

Mrs. Walker
Post-walk Interview

What thing... impression on you

The alley-way with the trash and garbage lying in the gutters and looking down into windows and seeing the women working on material. I had never seen this street before. We had a hard time getting by the trash.

Particular buildings

St. Clairs with the pastry in the window, the French Line, Mosler Safe Co., the Arlington St. Church, Antells, Fredleys, Plotkins, Miss Harvey with projecting windows, F.A.O. Swartz, Bonwit Tellers with an awning from the sidewalk to the door, Brooks Bros., the Ritz Carlton and the display windows in the first floor of the building with the sterling silver display, a dirty red brick building with ornate work on top on the other side of Newbury St.

Particular features of these buildings

The transport lines and the Mosler Safe Co. had more or less modern flat fronts. The dirty red brick bldg. had grey ornate work on it. The Arlington St. Church was sort of Gothic. I had a general impression of red brick.

Particular people

No, I don't remember any. There were school girls as we came out of the subway. And I saw a woman in a fur coat and hat, she was not smartly but well-dressed.

Particular sounds

There was the drilling noise on Arlington street by the Arlington St. Church. And the bustle of people going back and forth and traffic sounds, car horns.

Particular smells

I can't remember any (note: this was the only interview in which the smell in the alley was very strong and very unpleasant and the subject commented on this at the time. On all other interviews there has been absolutely no noticeable odor in the alley.) I was thinking of the alley but I don't remember any smell there, I don't think there was any.

Traffic

Newbury St. traffic was quiet but there were alot of parked cars, and cars trying to get in and out of the parking lot there and at Bonwit Tellers. The Boylston St. traffic seemed normal, there was quite abit but it wasn't like the five o'clock rush.

Signs

I remember the St. Clairs sign, the French Line, the Mosler Safe sign, RHM on the side of a brick bldg. way up high (on Boylston beyond Arl. St. toward Cher Tremont). I remember the Fredleys sign, Miss Harvey, and F.A.O. Swartz.

How many areas

Boyston St. and Newbury St. could be considered all one but I feel they are two because the shops on Newbury St. catered to different clientele, more selective, the shops on both streets were nice though.

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Site

Sidewalk pavement

On Newbury St. there was concrete divided into big blocks; not even but wide. on Boylston St. there was also concrete with grates rectangular ones with lines you could see through and round ones that were solid and fit into the sidewalk. Berkley St. was concrete in front of Brooks Bros. the rest was brick. There was brick in the alley and in front of the Arl. St. Church.

Street pavement

There were cars in the way on Newbury St. so I don't remember.

Fit with conception of Boston

This area fits in with my conception of Boston -- the oldness of Newbury St., the dirty red brick buildings, the ornateness, the stores with the projecting fronts. Bonwit Tellers is a typical Boston building, it fits in with Beacon Hill area. The shops on Boylston St. are taking on a new air. Plotkins has a new front but the other stores remain the same. The public Gardens, the commons --I think of everything of everything as being around them. Basement shops are typical of an old city like Boston. The alley-like streets and brick sidewalks

I have been here about a doz. times for shopping and lunch.

Destination

Yes

Feel at ease

Yes

Feelings experienced

I enjoyed myself in that area. I tried hard to notice things

I am originally from East Boston and have lived in Roxbury during the last two years.