.
14. St. Paul's, built by Alexander Paris, was completed in 1822.

- This building has distinctive architectural elements, too.
This brick church tells a story in its blocks of fired stone,
Combining stylistic elements from both Greece and Rome.
15. Large white **columns** are topped with curling **capitals**,
And support an **arched** window in a triangular **gable**.
 16. Keep onward and upward to the Windsor Library--
Truly a temple of learning as you shall soon see.
Libraries of the 20th Century were built to stand
Looking old and stoic, massive and grand.
 17. This building too, is built in a particular style--
One that is referred to as the **Georgian Revival**.
Here, classical details were used stylistically:
Look at the **columns** here, so thick and portly.
This building's architectural intent
Is to convey the subject's importance.
 18. Inside, the Allyn Cox mural recalls ancient Greece & Rome,
And encourages readers to enjoy arts,, prose & poems.
Behind this fine building find a shady Hemlock tree,
And treasure box quite near? The end of this Quest mystery!

Glossary:

Column: a kind of supporting pillar consisting of shaft, base and capital.

Façade: the face of a building.

Italianate: having an Italian form or appearance.

Brackets: an overhanging member projecting from a wall or other body to support weight falling outside the wall.

Valance: a decorative framework to conceal curtain fixtures at the top of a window casing.

Hip roof: a roof with sloping ends and sides.

Décor: that which serves to decorate.

Foundation: a body, stock or ground material upon which anything is built up.

Stucco: an exterior finish for masonry or frame walls, usually composed of cement, sand, and hydrated lime mixed with water and laid on wet.

Faux: fake.

Ramp: a short bend, slope or curve in the vertical plane.

Capital: the upper most member of a column, crowning the shaft and taking the weight of the entablature.

Arched: made with a curve.

Gable: the vertical triangular portion of the end of a building.

Georgian Revival: Colonial style after the reigns of the three King Georges from 1714 to 1820.

This Quest was created by Judy Hayward and Steve Glazer in 2002.

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region's challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We'd love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.