

Mr. Weinberg  
Street Interview

It looks kind of like a shopping center around. Also, there must be a lot of insurance companies around and real estate offices and shipping lines, and such a place where people come to to transact business -- people of some means. People look generally well dressed and prosperous. The place looks prosperous, generally. There seems to be a lot of traffic. Well, probably there aren't enough facilities for parking in traffic and things of that sort. It's a perfectly acceptable section; everything. Well, from a social and economic point of view, of course -- as far as the aesthetic impression of the place is concerned, it is more or less a conglomeration, anything but homogeneous. I mean, it doesn't look at all pretty. I don't think the buildings are acceptable looking, either individually or collectively. The section down the street toward Copley Sq., of course, is quite different. (Why?) Well, there the buildings have more individuality. Individually, some of them are quite magnificent, like New England Mutual Hall, Trinity Church and that type. And somehow it gives an appearance of unity, also. For instance, around Copley Sq. the buildings seem to go very nicely together. But here all I can really say is that each individual building is almost ugly and they don't seem to fit together at all. This looks like a church over here, and I don't think it's particularly pretty at all. Of course, it may be darker in color than it once was.

Of course, the Public Gardens up that way looks quite nice. It's the sort of view that would look well in any city.

(that says Arlington Bldg.)

This sort of building on the corner here is very *solid* than the others. It looks more solid, and the light color is much more pleasant than some of the dark-colored buildings here. A lot of the signs are ugly, too, on these buildings. The *extending* signs, for example, like that white one with block printing (Ralph Khouri), and of course these colored, hanging signs give an ugly impression of the place, too. As a matter of fact, this, in Paris, would be an ideal type of architecture.

This seems to be a kind of in-between section of the city that doesn't mean very much. This particular street and even the one we just came up, because there's Copley Sq. on the one side which is a very different section from the Boylston and Tremont St. section up there. . . There seem to be a number of good dress shops around.

Well, the nicest part of this section is definitely the Public Gardens. And I guess any vast expanse of trees and snow looks good during the winter. . . I think it would be a shame -- of course, people have talked about taking the Public Garden away but only really hypothetically. / It may be an impediment to commerce, I *would* think it would better if Even though Boston had an even larger park in the center.

Things don't seem to have changed on the business side of the street except we're off the main thoroughfare and things are a little quieter.

Well, this *alley* area has an appearance of churches around it, and, of course, they're always better looking buildings than others. This looks like a -- yes, it is a church. The parking lot is probably a great help to people who work in the neighborhood. Of course, it's not pretty. Somehow my impressions of the place are largely utilitarian; even a place that's ugly but has a stimulating sense of bustle about it can be a pleasant place to walk through. . . It's surprising how quiet it has seemed on this street. I always associate this area with people shopping, and especially on Sat. afternoon you'd think there would be more crowds in this part of the city.

There's no question that this street is a lot better looking than the one we came down, Boylston St. The architecture is quieter, that is, it is not as much a combination of colors. Generally I prefer the square type of architecture on our left, but even the buildings on our right are -- well, they seem to offset each other much better. (Why?) These little shops on the ground floor with the glass fronts are pretty much of a kind, and they seem to blend into the background better than the ones on Boylston St. with their large signs for example. Of course, it definitely seems different. These buildings are office buildings,



it seems, or of business nature, while the others were much more definitely stores. Of course, these are stores but they don't seem to advertise themselves as loudly. I suppose only a different kind of store, like a bookshop or dress shop, would be likely to fit into these surroundings. I guess the others were department stores, things of that sort.

On the whole, I think this last block was very colorless looking for a shopping center, but it seems that the area we're going through now is just about ideal, -In combining the functions of a shopping center with acceptable appearance. Of course, I keep staring at Bonwit Teller's. It's comparatively very pretty. Generally the view in this direction is much better.

I've always wondered what these little streets were for, because supposedly, this section was built in the last century and the other streets seem to have been made rather wide. It suggests that it's just an alleyway for the buildings on either side. It seems like the only place you'd want to walk through if you lived here and wanted to go in the back way of your house. It reminds one that there are people who live in this section as well as some who work and shop here. . . . All I see is garbage. On second thought, I guess these aren't residences at all, they're stores and other business enterprises. . . . Of course, I don't expect a back alley like this to be decorative, along with their other functions, and garbage collection is regular. I don't think there is much to complain about. I think it would be much more interesting to go around to the fronts of these shipping lines and look through their catalogues. . . . This street doesn't seem to be any better than one would expect it to be, but if you like to seek out places like this there should always be some place left for you to find them. . . . If this street were wider, cars would be able to park on one side of it. It may be that when these buildings were put up there were no automobiles. . . .

It seems like a very good idea to have a park in the middle of the city, if only for cars to go around as well as for a quiet walk inbetween the trees. . . . Well now, this is more like it, a much more reasonable place to take a walk. This is a place I'd like to explore more and look at more detail on the various points of interest, even more in the Common than here in the Public Gardens. It's practically a mockery of a park. Well, such a small park - one block sq.- in such a big city is bound to be overrun and hardly be quiet or unspoiled. But still it's an enormous improvement, very worth while being here. The very idea of trees is pleasant, and there haven't been many on the surrounding streets, if any at all. . . . It's really beautiful here, even though as I say it's far from a perfect park.