The Elm Street Loop Quest

Norwich, Vermont
Physical Difficulty: Moderate
Special Features: Historical
Walking Conditions: Pavement
Duration: 0:45
Bring: compass

To get there: Take I-91 to exit 13. Travel west into downtown Norwich. Park at the Bandstand Gazebo on the Norwich Green across from Elm Street.

Clues:
The spirit of Norwich we think you will see
As you follow our town through its long history.
Where you are now standing the white church was here.
The bells in the church are by Paul Revere.

Go to the street named after some trees.
Most of them died of a nasty disease.
As you walk up that street you will see something strange.
Houses set sideways just for a change.
(Why do you think they are sideways?)

When you get to Blood Brook the house down the hill
Is the oldest in Norwich—Jacob Burton’s sawmill.
(What made the mill run?)
1765—Jacob and family came to this town
To build us some mills and to cut the trees down.

For the next 130 years this place now so still
Had factories, a tannery, a dam, and grist mill.
Now go up the hill and breathe through your mouth
‘Till you see a metal sculpture to the south.
Turn right at the road. Walk to the metal pine tree. Look to the right, Baker Tower you will see. Walk 40 paces to a stone wall behind a dead tree. What made the holes in the tree that you see?

Go downhill to a brown house, look to the left to a bump. You have just found the old Norwich ski jump. Down goes the road 'til you again cross Blood Brook. Elisha Burton’s grist mill was by the brick house if you look. (Hint: Look upstream over the east bank to see some of the old stone foundation.)

At 3 signs you turn left, onward go to a door in a stone wall. Guess who was put there when the ground froze in the fall. Next to the door is a shed that is fine. There is a hearse kept in here from about 1859.

Turn back and continue until you see beehives 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Find our friend Jacob Burton (Hint: He’s no longer alive.) (Another Hint: Look for a flat slab in the ground.) Back on the street find a huge old brick remnant. Once called “7 Nation’s House,” it was built as a tenement. (How can you tell it was an apartment building?)

Cross the street through an alley to see some tom foolery. At the porch with the rockers is Norwich’s own microbrewery. Stand on the porch and turn northwest to see A really, truly, living elm tree. (Hint: It is the middle one with the delicate leaves.)

If you find Norwich’s Victorian inn You are close to the treasure--so let’s begin. Two doors up high connected the Inn and the old town hall. Your box is in the latter, near bird houses sold upon a wall.