

Thematic descriptions - points described, out
of 19 interviews.

13- ✓B.H.

11 - ✓Commonwealth Ave

10 - ✓Fanueil & the market district

✓Copley Sq.

✓Wash St. shopping

9 - ✓Cambridge St

✓Common & Gardens

8 - ✓Scollay Sq.

✓N End

✓Back Bay

6 - ?✓Artery

?✓S End

5 - Atlantic Ave

Chas St.

?✓Chas. R.

4 - Tremont St

✓Financial distr.

Symphony Hall

{these 3 lines circled} also 5 3's
10 2's
31 1's

Thematic content, generalized:

Boston - A: A city of many distinctive areas whose streets are crooked, winding, confusing; dirty and composed of red-brick bldgs. Symbolized by the Common, the State House & its gold dome, & the view over the Charles River from Cambridge.

B: It is old, historical, its buildings worn out, but with a contrast of new & old. It is congested with people & cars, has no parking, has narrow streets, but with a contrast of wide main streets & narrow side streets. It is a peninsula on the water. The Charles River, Beacon Hill, the harbor & wharves, the Public Gardens, the CH tower the John Hancock building, are all distinctive.

Other comments that tie in: it lacks open or recreation space; is an individual, small or medium-size city; has bay windows, iron fences & brownstone fronts. It is an area of mixed use. (Two examples of radiation of detail: "cobblestones" & "violet windows"). The favorite views are full of exs. of distant panoramas role of water or space experiences (view dn Pinckney, fm Brighton hill, fm harbor, etc). Also pleasure of city lights at night. Copley & Commonwealth are also distinctive.

Note strong role in above of contrast : esp space contrast & time contrast; & to some extent social & use

contrast

BB - not so strong identity as BH. Old brownstone or brick hses, attached come close to walks, w/ steps going up. Residential (non-?) area. Clean, pretty. Wide straight sts, trees, a rectangular grid. At times thematically equated w/ BH or So End. Common wealth. Beacon St.

BH - a very strong image. Steep, narrow sts, complicated to some, but felt as perpendicular system. Small, old attached houses of distinct architectural style. Red brick, violet windows, white doors. black twin, cobblestones & brick walks. Difficult to drive & park. Louisburg Sq. & the State House w/ its gold dome. Conserved as a hill.

Mkt district - a somewhat vague image in location & content, tho very frequently described (in brief terms). The activity is the key : stalls, carts, vegetables, noise, confusion. Artery seen, & sometimes view under it. Faneuil Hall an impt. pt., often a sharp image. Fights for dominance as the conceptual cove w. Haymarket.

Copley - also very often described. Here mostly in terms of surrounding buildings : Public Library above all, also Trinity & Copley Plaza. Some see JH in background.

Triangular park in middle infrequently referred to.

Wash St. downtown - a narrow, canyon-like street, crowded w/ pedestrians, & having one-way traffic. Intensive shopping, a mix of big dept stores & little rundown affairs. Jordan's-Filene's is the cove. Many signs. Lights from marquees, signs & shop windows @ night. One end is the theater end. A few note the subway, the transverse slope, the longitudinal curve or the views to the Common.

Commonwealth - very strong both in frequency & vividness. A wide straight street w/ trees, having a grassy central park mall containing benches statues & a path. One-way traffic separated on either side, buried by old attached hses either side (brown-stone? stone? red-brick?), of unified archt. style. Contains Harvard Club & Hotel Vendome. Has a gradient to Mass Ave of non-residential use. A beautiful, pleasant street.

Cambridge St strong if unattractive image. A very wide street ("one of few"), with a dividing strip down the middle. Goes thru Bowdoin, by Tel Bldg. Otherwise nothing but recital of uses, variously: factories, gas stas, cleaners, taverns, hdwre, paint, apts.

Common & Public Gardens - a strong vivid image, sometimes fused, sometimes in two parts. A green open space bordered by one or tow main shopping streets (esp. Tremont). With grass, trees, flowers, many winding internal paths, a pond swan-boats (latter very strong). Full of people & children. The State House. The Pk St Church. A few note: fountains, the slope, the band stand, the P.G. bridge, the hill in the Common, gates and fences, the Herald Trav. sign. A favorite, pleasant spot.

Scollay Sq. - often mentioned but rarely described exc w/ such epithets as: rundown, low status, unattractive, duty, disreputable. Only physical element genlly recognized is the subway entrance.

North End - narrow streets, in a confusing layout, crowded, dilapidated buildings, tenements, litter,

surrounded & isolated by water, industry, Artery.
But principal characteristic not physical but
Italian people, their friendliness, fiestas, stores,
noise, excitement. Some mention Hanover or Salem.

Artery - not too sharp, but recognizable. On it, the
sense of rising & turning, the signs. Below, the sense
of elevated, going under - the new green paint.

S End - A slum area of dilapidated buildings, drab.
Litter & refuse, broad straight main sts. Rounded
fronts; the elevated goes through it. Mixed use, the
Syrian area, lack of open space

Chas R - often mentioned. Notes freq. say described in
detail but little stated, the wide open
space, & the boats & esplanade. Curving. The shell Highways.

Financial District - banks & insurance cos. in
large old buildings, on narrow streets State St
sometimes a core.

Atlantic Ave is a wide street, associated w/ waterfront
& wharves. Some note RR tracks, or warehouses,

Chas St is mostly known for its special little shops.

Also for the clearly-visualized combination
rotary & elevated stop @ the river (trains, traffic, etc)

Tremont St seems to have a very diffuse picture

except for its shopping & relation to the Common.