The general types of orientation means in the city, in order of their approximate importance in Boston:

1. Lines – Wash, Tremont, Boylston, Beacon, Mass Ave, Chas bridge
2. Spaces – Common & Garden
4. Points – State House, No. & So. Stations
5. Use-areas – Retail shopping, Back Bay
6. Slopes – Beacon Hill.

1. Lines should not turn subtly & continuously; should have dominant direction; should connect & not at ambiguous angles; should be reinforced with use and traffic & spatial cohesion.

2. Spaces must be distinctive; visible from distance and yet not spilling out loosely; furnish orientation for moving out; should interconnect; allow views of near & far landmarks.

3. Barriers can orient over a large area but may also make a sharp break; must prevent ambiguity of which side am I on? or of a constantly turning enclosure; connect or identify end points
5. Use-areas must be distinctive in detail & texture & activity; should have sharp edges & gradations of intensity

6. Slopes should form a consistent overall system, & the paths have relation to their direction.

7. Grids should be regular in direction & to some extent in interval, but need not be mechanically so, nor need all streets be perfectly continuous.

4. Points must be distinctive visually & functionally; be of functional or historical importance; be commonly seen or used; be visible from a distance; be well related to major system.

Also very commonly used is an interior memory system, recording turns & distances & maintaining the desired direction (very common) & noting how far (perhaps used). This method weakens as time goes on without further clues, or if many shifts of direction are made, or if direction changes are subtle or ambiguous.
Spring, 1955

(one circle) = Strong   (two circles) = Strongest

From available data, an orientation map of central
Boston would show:

(two circles) The sense of the Chas R & the harborside, a little un-
certain of their joint.
(one circle) The expressway block across the N end.
(two circles) The Common & Public Garden

Certain lines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atlantic Ave</th>
<th>(one circle) Boylston</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charles St</td>
<td>(one circle) Beacon St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one circle) Washington</td>
<td>Hanover (cut)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one circle) Tremont</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(one circle) Mass. Ave</td>
<td>Commonwealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge St</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(with certain confusion points:
the Boylston-Tremont convergence
the break in Hanover
the gap at Scollay Square
the turning of Atlantic Ave)

Certain use-areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinatown</th>
<th>Financial district?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(one circle) Wash St. shopping</td>
<td>P.O. district?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faneuil Hall mkts.</td>
<td>(one circle) Back Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North End</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some reference spaces:
  Scollay sq.
  Dock Sq.
  P.O. Sq.
  Copley Sq.

Some reference points:
  {one circle} State House {one circle} South Station
  Statler
  Faneuil Hall
  Sumner tunnel
  North Station

  ? Custom House Tower
  Court House Annex
  Old South Church
  King’s Chapel
  Parker House
  {one circle} Jordan’s & Filene’s

{one circle} The slope down from Beacon Hill, & to the Docks.
Orientation confusions, Boston:

Breaks:
- From the line Faneuil – Scollay – Cambridge St.
- (or State – Court – Pemberton) to:
- Haymarket – North Station
- & this last from:
- Hanover – North End (due to expressway)

Between Wash St – P.O. Square and:
- So. Station – Atlantic Ave.
  " Custom House – Atlantic Ave and:
  " Washington St. or S. Station.
  " Back Bay & Tremont – Washington
  (the Boylston – Tremont confusion is involved)
  " Back Bay & S. End systems

Major disorientations:
- Peninsula outline & distortion of harborside
- Disorientation of Boylston & Tremont
- N–S directions
- The turning of Atlantic Ave

Local confusions:
- Scollay Sq., Park Sq, Dock Sq, Shawmut & Tremont
- Shape of the Common
- Separation of the Faneuil markets
- Distortion of Charles & Leverett Circles
- Confused areas: area S of Common, Haymarket area
- N of Fort Sq.
The following major orientation system appear, due to the breaks:

No. Station – Haymarket – W. End.
No. End
Washington – Tremont – P.O. Sq. – State St – Scollay Sq. Common, to which is attached not quite so firmly: on one side Faneuil Hall, on the other Beacon Hill – State House.

Back Bay – Copley Sq. (links w/ above three Common, but this is ambiguous).

So. End
So. Station – Chinatown – lower end Atlantic Ave.

General tendencies:

to relate in a chain of events based on habitual paths
to enlarge the known, diminish the unknown (while the distance thru the unknown may seem further