

Letterboxing Clues: The Last Green Valley's America 250 Trail

Leffingwell House Museum

348 Washington St., Norwich, CT 06360 | 860-889-9440 | info@leffingwellhousemuseum.org | leffingwellhousemuseum.org

The museum is open to the public on Saturdays April - October 11am – 3pm; \$8/person. The letterbox can be visited when the Museum is closed.

History: The Leffingwell House Museum is a historic house museum in Norwich, Connecticut interpreting a pre-revolutionary war era tavern and the lives of the early English settlers. Originally built as a two-room house in 1675, the museum features artifacts from pre-contact with the Mohegan Tribe to the Civil War. Visitors can view artifacts and exhibits while being led through period rooms by a tour guide.

Clues: Park anywhere in the lot next to the house. Find the front walk to the house, pass the sign and enter the front garden. Walk the path toward the front door. When you reach the statues, turn right and pass between the statue and the raised garden. Ahead is a lilac bush. Look for the letterbox behind the lilac, hidden under a flat rock. Rehide so the box is not visible.

War Office

149 W Town St., Lebanon, CT 06429 | 860-334-2858 | <https://www.sarconnecticut.org/historic-sites/trumbull-war-office/>

Hours: Open intermittently June – September. The letterbox can be visited when they are not open.

History: Connecticut's Revolutionary War Era Governor, Jonathan Trumbull, used his former store as his headquarters to manage the colony's response to the war and coordinate supplying provisions to the army. Known as the War Office, dignitaries such as George Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, Count Rochambeau and many others met with Trumbull in the building. The War Office is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building has been owned and maintained by the CT Society of the Sons of the American Revolution since 1891.

Clues: Park along the Lebanon Town Green opposite the War Office. If you are not comfortable parking along the green, you can park in the parking lot by the library and church and make the short walk along the green to the War Office. Walk up to the front of the War Office and then turn right along the front of the building and turn to walk around the building. Locate the stairs for the side entrance. The letterbox is on the right side of the stairs behind a trap door rock. Replace the box and the trap door when done.

Connecticut Landmarks, Nathan Hale Homestead

2299 South St., Coventry, CT 06238 | (860) 742-6917 | hale@ctlandmarks.org | ctlandmarks.org

Open for tours May - October. Friday & Saturday, 12–4pm Sunday, 10am–2pm

Tours on the hour for a fee. The Hale Homestead grounds are open year-round from dawn to dusk.

History: "At the Nathan Hale Homestead, it is 1776, and a war for independence is underway. Learn how members of the Hale family supported the war effort by gathering supplies, helping their neighbors, and serving in the Continental Army. Nathan Hale, Connecticut's State Hero, was born on the property in

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1755. He was recruited as one of America's earliest spies but was caught and hanged by the British in September 1776." – CT Landmarks website

Clues: Park in the Hale Homestead lot surrounded by stone walls. Take the dirt road/path South of the Homestead heading toward the woods. Walk until you see an opening in the stone wall on the right side of the trail that leads into a field. Remain on the trail and from this point take 20 steps along the trail to a "Y" tree on the left side of the trail. From this point take another 38 steps along the trail to a 8-10 foot stump with remains of the tree next to it, also on the left side. The letterbox is behind the stump, under the log and covered with rocks. Rehide when you are done.

Iron Mine Valley Preserve

31 Sand Hill Rd., Ashford, CT 06278 | 860-429-9023 | administration@joshuastrust.org | joshuastrust.org

History: During the Revolutionary War, iron ore was mined from the wetlands surrounding this trail. This trail network is 1.8 miles total. The loop without the spur trails is a little less than a mile. This trail is owned and maintained by Joshua's Trust. Joshua's Trust is a nonprofit land conservation trust protecting 5,000 acres in Northeastern Connecticut that will remain open space and protected from development forever. Joshua's Trust works in Northeast CT and cooperates with other land trusts beyond this region.

Clues: Park on the side of the road across from the grass path. The road will turn to dirt just before you reach the preserve if you are coming from rt. 89. The trail does not appear marked from the road, but you will find a sign about 20 steps in from the road. Follow the trail until it goes downhill and then takes a turn to the left. Find the metal yellow blaze just past the bend in the trail and look on the right side for several moss-covered rocks with a skinny, 6ft tall snag/stump between the rocks. Go behind the rocks to the stump and the letterbox is hidden in the little cave between the two rocks, right behind the stump. When done, re-cover the box with leaves.

Publick House Historic Inn & Country Lodge

277 Main St. (Rt. 131), Sturbridge, MA 01566 | 508-347-3313 or 800-PUBLICK | publickhouse.com

History: In 1771, Ebenezer Crafts built "The Elms" on the common in Sturbridge. Today, the inn and tavern is known as the Publick House and has served the public for over 250 years. Nestled on acres of beautiful countryside in the heart of New England, the Publick House is where delicious homemade food and comfortable lodging come together as your home away from home. Through the years, this historical destination has grown into a landmark in Sturbridge, offering two charming restaurants that boast a dining experience from an era that has long passed. Whatever the occasion, the Publick House welcomes you.

Clues: Park in the parking lot behind the Publick House. Near the entrance of the parking lot, find the sidewalk that goes up the hill toward the motel rooms at the top of the hill. Go part way up the hill on the sidewalk and locate the opening in the stone wall on the left side of the path. The letterbox is hidden on the back side of the stone wall about 3 feet from the opening under the pointed rock and hidden by a trap door stone. Replace the stone and place pine needles in the spaces to ensure no one can see the box.