



## Old South Quest

### Windsor, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Architectural, Historical

Walking Conditions: Pavement

Duration: 0:25

Season: May-Oct

**To get there:** *Old South Church is located on Route 5 (Main St) on southern side of downtown Windsor, VT. The Quest begins in the fellowship hall at the church.*

### Overview:

Wander around an architectural gem in Windsor. N.B.: this Quest can only be completed when Old South Church is open or by appointment by calling Barbara Rhoad at 802-674-2326.

### Clues:

Walk out this room's doors,  
And look ahead for a plaque  
That's made out of metal  
And fading to black.

It tells of a date—  
Seventeen ninety-eight—  
And when the place you're now in  
Was built by Asher Benjamin.

Now step to the right  
To see our next sight!

Look up right for a grid  
Going from A to J.  
This shows where our  
Early settlers are buried.

In a row labeled "I"  
 Eight boxes from the right,  
 See if you can find  
 Captain Steel Smith—you might!

Captain Smith is held dear  
 As one of the first to settle here.  
 Now up five steps to a window low  
 To see the next sight that to you I will show.

Out the window see a granite stone  
 Marking our first Meeting House's home.  
 It was built in 1773...  
 Oh so far back in Windsor's history!

Upstairs and quietly into a sanctuary  
 With blue ceiling so high.  
 An historic place where prayers  
 Carry up to the sky.

On the back wall spy a plan  
 Drawn by our friend Asher Benjamin.  
 Outside in the vestibule you can see  
 Pictures of how this church *used* to be.

See the pictures  
 Of the front door?  
 What's missing on some of them?  
 Columns four!

Down the stairs,  
 Under stained glass,  
 For yet another look  
 At Old South's past.

Now out Old South's front door...  
 You can plainly see  
 Where four tall columns  
 In 1922 came to be.

Head down the ramp  
 And to "Old Glory"  
 For the last part of  
 This "Old South" story.

With the Flag and then a hydrant  
 Directly behind your back  
 Move toward the west  
 On a straight-ahead track.

Counting the rows:  
 One – two – three – four  
 Look back `til you find Caleb Stone...  
 For that's who you're looking for!

Now one – two – three  
 Stones off to the right.  
 Our old friend Captain Steel Smith  
 Is now in your sight!

Back over your right shoulder?  
 Yes, Mt. Ascutney is the best!  
 And tucked beneath a crumbling stone in that direction?  
 Why, it's our Quest's **Treasure Chest!**

This Quest was created by Barbara Rhoad and Steve Glazer in 2002.

**Other things to do nearby:** Check out downtown Windsor's other historical buildings, like the Masonic Hall.

**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.