



## Thetford Center Village Quest West

### Thetford, Vermont

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Historical, Natural, Vista

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 1:00

*To get there: From Exit 14 off I-91 follow Rt. 113 West up over Thetford Hill and down into Thetford Center. The Quest begins at the Methodist Church across the street from the Community Center.*

#### Clues:

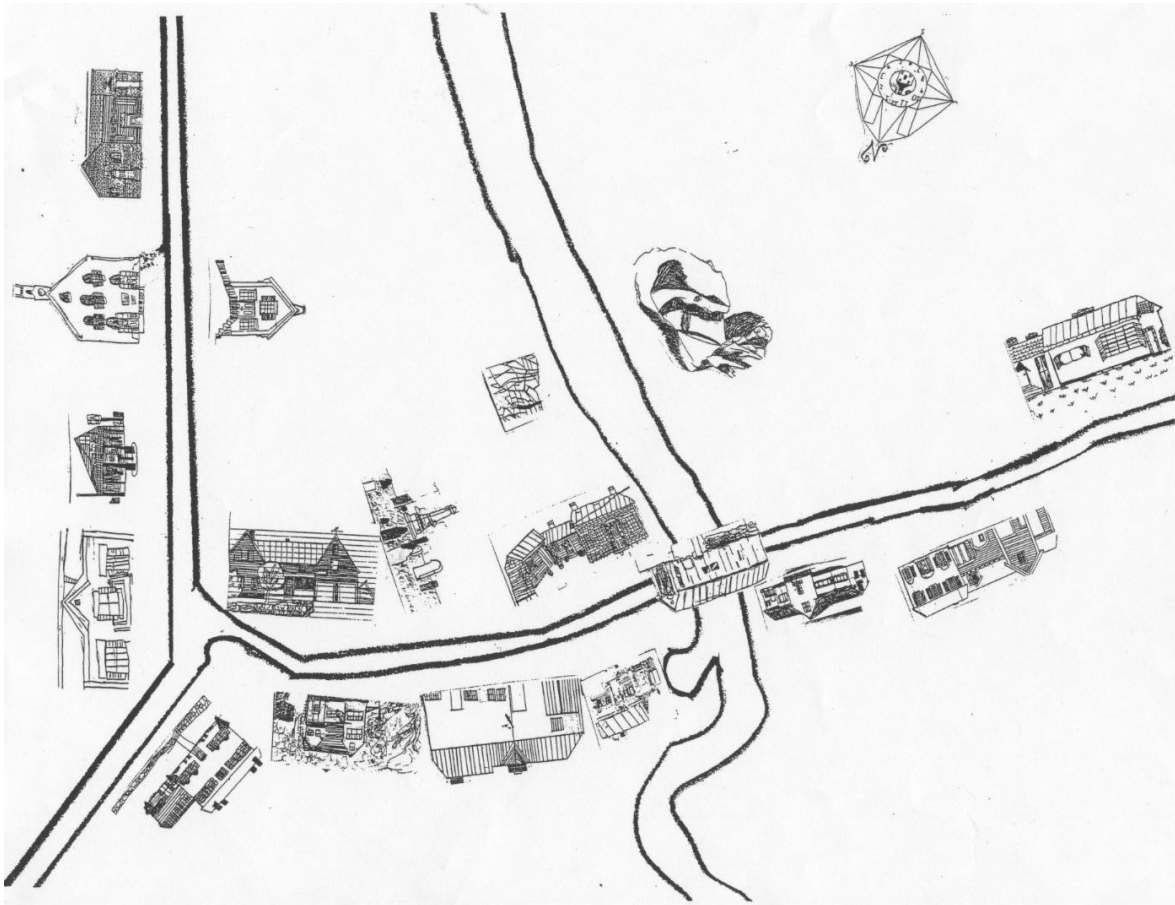
1. The Four Chaplains plaque is where we embark,  
Dedicated to them because they made a mark.  
100 years after this brick church was through,  
One chaplain became Reverend and no one was blue.  
Pass this church trimmed with Revival of Greek,  
Walk right to our Town Hall and have a sneak peak.

2. Next, on your left is the brick Town Hall, with walls very tall.  
No need to worry...for they never shall fall!  
On the right of this hall,  
Find a plaque that tells all.  
To your right made of brick stands the Richard Wallace vault,  
Thetford's Revolutionary hero who brought the British to a halt.  
To warn of British advance, he swam Lake Champlain in 1777,  
But this Revolutionary hero has now died and gone to heaven.

3. Now look both ways—that is the rule—  
Then cross diagonally right to the old white school.  
With a slide for fun and swings for glee,  
Inside this building is where people drink tea.  
Before 1900 when it was a school,  
It all burned down thanks to a fool.  
Then later rebuilt with such great care,  
Now you can look out and see a wandering bear!

Looking through the white strips of wood,  
See the old stone steps which are still pretty good.  
This is Thetford's community center now,  
You can play on the swings and cry "wow."  
Run across the open town common field,  
At the road turn left, you shouldn't have to yield.  
Pass the pen where the horses are kept  
to the house where C.E. Porter once slept.

4. This house with 12 windows bears  
a brand new porch with a couple of stairs.  
Today's residents returned the porch to its rightful place,  
Now they sit and relax and enjoy their new space.  
Continue west and stop by a rusty metal gate.  
Here you'll find these residents in a permanent state.



5. Go through the rickety gate and head south  
to the large, wide gravestone near the cemetery's mouth.  
This grave is a tribute to Richard Wallace, an amazing man  
who helped the Americans have their own land.

As mentioned above, Richard Wallace swam Champlain Lake,  
to warn that the British were fast in his wake.  
Depart from the gate, keep on to the west,  
to get to the house with three chimneys: there rest.

6. This is a house F.E. Stevens knew quite well.  
Porter's brick yard worked helped build this...can't you tell?  
One of the first homes to get power from Charles Vaughn's dam,  
look up in the gable to where the electrical wires did stand  
60 paces westward down the hill,  
take the path that leads south—the direction of Brazil.

7. Listen for the falls. Look for the crumbling stone walls.  
Sit astride the bench and let your thirst be quenched.  
Mills first appeared on this site in October, 1773.  
Now nothing but cement where the water runs free.  
Grass a'top, water below,  
Bend down, touch your toes, look up and see a red roof glow.

8. I'm an old bridge built around 1843.  
Since then a lot of cars have crashed into me!  
I used to be only three planks of wood,  
Obviously that bridge design was no good!  
The years have passed by and as you can see,  
The town of Thetford has rebuilt me.  
Walk across the bridge that was made sturdy.  
Then take a left to the old stairs oh-so-dirty.  
Along the dirt path which veers to the right,  
Find the fork the bear left to the old mill site.

9. An old sawmill site and a wheel pit you'll see,  
Destroyed by fire in 1873.  
13 feet deep, 9 feet wide,  
17 feet long with a looped pin in the side.  
Now back up the stairs and away from the mill;  
On the left you'll see the "Milk House," at the top of the hill.

10. Z.E. Messer had a very nice home,  
With a big red barn and orchard of his own.  
In 1840, the construction was finished.  
The house is still here, but the orchard diminished.  
Roll back down the hill as if it's a trick.  
On the left you'll see a house made partly of brick.

11. Built in 1819 by mill owner Moore,

From the road you can see many barn doors.  
Civil War veteran Brown lived here,  
And for the north side he bled.  
When he was around the barn was white,  
but now it's colored red.  
Later, Noel Perrin lived and wrote in this place,  
Caring for Bill Hill, which his home does face.  
Continue past the driveway, following the stone wall.  
Find the next house on left: it is two stories tall.

12. Built into a hillside, you will see,  
A house with a pretty dogwood tree.  
The brick foundation is a wonderful thing.  
You can't see it now, but the barn once had a wing.  
Under the porch, there is lattice work,  
Where Joseph Matson used to lurk.  
Mr. Matson owned half of the mill.  
Doing his work must have been quite a thrill!  
We're done with this cape, so here's your next clue,  
Go through the red bridge to the house that is blue.

13. O.J. Bosworth once dwelled here.  
He sold it to James Allen for \$4,000 one year.  
Then James Allen, a bit short of dough,  
Mortgaged to Tewksbury so he wouldn't have to go.  
You're at the blue house, so here's what you do:  
Skip the red, go to the white, where you'll learn something new.

14. You'll find a white house with a trim of blue,  
and a tin roof that may be the defining clue.  
In 1820 it was built and owned  
by a kindly gentleman known as H.B. Sloane.  
Then a parsonage this house became.  
It never once has seen smoke or flame.  
With your back to the bridge, tread to the next home in line,  
Look around, observe and have a swell time.

15. Look down this driveway—way in the back,  
An old barn foundation from rocks stacked and stacked.  
First owner, Mr. Goodwin, in 1868,  
once popularly read about before his sudden fate.  
Stroll past a gray house and barn 'till you reach bricks of red;  
as you walk make sure to pass the cemetery of the dead.

16. This house on the corner was built in 1822,

It is a Porter house through and through!  
The pride of the village, it was built by Hezekiah Porter,  
Who made bricks for the town and awaited the order.  
This house has a beautiful Federal plan  
Over the front door is a fantastic "fan."  
Cross Route 113, and look left to the ball field.  
From this earth Porter's bricks did yield.  
Now skip south past a house of brick  
to arrive at a house that has often been fixed.

17. Built in 1850 and added to in '75  
this house has touched many a life.  
Once a stage stop; later a producer of carriages,  
this house has even survived a few marriages!  
Local lore says this house was once called a ghost,  
But now in fact it has a very nice host.  
Keep on to the place that's known by the most  
You can walk in to pick up a Washington Post.

18. This store is partly formed of an old farmer's crib for corn,  
Sadly it fled to this sight in 1895—though no one did mourn.  
In the 1940's this store was added to,  
making one of its sections brand spanking new!  
Now pretend that the store is 12 o'clock.  
Turn round to 6 and begin to walk.  
Cross the road and into the field...  
Careful of traffic that often doesn't yield!  
Keep your eyes peeled and look for a box,  
On it you might find a painted fox!  
Your quest is through you've found the grail!  
Please sign the book before turning your tail.

**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](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.