MIDDLEBURY ARCHITECTURAL SCAVENGER HUNT

One of the New Hampshire Grants, Middlebury was chartered by Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth on November 2, 1761. The name “Middlebury” came from its location between the towns of Salisbury and New Haven. Today, as the largest town by population in Addison County, Middlebury serves as the commercial and business center for the region. Downtown hosts a three-screen movie theater, the post office, and two historic inns, as well as many shops and restaurants.

1. Owner of the Middlebury Marble Company, Eben Judd, hired “the Scotsman O’Brien” to craft ionic marble columns for his 1829 porch to show off his wares. How many columns did he produce?

2. St. Stephen’s Church (1826) is the oldest Gothic Revival church in Vermont. It was built of stone because only fireproof structures could be built on the green, but it has wooden trim around its door. What did the rector, Benjamin Smith, carve over the door?

3. After the great fire of 1892, Joseph Battell combined multiple building sites to create his business block. The side toward the green has a rounded corner, bay windows, and a plaque. What does the plaque mounted on it say about its historic status?

4. Architect Lavius Fillmore, based the tower of the Congregational Church (1806-9) on the most elaborate pre-revolutionary tower in New England, that of the First Baptist Church in Providence, RI. He was known for the fine woodwork of his windows. How many oval windows are there in the tower?

5. The Middlebury Inn was built as the “Vermont House” in 1827 with 50 guest rooms. It is one of the oldest continuously operating hotels in the country. It has changed names and been altered over the years. What is the shape of the window over the original front door overlooking North Pleasant Street?

6. Joseph Battell felt only a stone Main Street Bridge would be up to the dignity of Middlebury and paid to have it modeled on the round Roman arches of the ancient Ponte Sant’Angelo in Rome, Italy. The town officers under whom it was built had their names carved on the stone of the railing. How many were there?

7. Middlebury falls made it an important early manufacturing center. Many of its mills have been destroyed, but three still survive, all wholly or partially of stone. One has a roof feature proclaiming its name. What is its name?

8. The Middlebury Municipal Building was designed to look into the roundabout at the head of the Cross Street Bridge. When was it built?

A chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Special Thanks to Glenn Andres, Professor Emeritus, History of Art and Architecture, Middlebury College, for help in the creation of this scavenger hunt.

Send a picture of your completed Clues Sheet to info@aiavt.org by November 15, 2021 to be entered into a drawing to win a prize!

Your Name: 
Your Email: 