

Mrs. Sherry Proctor
Post-walk Interview

We came out of the subway and went down a street that had basement places, tailor shops and so forth. We turned left on an extremely wide sidewalk, it was all slanted down towards the street and then there were big book carts out on the street. People were looking at the books and that street headed straight down to the garden. Mostly all small shops and very irregular buildings, some brick, stone. And then we went down towards the garden and turned the corner there; there is a subway exit right there and a street light, that was a one way street going the way we were going, I mean the street we went down (Boylston). And then we turned the corner, the shops were going up in *orientals* along there and this was a very wide street with narrower sidewalks. There was a church right on that corner, a brown stone church. Its not too long a block split by an alley and we turned left again on another street with very wide sidewalks and very exclusive small women's small clothing shops. There weren't any restaurants in that area and on the side we were on there weren't any basement places but on the other side of the street there were. And then there was a small parking lot with a lot of large cars. On that street there were very ornate facades on the shops. F.A.O. Schwarz was there. If you looked straight down that street there were some trees about three blocks down. We went to the end of that block and turned the corner again, we went half-way down Berkley and then into the alley. Across the street is Bonwit Tellers and they take a large area with greenery around. Then we went down an extremely small alley with trash cans; very messy, ill kept up. Delivery trucks in the alley. The backs of the buildings had very few windows and the lower level, the basements apparently were the workshops for tailoring; they probably were just the workrooms for the exclusive shops on the front sides of the buildings. The parking lot goes all the way through to the alley. All just small entrances to the buildings, some of them were upstairs. The church also has a parking lot. Then we came out and crossed the street to the garden, a small section in the garden with a statue of Channing. In the garden the pond was empty and a variety of trees, benches, very pleasant, and the leaves were all over and the workmen were all standing around looking at them. The garden was divided from the sidewalk by a grided iron fence. We circled into the garden and came out and crossed the street. Then once you get through the traffic (Arlington St.) we went around the block again. There was a great variety of buildings around there, all small, all privately treated, there is no continuity or consideration of what's next to them. All types of windows, a fair amount of glass space in the buildings, but its all broken up with the exception of that school which is fairly new (Academy of Arts and Sciences), the brick one. It was in the middle of that street. We stopped to watch a traffic mixup with everyone double-parked and trying to get into the parking lot; nobody could get in. There was a small number of people on the side-walk and a large number of cars; they either ought to make the side-walk smaller and the street larger or make the whole thing a side-walk and eliminate the cars. In regard to the lack of continuity some of it can be very charming I suppose but it doesn't please me particularly. Boston in a way is notorious for--its got a lot of generations to go through and different types of buildings and some of these small buildings are really interesting but then right next to it you get a really bad example of architecture. Are they all built that way or are the facades changed by the different clients, particularly these swank shops, the first floor is all ~~erase~~ redone every time it changes hands. They have a certain amount of charm.

Mrs. Proctor (cont.)

Greatest impression

I think the extremely wide space taking sidewalks with one or two madams ^{space} walking into exclusive shops, and then you walk down a very narrow unlit alley ^{P T} and look into to see a few dozen people working in crammed, unlighted work-shops. They are there all day, its eight to five for them with no light, no particularly pleasant air if it comes from the alley - all the trash cans there. In an area like that you generally drive down and never see whats going on beyond the scene.

particular buildings

Yes, The Science., the school with the brick, I suppose its Georgian. The Academy of Arts and Science. Amongst all of these quaint antique ^{design} type places you get this which is rather out of keeping. Bonwit Tellers you can't miss, to me this very ugly building sitting in a beautiful plot of land and then all the shrubbery, decorative shrubbery which if they move the building to one side and then make a park in there, or make use of this area - there they sit in their pomp. Some churches, particularly this church with the grey stone that has the added on the large section in back (Newbury near Ritz) there are three churches; we looked down on one with the brown stone steeple and this one is grey stone, granite, rough granite, and then there is the first brown stone which we decided was the Arlington St. church. I don't know why they have so many churches in the area. I can remember details of buildings, there were several sky-lighted buildings, I don't know whether they use the sky-lights but they are there. One, a decorators studio, with the grey, the verticle bay that comes out in it. Strangely they all are different, the first floor is one sort of surface and the second becomes another and it may continue up to the third floor like that. The travel agency that has, very long store, a fairly good sized building for that area. I don't think i particularly noticed whether the buildings were split continuously from the bottom up, I mean they are all built in together but the facades on the first floor are one thing and then up above they become another, and I never noticed whether one store takes two buildings or whether it takes just one building. The travel agency was set father back that the others and it had interesting looking windows. Bonwit Tellers and their funny little umbrellas showcases outside on either side like pagodas. And there was one gold half domes or semi-circles that roofed their display. All these display cases sit out on the sidewalk. Swartz had a particularly clean fronton their store as compared to the others. Some of these basement places not only had stairways going down but also had small courts, in other words they took quite a bit of space and came out on the street quite alot. Most of the basement places were tailor shops, art galleries.

particular people.

I remember a women crossing the street in green and red. The very well dressed or well displayed women of which maybe there were three or four most of them we saw on that street (Newbury), the men were business men, particularly the men who were parking their cars looked like pretty successful business men, you had a feeling that they might be bringing women there or waiting for them. There were a few students on the first street, workmen in the park, there wasn't anybody sitting on the benches in the park. There weren't too many lower class people, factory worker type of people, I didn't notice many. There weren't alot of people in the area anyway, it was lunch time

Particular sounds
Not other than traffic sounds

Particular smells
The alley

Traffic
Both streets were one way. You always get congestion at the corners. A lot of double parking and taxis and two-hour parking meters. All big cars. The light at the end of Boylston St. by the garden, that has four-lane parking there and there were cars parked along there. And everybody jay-walks which doesn't help traffic. I think mostly it seemed to be a lot of parking problems because they can't get into the parking lot until there is space so they double park until there is space. I never remember there being more than one or two people in any car.

Signs
One-way signs. F.A.O. Swartz because I know it carries children's toys and books. I don't notice dress shop names because I am not interested in dress shops. I don't remember Bonwit Tellers sign but I remember the store, and I remember their canopy. I noticed a tailor shop sign and the book store sign. But I don't remember any particular characters of the signs. I remember the Space for Rent sign on Boylston St. on the third floor. And the decorator shop sign. I think that because the area is mostly dress shops it wouldn't interest me.

Definite areas