

Mrs. Martindale
Post-walk interview

We started out on the corner by {B} Bonwit Teller's and went on down to the corner there on Arlington. But along there we looked at the different shops. I can't remember any of the names of them. There were a lot {C} of dress shops. We went on down to Arlington St. and came around there. I remember especially the one shop, right on the corner of the alley, on Arlington along past the Gardens (Neal's) {B} -- Neal's, yes. I like their displays, the way they had them set up {space} there, on the street where you could see them -- pretty windows and everything.

We went on up. On Newbury St. I noticed the big {B} hotel on the corner. That must be the Ritz. Then on up past those shops that are, I imagine, for the upper {C} class of people, I mean the higher bracket. Then on around up to Berkeley again.

Then we went down the {space} alley which I noticed was one of the worst I have ever seen, or along that order. I mean, it was junky, dirty, and -- oh, I don't know, -- very rough, with even mud back in there. We was the backs of these shops that were so {C} beautiful on the front. They were just kind of black and dirty looking from the rear. It was amazing.

Then on out to Arlington again, and across into the {space} Gardens, which were, I imagine, during their peak just beautiful in there. In fact they are now at this time of year. Then back onto Arlington St. again.

(greatest impression) I think that alley {space} stuck out the most, for the worst part, and then the {B} hotel, and the different {C} shops, they were all pretty on the outside, on the inside. I don't know which would be the most -- the hotel was very impressive, and the {space} Gardens, too. It all was.

(any particular buildings?) I do remember the {B} Ritz Hotel and across the Gardens the-- is it the Court {B} House over there-- looking from the Gardens back toward Arlington St. (State House?) Yes. I can't remember any of the names, although Bonwit Teller's {B} had a very attractive looking building. . . Several {C} of those little shops -- the fronts of them were very attractive. On Newbury the most. The others were just like ordinary town stores you'd go in shopping, but these on Newbury were -- well, you could tell they catered to a higher bracket I think. (Any others) Not that I could remember the names of. I remember the Hotel {B} Statler, too. . . And then the {B} church on Newbury -- I liked the architecture of that, I don't know what it is that struck me. {B} Swartz toy store and the railing around the step-down toy store. {SF} (any features, architectural, etc.?) The {B} church bringing {B} that up, the difference is in the appearance. It looked like two new additions that had been tried to be copied but weren't or something. The main part of the church was so symmetrical that I liked that. The hotel was just {B} similar to lots of hotels; you need your square rooms, I guess. The rest area older buildings and about all they could do with them is modernize the front of them.

(people or types of people?) I can remember seeing a couple of {P} women who were in their furs. On other streets they were just commonly dressed {P} people in their raincoats, expecting rain. (Where were the people in furs?) There were a couple of ladies in one of those smart shops on Newbury. I'm pretty sure that's where they were, in that shopping area.

(Sounds?) Just traffic {S} sounds. It seems I do remember some birds over in the Gardens. Now whether I just associate that or not I'm not sure. . . It's just the traffic that you hear, which there was a lot of, and people {S} conversing with one another. I believe that's all I can remember.

(Smells?) There was one that I can remember, that was faint anyway at one time, that was of a kind of a French food. I don't whether it was French pastry or something; I don't know where I got it. {S} I can remember, going through the alley, distasteful smells through there -- garbage and things like that. Of course, it was a rainy day, not raining but misty, and there was that damp smell

(Traffic) Well it's a mess. Its just a {T} big congestion all the time, I think there should be something done. The {T} drivers go like mad and don't have any respect for cars, they just walk out in front of them. People were parked {T} where ever they felt like parking and double parked and it tied up traffic.

Signs.? No, just a few street signs. I remember Bonwit {S} Tellers sign on the {SF} canopy. A few neon signs. {S}

How many areas? Well the one on Boylston St. was a moderate shopping area, every one could go there. On Newbury it was more of an exclusive type, that was another. And also on the park. Two different shopping areas and the park. And the distinctive area was down through the alley. I'd say four areas.

Area character? Yes, in the park I noticed one man sitting on the bench resting. It would be kind of a rest place for people. The shops on the two different streets would go to two different classes of people. In the alley, I don't know if you could call it an area, but it was like the two men standing there, I don't know what they were doing, just standing there.

Order? The reason Newbury street was that way was because they catered more to the people at the Ritz Hotel. It's a class of people they would cater to. Boylston St. would catch all the people who maybe were going either down to Wash. or Tremont into the main city and maybe didn't want to go that far and just stopped at the small shops there. The park of course is for resting, or pleasure, or exercise, or whatever you want.

Continuity? Yes, I don't know just where exactly, it was all just kind of the shopping area really. They could probably get along just fine at opposite ends of the town. More or less they fit together. Shopping and resting in the park sounds good to any shopper. I don't know, they are two different types of streets, the shops on the two are different types. They had continuity between them, more or less, I still can't say that they definitely did because I don't feel that the two sections should be that close together. You'd think of more streets in between thoses two streets ordinarily.

Sidewalk Pavement? It was {P} rough. On Arlington St. {P} it was brick and very choppy. On the other streets I don't remember it being bad {P} at all, I think it was just straight pavement. In the alley it was very rough. {P}

Street pavement? On Arlington St I think it was Brick {P} or wa it paved. It seemed rough, but I don't remember too well. I seemed alright most everywhere.

Conception of Boston? I have not seen too much of it but that part was a pleasure after downtown on Wash. and TremontSt. Boston on the whole outside of that area is all mixd up. Yes it does fit in with my conception of Boston. I liked that area very much. The streets were pretty wide and the traffic seemed to move along pretty well. There weren't alot of people in the streets. They had nice wide sidewalks.

First time in the area.

Yes I know I could find my way now.

Feel at ease? Yes, but I would be afraid to try too much of the rest of Boston.

Describe feelings? I enjoyed it very much. The shops fascinate me. The different types of building interested me. I enjoyed the gardens. I was put out by the alley. It should be better taken care of.