

Thematic descriptions - points described, out
of 19 interviews.

13 - B.H.

11 - Commonwealth Ave

10 - Faneuil & the market district

Copley Sq.

Wash St shopping

9 - Cambridge St

Common & Gardens

8 - Seaport Sq.

N End

Back Bay

6 - Artery

S End

5 - Atlantic Ave

Clas. St.

Clas. R.

4 - Tremont St

Financial distr.

Symphony Hall

also 5 3's

10 2's

31 1's

Thematic content, generalized:

Boston - A: A city of many distinctive areas, whose streets are crooked, winding, confusing; and of red-brick bldgs. Symbolized by the ^{dirty} Common, the State House & its gold dome, & the view over the Charles River from Cambridge.

B: It is old, historical, ~~with its~~ buildings worn out, but with a contrast of new & old. It is ~~crowded~~ congested with people & cars, has no parking, has narrow streets, but with a contrast of wide main streets & narrow side streets. It is a peninsula on the water. The Charles River, Beacon Hill, the harbor & wharves, the Public Garden, ^{the CH tower} the John Hancock building are all distinctive.

Other comments that tie in: it lacks open or recreation space; is an individual, small or medium-size city; has bay windows, iron fences & brownstone fronts. It is an area of mixed use. (Two examples of radiation of detail: "cobblestones" & "violet windows"). The private views are full of esp. of detail panoramas, or space experiences (view down Parkway, from Brighton Hill, from harbor, etc). Also pleasure of city lights at night. Copley & Commonwealth are also distinctive. Note strong role in above of contrast: esp space contrast & time contrast; & to some extent social & use contrast.

BB - not so strong identity as BH. Old brownstone or brick houses, attached, some close to walks, w/ steps going up. Residential (non-?) area. Clean, pretty. Wide ^{straight} sts, trees, a rectangular grid. At times thematically equated w/ BH or So End. Commonwealth. Beacon St

BH - a very strong image. Steep, narrow sts, complicated to some, but felt as perpendicular system. Small, old attached houses of distinct architectural style. Red brick, violet windows, white doors, black trim, cobblestones & brick walks. Difficult to drive & park. Louisburg Sq. & the State House w/ its gold dome. Conceived as a hill.

Nbt district - a somewhat vague image in location & content, tho very frequently described (in brief terms). The activity is the key: stalls, carts, vegetables, noise, confusion. Artery seen, & sometimes view under it. Faneuil Hall an impl. pt., often a sharp image. Fights for dominance as the conceptual core w/ Haymarket.

Copley - also ^{very} often described. Here mostly in terms of surrounding buildings: Public Library above all, also Trinity & Copley Plaza. Some see JH in background.

Triangular park in middle infrequently referred to.

Wash St. ~~Wash St.~~ downtown - a narrow, canyon-like street, crowded w/ pedestrians, & having one-way traffic. Intensive shopping, a mix of big dept. stores & little run-down affairs. Jordan's - Filene's is the core. Many signs, lights from marquee signs & shop windows @ night. One end is ^{the top of} the ^{the longitudinal} ~~the~~ end. A few note the subway, the transverse slope, or the views to the Common.

Commonwealth - very steep, both in frequency & vividness. A wide ^{thoroughly} street w/ trees. Paving a ^{grassy} central park mall containing benches, statues & a path. One-way traffic separated on either side, lined by old attached hses either side (brown-stone? stone? red-brick?), of unified arch. style. Contains Harvard Club & Hotel Vendome. Has a gradient to Mass Ave of non-residential use. A beautiful, pleasant street.

Cambridge St strong if unattractive image. A ~~very~~ very wide street ("one of few"), with a dividing strip down the middle. Yes, the Bowdoin, by 1st Bldg. Otherwise nothing but rental offices, variously: factories, gas stations, cleaners, taverns, laundries, paint, apts.

Common & Public Gardens - a strong vivid image, sometimes fused, sometimes in two parts. A green open space bordered by one or two main shopping streets (esp. Tremont). With grass, trees, flowers, many winding internal paths, a pond, swan-boats (latter very strong). Full of people & children. The State House. The Pt St Church. A few notes: fountain, the slope, the band stand, the P.G. bridge, the hill in the Common, gates & fences, the Herald Trav. sign. A favorite, pleasant spot.

Sealby Sq. - often mentioned but rarely described etc. w/ such epithets as: rundown, low status, unattractive, dirty, despicable. Only physical element generally recognized is the subway entrance.

North End - narrow streets, ~~in~~ in a confusing layout, crowded, dilapidated buildings, tenements, litter,

surrounded & isolated by water, industry, Artery.
But principal characteristic not physical but
Italian people, their friendliness, fiestas, stores, ~~etc.~~
noise, excitement. Some mention Hannover or Salem
Artery - not too sharp, but recognizable. On it, the
sense of rising & turning, the signs. Below, the sense
of elevated, going under - the new green paint.

SEnd - a slum area of dilapidated buildings, dead.
Litter & refuse, broad straight main sts. Rounded
fronts; the elevated goes through it. Mixed use, the
Syrian area, lack open space

Clark - often mentioned. Notes freq. say described in
detail but ~~nothing~~ ^{little} stated, ~~etc.~~ The wide open
space, & the boats & esplanade. ^{parking} The Hell Highways.

Financial district - banks & insurance cos. in
large old buildings, on narrow streets State St
sometimes a cave.

Atlantic Ave is a wide street, associated w/ waterfront
& wharves. Some note RR tracks, or wavel lanes.

Gas St is mostly known for its special little shops.

Also for the clearly-visualized combination
rotary & elevated stop @ the river (trains, traffic, etc)

Remont St seems to have a very diffuse picture

except for its sleeping & relation to the Common.