



The Junction Quest

White River Junction, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Easy

Special Features: Historical, Architectural

Walking Conditions: Pavement

Duration: 0:45

Bring: Pencil

To get there: Take Exit 11 off I-91 and travel north on Route 5 down the hill toward the village of White River Junction. Continue straight through the second set of lights. Route 5 turns left, but you should continue straight on North Main Street to the stop sign. Continue for one block and turn left over the tracks. You will then follow the "Welcome Center" signs into the parking lot for the Court House and the Train Station.

Overview:

This walk through a vibrant town center features galleries, museums and trains.

Clues:

Life in White River has changed its ways,
since the railroad had its glory days.
With a short walk around the town,
there's lots of history to be found.

My wheels are not in motion,
though I'm still a sight to see.
Find 494 near the center of town
and start your Quest with me.
With the tracks on your left
follow the path to the RR crossing.
Turn right toward the courthouse
and keep on walking.

Go left past three new buildings;
 the first houses RSG.
 The second even newer building
 is just as modern as can be.

Then turn north across Ralph Lehman bridge
 that spans our Class "B" water
 Cleaner today and flowing free
 for fishermen, swimmers, and otters.

Enter where your leaders park
 Keep right or risk road rage
 Continue to the children's park
 Until you see the stage

Follow the river east down low
 Beneath the rusted junction track
 Past views of scenic flow
 You'll soon be turning back

For now take in expansive sights
 Then continue on to a scenic point
 where in 1704 the Iroquois did alight.
 To fight French and English forces joint.

Enjoy the confluence, take in the view,
 Then head back to the west from here
 Cross grass onto pavement
 to a garden nicely planted; 1991 was the year.

Travel back across the bridge,
 no need to dive and swim,
 count the light posts on your left,
 bright or dark or dim

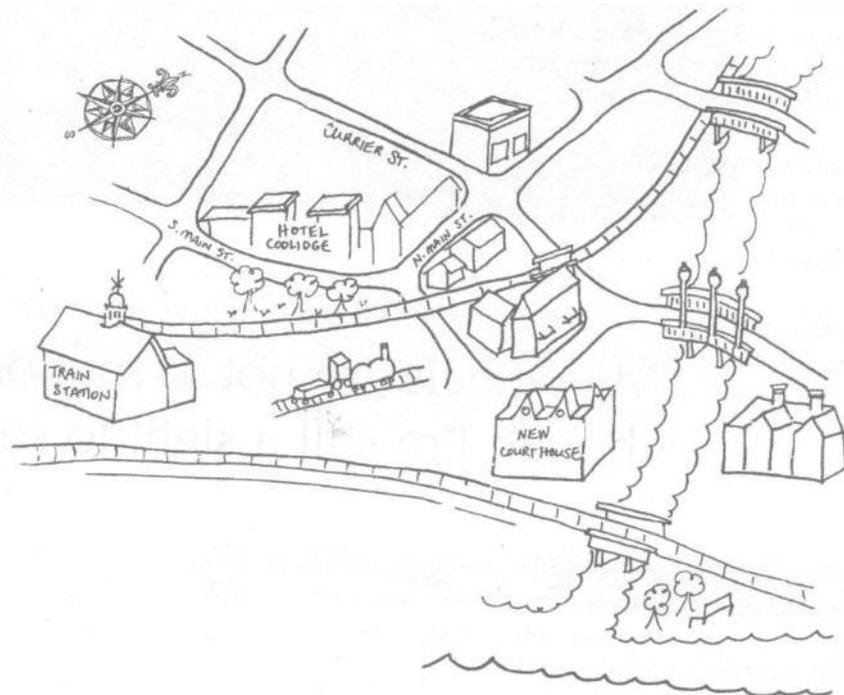
Remember the number,
 you'll need it soon,
 to find the treasure
 this journey's boon.
 At the last post, look right to a place
 where red trucks housed.
 Now the Main Street Museum's home,
 stop in sometime and see the collection!

Slip under a trestle walking straight 'til you see
 on your right a cornerstone of 1960.
 Inside this home of Ma Bell for many a year
 you would find many telephones here.

Heading east from the corner, travel along artist's row,
 our Quest drawing soon to a close
 At the end of the block turn left with your toes,
 some mathematics to you we pose:

Remember the light posts you counted before,
 subtract five from the number you got.
 The answer's the number of doors you must pass
 before reaching our finish spot.

Inside this place there's a desk lit by lamps
 and someone seated behind.
 This is the person to ask for the box
 that you've worked so hard to find!



About your destination:

The Hotel Coolidge has been the center of hospitality in White River Junction since 1849, when railroading began. Formerly called The Junction House, owner Nathaniel "Than" Wheeler renamed his hotel when Calvin Coolidge became President of the United States in 1923, in honor of his good friend and patron John Coolidge of Plymouth, Vermont, the president's father. For generations, it has been an important place to stay, eat, greet and meet.

This Quest was created by Linny Levin, Sue Kirincich and Marty Layman-Mendonca in 1999. Revised by Laura Dintino in Marty's honor in 2007.

Other things to do nearby: Find a meal at Piecemeal Pies or Tuckerbox, or drive over to VINS to watch raptors do backflips.

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 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.

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