



## North Main Street Quest

### Windsor, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Architectural, Historical

Walking Conditions: Pavement

Duration: 1:00

Season: May-Oct

**To get there:** From either Exit 8 or 9 off I-91, take Rte. 5 to Windsor. Turn west onto State Street at the traffic light and within a few hundred feet park either in the lot for the Episcopal Church on the left at the corner of State Street and Dunham Avenue, or park on State Street.

### Overview:

This Quest takes you on a stroll through Windsor's downtown.

### Clues:

Up on the bandstand, look around:  
Old Town Hall and Library can be found.  
Walk down the hill, find the site  
Of the Old Court House, then left at the light.

Along the way, some shops you'll see;  
All played a part in Windsor's history.  
100+ years—Go back in time,  
And you'll understand the rest of your rhyme.

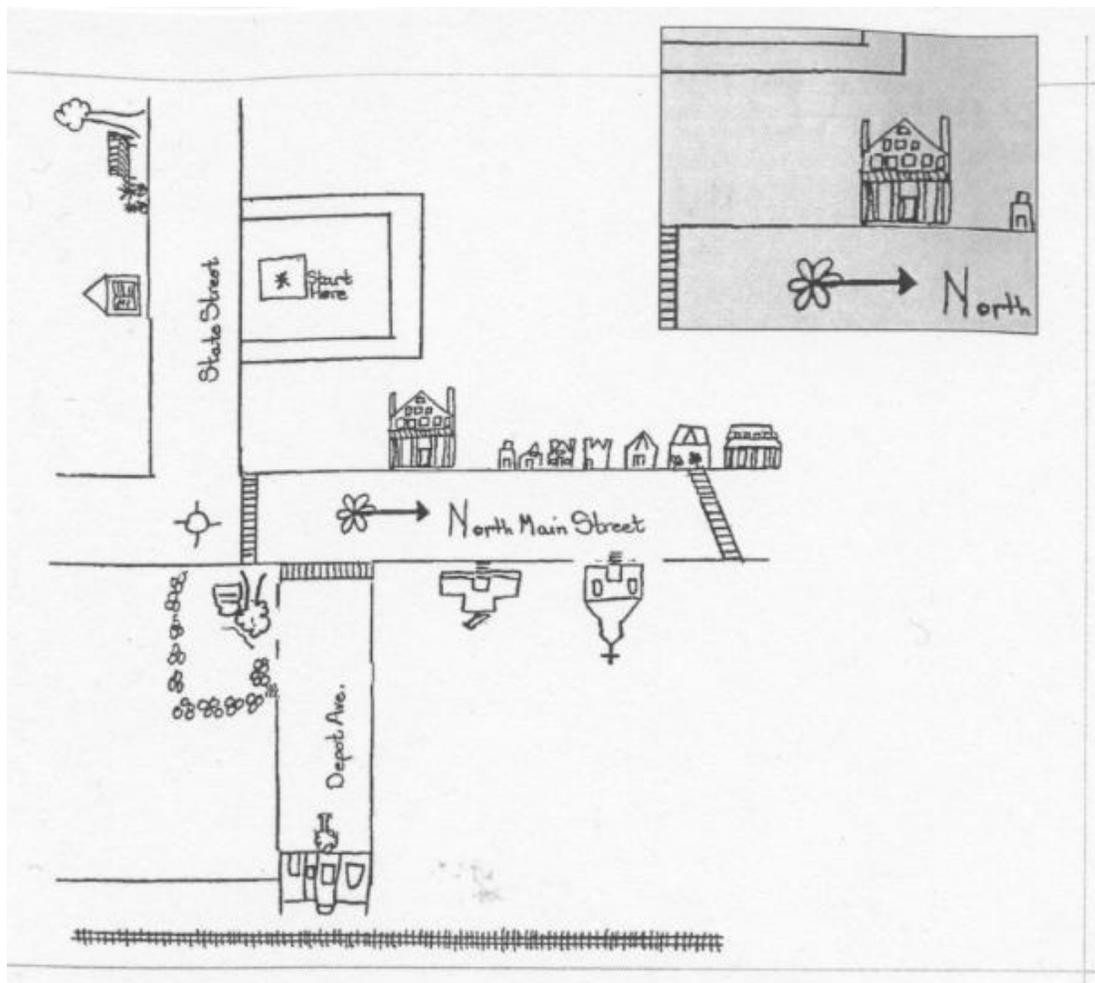
Coming from Boston or Montreal,  
This "house" was the place to have a ball.  
You could get a meal, you could get a room;  
Presidents and guests could arrive soon!

Next is a home of retirees,  
Once the home of railroad executives.  
Dinner for 400 was the norm.  
Guests caught the train for the return trip home.

Walk along and you will find  
 The Mansions of Windsor—count them—five,  
 Granite fence posts will lead the way  
 As you look and dream of yesterday.

(It's not a mansion, but it's pretty as can be,  
 The yellow brick road is a favorite to me.)

Move along and you will see  
 The birthplace of Vermont history.  
 Once it was just a tavern in 1777;  
 A signed constitution sealed its place in heaven.



Back up and cross at the crosswalk,  
 Look to the right  
 House of brick, porch of white.

Keep on walking, find the first steeple,  
 Go to the church that has no people  
 In 1846 it was built as a church;  
 Now you can go in and buy a shirt!

In front of the church, look in the sky,  
 A legal eagle you will spy.  
 Today this building sends out mail.  
 Yesterday it was Federal Court and jail.

Look around and you will see  
 More of Windsor's history.  
 Step on a crack and break your back  
 Follow the signs to the railroad tracks.

On the corner, take a break in the park.  
 Read the message on the history rock.  
 On to the Depot and hear the sounds  
 That in 1849 brought guests from all around.

Back up to the corner, don't turn right,  
 Cross the street—at the light.  
 Walk to the bandstand, take a look,  
 Cross over to the house of books.

Continue up the road and you will see  
 What was once the oldest prison in U.S. history.  
 In 1975, it ceased to be.  
 Now it is a home for the elderly.  
 (*Go PAST the Davis House.*)

Turn around and head back towards Main Street.  
 The treasure would be found on a place of green,  
 Near the structure where a show might be seen.  
 Your Quest's last step is to search beneath the first step.

Read the stories, stamp your book,  
 Walk around and take another look.  
 Hope you enjoyed 4-Parker's Quest.  
 There are more! Do the rest!

This Quest was created by Linda Parker's fourth grade class in 1999.

**Other things to do nearby:** Check out the Windsor Library for a cozy spot to read.

**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](http://vitalcommunities.org).

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