



Scavenger Hunt of Norwalk History ***“Founding of Norwalk” and the “Burning of Norwalk”***

Created by **Dean Vaccaro**, U.S. History Teacher, Roton Middle School

Part One: The Founding of Norwalk



Roger Ludlow and Chief Mahackemo – From the Mural “The Purchase of Norwalk” at City Hall

Site #1 – Roger Ludlow Monument – Gregory Blvd., East Norwalk

The monument is located at the intersection of Gregory Blvd. and Marvin St., on the way to Calf Pasture Beach.

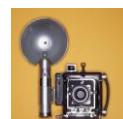
1. On what date did Roger Ludlow purchase Norwalke from Chief Mahackemo of the Norwalke Indians? (4 pts)
2. What three things is Ludlow known for? (4 pts)
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Fun Fact: Did you know that Roger Ludlow was one of the framers of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639)?

3. What were the **boundaries** of the land he purchased? (Give me the full quote from the bottom. from “*All the lands. . .*” to “*. . .into the country.*”) (6 pts)
4. What are two details **you see in the image on the front** that describe the sale? Be specific. (6 pts)
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- ☐ *Take a picture of yourself in front of the monument (the side with the image). POSE AS IF YOU ARE PART OF THE SCENE, EITHER AS LUDLOW OR THE INDIANS*



Site #2 – “Founding of Norwalk Sign” – Mill Hill Historical Complex, Wall Street

The “Founding of Norwalk” BLUE sign is located along the sidewalk on the top of the hill at Wall St., near the Town Green. You can park at Mill Hill, which is home to the Norwalk Historical Society, where you will find the 1835 Town House, the Little Red School House, and the Governor Fitch Law Office.

Find this sign. READ IT OUT LOUD!

5. What settlement did Roger Ludlow already own at the time he purchased the land on the east side of the Norwalke River from Chief Mahackemo? (4 pts)

6. What two Hartford colonists led 13 families to be the first colonists to settle Norwalke? (4 pts)

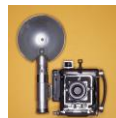
7. In what year did these families first settle Norwalk? (4 pts)

8. What two streets in Norwalk do you think are named after these two men? (Hint: Last names.) (4 pts)
(You may have to use a map of Norwalk to help you.)

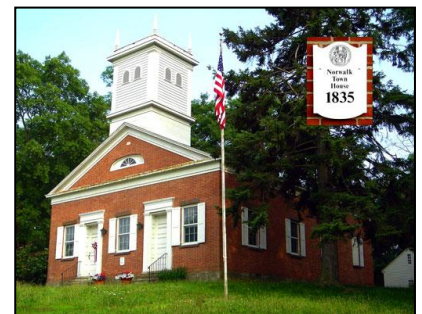
_____ Place and _____ Avenue

9. The first homes of these settlers were built on both sides of a path (near the present-day East Norwalk Train Station).
Today, this path is a major street in Norwalk. Name the street. (4 pts)

- ☐ Take a picture of yourself POINTING AT THE SIGN.



Mr. Vaccaro and his 3 children: Matthew, Julia and Avery Rose



1835 Norwalk Town House
at Mill Hill

Part Two: The Burning of Norwalk by the British 1779



July 2009 Re-enactment of British troop encampment near Calf Pasture for the 230th anniversary.

Note: * = Reflective, H.O.T. Question

Site #3 – Sign of “The British Invasion” – Calf Pasture Beach, East Norwalk

The sign is located on the sidewalk along the outer parking lane. It is between the Shea-Magrath Memorial and the fishing pier, across from the softball field.

Find this sign. **READ IT OUT LOUD!**



10. Look out at the Norwalk Islands. It is a summer day in July, 230 years ago. The British have just attacked New Haven and Fairfield. Will Norwalk be next? You look out and see a fleet of 70 British ships appear off the Norwalk Islands.

* Pick a role. Are you a Patriot or a Loyalist? Why? (Use the definition.) * (6 pts)

* Assuming this role, what should you do now that you have seen the British ships? * (4 pts)

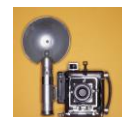
* Give yourself an old Norwalk name: _____ *
(Think of some of the street signs you know. They might be last names.) (4 pts)

11. On what month, date, and year did British ships land at Norwalk Harbor and (what is today) Calf Pasture Beach? (Actually, they landed at Fitch's Point, between the beach and Mr. Frosty.) (4 pts)

12. How many British and Hessian soldiers took part in the raid? (4 pts)

13. Describe ALL of the damage to Norwalk. (What was burned and destroyed? Be specific.) (6 pts)

- ☐ Take a picture of yourself LOOKING OUT AT THE BRITISH SHIPS.
(A **Patriot** will look terrified. A **Loyalist** will be waiving at the ships.)



Site #4 – “Grumman’s Hill” D.A.R. Monument – Norwalk Inn, 99 East Avenue

The Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) erected a monument in front of the present-day Norwalk Inn to mark the area where the British general (General Tryon) watched Norwalk burn from high atop (what once was) Grumman’s Hill. From that hill, he could see the town burning along both sides of the Norwalk River (today, East Ave. and West Ave.).

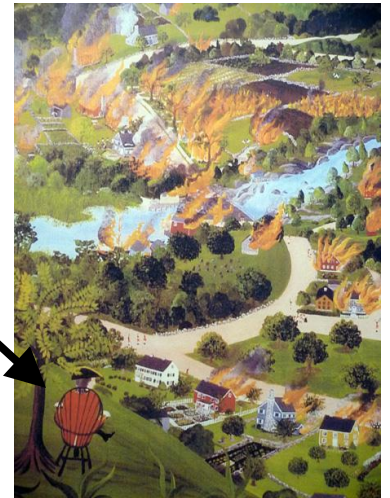
Find this monument. READ IT OUT LOUD!



14. It is July 10, 1779. You rode your horse from the spot where you first saw the British ships. You are heading towards the Town Green. You look to the right and see the British general sitting in a rocking chair on top of Grumman’s Hill (where the Inn is).

* Why do you think he is sitting there (on top of the hill)? * (6 pts)

* What will you do?
(Think about whether you are a Patriot or a Loyalist from Q #10.) * (4 pts)

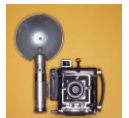


15. What does the monument say? Write it here. (4 pts)

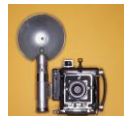
16. In what year did the D.A.R. erect this monument? (4 pts)

17. Where do you think he got the rocking chair from? (Hint: Look to the left—towards the flagpole.) (4 pts)

- ☐ Take a picture of yourself next to monument, pointing towards the old hill, SHOUTING: “**GENERAL TRYON!!!!!!!! WE SEE YOU!!!!**” Patriots--You are taunting him because you want to lure him into the “trap” – the Battle of the Rocks.



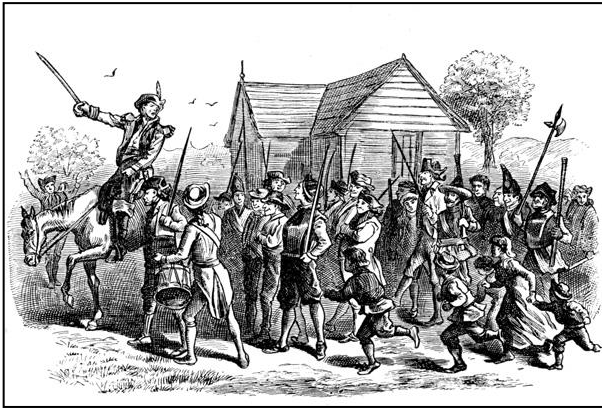
- ☐ Take a picture of yourself on the sidewalk in front the Grumman-St. John House next door, PRETENDING YOU ARE THROWING BUCKETS OF WATER ON THE BURNING HOUSE. (Part of this 265-year-old house survived the Burning of Norwalk!) Bring a bucket, +1 E.C.!!



Then



Now



Norwalk and local militiamen gather at “The Rocks” to fight off the British.

Site #5 – “Battle of the Rocks” D.A.R. Monument – France St. & Adams Ave.

The Daughters of the American Revolution erected a monument to commemorate the area known as “**the Rocks**”, where Norwalk Patriots fought off the British on July 11-12, 1779. How do you find it?

Drive past the Town Green on Park St., which turns into France St. (France St. becomes West Rocks Rd.) It is on the left, on the corner of France St. and Adams Ave..

Find this monument. READ IT OUT LOUD!

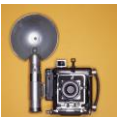


18. You ride your horse from Grumman’s Hill north, past the Town Green to the area of high elevation known as “the Rocks”. You see many of your fellow Norwalkers evacuating the town and heading to “the Rocks” for safety. Look north and you’ll see “the Rocks” area. From this area, Norwalk & local Patriots fought off the British, forcing them to return to their ships.

* How do you think the high ground help the local militias fight off the British? * (6 pts)



19. What does the monument say? Write it here. (4 pts)



Take a picture or video of yourself in front of the monument, arms up in the air YELLING OUT: “**HUZZAH!! HUZZAH!! HUZZAH!!**”

(If you head up West Rocks Road, you’ll see rocks on both sides of the hill. From behind these rocks, local Patriots bravely fought off the British. Look! Can you see the Patriots hiding? No picture needed! I am just showing you!)



**EXTRA CREDIT: IF YOU ARE A TRUE PATRIOT (OR LOYALIST), YOU WILL
VISIT ALL OF THE EXTRA CREDIT SITES!!**

**1. Visit Site #6 – British Cannonball & “Flax Hill Monument” (D.A.R.) – 7 Hillside Place, S. Norwalk
(2 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS)**

Located on the stone wall of the house on the corner of Hillside Pl. and Elmwood, it behind former Ben Franklin School (Crystal Theatre). Go down Flax Hill, left on Taylor Ave, and first right on Hillside Pl. This monument marks the site of a battle between Norwalk militia and the British on July 12, 1779. There is a cannonball from the monument. The cannonball was found on the battlefield 100 years later by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Hint: Look for the steps.

Look! The Cannonball

What does the monument say? Write it here.



- ☐ Take a picture of yourself in front of the D.A.R. monument, **POINTING AT THE CANNONBALL. (DON'T TOUCH!!)**

This lies on someone's property, so please be respectful!!!!



**2. Visit Site #7 – “Founding of Norwalk Monument” (D.A.R.) – East Avenue, East Norwalk
(2 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS)**

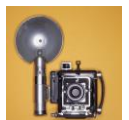
*Located in East Norwalk (the “cradle of Norwalk”) on East Avenue by the **East Norwalk Railroad Station**, across from the intersection of Fort Point St. and East Ave. It is located across the street from the empty lot by East Ave Pizza.*

Park at the Train Station across from the empty lot. The monument is on the sidewalk of a busy street. Be careful. Do not cross the street here. Do not stand in the street to take the picture.

What does the monument say? Write it here.



- ☐ From the sidewalk, take a picture of yourself next to the sign, **POINTING ACROSS THE STREET AT SITE OF THE FIRST NORWALK HOMES AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** (The actual site of the first Meetinghouse was probably where Penny's Diner is today.)



3. Visit Site #8 – the mural “The Purchase of Norwalk” in City Hall, 125 East Ave. (City Hall is not always open on weekends.) (2 E.C. POINTS)

What does the text box in the painting say? Write it here.



- ☐ Make yourself part of the painting! Be a Roger Ludlow or Chief Mahackemo. Take a picture.



4. Visit Site #9 – the 1951 DAR marker for the famous Norwalk Oak Tree. It was purported to be the 2nd largest oak tree in the United States. -- 190 Martin Luther King Dr., South Norwalk (2 E.C. POINTS)

Located in front of the UPS building on Dr. Martin Luther King Drive.



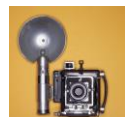
It was considered the second-largest Oak Tree in the U.S. The DAR dedicated the marker during a well-attended ceremony on August 26, 1951, as part of Norwalk's 300th anniversary celebration. Then, it was about 90 feet tall and 85 feet wide. The tree was removed in the 1970s after falling into decay, living to about 300 years of age! This means it was there 100 years before the US became a nation (Declaration of Independence 1776.) One of its descendant trees, named the “Legacy Oak,” is thriving today, just to the left of the UPS entrance. The marker was buried, covered over, and lost to history for decades. It was rediscovered and cleaned up in August 2017. They are considering building a commemorative park called “Legacy Oak Park.”

Article: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.thehour.com/news/amp/Rediscovered-monument-pays-tribute-to-fallen-12169410.php>

What does the monument say? Write it here.

- ☐ Some of the oak trees in this area today are descendants of the original tree. Park at UPS and explore. Find the descendant “Legacy Oak.” When you pick up some of its acorns... When you hold up one of its fallen leaves... you are beholding the legacy of that original, famous Oak Tree. When you touch the tree, you are touching hundreds of years of Norwalk history! Be a part of “living history”!

Take 2 pictures: One pointing at the marker and another picture next to the “Legacy Oak.”



A SPECIAL EXTRA CREDIT TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDING FAMILIES

EAST NORWALK HISTORICAL CEMETERY – Site #10

Visit Site #10 – the East Norwalk Historical Cemetery, located near the intersection of Van Zant St. and East Ave. This is where many of Norwalk's founding families are buried. Park in the parking lot of the East Avenue United Methodist Church, located across from Sweet Ashley's on Van Zant St., and walk your child across East Ave. Here you will find the First Settlers monument and the Rev. Thomas Hanford tombstone.



5. Visit the “First Settlers of Norwalk Monument” – (4 (Yes, 4!) EXTRA CREDIT POINTS)

This monument contains the names of the first (Puritan) settlers of Norwalk, who moved from the Hartford Colony.

In what year did these first families settle Norwalk?

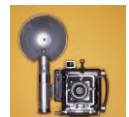
How many were there? (Count the names.)



Streets in Norwalk were named after most of these first settlers, using their last names, with some spelling changes. Name at least 3 streets in town that are named after these settlers. Use a street map/GoogleMaps Note: *Sention* was changed to *St. John*.

<u>Settler's Full Name</u>	<u>Street Name Named after the Settler (Use a map to be correct!!!!)</u> (Use “Street”, “Road”, “Lane”, etc.. Use a map. <u>Don't guess!!!!</u>)
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

- ☐ Take a picture of yourself in front of the monument pointing to a last name that is a street name that is near your home or that speaks to you.



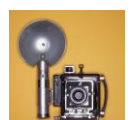
6. Visit the “Reverend Thomas Hanford Tombstone” (2 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS)



Rev. Thomas Hanford was the first (Puritan) minister of Norwalk, in 1652. The first “meetinghouse” (Congregational Church) was located near Penny's Diner on East Avenue. From 1652 to 1694, he was the religious leader, town/civic leader, and schoolmaster for the children. (***Hint:*** Enter across from Sweet Ashley's. Take 50 steps on a left diagonal, towards the center. It is down low and has a black stone on ground in front.)

What does his tombstone say? Write it here.

- ☐ Take a picture of yourself in front of the monument paying special tribute to Rev. Hanford.



Suggested Driving Order * = extra credit

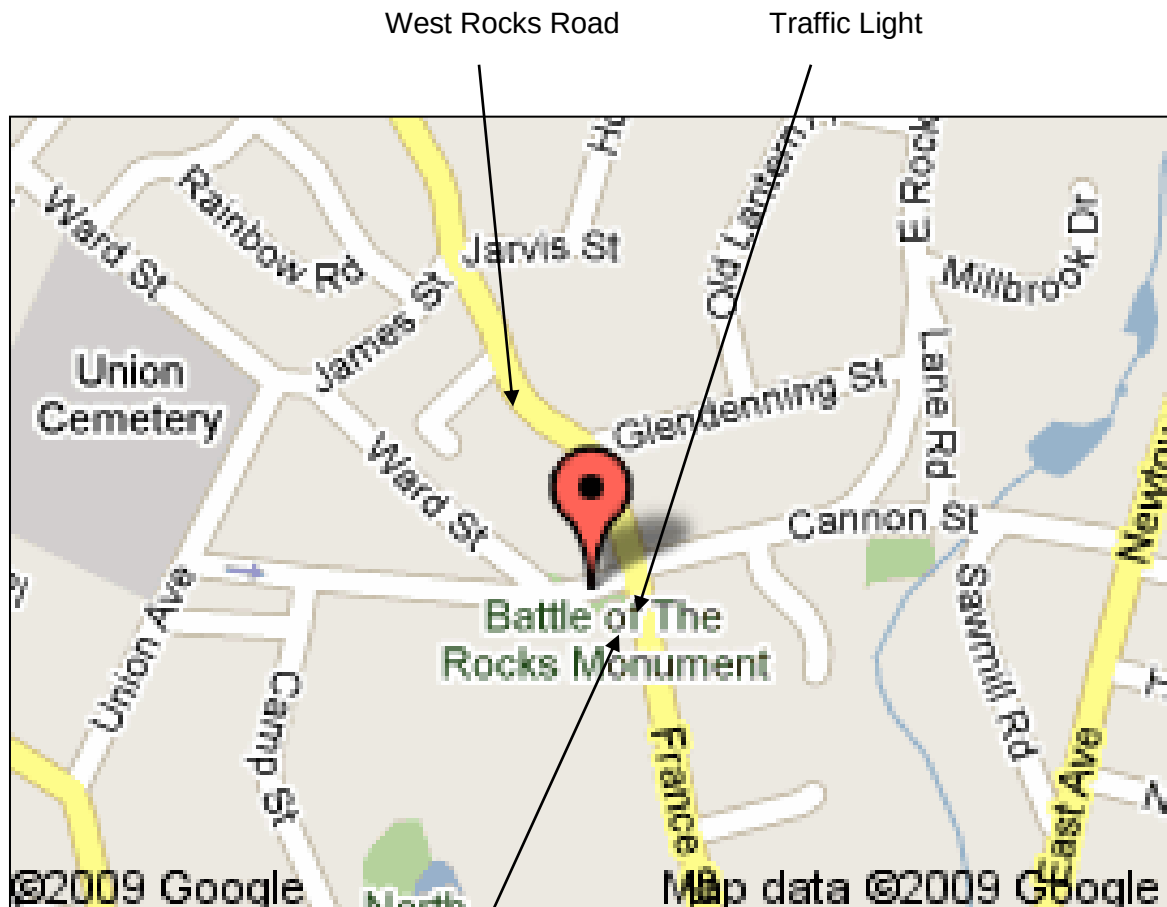
1. *East Norwalk Historical Cemetery
2. Roger Ludlow Monument
3. Sign at Calf Pasture Beach
4. *Founding of Norwalk Monument at East Norwalk Train Station
5. Grumman's Hill Monument (at Norwalk Inn)
6. Blue Sign – Founding of Norwalk – at Mill Hill
7. *Town Green
8. Battle of the Rocks monument

Other Extra Credits

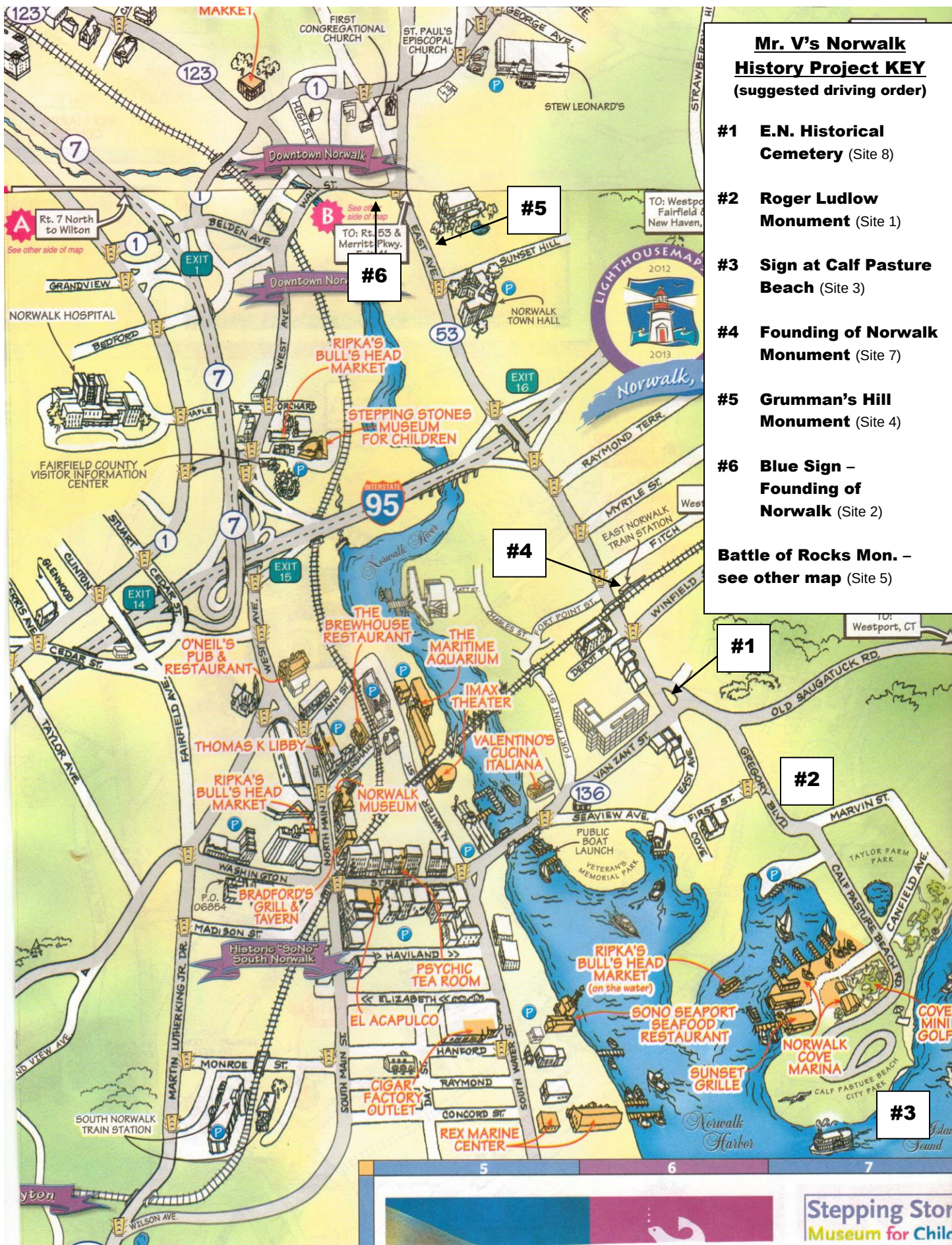
- *Mural in City Hall (closed weekends)
- *British Cannonball behind Flax Hill Ave.
- *Norwalk Oak Tree marker (190 Martin Luther King Dr.)

Special Map for Battle of the Rocks Monument

From the Town Green, head north up Park Street. (Both Park Street and East Ave run alongside the Green.) At light (intersection of Rt. 1), go straight, Park Street turns into France Street. There is a parking area on the LEFT, just before the traffic light at the intersection of France St., Cannon St., Adams Ave., and West Rocks Road. (If you were to continue straight at the light, you would be on West Rocks Rd.)



Access road and parking area – on left just before light



**Mr. V's Norwalk
History Project KEY
(suggested driving order)**

- #1 E.N. Historical Cemetery** (Site 8)
 - #2 Roger Ludlow Monument** (Site 1)
 - #3 Sign at Calf Pasture Beach** (Site 3)
 - #4 Founding of Norwalk Monument** (Site 7)
 - #5 Grumman's Hill Monument** (Site 4)
 - #6 Blue Sign – Founding of Norwalk** (Site 2)
- Battle of Rocks Mon. – see other map** (Site 5)

#1

#2

#3