

Mrs. Sherry Proctor

Post-walk Interview

We came out of the subway {SF} and went down a street that had {C} basement places, {B} tailor shops and so forth. We turned left on an extremely wide {Space} sidewalk, it was all {Pa} slanted down towards the street and then there were big book carts out on the street. People {P-A} were looking at the books and that street headed straight down to the garden. {Space} Mostly all small {C} shops and very irregular buildings, {M} some brick, stone. And then we went down towards the garden and turned the corner there; there is a subway {SF} exit right there and a {SF} street light, that was a one way {T} 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 {C} clientele along there and this was a very wide {Space} street with narrower sidewalks. There was a church right on that {B - MC} corner, a brownstone church. Its not too long a block {S} split by an alley and we turned left again on another street with very {Space} wide sidewalks and very exclusive {C} 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 {C} other side of the street there were. And then there was a small {S} parking lot with a lot of {T} large cars. On that street there were very ornate facades on {C} the shops. F.A.O. {B} Schwartz was there. If you looked straight down that street there were some {NP} trees about three blocks down. We went to the end of that block and turned the corner again, we went half-way down Berkeley and then into the alley. Across the street is Bonwit {B} Tellers {Sign} and {NP} they take a large area with {NP} greenery around. Then we went down an extremely small {space} alley with {SF} trash cans; very messy, ill kept up. Delivery {T} trucks in the alley. The backs of the buildings have {C} very few windows and the lower level, the {C} 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 {Space} goes all the way through to the {S} alley. All just small entrances {C} to the buildings, some of them were upstairs. The {B - U} church also a {space} parking lot. Then we came out and crossed the street to the {S} garden, a small section in the garden with a statue of {SF} Channing. In the garden the pond was empty and a variety of {NP} trees, {SF} benches, very pleasant, and the leaves {NP} were all over and the {P} workmen were all standing around looking at them. The garden was divided from the sidewalk by a grilled {SP} iron fence. We circled into the garden and came out and crossed the street. Then once you get through the traffic(Arlington St.) {T} we went around the block again. There was a great variety of {C} 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 {B-U Age NP} school which is fairly new (Academy of Arts and Sciences), the {M} brick one. It was in the middle of that street. We stopped to watch a {T} traffic mixup with everyone double-parked and trying to get into the parking lot; nobody could get in. There was a small number of {Pa} people on the side-walk and a 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 {C} 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 they facades changed by the different clients, particularly these swank shops, {C} the first floor is all redone every time it changes hands. They have a certain amount of charm.

Greatest impression

I think the extremely wide {space} space taking sidewalks with one or two {P - T} madams waling into exclusive {C} shops and then you walk down a very narrow unlit {Space} alley and look in to see a few {P - T} dozen people working in crammed, unlighted {B} workshops. 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 {B - U, M - Design} school with the brick, I suppose its Georgian. The Academy of Arts and Science. Amongst all of these quaint {C-Design} antique type places you get this which is rather out of keeping. {B} Bonwit Tellers you can't miss, to me this very ugly building sitting in a {NP} beautiful plot of land and then all the {NP} 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 {B - M} churches, {C} {U} 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 {B - U} one {C M} the brown stone steeple and this one is {U, C, M} grey stone, granite, rough granite, and then there is the {B U C M} first brown stone which we decided was the Arlington St. church. I don't know why they have so many churches in that area. I can remember details of buildings, why they have so many churches in the area. I can remember details of buildings, there were several {C} sky-lighted buildings, I don't know whether they use the sky-lights but they are there. One, a decorators {B} studio, with the grey, the verticle bay that comes out in it. Strangely they all are {C} different, the first floor is one {sign} sort of surface and the second becomes another and it may continue up to the third floor like that. The travel {B - size} agency {Design} that has, very long store, a fairly good sized building for that area . I don't think I particularly noticed whether the {C} 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 {B} agency was set father back that the others and it had interesting looking windows. Bonwit {B} Tellers and their funny little {Design} umbrella showcases outside on either side like pagodas. And there was one gold {B} half domes or semi-circles that roofed their display. Allthese display {C} cases sit out on the sidewalk. Swartz {B} had a particularly clean {Design} fronton their store as compared to the others. Some of these {C} 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 a lot. Most of the basement places were tailor shops, art galleries.

Particular people.

I remember a woman crossing the {P-D} street in green and red. The very {P} 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 {P} 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 {A} women there or waiting for them. There were a few {P} students on the first street, {P} workmen in the park, there wasn't anybody sitting on the benches in the park. There weren't too many lower class {P} people, factory worker type of people, I didn't notice many. There weren't a lot of people in the area anyway, it was lunch time

Particular sounds

Not other than traffic sounds

Particular smells

The alley. {S}

Traffic

Both streets {T} were one way. You always get congestion at the corners. A lot of double parking {T} and taxis and two-hour {SF} parking meters. All big {T} cars. The {SF} light at the end of Boylston St. by the garden, that has four-lane {T} parking there and there were cars parked along there. And everybody {T} 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 {S} signs. F.A.O. {S} 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 {SF}. I noticed a tailor {S} shop sign and the book {S} store sign. But I don't remember any particular characters of the signs. I remember the {S} Space for Rent sign on Boylston St. on the third floor. And the decorator shop {S} sign. I think that because the area is mostly dress shops it wouldn't interest me.

Definite areas