

Trip A:  
Field Trip "Asking Directions" August 16, 1956 – 9:30 to 12:30 A.M.

Plan of Action: DESTINATION and Point of Origin

BEACON HILL(MRYTLE ST.)	JOHN HANCOCK BUILDING
{B...}A...Filene's A...Post Office Square Park Square	A... Filene's Mrytle Street Dartmouth at Commonwealth Ave.
SCOLLAY SQUARE	COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
A...Post Office Square {B...}Mass Gen'l Hospital Corner Beacon and Charles	{B...}A...Park St. at Tremont A...Post Office Square Mass Gen'l Hospital
{margin: use "Public" 'SWAN BOATS IN' circled} SWAN BOATS IN GARDEN	WASHINGTON STREET
A...Filene's A...Scollay Square Mrytle Street John Hancock	Mrytle St. to Haymarket Corn. Beacon & Charles to Court St. John Hancock to shopping district

“Asking Directions”

BEACON HILL: (Mrytle St.)

A...Filene's (2)

1. (woman) Go straight up there (pointing up Winter) and bear right...just bear right and you'll get to Beacon Street, it runs parallel to this (pointing to Washington St.). You go right straight through to Beacon Street and you'll be in front of the State House. Mrytle Street is up there. It's too confusing to tell you about it from here, just ask up there. You'll know you're there because you'll see the State House.
2. (woman) Go right there (pointing at Washington Sq.) to School St. It's the second street on your left, the first is Bromfield. Go up there straight ahead on School and you'll come to Beacon Hill. (How will I know it?) Well, it's really Beacon Street, but the old timers called it Beacon Hill. What are you looking for? (Mrytle St.) well, go right up the hill and you'll find it. It's confusing up there so you'll probably ask again.

A...Post Office Square (1)

1. (man) I live around there. Go straight up here (Milk St.) to Washington St. Take a sharp right and then a sharp left and keep going up past the Veterans' Administration Building and up the hill to the State House, you'll see a street going around, and Mrytle will be right there. You'd better ask at the State House. Actually you can't miss it, but it is complicated. Better ask an officer at the State House. (How will I know when I'm at Myrtle St.) Oh, you'll know, can't miss it.

“Asking Directions”

SCOLLAY SQUARE:

A...Post Office Square(2)

1. (woman) Go there (pointing along Congress St. northward) and take your first left, going around the corner and up to Washington Street. You have to take a left again and then a right: two lefts and a right and then you'll see it. (how will I know) It's a square like this (sweeping wave at P.O. Square) with lots of little shops (laugh from woman) bars.
2. (man) Take next left. No, that's confusing. Go straight ahead and continue for three blocks, and take a left, any left there actually. Go straight up and you'll be there. (How will I know it) Well, there's a hill going up and at the bottom is the beginning of Scollay Square. Also there's a Homes Inc. on the corner there.

"Asking Directions"

SWAN BOATS IN GARDENS

A...Scollay Square (2)

1. (man) Go right down there (Tremont). You can see the Common on your right (pointing). Well, you can't from here, but go along and it will be there. The Park Street Church is on the corner, just go right along the corner and you'll see several subway entrances. Go through the Common and head south: across a wide street. You'll see the Swan boats right there. You can't miss them.
2. (woman) Take Tremont. (Which is Tremont) That one going right there. Walk along and it will be on your right. (How will I know I'm there) It's a park, you'll see it. (That's the Garden?) Yes. (And I'll see the swan boats) Yes, well, you'll have to walk a little, but you'll find them.

A...Filene's (1)

1. (man: salesman!) Go right up here (pointing up Winter) and turn left. Go to the end of the street around the Common turning right. Go along and you will see the boats. Look (pulling out a map of the city which had the shopping district outlined in pencil) (repeats directions, showing them on map) Of, course, you could go through the Common (noting paths on map, probably) but you might get lost. It's easier this way and you'll see the boats oh your right.

“Asking Directions”

JOHN HANCOCK BUILDING:

A...Filene's (2)

1. (woman) Well, it's been a long time since I lived in Boston, why don't you ask this officer (taking me to same)  
(policeman) Go up there (Winter) to Tremont and go left to Boylston and go right. Takes about 15 minutes. You'll get there. (What does it look like) You'll know it: ask another officer, he'll tell you.
2. (woman) Go up there (Winter), you can see Albert's (Shop) on the corner. Go across the Common diagonally and you'll get to Park Square. Ask anyone there: it will take you 20 minutes. John Hancock's right there somewhere ...in Park Square, yes in Park Square. It's a big building with a weather signal on top: you'll see it.

“Asking Directions”

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE:

A...Park Street at Tremont (3)

1. (woman) Along that way, through the Commons, just ask an officer, I would only confuse you. Do you really want to walk?
2. (woman) Through the Commons diagonally, toward the south and across Charles Street through the Garden to Arlington Street. Right there is a wide, wide street with a green plot in the middle and benches trees and all that sort of thing. There are two roads but it is all one street.
3. (man) You go right through there (the Common). See that waterfall, go right along past that and across the street. Another park is there and you cross that and another street, and you're there. (What does it look like) Oh, that's easy. There are cars going one way then grass and a path and then cars going the other way: it's the widest street there.

A...Post Office Square (1)

1. (man) Go right up there to the right as far as you can go (i.e. up Milk St.) That is Washington St. then half a block to the left and up again and you'll find Tremont St. Go down a block to the left again and you'll find a big church. Go right around the corner and there's the Common. Go straight through the Common and Gardens and you'll see Commonwealth. Besides the sign you'll know it because it is a wide street with two lanes and elm trees in the middle. It'll take you two, two and half miles to get there, though.

“Asking Directions” Trip B: August 22 (morning)

B.....1. Trip from Massachusetts General Hospital to South Station. (5)

- 1) (Fruit man): Just go that way (pointing to the left on Cambridge) straight ahead and you'll come to it. You'll find Washington Street and you'll come to it. Just go to Scollay Square. (how will I know) Just ask anybody, just ask and they'll tell you how to go on.
  
- 2) (Scotsman): (hearing Fruitman) Scollay Square, I'm going that way so just come along. Let's cross the street here (why); we're going that way (pointing left on Cambridge) This is the Italian section, you know (waving hand to the left side of Cambridge St.) and there's North Station, (pointing straight left) (Is there anything particular to see in the Italian district) No. Just the new underpass and overhead. Over on that side (right side of Cambridge St.) all the classes are mixed, they all live there. (What does Scollay Square look like) Like any square, you'll see for yourself. (What's that) Oh, that's the Custom House Tower which is used for shipping, they have lights there for ships. (Why do they call it C.H.T.) Oh, they use it for immigration, too. And down that way (pointing left again) through any of those streets in North Station. This is Bowdoin Square. See the Telephone Building. (Where's So. Sta.) Oh, you'd get lost and confused if I tell you now, I'll tell you at Scollay Square. Now we're coming to Scollay Square. The old Howard, a land mark in Boston, is there but it's all closed down now. There, see it, down that street. And there's North Station (pointing down a street on the left where green superstructure for the new highway was visible) down along there. You could see Boston Common by going down that way (pointing to Washington Street and beyond) just go down there (Court St.) to Washington St. It's a big highway with big stores on it: Filene's, Jordan's, Gilchrist's, White's. Just go along Summer Street, that's Filene's corner, and go down there. You'll get to South Station (what does it look like) Oh, you can't miss it, it's on the corner. It's been renovated. It used to look pretty bad. (how long will it take from here) Oh, eight minutes. If you want to get to the Common that way, just go along until Boylston St. and turn up and you'll reach it. It's just a circle around, you see. You see, that's North Station (pointing in back and to the left) and South Station is right along from it down that way (pointing again to Washington St.); the highway goes along that way.
  
- 3) (man at Scollay Square on Court St.) Just go down there, see that red brick building (pointing to Old State House) just turn right there and go along to the big department stores until you come to one called Filene's. Turn left there and you'll come to South Station. (Look?) Oh, you'll see it, it's a big building and it's right there as you go down the street.
  
- 4) (man on Washington St. near Court St.) See that J.A. Cigar sign on the corner (of Wash. St.) turn left and go to the big building: that's the Post Office and there is Devonshire Street. Go across on Devonshire and you'll hit, well half a block, or a short block down, you'll come to (hesitation) Federal St. Go right on Federal and you'll come to it.

"Asking Directions" Trip B: Mass Gen'l to So. Station cont. -2-

(How will it look) Oh, it's a big building, it makes a triangle right there. And there's construction all around, you can't miss it.

5) (man at Post Office on Milk Street) See that street, that's Federal Street. Go right down there. (how will I know). It's a big building with a clock on it.. right there (pointing in the direction).

"Asking Directions" TRip B:

BEACON HILL

from Filene's: (3)

1. (woman) Go right up there (Winter St.) and right across there (pointing to the Common) to Beacon Hill. The State House is there, that's Beacon Hill. (Louisberg Sq.) Oh, I'm not just sure. You'll have to ask.

2. (man) Go right up there (Winter St.) and further, across two cross streets, you see, and Beacon Street is there. That's it, the State House is there. (Louisberg Sq) It's in back of the State House, just go up there and ask.

3. (woman) Go up to Tremont Street and go right to Park Street. Walk up Park Street to the State House, that's it. (Louisberg Sq.) I'm afraid you'll have to ask; it's around up there.

{use in conjunction with  
Destination : Scollay Sq.}

“Asking Directions” Trip B: August 22 (morning)

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- 1) (Fruit man): Just go that way (pointing to the left on Cambridge) straight ahead and you'll come to it. You'll find Washington Street and you'll come to it. Just go to Scollay Square. (how will I know) Just ask anybody, just ask and they'll tell you how to go on.
  
- 2) (Scotsman): (hearing Fruitman) Scollay Square, I'm going that way so just come along. Let's cross the street here (why); we're going that way (pointing left on Cambridge) This is the Italian section, you know (waving hand to the left side of Cambridge St.) and there's North Station, (pointing straight left) (Is there anything particular to see in the Italian district) No. Just the new underpass and overhead. Over on that side (right side of Cambridge St.) all the classes are mixed, they all live there. (What does Scollay Square look like) Like any square, you'll see for yourself. (What's that) Oh, that's the Custom House Tower which is used for shipping, they have lights there for ships. (Why do they call it C.H.T.) Oh, they use it for immigration, too. And down that way (pointing left again) through any of those streets in North Station. This is Bowdoin Square. See the Telephone Building. (Where's So. Sta.) Oh, you'd get lost and confused if I tell you now, I'll tell you at Scollay Square. Now we're coming to Scollay Square. The old Howard, a land mark in Boston, is there but it's all closed down now. There, see it, down that street. And there's North Station (pointing down a street on the left where green superstructure for the new highway was visible) down along there. You could see Boston Common by going down that way (pointing to Washington Street and beyond) just go down there (Court St.) to Washington St. It's a big highway with big stores on it: Filene's, Jordan's, Gilchrist's, White's. Just go along Summer Street, that's Filene's corner, and go down there. You'll get to South Station (what does it look like) Oh, you can't miss it, it's on the corner. It's been renovated. It used to look pretty bad. (how long will it take from here) Oh, eight minutes. If you want to get to the Common that way, just go along until Boylston St. and turn up and you'll reach it. It's just a circle around, you see. You see, that's North Station (pointing in back and to the left) and South Station is right along from it down that way (pointing again to Washington St.); the highway goes along that way.
  
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- 4) (man on Washington St. near Court St.) See that J.A. Cigar sign on the corner (of Wash. St.) turn left and go to the big building: that's the Post Office and there is Devonshire Street. Go across on Devonshire and you'll hit, well half a block, or a short block down, you'll come to (hesitation) Federal St. Go right on Federal and you'll come to it.

"Asking Directions" Trip B: Mass Gen'l to So. Station cont. -2-

(How will it look) Oh, it's a big building, it makes a triangle right there. And there's construction all around, you can't miss it.

5) (man at Post Office on Milk Street) See that street, that's Federal Street. Go right down there. (how will I know). It's a big building with a clock on it.. right there (pointing in the direction).

(COMMONWEALTH AVE. CHANGED TO NEWBURY STREET FROM THIS ANGLE)  
(In order to see how well streets near Comm. Ave. can be described)

Trip B.

From Tremont Street: (7)

1. (woman, near Winter St.) To go through the Common would confuse you. Go down Tremont (pointing) and go right on Boylston, past the Gardens until you get to a Church on the corner. Newbury is somewhere there, just look for signs. (Look like) Oh, there's a church on the corner, that's Newbury St.
2. (woman) Go across the Common and across another street and across the Garden and look for the Ritz. (a hotel?) Yes, and that's Newbury St. It's parallel to Boylston, that street down there.
3. (woman, near West Street) Go down there where the light is and that's Boylston. Go right and the second right after that is Arlington Street. Take that and Newbury runs off that, parallel to Boylston. (Look) There's Joseph Antell on one corner and the Ritz Carleton on the other. (Antell?) A shoe store.
4. (woman) Cross the Common, take any path, come to the far corner of it and cross the street. That's Charles St. Newbury is right there. (right off Charles?) Yes. (Look like) Lots of stores, and buildings, very old, older than others around.
5. (man) Go down to Boylston, that street right there (pointing) and Newbury is in that direction (pointing to Park Sq. area). I'm not sure whether it is parallel or perpendicular to this street. You'd better ask.
6. (woman) Go down to Boylston, walk along and you will get to Commonwealth Avenue. (Comm. Ave?) Yes. Newbury Street is off that. (Look like) Just a street, nothing particular. (Did she confuse Arlington and Comm. Ave.?)
7. (man at corner of Boylston) Go along there (pointing along Boylston) That's the Common. Go along the Common until you hit a street, that's Charles St. Then head along diagonally, in a 45 degree angle across the Garden and you'll find Newbury St. (Look like) It's a wide street very wide, you'll see. It makes a corner with Arlington, too.

"Asking Directions" Trip C, August 30, 1956

From John Hancock at Stuart Street to the Public Garden:

1. Go down there (Berkeley); see St. Clair's (at Boylston); turn right there and go along – 10 or 15 minutes – and you will hit the Public Garden; it's a great big park.
2. Go down (Stuart) two blocks and then two blocks over that way (left); it'll take about twenty minutes; then you'll hit the park. Or, take a left here (Berkeley) and then go two blocks down along Boylston.

From John Hancock at Stuart Street to Commonwealth Avenue:

1. (Vendome) Take your second right, the one after that Gulf sign, that's Dartmouth, then go past the Public Library: there's a lateral street pattern, you'll pass Huntington, Boylston, and Newbury and get to Commonwealth, the Vendome is right there.
2. (Comm. Ave.) Take your first right up here, (Clarendon) and go 4 streets over, that's Commonwealth Ave. from there it depends where you want to go. It's a wide avenue and the traffic is one way on each side. There are green plants in the middle.
3. (#1 Comm.) It's down by the river, that way (pointing in that direction), maybe three streets over. It's a long street, I don't know number 1. It's a wide street, but you'd better ask someone there to help you.
4. (near Mass. Ave.) Go right straight over (pointing to Berkeley), the first being that one at Boylston which can see from here. That's Commonwealth: 438? go left. You can't miss the street.

From John Hancock at Stuart Street to Haymarket Square:

1. Go down to that main street like, with fine clothing stores (pointing to Boylston), turn right and go along the Common to Tremont Street. Go one block more to Washington, turn left and walk straight along to Haymarket, you'll see the new highway ramp: that's it.
2. Go to Boylston, see that traffic light (corner Boylston and Berkely) you can take the subway there. Walk? Well, go right and cross the Common diagonally to Beacon Street. Go to the end of Beacon to Scollay Square. Take any right into Haymarket. You'll see Faneuil Hall there, and a church, its name I can't remember.
3. Oh it's a couple of miles. You go down here (pointing down Berkeley) to the traffic light, turn right, go past the Common, it's in that direction, you'd better ask there.

(Note: At John Hancock on Stuart Street, whenever possible, people took me to the corner of Stuart and Berkley in order to be able to point me in the right direction. )

From Copley Square to Scollay Square:

1. (in front of Trinity Church) (after asking two or three tourists who had no idea) Go right down Boylston, past the Common: that's a field with a fence around it. Turn left and go past subway entrances, past a church and a theater to an open area with a subway entrance in the middle. You walk down into it, Scollay Square, that is. In all it will take you about fifteen to twenty minutes.

From Copley Square to Haymarket Square:

(In front of Peter Pan)

1. Go down (Boylston) to where you have a 'reservation' in the middle of the street, turn left there, it's Charles Street. Follow Charles as it circles slightly around bearing right, past Bowdoin Square and Haymarket is on your left. Eastern Bus Terminal is in the middle. It's a long walk, it will take you 20 minutes.
2. Go all the way down here (Boylston) past the Common. Turn left, all the way into Scollay Square. I'm not sure from there, it's down one of two streets. You'd better ask there. There's a bus terminal in it. It will take a good half-hour.
3. Take the street car. It's difficult to describe. You cross the common. Do you know North Station? It's around there. Better take the subway.
4. Take that direction (pointing in the direction of the Statler and beyond) (really?) Yes. Godown there to Arlington and ask someone, it's too confusing.
5. It's quite a walk. You go down past the Public Garden to Tremont Street. You go on until Washington. You will be able to see the State House on Beacon Street as you walk. It's toward the left on Washington, near the waterfront. You'd better ask.
6. Go down Boylston past the Common to Tremont, or go through the Common to Tremont and then past Park Street Church (the fire and brimstone kind) past King's Chapel to Scollay, take a right into Haymarket. Faneuil Hall is right there. It's about a mile. The walk should take about 25 minutes.

XX

From Back Bay Station to John Hancock

1. It's right there, you can see the top. Turn right at the next corner (Stuart St.) and you'll reach it.

From Back Bay Station to Public Garden:

1. Go down to the second block, see that yellow cab (in front of the Sheraton Plaza). Go along until that street meets the street in front of you (Boylston). Go down (counts aloud) Clarendon, Berkeley, Arlington, three blocks, and you'll hit the Public Garden. There are nicely kept plants, flowers, and a pleasant pond with a swan boat. The Common is less well kept, but there's a frog pond for the kids. I guess Boston is unique in having a park right in the middle of the business district, but it's in the charter.

From Back Bay to Washington Street:

1. Go straight ahead as far as you can go. I'm going as far as Tremont, I'll walk you that far, it's the next big street after that.
2. Washington St. ? No.
3. Washington St. Straight ahead for about twenty minutes.
4. Go straight down here (Dartmouth) to Stuart, take your right and you'll get to Park Square. You'll see the Hotel Statler there. Go towards the Garden on your left and along Boylston to Tremont and then Washington. You'll see the Paramount Theater on Washington around there. It's the theater district.
5. Go down to the Sheraton Hotel, take a right down Boylston to Washington then go left along the stores to Haymarket. It looks like Hell, there. Like the torn up southwest corner of Union Station in Philadelphia (? : I said I was from Philadelphia; but I don't know Union Station, so I merely noted.)
6. Go along (Dartmouth) to beyond two traffic lights and you'll reach Washington St. It'll take you about 10 minutes. There's an elevated over head on Washington St.
7. Go right down there to Stuart, if you're looking for the downtown section of Washington St., turn right and continue on and you'll come to Washington where the theatres and stores are.

"Asking directions" Trip D , September 21, 1956

From Old North Church

To Washington Street: 1. (From Salem Street) Go right down this street to its end. Take a left past a subway entrance. You can't miss it, it has big stores, and a sign saying Washington St. It'll take about a half an hour.

2. (From Salem Street) You can go right up here (pointing down; Salem) and turn right on Hanover. You go nine blocks, and just before the end, under an underpass, then you're at Washington . Or, easier still, go all the way down Salem and past the under pass and to the left. Either way. (look?) Oh, nothings but stores, big ones like Jordan Marsh.

To Beacon Hill: 1. (Salem St.) Go straight along here. There are no turns. You go straight into Scollay Square. Go along to the left and then right up Beacon Street to the State House. Right in back is Beacon Hill. (Louisberg Square) Right there in the middle, can't miss it: it's really a circle with brick on the ground and trees, very nice. It'll take you about 30 MINUtes.

2. (Salem St.) I don't know.

3. (Salem St.) Go down this street to the set of lights. Cross Street is the name of the street there. Ask someone, there are too many short streets, you'd better ask.

4. (Salem St.) Go straight down this street until you reach push carts. Take a right to Chelsey St. (Beacon Hill?) Or go right down there... better ask. It w ill take you at least 45 minutes.

To Public Garden: 1. (Salem St.) Go right down here and straight ahead under the under pass to Scollay Square. Bear left and then right. You'll hit the Common and the Public Garden. The Public Garden has a pond with swan boats, and flowers, well I don't know what it has at this time of the year, the flowers may be gone, but it's nice there.

2. (Salem St.) Walk along here, it's not far. Just ask along the way.

3. (Salem St.) Right straight down here to an under pass. Go under, you'll find it from there. Just ask. (look) oh flowers, swan boats, water, a pond.

"Asking directions" Trip D. cont. -2-

From Old North Church

to Public Garden: 4. (Other side near Hanover) Go straight down Hanover to Scollay, there's an under pass. You'll find it a long walk from here. Good luck.

To John Hancock : 1. (Hanover Side) Go down Hanover street straight under the under pass to Scollay Square. Go left, bearing right, through the Common and you will see the light on the tower, highest buildings, just head toward it.

2. (Hanover side) no.

3. (Hanover side) no.

4. Go along Hanover (street on which on) straight under the under pass to Scollay. It's in Boston. (?) It's a high building, with a light on it. Just ask there.

5. (Hanover St.) You go down here to Haymarket circle to Scollay Square ask if you are confused, it tends to get a little confusing right there. Take Tremont to the left, go along to Stuart Street and turn right. It's ten minutes from there to John Hancock. It's 500 ft. high, the tallest skyscraper in Boston, you can't miss it. It'll take you two hours: it\*s at least three miles. [ The two hours was I believe facetious. The man whom I chose to ask here was the driver of a touring bus, the only citizen around at the moment![]

Black Stone Park to COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

1. Go up that street ( W. Newton), I don't know its name, and past the trolley tracks to Huntington Ave. Ask there. It'll take you a long time. (look) Oh, it's a big street with trees.
2. Go up Newton Street to Shawmut, then Tremont, then Huntington. Go left on Huntington and then you can ask anybody. Washington St. is near Brighton and Boston College I think. It's a wide street. Thirty minutes.
3. You'll have to go up W. Newton. The trip will last for two and a half hours, to Huntington and take a left to Beacon and then Commonwealth is there somewhere. Big street.
4. Go along Pembroke St. to Tremont and right to Dartmouth and then left to Commonwealth. You past the Public Library. Or, go left on Tremont to Mass. Ave. and then right to Commonwealth. (look) Like a park, the street is really a boulevard.

Black Stone Park to SCOLLAY SQUARE

1. Just go down here (SPembroke St.) to Tremont and turn right and keep going, you'll get to Scollay eventually. Long, long walk, but maybe you like walking. (look) When Tremont opens up and become wider, much wider, you're in Scollay.

Louisberg Square to WASHINGTON STREET

1. Go right down there (Willow Street) and across the Common to some signal lights. It 's a couple of blocks from there, you can ask anybody. (look) Oh, like Tremont, it's a street of stores.
2. Go right in there (Willow Street) and keep going until you come to the Common. Cross the Common and you are on Tremont. Washington is just one street over, take any side street. What number? (801) Well, I don't know it. But the big department stores are there: Jordan Marsh, R.H. White.

Louisberg Square to JOHN HANCOCK HALL

1. Go down this street (Mt. Vernon) to Charles St. take a left to Boylston, then take a right to Copley Square. SYou'll recognize that by the Public Library, the Sheraton Plaza, a big hotel. John Hancock is right in there: it is a tall building. It has 26 storys.
2. Go down here: ( Willow St.) to the Common, you'll have to cross it and get to Boylston. Ask anyone there. (look) oh, it 's a large, tall building.
3. John Hancock? Is that near the North Station? SI guess not, I\*m new around here, better ask someone else.
4. Go down Mt. Vernon to Charles and then left to Beacon Street. Take a right two blocks and then left. It\*s a big building. Let's see, two blocks, Arlington, Berkeley, yes, turn there, to the left. If you keep walking ahead you can't miss it.