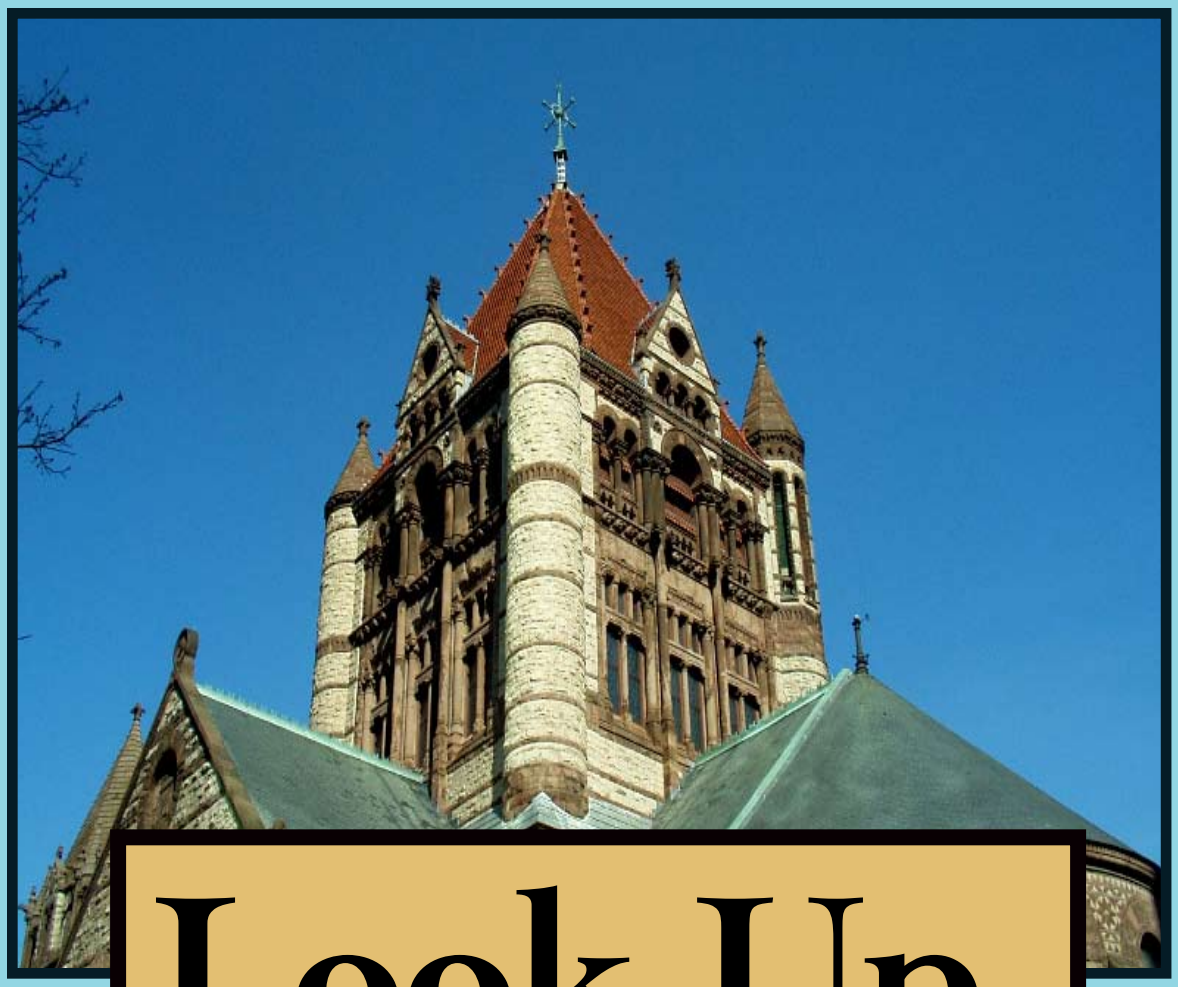


Look Up, Boston!

Nine walking tours in the Cradle of Liberty

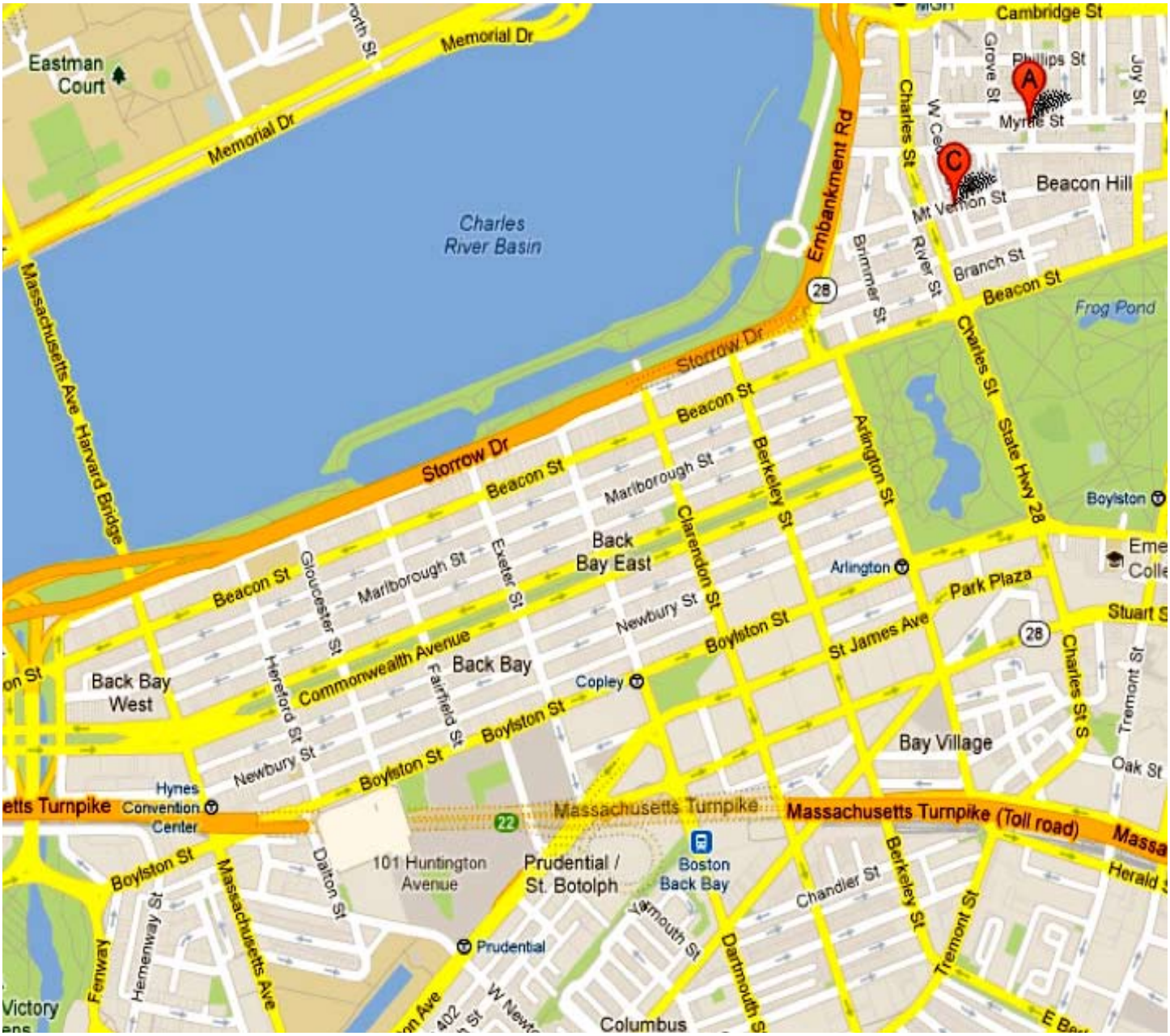
A Walking Tour of Boston - Back Bay (south of Commonwealth Avenue)

from walkthetown.com

In 1857 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began to fill in the tidal flats west of the city center. The fill began at the Public Garden and spread westward, eventually taking 25 years to complete the project. From the beginning, Back Bay was designed to be a residential community; over the next 60 years more than 1,500 houses and apartments were built here.

Back Bay represented one of the country's first concerted efforts to create a homogeneous urban environment on a grand scale. The wide streets and large building lots attracted wealthy Bostonians from Beacon Hill from the beginning. America's top architects from the Gilded Age are represented throughout the neighborhood. World War I and the Depression led to the dissolution of many of these magnificent single-family mansions and the infiltration of retail establishments.

This walking tour of the Back Bay will begin in Copley Square, home to several of America's most significant buildings...


Eastman Court
Memorial Dr
Memorial Dr
Charles River Basin
Massachusetts Ave
Harvard Bridge
Storrow Dr
Storrow Dr
Embankment Rd
Cambridge St
Phillips St
Grove St
Myrtle St
Joy St
Charles St
Mt Vernon St
Beacon Hill
Brimmer St
River St
Branch St
Beacon St
Frog Pond
Charles St
State Hwy 28
Boylston
Beacon St
Beacon St
Marlborough St
Berkeley St
Arlington St
Back Bay East
Marlborough St
Gloucester St
Exeter St
Clarendon St
Arlington
Park Plaza
Stuart St
Newbury St
Boylston St
St James Ave
Commonwealth Avenue
Back Bay
Back Bay West
Hereford St
Fairfield St
Copley
Charles St S
Tremont St
Bay Village
Oak St
Newbury St
Boylston St
Boylston St
Hynes Convention Center
Massachusetts Turnpike
Massachusetts Turnpike (Toll road)
Boylston St
101 Huntington Avenue
Prudential / St. Botolph
Boston Back Bay
Chandler St
Berkeley St
Tremont St
Herald St
Dalton St
Massachusetts Ave
Hemenway St
Fenway
Prudential
Yarmouth St
Dartmouth St
Victory
Columbus

1. Copley Square
bounded by Clarendon, St. James, Boylston, and Dartmouth streets

Copley Square, named for the Colonial portraitist John Singleton Copley, was created following the 1858 filling in of most of the Back Bay Fens. A bronze statue of Copley, by sculptor Lewis Cohen, graces the northern side of the square.

2. Trinity Church
east side of Copley Square at 206 Clarendon Street

Dedicated in 1877, Trinity Church was voted by architects as the most important building in America in 1885. Trinity Church made the reputation of its architect, New Orleans-born Henry Hobson Richardson. On display are hallmarks of the brawny style that came to be known as "Richardsonian Romanesque" such as polychromatic rough stone, heavy arches that are often grouped in three, towers, polished columns and gables. On the inside are sculptures by Daniel Chester French of Lincoln Memorial fame and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the leading sculptor of the Gilded Age. More than 125 years later Trinity Church rests comfortably on the American Institute of Architect's current list of the "Ten Most Significant Buildings in the United States." It is the only church in the United States and the only building in Boston on that list.

3. John Hancock Tower
southeast corner of Copley Square at 200 Clarendon Street

This is the tallest building in New England, a 60-story, 790-foot tower of reflective blue mirror glass

tower is Boston's tallest, designed by Henry N. Cobb in 1976. Engineers weren't quite ready for the demands of the plans - quarter-ton glass panels crashed to the street and during construction all the panes were replaced. The building originally swayed so badly in the wind that occupants n the upper floor suffered from motion sickness.

4. Copley Plaza Hotel
south side of Copley Square at 138 St. James Street

The anticipation for the Copley Plaza was so great that opening night rooms were booked 16 months in advance of its 1912 opening. Working with a $5.5 million budget, architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh crafted a Beaux Arts hotel in limestone and buff brick that rests on pilings driven 70 feet below the level of the Square. John F. Fitzgerald, mayor of Boston and grandfather of John F. Kennedy, presided over a reception of 1,000 invited celebrities and power-brokers.

5. Boston Public Library
west side of Copley Square at 700 Boylston Street

Charles Follen McKim designed the Boston Public Library, the first large city library for general public use in America. And large it is. With 15 million volumes Boston's public library it is the largest city library in the country and the third largest library of any kind. McKim tapped the Italian Renaissance for the book depository in 1888 which was hailed when it opened in 1895 as "a palace for the people." McKim gave each of the three main facades monumental inscriptions in the style of ancient Roman basilicas.

6. Old South Church
northwest corner of Copley Square at 645 Boylston Street

The congregation here traces its roots back to 1669 and has included the likes of Samuel Adams and Benjamin Franklin. This Venetian Gothic meetinghouse was designed around its landmark 246-foot high campanile by Charles Amos Cummings and Willard T. Sears in the 1870s. The composition is assembled with bands of brown, pink and grey stone and walls of Roxbury puddingstone.

WALK EAST ON BOYLSTON STREET TOWARDS PUBLIC GARDEN.

7. Museum of Natural History
Boylston Street at 234 Berkeley Street

The Boston Society of Natural History organized in 1830 and the collection moved into this William Gibbons Preston-designed home in 1864, infused with French elements gleaned from the architect's time studying in Paris. In 1951 the society became the Museum of Science and skipped across the Charles River.

8. Warren Chambers Building
419 Boylston Street

Architects William H. Dabney and Henry B. Ball were leading cheerleaders of the Colonial Revival style at the turn of the 19th century. This six-story office building of brick and marble from 1896 was where the town's best doctors kept offices; patients entered through a triumphal coffered arch

off Boylston Street.

9. The Berkeley Building
420 Boylston Street

French architect Constant-Désiré Despradelle came to Boston in 1893 to take a job as Professor of Design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, espousing the Beaux-Arts style of architecture that would dominate American architecture in the early 1900s. This commercial structure from 1906 with its lively terra-cotta facade is centered around a six-story atrium; it is the most important building remaining in Boston from Despradelle.

TURN LEFT ON ARLINGTON STREET.

10. Arlington Street Church
northwest corner of Arlington and Boylston streets

This was the first public building erected in Back Bay, in 1861. Architects Arthur Gilman and Gridley James Fox Bryant took their inspiration for this brownstone church from St. Martin's-in-the-Fields church on London's Traflagar Square. It required 999 pilings sunk into the Back Bay fill to provide support for the 190-foot belltower.

11. Taj Boston/Ritz-Carlton Hotel
15 Arlington Street

Paris, France hotelier César Ritz began opening Ritz-Carlton hotels in North America in 1912, setting the standard for luxurious accommodations. Boston's, run by Edward N. Wyner, came along in 1927, a place where dress codes were strictly enforced and your blood better run blue when checking in. When the Depression hit and business slacked off Wyner insisted that the lights burn in every room at night, lest common folk might think his Ritz-Carlton was anything but fully booked. By 1940, however, all the Ritz-Carltons were closed, save for Boston's, from which the brand would re-emerge in the 1980s.

TURN LEFT ON NEWBURY STREET.

12. Emmanuel Church
15 Newbury Street

This Episcopalian congregation organized in 1860 and the cornerstone for this meetinghouse was in the ground the following year. The towerless church began as a simple Gothic chapel. The Leslie Lindsey Memorial Chapel came along in 1924 and ranks among the town's architectural treasures. .

13. Church of the Covenant
67 Newbury Street

Benjamin Edward Bates, who made his money in banking and railroads in the middle of the 19th

century, used his fortune to fund Bates College in Maine and the Church of the Covenant building, constructed of Roxbury puddingstone in 1867. America's leading cheerleader for the Gothic Revival style, Richard M. Upjohn, drew up the plans that included a 240-foot steeple that made this Boston's tallest building for a half-century. Oliver Wendell Holmes called the "one steeple in Boston that to my eyes seems absolutely perfect."

14. Trinity Church Rectory
Newbury Street at 233 Clarendon Street

Henry Hobson Richardson designed the rectory for his Trinity Church in 1879. The entrance facade is balanced but asymmetrical, organized in thirds. His trademark Romanesque arch is created with light and dark stone voissoirs.

15. 109 Newbury Street

Designed by the prominent architect Charles A. Cummings as his own residence in 1871, this design attempts to stuff as many medieval forms as is possible into a modest 25-foot corner lot. It remained in the Cummings family until 1922 when wife Margaret Cummings died. The store windows were then added as the building was converted to retail space.

TURN RIGHT ON CLARENDON STREET. TURN LEFT ON COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

16. First Baptist Church
110 Commonwealth Avenue

This was Henry Hobson Richardson's first important commission, received in 1872 from the Unitarian congregation of the Brattle Street Church, whose meetinghouse had been demolished that year. The sanctuary, formed in the Romanesque style with ashlar blocks of Roxbury puddingstone, was completed in 1875 but the Brattle Quare congregation disbanded the following year and the property was sold in 1882 to First Baptist, one of America's oldest Baptist churches with roots on Noodle's island in the Boston Harbor in 1665. The square tower stands 176 feet high and the frieze at the top was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, famous for the Statue of Liberty.

17. Chilton Club
152 Commonwealth Avenue

The city's most exclusive women's club, the Chilton Club, was founded in 1910 by women who wanted a club where alcohol flowed freely and men could join the dinner, things that weren't on the menu at the town's reigning women's club, the puritanical Mayflower Club. Mary Chilton, the club's namesake, was the only *Mayflower* passenger to leave Plymouth and settle in Boston. When the Chilton was granted a liquor license in 1911, Reverend Cortland Myers was moved to snort, "Drinking and smoking cigarettes by women is the most disgusting influence in this city."

TURN LEFT ON DARTMOUTH STREET AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO NEWBURY STREET.

18. Boston Art Club
270 Dartmouth Street at Newbury Street, southwest corner

Conceived by a group of artists, the Boston Art Club held its first meeting on New Year's Day, 1855. After staging exhibitions around town for a quarter-century enough funds were accumulated to stage a national design contest for a permanent clubhouse. William Ralph Emerson, nephew of Ralph Waldo Emerson known for his work on country houses, emerged as the winner. his ornamental design pulsed with terra-cotta decoration laid onto red brick walls trimmed in quarry-faced brownstone.

19. Hotel Victoria
275 Dartmouth Street at Newbury Street, southeast corner

Architect John Faxon drew upon Moorish influences to create this exuberant castle-like guest house in 1886 with deep red terra-cotta. Only a few different types of ornamentation were used so only a few molds were required, keeping the costs down on the project.

20. J.P. Putnam House
277 Dartmouth Street at Newbury Street, northeast corner

J. Pickering Putnam, who was known for his early apartment buildings, designed this corner house for himself in 1878. He picked a medieval style gleaned from his training at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France, fashioning a picturesque roof with projecting gable, towers and a fetching corner bartizan perched on a column.

RETURN TO COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND TURN LEFT.

21. Hotel Vendome
160 Commonwealth Avenue

For many years after it greeted its first guests in 1871, the Hotel Vendome reigned as Boston's premier hotel. And with a price tag of $1 million (at a time when a good working wage was about a dollar a day), it should have been. Architect William Preston used the generous building fund to outfit his French Second Empire creation in gray Italian and Tuckahoe marble. In 1882 guest enjoyed the town's first electric lights in the Hotel Vendome. In the 1960s, its time passed, the hotel dodged the wrecking ball and won a restoration but before the job could be finished a fire destroyed the southeast chunk of the building. After the fire was out, a wall collapsed and killed nine firefighters in the worst fire-related disaster in Boston history. The building today houses apartments, offices and stores.

22. 176-178 Commonwealth Avenue

This splash of Flemish Revival architecture was added to the Back Bay streetscape in 1883 by architect Charles Atwood. The client was J.B. Bell, a celebrated physician.

TURN LEFT ON EXETER STREET.

23. Prince School
Newbury Street at Exeter Street

This former grammar school from 1875 was designed by George A. Clough, city architect for ten years. He employed brick with brownstone trim for the building that has done duty as luxury living space since the 1980s after the school was retired.

24. Exeter Street Theatre
Newbury Street at Exeter Street

This building began life with the founding of the First Spiritual Temple in 1883 but Back Bay socialites turned it into a movie palace in 1914. Noted theater architect Clarence Blackall engineered the transformation into the Exeter Theatre, which operated until 1974.

RETURN TO COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND TURN LEFT.

25. Hotel Tuileries
270 Commonwealth Avenue

No expense was spared for this six-story residential hotel in 1896; architect Charles B. Dunham prepared the Renaissance Revival plans.

26. Nickerson House
303 Commonwealth Avenue

America's foremost Gilded Age architectural firm, Charles McKim, William Mead, and Stanford White of New York City, contributed several designs in Back Bay - this is the last of them, built in a restrained classical manner in 1895 for G.A. Nickerson.

27. John F. Andrew Mansion
Commonwealth Avenue at 32 Hereford Street

McKim, Mead, and White introduced Italian Renaissance styling to the Back Bay with this mansion for lawyer John F. Andrew in 1888. It was a big year for Andrew - that year he was elected to the first of two terms in the United States Congress. He lost a bid for a third term and resumed his former life as an attorney but died in 1895 when he was only 44 years old.

28. Miss Farmer's School of Cookery
Commonwealth Avenue at 40 Hereford Street

Miss Fannie Merritt Farmer, who published the first cookbook to include exact measurements in 1896, started Miss Farmer's School of Cookery here in 1902. Teaching the connection between good food and good health became the driving force of Farmer's work. She herself overcame childhood polio and, later in life, two strokes. This building was designed by George Russell Shaw and Henry S. Hunnewell and raised in 1886.

29. Burrage Mansion
314 Commonwealth Avenue

The Back Bay was not especially welcoming to a chateau from the French countryside as architect Charles Brigham discovered when he designed this arresting mansion for industrialist Albert Cameron Burrage in 1899. The exterior has nearly 50 dragons and gargoyles, 30 cherubs, 300 bibliophiles, and lion, eagle, and human heads carved into the elaborate stonework. Disparaging comments about the ornate confection reverberated around Commonwealth Avenue. Burrage began his career as a lawyer and became a gas company president. When this house was built Burrage had substantial positions in Amalgamated Copper and Standard Oil and if the whispers about his house bothered him he could always hang out on his 256-foot yacht. The Burrage family lived here until 1947; the last time the place went on the market the price tag was $5 million.

TURN LEFT ON HEREFORD STREET. TURN RIGHT ON BOYLSTON STREET.

30. Engine and Hose House Number 33
941 Boylston Street

City architect Arthur Vinal designed this building in 1887 to do duty as the first combined fire and police station in Boston. The turret tower was used for drying fire hoses and the central bay led to the stables - the town's first ladder truck, pulled by a three-horse team, belonged to Engine Company 33 and Ladder Company 15, which is still active. In 1976 the police station was renovated into galleries for the Institute of Contemporary Art.

31. 955 Boylston Street

There are two buildings bearing the address 955 Boylston Street. Both of them were originally the home of the Boston Police Department's former Division 16. Since Division 16 was consolidated in 1976, this Romanesque-inspired public building has always been a bar, club, or restaurant.

TURN AROUND AND WALK EAST ON BOYLSTON AVENUE.

32. Tennis and Racquet Club
939 Boylston Street

What we know today as tennis is actually "lawn tennis." Real tennis as it was invented is court tennis and there are fewer than 50 courts worldwide and one of them is here. Architects J. Harleston Parker and Douglas H. Thomas designed the social and athletic style in the Classical Revival style in 1902.

CONTINUE ON BOYLSTON STREET TO COPLEY SQUARE AND THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

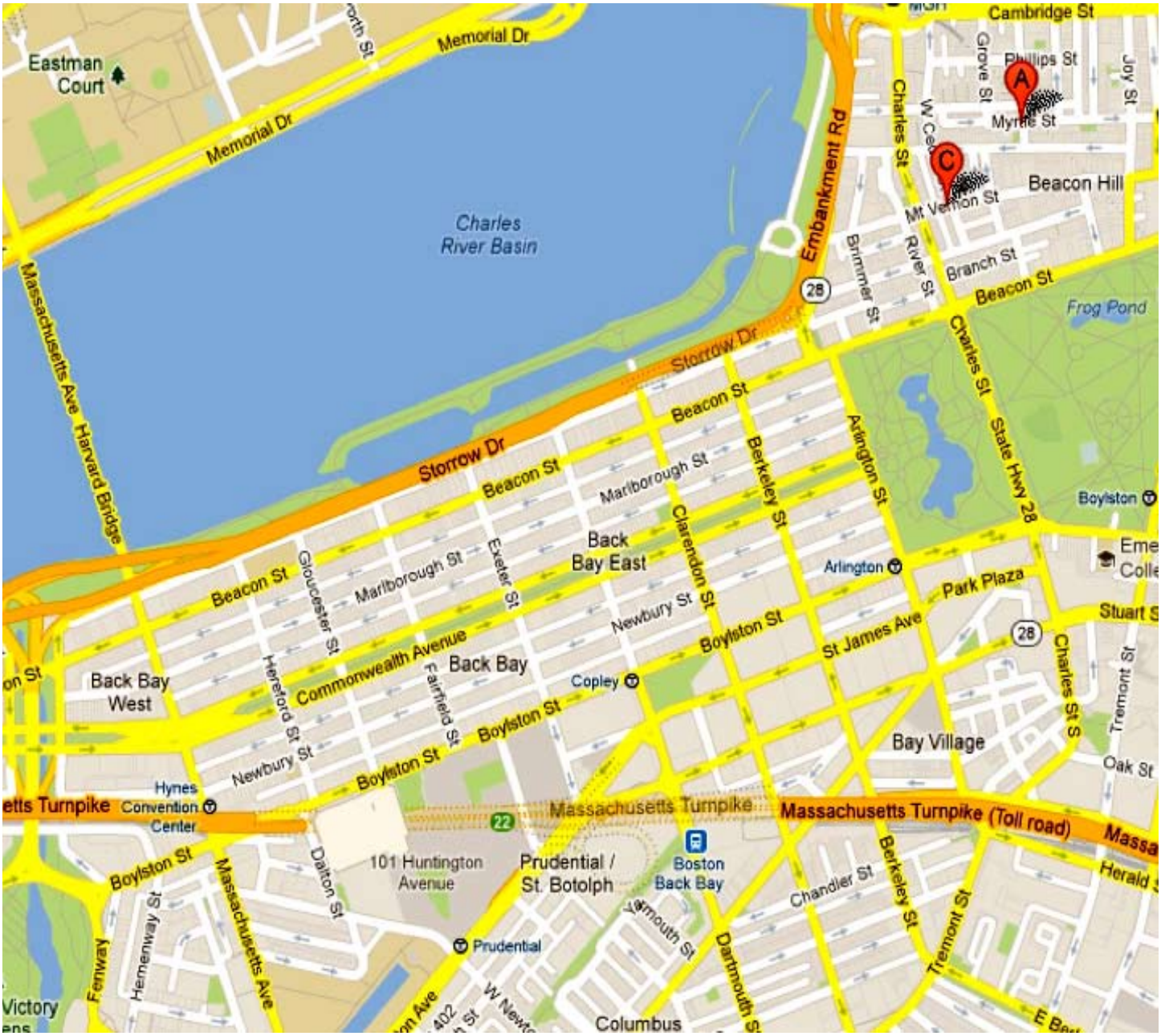
A Walking Tour of Boston -
Back Bay north of Commonwealth Avenue

from walkthetown.com

In 1857 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts began to fill in the tidal flats west of the city center. The fill began at the Public Garden and spread westward, eventually taking 25 years to complete the project. From the beginning, Back Bay was designed to be a residential community; over the next 60 years more than 1,500 houses and apartments were built here.

Back Bay represented one of the country's first concerted efforts to create a homogeneous urban environment on a grand scale. The wide streets and large building lots attracted wealthy Bostonians from Beacon Hill from the beginning. America's top architects from the Gilded Age are represented throughout the neighborhood. World War I and the Depression led to the dissolution of many of these magnificent single-family mansions and the infiltration of retail establishments.

This walking tour of the Back Bay will begin on Arlington Street, fronting the Public Garden, where you would have gotten your feet wet back in 1857...


Eastman Court
Memorial Dr
Memorial Dr
Charles River Basin
Massachusetts Ave
Harvard Bridge
Storrow Dr
Storrow Dr
Embankment Rd
Cambridge St
Phillips St
Grove St
Myrtle St
Joy St
Charles St
W Cedar St
Mt Vernon St
Beacon Hill
Brimmer St
River St
Branch St
Beacon St
Frog Pond
Charles St
State Hwy 28
Boylston
Arlington St
Berkeley St
Clarendon St
Marlborough St
Beacon St
Back Bay East
Gloucester St
Exeter St
Arlington
Park Plaza
Stuart St
Newbury St
Boylston St
St James Ave
Commonwealth Avenue
Back Bay
Back Bay West
Hereford St
Fairfield St
Copley
Charles St S
Tremont St
Bay Village
Oak St
Newbury St
Boylston St
Boylston St
Hynes Convention Center
Massachusetts Turnpike
Massachusetts Turnpike (Toll road)
Massachusetts Turnpike
22
Boylston St
Dalton St
101 Huntington Avenue
Prudential / St. Botolph
Boston Back Bay
Chandler St
Berkeley St
Tremont St
Herald St
Fenway
Hemenway St
Massachusetts Ave
Prudential
Yarmouth St
Dartmouth St
Victory
Columbus
28
28
A
C

1. 1-3 Arlington Street

Gridley James Fox Bryant was one of Boston's busiest Victorian architects, especially after the Great Fire of 1872 destroyed most of the downtown business area. Some 152 of those buildings had been designed by Bryant and he was summoned to rebuild 110 of the commissions. Bryant designed this grouping of three townhomes was to look like one big French Second Empire structure; he gave each story a different window treatment. The money man on the project was John L. Simmons, a clothing manufacturer who used his profits to invest in real estate.

2. 8-11 Arlington Street
east side of Copley Square at 206 Clrendon Street

Here is another block of four houses knitted to form a single symmetrical composition, with the two middle houses set slightly further back from the street than the two end houses. No. 8 Arlington was built in 1870 for Deming Jarves who was the founder of the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company, later the Cape Cod Glass Works. It and No. 9 were the home of the *Atlantic Monthly* from the 1920s until 1980. The literary and cultural commentary magazine was founded in 1857 by Boston's leading literary stars.

3. John B. Bates House
12 Arlington Street

John B. Bates was a Boston merchant, prosperous enough to bankroll this grand five-story mansion in 1860. Architect Arthur Gilman tapped elements of the French and Italian Renaissances, executed

in sandstone shipped from Nova Scotia. Bates, however, did not enjoy his new home for long, he died on a European trip in 1863.

TURN RIGHT ON COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

4. Gamble Mansion
5 Commonwealth Avenue

Cotton merchant Abbott Lawrence was the first to build on this lot, back in 1861. That Italianate house disappeared under a French-inspired makeover executed by another textile merchant, Walter Baylies, in 1906. In the 1940s the Boston Center for Adult Education purchased the property and operated it as the Gamble Mansion, today it does duty as event space.

5. 25-27 Commonwealth Avenue

Samuel Hooper was born in Marblehead, Massachusetts in 1808 and made his money in importing and the iron business before entering politics and winding up in the United States Congress. He bought this property in 1861 and built a house for himself and his wife, Anne, at #27 and his son William Sturgis Hooper next door at #25. There was enough room left over for a rare large corner yard in Back Bay.

6. Haddon Hall
29 Commonwealth Avenue

The deed restrictions when Back Bay was filled in called for all buildings to be constructed at least three stories high. But no maximum height was specified, which proved not to be an issue until W.H.H. Newman came along in 1894 and proposed an 11-story apartment tower, designed by J. Pickering Putnam. Haddon Hall pushed right up to the citywide height limit of 125 feet and Back Bay residents immediately sprung into action to make sure no such monstrosity appeared again. In 1896 a limit of 70 feet was imposed on Commonwealth Avenue, which would later be reduced further to 65 feet. In about 1928, Haddon Hall was converted from apartments into an office building.

TURN RIGHT ON BERKELEY STREET.

7. First Unitarian Church
62 Marlborough Street, southwest corner of Berkeley Street

First Church is the oldest church in Boston. When John Winthrop and his party stepped off the *Arabella* in what is now Charlestown their first action in the new world was to draw up and sign a Covenant for a Church, on July 30, 1630. The congregation moved to Back Bay in 1867 into a church designed by prolific Victorian architect William Robert Ware and Henry Van Brunt, one of the first commissions for the celebrated team. The current building was constructed after a fire in 1868; architect Paul Rudolph incorporated its historic facade into his building.

8. French Library Cultural Center
53 Marlborough Street

John Hubbard Sturgis and Charles Brigham designed this French Second Empire confection under a mansard roof for Edward Wainwright Codman in 1867. Today it serves as the French Library, founded in 1945 by Americans to provide an authentic French cultural and social experience for the purpose of personal enrichment and greater understanding of the diverse peoples of the French-speaking world. The library houses the second largest private collection of French books in the United States.

RETURN TO COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT.

9. 43 Commonwealth Avenue

The first building activity on this lot produced four contiguous houses for lumber merchant, real estate investor, and banker Elijah Chesley Drew in 1869. Ashton Rollins Willard, an art expert who wrote several books on Italian art, bought the property in 1902 and tore down the house here. In its place architect Julius A. Schweinfurth, who worked in town for a half century after arriving in Boston from Auburn, New York in 1879, built one of the first steel-framed buildings in the city.

10. 121 Commonwealth Avenue

Architects Charles Amos Cummings and Willard T. Sears gave Commonwealth Street one of its most exuberant houses in 1872, blending brick, cream-colored stone, wood, polychromatic tile,

multi-colored slate, and wrought iron into a High Victorian Gothic composition. the client was Charles Greenleaf Wood, a dry goods merchant and, later, treasurer of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company.

TURN RIGHT ON DARTMOUTH STREET.

11. Frederick L. Ames House
Commonwealth Avenue at 306 Dartmouth Street

Oakes Ames parlayed a shovel business into railroads, banking, the breeding of Guernsey cows and a seat in the United States House of Representatives. This house was built for the "King of Spades" by John Hubbard Sturgis who converted an 1872 townhouse into a showplace that one Boston paper gushed was "not surpassed by anything in the country."

12. Crowninshield House
164 Marlborough Street

Benjamin W. Crowninshield was born into one of Boston's oldest seafaring families in 1837. At Harvard College one of his classmates was Henry Hobson Richardson who would go on to become the most influential American architect in the post-Civil War era. Richardson designed this house for his old friend who came to Back Bay as a dry goods merchant in 1868. The house is often cited as one of Richardson's less arresting works, however.

13. Hollis Hunnewell Mansion
Marlborough Street at 315 Dartmouth Street

Horatio Hollis Hunnewell was a powerful banker and financial backers of railroads who as an amateur botanist was one of the America's most prominent 19th century horticulturists. Hunnewell is said to have been the first person to cultivate and popularize rhododendrons in domestic gardens. Architects John Hubbard Sturgis and Charles Brigham piled mansard-roofed towers at different heights on the Hunnewell mansion, firs tin 1870 and more after an 1881 fire.

14. Cushing-Endicott House
165 Marlborough Street

Thomas Forbes Cushing, who padded the substantial family fortune in the China trade, had this home constructed in 1871. This designers were Englishman George Snell and his partner James Gregerson, who is a cipher to architectural history.

RETURN TO COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND TURN RIGHT.

15. Hotel Agassiz
191 Commonwealth Avenue

This six-story hotel building was raised by members of the family of famed Harvard natural history professor Louis Agassiz in 1872. His son Alexander made a fortune in copper mines on Michigan's Upper Peninsula which paid the bills here. Each of the floors featured only a single apartment but

when it went condo in 1973 fifteen units were created.

16. 195 Commonwealth Avenue

John Pickering Putnam was one of the pioneers of the modern apartment building with projects in Back Bay; he did this brick house trimmed in terra-cotta and dominated by an octagonal corner tower for F.C. Haven in 1881.

17. St. Botolph Club
199 Commonwealth Avenue

The leading architectural firm of the Gilded Age, Charles Follen McKim, William Rutherford Mead and Stanford White, came up from New York City to contribute this roomy Colonial Revival manor house to the Back Bay streetscape in 1890. It became the clubhouse for the St. Botolph Club, a gentlemen's social club that was founded in 1880 and named after the patron saint of Boston.

18. Mason House
211 Commonwealth Avenue

Architects Arthur Rotch and George Thomas Tilden designed some of the most elegant buildings in Boston between 1880 and 1895, including this one for W.P. Mason. The restrained exterior hides one of the town's fanciest interiors. When this house with its 11 bedrooms, 14 bathrooms, elevators and five-car garage came on the market in 2012 it was listed for $17.9 million.

19. Algonquin Club
217 Commonwealth Avenue

In 1886, by a special act of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Algonquin Club of Boston was incorporated with 50 founding members. By the next year the Algonquins had the finest clubhouse in town, an interpretation of an Italian Renaissance palazzo rendered in white limestone by Stanford White of the fabled New York shop of McKim, Mead, and White.

20. Commonwealth Avenue at 21 Fairfield Street

William Whitney Lewis designed 19 buildings that still stand in Back Bay; this one from 1880 was created for G.P. King. Lewis was also a tinkerer who invented a contraption called the "Joy-0 Irrigator Flower Pot" which kept window box gardens watered.

21. 247 Commonwealth Avenue

By the turn of the 20th century pioneering Back Bay homes were being pulled down in favor of more contemporary mansions, such as this 1905 Neoclassical replacement designed by William Rantoul for Emily Mandell.

22. Charles Francis Adams House
Commonwealth Avenue at 20 Gloucester Street

This multi-gabled 1886 confection was the home of Charles Francis Adams, grandson of the 6th President of the United States and great-grandson of the second, who was in charge of the Union Pacific Railroad at the time. It was designed by Boston architects Robert Swain Peabody and John Goddard Stearns, Jr. at the height of their popularity.

23. H.M. Sears Mansion
287 Commonwealth Avenue

The Sears family reverberated around the business and political community in Boston since the days of the Revolution and Beacon Hill and Back Bay are sprinkled with family mansions. This limestone house that stretches out along Commonwealth Avenue was constructed for H.M. Sears in 1892. Arthur Rotch and George Thomas Tilden provided the Neoclassical design.

24. Exeter Street Theatre
Newbury Street at Exeter Street

This building began life with the founding of the First Spiritual Temple in 1883 but Back Bay socialites turned it into a movie palace in 1914. Noted theater architect Clarence Blackall engineered the transformation into the Exeter Theatre, which operated until 1974.

25. Ames Mansion
355 Commonwealth Avenue

Oakes Ames made a fortune selling shovels and other tools to the developing railroads and the Union Army and parlayed his success into the United States House of Representatives. Ames was one of the primary movers in completing the Union Pacific part of the transcontinental railroad but his career ended in scandal over alleged improper sale of stock. His son Oliver made good on the obligations and there was enough left over to build the largest house in Back Bay here in 1882. Architect Carl Fehmer created one of the town's first French-influenced Chateauesque castles on this corner. Supposedly spurred by the desire to clear his father's reputation and entered politics, winding up as the 35th Governor of Massachusetts in 1887. In 1926 the building was sold to the National Casket Company who used it to display caskets.

TURN RIGHT ON MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE.

26. The Marlborough
416 Marlborough Street

With his partner, Charles Amos Cummings, Willard Thomas Sears decorated Back Bay with 21 single-family residences and this elegant apartment house in 1895. It stated as 32 units and became 73 condos when it was converted in 1989.

TURN RIGHT ON BEACON STREET.

27. Hotel Cambridge
483 Beacon Street

With the success of the Marlbourough, architects Willard Thomas Sears and Charles Amos Cummings were back in the residential hotel game in 1898 with the Hotel Cambridge. The classically-flavored facade climbs to meet a whimsical mansard roof.

28. 448 Beacon Street

Architects Robert Day Andrews and Herbert Jacques dispensed with the typical Back Bay brownstone and dark brick in favor of red sandstone and contrasting yellow bricks for this 1889 mansion with a prominent corner turret for R.C. Hooper. Andrews, Jacques and Augustus Neal Rantoul would cap their careers by adding wings to the Massachusetts State Capitol in 1913.

29. New England College of Optometry
422-426 Beacon Street

This building was designed by Julius Schweinfurth who duplicated French styles he saw in a European tour. It was built in 1904 for Ralph Williams and is now part of the New England College of Optometry, the oldest continually operating eye college in the country. Dr. August Andreas Klein tarted his Klein School of Optics in 1894 and entered a peripatetic existence before the school landed here.

30. 266 Beacon Street

This early splash of the Italian Renaissance from 1886 comes from the pens of George Russell Shaw and Henry S. Hunnewell; the client was Elizabeth Skinner. Hunnewell was a relative of railroad and iron mogul Horatio Hollis Hunnewell and picked up many commissions near his family's Michigan iron mines.

31. 242 Beacon Street

This building was designed by John Hubbard Sturgis and Charles Brigham and built in 1880 for Thomas Danforth Boardman, from a family of pewterers that reached back five generations. Later it was owned by the Cabot family, one of the "first families of Boston."

32. 241 Beacon Street

This is what a speculative Back Bay house looked like, investor Henry S. Whitwell commissioned it in 1868. One buyer, in 1881, was Julia Ward Howe, one-time abolition leader and author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

33. Goethe Institute
170 Beacon Street

This Italian Renaissance in light sandstone has seen many prominent owners, including Charles Sumner, who was president and treasurer of his family's firm, the Dennison Manufacturing Company, makers of boxes, tags, stationers' supplies, and paper specialties. It is now owned by the German government.

34. 165 Beacon Street

This brownstone is one of only four Gothic residences in Back Bay; you can find the others at 76 Commonwealth, 80 Commonwealth and 117 Marlborough. It was constructed in 1869 for John Haldane Flagler who founded the National Tube Company but the Flaglers never moved in.

35. 150 Beacon Street

Isabella Stewart Gardner's father built her a house here in 1861 and bought a connector to his own house. She assembled the finest private art collection in Boston while living here. Both were demolished in 1904 and E.S. Draper built this double-wide Italian Renaissance home for Alvan Fuller, founder of Fuller Cadillac Company.

36. Gibson House Museum
137 Beacon Street

This slender townhouse with a cental oriel window was built for Catherine Gibson in 1859 after her husband, sugar merchant John Gardiner Gibson, had died. It was designed by Edward C. Cabot as a pair of side-by-side homes, a nephew, Samuel Hammond Russell, lived in the other. It is open to the public today as a house museum.

37. 118 Beacon Avenue

The grand bowfronts of Beacon Hill seldom made the trip down to the Back Bay generations later but architects Arthur Little and Herbert W. C. Brown put one of their Colonial Revival creation in 1907 for boiler and elevator manufacturer Henry Parsons King.

CONTINUE ON BEACON STREET TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT PUBLIC GARDEN.

A Walking Tour of Boston - Beacon Hill

from walkthetown.com

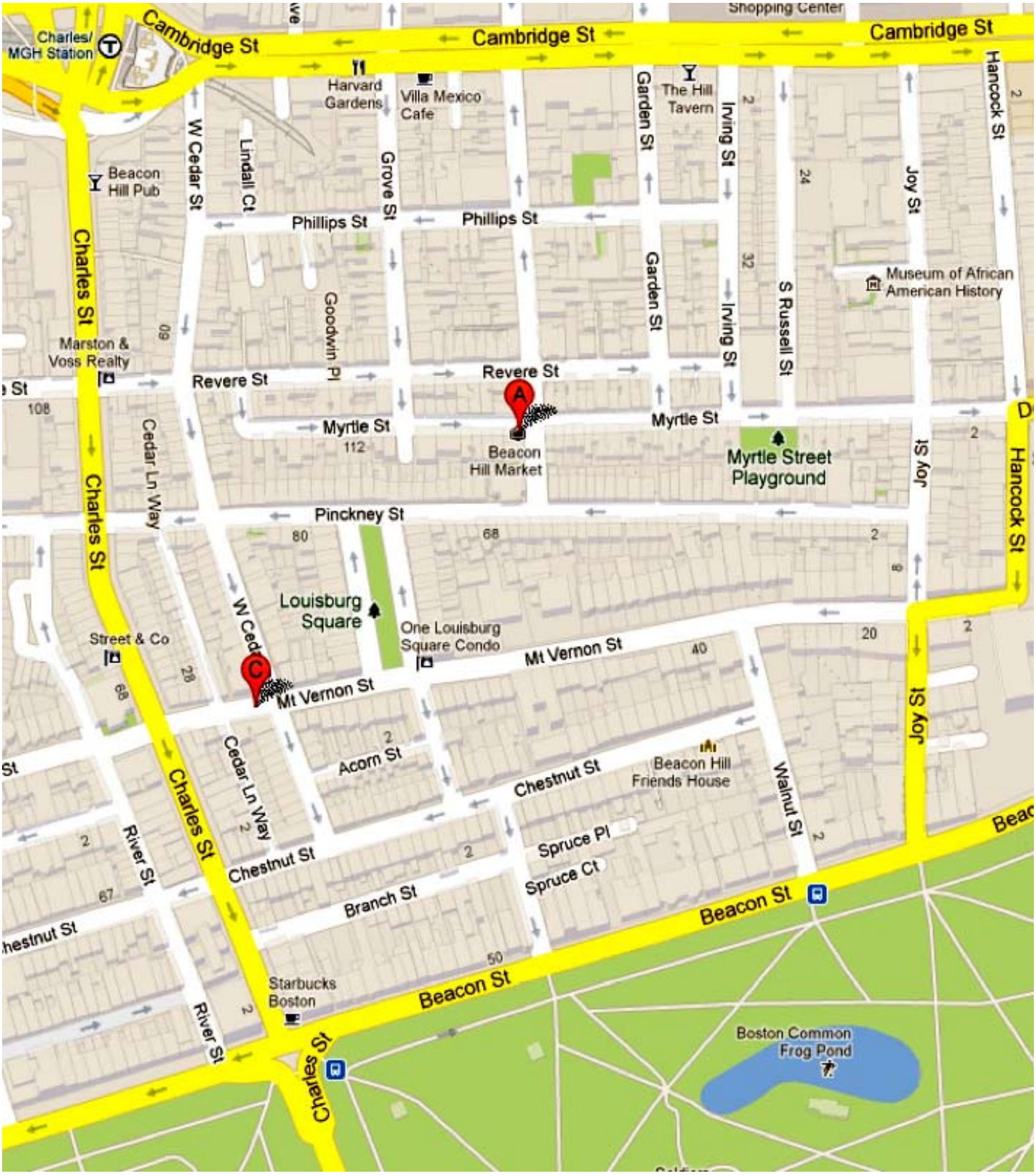
The beacon of Beacon Hill once stood just behind the current site of the Massachusetts State House, on the highest point in central Boston. The entire hill was once owned by William Blaxton, the first European settler of Boston, from 1625 to 1635, who eventually sold his land to the Puritans. The hill, and two other nearby hills, were substantially reduced in height to allow the development of housing in the area and to use the earth to create land by filling the Mill Pond, to the northeast.

Until the end of the 18th century, the south slope of Beacon Hill was a pasture owned by painter John Singleton Copley. He sold it to the Mount Vernon Proprietors, to which the architect Charles Bulfinch belonged. During the first quarter of the 19th century, Beacon Hill town houses designed by Bulfinch, Asher Benjamin, and others exhibited influences derived from England, France, and even the Far East. Elements drawn from Ancient Egypt, Greek, and Roman sources enlivened the brick and brownstone-trimmed facades of the Hill's stylish mansions.

The south slope of Beacon Hill facing the Common was the socially desirable side in the 19th century. "Black" Beacon Hill was on the north slope. The two Hills were largely united on the subject of Abolition and Beacon Hill became one of the staunchest centers of the anti-slavery movement in America.

When development of the Back Bay district got underway, many residents moved to the more fashionable new enclave, which offered larger houses and wider streets. Beacon Hill started to decline and continued on its downward spiral until the second half of the 20th century. Beacon Hill was designated a National Historic Landmark on December 19, 1962 and in recent years it has once again become a very popular district, especially the south slope which attracted wealthy Bostonians.

This walking tour will begin in the Boston Common that fronts the southern border of Beacon Hill along, naturally, Beacon Street...


Charles/
MGH Station
Cambridge St
Cambridge St
Cambridge St
Shopping Center
Harvard
Gardens
Villa Mexico
Cafe
The Hill
Tavern
Garden St
Irving St
Hancock St
Joy St
W Cedar St
Lindall Ct
Grove St
Beacon
Hill Pub
Phillips St
Phillips St
Charles St
Goodwin Pl
Garden St
Irving St
S Russell St
Museum of African
American History
Marston &
Voss Realty
Revere St
Revere St
Myrtle St
Myrtle St
Beacon
Hill Market
Myrtle Street
Playground
Cedar Ln Way
Pinckney St
Charles St
Louisburg
Square
One Louisburg
Square Condo
Street & Co
Mt Vernon St
Mt Vernon St
Joy St
Hancock St
Acorn St
Chestnut St
Beacon Hill
Friends House
Walnut St
Cedar Ln Way
River St
Chestnut St
Spruce Pl
Spruce Ct
Branch St
Beacon St
Beacon St
Starbucks
Boston
River St
Charles St
Boston Common
Frog Pond

1. Boston Common
bounded by Beacon, Charles, Boylston, Tremont and Park streets

Boston Common is the oldest public park in the country, created in 1634 as a "cow pasture and training field" for common use. Cattle grazed here for 200 years, and the odd bull could look up every now and then to see the occasional public hanging that took place in the Common. The park is about 50 acres in size and is the anchor for the Emerald Necklace, the system of connected parks that visit many of Boston's neighborhoods.

WALK TO THE CORNER OF BEACON STREET AND PARK STREET.

2. Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Memorial
entrance to Boston Common at Beacon Street across from the State House

Movie-goers will know Robert Gould Shaw's from the award-winning Glory. The 26-year old Shaw emerged from a prominent white Boston family to lead the famous 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first black regiment recruited in the North to serve in the Civil War. The unit distinguished itself in leading a frontal assault across open beach on Battery Wagner, South Carolina, on July 18, 1863. Colonel Shaw died along with scores of his men. The surviving veterans of the 54th and 55th regiments were among those present to listen to Booker T. Washington at for the memorial's dedication in 1897, one of the finest works by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the premier sculptor of the Gilded Age.

TURN RIGHT ON BEACON STREET.

3. Boston Athenaeum
10.5 Beacon Street

Boston Athenæum is one of the oldest independent libraries in America, founded in 1807 by the Anthology Club as a reading room and subscription library in rented rooms. Annual dues were $10 - at a time when that would represent about two weeks pay. The Athenæum moved into these digs in 1849, designed in a neo-Palladian style by artist and architect Edward Clarke Cabot using a distinctive gray sandstone. Visitors found a sculpture gallery when they walked in, the library was on the second floor and paintings hung on the third floor.

TURN AROUND AND WALK BACK DOWN BEACON STREET.

4. Chester Harding House
16 Beacon Street

This four-story Federal-style townhouse is a souvenir from 1808 when this was a residential neighborhood; it was constructed by real estate developer Thomas Fletcher. It managed to duck the wrecking ball while its commercial neighbors filled in around and above it. The house carries the name of Chester Harding into its third century; Harding was a sign painter in Pittsburgh who went on the road as an itinerant portrait painter and landed here in 1826. He stayed until 1830,honing his craft to the extent that most of America's prominent men and women sat for Harding at one time or another. The house has become a National Historic Landmark, owned by the Boston Bar Association since 1962.

5. Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street

Boston-born Charles Bulfinch is usually regarded as the first native-born American to call himself an architect on his business card. He began work on the most outstanding public building in the young country in 1795 when he was 31 years old. Bulfinch had warmed up for the task by building the Connecticut State House which opened its doors in May of 1796 as the first state house in the union. Governor Samuel Adams and silversmith-turned-Revolutionary War-hero Paul Revere set the keystone for the Massachusetts State House on July 4, 1795 in a meadow on top of a steep hill, which until just recently had been John Hancock's meadow. Bulfinch based his design on classically-flavored English buildings that resulted in an elevated projecting Corinthian portico. The ever industrious Revere would later be commissioned to top the wooden dome with rolled copper in 1802. The dome, which is topped with a pine cone that symbolizes Boston's now long-gone timber industry, was gilded in 1874. The gold was re-applied in 1997 at the cost of $300,000.

6. George Parkman House
33 Beacon Street

In 1849, George Parkman and John Webster were prominent doctors in Boston. Dr. Webster, known to live beyond his means as a medical professor, was in debt to Parkman, and when Parkman threatened to take legal action to collect this debt, he bludgeoned Parkman to death in the Massachusetts Medical College Building. Webster dismembered and attempted to incinerate the body. He was tried, found guilty and was hanged. Parkman's widow moved into this building after the grisly incident passed. But Boston's most sensational crime was not so easily forgotten.An article in the *Boston Globe* 35 years later discussed the possibility that Webster was placed in a harness, and was never hanged. A story is re-told about a sailor seeing Dr. Webster overseas long after his death sentence. Parkman's heirs left the City of Boston a 5 million dollar trust fund for the maintenance of the Boston Common.

7. John Phillips House
Beacon Street at 1 Walnut Street

Charles Bulfinch designed this townhouse in 1804 as the home of John Phillips. Phillips was a Boston native and Harvard College graduate who became a public prosecutor in 1800 and spent two decades in the Massachusetts Senate while he lived here. In 1822 Phillips became the first mayor after Boston's incorporation as a city but only spent a year in office before he died at the age of 52.

8. Appleton-Parker House
39-40 Beacon Street

Here is another National historic Landmark. In 1819 Waltham textile manufacturer Nathan Appleton and shipbuilding merchant Daniel Pinckney Parker bought the property, scuttled the existing house and hired Alexander Parris who designed this Greek Revival bowfront twin house. In 1843 celebrated poet and Harvard professor Henry Wadsworth Longfellow married Appleton's daughter Fanny in this house.

9. Sears House
42-43 Beacon Street

America's most esteemed Colonial portrait painter John Singleton Copley lived on this site until 1774. Before Alexander Parris went to work next door he created this beefy Federal-style house for David Sears, one of the town's wealthiest merchants. It was a free-standing mansion at the time. As

the block filled in the home doubled in size, becoming the town's most expensive dwelling by the 1830s. In the 1860s Sears departed for Brookline where he was a major player in land development and the house was purchased by the Somerset Club.

10. Third Harrison Gray Otis House
45 Beacon Street

Harrison Gray Otis, a United States Senator, Boston's third mayor, and real estate mogul, was Boston's resident billionaire in the first half of the 19th century. In rapid succession Otis commandeered the construction of three of the city's most splendidly ostentatious Federal-era houses, all designed by Charles Bulfinch and all still standing. Finished in 1808, Otis stayed in this one, widely regarded as the master architect's finest residential work, until he died 40 years later.

11. William Hickling Prescott House
55 Beacon Street

Although Charles Bulfinch dominated the architecture of Beacon Hill, other prominent designers snuck a house in every now and then. This bowfront from 1808 is by Asher Benjamin who influence spread across the country with the publication of seven architectural handbooks and pattern books. The building boasts wrought iron railings, full-height wooden pilasters and an ornamental balustrade crowning the confection. It carries the name of William Hickling Prescott, regarded as the first American scientific historian, who resided here from 1845 to 1859.

12. King's Chapel Parish House
64 Beacon Street

King's Chapel was founded in 1686 and this Greek Revival bowfront from the pen of Ephraim Marsh joined the Boston Common streetscape in the 1820s. The two came together in the 1950s when the church purchased the property as a parish house.

13. Hampshire House/Cheers
84 Beacon Street

In the summer of 1981, NBC came to Boston looking for a bar. The network was developing a new sitcom set in a neighborhood pub and the producers thought that Boston had just the right mix of characters for the cast — sports fanatics, stuffy intellectuals, colorful politicians, and the lunch-pail crowd. After an exhaustive search the scouting party lighted on the Bull and Finch Pub with its three steps down past diamond glass windows to the taproom. Within a few months, a replica of the Bull and Finch interior had been constructed in Hollywood. Shot mostly on Paramount's Stage 25, *Cheers* went on the air in September 1982 and languished through its first season as one of the lowest-rated shows on television. But network executives persevered, kept *Cheers* on the schedule and it garnered a record-breaking 111 Emmy nominations, winning the award 26 times. As the show grew in popularity, so many fans made pilgrimages to the Bull and Finch that the bar changed its name to "Cheers."

TURN RIGHT ON BRIMMER STREET.

14. Samuel Eliot Morison
44 Brimmer Street

Samuel Eliot Morison grew up in this house, constructed in the 1850s in the "horsey end of town." He was Harvard educated and taught at the school for four decades where he became America's foremost naval historian. After he won the first of two Pulitzer Prizes for Admiral of the Ocean Sea in 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt tabbed him to write the definitive history of the United States Naval operation sin World War II. Morison, a Rear Admiral in the United States Naval Reserve, would go on to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.

15. Church of the Advent
30 Brimmer Street at northeast corner of Mount Vernon Street

The Church of the Advent was born in 1844 from the then-11-year-old Oxford Movement, which called upon the Church of England to return to dial back its policies to its historic roots in the undivided Catholic Church. The English Gothic style church was designed by John Hubbard Sturgis and meticulously put together between 1875 and 1888.

TURN RIGHT ON MOUNT VERNON STREET.

16. Sunflower House
130 Mount Vernon Street

Charles Luce worked infused this 1840 house with early elements of the English garden-influenced Arts-and-Crafts style during an 1878 makeover. Frank Hill Smith, a celebrated artist and interior designer, lived here at the time and the local press was moved to gush over his efforts that his house was transformed into "the most attractive and picturesque in the city... there is nothing in New England in the least like it."

TURN LEFT ON CHARLES STREET.

17. Charles Street Meeting House
70 Charles Street

This 1804 former church, designed by Asher Benjamin, was an important location in the abolitionist movement, with William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass addressing overflow crowds from its pulpit. The simple brick Federal-style building served several denominations and enters its third century of use as offices, a cafe and antique shops.

RETURN TO MOUNT VERNON STREET AND TURN LEFT.

18. Louisburg Square
off Mount Vernon Street, northside

Louisburg Square (pronounced "*Lewis*-burg") is the address most associated with Boston wealth and privilege. Moguls still live here, as does former Senator and Secretary of State John Kerry. The roomy brick Greek Revival houses were added to the square in the 1830s and many are still single-family homes. Author Louisa May Alcott lived at No. 10 for three years in the 1880s; William Dean Howells, literary critic and editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, resided at No.16; and No. 20 was the home of Samuel Gray Ward, financier and a founder of the Metropolitan Museum of Arts. In 1852, Ward married famous Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind in this house. The "Swedish Nightingale" was given away by her manager and future famous circus impresario P.T. Barnum.

19. Stephenson Higginson House
87 Mount Vernon Street

These two lots were filled with adjoining Charles Bulfinch houses in 1805. Some evidence exists that he intended to live in one but financial reversals forced him to sell them both; No. 87 to Stephen Higginson, Jr., the father of abolitionist Thomas Wentworth Higginson and No. 89 to David Humphreys, an aide de camp to George Washington in the Revolutionary War. No. 89 was replaced with a 20th century Colonial Revival house but the Higginson House stands and since 1955 it has been the home of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

20. Second Harrison Gray Otis House
85 Mount Vernon Street

The mortar on the bricks was barely dry on this 1802 mansion before Harrison Gray Otis had Charles Bulfinch at work designing him a third Beacon Hill home. This is a rare estate in the neighborhood and the cobblestone drive was featured as Steve McQueen's driveway in *The Thomas Crowne Affair*.

TURN AROUND AND WALK BACK TOWARDS WILLOW STREET.

21. Swan Stables
50-60 Mount Vernon Street

These one-story houses were once stables for the Charles Bulfinch-designed houses on Chestnut Street. By deed they could never be built higher than 13 feet.

TURN LEFT ON WILLOW STREET. TURN RIGHT ON ACORN STREET.

22. Acorn Street

Modest red brick Federal-style townhouses along this narrow cobblestone lane compose one of Boston's most photographed streets. Tradesmen and shopkeepers lived in the houses that were designed by Cornelius Coolidge in the 1820s. On the north side of the street are brick walls that enclose some of the "Hidden Gardens of Beacon Hill" that have been put on display by the Beacon Hill Garden Club since 1929.

RETURN TO WILLOW STREET AND TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON CHESTNUT STREET.

23. Francis Parkman House
50 Chestnut Street

Cornelius Coolidge designed many of the elegant Federal-style homes on this block in the 1820s. Francis Parkman, one of the greatest of 19th century historians and author of *The Oregon Trail* and many well-regarded other works, lived here from 1865 until his death in 1893. Parkman was also a respected horticulturist who was the first director of Boston's Arnold Arboretum.

24. 29A Chestnut Street

Charles Bulfinch designed this town house in 1800; it still retains its side garden. In 1865, this was the residence of Edwin Booth, then the most famous actor in America. Today history remembers only his brother John Wilkes after his killing of Abraham Lincoln in Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1865.

25. Swan Houses
13-15-17 Chestnut Street

These three houses were built in 1806 to the plans of Charles Bulfinch. Known as the Swan Houses, after the heiress, Hepzibah Swan, they were wedding gifts for her three daughters who married in 1806, 1807 and 1817. Julia Ward Howe lived here during the Civil War, shortly after she penned *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, which appeared in print for the first time in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1862.

TURN LEFT ON WALNUT STREET TO MOUNT VERNON STREET.

26. Nichols House Museum
55 Mount Vernon Street

Charles Bulfinch designed houses 51-57 for the Mason daughters in 1804. The architect would not recognize his work two hundred years later, save for the form of No. 55. In the 20th century it was later the home of landscape architect and peace activist Rose Standish Nichols, whose clients stretched across the globe. It lives on today as a house museum.

TURN RIGHT ON JOY STREET.

27. Lyman-Paine House
6 Joy Street

Alexander Parris created this house in 1824, decorating the facade with Greek Revival elements and an arresting wrought iron fence.

CONTINUE ON JOY STREET TO BOSTON COMMON AND THE BEGINNING OF THE TOUR.

A Walking Tour of Boston - Charlestown

from walkthetown.com

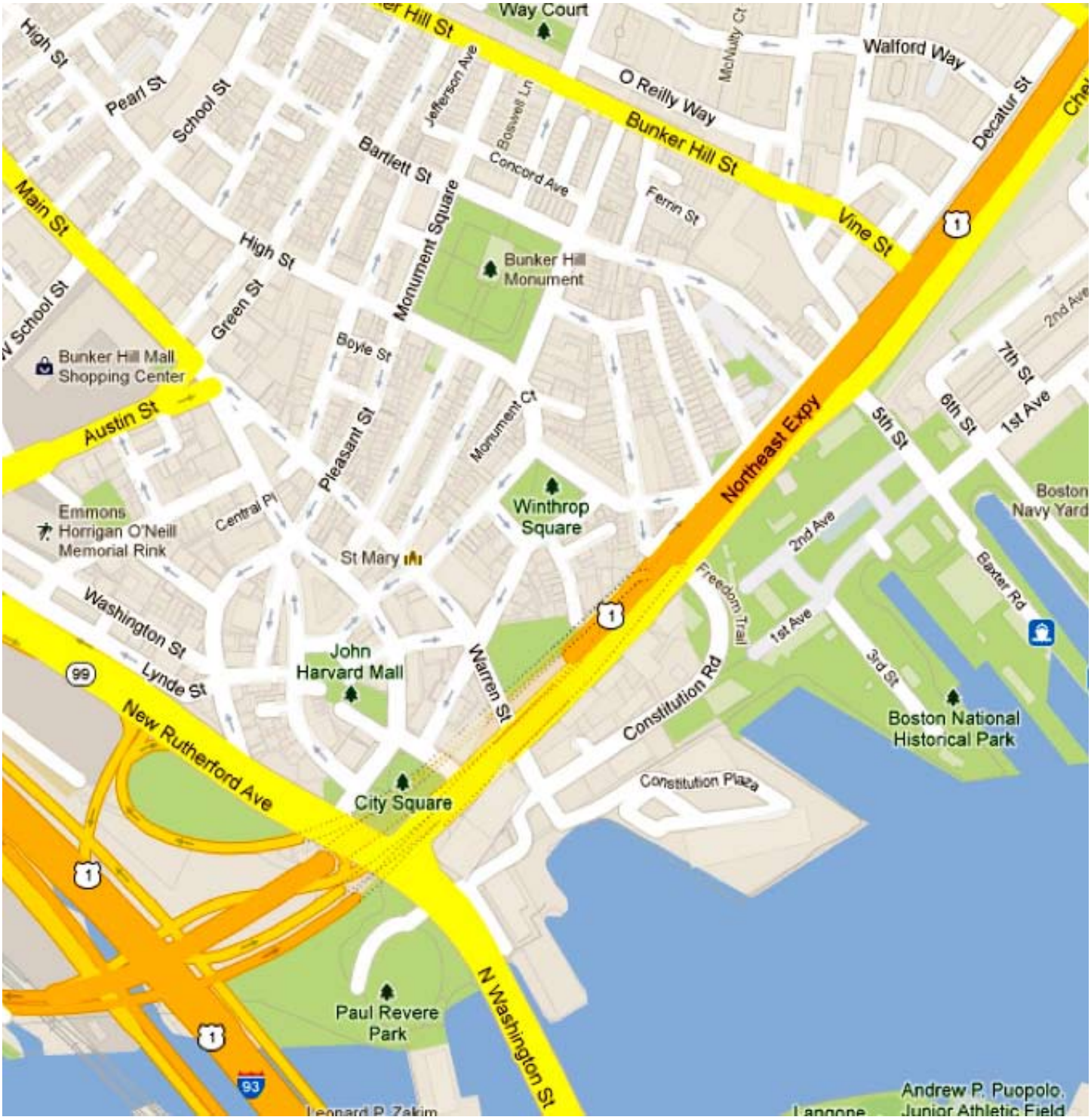
Charlestown began as an independent community, founded by English colonists before they established Boston across the harbor on the Shawmut Peninsula. As the Massachusetts Bay Company prepared for its massive migration to New England, it dispatched engineer Thomas Graves from England in 1629 to lay out a town for the newcomers. The area of earliest settlement, at Town Hill (now called City Square), still retains the elliptical street pattern that Thomas Graves laid out.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Charlestown's population had reached about 2,000. Following the battles of Concord and Lexington on April 19, 1775, the British army head toward Charlestown in retreat, and most townspeople fled when they heard the news. Two months later, on June 17, the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought in Charlestown. The American troops lost the battle, but the strength and determination they showed, together with the great British losses, demonstrated that the Colonials were serious about independence. On their way out of town British troops burned the oldest section of Charlestown to the ground and full-fledged reconstruction would not take place until after the war ended in 1781. No other Boston neighborhood has such a fine group of frame houses from this period.

By 1785, 13 wharves lined Charlestown's harbor, and soon new bridges increased trade. In 1800, the United States Navy opened the Navy Yard at Moulton's Point, establishing what would become one of Charlestown's major employers for more than 150 years. Between 1830 and 1870, Charlestown's population tripled to more than 28,000. It was annexed to Boston in 1874.

Beginning in 1901, the elevated streetcar line made the neighborhood accessible to more people, stimulating industrial growth, but it also casting a visual blight over Charlestown. During World War II, the Navy Yard employed 47,000 workers, but peacetime brought severe unemployment and decline, heightened by the opening of the Tobin Bridge in the 1950s. More change has come in the last two decades, with the dismantling of the "El" and the closing and redevelopment of the Navy Yard revitalizing the old town.

Our walking tour will begin on the site of that fateful battle...


Way Court
High St
Pearl St
School St
Jefferson Ave
Boswell Ln
Concord Ave
McNary Ct
Walford Way
O Reilly Way
Bunker Hill St
Decatur St
Bartlett St
Ferrin St
Vine St
Main St
High St
Monument Square
Bunker Hill Monument
Green St
Boyle St
Bunker Hill Mall Shopping Center
Austin St
Monument Ct
Pleasant St
Northeast Expy
5th St
6th St
7th St
1st Ave
2nd Ave
Boston Navy Yard
Emmons Horrigan O'Neill Memorial Rink
Central Pl
Winthrop Square
St Mary
Freedom Trail
Baxter Rd
Washington St
Lynde St
John Harvard Mall
Warren St
Constitution Rd
3rd St
Boston National Historical Park
New Rutherford Ave
City Square
Constitution Plaza
Paul Revere Park
N Washington St
Andrew P. Puopolo Junior Athletic Field
Leonard P. Zakim

1. Bunker Hill Monument
Monument Square

Massachusetts governor Lt. General Thomas Gage seemed not to be overly concerned when his beaten troops returned from Lexington and Concord. He did nothing, except write letters to London. The Americans at Cambridge were busily sealing off Boston before Gage decided to occupy Dorchester Heights, south of Boston and Breed's Hill in Charlestown, across the Charles River.

The Americans learned of Gage's scheme on June 13, 1775, and laid plans to fortify Bunker Hill, next to Breed's Hill. The Americans under Colonel Richard Gridley, engineer of the Provincial Army of New England, began their defenses the night of June 16 mistakenly, however, on Breed's Hill. This is where the battle would be joined the following morning. A British mapmaker had mislabeled the hill "Bunker Hill" and so the battle would always be called.

Colonel William Prescott commanded the Massachusetts militia and positioned his troops behind a stone wall all the way to the Mystic River to his north as well as in the hastily built redoubt. General William Howe was chosen by the British to charge the hill with four infantry regiments and an artillery company. There was little doubt that Howe had been given enough firepower to dispatch a thousand farmers in a crude fort.

The main assault began at 3:00 in the afternoon. Word had spread around Boston and most of the city was perched on rooftops to see what would happen. A first charge by the British was unsupported by artillery as they had brought the wrong size ammunition. The ferocity of the defensive fire stunned the redcoats, who fell back and regrouped. a second charge was turned back in similar fashion.

The Americans knew the disciplined British troops would come up the hill a third time and they knew there was not enough powder to sustain another defense. Yet they held the hill. The British, supported by full artillery now, finally overran the redoubt and were met by bayonets in desperate hand-to-hand combat. Just before 5:00 p.m. the Americans abandoned Breed's Hill and Boston to the British.

From an army of 2,200 men the British suffered over 1,000 casualties, including 140 dead. Although over 400 American men were dead or wounded, Nathanael Greene was moved to say, "I wish we could sell them another hill at the same price."

The Bunker Hill Monument Association was formed in 1823 to create one of America's earliest memorials to the Revolution. A proposal by Horatio Greenough for an obelisk, an ancient Egyptian architectural form to honor war heroes and dead, was accepted and the cornerstone laid in 1825. A newly invented derrick, which would soon be in general use in construction, lifted large granite blocks in place. The 221-foot high memorial was completed in 1842; 294 steps lead visitors to the observation deck. There is no elevator. Also on the site is a statue of Colonel Prescott. The visitor center features battle dioramas and exhibits of the Battle of Bunker Hill on Breed's Hill.

LEAVE THE MONUMENT TO THE WEST ONTO LAUREL STREET THAT RUNS PERPENDICULAR TO THE SQUARE.

2. Charlestown High School
30 Monument Square

Charlestown's first high school was constructed on Monument Square in 1847-48. It was replaced by a more commodious building on the same site in 1870. Finally a third and still larger granite high school infused with classical features was built in the same location in 1907. After more than 125 years of educational duty Charlestown High School moved on in the 1970s; the classrooms were then converted into residential units.

WALK TO THE END OF LAUREL STREET AND TURN LEFT ON CEDAR STREET. TURN RIGHT ON HIGH STREET.

3. 29-41 High Street

This block is populated with handsome Victorian rowhouses, executed in brick with granite steps.

TURN LEFT ON GREEN STREET.

4. Dexter Mansion
14 Green Street

Boston-born and Harvard-educated, Samuel Dexter came to Charlestown to practice law in 1788 when he was 27. He lived in this grand wooden house with a cupola on the roof but did not remain in town long - he was elected to the United States House of Representatives and then the the Senate; it was Dexter who wrote the memorial eulogy to George Washington when the "Father of Our Country" died in 1799. he went on to serve in the Cabinet of President John Adams. While the Dexter Mansion has stood for over 200 years it has been been greatly rearranged in that time.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

5. Five Cent Savings Bank
Main Street at 1 Thompson Street

This was the prince of the Charlestown commercial district when it was raised in 1876. Architects George F. Moffette and George R. Tolman drew up the plans for the exuberant High Victorian Gothic Style with dormers peeking through the decorative mansard roof. The client was the Five Cent Savings Bank, an ancestor of Citizen's Bank that took its first deposits in 1854. The building also housed Charlestown's Masonic Lodge on its top three floors.

6. Round Corner House
121-123 Main Street

The living space on most houses constructed in Charlestown in the early 1800s contained living space upstairs above shop space; this one from 1814 features an eye-catching round corner. It belonged to Captain Joseph Cordis, a shipwright turned merchant who, it was said "was among the first in town to engage in mercantile pursuits on what was then considered a large scale."

7. Timothy Thompson House
119 Main Street

This house was rebuilt in 1794 after it was burned in 1775. Benjamin Thompson, president of the Warren Institute for Savings, state senator and United States congressman, was born here.

8. Warren Tavern
2 Pleasant Street at Main Street

This is the oldest tavern in Massachusetts; the first building erected after the British burned the town in 1775. Named in honor of General Joseph Warren, who died leading patriot troops at Bunker Hill, it was the meeting place of King Solomon's Lodge, the first Masonic Lodge in Charlestown, organized in 1784 with Paul Revere as its Grand Warden.

9. Austin Stone House
92 Main Street

Nathaniel Austin was Middlesex County sheriff and major-general of the Massachusetts Militia. The granite for this 1822 building was dug out of Austin's quarry on Outer Brewster Island in Boston Harbor. From 1827 to 1871 the tenant occupying the ground floor was the *Bunker Hill Aurora and Farmers and Mechanics Journal*, Charlestown's first successful newspaper.

TURN RIGHT ON DEVENS STREET.

10. St.Johns Episcopal Church
31 Devens Street

The first Episcopal services in Charlestown took place in a hall on Town Square in 1840 and the cornerstone for this Gothic Revival church designed by Boston architect Richard Bond was laid the following year. Construction of the dark ashlar granite meetinghouse required only six months. Next door the parish house began life as a chapel in the 1870s; the second floor was actually designed first, in the Carpenter Gothic style by William Robert Ware and Henry Van Brunt, two of Boston's finest Victorian architects. It was hoisted on top of a new brick first floor designed by P.C. Barney in 1901.

RETURN TO MAIN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

11. John Hurd House
69-71 Main Street

The core of this house has a foot back in the 18th century when it was raised as a three-story Georgian-style manor house under a hipped roof. The Hurd family reaches back even further in Charlestown - to the 1680s. The building's commercial days began in the 1870s and a long-time tenant, as the mosaic tiles tattle, was the Donovan and Fallon pharmacy.

12. John Larkin House
55 Main Square

This 1790s Georgian residence was built for Deacon John Larkin, a patriot best remembered for his role in Paul Revere's legendary midnight ride. It was Larkin's horse that carried Revere out to Lexington and Concord to warn the Committee of Safety of the approaching British troops. The horse was never returned. Look up to see the truncated third floor - children's room s often - and the quoins that wrap the corners of the clapboard house.

TURN RIGHT ON WINTHROP STREET. TURN LEFT ON HARVARD SQUARE.

13. Charlestown Free Dispensary
21 Harvard Square

This is one of the rare stone buildings in Charlestown; it was the site of the Charlestown Free dispensary that was organized in 1872 to provide medical and surgical relief of the sick and maimed poor. In its first year there were 1,140 visits resulting in an expenditure of $361.81.

FOLLOW HARVARD SQUARE AROUND TO HARVARD STREET. TURN LEFT.

14. Edward Everett House
16 Harvard Street

This upscale Federal style townhouse was constructed in 1814 by Matthew Bridge, a wealthy merchant whose energetic efforts contributed greatly to the rebuilding of Charlestown after it was torched by the British. It was the later the home of educator and politician Edward Everett during his congressional and gubernatorial career. Everett was one of the most famous orators in 19th century America but he is best remembered today as the speaker who rambled for two hours immediately before Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address, which took less than two minutes. Later it became the home of William Carleton, a Boston inventor and founder of Carleton College in Minnesota.

WALK INTO CITY SQUARE PARK.

15. City Square Park

Charlestown with Market Square at its heart were laid out in 1629. In its almost four centuries the one-acre park has weathered the intrusion of British cannon balls, an elevated train line and bridge ramps. Those days are gone now and City Square, revitalized by the "Big Dig," soldiers on as an attractive space with lawns, plantings and sculptures.

16. City Hall/District Court
1 City Square

This ornate Victorian pile under a domed roof was Charlestown's City Hall when it was raised in 1868. Boston gobbled up the city only six years later and eventually this civic showpiece was replaced in 1917 by a less showy municipal building. Today it serves as a district court for the city of Boston.

EXIT CITY SQUARE PARK TO THE NORTH ONTO PARK STREET.

17. Roughan Hall
15-18 City Square

Architect Arthur H. Vinal tapped the Italian Renaissance for this multi-use clubhouse frequented by Charlestown fraternal and civic clubs. The oversized windows punctuating the yellow brick facade illuminated a grand two-story hall.

FOLLOW PARK STREET TO FORK AT WINTHROP SQUARE AND TURN RIGHT.

18. Salem Turnpike Hotel
16 Common Street at Winthrop Square

Farmers who carted their produce to town to peddle in Market Square found lodging in this clapboard hotel that was completed in 1810.

TURN AROUND AND WALK AROUND THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE SQUARE.

19. Tapley House
14 Common Street at Winthrop Square

John Tapley was a master ironsmith, a craft he learned in the family shipyard on the Charlestown waterfront. Tapley did work on the *U.S.S. Constitution* after the iconic warship was crippled during the War of 1812. The Federal-style yellow clapboard house was built in 1806 and the Tapley family, nine children strong, lived here into the 1820s when the Tapleys moved out to a small country farm.

20. Training Field School
3 Common Street at Winthrop Square

The red brick grammar school building is the oldest surviving one in Charlestown, although it hasn't always stood here. The school was constructed in the center of the Training Field in 1828 but was moved across the street to this location in 1847 and picked up a third story in the process. After more than 150 years of classroom use it became a private residence in the 1980s.

21. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Parish Hall
46-50 Winthrop Street at Winthrop Square

The his brick building has served as the parish hall for St. Mary's Church since 1913.

22. Winthrop Square

This was the early Colonial training field for the militia and it still sports a martial flavor. The stone gates ushering visitors into the square from the north side memorialize the American militia killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill. It was dedicated on June 17, 1889 joining a Civil War Soldier's Monument designed by Martin Milmore that had stood here since 1872.

TURN LEFT AND WALK DOWN WINTHROP STREET TO WARREN STREET. TURN RIGHT.

23. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
55 Warren Street

From his Brooklyn office Irish-born architect Patrick Charles Keely designed over 600 buildings for the Catholic church in the 19th century, including every cathedral in New England for decades. This was one of his last churches, designed in his favored Gothic Revival style in 1887; it was replacing an 1820s model. Fashioned from quarry-faced granite and trimmed in red brick, the church was dedicated in 1892. It is located on the site of the first thatched house in the area that was patched together in 1625.

24. Wiley House
59 Warren Street

This eclectic 1871 Victorian town house was created in three acts for local master mason Robert R. Wiley. You can look up and see influences from across the spectrum of 19th century American architecture from the bowfronts of Charles Finch to the oriel window of the Victorian age.

TURN RIGHT ON PLEASANT STREET.

25. 23 Pleasant Street

A splash of the vernacular wooden houses of the 1700s remains on Charlestown streets, this one with a gambrel-roof.

CONTINUE ON PLEASANT STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT BUNKER HILL MONUMENT.

A Walking Tour of Boston - Fenway

from walkthetown.com

As quickly as the Back Bay developed in the 1870s, another problem festered. A mill company's dam's basin became an increasingly noxious open sewer, particularly at low tide. Even then, pollution was a problem, and Bostonians demanded a solution. Enter Frederick Law Olmsted, the co-creator of New York's Central Park and father of American landscape architecture. He proposed to flush out the stagnant waterway and add naturalistic plantings to emulate the original tide marsh ecology of the Fenway area.

Today we find in the Fens different charms from the ones Olmsted created. The 1910 damming of the Charles River changed the water here from brackish to fresh, rendering his plantings unsupportable. Only two of the original "strong but unobtrusive" bridges, the parks general boundaries and some early trees remain of Olmsted's design.

The Fens continues to be much loved and utilized. Community gardens; the elegant Kellecher Rose Garden; World War II, Korean and Vietnam War memorial; busy ball fields; and the unusual range of bird species are major attractions. The design of the Fens today mostly reflects the work of landscape architect Arthur Shurtleff. He added the Rose Garden, turned the focus to the Museum of Fine Arts on the east side of the park, and yielded the more formal landscape style popular in the 1920s and 1930s.

Our walking tour will explore the park and surrounding neighborhood, roughly east to Huntington Avenue and Northeastern University, north to I-90 and west to Fenway Park...


Kenmore
Metcalf Science Center
Beacon St
Massachusetts Turnpike
Massachusetts Turnpike
Ipswich St
Tequila Rain
Lansdowne St
Yawkey
Fenway Plaza
Overland St
Burlington Ave
Fullerton St
Brookline Ave
Fenway Park
Van Ness St
Yawkey Way
Van Ness St
Ipswich St
Boylston St
Boylston St
Boylston St
Path G
Mothers Rest
Boylston Section
Compost Area 3
Emerald Necklace
Fenway Victory Gardens
Path P
Hemenway St
Fenway
Kilmarnock St
Jersey St
Agassiz Rd
Kennedy Hall
Symphony R
Back Bay Fens
Back Bay Fens
Smith Hall
Church
Kilmarnock St
James P. Kelleher Rose Garden
Melvin Hall
Cushing Hall
Emerald Necklace
Hemenway St
Park Dr
Park Dr
Fenway
Fenway
Fenway
Fenway
Levine
Speare Hall
Northeastern University
Back Bay Fens
Forsyth St
Forsythe Way
MFA Promenade
White Hall
Huntington Ave
Blackfan St
Avenue Louis Pasteur
Emerald Necklace
Museum of Fine Arts
Cabot Educati
Simmons College
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Museum Rd
Louis Prang St
Forsyth Bldg
Power Plant

1. Westland Gate
Back Bay Fens at Westland Road

Frederick Law Olmsted pictured the entrance to the Back Bay Fens as a sweeping natural gateway but it did not work out that way when the entrance was shifted to Westland Road in 1905. Guy Lowell, who designed the Museum of Fine Arts, contributed the Westland Gate to the park. The fountain was a gift from Ellen Cheney Johnson, an influential American prison reformer, who gave it as a remembrance to her husband Jesse. Each of the square pillars flanking the street is guarded by a pride of bronze lions near its base. The Beaux Arts-style Boston Fire Department alarm center dates to 1927.

WALK SOUTH ON THE FENWAY.

2. Students House/Kerr Hall
96 the Fenway

Today many more women than men attend college but a hundred years ago women students were such a novelty that there were few Boston colleges that provided womens' residence halls. This facility was built in 1914 as dorm rooms for 85 women at the New England Conservatory of Music, constructed by the Emmanuel Church in the Back Bay that started Students House in 1902. Architects Walter Harrington Kilham and James Cleveland Hopkins, who became famous for early 20th century reform housing projects, provided the Georgian Revival design. Part of Northeastern University since 1972, Kerr Hall now serves as a residence hall and faculty club.

3. Forsyth Dental Infirmary
140 The Fenway

Brothers Thomas Alexander Forsyth and John Hamilton Forsyth started the Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children in 1914 to provide free care to children. It would become a model for preventative care centers for disadvantaged children around the world. The Neoclassical building was the work of Boston architect Edward T. P. Graham, who made his reputation designing Catholic churches; sculptor Roger N. Burnham created the bronze relief doors. The Forsyth Institute stayed here for a century before moving to Cambridge in 2010.

4. Stone Field Houses
Back Bay Fens

These fieldstone buildings were added to the park date to 1928.

5. Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Avenue

This is the rear of one of the world's finest museums,The Museum of Fine Arts (the tour will reach the front after one more stop). Founded in 1870 and opened in 1876 with a large portion of its collection taken from the Boston Athenaeum Art Gallery, it has grown one of the largest museums in the United States attracting over one million visitors a year. It contains over 450,000 works of art. This wing opened in 1915 and houses painting galleries.

6. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
280 The Fenway

A plain exterior to this 1902 mansion belies the Venetian treasures inside. Architect Willard Thomas Sears, who had been designing important Boston buildings since 1861, drew up plans for Fenway Court in the image of a 15th century Venetian palace to hold the art of Isabella Stewart Gardner who first welcomed visitors to her museum on New Year's Day, 1903. On that evening guests listened to the music of Bach, Mozart, and Schumann, sipped champagne and noshed on doughnuts while viewing one of the nation's finest collections of art. The Gardner Museum has remained essentially unchanged since its founder's death in 1924.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON THE FENWAY TO MUSEUM ROAD AND TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON HUNTINGTON AVENUE.

7. Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Avenue

America's fifth most-visited museum got underway in 1876 on Copley Square. Guy Lowell, whose architectural talents included landscapes as well as monumental classical buildings like this one, designed the current museum building that was raised in stages as money became available. The main museum, with a 500-foot Ionic facade and a grand rotunda, opened along Boston's "Avenue of the Arts" in 1909. Addition wings, including the West Wing by modern architectural maestro I.M. Pei, have opened in the century since.

8. Site of first World Series game
360 Huntington Avenue

On October 1, 1903, The Boston Americans and the Pittsburgh Pirates played the first World Series game on this site at the Huntington Avenue Grounds. Pittsburgh won, 7-3 before more than 16,000 fans, but Boston eventually won the series, 5 games to 3, with the final victory coming at the Grounds on October 13. The playing field was built on a former circus lot and was fairly large by modern standards-530 feet to center field, later expanded to 635 feet in 1908. It had many quirks not seen in modern baseball stadiums, including patches of sand in the outfield where grass would not grow, and a tool shed in deep center field that was actually in play. The Huntington Avenue Grounds were demolished in 1912 and the Boston American League club moved to Fenway Park. Now owned by Northeastern University, a statue of Cy Young, who pitched the first perfect game in modern baseball history in the Huntington Avenue Grounds, was erected on the spot of the original home plate in 1993.

9. New England Conservatory of Music
290 Huntington Avenue

The oldest independent school of music in the United States, the New England Conservatory was founded in 1867 by Eben Tourjee, who had been working towards the goal for 14 years. the first classes were held in rented rooms above the Music Hall on Tremont Street. Money for the main performance hall came from the family of Eben Dyer Jordan, whose dry goods emporium Jordan Marsh operated in town for more than 150 years. Opened in 1903, Jordan Hall was modeled by architect Edmund Wheelwright after the palaces of the Italian Renaissance, where courtyards often served as performance spaces. Today the Conservatory is the only music school in the United States to be recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

10. Boston University Theater
264 Huntington Avenue

This Georgian Revival playhouse was constructed in 1923 as America's first tax-exempt theater. J. Williams Beal & Sons provided the design, the sons carrying on for their recently deceased father. Opening night was November 10, 1925 with a production of Irish playwright and poet Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Rivals*. The five-act comedy of errors was Sheridan's first play, performed for the first time 150 years earlier.

11. Symphony Hall
southwest corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Huntington Avenue

When the celebrated New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White won the commission for Symphony Hall in 1898 they retained Wallace Clement Sabine, an assistant professor of physics at Harvard as an acoustical consultant. Symphony Hall thus became the first stage designed in accordance with scientifically derived acoustical principles. Relatively long, high and narrow, the Hall was modeled on the second Gewandhaus concert hall in Leipzig, Germany, which was later destroyed in World War II. Designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1999, Symphony Hall, home to the fabled Boston Pops, remains, acoustically, among the top three concert halls in the world and is considered the finest in the United States.

TURN LEFT ON MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE.

12. Horticultural Hall
300 Massachusetts Avenue

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, founded in 1829, is the oldest, formally organized plant-based institution in the United States. It has built and occupied a series of halls, including its first on School Street (1845), the second on Tremont Street (1864), this third hall (1901), and its current home at the Elm Bank Horticulture Center, located on the town lines of Wellesley and Dover (2001). Edmund M. Wheelwright, one of the founders of the *Harvard Lampoon* who went on to become one of New England's most accomplished Victorian architects, tapped the English Renaissance for Horticultural Hall and decorated the facade with oversized garlands and wreaths set among the Ionic-capped brick pilasters.

13. Christian Science Plaza
210 Massachusetts Avenue

The first issue of the *Christian Science Monitor* was printed on November 25, 1908. Mary Baker Eddy, the 86-year old founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist, had decided to start a newspaper based on a fair and balanced reporting of the news. After one hundred years in Christian Science Plaza the Monitor suspended daily print operations to carry on as a web-based publication. The 14-acre site also contains the Original Mother Church that was built in 1894. The Romanesque Revival building uses granite hauled down from Eddy's home state of New Hampshire. Inside, the organ is one of the largest in the world with eight divisions a total of 13,290 pipes; it is the handiwork of local firm Aeolian-Skinner Company.

TURN LEFT ON MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE OPPOSITE CLEARWAY STREET AND WALK THROUGH THE PASSAGEWAY TO EDGERLY ROAD AND PICK UP NORWAY STREET.

14. New Riding Club
52 Hemenway Street, southeast corner of Norway Street

This Tudor Revival Building from Willard Thomas Sears in 1891 was spawned by the bridle paths in the Back Bay Fens. The horses have disappeared from the park but the stylish stables, fashioned with brick, stucco and wood remain.The Badminton and Tennis Club moved here in 1934 and put up tennis courts in the riding rink and fifty years later the last stables were converted into apartments.

TURN RIGHT ON HEMENWAY STREET. TURN LEFT ON BOYLSTON STREET.

15. St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine
1101 Boylston Street

The history of St. Clement begins on December 8, 1935 with the dedication of this former Universalist Church. The Second Universalist Society of Boston, with roots back to 1817, bought the property in 1922 and constructed this Gothic Revival church on plans by architect Arthur F. Gray.

16. Berklee College of Music
1140 Boylston Street

Lawrence Berk, an engineer trained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and veteran arranger with the CBS and NBC radio orchestras, founded the Berklee College of Music in 1945 on the revolutionary principle that the best way to prepare students for careers in music is through the study and practice of contemporary music. Duke Ellington was awarded the college's first honorary doctorate in 1971. Prominent alumni include Quincy Jones, Donald Fagen of Steely Dan, Patty Larkin, Aimee Mann, John Mayer and Alf Clausen (*Simpsons* theme). The school moved into its current administration building in the 1960s, an exuberant design by prominent Boston architect Arthur Bowditch in 1901. In 1903 it opened its doors as the Carlton Hotel, said to be a replica of the fashionable Carlton Hotel in London, run by the Swiss hotelier César Ritz.

17. Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street

America's oldest historical society was founded on January 24, 1791, by Reverend Jeremy Belknap to collect, preserve, and document items of American history. He and the nine other founding members donated family papers, books, and artifacts to the Society to form its initial collection. The organization's current home is a dignified Georgian Revival double bowfront of brick and stone designed by Edmund March Wheelwright in 1899.

TURN RIGHT ON CHARLESGATE STREET TO IPSWICH STREET.

18. Fenway Studios
30 Ipswich Street

Fenway Studios is one of a few buildings in the United States designed from artists' specifcations that is still in use by artists today and is honored as a National Historic Landmark. The studios were born of necessity after a fire in 1904 swept through Harcourt Studios that cost many artists their studios. Architects J. Harleston Parker and Douglas H. Thomas created Fenway Studios with abundant north light for all 46 studios, crafted with clinker brick in the Arts and Crafts style.

WALK WEST ON IPSWICH STREET.

19. Fenway Park
Yawkey Way and Van Ness Street

Fenway Park opened in 1912, then the largest ballpark in the major leagues. As it celebrates its centennial only Fenway Park and Chicago's Wrigley Field remain from America's "Golden Age" of baseball parks. Now the smallest of major league parks, Fenway's intimate setting and proximity of seats to the playing field are cherished by fans who have packed the park for almost 800 consecutive sell-outs, the longest such streak in American sports history. Among the great Red Sox who played here are Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, and Carl Yastrzemski. Fenway Park has hosted seven Red Sox World Series, including World Championships in 1912, 1918 2004 and 2007. It was also the host site for the "Miracle" 1914 Boston Braves' World Series victory.

FROM THE INTERSECTION OF YAWKEY WAY AND VAN NESS STREET, WALK DOWN VAN NESS ALONG THE BALLPARK. TURN RIGHT ON IPSWICH STREET. TURN LEFT ON BOYLSTON STREET AND RETURN TO BACK BAY FENS.

20. Fenway Victory Gardens
Back Bay Fens

The Fenway Victory Gardens, officially the Richard D. Parker Memorial Victory Gardens, represent the nation's last remaining of the original victory gardens created nationwide during World War II. At that time, demands for food exports to the nation's armed forces in Europe and the Pacific caused rationing and shortages for those back home in the States. In response, President Roosevelt called for Americans to grow more vegetables. The City of Boston established 49 areas (including the Boston Common and the Public Gardens) as "victory gardens" for citizens to grow vegetables and herbs. The gardens carry the name of Richard D. Parker, a member of the original garden organizing committee, who gardened here until his death in 1975.

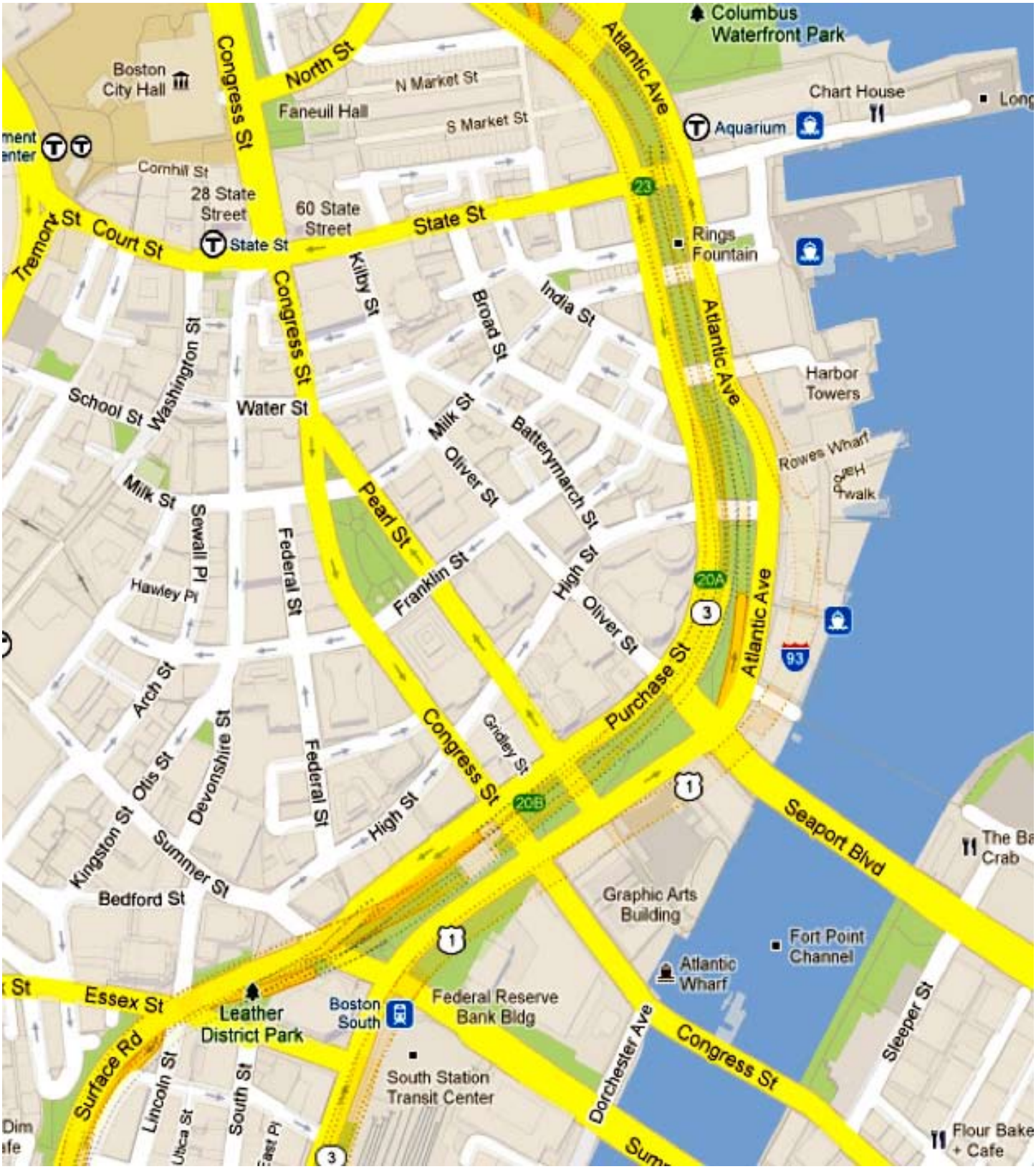
WALK SOUTH THROUGH THE PARK OR ALONG PARK DRIVE TO AGGASIZ ROAD. TURN LEFT AND RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT THE FENWAY AND WESTLAND AVENUE.

A Walking Tour of Boston - Financial District

from walkthetown.com

Like most areas within Boston, the Financial District has no official definition. It is roughly bounded by Atlantic Avenue, State Street, and Devonshire Street. For most of the 17th and 18th centuries this part of Boston was part of the Atlantic Ocean. As the land was filled in a complex pattern of streets emerged that created a number of squares that were usually triangular in shape. Odd-shaped buildings evolved to fill the unusual spaces.

During the 1800s banks came to dominate State Street. The Financial District came to house the headquarters of mutual fund companies, the Boston Stock Exchange, accounting firms, law offices and brokerages. This walking tour will begin at the center of commerce in Boston as far back as 1740, Faneuil Hall...


Columbus Waterfront Park
Boston City Hall
Congress St
North St
N Market St
Faneuil Hall
S Market St
Atlantic Ave
Aquarium
Chart House
Cornhill St
28 State Street
60 State Street
State St
Tremont St
Court St
Rings Fountain
Kilby St
Broad St
India St
Harbor Towers
School St
Washington St
Water St
Milk St
Batterymarch St
Oliver St
Rowes Wharf
Harbor Walk
Pearl St
Sewall Pl
Federal St
Franklin St
High St
Hawley Pl
Arch St
Purchase St
Devonshire St
Gridley St
Otis St
Kingston St
Summer St
Bedford St
Seaport Blvd
Graphic Arts Building
Fort Point Channel
Atlantic Wharf
Essex St
Leather District Park
Boston South
Federal Reserve Bank Bldg
Surface Rd
Lincoln St
South St
South Station Transit Center
Dorchester Ave
Sleeper St
The Ba Crab
Flour Bake + Cafe

1. Faneuil Hall
Congress Street at North Street

In 1740 wealthy merchant Peter Faneuil offered to build the town's first public market but the acceptance of the gift was not a slam dunk. Pushcart vendors were used to peddling their wares through the streets on their own time and terms and were none too happy with the proposal. When the new market was put to a vote it squeezed into existence with 367 yeas and 360 opposed. Faneuil's new market was constructed on landfill by the water's edge and opened in 1742. The benefactor did not bask long in the achievemnt however; Peter Faneuil died six months later of dropsy at the age of 42.

The market burned in 1762 but was quickly rebuilt, including the gilded grasshopper weathervane on its top. Soon the shouts of rebellion were echoing through the stalls and Samuel Adams dubbed the market the "Cradle of Liberty" so dubbed by Adams in between cries of "no taxation without representation." The weathervane was used as a way to ferret out spies during the Revolution - if you were the least bit suspicious walking the streets of Boston in 1774-75 you had better have known what was on top of Faneuil Hall. By 1805 Faneuil Hall was no longer large enough to serve the city. The renowned Charles Bulfinch, who by then had already completed the new State House, was chosen to expand the hall. It is that building that today, with the exception of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, is the most historic building in America.

CROSS NORTH STREET ONTO UNION STREET.

2. Union Oyster House
41-43 Union Street

Opened to diners in 1826, the Union Oyster House is considered the oldest restaurant in the United States. The building itself is more than 300 years old, constructed prior to 1714, most probably in 1704. Before it started serving up victuals, Hopestill Capen's dress goods business occupied the premises. The toothpick was introduced to America at the Union Oyster House.

Charles Forster of Maine imported the picks from South America and hired Harvard students to eat at the Union Oyster House and conspicuously request the little wooden teeth cleaners in front of other diners. This was a favorite haunt of the Kennedys; Booth #18 in the upstairs dining room was a favorite of John Kennedy and has been dedicated in his memory. America's first waitress, Rose Carey, worked here starting in the early 1920s. Her picture is on the wall on the stairway up to the 2nd floor.

TURN RIGHT ON MARSHALL STREET.

3. Ebenezer Hancock House
10 Marshall Street

The Ebenezer Hancock House, built in 1767, is the only remaining house in Boston associated with John Hancock. He owned the house but it was lived in by his brother Ebenezer, who was Deputy Postmaster General of the Continental Army. Ebenezer Hancock, however, left the house many years before his death in 1819, and by the year 1789 it had become the property of Ebenezer Frothingham, a china and glass merchant, who had his store in the first story. In 1798, Benjamin Fuller, a shoe dealer, also had a shop in the building, and he in turn was followed about the year 1821 by William H. Learnard, who continued the shoe business here until his death in 1886. In fact the country's oldest continuously run shoe store occupied the building's first floor until 1963. This is one of the few downtown residences surviving from the late 18th century; John Hancock's house was located next to the State House, and was torn down in 1863.

RETURN TO FANEUIL HALL.

4. Quincy Market
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, between Clinton and Chatham streets

Mayor Josiah Quincy envisioned an extension to the Faneuil Hall markets in 1824 and the massive granite market house he built cost $150,000, making it the largest single building project Boston had ever seen to that point. Alexander Parris contributed the stately Greek Revival building design.

The makeover of Quincy Market in the 1970s set the standard for similar urban marketplaces across America. The market today features three long buildings that function much the way they did when they were built, with individual merchants lined up in stalls. In front of Faneuil Hall a statue stands of Samuel Adams, "the organizer of the Revolution." On one of the Quincy Market benches sits a likeness of legendary Boston Celtics basketball coach, Red Auerbach.

WALK OUT TO CONGRESS STREET AND TURN LEFT. TURN LEFT ON STATE STREET.

5. Stock Exchange Building and Exchange Place
53 State Street

This was the water's edge in colonial days and the historic Bunch of Grapes Tavern stood here. It was a favorite watering hole of Revolutionary patriots, reputed to serve the best bowl of punch in Boston. The first Masonic lodge in the country was formed at the tavern in 1733. In 1891 Boston architects Robert Swain Peabody and John Goddard Stearns, Jr., two of the Gilded Age's most admired designers, built the Boston Exchange Building, crafting the main floor as a replica of the old counting house that had long stood here. In the 1980s developers began lobbying to replace the Exchange Building with a hulking new tower; they were mostly successful but preservationists intervened to save only a 60-foot L-shaped portion of the pink granite facade facing State and Kirby streets.

6. Richards Building
114 State Street

Cast iron enjoyed a brief flurry of popularity as a building material in the mid-1800s. It was easy to form into ornate facades, quick to assemble and inexpensive. Boston had its share but this one of the few iron-front souvenirs from that time. The first five floors were cast in Italy and bolted together after they reached Boston.

7. Cunard Building
126 State Street

Samuel Cunard, a Nova Scotian who was awarded the first British transatlantic steamship mail contract in 1839 and on July 4, 1840 he launched service with a route from Boston to Liverpool, England. Cunard Line would grow into the largest Atlantic passenger line in the world. Robert Swain Peabody and John Goddard Stearns, Jr. used nautical themes for this headquarters building in 1901; bronze anchors support the lighting brackets at the entrance and heads of Neptune grace the facade.

8. Custom House
State Street at India Street

When the Custom House was completed in 1847 it stood at water's edge, ready to greet incoming cargo ships. The Royal Commissioners of Customs began collecting duty in Boston back in the 1670s and one of the first acts of the first United States Congress in 1789 was to establish a Customs Service. New Hampshire-born Ammi Burnham Young, who would a decade later be appointed the first Supervising Architect of the Treasury, won a design contest to build this new temple of commerce in 1837. Construction, that included four faces of fluted Doric columns of granite, each weighing 42 tons, took ten years. Although Boston had a 125-foot height restriction, the federally owned Custom House was not subject to city law and in 1913 the dome was sacrificed for a 16-story tower that became the city's first - and most unwelcome - skyscraper. When installed in 1916, the 4-sided marble and bronze clock was the largest in the U.S.

TURN RIGHT AT INDIA STREET.

9. Central Wharf Buildings
146-176 Milk Street at India Street

Central Wharf was built to the designs of Charles Bulfinch in 1816-1817. There were originally 54 buildings that paraded down the wharf to where the Aquarium stands today; only eight of the original Federal-style buildings are left to reach their 200th anniversary.

10. Boston Chamber of Commerce/Grain Exchange Building
177 Milk Street

George Foster Shepley, Charles Hercules Rutan, and Charles Allerton Coolidge were the architects who carried on the work of in the shop of Henry Hobson Richardson after the most influential American designer of the post-Civil War era died at the age of 47 in 1886. Here they employed Milford granite to apply their mentor's interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style. You can look up to see such hallmarks as a profusion of dormers, rough-faced stone, a conical roof and bold arches.

TURN RIGHT ON MILK STREET. TURN LEFT ON BROAD STREET.

11. Architects Building
52 Broad Street, corner of Milk Street

This warehouse composed of rusticated rough-faced gray granite was one of the few buildings not to fall in Boston's Great Fire of 1872. Boston architect Charles Edward Parker designed the storage

space in 1853, giving it a French Second Empire-influenced mansard roof. In 1988 the Boston Society of Architects settled into the five-story building and insured the existence of one of the town's rare 19th-century downtown buildings.

12. 72 Broad Street/80 Broad Street

Boston-born Charles Bulfinch is usually regarded as the first native-born American to call himself an architect on his business card and was certainly the most influential architect in New England with three state capitols to his credit. Bulfinch also wore the hats of urban planner, chief of police, and head of the Board of Selectmen. At one time Broad Street was lined with red brick Bulfinch-designed warehouses; these are two that survive.

13. Batterymarch Building
89 Broad Street

The Batterymarch Building was the tallest building in Boston when it opened in 1928. Architect Harold Field Kellogg used 30 different colors of brick to fashion this Art Deco building, lightening as the floors rise. Although Kellogg decorated his creation with public utility motifs relating to transportation and power generation the building takes its name from a path trod by Colonial troops in the defense of Boston.

14. Broadluxe
99-105 Broad Street

This nine-story mixed-use structure used a standard 19th century commercial building as its core. Look up to see pronounced string courses deliniating the stories that step up to a bracketed cornice.

TURN RIGHT ON SURFACE ROAD. TURN RIGHT ON HIGH STREET.

15. Chadwick Lead Works
184 High Street

Manufacturing lead shot in Colonial times was about as low tech as an industry could get - climb into a tower, drop molten lead and watch as it forms shot as it falls. That is what the the square brick tower was used for here. Joseph H. Chadwick toiled in a lead works as a kid and grew up to start his own company in 1862 when he was 35 years old, specializing in his Diamond Brand white lead. Architect William Preston tapped the richly decorated Romanesque Revival building in 1887 which served the iron works until 1901 when it merged with the Boston Lead Company and moved.

16. United Shoe Machinery Building
High Street at 138-164 Federal Street

Boston lifted its 125-foot height restriction in 1928 to allow taller buildings, provided they stepped back in a fashion to allow sun to reach the street. The result was towers like this trapezoidal Art Deco skyscraper from J. Harleston Parker, Douglas H. Thomas, Jr., and Arthur W. Rice in 1930. The mass of the building rises from a base of limestone and granite into upper setbacks that dwindle in size to a central tower capped by a truncated pyramid of tile. The client was the United Shoe Machinery Corporation that at one time had a stranglehold on 90% of the cobbling equipment made in America. You can still look up and see designs of the shoe trade incorporated into the building.

TURN RIGHT ON SUMMER STREET. TURN LEFT ON BEDFORD STREET.

17. Bedford Block
99 Bedford Street

This is what a shoe store looked like in the 1870s. After the Great Fire of 1872 Henry and Francis Lee hired celebrated Victorian architects Charles Amos Cummings and Willard T. Sears to rebuild this retail shoe center. Cummings was a major cheerleader for the ornate Venetian Gothic style that was championed by English art critic John Ruskin and named for him. The most eye-catching hallmark of the style is its use of alternating bands and blocks of colorful stone, executed here with red granite from New Brunswick, Canada, white marble from Long Island, New York and terra-cotta tile manufactured in Philadelphia. A restoration in 1983 has left the Bedford Block looking as good as it did in the 1870s.

RETURN TO SUMMER STREET AND TURN LEFT. TURN RIGHT ON DEVONSHIRE STREET.

18. New England Press Building
off Franklin Street at One Winthrop Square

Winthrop Square was a center of dry goods merchandising in the 1800s. The Great Fire of Boston in 1872 started behind the Beebe store on Summer and Otis streets. Carl Fehmer, Ralph Waldo Emerson's nephew, outfitted this granite newspaper building with corner pavilions that dwarf the classically-flavored central entrance.

19. Wigglesworth Building
89-93 Franklin Street at Winthrop Square

This was the first major commission for the architectural team of were Nathaniel Jeremiah Bradlee, Walter Thacher Winslow and George Homans Wetherell, raised in 1873 in the aftermath of the Great Fire of 1872. The distinctive undulations are the result of the commercial building following the curves in the old downtown street grid and are emphasized by horizontal elements like stringcourses.

TURN RIGHT ON FRANKLIN STREET.

20. State Street Trust Building
Franklin Street at 75 Federal Street

Thomas M. James slipped a stepping-back Art Deco tower into the cramped streetscape here in 1929. In the 1980s when the Boston Redevelopment Authority permitted the elimination of

narrow downtown streets three crenellated shafts were tacked onto the first eleven floors.

RETURN TO DEVONSHIRE STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

21. International Trust Company Building
45 Milk Street, at the corner of Milk Street

At 7:20 p.m. on November 9, 1872 fire broke out in a basement of a commercial warehouse at 83-87 Summer Street. Before the conflagration could be contained 12 hours later it had consumed about 65 acres and 776 buildings in downtown Boston. Much of the financial district lay in ruins; the $60 million in damage is one of America's costliest urban disasters. The fire stopped here but melted the iron building on this site. This Beaux-Arts tower from the pen of prolific architect William G. Preston replaced it in 1893.

TURN RIGHT ON MILK STREET. TURN LEFT ON CONGRESS STREET.

22. John W. McCormack U.S. Post Office and Courthouse
Congress Street at Angell Memorial Park

When the federal government went on a 1930s building spree fueled with Depression Era stimulus funds its favored architectural style was the stripped-down classicism of Art Deco. This Gothic-flavored epic from Ralph Adams Cram is a master of the form. The emphasis is on verticality, seen on the facades executed in New England granites rather than less costly Indiana limestone, despite the hard times. The federal building was finished in 1933 and given the name of John M. McCormack, a one-time Speaker of the House from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in 1972.

CONTINUE ON CONGRESS STREET BACK TO FANEUIL HALL AND THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

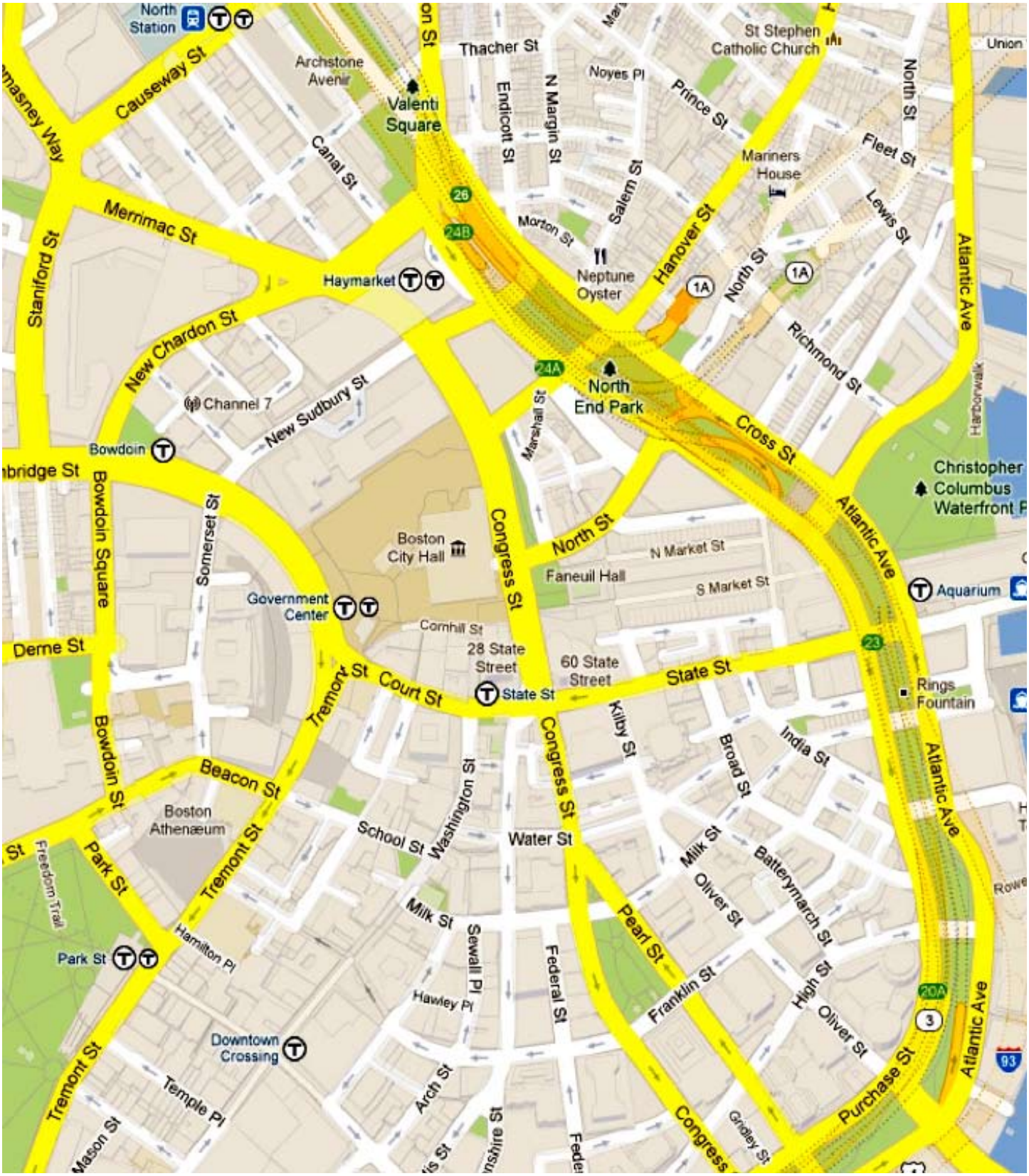
A Walking Tour of Boston - Government District

from walkthetown.com

For more than 300 years the government of Boston has clustered in the area to the northeast of Boston Common. The first town hall was here, the first public school, the first burial...and so on. Where a colonial landmark has survived it often appears like a first-grader playing on the high school basketball team but these historic buildings manage to hold their own on the modern streetscape with the strength of their character.

This land all belonged to the first white European who settled here in 1622, William Blackstone. The Puritans set up their first hovels in 1630 across the river in Charlestown but quickly resettled here due to presence of a critical natural spring to provide drinking water.

The American Indians called the place “Shawmut” meaning “living waters” but the new arrivals named it Boston after a town back in England. This walking tour will begin in that northeast corner of the Boston Common to see what those settlers created...


North Station
Causeway St
Archstone Avenir
Valenti Square
Thacher St
Endicott St
N Margin St
Noyes Pl
St Stephen Catholic Church
Union
Prince St
North St
Fleet St
Canal St
Mariners House
Lewis St
Merrimac St
Staniford St
Salem St
Hanover St
Atlantic Ave
Haymarket
Morton St
Neptune Oyster
New Chardon St
Richmond St
Channel 7
New Sudbury St
North End Park
Marshall St
Cross St
Harborwalk
Bowdoin
Christopher Columbus Waterfront P
Bowdoin Square
Somerset St
Boston City Hall
Congress St
North St
N Market St
Faneuil Hall
S Market St
Aquarium
Government Center
Cornhill St
Derne St
28 State Street
60 State Street
State St
Court St
Tremont St
Rings Fountain
Kilby St
Broad St
India St
Beacon St
Boston Athenæum
School St
Washington St
Water St
Milk St
Oliver St
Batterymarch St
Park St
Freedom Trail
Hamilton Pl
Sewall Pl
Federal St
Pearl St
Franklin St
High St
Hawley Pl
Downtown Crossing
Arch St
Purchase St
Temple Pl
Mason St
Gridley St

1. Boston Common
bounded by Beacon, Charles, Boylston, Tremont and Park streets

Boston Common is the oldest public park in the country, created in 1634 as a "cow pasture and training field" for common use. Cattle grazed here for 200 years, and the odd bull could look up every now and then to see the occasional public hanging that took place in the Common. The park is about 50 acres in size and is the anchor for the Emerald Necklace, the system of connected parks that visit many of Boston's neighborhoods.

LEAVE THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BOSTON COMMON AT THE INTERSECTION OF PARK STREET AND TREMONT STREET AND WALK NORTH ON TREMONT STREET.

2. Park Street Church
1 Park Street, at the northwest corner of Park and Tremont streets

Beginning in 1738 a large wooden storehouse designed to hold 12,000 bushels of grain as a precaution against crop failures occupied this lot. The old granary and its adjacent workhouse were razed to make way for this Christopher Wren-inspired church designed by English architect Peter Banner in 1810. The steeple/clock tower soars 217 feet above the street but even up there you could hear the fiery zeal of its Congregational preachers that earned the church the nickname of "Brimstone Corner." Abolition leader William Lloyd Garrison gave his first speech against slavery here and the patriotic song *America* was first sung in the Park Street Church.

WALK DOWN HAMILTON PLACE, THE ALLEY ACROSS FROM PARK STREET CHURCH.

3. Old Music Hall/Opheum Theatre
end of Hamilton Place

Boston University's college of music, the Handel and Haydn Society and the Boston Symphony Orchestra all got their start in the Old Music Hall, erected in 1852. In 1915 the building was extensively worked over and transformed into the city's first cinema with a seating capacity of 2,000.

RETURN TO TREMONT STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

4. Old Granary Burial Ground
Tremont Street

The first burial here took place here in 1660 when the ground was part of the Boston Common. The tree-shaded sanctuary became the final resting place for many a Colonial rabble-rouser. Behind the Egyptian-style granite gateway rest Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere, Peter Faneuil, Robert Treat Paine, Benjamin Franklin's parents and the five victims of the Boston Massacre. It is only the third oldest graveyard in town but takes a backseat to none in importance.

5. Tremont Temple
76 Tremont Street

This was the site of Boston's second theater, opened in 1827. Jenny Lind, the "Swedish nightingale," performed here during her celebrated singing tour of America. The current office and church complex, covered in diamond-patterned stonework, carries a reminder of that temple at the top of its facade.

6. Parker House
60 School Street, southeast corner of Tremont Street

Harvey D. Parker built the first guest house here in 1855 and eventually spread to five buildings. In 1926 when the Parker family sold the property those ancestral structures were all torn down and replaced with the current hotel. The kitchen at the Parker House has invented such iconic delicacies as the Massachusetts state dessert, Boston Cream Pie, and Parker House rolls. In addition to the luminaries that graced the hotel (John F. Kennedy held his bachelor party hear after he proposed to Jacqueline Bouvier at Table #40 in Parker's Restaurant), famous employees found work in the back rooms - Ho Chi Minh worked in the kitchen and Malcolm X was a busboy.

7. King's Chapel
58 Tremont Street

In the late 1600s, King James II ordered an Anglican church to be built in Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Puritans who fled England to escape the church of England, were none too happy about the edict and the governor was forced to appropriate a portion of the city's oldest burial ground to erect a small wooden place of worship. Work on the current Georgian-style church of dark Quincy granite started in 1749 on plans drawn by Peter Harrison, an architect from Newport, Rhode Island. The Corinthian columns inside were each carved from a single tree; the exterior wooded columns are painted to resemble stone. The adjoining graveyard features bodies interred in 1630, months after Boston was settled. Although not studded with the graves of as many famous patriots as other city burial grounds, William Dawes, who rode with Paul Revere, John Winthrop, the first governor of Massachusetts, and Mary Chilton, the first Pilgrim to touch Plymouth Rock, were all laid to rest here.

TURN RIGHT ON SCHOOL STREET.

8. *Benjamin Franklin* statue
Old City Hall courtyard

Boston native Benjamin Franklin's many achievements chronicled on bronze tablets here all took place somewhere else, yet he still rated the first commemorative statue erected in the city, executed in bronze by Richard Greenough. Nearby is a mosaic marking the location of America's first public school, the Boston Latin School that opened its doors in 1635. Franklin attended classes there as did Cotton Mather and Samuel Adams. Josiah Quincy, Boston's second mayor, stands across the courtyard.

9. Old City Hall
45 School Street

The Boston government and 32 mayors spent more than 100 years in this building, from 1865 until 1969. French-trained architect Arthur Gillman contributed the exuberant Second Empire-style design, highlighted by a substantial lantern dome, and Gridley James Fox Bryant, a master of granite, executed the building in white Concord stone. Its government service ended, Old City Hall now hosts corporate and civic offices, and, naturally, a French restaurant.

TURN AROUND AND CROSS TREMONT STREET AS SCHOOL STREET BECOMES BEACON STREET. TURN RIGHT ON SOMERSET STREET.

10. John Adams Courthouse
Pemberton Square

This is not one of the myriad of historic Boston shrines associated with patriot and second United States President John Adams; the French Second Empire house of justice was birthed in 1893 as the Suffolk County Courthouse and didn't take on the John Adams name until 2002. George Asa Clough, Boston's first city architect, designed the block-swallowing structure.

TURN RIGHT ON CAMBRIDGE STREET AND CROSS ONTO CITY HALL PLAZA.

11. Boston City Hall
City Hall Plaza

In the 1960s Boston City Hall popularized the harsh New Brutalist style for government buildings which uses casts hulking forms of concrete, which is left rough-faced The building won awards and made the reputation of architects Gerhardt Kallman, Noel McKinnell and Edward Knowles but not the hearts of Bostonians. Recently city officials have proposed selling the land and moving the government.

TURN LEFT ON COURT STREET.

12. Ames Building
1 Court Street

This is the second tallest masonry building in the world with load-bearing walls, which are nine-foot thick at the base. It was the tallest office building in town when it was completed in 1889, although several church steeples soared higher. The architects were George Foster Shepley, Charles Hercules Rutan, and Charles Allerton Coolidge who filled the facade with bold Romanesque arches in the manner of their mentor Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential American designer of the post-Civil War era who died at the age of 47 in 1886 and whose work they carried on. The moneyman was Frederick Lothrop Ames, Jr., using proceeds from the family shovel business.

13. Old State House
State Street at Washington Street

This was the site of Boston's first marketplace, replaced with the city's grandest colonial building in 1713. In 1770 a dispute over a barber bill escalated into a riot in front of the State House and when it was over five men lay dead in the street, to be propagandized by anti-British agitators as the "Boston Massacre." On July 18, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was read publicly for the first time from the second floor balcony. The gilded lion and unicorn that adorn the landmark building are replicas; the originals were torn down and burned in 1776. A landmark the town of Boston was slow to appreciate - the government moved out of the Old State House in the 1830s and after a short stint as City Hall was slated to be torn down in 1880. After the city of Chicago attempted to purchase it as a tourist attraction, a group of insulted Boston citizens saved it.

WALK SOUTH ON WASHINGTON STREET.

14. Winthrop Building
276-278 Washington Street

This land was where Puritan Governor John Winthrop built his second house; hence the name when this early steel-frame skyscraper was raised two centuries later in 1893. The ancient bend in Spring Lane and Water Street dictated the gentle curving form of the Winthrop Building. Architects Clarence Howard Blackall and George F. Newton, who had a very brief coupling, injected their classical facade with egg-and-dart moldings.

15. Old Corner Bookstore
285 Washington Street, northwest corner of School Street

This was the site of a roomy home owned by William Hutchinson, whose wife Anne was banished from Boston in the 1630s for religious heresy, her sin being the preaching that God had revealed to her who among the colonists were pious and who were not. The Hutchinson home was destroyed by fire in 1711 and in 1718 an apothecary named Thomas Crease built this handsome house of rose brick under a spreading gambrel roof. The building later became the headquarters of the influential publishing firm of William Davis Ticknor and James Thomas Fields, evolving into Boston's literary center in the process. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Harriet Beecher Stowe all gathered here.

16. Old South Meeting House
310 Washington Street

Old South Church from 1729 was the town's largest meeting space, a place where disgruntled revolutionaries rallied before the Boston Tea Party and where the community commemorated The Boston Massacre. In 1776 the British gutted the brick church and put it to use as a stable. The steeple rises 183 feet above the street and the clock keeps time with the same mechanism that it was installed with in 1776. In 1869, the congregation planned to sell Old South to developers but local luminaries such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Julia Ward Howe, and Wendell Phillips raised their voices in protest and the church became the first building in the United States to be preserved as a piece of American history.

17. *Boston Post* Building
Washington Street off 17 Milk Street

This building occupies the site of Benjamin Franklin's birthplace, which stood until 1810 when it was destroyed by fire. This building was an early effort from Robert Swain Peabody and John Goddard Stearns, Jr. in 1874 on their way to becoming two of America's best Victorian-era architects. The history-savvy designers incorporated a bust of Franklin, made to resemble stone, into the elaborate cast-iron facade. The *Boston Post*, that was the most popular daily newspaper in New England for over a hundred years, took up residence in the building. The *Post* was founded in November 1831 by Boston businessmen Charles G. Greene and William Beals and published until 1956.

18. Boston *Transcript* Building
322-328 Washington Street

The *Transcript* was an evening paper founded in 1830 by Henry Dutton and James Wentworth, who were, at that time, the official state printers of Massachusetts. With the *Post* next door and several book publishers down the block this was Boston's equivalent of New York City's Newspaper Row or London's Fleet Street. The original *Transcript* building perished in the Great Fire of 1872 and this granite structure with mansard roof and decorative corner quoins replaced it the next year.

TURN RIGHT ON BROMFIELD STREET.

19. 20-30 Bromfield Street

The Great Fire of 1872 destroyed much of downtown Boston's building stock so these Boston Granite Style commercial buildings are a rarity. They date to 1848.

RETURN TO WASHINGTON STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

20. Filene's
426 Washington Street

William Filene began his journey to Boston retailing legend in 1881; this flagship opened on September 3, 1912. Daniel Burnham, one of the fathers of the modern skyscraper, was called in from Chicago to design the new department store and he took his Italian Renaissance creation right to the limit of the Boston height limit in effect at the time - 125 feet. An astounding 715,000 people visited the new store in its first week of operation - slightly more than the population of Boston at the time. Considered to be the first "off-price" store in the world, a subway station connected Filene's directly to the transit system. Such events as "The Running of the Brides" where women raced to tables of marked-down bridal gowns garnered world-wide attention for the store.

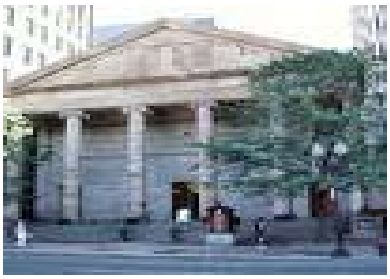
TURN RIGHT ON WINTER STREET. TURN LEFT ON WINTER PLACE.

21. Locke-Ober Cafe
3 Winter Place

In the mid-1800s Winter Place was a lane of attractive rowhouses. In 1875 Louis Ober opened a restaurant here, next door would be an eatery owned by Frank Locke. In 1901 Emil Camus took over management of both and fused the names and properties together by breaking through the adjoining wall. Camus, who ran it until 1939, is credited with establishing the classic Locke-Ober menu -- an American culinary document that showcased both native and international favorites like oyster stew, lobster Newburg, sweetbreads a la Financiere, Wiener schnitzel, Boston scrod and Indian pudding. In 1986 Locke-Ober was named to *Nation's Restaurant's* Fine Dining Hall of Fame, the second of 11 Boston-area restaurants (out of 220 nationwide) so honored.

RETURN TO WINTER STREET AND TURN LEFT.

22. Cathedral Church of St. Paul
138 Tremont Street near Winter Street



St. Paul's was founded in 1819, the third Episcopalian parish in town but the first founded by Americans. The Greek temple form selected by architects Alexander Parris and Solomon Willard for the meetinghouse was more often found on banks that churches. Two centuries later the Ionic portico of Potomac sandstone and gray granite looks much as it ever has.

CROSS THE STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN BOSTON COMMON.

A Walking Tour of Boston - North End

from walkthetown.com

North End is Boston's oldest residential community, where people have lived continuously since it was settled in the 1630s. Those people have given the North End its unique character, although a different one every generation or so.

The North End was home to some of Boston's wealthiest residents and later to the first community of black people created by freed and escaped slaves. In the early 19th century, the Irish began to migrate to the North End in huge numbers and dominated the neighborhood until approximately 1900.
The North End then became one of the centers of Jewish life in Boston; Hebrew inscriptions can still be found on several buildings. In the early 20th century, the North End became the center of the Italian community of Boston. It is still largely residential and well-known for its small, authentic Italian restaurants and for the first Italian cafe, Caffe Vittoria.
.
The construction of the elevated Central Artery (I-93) in the 1950s divided the North End from the rest of Boston. With the completion of the "Big Dig," the old elevated highway has been completely removed and the North End has re-joined the rest of the city.

This walking tour will begin at water's edge in the Wharf District on the North End...

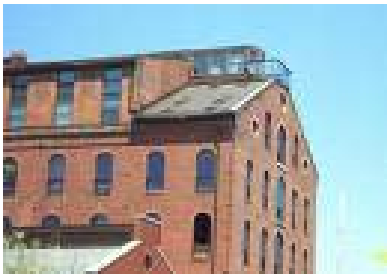

Washington St
Freedom Trail
Langone Park
Andrew P. Puopolo Junior Athletic Field
US Coast Guard Base Boston
Fairmont Battery Wharf
Commercial Street
Hull St
Charter St
Skinny House
Lovejoy Pl
Boston North Station
N Washington St
Endicott St
Prince St
Snow Hill St
Margaret St
The Old North Church
Hanover St
Battery St
Harborwalk
Burroughs Wharf
Callahan Tunnel
1A
Thacher St
St Stephen Catholic Church
Union Wharf
Archstone Avenir
Valenti Square
Noyes Pl
N Margin St
Prince St
North St
Canal St
Salem St
Mariners House
Fleet St
Pilot House Park
Lewis St
Morton St
Neptune Oyster
Haymarket
Richmond St
Atlantic Ave
Channel 7
New Sudbury St
North End Park
Cross St
Marshall St
Harborwalk
Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park
Congress St
North St
Boston City Hall
N Market St
Faneuil Hall
S Market St
Chart House
Aquarium
Government Center
Cornhill St
28 State Street
60 State Street
State St
Court St
State St
Rings Fountain

1. Union Wharf
323 Commercial Street

A piece of Union Wharf was built in the late 1700s but what you see now dates to merchant John L. Gardner's efforts in the 1830s. Most of the wharves on the Boston waterfront at that time were constructed the same way - timber cribs were filled with earth and rubble stone and granite blocks were piled up alongside the form a long-lasting seawall. Gardner sold his property to the Union Wharf Company in 1847, the same year the historic stone warehouse was constructed. The six buildings on the wharf have been condominiums since 1978.

WALK SOUTH ON COMMERCIAL STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF ATLANTIC AVENUE.

2. Pilot House
1-10 Atlantic Avenue



The Eastern Railroad, that began shuttling passengers up the North Shore to Portland, Maine in 1836, constructed this brick storehouse with roundtop windows during the Civil War. Passengers could catch the train at the depot on Commercial Street. After knocking heads with the Boston and Maine Railroad for a half-century the Eastern line was absorbed by its rival in 1884.

3. Lewis Wharf
28-32 Atlantic Avenue

Here is another 1830s commercial wharf, put together with 16-inch granite walls and massive pine beams by a covey of Boston businessmen. In the 1970s it became one of the first of the warehouses in the wharf district to have people living in it. Edgar Allen Poe is supposed to have based his Gothic classic, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, on events that took place in the Usher House, an actual home on this site. Legend has it that an elderly Mr. Usher trapped his cheating young wife and her seaman lover in their secret trysting place - an underground tunnel. Years later, during demolition of Usher House in 1800, their skeletal remains were found, still embracing each other.

4. Commercial Wharf
84 Atlantic Avenue

Isaiah Rogers became famous for designing the Tremont House in 1828, the country's first hotel with indoor plumbing. He later became a leader in the creation of monolithic granite buildings. This one, built in 1832, used Quincy granite both structurally and ornamentally with smooth stone lintels and stringcourses. The building is now in two parts, Atlantic Avenue having been gouged into being in 1868.

5. Christopher Columbus Park

The Boston waterfront was all about work - the first park didn't appear here for over 340 years until the American Bicentennial in 1976. The greenspace includes a statue of its namesake Genoan explorer, a performance area and a wisteria-draped trellis that traipses along one edge.

6. Gardner Building/Chart House
60 Long Wharf

The history of the four-story brick Gardner Building reaches back to the 1760s and is the last of the colonial brick warehouses standing on the waterfront; it once housed the offices of patriot John Hancock. The granite block Chart House, designed by Isaiah Rogers, has been here since the 1830s.

7. Long Wharf/Custom House
202 Atlantic Street

Construction of Long Wharf began on the top of the remains of the Barricado, a 2,200-foot long defensive wall that ringed the harbor, began in 1710. In its heyday, when Boston was the dominant Colonial port, Long Wharf was 1,586 feet in length and 54 feet wide, providing docking facilities for up to 50 vessels that could unload directly into the storehouses without the need for smaller shuttle boats. Long Wharf lorded over Boston's 80 wharves, handling goods and serving as the town marketplace where the public could buy directly from the warehouses.

TURN AROUND AND WALK NORTH ON SURFACE ARTERY. TURN RIGHT ON COMMERCIAL STREET.

8. Commercial Block
126-144 Commercial Street

This granite warehouse is decorated with rusticated pilasters, horizontal stringcourses and a bracketed cornice. Henry Hobson Richardson, America's most influential architect in the post-Civil War era, was influenced by the affectations he saw here.

9. Prince Macaroni Factory
207 Commercial Street

In 1912 three Sicilian immigrants pooled their resources and opened a small macaroni and spaghetti making plant. The budding entrepreneurs named their company for its location at 92 Prince Street. Prince Pasta was so successful that in 1917 the owners constructed this seven-story building on nearby Commercial Street, complete with a railroad track that entered through the back, delivering semolina flour directly to the plant. Despite the hard times of the Depression, Prince Pasta boomed. Within 20 years, the company had once again outgrown its space. In 1939 the partners moved the operation to Lowell. In 1965 the Prince Macaroni factory became the first of Boston's waterfront buildings to be developed into luxury housing.

TURN LEFT ON LEWIS STREET. TURN LEFT ON FULTON STREET.

10. McLauthlin Building
120 Fulton Street

In the middle of the 1800s cast iron enjoyed a brief flurry of popularity as a building material - it was easy to mold in ornate forms, quick to assemble and inexpensive. It was also fire-resistant and made possible large windows that flooded otherwise gloomy interiors with light. This is the first cast-iron building in New England, erected in 1864. Now condominiums, the McLauthlin Company cranked out elevators here at one time.

TURN RIGHT ON FULTON STREET. TURN RIGHT ON NORTH STREET. BEAR LEFT AT THE FORK ONTO NORTH SQUARE.

11. Pierce-Hichborn House
29 North Square

Pierce was Moses Pierce, a glazier who built the house around 1711, and Nathaniel Hichborn was a later owner who was a boatbuilder and a cousin of Paul Revere. Three hundred years later the townhouse is one of the earliest remaining brick structures in Boston. The Georgian style is worked into the brickwork with slender-arched window hoods and a noticeably shorter third floor, often used as children's rooms.

12. Paul Revere House
19 North Square

On the night of April 18, 1775, silversmith Paul Revere left this small wooden house to ride into the history books. The building was constructed about 1680 on the site of the former parsonage of the Second Church of Boston that perished in the Great Fire of 1676. It is downtown Boston's oldest building and one of the few remaining structures of its era remaining from that era.

13. Mariners' House
11 North Square

The Boston Port and Seamen's Aid Society erected this Federal-style brick structure in 1847 as an inexpensive hotel where merchant seamen could crash between time at sea. The boarding house rises four stories underneath an octagonal cupola where concerned landlubbers could keep a watchful eye on the men at sea.

TURN LEFT ON PRINCE STREET. TURN RIGHT ON HANOVER STREET.

14. St. Stephen's Church
401 Hanover Street

Boston-born architect Charles Bulfinch was the first American who made his living as an architect, he would eventually design three state capitols and much of the Boston streetscape in the early years of the Republic. This is the only Bulfinch-designed church left in the city. It began life in 1802 as the New North Congregational Church, with a price tag of $26,750. It was renamed the Second Unitarian Church in 1814; the meetinghouse was sold in 1862 and dedicated to St. Stephen.

TURN LEFT IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH AND WALK THROUGH PAUL REVERE MALL.

15. Paul Revere Mall

This was once the pasture of Christopher Stanley, who died in 1646 leaving a chunk of his land for the maintenance of the "Free School." The shade trees and brick walkways you see today linking St. Stephen's Church and the Old North Church were installed in 1933. The equestrian statue of Paul Revere was placed here in 1940, although Cyrus Dallin had sculpted it 55 years earlier. The dashing fellow astride the steed is a romantic interpretation; in reality the silversmith was short and stocky. His physique served him well though - Revere lived into his 83rd year and saw nearly all of his Revolutionary comrades buried.

TURN LEFT ON UNITY STREET.

16. Clough House
21 Unity Street

Ebenezer Clough was a master mason when he wasn't rabble-rousing for liberty and tossing crates of tea into the harbor during the Boston Tea Party. He was one of two masons who laid the brick of Old North Church. This house was built around 1715 and an expert bricklayer such as Clough no doubt admired its finely executed brick window and door lintels.

TURN RIGHT ON TILESTON STREET. TURN LEFT ON SALEM STREET.

17. North Bennet Street School
39 North Bennett Street; northeast corner of Salem Street

In 1881 educator and social worker Pauline Aggassiz Shaw established the North Bennet Street Industrial School as a private educational facility where immigrants could get instruction in practical trades like bookbinding, locksmithing and carpentry. The brick building, which has received a Victorian makeover, dates to the early 19th century and did duty as a church and then a sailor's retirement home.

TURN AROUND AND WALK NORTH ON SALEM STREET.

18. Old North Church
193 Salem Street

The enduring fame of the Old North began on the evening of April 18, 1775, when the church sexton, Robert Newman, climbed the steeple and held high two lanterns as a signal from Paul Revere that the British were marching to Lexington and Concord by sea and not by land. The American Revolution was underway. At the time most of the congregation were staunch King George III men and many held office in the royal government, rendering Newman's treachery all the more remarkable. The City of Boston officially knew the Old North Church as Christ Church after it was built in 1723 on a design by William Price. Like most British churches erected in America at the time it was based on the work of British master Christopher Wren. It is the oldest standing church building in Boston.

19. Dodd House
176 Salem Street

Sir William Phips, of humble origins from present-day Maine and lacking in education, became a respected 17th century shipwright and military leader who was the first royally-appointed governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. This was his land; the house was built in 1804 and originally overlooked Governor Phip's garden. The Dodds were the last of the old North End families to remain in their family home.

TURN AROUND AND RETURN TO HULL STREET THAT DEAD-ENDS AT OLD NORTH CHURCH. MAKE A RIGHT.

20. 44 Hull Street

This is the narrowest house in Boston with only one bay and a width of about 10 feet. It was built around 1800.

21. Copps Hill Burial Ground
entrance on Hull Street between Salem Street and Snow Hill Street

The first burials took place on this hill owned by shoemaker William Copp in 1659. Boston's second burying ground was a place where thousands of artisans, craftspeople, and merchants were laid to rest. Additionally, thousands of African Americans who lived in the "New Guinea" community at the base of Copp's Hill are buried in unmarked graves on the Snowhill Street side. Also interred at Copp's Hill are the Mather family of ministers; shipyard owner Edmund Hartt; Robert Newman, signal man in the steeple of the Old North Church; Shem Drowne, the weathervane maker who crafted the iconicgrasshopper atop Faneuil Hall; and Prince Hall, an anti-slavery activist and founder of the Black Masonic Order.

CONTINUE WALKING UP THE HILL ON HULL STREET. TURN RIGHT ON SNOW HILL STREET. TURN LEFT ON CHARTER STREET. TURN RIGHT ON COMMERCIAL STREET.

22. Site of Boston Molasses Flood
529 Commercial Street

On January 15, 1919, a molasses tank at 529 Commercial Street exploded under pressure, killing 21 people. A 40-foot wave of molasses buckled the elevated railroad tracks, crushed buildings and inundated the neighborhood. Structural defects in the tank combined with unseasonably warm temperatures contributed to the disaster. The North End Playground is on the site today.

23. Site of Paul Revere Foundry
Commercial Street and Foster Street

After the Revolutionary War, Paul Revere continued in business in Boston for many years. In 1792 he established a foundry at the foot of Foster Street where he cast iron bells.

24. Constitution Wharf
409 Commercial Street

Designed by Joshua Humphreys, the frigate *USS Constitution*, one of six warships ordered by President George Washington, was launched at Edmond Hartt Shipyard located here on October 21, 1797. The final price tag was $302,718. The *USS Constitution* gained notoriety in action against French privateers in the Caribbean and Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean, but its real fame came during the War of 1812 when it defeated four British frigates and earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" after battling the British ship *Guerriere* on August 19, 1812. British cannonballs appeared to bounce off its thick wooden sides of three layers of live oak, and fall into the water. The warship was decommissioned as unseaworthy and destined for scrap in 1829 when Oliver Wendell Holmes' popular poem "Old Ironsides" stirred the public protest into saving the ship and led to its restoration. Today the *USS Constitution* is the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world and is manned by an active duty United States Naval crew.

CONTINUE WALKING DOWN COMMERCIAL STREET TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

A Walking Tour of Boston - Theatre District

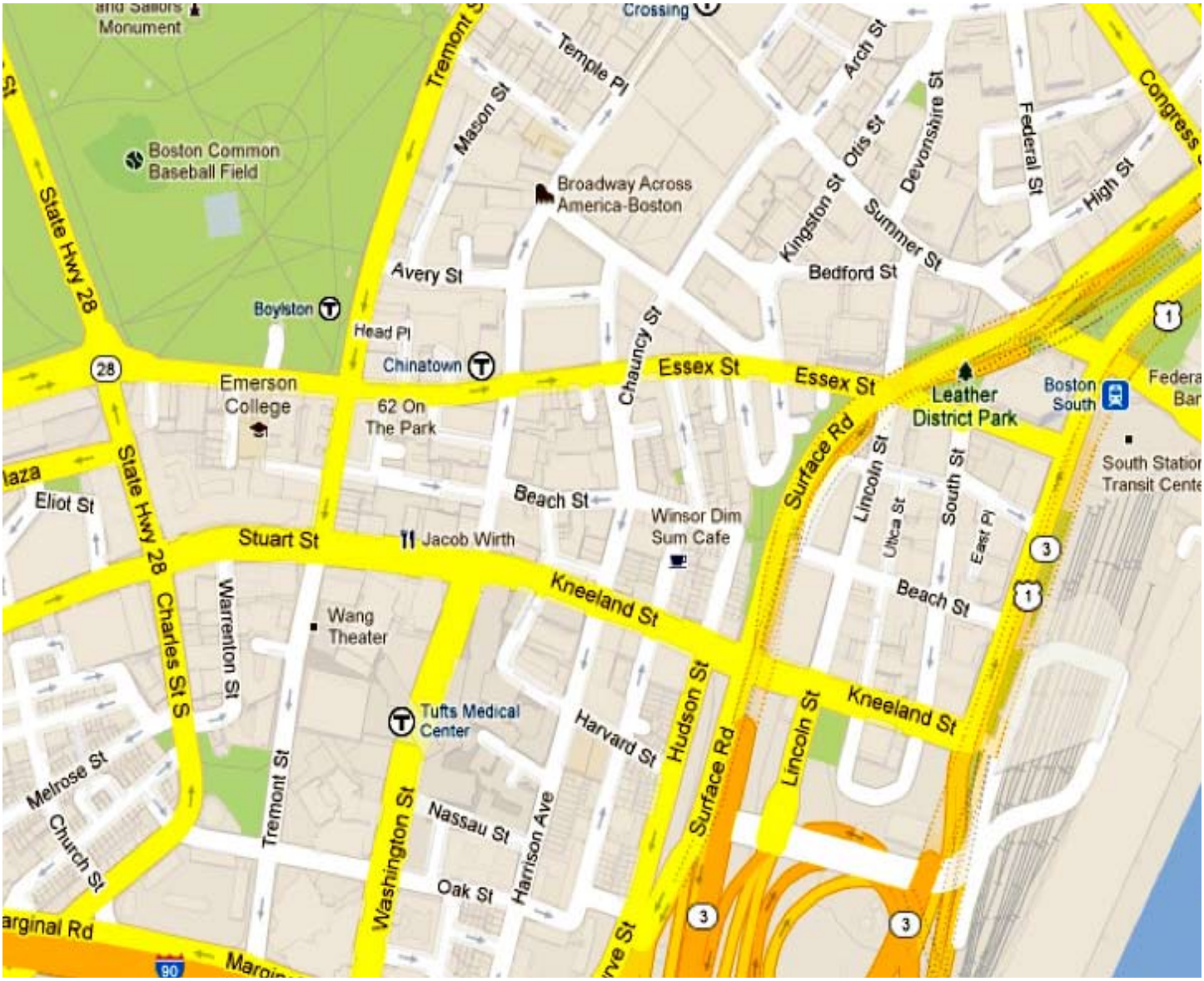
from walkthetown.com

The Puritans banned theater along with most other forms of entertainment until 1792 but by the 1850s theatrical performances - especially farces and melodramas - enjoyed immense popularity in Boston. Theaters began to cluster along several blocks of Washington Street and Tremont Street in what was, and still is, called the "Theatre District" - invoking the British spelling still in use in Boston deep into the 1800s.

Boston theater reached its height of popularity in 1900 when 31 theaters offered 50,000 seats to theater-loving Bostonians. But by 1980, the downtown Theatre District teetered on the verge of extinction. The crowds that packed the former historic theaters, then movie houses, turned outward toward suburban shopping malls.

The city set out to clear out the strip joints and porn houses that overtook the decaying Theatre District. Today, the restoration of a number of the city's splendid historic theaters means that Boston theater is again strong and thriving. The city has the largest group of architecturally outstanding early theaters in North America. Many of them have been meticulously - and magnificently - restored during recent years, and restorations of a couple are still underway.

You'll still find most theaters clustered within the Theatre District, now confined to several blocks along Washington and Tremont Streets between Boylston and Stuart Streets. Our walking tour will start on the southern end of Boston Common that forms the northern wall of the Theatre District...


Monument
Boston Common
Baseball Field
State Hwy 28
Tremont St
Mason St
Temple Pl
Crossing
Arch St
Otis St
Devonshire St
Federal St
Congress
High St
Broadway Across
America-Boston
Kingston St
Summer St
Avery St
Bedford St
Boylston
Head Pl
Chauncy St
Chinatown
Essex St
Essex St
Leather
District Park
Boston
South
Emerson
College
62 On
The Park
Surface Rd
Lincoln St
South St
Eliot St
Beach St
Winsor Dim
Sum Cafe
Stuart St
Jacob Wirth
Kneeland St
Beach St
Warrenton St
Wang
Theater
Charles St S
Tufts Medical
Center
Harvard St
Hudson St
Kneeland St
Melrose St
Tremont St
Washington St
Nassau St
Harrison Ave
Surface Rd
Lincoln St
Church St
Oak St
Marginal Rd
90
28
1
3

1. Boston Common
bounded by Beacon, Charles, Boylston, Tremont and Park streets

Boston Common is the oldest public park in the country, created in 1634 as a "cow pasture and training field" for common use. Cattle grazed here for 200 years, and the odd bull could look up every now and then to see the occasional public hanging that took place in the Common. The park is about 50 acres in size and is the anchor for the Emerald Necklace, the system of connected parks that visit many of Boston's neighborhoods.

2. Central Burying Ground
southern end of Boston Common along Boylston Street, between Charles and Tremont streets

The town purchased the land for this graveyard in 1756, probably for foreigners who died in town and of poor people. During the American Revolution, the British buried their dead from the Battle of Bunker Hill here and soldiers who died of disease during the subsequent winter occupation of Boston were placed in a trench on the northwest corner of the burying ground. Brick and stone tombs were built on the Boylston Street side beginning in 1793 and continued until the 1830s when the Boylston Street Mall was laid out. While constructing the subway under Boylston Street in 1894 the remains of about 910 people were unearthed; the remains were re-interred in 1895 and a slate tablet with three boundary stones, was placed to mark the spot.

TURN LEFT AND WALK EAST ON BOYLSTON STREET.

3. The Tavern Club
4 Boylston Place

Pass under an iron archway, duck into a short alley, and you find the venerable Tavern Club, founded in 1884 as a place where the city's patrician class could gather; it moved to these three rowhouses in 1887. Number 4 in the middle of the alley is marked by a Federal-style entrance with a fanlight and sidelights and the two corner houses are Victorian confections boasting oriel windows.

4. Steinert Hall
162 Boylston Street

Back in his native Bavaria Morris Steinert developed a knack for making optical goods. In his spare time he became proficient in crafting musical instruments such as piano, organ and violin. After he sailed to America Steinert chucked eyecare and fashioned a career as an itinerant musician and music teacher. By 1860, he had opened his own piano shop in Athens, Georgia. Steinert didn't stay long, leaving for New York City when the Civil War broke out. He opened a small music store in New Haven, Connecticut and, in 1869, was granted agency status by Steinway & Sons, the world's premier piano makers. In 1878, Steinert, with two sons now joining him in the business, opened a successful store in Providence, Rhode Island. The company headquarters was moved to Boston in 1883, and Steinert Hall, a six-story Beaux Arts showroom in limestone and terra cotta, was built in 1896. This block of Boylston Street emerged as the heartland for piano building and music publishing in Boston. The Wurlitzer Company operated out of Number 100, the E.A. Starck Piano Company Building was at 154-156, and the Vose & Sons Piano Company, established in 1851, was headquartered at 158-160.

5. Colonial Theater
106 Boylston Street

Built in 1900 the Colonial Theatre this is the oldest continuously operating theatre in Boston. Clarence Blackall, the most celebrated theater architect of his day, crafted a a stage within an office building. The Colonial opened on December 20, 1900 with a performance of *Ben-Hur*, the heroic saga penned by Civil War general and New Mexico territorial governor Lew Wallace. Patrons were treated to a cast of 350 and a chariot race using 8 live horses. The playhouse has hosted many world premieres and pre-Broadway productions with *Porgy And Bess*; *Oklahoma!*; and Thornton Wilder's *The Merchant Of Yonkers* (the inspiration for *Hello, Dolly!*) among the many.

TURN LEFT ON TREMONT STREET.

6. AMC/Loew's Theatre
175 Tremont Street

Considered by many to be the best modern-day movie palace in New England, the three-story AMC/Loew's is the home of the Boston International Film Festival. It opened in 2001 on the former site of the Astor (Tremont) Theatre, which had been demolished two decades earlier.

TURN RIGHT ON WEST STREET. TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON STREET.

7. Modern Theatre Site
523-525 Washington Street

Opened in 1914 by Boston theater pioneer, Jacob Lourie, the Modern Theatre was the site of the first installed sound projection equipment in the country. Lourie also introduced the double feature that defined movie-going in the first half of the 20th century. Later known as the Mayflower Theatre, the the theater closed in 1980. The Modern was demolished in early 2009, but its exuberant French Renaissance facade, designed by Clarence H. Blackall, was carefully salvaged with the hope of bolting it back onto the modern building which is due to constructed on the site.

8. Boston Opera House
539 Washington Street

This opulent Spanish Revival confection was known as the B.F. Keith Memorial Theatre when it opened in 1928. Benjamin Franklin Keith was born in New Hampshire in 1846 and got into show business via the circus. His career as an impresario began at the Boston Bijou Theatre in 1885 and he pioneered the 12-hour continuous vaudeville extravaganza in the 1890s. Name and ownership changes followed until the Opera Company of Boston took over in 1978. The theater has been recently renovated and restored.

9. Paramount Theater
549 Washington Street

Opened in 1932, the Paramount was the last of the great movie palaces erected on downtown Boston's Washington Street, and the only one built exclusively for the new "talkies." More than 1,700 patrons could fill the the Art Deco theater. The Paramount fought the usual losing battle with suburban flight and television and was shuttered in 1976. It was closed, although its impressive marquee was occasionally lit at night, and a restoration was engineered by Emerson College.

TURN LEFT ON BOYLSTON/ESSEX STREET.

10. 15-17 Essex Street

Victorian Boston was filled with Romanesque Revival buildings like this one but it is rare to bump into one today. This 1875-era structure provided living space on the top floors and selling space for three decades for Stern & Company to peddle sewing machines.

TURN AROUND AND CROSS WASHINGTON ONTO BOYLSTON STREET.

11. Liberty Tree Block
corner of Washington and Boylston streets

On August 14, 1765, the British official charged with administering the detested Stamp Act was

hung in effigy from an elm tree here. A small group of merchants and master craftsmen had staged the prank, but soon a large crowd gathered to vent their anger as well. Soon the whole town was using the "Liberty Tree" to post notices, gather for speeches, and hold outdoor meetings. The practice caught on and Liberty Trees became all the rage in Colonial towns. The Liberty Tree Block, blending Greek Revival and Italianate style details, was erected in 1850 for businessman David Sears. Ship carvers Winsor & Brother's third floor bas-relief remembers the symbolic elm tree that was chopped down for its construction.

12. Boylston Building
2-22 Boylston Street

Boston-born architect Charles Bulfinch was the first American who made his living as an architect, he would eventually design three state capitols and much of the Boston streetscape in the early years of the Republic. His celebrated Boylston Market stood on this site. This building replaced it in 1887, designed by Carl Fehmer with different sizes of Romanesque arches. After the Great Fire of 1872 leveled some 1,500 buildings many clothing companies relocated to this part of town.

13. Boston Young Men's Christian Union
48 Boylston Street

After Unitarians were excluded from the new forming Young Mens Christian Associations, the Boston Young Men's Christian Union was founded by Harvard students in 1852 as a religious study group, and evolved into a social, intellectual, and religious organization for men. Boston architect and engineer Nathaniel J. Bradlee gave them this High Gothic style clubhouse in 1876, executed with alternating bands of colored stone.

TURN AROUND AND RETURN TO WASHINGTON STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

14. Hayden Building
681 Washington Street at La Grange Street

Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential architect of the post-Civil War era, designed the Hayden Building in 1875. Built for the estate of John C. Hayden, Richardson's father-in-law, it is the architect's only remaining commercial structure in Boston. The five-story brownstone with granite trim trundled on for nearly 100 years with its pedigree unknown since it was constructed for the Richardson family and never appeared on his firm's books. Historic Boston Incorporated restored the fire-damaged building n 1995.

TURN RIGHT ON STUART STREET.

15. Jacob Wirth Buildings
31-39 Stuart Street

German immigrant Jacob Wirth has been dishing out sausages and sauerkraut to Bostonians since 1868; he moved his restaurant to this location several years later. His family maintained the tradition, and the cuisine and atmosphere have changed little over the years. The late 19th century interior remains virtually intact. Built in 1845, the buildings are the only souvenirs of the bow-front Greek Revival rowhouses that once dominated the area. In 1889, Wirth expanded next door, adding the storefront that unites the properties today.

TURN LEFT ON TREMONT STREET.

16. Wilbur Theater
244-250 Tremont Street

Clarence Blackall wedded Georgian, Federal and Greek motifs into this 1914 playhouse. The facade stacks tall arched windows with iron balconies above three classical pedimented entrances with recessed porticoes flanked by Ionic columns. The Wilbur was the first theater in the United States to be based on early Colonial architecture rather than European influences. Looking like it would be at home on Beacon Hill, the Wilbur is a better stylistic fit with the rest of Boston's architecture than its ultra-ornate Theatre District cousins.

17. Metropolitan Theater
270 Tremont Street

The Wang Center, originally called the Metropolitan Theater and later called the Music Hall, is Boston's largest performance space in the Theatre District, seating some 4,000 patrons. As conceived in 1923 it hosted live performances and moving picture shows. The lavish interior is liberally sprinkled with colored marbles and 1,800-pound gold-plated chandeliers, helping transport patrons on a journey of the mind.

18. Shubert Theater
265 Tremont Street

The smallish 1,500 seat Shubert Theatre, built in 1910, was once one of seven Boston theaters

owned by the New York-based trio of Shubert brothers. Due to anti-trust legislation of the 1950s, the Shubert family divested themselves of all but this one. During the days when Broadway productions were tested first in Boston, the Shubert hosted such famous actors as Laurence Olivier, John Barrymore, Richard Burton, Angela Lansbury, and Julie Andrews. Architect Thomas M. James drew up plans for the elegant Palladian-influenced facade.

TURN RIGHT ON SEAVER PLACE. TURN LEFT ON WARRENTON STREET.

19. Charles Playhouse
76 Warrenton Street

The Charles Playhouse was originally designed by Benjamin Asher and built in 1839 as the Fifth Universalist Church. Occupied by a series of religious denominations (one the first synagogue in Boston in 1864, home of congregation Ohabei Shalom) over being the decades, this Greek Revival temple became a theater only in the late 1950s. Two stores initially occupied the ground floor as a means of providing rental income to the church upstairs.

TURN AROUND AND WALK NORTH ON WARRENTON STREET. TURN RIGHT ON STUART STREET AND TURN LEFT ON TREMONT STREET.

20. Majestic Theater
219 Tremont Street

John Galen Howard designed the Beaux Arts this entertainment palace in 1903 for the opera; the Majestic was converted to a vaudeville hall in the 1920s. In the 1950s, when the Majestic was made into a movie house only, Howard's marble-encrusted lobby was covered up for three decades until the entire theater was boards up. The elaborate finery is once again on display after a restoration. the Majestic was one of the first places in Boston where lights were installed for decoration and not just to illuminate a room.

CONTINUE ON TREMONT STREET BACK TO BOSTON COMMON AND THE START OF THE WALKING TOUR.

Identifying American Architecture

Recognizing Early American Architecture:

Postmedieval English Colonial (1600-1700)
* steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
* small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
* massive chimney
* vertical board (batten) door
* little o rno eave overhang, no cornice detailing
* one room deep

Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)
* side-gamberled roof
* usually one story
* batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
* little or no eave overhang

French Colonial (1700-1830)
* steeply pitched roof, either hipped or side-gabled
* one story
* tall, narrow door and window openings
* doors and wndows typically divided vertically into pairs
* walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

Spanish Colonial (1660-1850)
* low-piched or flat roof
* normally one story
* few small windows
* multiple external doors
* walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
* long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

Georgian (1700-1780)
* windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
* paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most oftne pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supportedby decorative pilasters
* row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
* cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
* windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with cneter door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

Adamesque (Federal) (1780-1820)
* windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
* semi-circular or eliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
* cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
* windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with cneter door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
* while similar to Georgian, features are often "lighter"

Greek Revival (1825-1860)
* gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
* entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
    - Doric: plain capitals
    - Ionic: capitals with scroll-like spirals
    - Corinthian: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
* narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
* cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture:

General Victorian Features (1840-1910)
* roof ornaments
* bay (protruding) windows
* three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
* gingerbread porch trim

Gothic Revival Style (1835-1875)
* high-pitched center gables
* pointed arch windows and doors
* pendants and finials extending from roof

Italianate Style (1840-1885)
* brackets under roof cornices
* cupolas on the roof
* narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
* tall, slender windows

Second Empire Style (1855-1885)
* mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
* molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
* eaves normally with decorative brackets below

Stick Style (1860-1890)
*stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
* stick-like grid on wall surfaces
* Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
* pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
* decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gross gables
* wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)
* asymmetrical facade
* patterned shingles
* turned porch posts and trim
* corner towers and turrets
* wraparound porch
* steeply pitched, irregular roofline

Shingle Style (1880-1900)
* shingled walls without interruption at corners
* multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
* extensive porches
* walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

Richardsonian Romanesque (1880-1900)
* based ont he innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
* round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
* most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
* always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
* facade usually asymmetrical

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

Colonial Revival (1885 and beyond)
* accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
* symmetrical facade around centered entrance
* windows with double-hung sashes
* large dormers
* round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

Neoclassical (1895-1950)
* facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
* facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
* revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
* often very large

Tudor (1890 -1940)
* massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
* facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply perched
* decorative half-timbering often present
* steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
* tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
* walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

French Chateauesque (1890-1930)
* busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
* steeply pitched hipped roof
* multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
* walls of masonry, usually stone

Beaux Arts (1890-1930)
* wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
* masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
* facade with corner quoins and columns, oftne paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
* first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
* facade symmetrical

Spanish Mission Style (1890-1930)
* shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
* porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
* commonly with red tile roof covering
* widely overhanging eaves, usually open
* wall surface usually smooth stucco

Pueblo Revival (1910-present)
* flat roof with parapeted wall above
* stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
* projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
* wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
* unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
* tile or brick floors

Prairie Style (1900-1920)
* low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
* two stories with one-story porches or wings
* massive square porch supports
* detail emphasizing horizontal lines
* hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
* one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

Craftsman (1905-1930)
* low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
* roof rafters usually exposed
* porches supported by square columns
* decorative braces or false beams under gables
* columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
* generally one or one-and-a-half stories

Art Deco (1920-1940)
* zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
* towers and other vertical projections
* smooth stucco wall surface
* decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

Art Moderns (1920-1940)
* streamline, curved corners
* smooth stucco wall surface
* asymmetrical facade
* flat roof, usally with ledge at roof line
* horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
* windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
* glass-block windows or sections of the wall

International (1925-present)
* no decorative detailing at doors or windows
* smooth, unornamental wall surface
* asymmetrical facade
* flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
* windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls