

The Broad Street Park Quest Claremont, NH

This quest is in the center of Claremont's downtown and municipal area.

It can be reached via Exit 8 of I-91, and proceeding east on 103 East/12 North about 5 miles until you reach Opera House Square. Turn right onto Broad Street in front of City Hall, and park in the municipal parking lot. Or, come to the center of Claremont on Route 103 West from Newport, or 12 North from Charlestown. Again, park at the municipal parking lot on Broad Street across from Broad Street Park. The Quest begins when you stand at the corner of Broad St and Opera House Square, near Steven Nemi Accounting at 103 Broad St, directly across the street from the front of City Hall. Please stand where you have a good vantage of "The Moody Building," a large brick structure with white portico that houses such businesses as Farro Deli, Violet's Bookstore, and the Claremont Chamber of Commerce, facing Opera House Square. This is where your Quest begins.

Historical, Architectural

Easy
:45

*Please begin on the corner of Broad, but facing the Square,
We have a story we would like to share.
Stand on the corner and look straight ahead.
The Moody building was once a place to get a room and a bed.*

Once owned by William Moody,
The hotel gave great hospitality.
He made shoes in mass,
And his hotel was first-class.
The porch out front is where horses went under,
To keep the guests from rain and thunder.

Before that the Tremont House once stood,
It was a big hotel all made of wood.
March 29, 1879 was a fateful day,
Five people died in a great fire before the hotel in ruins lay.

*Now cross to your right and face the tall building
Where an eagle stands in great gold gilding.*

This is the second town hall, the first one was wooden.
The clock was designed by the great Thomas Woolson.
(If you have time, go inside and see

The Opera House – It’s very pretty!)
Facing the building, read the plaque on your right.
Claremont was established before the war our ancestors did fight.

*Now turn right and cross the street,
Ahead’s a large monument we’d like you to meet.*

Please take a moment to read the stone
That honors those who lost their lives in wars far from home.
The Korean, Vietnam, World Wars I and II,
These Claremonters fought for me and for you.

*Walk behind the stone and you’re on the green,
On Thursdays in summer it’s a bustling scene!*

At the Farmer’s Market you can buy veggies and fruit,
Breads, jellies, jams, even crafts, to boot.

*Next stop is the soldier that stands proud and tall,
He honors the men who in the Civil War did fall.*

The Freedom Garden is dedicated to 9/11,
Remember those victims now in Heaven.

*Now turn to face the stand so grand,
On summer evenings you can hear a band.*

The two cannons are real – they were used in the past
But no longer do they blast.

*Pass the bandstand ‘til the park goes no more,
Cross to your right, there’s a bank and an insurance store.
Turn left and continue up the street and cross Glidden,
You are now in front of “CSB,” I’m not kiddin’.*

This bank is now the tallest building around,
There once was a mansion here but it got torn down.

*Now to the next building, please stop and browse,
You’re at SAU #6, former home of the Dows.*

This grand house full of mahogany
Is now part of the school economy.
Six fireplaces were built in this home to be lit,
And in the basement gravestones still sit.
When Prentis Dow first came to Claremont, this was THE ONLY house he wanted,
But it wasn’t for sale so he lived close by and waited 2 years ‘til he finally bought it!

Next go to the sign with a cardinal saying

When all the sports teams are playing.

Paran Stevens was born and raised in our town,
Once owned the Tremont House, long before it burned down.
He became a successful hotel owner, even owned the first chain!
Everyone in America knew his name.
Great hotels in Boston, and New York, too.
He founded this high school for me and for you.
In 1866 he donated several thousand dollars,
Claremont accepted and built a school with scholars.

The school has grown many times through the years,
13,000+ graduates have shared laughter and tears.
(Did you know the Stevens High School Alumni Association
Is the oldest active one in the entire nation?)

*Continue on and cross the street with the name of Summer,
Don't get hit by a car, that would be a big bummer!*

A wrought iron fence surrounds the house on the corner.
Samuel Fiske whom you'll meet later was once the owner.

*Cross the big street now, but don't delay.
Monadnock Park is where Claremonters play.*

It once was called Gull Hole,
Now it's a place where teams make goals.
In 1917 the park was first built for our community,
It was a new state-of-the-art recreational facility.

*Head down the hill and you will see
A rock dedicated to Coach Parker's memory.*

*Now go back up the hill and continue back to your right,
The Quest is not over so don't you fright!*

Along your way admire the great architecture,
When these houses were built the owners spared no expenditure.

*Cross Bailey, and then Putnam Street,
the Stringer Funeral Home where people sadly meet.
Past the Post Office to our next stop we're bound,
There the GCC, gym and pool will be found.*

Let me tell you about Charles Goodwin and Mary, his wife,
They were donors for the community center in their life.
Anthony Zotto's whom the gym is named after,
It's known to have kids running with laughter.
"Queenie" Quimby taught swimming lessons for many years,

Teaching kids to swim without any fears.
Now the Indoor Pool is dedicated to him
'Cause he taught people of all ages how to swim.

*Pass the Trinity Church, cross the street named Barber,
Stop at the building where information is harbored.*

This was the third place the Fiske Library was kept.
Inside books are held with great concept.
A donation was given in 1903,
15,000 dollars by Andrew Carnegie.
Samuel P. Fiske donated 2,000 volumes,
And 5,000 dollars so more books could be stacked in columns.

*Keep going now past the old Universalist Church,
You're almost at the end of this awesome search.
Stop at the next building, standing tall and proud.
The Fire Station has many alarms that are very loud.*

Trucks, sirens, lights, and many a-fireman,
In the 1870's housed four horses, even one named Dan!

*Now backtrack just a little, we know it's a hard task to take,
The treasure you soon will find, for goodness sake!
Walk up the path between the old church and library,
Through the iron gate and into the cemetery.*

Go a little to your left and gaze upon the big stone
William Barnes and his wives are here, a tavern they once owned.

*Facing his stone walk straight forward about 45 steps,
Find a double stone on the right where two brothers rest.*

The Putnam brothers died in their sleep,
Carbon monoxide from their coals they inhaled deep.

*Now continue forward, to the left, and head for a tomb,
The Bingham family is buried in one giant room.*

*Put your back to the tombs now and on the left,
You will see two bushes aligned with deft.
Go to the bush on the right and you will find
The treasure you seek is one-of-a-kind!*