

# Village Green Scavenger Hunt



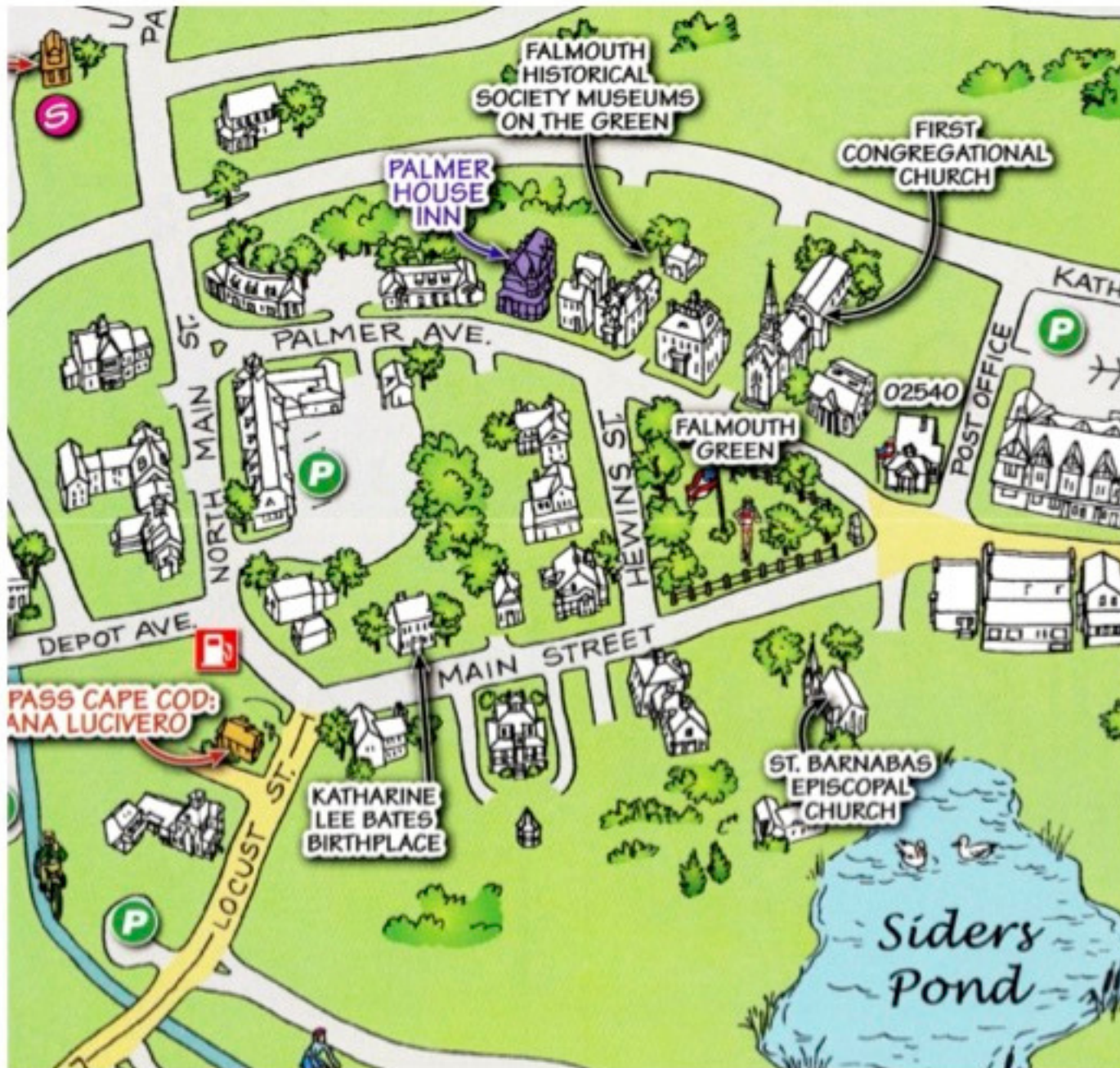
Signs of Falmouth history are all around the  
Village Green, hiding in plain sight.

How many of them can you find?



**FALMOUTH MUSEUMS ON THE GREEN**  
HOME OF THE FALMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[www.museumsonthegreen.org](http://www.museumsonthegreen.org)



Each of these places has a cool history and a hidden detail for you to find.

- 1 Congregational Church
- 2 Bank
- 3 Post Office
- 4 Village Green
- 5 Time Capsule Marker
- 6 Dr. Wicks House/Office
- 7 Captain's Manor Inn
- 8 Tavern
- 9 House

You can do the list in any order! Go to the spot, then read its page in this booklet. When you find the hidden detail, take a picture of it, or check it off on the list above.

## First Congregational Church



The congregation was formed in 1708. This building's frame dates to 1796. The church used to stand on the Village Green. In 1857, it was picked up and moved to where it is now. Back then, it was often easier to move a building than to put up a new one.

**FUN FACT:** Paul Revere made the bell in the church steeple. It rings once every hour. Listen for it while you're on the scavenger hunt.

### **FIND THE DETAIL:**

In a tree near the church there's a birdhouse shaped like the Paul Revere bell.

The poem written on the birdhouse is also engraved on the bell.

"The living to the church I call, and to the grave I summon all."



## **Extra Credit**

### **Pink Granite**



Look at the steps in front of the church door. Do they look pink to you?

Many stone supports and decorations around Falmouth were made of pink granite.

This type of stone was left behind by a glacier at the end of the Ice Age. Early town residents found a lot of pink granite in West Falmouth, Sippewissett, and the Beebe Woods. They dug up the boulders and made them into steps, curbs, hitching posts, fences, walkways, and many other things.

As you go through this scavenger hunt, keep an eye out for more pink granite. Once you know what to look for, lots of examples will jump out at you. Keep a tally on this page of how many times you see it.

**Tally of pink granite:**

## Bank



Starting in 1821, the Falmouth National Bank occupied this spot. It was the first bank on Cape Cod. People deposited the money they made from farming, fishing, or whaling.

In the 1950s the original wooden bank was rebuilt with brick walls. Its name has been changed a few times. Now it's the Martha's Vineyard Bank.

### **FUN FACT:**

The Falmouth National Bank used to print its own paper money, with a picture of the bank president on it.



### **FIND THE DETAIL:**

A scallop shell decoration is on the bank wall. It's next to the night deposit door, where people could drop their deposits after the bank was closed.



## U.S. Post Office



In the 1700s people went to the postmaster's house to pick up mail. Falmouth's post office has been in different places over the years but never far from the Village Green. The current building dates to 1940.

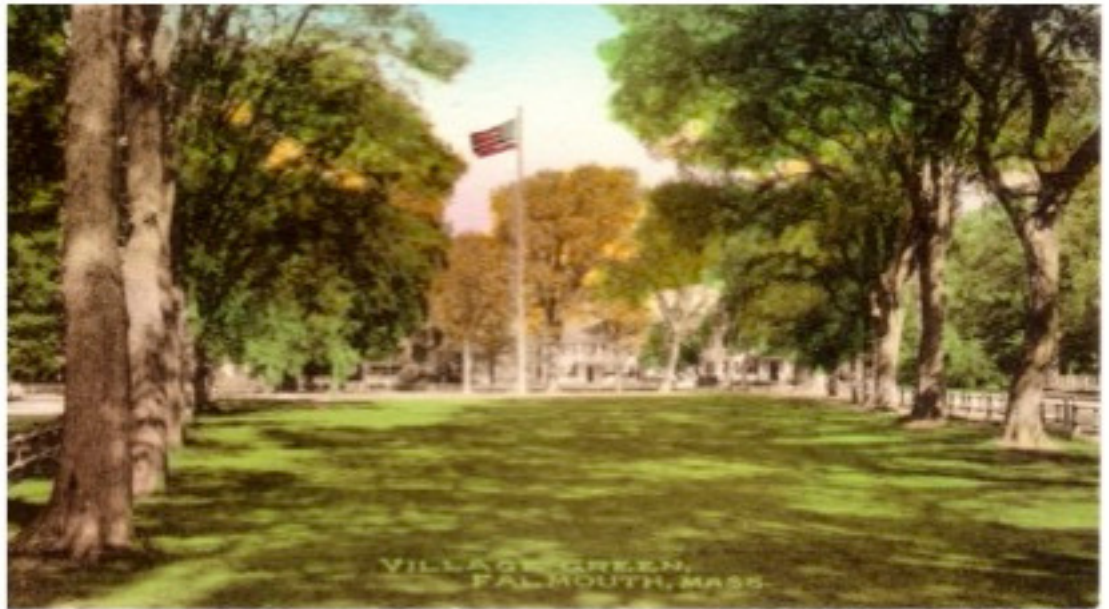
**FUN FACT:** Postmaster Joseph Palmer had a house with lots of windows. He assigned a pane to each family in town. When letters arrived, Palmer hung cloth in their pane to show that they had mail.

### **FIND THE DETAIL:**

Go into the post office and find this mural. It was painted in 1940 and shows Revolutionary War hero Joseph Dimmick, standing on the left, getting ready for a raid on the British. If the post office isn't open, do one of the extra credit activities instead.



## Village Green



The green was laid out in 1749 as a training field for the militia. Many old New England towns were built around a green like this one. Leaders usually put a village green near a fresh water source, so that people and animals in town wouldn't have far to go for drinking water.



**FUN FACT:** In the 1850s, children played football here with a ball that they made from a pig's bladder.

### **FIND THE DETAIL:**

The green once had a drinking fountain for horses (above).

In 1930 that fountain was replaced by a "wishing well" with spigots for people to drink from. Nowadays, there is no water hookup and the well is a landmark only.



## **Extra Credit**

### **Siders Pond**



The Village Green is near two freshwater ponds. You can see one of them if you stand at the tip of the green and look towards the stone church.

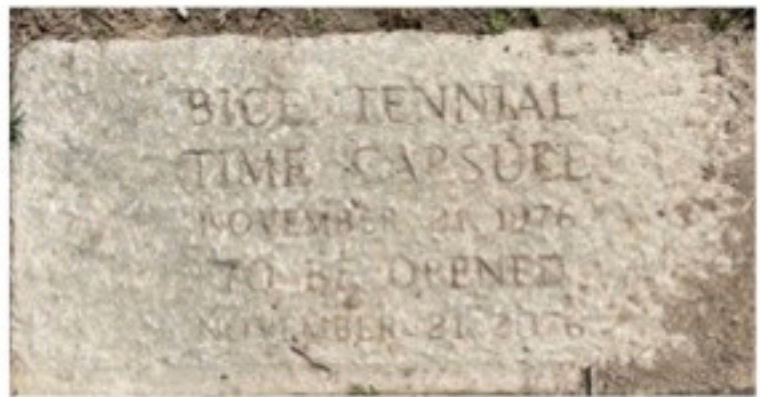
This pond was first called Fresh Pond. In the late 1700s, a man named Consider Hatch lived nearby. He was nicknamed “Sider” (rhymes with “bidder”). People started calling the pond Siders Pond after him.

St. Barnabas Church welcomes visitors on its grounds. Get closer to the pond, and walk the labyrinth. Hint: It’s near a tree and a statue of St. Francis. Then go up Main St. to the Consider Hatch House, on your left at number 47.





## Time Capsule



In 1976, the United States had a big party for its 200th birthday. People dressed up in Revolutionary War costumes and acted out battle scenes. Falmouth buried a time capsule on the Village Green.



**FUN FACT:** The bicentennial time capsule will be opened in 2076. How old will you be in that year?

### **FIND THE DETAIL:**

Children in 1976 had their picture taken near the frame for the time capsule. Later, the capsule was lowered straight into the ground, and a marker was placed on the spot. Can you find the marker? Hint: The building in the background of the picture is still standing.



**Captain's  
Manor  
Inn  
(Mostly  
Hall)  
W. Main St.**



Many buildings near the green have served as inns. This one began as a summer home built by Albert Nye for his wife, a New Orleans native. The house has Southern features like wide porches, tall windows, and long halls. One visitor described it as “mostly hall.”

Staying with the Nyes was an enslaved servant whom they brought from Louisiana. Nothing more is known about this person.

Albert Nye lost his fortune in 1857 and the house passed to other owners. Eventually it was turned into a bed and breakfast inn.

**FUN FACT:** This was the first house in Falmouth to have central heating. Albert Nye had a private gas plant that powered a furnace and lit up the grounds.

**FIND THE DETAIL:**

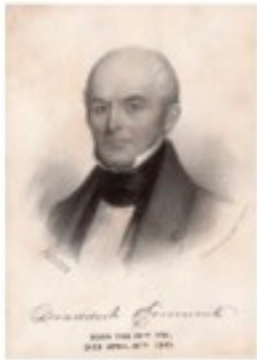
The fancy black iron fence was another feature that was unusual in this neighborhood. Most Cape Cod homes had plain wooden fences, if any at all.



**Braddock  
Dimmick  
House  
40 Main St.  
(unofficial tavern)**



In the 1800s, taverns weren't just for drinking. They also served meals and lodged travelers. In 1804, Braddock Dimmick's house was an unofficial tavern where churchgoers went after Sunday services. A real tavern on W. Main St. was torn down long ago.



**FUN FACT:** Dimmick was a musical man who put bells on his horses and sang songs to his cows when he brought them in from the pasture.

**FIND THE DETAIL:**

Notice how the house has changed from its old picture. This round pointed roof on the porch would have been popular in the late 1800s.



**Doctor  
Francis  
Wicks  
House  
55 Palmer  
Ave**



Dr. Wicks lived here from 1790-1827. He was one of the first doctors in America to offer smallpox vaccinations, giving them out in his home office.

**FUN FACT:** Francis Wicks never went to medical school. He learned by the apprentice system instead. He was a surgeon's mate in the Revolutionary War.

*FRANK WICKS*  
CONTinues to inoculate with  
the SMALL POX,  
at his Hospital in Falmouth, for Twelve  
Dollars.—He likewise inoculates at his  
Dwelling-House in said town, with the  
COW, or KINE POX,  
for Four Dollars. Nov. 21, 1800.

**FIND THE DETAIL:**

Atop the house is a widow's walk, where a sailor's wife could go to scan the horizon for her husband's ship returning home. The platform had a safety purpose, too. It held buckets of sand or water that could be used to put out chimney fires, which were common.



# Thomas Swift House

71 Main St.



The house was built by Elijah Swift for his son Thomas in 1844. The Swift family made a fortune by building ships for the U.S. Navy and also by sending ships to hunt whales. Thomas usually worked in the office, not at sea.



**FUN FACT:** Elijah Swift started out poor and became the richest man in town. He wore an eyepatch, not because he was a pirate, but probably because he hurt his eye while working as a carpenter.

## **FIND THE DETAIL:**

The Swifts could afford to build a house in the fashionable Greek Revival style, where the short end of the house faces the street. What other differences can you see between this house and its neighbors? How many chimneys does it have?



## Extra Credit

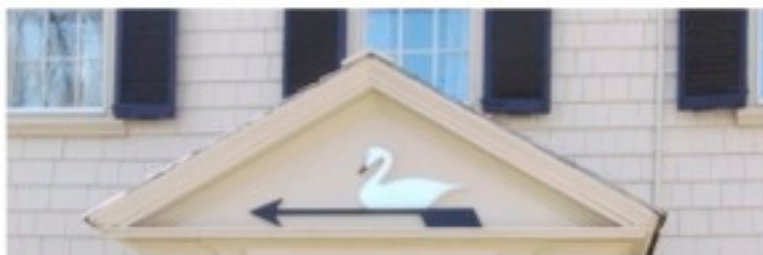
### Benjamin Sanford House, 57 Main St.



Benjamin Sanford lived here in the 1700s and early 1800s. He was a carpenter who built furniture, carriages, cabinets, and coffins. He also made and sold hats. His house was almost like a department store on the village green.

Friends called Benjamin “eccentric.” He died at 81, falling off a wharf in Barnstable on a stormy night.

Can you think of a reason why the chimney is off-center?\*



The swan over the door is from the 20th century, when the house was a B&B called Swan Point Inn.

\*The house probably started as a “3/4 Cape” and received additions on the right side later.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

THE HUNT IS OVER.

How many sites did you find? How many details?

When the Village Green became Falmouth's town center in 1749, nearby you could get almost everything a person might need. There was fresh drinking water, a church, bank, post office, doctor's office, and an inn.

Now that you've found all these places, do you think there's there anything missing from around the Green that should be there?

If you were planning a new town from scratch, what kinds of businesses and buildings would you put around your Village Green?

