

## Day 2: 8th October, Thursday ~ Exploring Boston.

We board a big red bus for a tour of Boston. Paul our driver hails from Jamaica and has been driving for 21 years. The bus is comfortable, but lacks space to stow coats. As usual we are assigned seats and move each day.

Winni, true to the spirit of a tour director, provides us with an education throughout the journey. Massachusetts area is 7,840 sq mi. population 6.3 million, so relatively small.



Paul.



Beacon Hill .

The streets of Boston wind around. “Must follow cow paths.” Being built on three hills, it was originally called *Tri-Mount*.

John Winthrop (1587 –1649) led a group of English Puritans to the New World in 1630, joined the Massachusetts Bay Company later that year, and then was elected their governor in October 1639.

Beacon Hill is one of Boston's smallest historic neighborhoods, featuring a mix of grand townhouses and fashionable shops.



John Hancock Tower.

The Statehouse dome glistens in the sun.

The John Hancock Tower, officially named Hancock Place, is a 60-story, 790-foot skyscraper. It is named after the Hancock Insurance company! The structure, the tallest in the city, was completed in 1976. Designed as a slim glass parallelogram, it suffered from several design flaws including falling glass panes.



Statehouse.

Boston's first public market and meeting hall, Faneuil Hall - adjacent to the site where Quincy Market now stands - was built in 1742. Quincy Market is two stories tall and covers about 27,000 square feet. "So this is the Theater District."



A group of noisy dancers perform in the square next to Faneuil Hall .

Until 1830, cattle grazed on Boston Commons, now an attractive 50 acre public park. British troops camped here prior to the Revolution. Up to 1817, public hangings took place here.



Sam Adams poses outside Faneuil Hall .



Make Way for Ducklings.

A line of bronze ducks march around the lagoon. Make Way for Ducklings is a children's picture book written and illustrated by Robert McCloskey. First published in 1941, the book tells the story of a pair of mallard ducks who decide to raise their family on an island in the lagoon.

Boston Commons.

Longfellow Bridge spans the Charles River. Otherwise known as the salt and pepper for the shape of its towers.

“I never thought I would go to Harvard.”

John Harvard (1607 – 1638) was an English clergyman and benefactor of the College which was named Harvard University in his honor.



Longfellow Bridge, over the Charles River.



Cambridge Commons.



John Harvard.

He directed that half his money, along with his library, be given to the school. The 19th century statue sits in the Old Yard, above an inscription that incorrectly credits John Harvard with founding the college in 1638. “Don’t touch his toe.”



Glass flower.

The campus has grassy open space, Cambridge Common.

In the Harvard Museum of Natural History, we are guided to the *glass flower exhibit*. Prof. George Lincoln Goodale, founder of the museum, wanted accurate botanical models for teaching. The glass models were made by Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka from 1886 to 1936 at their studio in Dresden, Germany.



Paul Revere at the approach to the Old North Church.

A statue of Paul Revere guards the approach to the Old North Church, built in 1723. Made famous when two lanterns were hung in its steeple the night of 18<sup>th</sup> April 1775, to signify that the British were coming by sea, not land, to seize rebel stores of munitions. This ignited the American Revolution. The church is mostly white inside with striking chandeliers and gracious organ.

An old burial ground is sad.

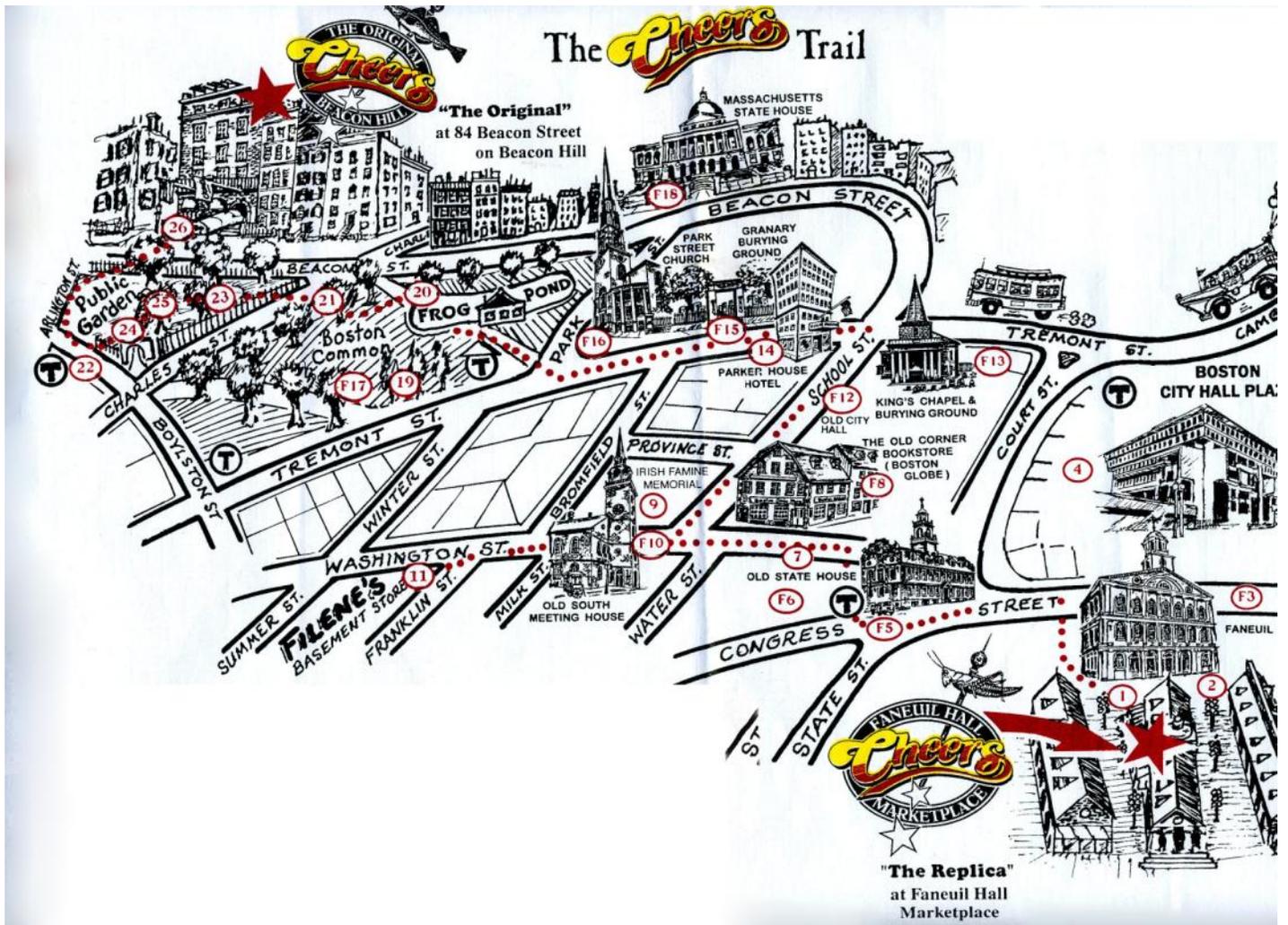


Old State House.

On July 18, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was first proclaimed at the Old State House. Later that day, the lion and unicorn were taken down from the roof of the building and burned. They were restored in 1882.

Old burial ground.

We lunch at *Cheers* in Quincy Market. “Let’s walk.” The *real Cheers* is about a mile away on Beacon Street. Using a map on the place mat from lunch, we navigate past beautiful architecture and descend the famed stairs. “Actually, this was only the idea for *Cheers*. It was all filmed in Hollywood.” Deflated, we leave without having a drink.



The Old South Meeting House was built in 1729 as a Puritan house of worship. It was also the largest building in colonial Boston, best known as the site of where the Boston Tea Party began.

Our walk back to the Langham crosses Boston Common but we go too far south. A UPS driver gives us reliable directions.

The concierge books dinner for us at Anthony's on Pier 4. It is a short cab ride. The meal and our window seats are excellent. "Happy anniversary!"



Old South Meeting House.