

Windsor in the 1860s Quest

To get there:

This Quest begins at the American Precision Museum in Windsor, Vermont, located on Main Street—just south of Bridge Street. This Quest explores the 1846 Robbins & Lawrence Armory, a National Historic Landmark, that houses the American Precision Museum.

Your clues:

With Eighteen Forty-Six behind
Down a gravel path, water you'll find.

*Mill Brook dammed up power from streams,
Here, generations of artisans made machines!
Now look at the 1870 trade card below.
What was made here? This card will show.*



Photo taken looking upstream

Back up the hill, then left up the drive
Cross the bridge—do not cross Route 5!

At a square and round green metal plate, look right:
The old stone foundation is in your sight.

*Atop that stone wall a Grist Mill was found,
This is the place where the grain was ground.
And across the brook a foundry once stood
Where they melted iron in this neighborhood.*

Continue to Union St. Cross it at the light
Walk to four trees ahead on your right.

Turn and see a house with two doors
Inside Kendall's ghosts float o'er the floors.

*Nicanor Kendall, an inventor was he,
Designing guns & building and industry.
With Lawrence (as foreman) and Robbins' funds
They won a bid to make 10,000 guns.*

Back to the corner - you can turn right although there's no sign
And see the 2nd of 9 doors in a very long line.

*In the 1860's these apartments weren't here—
There were many small shops as the 1869 map makes clear.
Use the map: follow the track to where it stops.
What did they load & unload at the shops?*

Go west until you find 17 on a door
Where the "Brick Block" ends, you'll find
the old empty thrift store.

*Maps from the 19th century show
That this is where the workers would go
To sleep and also get a meal...
At a boarding house, that was the deal!*



1869 Beers Atlas of Windsor County

Cross the street before the railing starts; cross Mill Brook too.
A single tall chimney will come into view.

Head “One Way” past a drive with a low stone wall
The Armory bell tower and its golden gun will call.

Pass steel girders; hear a humming sub-station
The Dry Cleaner is your next destination.

*In 1860, this was the South School
Children were here while their fathers made tools.
As a child, Ed Battison studied here.
Who is he? The answer is near.*

Continue on Maple Street to the stop sign.
Down a slope, apple trees you’ll find.

Sit in the shade, take in the view;
The last of the story we’ll tell you.

*The bell would ring for the workers to know
It was time for a shift to come and go.
100 years after the peak of production
Battison saved this building from destruction.*

Find the treasure box on a young apple tree,
And you have solved this industrial mystery.

This museum has many Windsor stories to tell
Find them in the Museum beneath the bell.

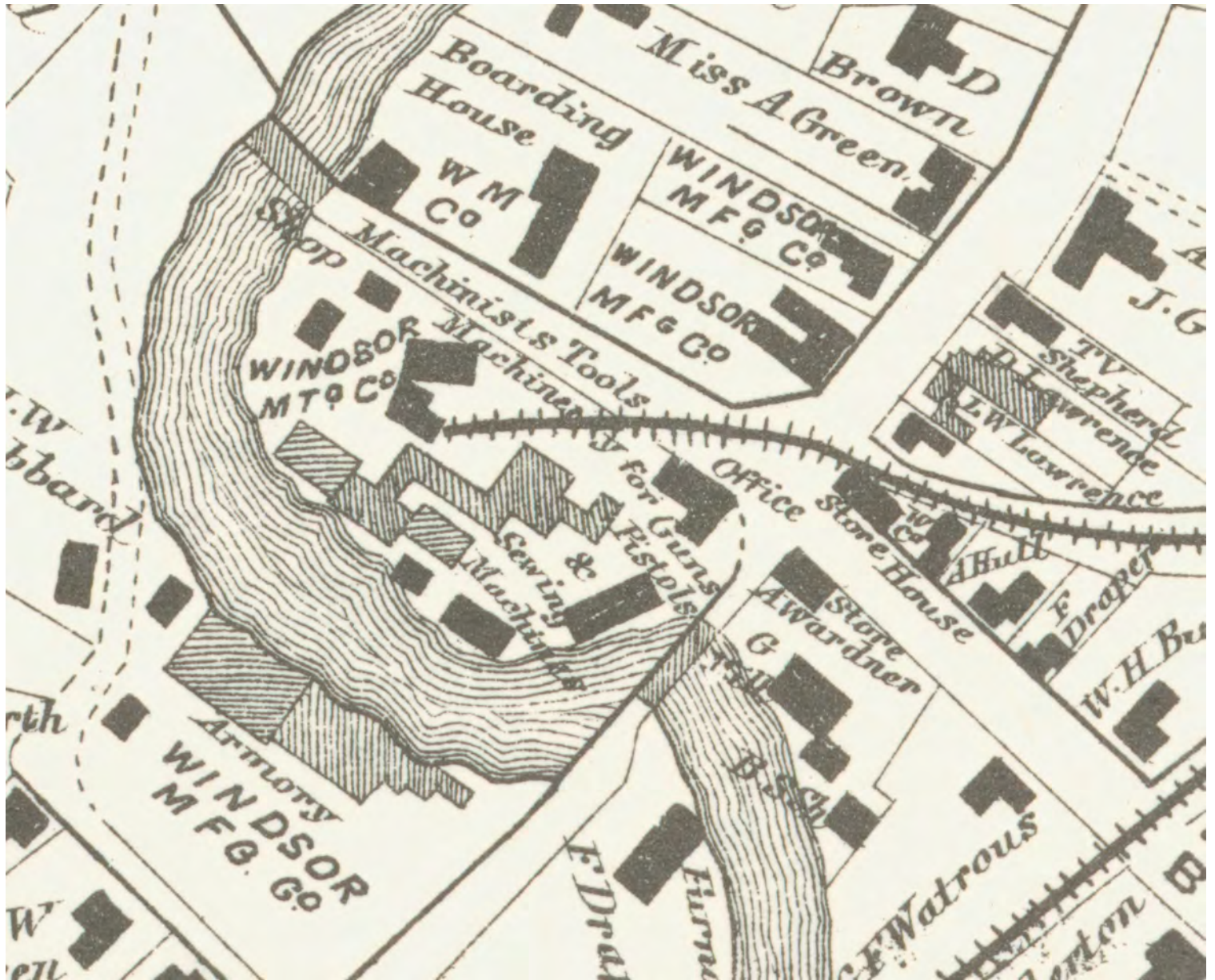


1855 Windsor County Map

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1855 Windsor County Map



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