Billings Brothers of Woodstock Quest

Woodstock, Vermont
Physical Difficulty: Moderate
Special Features: Historical
Walking Conditions: Pavement
Duration: 1:25
Bring: compass, maybe a bike, money to visit the Farm

To get there: Follow Route 4 west to Woodstock. Your Quest begins at the middle of the Woodstock Green.

This Quest and the Billings Farm History Quest make a good pair. You’ll want to do this Quest first.

Clues:
Stand on the cross in the middle of the green.
The Inn at your back,
Ahead “Mountain” can be seen.

Cross over the sidewalk.
Go west a little way, past four columns and a church of stone.
On a little further stands a pure white building
With an aged copper roof as its dome.

Behind this building is where it all began.
This is where these brothers, Frederick & Franklin, got their gas,
Long ago, in the past.

About face, toward the church of stone.
Look at the green, where there stood a wooden fence.
This fence was replaced long, long ago.
Franklin replaced it for beauty...it is very, very old.

Onward we go, don’t walk too slow.
Pass “Mountain” Ave. and peek down to see a covered bridge. Head toward the center of town and bear to the left. Down just a way to where the crosswalk meets three steps.

This is where the machines were bought, people came often to this spot. Now let us give this a little thought.

Cross the walk to the other side. Turn to the right and head to “Central.”

While at Central sit on the steps. Why not take a little rest? Look across the street and see the building founded in 1853. This was Frederick’s brother Franklin’s store. Go on with the Quest and we’ll tell you some more.

Cross on over and go to the east, take a quick right—You’re on Mechanic Street. Walk to the back and see the red building. It sits on the Kedron River. This would be helpful to Oliver Farwell, for here he worked on wood and wheels. Back out “Mechanic” and turn to the right. Keep going a ways...the street is in sight.
(Hint: It is named after Secret Agent 007.)

To the end of Bond, it’s the house around the corner.
Its rectangular portico (porch leading to entrance) is held up by posts,
This is where Franklin lived. He was quite a host.

Around to the left, onward you go.
It has a steeple and a clock; this is your next stop.
In this church he donated the organ.
The windows are from Tiffany’s New York, NY.

North is the way that we will go.
Let us stop on the Iron Bridge and say “thank you.”
Frederick gave us the bridge for all to use.
We are really close now and running out of clues.

Over the bridge a little way, on the path you will stay.
Pasture and orchard you will see.
At the crosswalk, turn to the right
Their working farm is now in sight.

Stay on the path until the end.
At the visitor center you will see
That the Billings are part of our rich history.
They gave so much to this beautiful town.
We are so glad that they were around.

Enter the Center to find your treasure,
At a desk where entrance passes are bought,
You’ll see information to read at your leisure,
Ask for the Valley Quest box you have sought.