

Public Garden

Boston Landmarks Commission Study Report



#28

Report of the Boston Landmarks Commission
on the potential designation of the PUBLIC GARDEN
as a Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975

Approved by: Maicra Myers April 14, 1977
Executive Director Date

Approved by: Pauline Chase Howell April 14, 1977
Chairman Date

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PUBLIC GARDEN

1.0 LOCATION OF THE PROPERTY

1.1 Address: bounded by Beacon, Arlington, Boylston and Charles Streets.

1.2 Area in Which the Property is Located: The Public Garden is located in downtown Boston. It is framed on two sides by dense residential areas built up during the middle of the 19th century, Beacon Hill and Back Bay. A third side abuts the Boston Common. The Boylston Street side, once residential in character is now predominantly commercial in use.

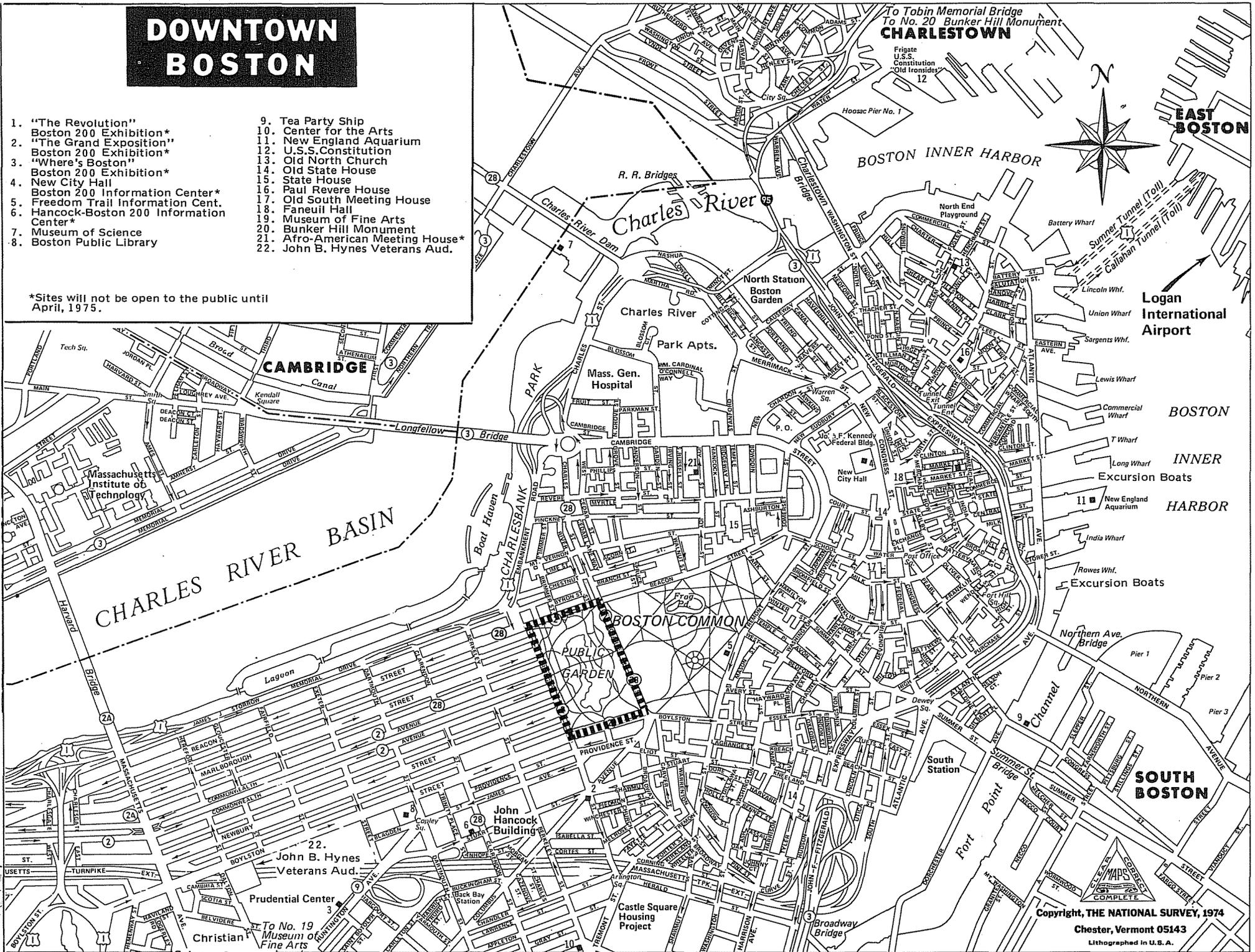
1.3 Map Showing Location

Attached.

DOWNTOWN BOSTON

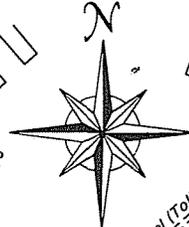
1. "The Revolution" Boston 200 Exhibition*
2. "The Grand Exposition" Boston 200 Exhibition*
3. "Where's Boston" Boston 200 Exhibition*
4. New City Hall Boston 200 Information Center*
5. Freedom Trail Information Cent.
6. Hancock-Boston 200 Information Center*
7. Museum of Science
8. Boston Public Library
9. Tea Party Ship
10. Center for the Arts
11. New England Aquarium
12. U.S.S. Constitution
13. Old North Church
14. Old State House
15. State House
16. Paul Revere House
17. Old South Meeting House
18. Faneuil Hall
19. Museum of Fine Arts
20. Bunker Hill Monument
21. Afro-American Meeting House*
22. John B. Hynes Veterans Aud.

*Sites will not be open to the public until April, 1975.



To Tobin Memorial Bridge
To No. 20 Bunker Hill Monument
CHARLESTOWN

Frigate
U.S.S. Constitution
"Old Ironsides"
12



EAST BOSTON

BOSTON INNER HARBOR

Logan International Airport

BOSTON

INNER HARBOR

SOUTH BOSTON

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Chester, Vermont 05143
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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

2.1 Type and Use:

The property, consisting of approximately 24 acres, is a botanical garden established in 1839 and used as parkland by the public. It is owned by the City of Boston and operated and maintained by its Parks and Recreation Department.

2.2 General Description:

Almost rectangular in shape, the Public Garden is a gently undulating piece of land, varying in elevation by less than five feet. The predominant feature of the site is an irregularly shaped pond or lagoon which occupies roughly a quarter of the land area of the Garden and is best known for its swan boats. Spanning the narrows of the lagoon is an granite+iron footbridge reported to be the smallest suspension bridge in the country. The bridge lies on the central axis of the Garden, connecting Commonwealth Avenue Mall with Boston Common.

Other than this central axis, the pathway system in the Public Garden is asymmetrical and "naturalistic" in the English Garden tradition. Trees are similarly disposed, whereas minor shrubs and flower beds are treated more formally.

The most important botanical features of the Public Garden are specimen trees of flowering and non-flowering varieties.

Species represented are: American elm, Amur Maackia, beech, birch, black locust, black walnut, catalpa, hawthorn, Kentucky coffee tree, flowering dogwood, elm, ash, maidenhair, goldenrain, horse chestnut, Holland elm, honey locust, katsura, linden, laburnum, larch, maple, crabapple, saucer magnolia, Norway spruce, oak, Carolina poplar, cherry, Japanese pagoda, sweet gum, sugar maple, European mountain ash, tree of heaven, willow, Japanese wisteria, and yellowwood.

Assembled in the Public Garden are an array of fountains and monuments, especially statues. The most prominent is an equestrian statue of George Washington, which was executed by Thomas Ball and erected in 1869, located at the Arlington Street entrance opposite Commonwealth Avenue Mall.

Two commemorative monuments in the Public Garden were designed by the noted artist Daniel Chester French and occupy prominent positions at two of the four corners of the Garden.

A list of the most significant monuments on the Public Garden (numbers refer to attached map of Common and Garden):

- 17 Statute of Wendell Phillips
Erected 1915. The artist was Daniel C. French. Phillips was a follower of William Lloyd Garrison in the anti-slavery movement. After the Civil War he aided prohibition, women's suffrage, and various penal and administrative reforms.
- 18 Statute of Thomas Cass
Erected in 1899. The artist was Richard E. Brooks. Cass organized a regiment of Irish volunteers and was colonel of the 9th Massachusetts Infantry during the Civil War.
- 19 Statute of Kosciuszko
Erected 1927. The artist was Mrs. T. A. R. Kitson. Tadeusz Andrzej Bonawentura Kosciuszko was born in Poland in 1746. He joined the United States Army in 1776, and General Washington made him a colonel and his adjutant in the American War for Independence.
- 20 Statue of Charles Sumner
Erected 1878. The artist was Thomas Ball. Sumner was a champion of emancipation and a supporter of Horace Mann to improve public education in Massachusetts.
- 21 Statute of William Ellery Channing
Erected 1903. The artist was Herbert Adams of New York, and the statue was given to the City by John Foster, a member of the Arlington Street Church. Mr. Foster directed that the statue be placed in the Garden across from the church because Channing was once pastor of the Federal Street Church, the predecessor of the Arlington Street Church.
- 22 Equestrian Statue of George Washington
Erected 1869. The artist was Thomas Bell.
- 23 Ether Monument
Erected 1867. The artist was John Q. A. Ward. The monument was a gift to the City by Thomas Lee to commemorate the discovery and first use of ether in Boston in October 1846.
- 24 George Robert White Memorial
Erected 1924. The artist was Daniel C. French, and the architect was Henry Bacon. Female figure in bronze casting "bread upon the waters." George Robert White left \$5 million in trust to the City "to be held as a permanent charitable trust fund to be known as the George Robert White Fund, and the net income only to be used for creating works of public utility and beauty for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants of the City of Boston."

- 25 Statue of Edward Everett Hale
Erected 1913. The artist was Bela L. Pratt. Mr. Hale, a noted preacher and writer, was chaplain of the United States Senate in 1903.

In addition, four small fountains and a Chinese lantern accent the botanical displays. A small maintenance building, in the stock style of the picturesque Victorian tradition, is located in the northwest quadrant of the Garden near Charles Street.

An ornamental cast iron fence, currently discontinuous as portions are being re-cast and re-set on granite posts, is expected to enclose all four sides of the Garden upon completion of work. On the street side of the fence line sidewalks on Charles, Beacon and Boylston Streets are of brick. Granite posts frame the major entryways to the Public Garden.

The Garden is framed on the Beacon and Arlington Street sides with primarily residential structures generally 5-6 stories in height and of considerable architectural distinction. The Boylston Street side is more heterogeneous in form and quality of architecture.

2.3 Apparent Condition:

Major restorative work has recently been carried out by the City, affecting the lagoon bridge, the granite edgestone surrounding the lagoon, lighting, benches and lawn areas. As noted previously, the decorative iron fencing is being replaced.

2.4 Photographs:

Attached.

3.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

3.1 Historic Associations:

The history of the Public Garden reflects the early and substantial concern of Boston's citizens for the enhancement of the city's physical character.¹

The Public Garden occupies an area of land which was originally marshland and flats lying to the west of the Common. This area was known as the Roxbury Flats. These marshes and flats were granted to ropemakers by the town in 1794. At the same time, "the Selectmen were authorized to layout a road 60 feet wide from Pleasant Street along the easterly side of these lands over the marsh towards Beacon Street..." Charles Street is the road referred to, and this portion was laid out about 1804.

Six ropewalks were placed on the marsh in 1794, and in 1806 these ropewalks were burned and rebuilt. However, in 1824, the city bought back the rights to these lands, which it had granted free to the ropemakers, for the sum of \$55,000. There was a great deal of disagreement in the City Council at this time as to whether the lands should be sold, built upon, etc. This problem was resolved when Mayor Quincy put the question to the citizens of Boston who in turn voted against allowing the land west of Charles Street to be sold.

Horticulturists, led by Horace Gray, made a petition to the City in 1837 requesting permission to lease the land in order to use it for a garden. On February 1, 1839, Horace Gray, George Darracott, Charles P. Curtis, and others were incorporated as the Proprietors of the Botanic Garden. At the same time, it was arranged through the London Horticultural Society to have John Cadness come from England to take charge of the garden. Mr. Cadness was engaged for three years to take care of the garden, beginning his job in August of 1839. In a letter printed in Winsor's Memorial History of Boston, Cadness relates the early history of the garden:

The gardens were only partly laid out, from the nature of the land; which being four to six feet below the street level, and filled in with all sorts of city refuse, was a great part of it subject to the inroads of the tide. However, a fine broad walk was laid from the entrance at the foot of Beacon Street to the end of the Common with a border planted with ornamental trees, shrubbery, standard roses, herbaceous and other plants...

1. The remainder of section 3.1 was excerpted from a report prepared by Boston Redevelopment Authority Preservation staff in 1972.

There was also imported from Groom of Walworth, England, a complete bed of prize tulips, the first ever imported into the United States, valued at \$1,000, but costing Mr. Gray \$1,500 and which for a time was a great attraction. Mr. Gray supported the place during the time I had charge of it, and I always understood that he was the leading spirit in its establishment. He devoted much of his time and means to aid in its success....

However, the success of the Botanic Garden at the time seemed shortlived, and between 1842 and 1843 the question of selling the land was brought up again. The City Council, in 1843, reviewed the case of the garden and its relationship to the Common, and the only result of their hearing was to sell land south of Boylston Street.

In 1849, a commission was appointed to look into the problem of drainage of the Back Bay as well as to establish the rights of ownership. There were many claims to the land made by the cities of Boston and Roxbury, the state, and the Boston Water-Power Company. The Commission's suggestions were presented to the Legislature in 1852, and in the same year, the General Court passed an act declaring the state as the owner of all flats "lying below the ordinary line of riparian ownership." They also appointed new commissioners to secure the rights of the state, as well as to decide the rights of the other parties involved. The commissioners were given the power to sell the state's lands and come up with a plan to fill and lay out new lands. The commission, after making various arrangements with the Boston and Roxbury Mill Corporation and the Boston Water-Power Company, proposed to the City of Boston "to extend Boylston Street to the cross-dam and to lay out a street at a right angle with the Mill Dam, from that road to Tremont Street. The space enclosed by Beacon, Boylston, and the new street would be given to the city on condition that the city should fill its own land, build one half the surrounding streets, add the land to the Public Garden and engage that it should never be built upon." The city quickly rejected this proposal and another proposal made the following year.

The Council, in 1854, voted to accept the State's proposal if the state would give them the land west of the Public Garden. This counter-proposal was rejected by the State, but finally, in 1856, the city, state and Boston Water-power Company reached agreement. Arlington Street was laid out, and a strip of land east of the street was added to the Public Garden.

By Act of the Legislature (Chapter 210) in 1859, it was provided that "no building shall hereafter be erected between Arlington and Charles Streets, except such as are expedient for horticultural purposes; provided, that nothing herein contained shall render it unlawful to erect a City Hall on the Public Garden." The citizens of Boston accepted this act by a majority vote, and the Public Garden was finally protected and preserved by and for the citizens in 1859.

3.2 Landscape Architectural Significance

The inauguration of the Boston Public Garden and the development of its design spanned several decades in the history of American landscape architecture; As a result, the Public Garden's present design reflects elements of the major influences of the mid-19th century. Although the complementary architectural features are predominantly statuary and fountains, these objects likewise reflect the range of popular styles from 1867 to the last installation in 1927.

The appointment of an Englishman, John Cadness, by the proprietors of the Botanical Garden as its first gardner, point to the earliest model, the formal English garden. Although rigid symmetry and balance were not absolutes, the English system relied on precise formal planting areas interspersed with naturalistic zones for contrast. The pathways and disposal of major statues (Ether and Washington) in the western sector reflects the English formalism and, presumably, is a remnant of the Cadness era. (Actual layouts have not been uncovered from this period).

American landscape gardening was revolutionized in the early 1840's with the publication of Alexander Jackson Downing's Cottage Residences and more importantly, A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening. Downing advocated (and himself practiced) the planning of extensive landscaping to achieve picturesque results. Downing was particularly influenced by J. C. Louden's Encyclopedia of Gardening publication in London in 1835. While improving upon nature had been a practice in the English Romantic tradition since the 18th C. Louden's encyclopedia reflected the adoption of the picturesque viewpoint in England.

The design of the new Public Garden in the late 1850's under the aegis of George Meacham, an architect, incorporated several characteristics of Downing's picturesque theory, namely, the large lagoon with the wooded island, the extensive asymmetrical curvilinear pathways and the informal disposition of trees and shrubs. Similarly, the stick style maintenance and comfort station embodies the picturesque in architecture. More formal elements, such as the pair of pattée cross granite fountains and the neoclassical style bridge, suggest more the advent of academic classical revival styles than the continuance of the Cadness plan. The statuary reflects the continuing changes in tastes ranging from the high Victorian Gothic style represented by the 1867 Ether Monument to the pinnacle of neoclassicism portrayed by the W. E. Channing Memorial of 1903.

- 1915: Wendell Phillips statue installed.
- 1921: Arlington Street subway kiosk added.
- 1924: White Memorial installed.
- 1927: Kosciuskzo statue installed.
- 1975: fence rebuilding project began, along with other capital improvements such as lighting, and structural repairs on bridge.

3.3 Relationship to criteria for Landmark Designation:

The Public Garden satisfies the definition of Landmark, as stated in Section 1 of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as an improvement which in whole has historical, cultural, architectural and aesthetic significance to the city, the Commonwealth, the New England region and the Nation. It meets the criteria in Section 4 of the Act in that it is included in the National Register of Historic Places and it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type inherently valuable for study of a period and style of landscape architecture.

4.0 PHYSICAL HISTORY

The Botanical Garden, predecessor of the Public Garden, was located on fill over former ropewalk territory that followed these approximate boundaries: on the south, Eliot Street beginning at Broadway; on the west, a line approximately bisecting the present Public Garden at Hadassah Way; on the north, a line following the extension of Marlborough Street; on the east, Charles Street and Broadway.

In 1843, the City Council sold the land south of Boylston Street, thus making the street the southerly boundary of the Botanic Garden. The present boundaries of the Garden were established with the laying out of Arlington Street in 1856.

The location of the lagoon has remained the same, with minor changes to the shape, since the park was laid out. Additions and improvements to the Garden are, in chronological order:

- 1861: four granite basins with fountains added at Arlington and Charles Street central entrances.
- 1865: iron fence at park's perimeter completed.
- 1868: Ether Monument installed.
- 1869: bridge crossing lagoon and Washington Equestrian statue installed.
- 1877: Swan Boats began operation.
- 1878: Charles Sumner statue installed.
- 1897: subway incline added to Boylston Street boundary; construction caused removal of trees along 40-foot-wide path at Boylston Street.
- 1899: Thomas Cass statue added.
- 1903: Channing statue added.
- 1905: Japanese lantern installed at edge of lagoon.
- 1913: Hale statue installed.
- 1914: a new subway incline opened on Boylston Street between Arlington and Charles Streets, and the incline on the Public Garden itself was closed. The strip of land above the old incline was converted to part of Boylston Street, thus permanently removing it from the Garden.

5.0 ECONOMIC STATUS

5.1 Summary:

The property is publicly owned and open free to the public. Capital improvements and maintenance are carried out with City of Boston funds, sometimes assisted by grants from the Federal government.

6.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

6.1 Planning Issues:

Living within one half mile of the Public Garden are roughly 28,000 residents of Back Bay, Beacon Hill and Bay Village. The predominant planning issue relating to the Public Garden is the degree to which it can absorb intensive use generated not only by these adjacent areas but from City and Metropolitan residents and tourists who enjoy its well-known charms and beauty.

Intensive use compacts the soil under the trees - reducing the capacity of the soil to allow water and oxygen to penetrate to roots. Worn grass and erosion of earth around the perimeter of the lagoon is unsightly and in the latter case permanently damaging. The temptation exists to respond to pedestrian overload with more hard surfaced area - an approach not fully compatible with the intent or naturalistic character of the Garden. Alternatively, strict pedestrian control and limits on use reduce the public's enjoyment of this special resource.

Recent proposals for intensive new development in the Park Square area and along the Boylston Street side of the Public Garden brought about heightened public concern for impact of such development on the Garden. The issues, which have been addressed in the environmental impact report for the Park Plaza Project, include both the increase in general use contributing to soil compaction and erosion especially, but not limited to the Boylston Street edge, and the effect of shadows caused by high rise development on the natural health of the Public Garden and the enjoyment of its users.

Partly as a result of the public's concern for the protection of these garden lands, a concern with historical precedent dating back to the mid-19th century, the proposed development in the Park Plaza Project has been scaled down to minimize environmental hazards to the Public Garden. At the present time, plans call for building height of 130 feet at Boylston Street between Charles Street and Hadassah Way, with height of 155 feet at a 75-foot setback (luxury hotel); building height of 85 feet at Boylston Street between Hadassah Way and Arlington Street, with height of 130 feet at a 50-foot setback (office building); building height of 145 feet at Charles and Eliot Streets (state transportation building); and building height of 400 feet at Charles between Stuart and Boylston (apartment building).

In its 1973 report on Rehabilitation of the Boston Common and Public Garden, prepared by Carol R. Johnson Associates, the Boston Redevelopment Authority noted that, while rehabilitation could correct current physical problems, "without a strong park maintenance and security system restored areas will soon fall again into decay." The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has taken steps to address this need, but the fiscal problems of the city may reduce the city's capacity to maintain the Public Garden, thus making this an ongoing concern.

6.2 Proposed Public Improvements:

The City of Boston Department of Parks and Recreation is completing major capital improvements including repairs to the bridge and monuments, to the Public Garden. This project was begun in 1975 as the Department's Bicentennial project.

If funding should become available, the principal improvement planned by the Department is the replacement of modernistic lighting fixtures with fixtures consistent with traditional lighting design.

7.0 ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

As an early example of landscape and monument architecture, and as a result of its being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Public Garden clearly satisfies the criteria for Landmark designation. Such a designation would mean that future physical changes to the property would have to be reviewed and approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission. Landmark designation would provide a high degree of protection for this valuable public open space.

The sole alternative is for the Commission not to designate the Public Garden as a Landmark. It is already part of the National Register of Historic Places, listed together with the Common on July 12, 1972. Although the Public Garden would be a logical component of an "Emerald Necklace" Landmark District, running from the Common through the Olmsted Park System, Chapter 772 does not permit Districts or Protection Areas in the downtown Boston area. Accordingly, no such District can be designated.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Public Garden be designated as a Landmark. The boundaries of the designation should be the curb lines of Charles Street, Beacon Street, Arlington Street and Boylston Street.

The recommended standards and criteria for the review of proposed changes are attached.

9.0 BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION - STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

9.1 Introductory Statement on Standards and Criteria to be Used in Evaluating Applications for Certificates

Per Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the enabling statute (Chapter 772 of the ~~General Laws~~ ^{Acts of 1975} of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ~~for 1975~~), Standards and Criteria must be adopted for each Landmark Designation which shall be applied by the Commission in evaluating proposed changes to the property. Before a Certificate of Design Approval or Certificate of the Exemption can be issued for such changes, the changes must be reviewed by the Commission with regard to their conformance to the purposes of the statute.

The Standards and Criteria established thus note those features which must be conserved and/or enhanced to maintain the viability of the Landmark Designation. The intent of these guidelines is to help local officials, designers, and individual property owners to identify the characteristics that have led to designation, and thus to identify the limitation to the changes that can be made to them. It should be emphasized that conformance to the Standards and Criteria alone does not necessarily insure approval, nor are they absolute, but any request for variance from them must demonstrate the reasons for, and advantages gained by, such variance. The Commission's Certificate of Design Approval is only granted after careful review of each application and public hearing, in accordance with the statute.

As intended by the statute a wide variety of buildings and features are included within the area open to Landmark Designation, and an equally wide range exists in the latitude allowed for change. Some properties of truly exceptional architectural and/or historical value will permit only the most minor modifications, while for some others the Commission encourages changes and additions with a contemporary approach, consistent with the properties' existing features and changed uses.

In general, the intent of the Standards and Criteria is to preserve existing qualities that cause designation of a property; however, in some cases they have been so structured as to encourage the removal of additions that have lessened the integrity of the property.

Introductory Statement on Standards and Criteria
page two

It is recognized that changes will be required in designated properties for a wide variety of reasons, not all of which are under the complete control of the Commission or the owners. Primary examples are:

- a) Building code conformance and safety requirements.
- b) Changes necessitated by the introduction of modern mechanical and electrical systems.
- c) Changes due to proposed new uses of a property.

The response to these requirements may, in some cases, present conflicts with the Standards and Criteria for a particular property. The Commission's evaluation of an application will be based upon the degree to which such changes are in harmony with the character of the property.

In some cases, priorities have been assigned within the Standards and Criteria as an aid to property owners in identifying the most critical design features.

The Standards and Criteria have been divided into two levels: (1) those general ones that are common to almost all landmark designations (with three different categories for buildings, building interiors and landscape features); and (2) those specific ones that apply to each particular property that is designated. In every case the Specific Standard and Criteria for a particular property shall take precedence over the General ones if there is a conflict.

GENERAL STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR PHYSICAL, LANDSCAPE OR TOPOGRAPHICAL
FEATURE(S) DESIGNATED AS LANDMARKS

A. APPROACH

1. The design approach to the property should begin with the premise that the value of a landscape is in its variety. Alternatives will be allowed if they conform to an overall master plan and maintain the features described as significant in the study report.
2. Changes to the property which have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history of the property and the neighborhood. These changes to the property may have developed significance in their own right, and this significance should be recognized, respected and evaluated.
3. New architectural materials should, whenever appropriate, match the material being replaced in physical properties, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities.
4. New additions or alterations to the landscape should not disrupt the essential form and integrity of the property and should be compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property.
5. New additions or alternations should be done in such a way that if they were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the landscape could be restored.
6. Priority shall be given to those portions of the property that serve as the more important public ways.

B. WALKS, STEPS AND PAVED AREAS

1. Deteriorated paving should be replaced with the same material or a material which matches as closely as possible. Consideration will be given to an alternate paving material if it can be shown that its properties will assist in site maintenance and/or will be a design improvement.
2. Present layout of the walks, steps and paved areas should be maintained. Consideration will be given to alterations if it can be shown that these will improve site circulation and are part of an overall master plan.

C. PLANT MATERIALS

1. All plants should be cared for according to good horticultural practices. Hazardous plants or portions of plants should be removed promptly. Plants with diseases that it is not practical to control or cure should be removed promptly to prevent their infection of others. Mutilated or distorted plants should also be removed.

2. Plant replacements should be added on a schedule that will assure a continuity in the landscape design.
3. Plant material replacements and/or new locations must be properly evaluated as to form, color, texture, arrangement, allowance for adequate space for light and good growth, and conformance to a master plan.
4. In maintaining removing and adding of plant materials consideration must be given to maintaining existing vistas, creating new ones where appropriate, and maintaining defined areas of shade and sun.
5. Practical problems of erosion and drainage should be solved with all possible regard for the integrity of the landscape and the health of the nearby trees.

D. LANDFORMS

1. Alteration of or new landforms will only be considered if they will not alter the basic design concept.
2. Existing water courses or bodies should not be altered. Consideration will, however, be given to a proposal if it is to improve site drainage, to improve water quality, to enhance the landscape design, to provide a wider recreational use or to improve a wildlife habitat.
3. All wetlands shall be preserved.
4. All shorelines of water courses or bodies shall be protected from erosion in a manner in keeping with the basic concept of the landscape.
5. All natural rock outcrops shall be preserved.

E. ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

1. Whenever possible, architectural elements described as significant in the study report such as benches, fences, fountains, statues, bridges, lighting, shelters and signs shall be maintained.
2. Maintenance should not alter color, material or design. Consideration, however, will be given to alterations that will either improve the design or adapt the function of the element to current needs.
3. Architectural elements that are replaced should be of the same or similar material and design of the existing. Consideration, however, will be given to changes that will improve the function of the architectural element without altering the integrity of the design.

4. Architectural elements may be removed if they are no longer appropriate to their purposes and their removal will not alter to a significant degree the site design.
5. Architectural elements may be added if they are in keeping the integrity of the design, are necessary for the site safety, are useful for site maintenance, and/or will improve site usage.

SPECIFIC STANDARDS & CRITERIA - PUBLIC GARDEN

A. APPROACH

1. The intent should be to maintain the Garden's existing landscape style with its meandering paths, trees, shrubs and turf, flagpole, curving lagoon, footbridge, fountains, iron fence, statues, island rockery and parterres of flowers in a manner which will insure the continuance of the historic use of the Garden for strolling, sitting, swanboating and passive recreation.
2. No uses, permanent or temporary, should be allowed if they diminish this quality of passive recreation.
3. Expansion of unrelated park facilities should not be permitted.
4. Special events should only be permitted in the Garden if they would not damage the plants, monuments, wildlife or other features.
5. Except for swanboating and ice skating, recreational facilities and activities should not be permitted.
6. Maintenance and replacement of existing elements should be done in a manner to be in harmony with the Garden's historic landscape style.
7. No new elements should be permitted if they would alter special vistas and special open spaces. Existing elements in violation should be removed.

B. PLANTINGS

1. The use of trees, shrubs and flowers should be continued and grass be used as the major ground cover as long as is practical with the Garden's use and available maintenance.
2. The tradition of planting as wide a variety of sturdy and ornamental woody plants as are available in good sizes at the period of planting should be maintained.
3. Future plantings should be guided by a master planting plan which includes consideration for allowing adequate light and space for good growth, ultimate height and spread.
4. All new plantings should be quality specimens of a size large enough to successfully withstand the rigors of the Garden environment.
5. Changes in location or shape of flower beds should be guided by an overall master plan for the Garden.

C. WALKS, STEPS AND PAVED AREAS

1. Circulation system should be reviewed before rehabilitation of existing walkways is continued.
2. Where appropriate, replace bare areas with pavement.
3. Replacement of or expansion of bituminous concrete areas should be avoided if a more attractive and equally durable material can be afforded.
4. Cobbled edges, brick or similar material should be used to minimize areas of existing bituminous concrete. Samples of these materials should be subject to professional design review.

D. FURNISHINGS

1. Existing memorials, statues, monuments and fountains should be carefully preserved and restored where necessary, maintaining the integrity of the original material and design. This work should be coordinated with the Arts Commission.
2. Future park accessories should display design solutions in harmony with the character of the Garden landscape style.
3. Future park accessories should be designed using vandal resistant standards.
4. Existing structures not in harmony with the Garden should either be remodeled or removed.
5. Restoration of perimeter fencing and gates should be continued, maintaining the integrity of the original design. This work should be coordinated with the Arts Commission.
6. Location of signs should be guided by a master plan for walkways and other facilities.
7. Signs should conform to a simple sign system. Non-conforming existing signs should be removed. New signs should be designed by a professional graphics designer.
8. Location of existing and new benches should be studied in relation to existing monuments, fountains, passive seating areas and other park improvements.
9. Benches that are replaced or added should not necessarily be the same as the existing but should all be of the same design and material and subject to design review.
10. Design and location of trash receptacles should be simple, functional and unobtrusive and added according to an overall plan.

11. New drinking fountains should be subject to design review and new locations for fountains should be studied in relation to existing high use areas.
12. Adequate paving and drainage should be provided around all existing and new fountains.
13. Adequate levels of illumination should be established for safety and for lighting special areas.
14. Selection of replacement or new lighting fixtures should be subject to design review.
15. Special fixtures should be considered for lighting monuments, fountains and trees. This work should be coordinated with the Arts Commission.
16. The present boundaries of the lagoon should not be altered.
17. The four original fountain basins recently restored should be preserved.
18. New storm drains should not be added until an accurate survey has been taken of the existing condition of the storm drainage system and the ability of the existing lines to handle additional water.

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PUBLIC GARDEN: Ether
Monument

photo by R.P. Burke

APR - -1977



PUBLIC GARDEN: Wendell
Phillips statue

photo by R.P. Burke

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PUBLIC GARDEN
George Washington statue

photo by Robert P. Burke
Boston Landmarks Commission

APR - -1977



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PUBLIC GARDEN
1977 photo R.P. Burke

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SR



PUBLIC GARDEN: George
Robert White Memorial

photo by R.P. Burke

APR - -1977



PUBLIC GARDEN: lagoon

photo by R. P. Burke
APR - - 1977