



Thetford Center Village Quest East

Thetford, Vermont

Easy

Architectural, Historical, UV250

Pavement

1:00

Please bring a compass

To Get There: From I-91, take exit 14. Follow Route 113 west over Thetford Hill and down into Thetford Center. The Quest begins at the Methodist Church across the street from the Community Center.

Clues:

The Four Chaplains sailed the wild sea
the year was nineteen hundred, and forty-three.
Reverend Fox was one of the few
who sank with the ship in the briney blue.
On your right is the church where he did first preside
But eventually he turned to U.S. sailors to guide

Site # 1

A new church it was, built in 18 hundred and 36,
Hezekiah Porter provided the brick.
Standing atop each gothic fan
a granite keystone smaller than a hand.

Peek inside through doors that are wide
Stained glass windows decorate each side.
Next to the church the old stables stand,
Here is where the horses looked grand.

North towards a gate that sits ajar,
it beckons you, to come from afar.
Enter the yard of bones and turn hard to your right
To a second gate arriving without a fright

Turn left up this lane and start to pace.
Thirty paces you'll travel to a new space
Look for the grave marked John T. Quimby
pause and read about his life and family

Site # 2:

Born in the year 18 hundred and 34,
He and his wife see daylight no more.
Quimby was in our nation's Civil War,
It's safe to say he saw much death and gore.

His kin served in the war, too.
Henry was a drummer boy and joined the family crew.
Gettysburg was their hardest battle,
Their bravery, no one could rattle.

Find the letter "Q" upon the nearby ground,
Don't step on it, leave it safe and sound.
From there, look for the grand Messer grave,
Walk forward toward it, be brave.
Face the woods standing tall,
See the Gleason grave, fairest of them all!

Site # 3: Gleason Grave

S.M.G was the owner of a factory—strawboard to be exact.
His brother made tables, as a matter of fact.

The factory ran from 1848-1874,
strawboard had many uses, including insulating around the door.
At the bottom of Thetford Hill, he dwelled in the old Italian style house,
Living with his family including his spouse.

Turn and return now to the second gate,
a turn left, there you should make.
An obelisk of Sanborn's is what you seek
This man was very brave, so don't be meek.

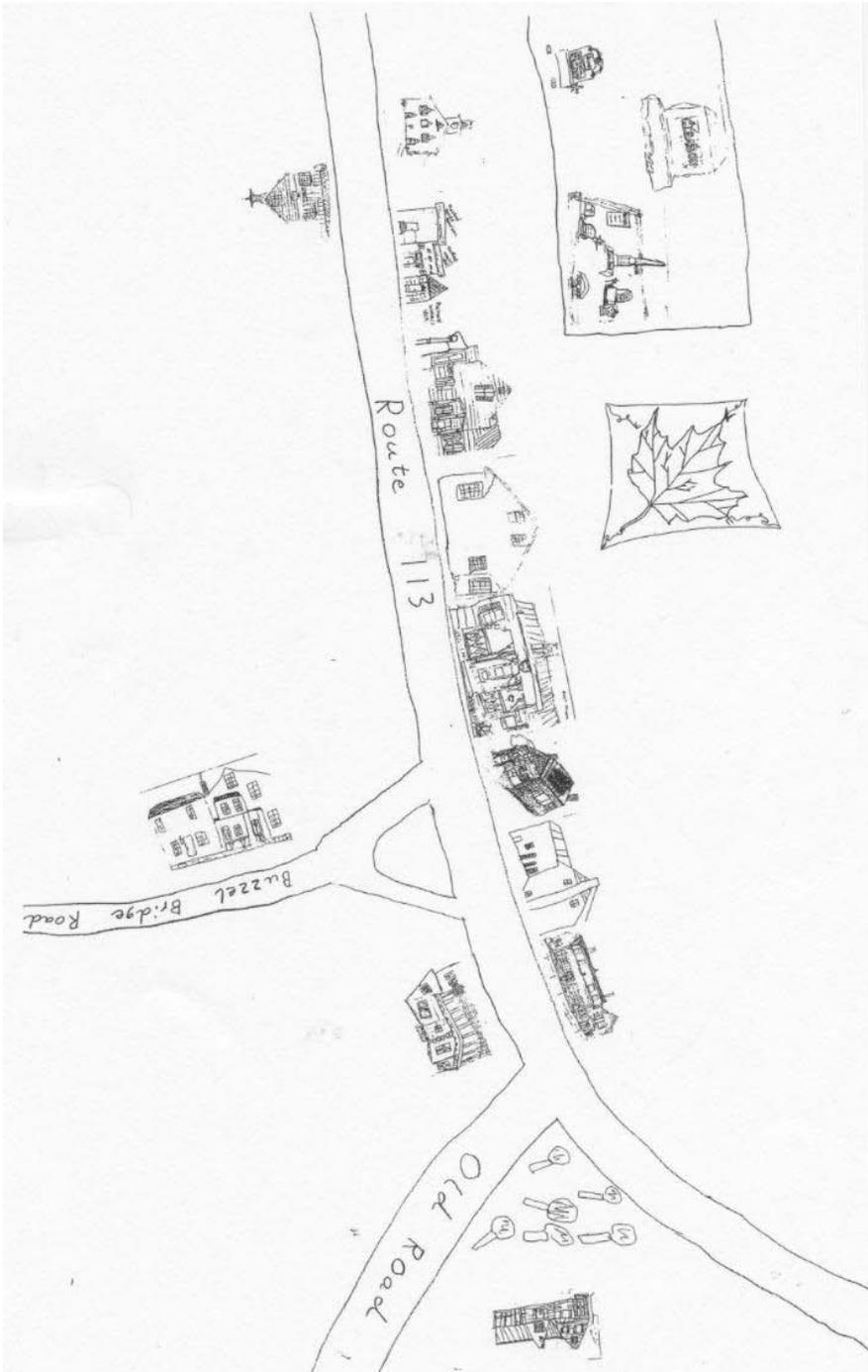
Site # 4:

Enclosed in a granite square,
Colonel Alanson Sanborn now rests here.
He helped recruit the First Regiment, U.S.C. Teee
but never had the chance to lead them to "victoree."

Shot by a Reb' for defending his U.S. Colored troop,
This Thetford native is now surrounded by his family group.

When he was killed, his parents cried,
But this new Sanborn's grave wasn't built 'til after they died.

Once you've turned away from the grave,
turn right, and return to the first gate,
Pass between the church and the town hall,
Cross the road, and hear learning's call.



Site # 5:

The Community Association bought this school in 1962,
Now it is a community center used by me and you.
Its green shutters are nailed to the wall;
this building is two stories tall.

The old school remains strong and standing.
In addition to that, it has a new railing.

Cross the street to a pine tall and sturdy,
in front of a brick building built in 1830.

Site # 6

Hezekiah Porter was the name,
Of the man who built this structure into later fame.

After many years of disrepair,
in 1908, the town of Thetford began to care.
Again Town Hall was remodeled in 2004,
Now all three parts are accessed through one door

Turn away from the historic site of the deceased,
away from garage, store, and brick shadow of da' priest
Pass a windmill bearing 3-8-8-4
pass maple trees and go right next door

Site # 7:

The post and the porch are Queen Ann Style work
On a Cape Cod type house, this is an interesting quirk.

In eighteen hundred, fifty-eight, H. D. Taylor lived here.
But in 1877, J.T. Homes made this house dear.

Sometime after 1830, when this house was first made,
The chimney switched sides from where it was laid.

If you're facing the house, turn to the right,
Continue on, your next goal is in sight.
Pass orange reflectors numbering three,
you will come to a brick house that is your destiny.

Site # 8:

This great old house is made out of bricks,
Its four front windows are six over six.

Ol' Joe Tewksbury made all of these bricks,
Right here on the property they were all mixed.
In the 60's and 70's Rodney Palmer lived here,
He owned the auto garage, which is quite near.
Head east toward the great maple tree,
This three-part-house is the next destination, you see.

Site # 9:

Fix a horseshoe, mend a tooth,
find your way to this blacksmith's booth.
A lopsided building, with a missing front gate,
this cottage was built in eighteen-thirty-eight.

No dentist in town, the pain is unbearable,
the blacksmith will pull it, and you won't look terrible.
Turn to the east and you'll be able to see,
lots of flowers at Brown's Nursery.

50 steps it will be at the most,
until you reach the nursery post.

Site # 10:

Over and under the windows granite slabs sit,
the roof is uneven, just a bit.
The bricks of the house were here homemade,
a stop on the Underground Railroad, here "fugitives" may have stayed.

Here a Civil War hero used to reside,
but Alanson Sandborn has long since died.
Start at the triangle with the sign,
then head to the noble evergreen pine.

Following along the gully with the water flowing high,
watch for cars for they come zooming by.

Site # 11:

This house has a chimney that's tall and skinny,
And a porch out front that's really quite mini.
The house was built in the style of Greek,
Green shutters block the view of those who peek.

T. G. Sanborn lived here in 1858,
The Richardsons live in the house to this particular date.
Cross the road called 113

You will find a garden that's usually green.

Go up the hill, but not to the top,
There you find a sign that says "STOP."
Look to your left and you will see,
A yellow house behind a big tree.

Site # 12:

This yellow house, a mismatched place
built in 1845, has a round window and a brick base
T.G. Sanborn soon had a new neighbor
of whom he could depend on and ask a favor.

That's when J.B.Clough moved in,
with a big grin caused by the gin.
In 1858, this house of many hews
became a temporary post office full of news

Go straight till you reach the old route 113 off to the right.
You can no longer see cars coming down in the night.
It's now just an old driveway of grass and clay.
It was made for animals that ate hay.
Once you've realized this wonderful road,
go up the paved hill to your next abode.

Site # 13:

A Civil War hero, Quimby once lived here, now in 2008,
With a few adjustments the same house looks great

This house with the sun porch stands so tall,
The porch was rebuilt, glass and all.

Back down the hill to a house that's blue
The first house on the left is where you go to.

Site # 14:

Mr. Gleason owned the house down Thetford Hill,
Along with the old strawboard mill.

The house of blue Italianate hue,
Has no shutters because of the great view.
The old lamp sits all alone,
In front of the walkway, which will take you, home.

There lies a bench in the front of our address,

Where you can sit and relieve your stress.

Four outbuilding stood here at one time,
But now only two remain with trees you can climb.
On the ninth post lies 3681 that's where your final journey has begun.
Walk south down the old dirt road and you'll stumble upon a white
abode.

Site # 15:

One of Thetford's oldest places,
Into this building came many faces.

Built by C. Thayer in the year of one thousand, seven hundred and
eighty
Owners included a farmer, factory owner, and a New York cat lady.
Hotel, store, and post office too,
Tavern, and dance hall could entertain you.

Turn 180 to face the road,
Stride away from the humble abode.
Look left and face the twin maple trees,
Walk to the nearest one if you please.

Nailed to the tree is a wooden surprise,
Open it up; you won't believe your eyes!
Congratulations, you've completed our Quest,
Now you've proven that you're better than the rest.