

Mrs. Walker Grasberg  
Street-Interview  
Post-walk Interview

We came up out of the subway and were walking on a rather wide street, a busy one, a one-way street. It wasn't as busy as I thought it would be because of the Christmas rush. Past the Cunard Line and a few other stores, I can't remember particularly what they were and down toward the Gardens, we turned the corner and walked along the street parallel with the gardens and past a dress shop that I remember and around another corner and down quite a different street, much quieter. One side had very expensive shops, the other side had mostly churches and brown-stones. There wasn't much traffic on that street and the people seemed more well-dressed on that street than on the other one, more dignified. We turned another corner and went back toward the street we started on with more stores, the sidewalk narrowed somewhat. And we went down an alley between the two streets, the first and the third ones. Behind all these fancy stores and behind the shops we had first seen, I didn't like it back there it was very narrow. There were a lot of papers blowing around and at least one truck was blocking the way and we could see the basements of some of these dress shops where they were sewing and pressing. The back doors of these establishments weren't anything like the front doors. Toward the end of the way were the parking lot and the church and then we came out on that street facing the garden again. Shrafft's was on that first one-way street.

Greatest impression

The contrast between the alley and the other streets and the contrast between the first street and the third street., so close to the other and yet so different looking.

Particular buildings

There was a department store on the last street we were on that quite impressed me, it didn't look like a department store. Brooks Bros. looked like I expected it to look. And there was an antique shop next to Cunard and that quite impressed me too. And then the commons with the church as a backdrop, very impressive because they are very staid.

Particular features

The first street had relatively recent buildings, rather ordinary looking and the second street had at least one brown stone on it that I remember and the third street on one side had very modern looking stores and the other side was churches and brown-stones. The fourth had the department store and the buildings didn't seem as new looking. The windows and door on Bonwit Teller's didn't look like a department store.

Particular people

Nobody seemed to be in a rush. Everybody seemed to be quite well dressed and as we went around the corner to that other street everyone seemed to be very well dressed.

Particular sounds

It wasn't particularly noisy, the traffic didn't seem to be too noisy. There was nothing out of the ordinary.

Particular smells

No.

Traffic

No

#### Signs

Yes I remember the shelter signs, one pointing across the street and one pointing to the same side of the street. The Boutique sign and Brooks Bros. and Bonwit Tellers.

#### Definite Areas

Well you could divide it up. The first street was definitely a commercial street. The second one had sort of a proper atmosphere, different shops, nice shops. The third one, one side had nice shops the other side had churches that changed the atmosphere. The fourth street was definitely a fourth division it was sort of midway between the first and the third. And the gardens make the fifth area.

#### Areas a character of their own

The first street had so many different type of stores and had more traffic. The second had a church as well as stores.

#### Areas order

The first street was all business establishments and the other streets were all for shopping. There wasn't any one architectural style that ~~the~~ stood out, it was all pretty much the same.

#### Continuity

types of

Well it wasn't just a number of street there were/certain things on them that gave them continuity. Well on each street I felt there was continuity but I can't tell you what gave me that feeling though.

#### Sidewalk pavement

I don't remember having any difficulty walking except that in a couple of places it narrowed and when I wasn't looking I almost walked into something. On the third street I almost walked into a car that was sticking out of the parking lot. On the fourth street I think there was a subway entrance with stairway going down and the sidewalk narrowed because there was a fence there. It was partly concrete pavement. Possibly some asphalt but I don't remember any.

#### Street pavement

No

#### Conception of Boston

The streets weren't as narrow as I had pictured this part of Boston. The architecture was much as I had pictured it, the brownstones, churches and the museum building (B.T.) It was pretty much as I would have pictured that part of Boston if I had thought about it I guess.

#### First time in that area.

Destination. I think I could find it in that particular area, yes.

#### Feel at ease

Yes, I liked the feeling of not rushing, not being too crowded. It was attractive for the most part.

#### Feelings experienced

For the most part I was happy we were walking down such a pretty street. It was cold. I liked the fact that the street weren't too crowded, I didn't like the fact that it wasn't too clean, there were papers blowing around.

Mrs. Grastberg is from a small town in Pennsylvania and has been in Boston almost one year. Directly before this she lived in Norfolk, Va.